

Feathers

(tune: Fairy Dance)

Eynsham is a particularly vigorous tradition and unlike many other traditions the dance is broken into groups of 6 bars rather than 4.

The stepping is a standard morris step (1,2,3 hop) but is a closed side step. All dances start with a break comprising hopping on the left leg for six bars while the right leg goes in front of the left leg then out to the right then behind the left leg ending with a kick forward. The right leg is then in the air to start the stepping onto the right leg with the left leg coming up close behind the right.

The hands in the break come up to cross over above the head on the first beat then out on the second, on the third they touch the chest and are flung out in front and at 45 deg on the last beat. As the stepping starts they come down by the side then they are flung up to a high stretch above the head for the first bar, fitting into one bar of stepping to come down again to cross over below navel and then up high again for the second bar. This is repeated for the third, fourth, fifth and sixth bars.

Some dances have a Gatepost figure where the set opens up into line. In this case if the turn is 180 deg turn down, if it is 270 deg turn up to form the line that rotates round an end into a straight line.

Turns to face a different direction are done are on the break and are smart

FU - Foot Up, FD - Foot down, BB - Back to Back, Spts - Spots, WR - Walk Right, IO - Dance In and Out, Cst - Cast, UIL - Up in Line, UITL - Up into Line, WH - Whole, Hey, Cnr - Corners, AU - All up, DIS - Down into set, DITL - Down into Line

Dance	Sequence	Distinctive Figure	Comments
Feathers	FU, Fe, BB, Fe, Cocky, Fe, WR, IO	A pleasant more gentle dance. Feathers figure is 1,4 & 5 dance round right while 2, 3 & 6 come into middle and dance left facing in. Set is formed up after one dance round when 2, 3 & 6 dance round while 1,4 & 5 go in to meet	Pay special attention to the large circle of three in the feathers figure. Remember to always turn out when going outside in feathers figure

Video - <https://youtu.be/B9mnhTWmaAU>