Tinner's Rabbits

A dance with many versions; three dancers, six or nine are standard. More are also be possible. The majority of the dance is done in sets of three with the larger set being one at the end. The six formation is: -

3 5

1 4

2 6

With nine dancers, the set-up becomes more complicated with 1, 4 and 7 in the middle with their backs to each other in a triangle and their sets outside this facing them. Sequence is: -

1 (and 4 and 7) reels;
CHORUS;
Three star;
CHORUS;
2 (and 5 and 8) reels;
CHORUS;
Rabbit snares;
CHORUS;
3 (and 6 and 9) reels;
CHORUS;
Rounds (if 3 or 6 man), Circle and Star if 9 man (1,4 and 7 star whilst others circle around them in opposite direction - anti-clockwise)
Lead off in single line.

These are: -

Reels - Two dancers dance on the spot whilst the other goes between them, left around one, back between them and then right around the other. He then goes between and around the first again before returning to place.
Three star - A three-man star, gripping left forearms and turning anti-clockwise.
Rabbit snares - All turn left to face in a clockwise circle. Sticks held in right hands held in at waist height to form a triangle. Dance round.
Rounds - if six dancers - 2, 3, 5 and 6 are already there, 1 follows 2 and 4 follows 5 to make the circle, clockwise.
CHORUS - The stick clash is passed around the set, 1 to 2, 2 to 3, 3 to 1 etc. for 12 beats; the clashing being one two handed clash per beat. This is followed by three beats on the floor by all, rising for the next move on the last beat.

Information

A dance written by Gozzer and honed into shape by the team in it's early days. The tin miners on Dartmoor caught rabbits for food and there are references to the tinners rabbits still today, including a "letter boxing" stamp with the distinctive three rabbits. The symbol is very much older and is often seen carved in the same places as other old pagan symbols.