

Please reply to: Tracey Rose,
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38th John Gasson Jig Competition 2026

This competition is organised in memory of John Gasson, who was tragically killed on his way to Sidmouth Festival in 1987. John was a fine jig dancer. Whether dancing or playing, his personal standards were high, and raising the general standard of display dancing was something very dear to him. When we started the competition, the aim was to raise the standard of jig dancing. This competition is sponsored by Janet Dowling, Dave and Fee Lock, His Old School Friends, Chris and Tracey Rose, The Seven Champions, The Outside Capering Crew, Kerry Fletcher, Sue and John Swift.

Rules of the Competition

1. The competition is for English jig dancing and is not open to step dancing or Irish jig dancing.
2. Dancers must be accompanied by live music.
3. The competition will be held on Sunday 2 August 2026, in the Blackmore Gardens Dance Marquee at 3.00pm. Report time 2.30pm.
4. Closing date for entries is Saturday 1 August 2026 at 6pm unless it is already full. Entries will be limited so send them to traceyrose7@btinternet.com before 27 July 2026.
5. Entrants will be judged according to the following criteria:
 - Dance technique
 - Performance
 - Music
 - Artistic appreciation
6. The judges' decision is final.
7. The winners of the John Gasson Memorial Trophy and the Doubles Trophy may not enter the competition in the winning category the following year but are required to start that Competition with the winning jig of the previous year. You are expected to keep your dancing to that winning standard.
8. The Solo Jig Competition is for a maximum of two people per jig including musician. The Double Jig Competition is for a maximum of two dancers and one musician per jig. No more than 2 (solo jig) or 3 (double jig) people may be on the stage for the competition. You cannot have an additional speaker, sign holder or any other additional person in any way, in any part of the performance.

The judges will have a wide range of expertise covering the criteria to be assessed.

Competition Categories:

Solo Jig Competition: sponsored by Kerry Fletcher, Chris and Tracey Rose.

Double Jig Competition - Dave and Fee Lock, Sue and John Swift and The Seven Champions.

Best New Entrant Prize - sponsored by His Old School Friends. This is for the best new dancer who must not have entered the competition before but their musician may have.

Audience Appeal Prize - sponsored by the Outside Capering Crew. This is intended to recognise that the "best" jig by technical standard is not necessarily the one with the most audience appeal. The judging criteria is deliberately flexible, it may be that the jig is chosen for its impressiveness or for some particular feature or it may be a very simple dance but performed with a warmth of spirit or good humour, or with a special audience rapport. The performance must be technically competent, but not necessarily excellent. The prize will not be given for a "spoof" dance, created primarily for an audience of fellow dancers, though it might well be given for a novelty jig in the spirit and tradition of, say, the Bampton Fool's Jig.

Best Dancer Aged Over 40 Years Prize - sponsored by Janet Dowling. The dancer can either be entering the double or solo jig sections and will be entered for all the above categories as appropriate and this additional category.

Although this is a competition, the aim is that everyone will benefit from the resulting improvement in their dancing.

Trophies to be returned to Tracey Rose by Saturday 31st July 2027.

There is a *limit on the number of entries*, so please do not delay your entry; if you know you want to enter but have not yet decided on the jig, send in the form to get your place and let me know by 27th July what your jig will be. Please email Tracey Rose on traceyrose7@btinternet.com as soon as possible and before 27th July 2026 to let me know you will be entering. Any queries telephone 01795 530335 / 07885832567. Please report to Blackmore Gardens Marquee at 2.30 pm for the running order.

38th John Gasson Jig Competition 2026 - Entry Form

Please accept my entry for the above competition, which will be held on Sunday 2 August 2026 at 3.00pm in the Blackmore Gardens Dance Marquee.

I have read the Rules of the Competition and agree to abide by them. I understand the Judges' decision is final.

Name of Dancer(s):

Name of Musician:

Name of Jig:

Tradition: (e.g. Bampton, Fieldtown, Molly etc.)

Please delete as applicable:

Are you a new entrant? **Yes/No**

Are you over 40? **Yes/No**

Is the jig traditionally danced to the tune you have chosen? **Yes/ No.**

Which category are you entering? **Solo / Double**

Name of Team:

Home Address:

.....

Mobile: Telephone:

Email:

I confirm that I wish to receive emails in the future about the John Gasson Jig Competition - **Yes/No.**

Signature

Date