

GARLAND DANCE NOTATIONS

prepared
by
Roy Dommett

for
**CHURCH CROOKHAM
WORKSHOP 1994**

A booklet of the older available notations was prepared for the Garland Dance Workshop sponsored by the Morris Federation and led by Roy and Maguerite Dommett, at the Memorial Hall, Church Crookham, Fleet, on Saturday 29th October 1994. The notations are intended as guides or as inspiration for the creation of dances. The notations are mostly in their older forms rather than as performed by sides today, but in neither case are they definitive! Unless indicated otherwise, the copyright in the notations is with the writer, although the originating side's rights over public performance are not affected. The further copying of notations for private use within a club or for research is permitted by law. Use has been made of the Failsworth Garland dance from Trevor Owen's booklet for the Federation and it is recommended that his booklet be purchased for further material.

It was intended that six dances would be done during the day and for that purpose it was necessary to chose from the available notations some that would be unfamiliar. In the end mostly contemporary non-English dances were chosen because of their use of formations other than the common column.

THE DANCES IN THIS SET

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1 Bacup | 4th figure of garland quadrilles |
| 2 Beau Knot | Provençal dance |
| 3 Knots of May | composed dance for that team |
| 4 Little Rock | from Little Rock, Arkansas |
| 5 Mayapple | Berea, Kentucky, widely danced in USA |
| 6 New Waltz | Rural Felicity, Brasstown, North Carolina |
| 7 One 100 Pipers | Court Square, Charlottesville, Virginia |
| 8 Perth Garland | Fair Maids of Perth, Western Australia |
| 9 3 Around 3 | from NYFC |

BACUP GARLAND DANCE - 4th FIGURE

- Source** : video of Bacup at Abingdon's Mayor's Day, 25 June 1994. This is a seldom performed figure.
- Music** : tune is uninteresting. Called the Waltz figure but it not a waltz.
- Steps** : walk, skips.
- Set** : quadrille formation - in pairs, "man amd woman".

Once to Yourself :

In bars 1-2 all bow from waist dipping garland to partner, in bars 3-4 do it to "corner", the neighbour on the other side. Stand upright and wait.

- A Bar 1 1st W skips to end in front of M to the right, turning easy way one quarter to the right.
Bar 2 1st W bows to M, who stand still and upright.
Bar 3 1st W skips to end in front of opposite man, turning three quarters to the right.
Bar 4 1st W bows etc.
Bars 5-6 to M on the left.
Bars 7-8 turn into 1st M place and face partner, while all the other pairs change places with partner with walk steps, W going behind the M, all facing forward, but turning into next movement at end.
- B Cross Hands and Four Ladies Chain half across, right hands in the centre and turn opposite M once round to end in W's place facing in by turning inwards.
- C All four M together move round the set anti-clockwise, bowing to the W as in A above, moving three places, ending in the corner the other side of their partner, back to back with partner and now facing clockwise. The partner has moved to their left to meet them and is facing anticlockwise.
- D Cross Hands and Grand Chain till M are home, and do a right hand turn

Repeat each W leading in turn.

"BEAU KNOT"

Source : cine film of Provencal team taken at Sidmouth in 1976.
Music : Knots of May use a French Tune "Cochon Chine".
Step : hop step danced for clatter, lifted not skipped, start right.
Set : 6 dancers linked with 5 garlands. Number as normal morris set,

2 4 6

m

Dance is led by No.2.

1 3 5

Nos 1 and 2 hold side edge of skirt with free hand.

ENTRY : enter in a line with garlands hanging down. Stand in a horseshoe.
Raise garlands all together during once to yourself.

1 8 bars on spot facing in.

2 No.2 leads a winding or stitching up, between 1&3 first, as each is turned they stand still facing out. Bring knuckles together but do not cross hands. When in starting place No.2 turns under own garland. Then turn other way under own garland and lead the unwinding.

3 Wind up two at a time. Nos 1&2 going under 5&6 first. Unwind in reverse direction.

4 All circle once round anticlockwise.

5 **Bower** : No.1 stops near centre facing back to own side, No.3 stops opposite facing opposite side. Others stop, No.5 by right side of No.1, No.6 by right side of No.3, No.4 between Nos.5&1, No.2 between Nos.6&3. Raise the bower high and stand still for 4 bars.

6 No.2 leads out the easy way, by changing hands she faces in while rest face out. Each comes out as late as possible. Before completely unwound, No.2 changes hands and turns back, leading rest into a circle, now all facing in.

7 All circle once round anti-clockwise

8 **Tunnel** : build up a tunnel, No.1 stops as in fig 5, No.3 opposite, but No.5 stands to left of No.1, No.6 to right of No.3, No.4 to left of No.5, and No.2 to right of No.6. Now 3 v 3.

1 5 4

3 6 2

9 **Exit** : Starting with No.2, the dancers exit up the tunnel, taking both ends of own garland as they go. The last two have only one garland between them so they both dance under it, side by side.

KNOTS OF MAY - a Composed Garland Dance

Once to self : set of 8, face up in column, numbered round set clockwise.
 Opening : All face in, cross over to opposite side, quarter turn to right and move into a clockwise circle.

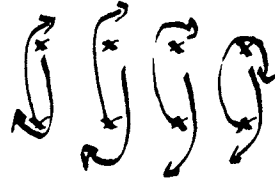
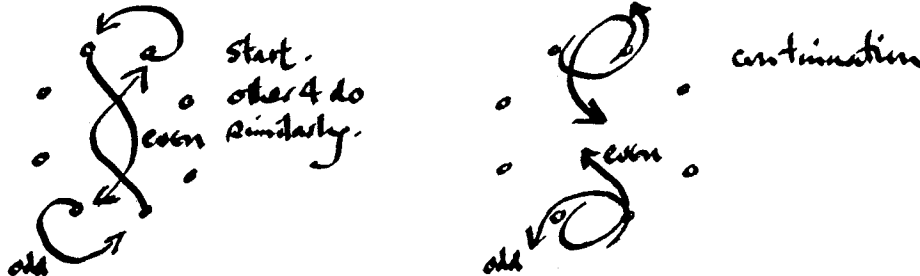


Figure One:

1. "Centre" - all face centre. Evens go to centre, 8 steps, to momentarily form a ring with the garlands, and retire to place, 8 steps, while odds mark time. Odds then move to centre ditto while evens mark time.
2. "Four Chain Across" - Evens cross centre of set, passing right shoulders and forming a star for part of the crossing, to opposite odd. Odds at same time dance a near complete circle anticlockwise. They turn each other once round, touching knuckles, and evens then return the same way to own place, passing right shoulders in a star. Odds do a further anticlockwise turn by themselves, picking up their even for a final turn to place.



3. "First Knot" - All 8 into a circle clockwise. Evens break off into a small circle anticlockwise away from music, making a loose star. Odds continue original clockwise circle tightening up into a loose star also. The two rotating circles should interleave - ie be "cogged". After a complete rotation the dancers change circles one at a time as they reach the point where the two circles interleave. After another rotation the dancers in the second circle join the first, which widens out to original size.

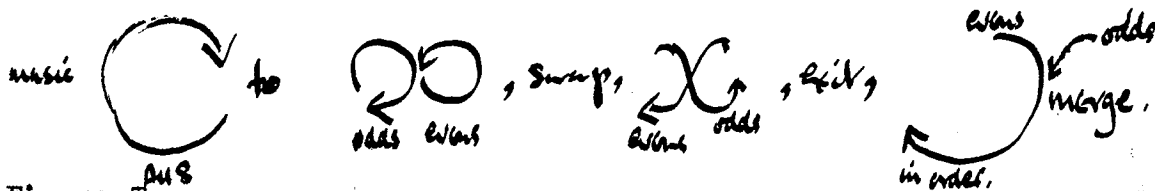


Figure Two:

1. "Centre" - as above
2. "Reels Across" - Evens dance same track and timing as 2 above but odds mark time for two bars and then follow them around the same track.

3. "Second Knot" - Odds face evens round set and start a grand chain. The garlands are swung away from the dancer being passed, therefore they go alternately from side to side. When the top pair meet at the bottom they separate off, both going to their left and starting smaller anticlockwise circles into which the others follow. Circle once in separate circles, then the further circle breaks into a clockwise circle around the first. After a full circuit, when pairs met, they turn each on spot, knuckles touching, to original place.

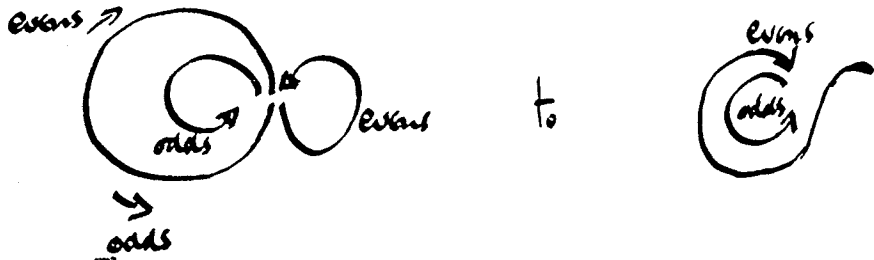
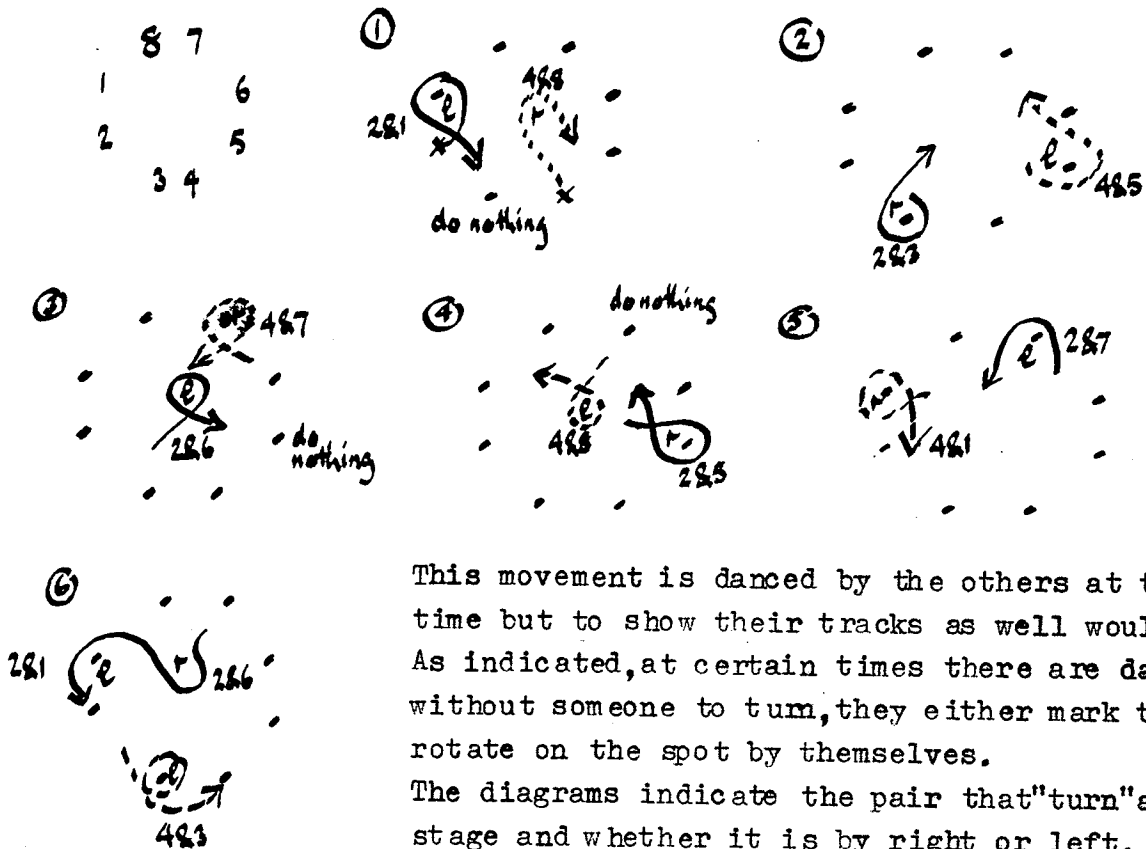


Figure Three:

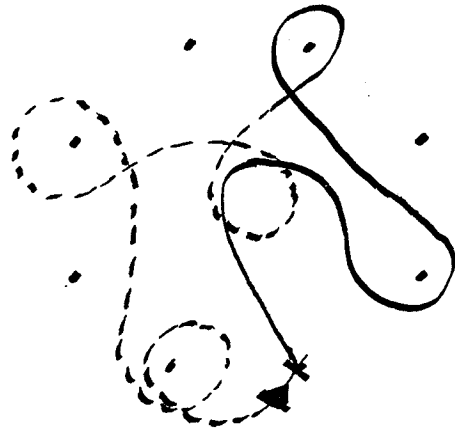
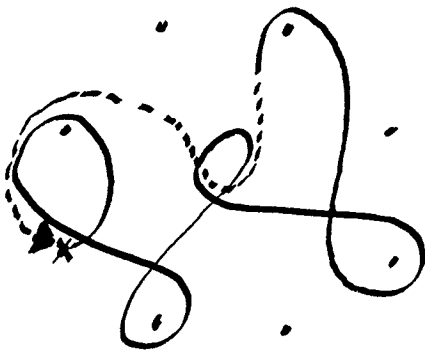
1. "Centre"
2. "Evens Reel Around" - the evens go round set making alternate left and right turns.

Assume numbered



This movement is danced by the others at the same time but to show their tracks as well would confuse. As indicated, at certain times there are dancers without someone to turn, they either mark time or rotate on the spot by themselves. The diagrams indicate the pair that "turn" at each stage and whether it is by right or left.

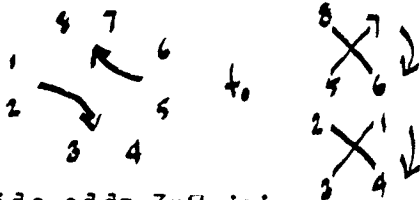
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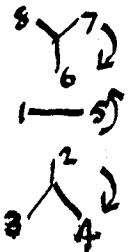
3. "Third Knot" -

Assume same initial numbering,

a. ends, 1&2, 5&6 go to right and star right with 3&4, 7&8 respectively.

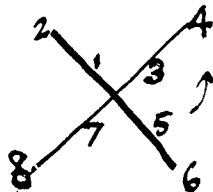


b. end odds, 1&5 break away and left turn in centre while the threes do another revolution.

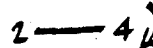


c. side odds, 3&7, join

1&5 in centre and do one circuit while remaining pairs, 2&4, 6&8 do another revolution.



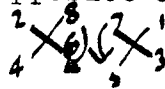
d. odds in centre



star, pick up their evens to form a double star, and make a complete revolution anticlockwise.

e. evens break away into a separate interleaving star, away from music, as in the First Knot, but rotating in the opposite directions, and continue Knot as in First Knot to place.

Final Movement:

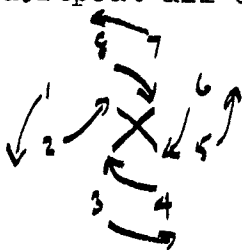


a. odds to middle and back as in "Centre".

b. evens to middle and form right hand star and go 1/2 times round to end facing opposite place, while odds go anticlockwise around the outside of the star to opposite place.

c. pairs turn by left once round.

d. repeat all to place and end with bow, or lead off.



etc.



LITTLE ROCK

Source : Display at Asheville, NC, January 1994
Music : a variety of polkas, changing for each figure.
Steps : skips and cross-over polkas. Sequence is 2 polkas and 4 skips throughout.
Set : 8 dancers, each with U garland, in quadrille formation.

Once to Self : face in, in pairs, side by side.

CHORUS

1-2 face partner, garland upright, 2 polkas.
3-4 move into two lines of four across the set, mostly the head pairs approach, using skips.
5-6 tilt garlands forward so that the tops touch and polka on spot.
7-8 retire to places.
9-10 as 1-2.
11-12 move into two lines of four along the set.
13-14 as 5-6.
15-16 retire to places.

FIGURES

1. **Stars and Circular Hey** : face partner for two polkas, then right hand turn 3/4 round and original right hand persons make left hand star in centre of the set all the way round and back to partner's place, while the others turn anticlockwise twice, moving into partner's place. Repeat with other dancers making the star. Face partner and circular hey all the way round to place, right and left handing, 2 bars per pass.
2. **Lines** : All face in and polka on spot, then move into a single line across the set all facing up. Tops go to the centre of the line, turning inwards to face up, bottoms move forward to end one either side, far sides move forward to be outside them, and the near sides move towards partners and turn out to face up. All 2 polkas on spot.

In pairs along the line (not original partners) change places and polka on the spot. The change is done thus, the left hand one moves forward, goes to their right and turning clockwise faces front. The right hand one casts clockwise and moves round to the left place. This change and polka is done 4 times.

Then the top pair face and make an arch, the rest turn away to face the ends of the line and skip off turning to the front, moving towards the arch. All polka on spot before going through the arch in pairs garland laid against garland. Take 6 bars to get to place.

3. **Grand Square** : all face in for one polka, then all face up or down for one polka, skip heads to meet in centre, sides separate and retire to corners, one polka facing this way, then turn to face across and carry on this pattern once round. Repeat going the other way round.

- 4 Reel : start as chorus and form two line along centre, skip into a single line facing in pairs and polka. Then continuously moving reel of eight, 2 polkas moving to the right and 4 skips moving to the left.
- 5 Axum Reel : All follow a single path around the set. Start all facing half to left. Each left hand moves on the skips diagonally forward to the right to the right hand place of the next pair, while the right hand person dances a small semicircle to the left hand place. All polkas are on th spot. Continue to places.

FINAL CHORUS : Stay in two lines at end and make 4 stamps with garlands arched.

MAYAPPLE

- Source** : A dance for 6 created by Pam Colley of Berea, Kentucky. Seen on Mystic Garland/Court Square tour of England and visits to USA.
- Music** : "Meguire's Favourite", "Maggie Brown's Favourite" "Fl of E"
- Steps** : lively skip (walk) and polka. The polkas always on the spot.
- Sequence** : Four skipwalk steps, raising knee up, then polka once off each foot. Begin by raising the left knee and polka with left in front.

START

Form a circle face in, then half turn during once to yourself so facing alternately in and out. Start with a chorus.

CHORUS

Dance in direction facing for 2 bars (out or in) then 2 polkas on spot, those going in meet knuckle to knuckle and raise garlands a little, backstep to reform the circle and polka on the spot. Repeat all.

FIGURES

- 1. APPLETREE** - Those facing "out" dance clockwise around right hand neighbour to the next "outies" place, to face in, and polka in that place. Those facing in, step in place and on the second polka, turn clockwise to their right to face out, then dance clockwise round the set to the next dancers place. Continue repeating until everyone is back home.
- 2. STAR** - Those facing in form a right hand star. Those facing out turn to their right to link up knuckle to knuckle with the first partner they come to, taking 4 steps and the polkas to form the star. Turn the star round one third of circle, twice, until the last polkas, and then all turn to their left on the spot to face back on the last second polka. Turn the star back home.
- 3. WISHBONE HEY** - Those facing in step and polka in place, or move forward enough that knuckles nearly touch. Those facing out, turn to their right to stand behind that neighbour, then polka in that place. Those 3 in front pass left shoulder, going round two thirds, stepping to the position that is to the left back from they are standing and polka in that place. They continue to follow this person from one spot to another until back home, where go straight into a chorus. Those in back follow the person in front from one spot to another. To move to the front position, they face in throughout and step out toward the right and back along a half circle. Continue to place.
- 4. DIPPY HEY** - Those facing out turn to their right to stand right knuckle to right knuckle with partner on the four steps. While looking at the current partner, on the first polka lower the garland parallel to the ground, on the second polka raise the garland back up. Four steps to next partner standing left knuckle to left knuckle, lower garland on the first polka and raise on the second, etc. Continue until almost home and go straight into the final chorus.

At the end of the final set, those facing in remain in the centre of the set. Those facing out backstep closer to the centre, on the second polka those facing in turn to face out, keeping garlands in position. Those facing out kneel on their right and lower garlands so tips touch the ground.

NEW WALTZ

Source : Rural Felicity Garland Dancers, Brasstown, NC.
Step : Country Dance Waltz step (long, short, short)
Music : waltz
Set : 6 dancers in a circle, facing clockwise, numbered odd and even clockwise, even in front of odd.

Introduction (A1)

Circle left once around, facing direction of movement, emphasising the natural in an out of the waltz step.

CHORUS (A2B1B2)

Start odds facing out, evens in, give right hands to partner once round (4), continue to move left (odds anticlockwise, evens clockwise) and pass next dancer by the left (4), turn the next by the right once around (4), pass next etc to home. End in a circle, all facing in.

Fig 1 APPLE TREE (A1A2B1B2)

All waltz balance in and out and turn single (4), repeat turn other way (4). All waltz in and out, evens turn half way to face out in place, odds waltz through the centre of the set to the next place to the right and remain facing out (4), all waltz in and out, odds turn to the right to face in, evens waltz around outside to next space on left and remain facing in (4). Repeat till reach place.

Fig 2 INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (A1A2B1B2)

Two opposite dancers are the leaders. All circle left half way, leaders move off to form two stars of 3, one outside, one inside, to turn in opposite directions. Rotate once, swap stars two at a time, rotate once, swap back, rotate once, start as if to cross back but carry on into a big circle going to the left.

CHORUS (A1A2B1)

Filler (B2) : Turn partner by right once round (4) all waltz balance forward and back and turn single.

Fig 3 STAR AND CIRCLE LEFT (A1)

Odds make a left hand star, twice round, evens round outside to left once.

Fig 4 ARCHES (A2B1B2)

All turn single, one pair form arch, tips touching, rest lower garlands to horizontal and go through in pairs to home. Repeat each pair arching. Get home at end with all facing in in time .

V 1.1

Fig 5 ROSEBUD (A1)

All circle left once around with garlands overlapping, right hand over right neighbour's left, garland held slightly in front, all dancers shoulder to shoulder. At end back out slightly so that no longer overlap.

Fig 6 FLOWER (A2B1B2)

Odds circle three in centre to left 2/3 round, while evens "turn single" making a wide loop and sweeping garlands down and up in a smooth motion, all ending facing in (4). Evens circle left and odds loop (4) etc.

CHORUS (A1A2B1)

END (B2)

Circle left as Introduction, turn right to face out the long way, and raise garlands overhead on last 2 bars.

ONE HUNDRED PIPERS

Source : Court Square Garland, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Music : "With a 100 pipers an' all".

Step : skip change step, lead off with right foot forward.

Set : 6 dancers, each with a U shaped garland, in two columns.

O2YS : stand still facing up.

FIGURES - each takes 16 bars.

- 1 All dance forward 4 double steps, waving garlands to left and to right twice, till leaders about level with musician. Cast round the musician to change sides, still following leaders, garlands upright, passing evens outside odds, ending all facing down. Repeat to place, evens again pass on the outside.
- 2 All face the centre and approach to form a circle, knuckle to knuckle, on 2 doubles. Nos.1, 5, 4 cast back, turning to their right, clockwise, and going back one place. The others move round one place anticlockwise so changin places, turning, mostly at the end, to their right to face the centre. All dance 2 doubles (or 4 slip steps) to the right in this circle, going about one halfway round the set. Repeat the cast and anticlockwise circling two more times and then cast to original places. The result is that 1,5,4 go once around the set, moving a half less a sixth each sequence and the others go round twice, moving a half plus a sixth.
- 3 Reel : All dance into one line along the centre, on two doubles, right shoulders to right shoulders with opposites. Start a half reel of six, to change ends, with a right hand half turn of opposite to change places. There are six changes in all, then a move out to the side. Each turn takes two doubles. When at the ends, a dancer does a complete turn on the spot on their own.
- 4 as 2.
- 5 All face up, columns cross over with opposites, facing up throughout, from odd side always in front, garland being dipped through, and taking 2 doubles. Repeat to place. Dance a half hey, progressive from the top, with the tops casting out to start. Repeat crossing facing up, and the half hey starts from the top again.
- 6 as 2. but end leading off in file instead of moving out to place.

PERTH GARLAND DANCE

Source : film of Fair Maids of Perth, at Adelaide 1983, danced for eight.
Step : skip change step rather than a polka.
Set : eight dancers all facing up, each with a U shaped garland.

ORDER OF MOVEMENTS FOR FOUR DANCERS

1. Four bars facing up and moving forward, two bars sidestep to change sides still facing up, one bar on spot, and one bar to turn out and face down. Four bars facing down and moving down, two bars sidestep to change back to starting side still facing down, and two bars to turn out, full or half turn as required, to end with the odds facing up and the evens facing down. The original odd side pass in front both times. 16 bars in all.
2. Dancers move sideways into a single line down the centre line of the set back to back with their opposite, odds facing up, evens down, in one bar. The back to back pairs rotate on the spot clockwise, getting half way round by the end of the fourth bar, carrying on for two more bars and then moving out to opposite's place by the end. All face up momentarily.

Evens, on the odd side, turn clockwise to face down on the first beat of the next bar and the above is repeated to place, but turning anti-clockwise when back to back. End all turning up to face across. 16 bars.
3. Centre four right star round to the left $1\frac{1}{2}$ times and back to the right, turning out at half way, and ending turning the easy way to face across. The ends turn as pairs $2\frac{1}{2}$ times, turning in at half way.

Eight bars each way, 16 bars in all.
4. "Diagonals" in pairs cross, first corners 1&6, 3&8, then second corners 2&5, 4&7, and then back to place in turn. Four bars for each crossing. Cross moving sideways, to the right, so that diagonals pass back to back, then turn right to face across. 16 bars in all.
5. Repeat of figure 2.
6. All dance a grand chain, cross at the top and bottom, and the two sides first, alternate right and left shoulder passing, using two bars per pass. On the first bar as the two dancers approach they tilt their garlands forward and towards each other so that the semicircular part of each garland overlaps, and they rotate the garlands horizontally to maintain this overlap as they meet. In the second bar the garlands are upright to allow the dancers to pass. 16 bars in all.
7. Cast out from the top to the bottom, following the separated top pair, and back up the middle, shoulder to shoulder. Cast again but in a wide arc to form a circle facing out and all bow out to the audience. 16 bars in all.

THREE AROUND THREE

Source : NYFC at Whitby August 1994, off the official video.
Music : "Three Around Three", a hornpipe.
Step : 123h hornpipe step, not a skip-change or morris.
Set : 7 dancers, 6 in two columns, divided into middles and corners, and a leader at the top facing down. Each carries a U shaped garland.
Thus,

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          x  x  x
         m  L
          x  x  x
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Once to Self : stationary, garland vertical and still, leader facing down, rest facing across.

CHORUS - 8 bars

All the dancers retire a little for 2 bars, approach opposite for 2 bars, corners retire to place for 2 bars, while leader and middles form a triangle, then those three retire while corners dance on the spot for 2 bars.

- 1 **Diagonals** : first corners of the 6, approach across the diagonal to be right shoulder to right shoulder, forming a line of four with the second corners who dance on the spot, and then retire to place. At the same time the middles and leader retire, approach own place and turn clockwise to their right on the spot. Repeat with the other diagonal leading. (16)
- 2 **Reels of 3** : Each file dances a full reel of three, started progressively from the top, with the top pair going between the middles, and all swaying garlands alternately side to side, ie outwards, as they pass the people in their reel. The leader dances down the centre of the set to the bottom, turns to the right and dances back up to place and turns right again. (8 bars)
- 3 **Stars** : 8 bar right hand star only, with three dancers at the top and four at the bottom.
- 4 **Circular Hey** : The 6 dance, crossing first at the top and the bottom sides. The leader dances forward when clear to the centre of the set and turns clockwise on the spot, then dances out.
- 5 **Cast** : The 6 cast down the outside and come in and dance back up the middle to places. The leader dances as fig.2.
- 6 **Single File** : Start as fig.5 but merge at the bottom and come up in single file following the leader, and end facing up and raising garlands.