

## Ilmington

Warwickshire. Information came 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. The Music was by pipe and tabor for three generations prior to Bennett. There is information about 14 dances, including 1 processional, 5 alternatively stick or hand-clapping and 2 Jigs.

### *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 1<sup>st</sup> half is on the **Jump**, but that at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> half occupies 2 bars.

**Cross and turn** pass **right** shoulders, ¼ turn to **right** and turn **left** to middle on the **Jump**. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

1<sup>st</sup> couple down inside, down outside and then loop.

2<sup>nd</sup> couple up outside, loop and then down inside.

3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**.

1<sup>st</sup> 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> 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**.