



Lancashire Wallopers Weekend of Clog Dance 10th and 11th February 2024



Balshaws CE High School
Church Lane
Leyland
PR25 3AH

We've been at the new venue a while but here is your annual reminder to not go to Wellfield! However, on the day you can call **07787 421423** and we will help you if you get lost!



Workshops:

Introduction to Clog (Beginners) with **Melanie Barber**

Sam Sherry Hornpipe (Improvers +)
with **Chas Fraser & Ruth Bibby**

"Pedestal Dances" (Intermediate) with **Jane Sheard**

"Vikki & Manny's Waltz" (Intermediate) with **Vikki Lewis**

"Alex Woodcock's Rag" (Intermediate+)
with **Jean Smith & Ian Craigs**

Pat Tracey's Old Lancs C (Advanced) with **Kathryn Tattersall**

Championship Hornpipe (Advanced) with **Robynne Wood**

Musicians' workshop with **Ken Watson & Nina Hansell**

Weekend Tickets:

Adults - £50

16 & below - £30

Evening only - £10

Evening included in ticket price & day tickets are not available

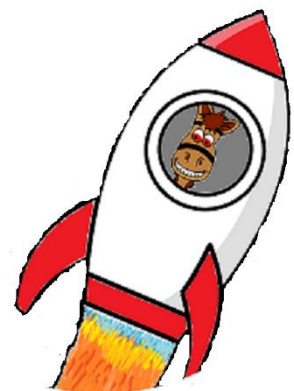
Pre-booked food available & special diets catered for on request

Also, the usual afternoon displays (all teams/solo artists welcome), clog makers and copious amounts of tea/biscuits. This year also sees the return of the full themed "evening do".....

"Space" with The Barley Cote Big Band

Come and join us for a night full of fun, amazing ceilidh dancing and entertaining spots. We will explore the wide expanse of space and boldly go where no clog dancers have been before!

Please feel free to join in (optional of course) by living your full space fantasy or by just wearing something mildly "spacey!" Volunteers for the popular themed floor spots (these don't have to be clog dancing) are also very welcome - please register an interest with your booking.



ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:

INTRODUCTION TO CLOG (Beginners: clogs or hard shoes)

Tutor: Melanie Barber

This routine has been written specifically for absolute beginners, or those new to clog dancing but struggling to get to grips with the basics. The routine incorporates basic movements but will then evolve to include a few not so basic concepts to give a good grounding for accessing other clog dances. The dance starts with hornpipes and then moves into a waltz leaving you with an interesting routine that you can take away and perform (if you wish!). Melanie is a very experienced and gentle tutor who will teach at a slow and steady pace with an emphasis on technique. Notation, including explanation, will be provided.

SAM SHERRY'S HORNPIPE (Improvers+)

Tutors: Chas Fraser & Ruth Bibby

This is the very first dance you would learn at Sam's class and is an excellent introduction to the Lancashire style. It is a simple but effective routine that has rounded shuffles, no heel beats and crisp "dotted" rhythms that have accessible but evolving themes. It is also a gateway to those who aspire to entering the Lancashire & Cheshire Clog Dancing Competitions - every single Champion will have had this dance in their repertoire! Emphasis will be placed on 'getting the basics' right rather than forging through to the end of the routine and we have detailed tutorial videos of each step that can be provided after the weekend.

PEDESTAL DANCES (Intermediate)

Tutor: Jane Sheard

This workshop will aim to cover two dances that as the name suggests were danced on pedestals (barrels, tables, etc) for dramatic effect and an undeniable wow factor. The first dance will be Marion Cowper's Pedestal Hornpipe which are eleven steps that were taught to Marion by her father Roland Cowper. The Cowpers were a dancing family who still run a dance school (started by Marion's grandfather) that is now in its 150th year and being taught by its 4th generation! The second dance (time permitting) is called the Boscastle Breakdown and consists of six steps and can be seen being danced across Cornwall on pieces of slate or barrels. The steps use lots of basic step shuffles with simple breaks that are danced in sets of two with a repeating chorus sequence. The steps in both dances are not overly difficult but are unusual and the challenge comes from dancing them in a confined space and up in the air.....Jane recommends bringing your own 50cm square board to represent the pedestal size but we will have some pedestals available to try too!

VIKKI & MANNY'S WALTZ (Intermediate)

Tutor: Vikki Lewis

This engaging and creative dance was written to match a tune collected by Manny (Musike Mazurka, by Zef) and was born from one simple comment "wouldn't it be cool if the music started and then you went "tappy tappy tappy tappy tap" in the pause?" This routine is heavily influenced by the style of Sam Sherry and plays with the unique structure of the tune to create changes of mood – don't worry it will be taught using a more standard tune too! Incidentally, this routine won the Open Waltz class at last year's Lancashire & Cheshire Competitions and hopefully it will inspire others to move outside the waltzing "box". Come ready to play with rhythms and musical gaps to create a lyrical feel and see if you can spot the step that was written to match the "design" brief!

ALEX WOODCOCK'S RAG (Intermediate)

Tutor: Jean Smith & Ian Craigs

Jean and Ian were introduced to Alex's self-described "Quickstep" routine when he taught at the at Newcastle Cloggies' workshop when Alex was 75yrs old. He requested the tune "Putting on the Ritz" (look it up to get the vibe) but the steps can be danced to fast reels. The routine taught this weekend consists of 8 steps which will be taught off both feet. Alex always started his routine with steps 1, 2 & 3 and finished with step 8. The other steps were danced at random depending on how the mood took him and he would often add or remove 'extra' beats if he felt particularly energetic as characteristic of his dancing. Another key feature was to 'mix and match' the steps so that he danced the 'A' of one step with the 'B' of another as the whim took him! Jean and Ian will teach the routine in the order that Jean created using Alex's steps but you will be welcome to create your own routines from the material as befits Alex's approach to dancing.

PAT TRACEY'S OLD LANCS C (Advanced)

Tutor: Kathryn Tattersall

The Heel and Toe style of clog dancing, which is thought to contain some of the oldest clog steps in England, came from the cotton mills of East Lancashire and is evocative of the sounds and rhythms of the mill machinery. The steps were kept alive through the late great step dancer Pat Tracey and the style is celebrated through a competition at the Lancashire & Cheshire Clog Dancing Championships. The C-routine builds on the steps of Pat's A and B routines but introduces the gorgeous rhythms starting on the upbeat creating steps with great texture and movement plus the technicality and variety that is indicative of Pat's routines. A key focus of this workshop will be exploring the nuances of the style and what makes a good heel and toe routine to support those wanting to compete or create their own routines.

ROBYNNE WOOD'S CHAMPIONSHIP HORNPIPE (Advanced)

Tutor: Robynne Wood

Robynne's eye-catching competition hornpipe routine has a definite emphasis on enjoyment – both for the dancer and for an audience to watch. The judges at the Lancashire and Cheshire Clog Dancing Championship certainly thought so, leading to Robynne's wins at three successive Championships to join the ranks of permanent Champions. The dance has a light, lively quality, and includes a wide range of step types without being overwhelming or overly technical. Marley & Sherry family influences can be seen, melded harmoniously into Robynne's style. So, a variety of interesting individual steps and elements you could incorporate into your own performances, brought together into a routine to impress the public (and the competition judges should you feel inclined)!

PLAYING FOR STEPPING (MUSICIANS' WORKSHOP)

Tutors: Ken Watson & Nina Hansell

This workshop is aimed at any musician who plays or wishes to play for clogging and step dancing either formally or informally with this pair of highly respected and accomplished musicians. Ken and Nina will look at clog and step dance tune repertoires and with workshop focus being on playing for dance performances of every scenario from competition to informal stepping sessions. On Saturday they will introduce a range of tunes that they both enjoy playing for stepping and explore how to make them fit the steps and suit the dancer that you are accompanying. There will be a guest dancer or two to help illustrate this and test the theories out on. On Sunday, we'll start with a tune swap, where participants are encouraged to share tunes they have found work well for clogging and stepping, and then end with a recap and a chance to play through all the tunes we've learnt through the weekend.

About the Tutors:

MELANIE BARBER has been a keen clog dancer for more years than she cares to remember, having performed and taught step clog for over 35 years. She originally learnt from Sam Sherry and Pat Tracey, and went on to collect steps from Bill Gibbons and Bert Bowden. A founder member of The Lancashire Wallopers, she moved on to dance with Camden Clog when she lived in London and she currently dances with Strictly Clog and Three's a Crowd. She is also well known for organising the Lancashire and Cheshire Clog Dance Competitions and is currently the Director for Whitby Folk Week's dance activities.

CHAS FRASER was one of the founding members of the Lancashire Wallopers. He was a pupil at Sam Sherry's Preston clog classes in the late 1970's and early 1980's and won the Lancashire and Cheshire Clog Dancing Championship for 3 years from 1983. **RUTH BIBBY** started learning clog in Warrington, as a young child and soon joined Fosbrooks after taking part in one of their workshops at Whitby Folk Festival. In 2008 she started learning Pat Tracey dances at Camden Clog's classes in London, eventually joining the team for dance-outs. In 2010 Ruth was back in the North West and joined Wallopers, but she still enjoys dancing with Camden Clog when she can. She is also a three-times Lancashire & Cheshire Clog Dancing Champion and so both tutors have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the Lancashire style.

JANE SHEARD loves to dance from the Cornish Nos Lowen, Welsh formal dances but also had a solid background in English step clog when she moved to Wales in the early 90's. Jane has taught at festivals and workshops in Britain and abroad and attended many workshops over the years, learning directly from Alex Woodcock, Pat Tracey, etc. Until a very recent move back South, she regularly taught and danced with Cobblers Awl (Cardiff) and City Clickers (Bristol) but now travels to dance with Dukes Dandy. She is an understanding, patient & encouraging tutor who enjoys supporting dancers to take that step further and all-round sparkling dancer. She has taught at many Wallopers Weekends previously but never on a pedestal which is something we are looking forward to seeing!

VIKKI LEWIS was introduced to English clog dancing by Padiham Panache when she was a teenager in the late 1990s gaining experience in a wide range of styles and a passion for performing. A founder member of After Dinner Clog, she embraces how lyrical and joyful clog can be whether through interpretation of traditional dances or writing her own material. Vikki thrives on freedom of expression and this is best shown through music choices which often shy away from more traditional tunes to allow for a playful vibe. Musical talent is provided by Manny Grimsley on fiddle and this pair will hopefully share some of the sparkle and creativity that saw them winning the Open Waltz competition at last year's Lancashire and Cheshire Clog Dance Competitions.

IAN CRAIGS started clog dancing in 1979 as a founder member of the "Newcastle Cloggies" and for a period was a member of the 'Instep Research Team' collecting and teaching steps from Elsie Willis and others. **JEAN SMITH** joined the Newcastle Cloggies in 1990 and later became involved in research and helped to establish the 'Instep' dance group. She has run a number of workshops and collected dance steps from Alex Woodcock as well as others. Ian and Jean have recently retired from performing as Twostep but during their time together wowed the clog world with their imagination, precision and attention to detail.

KATHRYN TATTERSALL learned from Pat Tracey, danced with Pat Tracey (in Camden Clog, Pat's team) for many years, and now specialises completely in the dances of Pat Tracey. She is a very experienced, thorough and patient tutor who is enjoyable to learn from - so if you want to learn about Pat Tracey and get insight into her style then Kathryn is the tutor for you. Through this weekend you will get a chance to tap into the wealth of knowledge of the C-routine but also gain deeper insight about techniques from as close to the "source" as possible.

ROBYNNE WOOD started clog dancing at the tender age of 11, growing up in the ranks of Padiham Panache, specialising in the dances of Anna Marley, and joined The Lancashire Wallopers in 2007. She is the current reigning Lancashire & Cheshire Clog Champion and is the most recent addition to the ranks of three-time Champions following last year's win. Robynne is still loyally fond of the Marley dances but enjoys the Wallopers' focus on Sam Sherry and dances from Lancashire which forms the bigger part of her dance career. She is an experienced and patient teacher who hopes to share insight gained from her own competition journey but also access to knowledge gained from rubbing shoulders with Champions from various eras.

KEN WATSON & NINA HANSELL are father and daughter, hailing from Grimsby, and are both musicians and dancers with many years' experience of playing for ceilidh dances, Morris teams and clog dancers. Ken has been playing melodeon for clog and step dancing for more than 50 years and has a most impressive CV! He has played for Pat Tracey and Sam Sherry at their Whitby Folk

Week workshops, for Duke's Dandy Step Clog for nine years and he has been Green Ginger's main musician since 1991. He is adept at accompanying many different styles of dance, including Dartmoor and East Anglian Step Dancing, North West Morris and English Ceilidh (his band Doctor Watson's Elementary Band were busy on the local folk scene 1979-2006). Ken also plays pipe and tabor, as well as melodeon, for Grimsby Morris. He is well known for his precise style, light touch and perfect tempo and is a joy to dance to. Nina has been playing violin since she was 6 and clog dancing since she was 8 years old. As a child, Nina benefited from clog lessons with Lynette Eldon and went on to avidly learn lots of different dance styles from Appalachian flat footing (with Chequered Flag) to North West Morris (Barley Break and Old Speckled Hen) and everything in between. Now living in Oxfordshire, Nina is probably best known for her bouncy fiddle playing in The Bismarcks, PolkaWorks and Oxford NAGS. She aims to provide functional dance music that people find impossible to sit still to and the Wallopers are happy to endorse that Nina most certainly manages this!

THE LANCASHIRE WALLOPERS current line-up is: Chas, Harry, musician Jill, Robynne, Ruth & musician Simon. The original team was formed from Sam Sherry's clog class pupils for a one-off performance of the 'Irish Jig', a bargees' social dance learned from Bill Gibbons, at the National Gathering at Cecil Sharp House in 1981. The first Wallopers weekend (instigated & organised by Alan Whittaker & Melanie Barber) was in 1984: the workshop leaders that year were Pat Tracey, Sam Sherry, Bert Bowden, Bill Gibbons & Theresa Hindle.

BOOKINGS/CONTACT US

Bookings should be addressed to:-

RUTH BIBBY, 2 BIBBY AVE WARRINGTON WA1 3RH

**Please include your e-mail address(es) if possible if you have not previously done so or if it has changed. Contact for enquiries is Robynne on 0161 2790957 or 07787 421423. Please note that the booking form is available from our web site - google The Lancashire Wallopers (there aren't any others!). The weekend cost is £50 for adults, £30 for 16 and unders; all other costs are as advised in this leaflet.

FOOD

Book your food with us, bring your own or visit a local pub/restaurant. **Note all coffee/tea break refreshments are included** in the price of your weekend ticket. The following **food options are available to pre-order for the Saturday only**:

Lunch – Homemade soup, bread and piece of cake/scones & jam; tea or coffee **£8.00**

Dinner (6pm) – Vegetarian lasagne & salad (v) or meat lasagne & salad, or Red lentil & vegetable dahl (v); choice of home-made dessert; tea or coffee. **£14.00**

ALL MEALS MUST BE PRE BOOKED AND SELECTION MADE AT TIME OF BOOKING – SPECIAL DIETS CAN BE CATERED FOR ON REQUEST.

Some Wallopers will be retiring to The Eagle & Child (our usual 'after-practice' hostelry) on Sunday lunchtime. So if you've not got too far to travel, it would be great if you could join us here for a bite to eat, a wind-down, and a natter before returning home.

SATURDAY

9.00 - 9.50 Reception and coffee/tea
9.50 - 10.00 Welcome (in the dining area)
10.00 - 11.00 Workshops
11.00 - 11.30 Coffee/tea break
11.30 - 12.45 Workshops
12.45 - 2.15 Lunch (see menu)
2.15 - 3.30 Workshops.
3.30 - 4.00 Coffee/tea break
4.10 - 5.00 Displays – all teams and solo artists welcome
5.00 - 5.50 Competition & Clitheroe Clogfest Q&A
6.00 - 6.20 Tea served (see menu)
8.00 – 11.00 Evening entertainment

*(No bar - bring your own drinks)

SUNDAY

9.00 - 9.45 Coffee/tea
9.45 - 10.45 Workshops
10.45 - 11.15 Coffee/tea break
11.15 - 12.00 Workshops
12.10 - 12.55 Workshop showcase

Due to the nature of the workshop floors in the venue we will need to use boards. **If you have a favourite board, feel free to bring it along. Please let us know when you make your booking** so we can ensure that we have the right number of boards.

FAQS

FOOTWEAR: As stated for the individual workshops but please note that beginners would be fine with flat, hard-soled shoes. We hope to have a limited selection of clogs for beginners to borrow. Clogs must have bare wooden soles as **NO IRON OR RUBBER SOLED CLOGS ARE PERMITTED. IF YOU REMOVE IRONS OR RUBBERS FROM YOUR CLOGS, PLEASE ENSURE THAT NO NAILS OR GRIT REMAIN IN THE SOLES.**

WORKSHOP PLACES

Workshop places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis only, from bookings received with a form, and cannot be booked provisionally. Please indicate first and second choices on the booking form. Also, please give full names of all members of your group (and ages if under 16). If you feel on the day that you are in the wrong workshop, grab someone wearing a 'HELP' badge as soon as possible and we will re-allocate you **to the best of our ability and subject to workshop capacity.**

BADGES

Upon your arrival, you will be given an envelope containing badges which act as your weekend ticket. Please wear your badges at all times.

EVENING ONLY TICKETS

A limited number of ceilidh-only tickets will be available. They cost £10 each and will allow admittance to the ceilidh only. Please request and pay for these at time of booking. Note that the full weekend ticket price includes admittance to the ceilidh.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON DISPLAYS

It is our tradition to set aside an hour on Saturday afternoon for you, either singly or in groups, to display your favourite routine or party piece. We would like to encourage you to be prepared to do something (although this is not compulsory) and not leave it to 'everyone else'. If you are willing to give a display, please indicate this in the space provided on your booking form & please limit it to a maximum of 5 minutes.

JUNIOR DANCERS

Whilst we welcome young dancers, past experience dictates that we must ask that there is at least one adult for every 10 children where there are large groups, and that the adults **do** supervise them.

SUNDAY WORKSHOP SHOWCASE

After the final workshops have been completed, we invite you to try out the new skills and steps that you have learned during the weekend in the workshop showcase. This gets the first public performance of your new routine under your belt - in front of an extremely understanding & supportive audience!