



Lancashire Wallopers Weekend of Clog Dance 15th and 16th February 2025



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 **Harriet Kempson**
Liberty Bell Hornpipe (Improvers +) with **Barbara Wigg**
Tenpenny Bit Jig (Intermediate) with **Green Ginger**
New Zealand Hornpipe & Childsplay Waltz (Intermediate)
with **Jean Smith & Ian Craigs**
- Pat Tracey's Heel & Toe Waltz (Intermediate +)*
with **Kathryn Tattersall**
Sam Sherry's Reel (Advanced) with **Melanie Barber**
Three Champions Hornpipe (Advanced) with
Harry Cowgill & Ruth Bibby
Musicians' workshop with **Kevin Downham**

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. The "evening do" is a chance to socialise and this year's theme is.....



"At The Seaside" with The Earthquakers



Come and join us for a night full of fun, amazing ceilidh dancing and entertaining spots.

Please feel free to join in (optional of course) by dressing in your finest beach wear. Volunteers for the popular (clog dancing not compulsory) themed floor spots are also very welcome – please register an interest with your booking as spaces are limited.

ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:

INTRODUCTION TO CLOG (Beginners: clogs or hard shoes)

Tutor: Harriet Kempson

This routine has been written specifically for absolute beginners, or those new to clog dancing but struggling to get to grips with the basics. Harriet has created a short routine of jig steps that you can take away as a platform to create your own routine or perform them as learnt over the weekend. The focus will be on how to vary and build up steps, with a focus on rhythms to the music and technique to give the skills needed to develop your own future clog repertoire. Harriet has a wealth of experience both in routines and freestyling (dancing in the moment) so hopes to build in opportunity to try different rhythms and “break out” of the routine too.

LIBERTY BELL HORNPIPE (Improvers+)

Tutor: Barbara Wigg

Sousa’s tune “Liberty Bell” (the Monty Python theme tune) lends itself to steps that are great fun to perform and eye-catching for the audience. Barbara will teach her quirky music-hall style routine, accompanied on fiddles by David Wigg and Linda Callaghan. Be prepared to smile a lot as you work your way through some of Barbara’s favourite steps, including clown clicks, grapevines and caterpillar wiggles. The workshop is aimed at improvers, but the levels of difficulty can be adjusted by adding extra or fewer beats, so there’s something for everyone! Notation will be provided for both the dance and the music.

TENPENNY BIT JIG (Intermediate)

Tutors: Sue Jenkinson, Lynette Eldon & Wendy Bolton

At the Humber Taiko Festival 2017, Lynette and Wendy danced alongside Japanese drumming and the playing of North Lincs Youth Folk Ensemble in “Taiko Folk”. The tune for the grand finale was The Tenpenny Bit and seven years on, Sue, Wendy and Lynette have taken a fresh look at the lively jig in the North-East style. They have used elements from the versatile hornpipe steps of the Ellwood Family of County Durham to create a brand-new jig routine that is quintessential Green Ginger. This sparkling dance, whilst bringing out the distinctive pulse of the Tenpenny Bit Jig, also demonstrates the variety of rhythms that can complement the tune.

NEW ZEALAND HORNPIPE & CHILDSPLAY WALTZ (Intermediate)

Tutors: Jean Smith & Ian Craigs

This workshop gives you two dances for the price of one workshop as it comprises a hornpipe followed by a waltz. The hornpipe steps come from a routine from New Zealand called ‘The Lancashire Clog’, which is said to have originated in Lancashire. This six step dance was a Senior Gold Medal Test for the New Zealand Academy of Highland & National Dancing (Inc) but despite being based on Lancashire steps, has some different elements, making it unusual. The waltz element was learned from a 2006 video of Pierre Chartrand and Kieran Jordan dancing a waltz clog as part of a French Canadian show. The steps themselves follow the English Clog stepping pattern with a platform and step repeated three times ending on a finish with a twist. Four of the eight steps are familiar clog steps and there are some duet elements. The waltz steps work well in clogs as opposed to the original shoes and make a lively ending to this two rhythm dance.

PAT TRACEY’S HEEL & TOE WALTZ (Intermediate+)

Tutor: Kathryn Tattersall

The Heel & Toe style developed in the nineteenth century and is unique to East Lancashire. Dancers were competitive and inventive and would vie with each other to come up with new and unusual steps, use all parts of the clog and ornament their dances as much as possible. This waltz comes out of that tradition. The stepping is close to the ground, with the focus on the feet: lively, moving easily and lightly from one foot to another. It makes a very showy and fast display dance, suitable for duets, trios or solo display and is very effective combined with other more lyrical styles of waltz for contrast. This routine was last taught at Wallopers Weekend in 2014 and this fun and engaging routine is well overdue for a return to the programme!

SAM SHERRY’S REEL (Advanced)

Tutor: Melanie Barber

Also known to Sam as his “Exhibition Routine”, this is a fantastic set of steps, full of rhythmical variety and visual interest (ok, so we’re biased....but it’s still ace!). It is an epic 18 steps long but has many elements familiar from Sam’s other routines so is the crowning jewel in the Sam Sherry collection in terms of style and rhythmic variety. So, if you love Sam Sherry (and you should) and want to complete your collection then get your “exhibition” goggles on and let’s go!

THREE CHAMPIONS HORNPIPE (Advanced)

Tutors: Harry Cowgill & Ruth Bibby

A unique feature of the Lancashire Wallopers is the number of Lancashire & Cheshire Clog Dancing Championship titles they hold between them – Wallop actually holds six titles but that is different story! This routine is part of Wallopers’ core repertoire and is made up of steps taken from Chas (1980s), Harry (1990s) and Ruth’s (2010s) winning routines and then concluded with the compulsory double-hopping shuffle step. This is a brilliant opportunity to see how competition steps have evolved over time and also a chance to gain insight into these three-time Champions’ personal styles. This class is a must for anyone who wants to develop their technique/experience of the Lancashire style or aspires to compete in the Championship. This routine was put together before Robynne joined the ranks of three-times Champions so watch this space for an updated Four Champions version!

PLAYING FOR STEPPING (MUSICIANS’ WORKSHOP)

Tutor: Kevin Downham

Kevin was introduced to clog dancing when the legendary Sam Sherry asked him to be his musician, a relationship that would last until Sam’s death. Together, Sam and Kev arranged many of the song and dance routines for which Sam was so well known. Whilst playing for Sam’s workshops Kev produced a tape (yes it was that long ago) with all of Sam’s routines one side at practice speed and the other side at dance speed. This proved to be very beneficial in helping clog students to practice at home. This year Kev’s

workshop is going to go back to these roots and will explore the styles and rhythms of Sam's set routines. This will give musicians the opportunity of working with the various rhythms, learning how to make the accompaniment fit the various dances and working with a dancer to help develop their skills in accompanying. An ideal opportunity for anyone of thinking about playing for clog or step dancing or developing this technique.

About the Tutors:

HARRIET KEMPSON is a firm and vibrant fixture of the folk scene having joined her first morris team at the age of six. She began clog dancing at the age of ten and has a wealth of experience from spells in NYFTE, Fire Clog, Stoney Steppers. She now performs with City Clickers but you may have also seen her at festivals dancing Cotswold with Fools Gambit. However, her real passion is freestyle and focusing on how clog stepping can complement music both as percussion and as a performance tool. Harriet is enjoying dipping her toes into teaching and is looking forward to sharing her creative and playful approach with the class.

BARBARA WIGG loved tap and ballet as a child and shared a delight in performing. This was a gap filled by clog dancing with Dukes Dandy in her adult life but with the extra bonus of performing in pubs! Barbara has a wonderfully creative mind when it comes to writing steps and has a patient and engaging teaching style. This and the Duke's Dandy approach to clog is perfectly illustrated by the dance she is teaching this weekend.

LYNETTE ELDON, SUE JENKINSON & WENDY BOLTON Break any of these three ladies in half and you would see Green Ginger stamped through them! The team did consistently well in The Northern Counties championships in the 1970s and 1980s and the team boasted two Champions, one being Lynette who will be teaching this weekend. Most of their steps were learned from Johnson Ellwood and his daughter Mary, both former Champions, though in the team's repertoire are steps from Sammy Bell, Ivy Sands, Mrs Viona Marhoff and other fine dancers from the North East. Green Ginger have performed at most major folk festivals, including for the EFDSS at The Royal Albert Hall and The Dominion Theatre, London. They have led workshops at all levels throughout the country, gaining a reputation for patience and clarity.

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 numerous 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 her wealth of knowledge and gain deeper insight about the Pat Tracey style from as close to the "source" as possible.

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.

HARRY COWGILL was one of the many who jumped at the chance to learn from ex-Music Hall & Variety professional Sam Sherry at the clog dancing classes which Sam started in Preston in the late '70s. Unlike most, he never stopped attending Sam's classes, and continued to run them himself until 2010. A former three-times Lancashire & Cheshire clog dance champion, Harry has danced and/or taught at lots & lots of festivals, shows & ceilidhs, both in the UK & abroad. Harry was also a founder member of the Wallopers and, although he also spent time with INSTEP dance display team, has never left and is the heart of the Wallopers' purpose and focus as a team. **RUTH BIBBY** started learning clog 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.

KEVIN DOWNHAM (Big Kev) was introduced to clog dancing when the legendary Sam Sherry asked him to be his musician, a relationship that would last until Sam's death. He was very much a fixture of the "clog revival" and also had the privilege of playing for Pat Tracey, Bert Bowden and Bill Gibbons. Kev was also the first resident musician for the Lancashire and Cheshire Clog competition instigated by Sam for the Fylde Folk Festival. So we think that it could be agreed that Kev is very much an expert on playing for clog dancing and he is an excellent source of stories about the "greats" of the past! You may have spotted him playing for a number of teams over the years but he is currently a musician for Peterborough Morris, Rumworth Morris and Tyler's Men. He also plays accordion for English and Scottish country dancing, melodeon and concertina, sings and researches traditional hunting songs from the North West of England.

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 "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 or by email to wallopers.weekend@aol.co.uk

****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.**

Cheques should be made out to "The Lancashire Wallopers" but we also accept payment by Bank Transfer (BACs*) to:

The Lancashire Wallopers

Sort Code: 09 01 56

Account Number: 89564007

* Please note that if you chose to pay by BACs, your workshop choice will not be guaranteed until receipt of payment is confirmed. If you have any issues with booking and/or payment then please do contact us and we will do our best to help.

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 **£8.50**

Evening meal (6pm) – Vegetarian lasagne & salad (v) or Beef chilli & rice, or Cauliflower & sweet potato curry (v); choice of home-made dessert; tea or coffee. **£14.50**

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

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
4.15 - 5.00 Displays – all teams and solo artists welcome
5.00 - 5.50 Competition & Clitheroe Clogfest Forum
6.00 - 6.20 Tea served (see menu)
8.00 – 11.00 Ceilidh
*(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!