

all that is

Dance

steps... links... etc...



Gerry Jones

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Gerry Jones

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English Country Dances

How to do them

This page contains the movements, instructions, actions for a number of easy English country-dances as called by Gerry Jones, and the Liverpool Country Dance Band.

They are offered for a couple of reasons.

To help some people who have done these dances at a barn-dance or dance-class, and are trying later to remember "what that dance was".

For people who are soon going to a folk-dance or ceilidh, and would like to have some idea of what they will be doing.

For other callers, especially beginners in the trade, who would like some suggestions or variations, of simple dances for beginners.

Apfelstrudl Waltz

all SIT round tables holding hands.

Sway left,
Sway right,
Sway Left,
Sway right,
Lean Forward,
Lean back
STAND UP,
Sit down.

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Barnaby

Lines of 4 (or 5) facing partners.

CHORUS; hold both partner's hands at shoulder height;

"push-pull" , singing, to the tune "Shortnin' Bread"

"Here comes Barnaby, Barnaby, Barnaby;

here comes Barnaby, all night long"

VERSES: Top GENT makes his way down middle of set,

in free movement! ,any action! and stays there)

while all sing; "Here comes Sassie, Sass-sass-a-lassie" etc,

Here comes Sassie, all night long."

Top LADY COPIES HER GENT, while All sing

"Here comes another one, just like the other one,

here comes another one, all night long."

Later, LADIES can make first move,for GENTS to copy.

The Big Corral

great big circle.Couple dance. face partners;

1. Give Partner RIGHTHAND & TURN all way round.

2. Give Partner LEFT HAND & TURN all way round.

3. Give Partner BOTH HANDS & TURN round.

4. DO-SI-DO Partner all way round to first position.

5. SWING PARTNER for eight bars then

6. PROMENADE anti-clockwise for 8 bars. start again

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The Bridge of Athlone

4,5,or 6 Gents face Ladies.

A1: All take hands in Line; FORWARD 4 steps, & Back 4.

FORWARD ; Ladies THROUGH Gents arches = change over

A2; FORWARD 4 steps & 4 back,

then FORWARD but Gents under Ladies' Arches.

B1; TOPS SLIP 8 down inside the set, & 8 back to top.

B2; TOP COUPLE CAST, down outside of set, make an ARCH;

all follow , through the arch, up to own spot.

C; ALL COUPLES MAKE ARCHES = A TUNNEL.

Top lady goes up tunnel & down outside,

while Top Gent goes up outside and down tunnel.

Stay at bottom. IF there is time SWING PARTNERS

The Circassian Circle

(our version)

Big circle, as many as will.

Into middle (4 steps) & out again, CIRCLE LEFT 8.

Into middle (4 steps) & out again, CIRCLE RIGHT 8.

LADIES 4 steps in, CLAP & return;

GENTS in, JUMP HIGH, PUNCH THE AIR, AND ROAR!

All Swing partners

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Cumberland Square Eight

64 bars x n square set.

A; HEADS Gallop across 7 back. Sides copy.

B; HEADS STAR Right & LEFT. Sides Copy.

C; HEADS Basket Swing, to left ONLY. Sides Copy.

D; All CIRCLE LEFT (16) and promenade home.

Cylch Y Cymru : Welsh Circle

Single circle, as many as will.

All Face partner; shake hands, 4 right, 4 left. ;

CLAP own hands x 4, SLAP both Partners hands x 4.

Ballroom hold; 4 slips in then out, repeated.

Face partner; Link right elbows & turn, then Left.

PROMENADE during which Gent Moves on.

Festival Circle (Yakety Sax")

"Big Corral" shape;

Double circle; Ladies face in; Gents face out.

A: RIGHT hand turn with partner, and clap.

LEFT hand turn with partner, and clap.

B; DO-SI-DO partner, and SLANT to Right.

Do-SI-DO New Partner. Start again with her.

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Gay Gordons

Two behind two, in a big double circle. Gent on left. Lady has both hands in front.
Four steps fwd, SWIVEL right & 4 steps reverse.
Four steps fwd, SWIVEL LEFT & 4 steps reverse.
Gent walks forward turning lady under Right arm.
Take Ballroom hold and turn or polka for a bit.

I Want To Be Near You

Own Tune

Square set.

"(First) COUPLE SEPARATE & go around the set.

"You PASS your partner half-way round, and PASS when you get back.

"Honour your corner Lady, Salute your partner dear,

Then promenade, during which you all SING: "I want to be near you (etc.)"

The Love Knot

longways, four facing four.

First Lady leads the LADIES LINE leads round Gents line. 8 bars

First Gent drags other GENTS round Ladies Line. 8 bars.

TOP COUPLE cross to other line, "weave" down "wrong" line to bottom,
then return to own side. and STAY down there. 8 bars

Make two STARS, near & far, right & left. 8 bars.

LADIES start again, with NEW TOP LADY.

Dance four times = until all have been Tops.

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A Sicilian Circle

Double circle for as many as will. 3 dance moves, and a Move On move.

[See it being danced, on YouTube](#)

- 1; do-si-do Opposite then do-si-do partner.
2. Ladies chain all the way round.
3. basket swing one direction only. 4. with partner, fwd & back, fwd and through.

Some variations.

A1; four take hands & circle LEFT; back Right.

A2; four make Right hand STAR, and back with LEFTS.

B1;. with person facing you, right and left hand turn.

B2. with partner, fwd & back, fwd & through to next couple,
with CLOCKWISE couples making the Arch.

Star Trek

4 x 32. longways for four couples.

A1; couples 2 & 3 STAR left and right,
while 1s & 4s TREK around the star

i.e. crossing to partner's side then go round star.

A2; take hands in lines; Boldly Go forward & back twice.

B1; INTO ORBIT = near 4 & far 4 CIRCLE Lt & Rt.

B2; BEAM US UP, SCOTTY! 4th couple up middle.

When they have passed you, KLINGON to your partners and Swing.

"It's Dance, Jim, but not as we know it."

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Snowball

Longways for five couples exactly
1s turn each other right hand, back with left.
1s & 2s right hand star back with left.
1s,2s,3s circle (of 6) to right and left.
1s,2s,3s,4s lines of four fwd & back, twice.
BUT: when lines go forward a Second time,
FIFTHS NIP UP THE OUTSIDE smartly,
and become Firsts, arming right & left.(etc).

The Swedish Masquerade

couple following couple all round the room in a circle.

[See it being danced, on YouTube](#)

Gent on left/inside, supports lady's hand, old-style, tall and elegant, look down on the peasants as you glide by.

1. Slow stately march a/clockwise, just eight steps, turn round, and eight steps back. Turn.
 2. to a Waltz tempo, step apart, together, apart, together, then waltz-ish round four bars. Repeat.
 3. to a Polka tempo, spring apart, together, apart, together, then waltz-ish round four bars. Repeat.
- start again with the very slow march (rest and recovery function).

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Three Around Three

Three gents face three ladies.

Top Lady pulls line of LADIES ROUND GENTS.

Top gent pulls line of GENTS ROUND LADIES line.

Top couple CAST to middle place, & SWING partner.

Then they RIGHT-hand-STAR with couple above them (old 2nds),
(No Left-hand-star back.) then Tops dive under ARCH of 3rd couple .

LADIES!! be ready to re-start, esp. lady "arch-diver."

Waves of Tory

Long line of gents facing long line of ladies.

1. All take hands with neighbours in long line, and go forward & back, twice.

2. All let go, face the band, and follow each leader
down the outside in single file.

3. Meet your partners at the far end, and come up the middle
has couples holding a hand.

4. Clever bit comes now; couples peel off and go down the
outside as couples, alternating, each couple going
the opposite way to the couple in front of them.

5. At the bottom, meet another couple, and join up
to come up as Lines of Four/ Two Couples.

6. At the top, just split the Line of Four, and go down the nearest side,
still as couples.

7. At the end, return into couple following couple
coming up the hall, holding one hand. In turn each new Top Couple must turn to
face away from the Band, swopping hands, and go UNDER the arms of the
Second Couple,

OVER the Third Couple, and on like that till they run out of couples.

Then they turn around and start RESPONDING to the next couple coming down,
and continue until they are back in their home/original place. This can take forever.

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Links to other Dance Sites

Merseyside and Deeside Folk

Mersey and Deeside Folk is a co-ordinating group for ten local folk dancing clubs in Northwest England, i.e. Bebington, Fazakerley, Heswall & West Kirby, Upton, Liverpool Contra, Neston, St Helens, Southport, Ainsdale and Stockton Heath folkdance clubs, and in turn it is affiliated to the English Folk Dance & Song Society (EFDSS)

Lancashire Folk

England's heritage of folk music, song, dance and traditional customs is one of the richest in the world and is especially strong in Lancashire

RSCDS Dance Scottish

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society is for anyone interested in traditional Scottish country dancing and music

RSCDS Liverpool Branch

Scottish Country Dancing in Liverpool, who meet in Broad Green at the end of the M62.

The Mersey Morris Men

from West Wirral, who dance an energetic form of Cotswold Morris, including "Rapper Sword". Their activities include a "Boxing Day Revels" event in Willaston village.

FolkGroup North West

North West Section, Camping/Caravan/Club Folk Group

"Down the Lane Forum" - Folk Dance Section

All about dancing, bands, clubs, etc...

The Phoenix Ceilidhs

Monthly Ceilidhs in Horwich

Wirral Sound

The Band of the Moreton Boys' and Girls' Brigades

The MacLennan Scottish Group

Scottish dance display team who go to the Europeade Festival

Gerry Jones - Liverpool Musician

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Links for Irish Dancing and Tuition in Liverpool and Merseyside

As I cannot possibly keep links up to date, I have included links to pages where you can find the latest information

St Michael's Irish Centre

6 Boundary Lane; off West Derby Toad, Liverpool L6 5JG
Tel: 0151 263 1808 Email: mmorrison@stmichaelsirishcentre.org
St. Michael's Centre in Liverpool is the hub for Irish Culture on Merseyside

The Irish Centre Online - Liverpool Page

The most popular Irish Centre online

Irish-Dancer

Listing of all that is Irish Dance

Alexander Strange Academy Of Irish Dance

The Academy is based in the county of Merseyside, with classes in Southport

Irish Dancing Info

All About Irish Dancing - information gathered from around the world and put into one easily accessible place.

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eirreann - Liverpool Branch

The Irish Traditional Music organisation, with its HQ in Monkstown, Dublin, should be another good source. It operates through a network of branches world-wide, including Liverpool and Preston.

The Shamrock School, Preston

Classes 6.30pm Wednesday & 11am Saturday, St Anthony's Annexe, St Anthony's Drive, Fulwood, Preston. Teachers Jacqueline Drain, T.C.R.G. & Catherine Calvey, T.C.R.G.

Irish Dance Costume

Many of the above sites have links also

Wizard's Den

21 Longmoor Lane, Aintree, Liverpool L9 0EA Tel: 0151 524 9333
Supply dance wear for all types of dance,(tap ballet,jazz,ballroom) and also sell Feishair Quality wigs for Irish dancing and Antonio Pacelli dance shoes.

Gerry Jones - Liverpool Musician

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Footlights Dance & Stage Wear

Stock a full range of Irish dance shoes, socks, tiaras and a full range of leotards, tights and other dance wear. They can provide an event stand at school events & feishes, and have a home delivery service – Footlights-2-U (Wirral area) - and run a dress agency for used costumes.

Links to Line Dance on Merseyside

Any information about about Line Dance in Merseyside which comes my way, I will gladly put in this page. Line Dancing is not really one of my interests, but I do get the occasional enquiry about it. So, if you are a line-dancer in Merseyside, do tell me what clubs and classes you know about.

Line-dancing UK - Merseyside Section

Listing of Line-dancing clubs throughout the UK