








Greenwood Step Clog Dancers


 The **Greenwood Step Clog Dancers** are based in Nottingham in the UK, and were formed in 1970. We dance step clog, mostly from northern England, Scotland, and Wales, and choreograph all dances to suit our members and create a varied spectacle.

 Step-clog dancing involves fast and intricate steps, performed wearing clogs with wooden soles (ideally made of ash wood) and leather uppers. The best surface to dance on is a smooth resonant surface such as stone, slate or hard wood.

 We often dance out in local villages with the Foresters Morris Men, with whom we have several family members in common.

 We dance at festivals and locations throughout the UK as the opportunity arises, and visit France every four years.

 We dance at dawn every year to celebrate spring on the first of May, about 5.15a.m. at the Robin Hood statue by Nottingham Castle.

 Our music consists of traditional British folk tunes, together with some Music Hall songs, and is played on recorder, accordion, fiddle and banjo.

Step Clog Dancing

Step dancing - the beating out of a musical rhythm with the toes and heels - is probably as old as hard soled footwear, but English Clog Dancing is mainly a product of the industrialisation of the North of England in the nineteenth century, where the working classes wore shoes with wooden soles and leather uppers. Wooden soled shoes were once common in industrial areas, such as northern England, south Scotland and south Wales. Step clog dancing is said to have first been danced by girls working in the cotton mills. They beat out a rhythm with their wooden clogs to keep in time with the shuttle flying backwards and forwards across the loom.

The stepping soon became popular with both men and women, and began to include all the traditional hornpipe and reel steps which had been danced in England for many years. Soon clog dancing competitions began to be held, at which dancers were marked for their originality, and for the clearness of their beats, that is, the sound that their clogs made on the wooden floors. Clog dancing was popular also in the Music Halls and Variety Theatres in the North of England, and was danced in flamboyant style to popular waltzes of the day such as *Daisy Daisy*.

Interested?



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