

WIGTON - Cumbria

Source: as danced by Throstle's Nest, collected by Sue Mycock. Her grandmother danced 1908ish. Always girls sides. 3 generations known to have danced. There has been a gap of 20 years but locally recovered from teacher of old team a year before she died & taught to local girls side. Throstle's Nest (a name for Wigton) got it from them. They have also met 2 old ladies who had danced and only remembered bits at first till a full performance reminded them.

Music: "100 Pipers"

Step : polka step. They wore shoes not clogs.

Hands: short sticks one in each hand with ribbons and bells

FACE-UP: all face up throughout and polka on spot, 8 bars. Left hand down by side, swing right hand only. Start swing from high on left side, about far end of collar bone and down across body, with arm at nearly full stretch to low out to right side. During this the dancer bows forward somewhat & sways out to the right. In the next bar the swing is back up and the dancer straightens up. This is done very gracefully and lightly. Because of the body and arm swing it seemed that the feet were crossed in the polka step only in the odd numbered bars when swinging out to the right and nearly by side when swinging back to left. Arm moves over elbow like a "show".

UP-STREET: 4 polkas moving up, turn out on the hop and 4 polkas back to place & turn in to face on the hop. Again right hand only waves, doing a figure eight across front of body and out to the side. In the first bar the hand moves across to right, swinging down and up at side, in second bar the hand moves to left and down in front of body coming up on left side of body.

CROSS-OVER: 2 polkas forward, right hand up & forward at about elbow level, stick vertical till knuckles touch at end of bar 2, when hand is brought smartly down to side. Pass by the right shoulders and turn right to face back (4 bars in all). Repeat to place.

UP-STREET

HANDS ACROSS: in 4's. Free hand down at sides, other up in middle, sticks vertical.

UP-STREET

CROSS-OVER WITH SHAKES: cross over & turn right to face back (8 bars) pass right shoulders. One stick up in the crossing, always the near stick, horizontal above shoulder & shake continuously. Cross back left shoulders and shake left stick.

UP-STREET

FACE-UP with Alternate waves: Step on spot but like Up-Street turn out half way through to face down and turn in to face across at end. Hand movement is right hand only as in Face-Up not as in Up-Street but odd file starts with right hand down & swings up on the first bar and the evens start with the hand up and swing down on the first bar. During this figure the leader dances down the middle and back up again.

UP-STREET

SMALL CHAIN: In 4's, a right and left through. Dance round square, crossing set first, 2 bars only for each side of square, hands as for Cross-Over, lead with one hand, right for the first change, and bring hand down smartly as soon as knuckles touch, giving impression of hand disappearing as pass. Pass alternate shoulders

UP-STREET

CAST: is an "Outsides", cast out from top & everyone follow. 8 polkas down outside for top and 8 polkas up the middle to place. The Up-Street hand movement is used - right hand doing a figure 8. The leader goes down centre in the cast and leads them up.

UP-STREET and end.