

Clawdd Offa

(Wales)

Clawdd Offa (CLOUTH aw-FAH) translates as "Off's Dyke" and is also called Oswestry Square. The dance was presented by Vyts Beliajus at the 1986 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

RECORD: GBH-1 "Welsh Dances Presented by Alexander Hamilton" Side A/4 6/8 meter

FORMATION: Four cpls in square formation.

STEPS: Polka (a flat-footed traveling step): Lift L heel (ct 6 of preceding meas); step fwd on R (cts 1-2); step on L near R (ct 3); step fwd on R (cts 4-6). Step alternates.

Slip (2 per meas): Moving CW, slide ball of L ft sdwd to L, taking wt (cts 1-2); close R to L, taking wt (ct 3); repeat exactly (cts 4-6). Steps repeats exactly. To move CCW, slide R ft sdwd to R and close L to R.

Buzz (2 per meas): To turn CW as a cpl, step on full R ft in front of L, bending knee (cts 1-2); small step on ball of L ft to L (ct 3); repeat exactly (cts 4-6).

Dos-a-Dos: Facing ptr, pass R shldr, pass back-to-back, and back into place (4 Polka steps).

Swing: With R hips adjacent, join L hands with ptr at waist level, WR hand on ML shldr and MR hand on WL waist. WL arm is under MR arm. Use Buzz step to turn CW as a cpl.

STYLING: Flowing motion is achieved by leading with the body rather than with the feet. Arms hang relaxed, moving easily with the motion of the dance. Eye contact is maintained whenever possible. Unless specified, steps can begin with either R or L ft.

MUSIC 6/8

PATTERN

Measures

Chord INTRODUCTION No action.

I. TO THE CENTER AND BACK; DOS-A-DOS

A1 1-2 All join hands in a circle at chest level and dance 2 Polka steps fwd into the ctr.

3-4 All dance two Polka steps bkwd out of the ctr.

5-8 Dance a Dos-a-Dos with ptr.

A2 1-8 Repeat meas 1-8 (A1).

II. WEAVING

B1 1-8 Cpl 1 face and pass L shldr. Continuing in the same direction, go outside around the next person (W1 around W4, M1 around M2). Go into the ctr of the set passing between the side cpls. Go outside the set (W1 between M4 and W3, M1 between W2 and M3) to meet behind cpl 3. Join inside hands and pass between cpl 3 to original places, M1 raising R arm and turning W1 CCW under raised hands as he moves around her to end in orig pos facing the ctr of the set. Use 8 Polka steps.

III. SLIP LEFT AND RIGHT

B2 1-3 All join hands at chest level and slip CW 6 steps.
4 Step sdwd on L ft (ct 1); stamp R next to L (no wt) (ct 4).
5-8 Beg R, repeat meas 1-4 but move CCW.

IV. FIGURE EIGHT

A3 1-8 Cpl 1 dance a figure eight around cpl 3. Begin by crossing between cpl 3, W1 passing in front of ptr to go CCW around W3 while M1 goes CW around M3. Cross again in between cpl 3, W1 crossing in front of ptr to go CW around M3 while M1 goes CCW around W3. End backing into orig position. Use 8 Polka steps.

V. SWING

B3 1-8 All Swing ptrs.
Repeat the entire dance three times, with cpl 2, then cpl 3, then cpl 4 active.



Costumes
of Wales