Folklife Traditions: Dartmoor Broom & Step Dance Championships 2018

*For details of the Festival, see **FESTIVAL DIARY PAGES**, p40*

A brother and sister took the top honours at the 41st Dartmoor Folk Festival held at South Zeal near Okehampton from August 10-12.

Stanley Frangleton (10), from South Zeal, was the Dartmoor Broom Dance Champion while his sister, Ruth (14), was the Junior Dartmoor Step Dance Champion.

Dartmoor Broom Dancing involves dancing over a broom.

Stanley said that he learned the dance at workshops held at the festival a few years ago and had been practising to perfect the dance. He was up against dozens of other competitors, dancing in front of a large audience. Stanley was following in a family tradition because his older sisters, Beth and Elsa, have won the broom dance championship at previous festivals.

The Dartmoor Step Dance sees dancers step on a 15-inch square board showing the different steps to try and out-step the previous dancer, until a final champion is decided upon. Ruth was chosen by the judges to have out-stepped other competitors to gain the title. She said she was "thrilled" to win. It was fifth time lucky for Jenny Read of Exeter, who won the adult Dartmoor Step Dance Championship; she previously won the title in 2016, 2012, 2004 and 2002.

® *Alan Quick, Dartmoor Folk Festival*

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