

# The Miller's Ghost A Hereburgh Dance

## Introduction

- This is the third dance in the Hereburgh Tradition for Hereburgh Morris from the village of Harbury in Warwickshire.
- It is a long stick dance for eight dancers in two column formation standing within sticking distance of each other.

Musician

1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8

- 1,4,5,8 are first corners, 2,3,6,7 are second corners. Reference to partners means 1&2, 2&3, 4&5, 7&8. Reference to sides means 1&3, 2&4, 5&7,6&8. 1,2,7,8 are ends, 3,4,5,6 are middles.
- The tune is *The Miller's Ghost* by Ruth Johnson, sequence A(AB<sup>2</sup>)<sup>5</sup>AB. It can also be danced to *Lord of the Dance*.
- The stepping for all movements is as for the Hereburgh Windmill Dance (ie 2ds,2ss,ftj+c) but the figures differ. The ds is similar to the Ascott-under-Wychwood style with the arms swinging down and up to eye level.
- Single stepping is simple style, and sometimes backwards. Arms swing down on 1<sup>st</sup> ss and up on 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Sticks are held in pencil grip at the centre and should be kept as vertical as possible.
- Left foot start everywhere except the second half of face-to-face and back-to-back figures.
- The sequence is: Walk on, once to yourself.

Cast, chorus

Face-to-face, chorus

Chain, chorus

Back-to-back, chorus

Reel of eight, chorus

Lead off

## Chorus

1. All face corners, feet together, holding stick in the middle with full grip. No stepping while sticking.
2. First corners strike ground with the butt in front of their feet, and then strike the ground a little further forward with the tip. They then clash forehand tips with their corner. Second corners stand still.
3. Second corners repeat as above while first corners stand still.  
(for the adventurous, now standard with Hereburgh, 3 and 6 can 'act' as first corners in the first bar and 4 and 5 can 'act' as second corners in the second bar.)
4. All turn to face partner and clash tips, butts, then take a two handed hold and perform three sharp forehand clashes.
5. Using a balance step after the three clashes, top four and bottom four each perform a four person hey – as follows – In 1ds 1&4 pass right shoulders and immediately turn to the right to face 1 towards 3 and 4 towards 2. Meanwhile 2 and 3 start stepping and move slightly to their right. In the second ds 1 and 3 now pass left shoulders, as do 2 and 4 (this bit is like a four man reel). In 2 ss 2 and 3 now pass right shoulders and all four move to their opposite corner position, 1 and 4 turning left into place and 2 and 3 turning right into place. All ft+j with partner.
6. 1 to 5 is then repeated back to place.

## Walk On

As in a Lichfield Dance – in two columns, finishing facing up.

## Cast

Start with a balance step at the end of the OTY and then in 2ds,2ss the odds follow 1 and evens follow 2 as they cast out and dance down parallel to the line of the set until they are level with where the bottom of the set started. The set has now reversed but is wider. On the ft+j all move in to reform the set and clash with partner. Repeat following 1 and 2 to the top of the set.

## Face-to-face

In 2ds dance face to face (whole gyp) with partner passing right shoulders. Back into place with 2ss, ftj+c with partner. Repeat with side starting right foot, passing left shoulders, finish ftj+c with side.

## Chain

In this figure large distances need to be covered by the end dancers especially, but all need to keep the shape of the set regular. In the first ds the top four and bottom four each dance a half round clockwise to their opposite corner. Keeping a smooth flow from the first movement, the new middle four now dance a half round anticlockwise on the next ds. The new ends keep facing clockwise and dance on the spot. In the 2ss, the new top and bottom fours now dance a half round clockwise. All turn the easy way to ftj+c with partner. Repeat back to place.

## Back-to-back

Back to back with partner, right shoulders, ftj+c with partner: back to back with side, left shoulders, ftj+c with side.

## Reel of Eight

This is made of two reels of four crossing in the centre. 1,3,6,8 dance a reel and intersect with 2,4,5,7. Collisions are avoided in the middle by making a small circle of the four arriving dancers and turning it half a turn anticlockwise.

This results in the Reel as in the Windmill Dance, but done on the diagonal.

1. On the balance step, the ends step backwards out of the set to form the diagonal cross



2. Everyone turns to face their 'side' and pass right shoulders on the first ds.
3. In the second ds, middles turn right and head back towards the centre, while ends, who are now facing the centre, all pass left shoulders by forming a small circle and turning it half a turn anti-clockwise.
4. In 2ss, the middles, now facing the centre pass left shoulders as above as the ends reach the ends of their reel and turn right to face towards the centre.
5. All ftj+c with their side in the cross formation (but now reversed.)
6. Repeat 2 to 4 to return to cross formation as in 1
7. All ftj+c with partner as they resume the original shape of the set (ie ends move back in).

## Lead off

Using a stepping sequence of 2ds, 4ss ad nausiam, everyone turns on balance step to face clockwise, and dance one complete rounds, with the middles moving out to form a large circle at the start. The caller breaks out of the circle and leads the others off.