

Ilmington

Warwickshire. There is information about 14 dances, including 1 processional, 5 alternatively stick or hand-clapping and 2 Jigs.

Sources

Morris Book I; Roy Dommett (Sharp's MSS; Dr. Kenworthy Schofield's MSS). Dr. Kenworthy Schofield's information came largely from Sam Bennett, Ilmington dancer and fiddler, who was teaching the dances up till 1945.

Dancing in Ilmington underwent a series of revivals, with resulting variations in the dancing, hence the alternative versions.

Figures

Foot up, Half hands, Back to back, Cross and turn, and Whole-rounds to finish.

Foot up is stationary, facing up and down, and turning out at end of second half, the turn at end of 1st half is on the **Jump**, but that at the end of 2nd half occupies 2 bars.

Cross and turn pass **right** shoulders, ¼ turn to **right** and turn **left** to middle on the **Jump**. 2nd half repeat, but return to place.

Whole rounds face front halfway round, all turn out to **right** at beginning of each half, finish facing **up**.

Half hey has an extra loop on the spot at each end. Shoulder nearly touching and up and out or down and out.

1st couple down inside, down outside and then loop.

2nd couple up outside, loop and then down inside.

3rd couple loop, up inside and then up outside.

Steps

2 bars **4-Step, 1 bar 2-Step, Step and jump**, repeat. **Jump** with **snatch** in **Once to yourself**.

Arm-movements

Relaxed **Down** and **up, snatch** on **Jump, 3 waves** and up with **Plain caper** and **Jump** at end of dances. Low twists in **Side step**.

Processional Dance

PROCESSIONAL DANCE

Tune is **Flowers of May**. In **single** or **double** file, each man capering or galleying as he pleased. On entering the ground they danced in a circle to **2-Step**, swinging arms alternately.

Sticking or Clapping Dances

Sticks are held by one hand end at the side, but high crossed in **Once to yourself** and **Foot up**. Usual striking at end of each half-figure. Sticking was interchangeable as between the dances. Clapping was performed with or without handkerchiefs tied to middle fingers. Clap hands above head at end of each half figure.

THE BLACK JOKE

Once to yourself, Foot up, Chorus, Half hands, Chorus, Back to back, Chorus, Cross and turn, Chorus, Whole rounds
Stepping in each half is **2 bars 4-step, 2 bars 2-step, 3 Plain caper, Jump.**

Once to yourself is **3 Plain caper, Jump, Strike or clap on Jump.**

Foot up turn on the capers in both halves, to face front for clash or clap.
Chorus is **Sticking** or **clapping** and **Half hey**, repeat.

CONSTANT BILLY

Once to yourself, Foot up, Chorus, Half hands, Chorus, Back to back, Chorus, Cross and turn, Chorus, Whole rounds
Chorus is **Sticking** or **clapping** and **Half hey**, repeat,

Sticking is single-handed throughout:

| Tip Butt Tip Butt | Tip Butt Tip Butt |
| Tip Butt Tip Butt | Tip Butt Tip - |

Feet are

| right right left left | right right left left |
| right right left left | right right Jump |

Clapping is | **Front - Right - | Front - Left - | Front - Back - | Front - Both -**
|

SHEPHERDS' HEY

Once to yourself, Foot up, Chorus, Half hands, Chorus, Back to back, Chorus, Cross and turn, Chorus, Whole rounds
Chorus is **Sticking** or **Clapping** and **Half hey**, repeat.

Sticking is sticks **left** and **right** for **tips** and **butts**.

| **Odd - Even - | Tip Butt Tip Butt | Tip Butt Tip - |**

Feet

| **3 Stamp(right) together | 3 Stamp(right) together | right right left left**
| **right right Jump - |**

Clapping

| **Front(under right knee) Right - | Front(under left knee) Left |**
| **Front(under right knee) Front(under left knee) | Left Left Left - |**

THE CUCKOO'S NEST

Once to yourself, Foot up, Chorus, Half hands, Chorus, Back to back, Chorus, Cross and turn, Chorus, Whole rounds
Chorus is **Sticking** or **clapping** and **Half hey**, repeat. As in Shepherds' Hey.

Handkerchief Dances

MORRIS ON

Danced to BUMPUS O' STRETTON.

Once to yourself, (Foot down, Foot up), Dance in position

Repeat (**Foot down, Foot up**) ad lib, till musician breaks into another tune, usually Old Mother Oxford (Molly Oxford), when set presumably dances one phrase in position, then proceeds without pause into the new dance.

Foot down is down, and turn out to face up (4 bars), up and **Jump**, not turning (4 bars).

Foot up as **Foot down**, facing down last time face front on **Jump**

THE MAID OF THE MILL

Once to yourself, Foot up, Chorus, Half hands, Chorus, Back to back, Chorus, Cross and turn, Chorus, Whole rounds

Partners are linked by two handkerchiefs knotted together at one corner, held in their **right** hands, raised high throughout except when passing under in hey.

Left arm hangs by side.

Chorus is **Spin** and **Half hey**, repeat.

Spin is **2 circles** on the spot, turning upwards (odds counterclockwise evens clockwise) with **3 bars of 2-step, Step and jump.**

BUMPUS OF STRETTON

Once to yourself, Foot up, Chorus, Half hands, Chorus, Back to back, Chorus, Cross and turn, Chorus, Whole rounds

Chorus is **Open Side step** and **Half hey**, repeat.

Open Side step is

| **Side step**(left) | **Side step**(left) | **Side step**(right) | **Side step**(right) |
moving about 6 feet (2 metres) **left** in the 1st two **Open side step** and return to place with **Jump**.

THE BUFFOON

Once to yourself, Hey and Chorus alternately ad lib.

Once to yourself face partner

Hey if danced in set, a Country Dance hey, 2 ½ times through (4 bars), if in line, a continuous straight hey (reel). In either case, finish in two rings of 3 dancers.

Chorus is in turn counter clockwise starting with **A**.

1st time **A** Front right knee, B's right shoulder, **Knee**(B's backside). Repeat with **B** and **C**, then **C** and **A**. All turn round, then re-form line or set.

2nd time instead of kicking make a feint with **right** fist at his face.

Jigs

NELSON'S PRAISE

Once to yourself, Foot up, Jig, Capers, Jig, Clapping, Jig

Foot up is | **6 4-Step** | **2-Step** | **Foot together jump** |.

Jig is **Open Side step**

| **Side step**(right) | **Side step**(right) | **Side step**(left) | **Side step**(left) |
| **4-Step** | **4-Step** | **Cross Cross Cross -** | **Cross Cross Cross -** |

| 4-Step | 4-Step | 2-Step | Foot together jump |.

Capers are

| Cross Apart together Cross | Apart together Cross Apart | together
Cross Apart together | Cross Apart together left | 4-Step | 4-Step | 2-
Step | Foot together jump |.

Clapping is 5 | **Under**(right knee) **Under**(left knee) **Back** | then as **capers**.