

STAFFORD

The Betley, Staffordshire dance was collected from Mr. Shelley an. old dancer in 1956. The essentially same dance was done by the English Electric side at Lichfield Bower between the wars. Mr. Shelley's dance recently published in ED&S. Additional material from an English Electric dancer who came from Preston area.

Music: Scottish jigs - Bonny Dundee etc anything lively, Garry Owen

Sticks: 2 sticks, 14 in long, red, white and blue rings painted on, each end had a small knob with bells and 6 in long ribbons.

Steps: mostly skipping or the "heel & toe" schottische setting step. Stand on one foot, heel of free foot to side, back to half way up shin, repeat. Then do with other foot.

Hands: sticks held horizontally above head between thumb and forefinger lightly and steppir does most of the ringing of the bells, some shaking done.

Set: 16, eight on each side. Can be done successfully by 12.

1. 4 polka steps on spot turning round. Dancers turn alternate ways, 1, 4, 5, 8 anticlock etc. to end facing alternate ways.

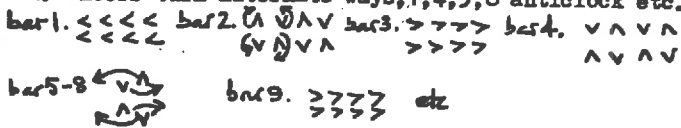
Hand up on inside of turn only.

In 4's, 1st and 2nd pairs change

places with slow slip step

passing back to back, leading

hand up. Polka & turn again and slip steps back to place



2. Cross over with opposite, "half right and left", pass right shoulder and turn right to face back (4 bars). Heel & Knee setting (4 bars) starting on left foot. Cross back ditto.

3. "Countermarch" - face up, single cast out from top, odds one side, evens the other, and come up centre in single file, odds in front of their partners (16 bars). Heel & Knee on the spot facing up, on left first, (4 bars) and skip out, falling backwards to place (4 bars)

4. As fig 1. (16 bars)

5. Turn opposite - allemande left and right - free hand up and waving - 8 bars each way. Hold hands - one turn only each way.

6. Face up, single cast as 3. come up the middle in twos (16 bars) but fairly close together compared with starting position. Face up & Heel & Knee (4 bars), fall back to place (4 bars)

7. As fig 1. (16 bars)

8. Hey. Top of left column and bottom of right column face up the set, the others turn in to face down. Then all dance a large figure eight, the top half of the set moves clockwise and the bottom anticlockwise and dancers cross from one loop to the other in the centre. All go the same way and get back in 16 bars.

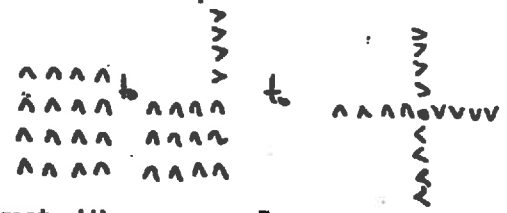


9. Face up, single cast as 3. come up the middle in fours (16 bars), 2nd couples between 1sts so that top line is 1 3 4 2 from the left facing forwards. 1sts mark time at bottom waiting for 2nd pair to cast in & get between etc. Heel & Knee facing up (4 bars) Start moving forward into the next movement.

10. Big Cross: From the lines of 4. position wheel on the right hand end of the line to form a cross of lines of four. Put hands on neighbours shoulder and rotate the star.

Lines have to wait, or at least only move forward one space while the previous line rotates 90 deg. The leader goes into the middle of the cross.

The dance can end in this formation (8 bars) or continue one complete round (16 bars)



11. Reform column in 2 files. Not collected but suggest either,

a. come up middle in 4's, split into 2's and cast either side, go round and split into singles etc as is often done in a Grand March.

b. from the cross come up in fours again, Heel & Knee and fall back to place.

c. as cross comes round start to come up in 4's and middle pair drop back to places in column as it comes up.

12. Face up, single cast but come up in a line of 16. Top pair in the middle & rest accumulate on the ends. ~~and sticks crossed overhead~~

As interpreted by Shrewsbury Lasses - walk step in figs. Sticks horizontal over shoulders in slips. Elbow swing in 5. Danced by 12. Form Cross

