



## Barley Hop : The Dances

Many of the dances we use are traditional English village dances but we also have dances from other parts of the UK as well as Ireland and America. There are longways dances (couples in column formation), circle dances, square dances and couple dances. There are relatively new creations such as the Chactonbury Ring and the Wortley Windup, and dances that have been popular for centuries such as Sir Roger De Coverley and Sellenger's Round. The dances are usually simple and rhythmic rather than complex and stately (think Thomas Hardy rather than Jane Austin), though more intricate dances can be included to satisfy the more experienced dance crowd. No prior knowledge of the dance is required as the figures are walked through with instruction from the caller before the dance begins. The caller will also call out the figures during the dance.

Some of the dances we often do:

Buttered Peas – a traditional dance from Grassington in the Yorkshire Dales.

The Heartbreaker – a relatively recent creation by Pete Coe.

Speed The Plough – a traditional Dorset dance from notes by Thomas Hardy.

Nottingham Swing – a traditional dance from Titchmarsh, Northants.

The Foula Reel – a traditional dance from Shetland.

Galopede – a traditional dance from Stow-on-the-Wold, Glos.

La Russe – a traditional dance from Northumberland.

Blaydon Races – a dance created by Willie Scot of Hexham.

The Kerry Square – an Irish set dance.

The Dashing White Sergeant – a well known Scottish country dance.

Sir Roger De Coverley – the famous English country dance, popular for well over 300 years.

Sellenger's Round – from Playford's Dancing Master of 1670.

Circassian Circle – the big circle dance, popular since the early 19th century.