

Timetable

12.30 Jig Doll Workshop

1.15 Stepdance Workshop

2.00 Competitions

2023 Winners:

Josh Dart (Steve Monk Memorial Tankard)

Dom Smith (Font Whatling Cup) Stevie

Chenery (Newcomer shield) Mo Allum

(Percy West O'Connor plate)

Linda Watterson (Jig Doll) Lucy Brown

(u16)

Traditional Music Day
Saturday 21st September 2024
Stowmarket, Suffolk



EAST ANGLIAN TRADITIONAL MUSIC TRUST
Promoting Events, Research & Participation in the Folk Music Traditions of East Anglia
www.eatmt.org.uk - 07495 054669



Stepdance Day

Sunday 21st July 2024

The Compasses, Littley Green, Essex

PROGRAMME

Featuring:

Percy West O'Connor Award

Steve Monk Memorial Stepdance Competition

Font Whatling Traditional Stepdance Competition

Jig Doll Competition



We think that it is important to keep stepdance day free, in order to encourage lots of people to come along, to watch and to take part. However, we would like to ask you to support the event by buying a generous amount of raffle tickets. Many thanks.

The Workshops

George Monger will be running our newest workshop—Jig Dolls - at 12.30. These delightful percussive wooden dolls were a regular feature in pub sessions and they still appear across the region and beyond.

Stepdancing is a completely improvised dance so is not best taught by formal methods, it is very much an individuals own style, so it is super easy to learn - making it your own. Traditional dancers from the region will be here to demonstrate their own styles and will be happy to discuss over the afternoon. There will be plenty of time to have a go alongside live music, which is integral to this dance tradition. Fiona Davies will lead the workshop accompanied by Lindsay Want.

The Competitions and awards

This year, 20 years after the Steve Monk Memorial Stepdancing competition left Essex, we are bringing it home plus the other competitions that have been added over the years. The Font Whatling Competition was added in 2008 and the Jig Doll Competition in 2023. The Percy West O'Connor plate is awarded by Doreen based on a stepdancer's contribution to the tradition.

Steve Monk Memorial Stepdancing competition

Prizes for overall winner (Steve Monk Memorial Tankard) and most promising newcomer (shield donated by patrons Gloria Buckley MBE and her late husband Trevor Buckley).

Anybody can enter – new dancers especially welcome. Marks are given for flair, interpretation, good timing, dancing to the tune and presentation. The aim is to encourage the local style of stepdancing, and not show off other particular dance styles– eg. Appalachian, northern, clog ect

Any music

Font Whatling Traditional Stepdance Competition

Prize for overall winner (Font Whatling Traditional Stepdance Trophy)

You don't have to dance like Font Whatling but its really important to dance east Anglian style stepdancing, and for this reason dancers must wear hard-soled shoes and no taps or blakeys are allowed.

Music: dancers to dance to both tunes : *'Pigeon on the Gate'* (hornpipe) and *'Oh Joe'* (polka)

Percy West O'Connor Award

In 2015 the stepdancing fraternity was deeply saddened when the great stepdancer Percy West died.

This award is made my Percy's widow Doreen . Doreen a stepdancer herself, makes the award based on special qualities and contributions made to stepdancing.

About the East Anglian Traditional Music Trust

We are a registered charity with educational aims, which was set up in 2000 to preserve and promote the traditional music, dance and song of the eastern counties. We do this through a programme of regular events, projects, research and publications including books and exhibitions. We operate all year round from a base at Red Gables, a well being hub in the centre of Stowmarket. For more information see our website www.eatmt.org.uk which is bursting full of interesting stuff!

With thanks to many volunteers for helping get this year's event back into Essex and particularly to Steve and the Team at **The Compasses**.