

KNUTSFORD - Cheshire

As danced by Fiddlers Fancy at Sidmouth 1979. As danced for 8.

STEP-UP: hopstep. Arms big swing of sticks from behind, forward and well up in front. 8 bars. Start on right foot and with swing down on the strong beat of arms.

CROSS-OVER: the 2 sticks held at bottom, vertically in front of body, shoulder width apart, upper arm down at sides, forearm horizontal. 4 hopsteps into line, 4 more to opposite place passing right shoulders, kick balance left foot across, then right foot across. Turn body about 30 deg on the kick, then left across again and turn anticlockwise to face back on a jump landing feet together. Repeat to own place.

HANDS-ACROSS: stars in 4's. 8 hops each way - that is 2 hops into formation, turn out half way through on first beat of bar 5 and end with 2 hops out. Inside sticks vertical in centre in a bundle, outside one up in front as described in fig above. Turn easy way at end to face up, in 4's, 2&4 anticlock, 1&3 clockwise.

OUTSIDE: start right foot, 8 hops down and 8 hops up, sticks vertical. As come up, cross inside sticks high up. Would be twice as long with 16 dancers.

INSIDE: Bottom pair face up, sticks crossed, rest face up, sticks vertical. In 1 bar into line of 4 with next to bottom pair, in 2nd bar in line of 4 with next up set etc. With a 4 pair set, to top in 4 bars, cast out on own side and take 4 bars to go down to own place. The next to bottom pair go round following, start in bar 3 and back to place, going round the bottom pair, in bar 10. Each pair in turn goes round. 16 bars in all.

STEP-UP: 8 bars on spot facing up.

CROSS-OVER

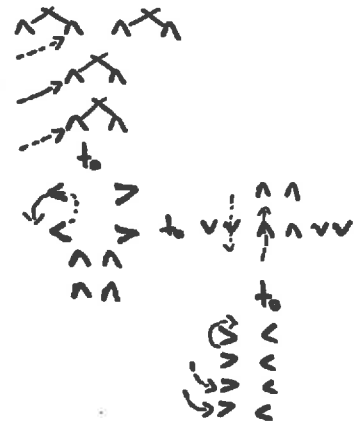
DANCE-THROUGH: In the first two bars the 2nd pair moves in between the 1st pair, facing up and they cross inside sticks. The 3rd and 4th pairs move in together to be behind the 2nd pair in column with their inside sticks crossed.

In the next two bars, the top pairs rotate as a pair on the spot to face out, while the other 4 mark time.


In the 3rd 2 bars the top pairs go down the outside of the set while the bottom pairs move up the middle

In the final 2 bars the top pairs swing in to face front and the bottom pairs reach the top and turn to face in. Repeat till back to initial places.

REELS: reel of 4 on side, passing right shoulder first.



KENTSFORD VARIATIONS

Source: collected and taught by B Robinson in Bath Feb. 1979. 
 Set :16 dancers, each with 2 waivers. These are single ended with a mass of streamers at top.

Stepping: a highskip, also a setting, step to left and put right foot in front of left.

CHORUS: face up and start with left foot. 16 skips. Wave hands above head to left and then to right etc holding the waivers parallel. A chorus ahead of each figure.

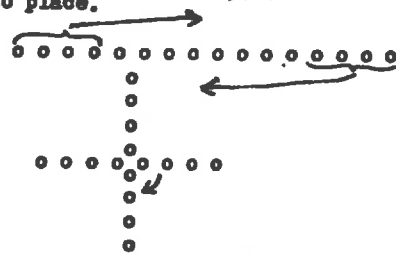
COYS: raise the waivers on 2nd to last bar and cross over head, arms bent at elbows. 

1. Cross-Over: face opposite, cross set passing right shoulder, turn up and round to face back in 8 hopsteps. Hands with waivers crossed above head. Repeat to place passing right shoulders again.

2. Turn Partner: 4 skips in towards opposite with hands up & waivers crossed. Turn opposite round with right hand 4 skips, right hand high & waivers crossed, left hand sloping out low. Come back with left hand low in middle & right up out high. 4 skips to place with waivers crossed over head.

3. Stars: as 2, but in 4's. 4 skips in, Star right and left back with centre hands low both ways and outside waivers up high. (up high means slope out at 45 deg & waiver continues the line of the arm). 4 skips each way & 4 skips out to place.

4. Windmill: All dance into one line in 8 skips with waivers crossed over head.



Then in groups of 4 skip into a cross, 8 skips.

The cross moves round through 90 degs in 8 skips, then "set" on spot 4 steps, with right hand up and left down.

Repeat rotation and setting 4 times in all, 8 skips back into line and then 8 skips back to place all with waivers crossed etc.

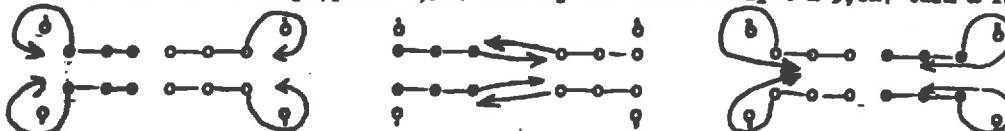
5. Aeroplane:



4 skips to position, 4 skips to turn to face direction to move, waivers crossed above, 8 skips round clockwise right hand low and left hand up. Turn in and back with left hand low and right hand up. 4 skips to turn to face back to place & 4 skips to place with waivers crossed overhead again.

6. Cast out from the top to the bottom, 16 skips, waivers crossed, and come up centre as meet partner, arching inside waivers and outside ones up as well, 16 skips. Top pair and bottom pair turn out, cross waivers overhead and facing away from the set, dance 4 skips forward while rest step on spot.

On the 4th skip all the rest cross own waivers over head. During the next 4 skips, pairs 2, 3&4 face up and dance on spot & 5, 6&7 turn & face down.



Dance around the path indicated. Then turn and face own place & end 4 skips to place.

7. Figure of Eight: in 4's. 2nd pairs skip 4 forward to be between 1's, waivers crossed. Turn to face alternate directions, 1st pair in, 2nd pair in in line of 4, 4 skips. The 2nd pair reel around 1&2 who step on spot and do not move. Pass right shoulder first in middle & then left with 1&2 & right shoulder in middle again, 8 skips? 4 skips to turn towards place & 4 skips back to place. Repeat with 3&4 skipping on the spot.

8. Last Chorus: 12 skips facing up & waiving as usual then turn to face alternately down & up along the line on the last 4 skips. Chain along side to place, aeroplaning arm, 2 skips to each change, passing right and left shoulders alternately. Raise inside arm & just touch stick with person passing. Do not waver in and out but keep chain in straight line by almost passing back to back as move along.

CRANFORD AND GASKELL MORRIS at KNUTSFORD

Source: Mrs Aspey of Knutsford who danced in early Cranford team (early 1920's), the Gaskell team and a Moberley team.

Sticks: double ended "shillelaghs" - dowel with paper strips fixed to end. Red in right hand, yellow in left.

Step : Skip step, free leg well raised on hop. Sticks crossed above head in figures.

Music : always "95" for the dance but march on and off to Colonel Bogey or Blaze Away.

Set : mixed team, women on left and men on right. 8 each side. All over 16 years old.

02YS : Arms up sharply on 13th beat of the music - 1st beat of bar 7.

CHORUS: wave shillelaghs with wrist, right to left then left to right. Step all the time with a right foot start. 16 steps. Used between all figures.

1. Cross over with partner, cross sticks above head, 16 steps, turn up then in to face partner. Do 4 "toe & knee" steps using right foot for "toe & knee", left stick up. Cross back and repeat "toe & knee" in place.
2. Outsides, done from bottom, 16 steps to top, 16 steps down middle, inside sticks crossed. 8 steps on spot facing out to place as lines are close together, then 8 steps out to place.
3. "Twos" - 8 steps to meet opposite, 8 steps right round making high arch between, 8 steps back arching with left hands, 8 steps out to place. Cross sticks going in and out.
4. "Fours" - 4 steps to meet, 4 steps round half way, 4 steps back, 4 steps out to place. Sticks down in centre of cross.
5. "Chain" - turn in ready for this on last 2 bars of previous chorus. All 1's and 2's turn right to face next in line. Chain right and left down the line - imaginary left at ends to come back in with right hand as turn by self to come back. Sticks moved around like "windmills" touching right (or left) tips while passing. 4 steps for each change.

Finish with a chorus & arms down on last bar. March off.

MOBERLEY - near KNUTSFORD

Source: E. Benson of Altrincham whose own morris team in the late 1920's in Altrincham was taught by a Moberley dancer. The Moberley team was in existence as a men's side from the early to late 1920's, later mixed or a girls' side. Still danced.

Sticks: sticks with paper "buzz-fuzz" at one end, normally held forward about 45 deg in figs or waved from the wrist, not the arms, to right and left in chorus in parallel

Step : single step hop with knee raised high, thigh horizontal. It was considered cheating to bring the free foot up behind the knee and it lost points. Start right foot, left up.

Music : "95" or "100 Pipers" played by a brass band.

INTRO & CHORUS as Cranford.

1. Outsides from top (16 steps), up middle with crossed sticks (16 steps), 8 steps to place, 8 facing up.
2. Left file cross to position behind right file, right file cross to vacated places next, left file cross back to behind others again, right file then cross back to place.
3. "Twos" - 8 steps to meet, 8 steps half way round with high sticks in centre, 8 steps half way back, 8 steps out to place. (low sticks in centre coming back?)
4. "Fours" - 8 steps to meet in 4's, 8 steps half way round with low sticks in centre, 8 step back, having turned in and 8 out to place. When sticks high (low) in centre the other arm is low (high) so that slope is along both arms. When turn half way in "fours" do not change slope so that it is a high cross in centre coming back.
5. Chain in line, turn on first beat to right for 1's and 2's (ie top pairs of 4's). Chain all the way down & back to place with windmill arms.

Finish with chorus and sticks down.