

WMP / From R.D.'s Notes on Garland
Dances and dances Cheshire
Morris. (78)

WIGAN PROCESSIONAL

Sources: a member of a boys' side in last decade of 19th century.

Step : Polka, free leg crossed over, danced "on your toes", knees well up. Assume left ft star

Hands : 16 in sticks, twist of wrist in stepping. 1, 2, 3 and a bit of a shake on 4th beat

Music : Cock O'North but depended on band.

Dance : All figures except Grand Chain done on move. Walk between figures. Use "outsides" with a walk step on stage. Assume hands down in walk. Number of polkas per figure guessed

1. Cross over diagonally with partner (8 polkas) then cross back (8 polkas)
2. Top pair cross over, right shoulders (4b) face down the file and turn next dancer by right, sticks crossed between them (4b) cross back to own side (4 bars) polka up street one place down in set (4 bars). Outside hand up in turns. As top pair work down the set other pairs start from the top as soon as practical. Suggest work in sets of 3/4 pairs rather than complete set.
3. All turn partner. 4 polkas to approach, 4 around by right hand, face out and 4 bar out to place, 4 bars up street.
4. Figure 3 but done in 4's (right hand star) once round with right hand (not back)
5. Bottom pair work their way up their own files doing a right hand turn with each dancer as they go. 4 bars for each turn. Work to top and back down again to place. Again sensible to work in groups of 4 pairs.
6. Grand Chain : this figure is only one done without progressing
Dancers form into a circle (4 bars) then do a progressive grand chain started by 1&2 doing a right hand turn (4 bars), left with next in line etc all the way back to place. After Chain start from fig 1 again.