GISBURN PROCESSIONAL

Sources: Leta Douglas "3 More Dances of the Yorkshire Dales" 1934 and local information gathered by Pilling and others in 1960's - see ED&S article. Set of photos exists.

Set: 24 dancers, 12 men & 12 women, men in left file. Files about 15 ft apart.

Sticks: short white stick with a bell at each end and wound round with braid. One per dancer and carried in outside hand. No evidence of changing stick to other hand in any of the figures. The outside hand with the stick is raised during the walk in the processional part, with the inside hand on hip.

Step : a jaunty walk for the procession, doubles for the figures. Wear clogs. Local enquiry showed that the travelling step in the figures was not a skip but a double step with the hop on the second beat - like Bacup in the coconut dance. Files dances with opposite feet starting most likely with outside foot.

Music: "95" .

Each figure is preceded by 8 bars of walk forward in procession. In a stationary deomonstration substitute marking time on spot or a single cast, "outsides".

1. Files cross over to opposite places, men in front of women, facing up throughout. (8 bars)

2. Files cross back, men in front of women again. (8 bars)

3. Partners turn by right hand and then left, 4 bars each, once round each.

4. In 4's, right and left hand star (8 bars)

5. In 4's, Arches. Arches made by inside hands. 3&4 under 1&2 first and then 1&2 under 3&4. Repeat. 8 bars in all. Face up throughout.

6. In turn pairs swing down middle from top to bottom of set. Couples start one bar apart. separate at bottom. On the road do not move up during the swings but mark time and all dance up to place in last 4 bars. Indoors will have to move up so that at top pairs place for start of swing down. This was said to be the last figure of the dance at the end of the procession through the village (16 bars)

7. All mark time. Starting with the bottom pair, each pair in turn dance up the middle thus reversing the order in the set. When the set is reversed and all are in two close files in the middle of the road, the lines open from the top, falling back to the full separation and the first pair, who are now at the bottom start it all over again. (32 bars One bar start for each pair.

All the figures done while processing at a constant pace - the musicians do not vary walking speed.