

# *Woodhall Book 4*

## *Serendipity*

*20 Scottish Country Dances*  
*Devised by Murrough Landon*



*Cover photograph: Grasmere and the Thirlmere Valley framed by fallen trees*

# Woodhall Book 4: Serendipity

This book contains dances which were either devised after the first three Woodhall Book volumes were drafted or did not fit comfortably in them. As with the earlier books, the dances here are mostly busy, complex or both and often have unusual or unconventional features. So they are generally more suited to reasonably experienced dancers.

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PDF available at <https://my.strathspey.org/u/murrough/book/WoodhallBook4.pdf>

# Ashley in Wonderland

A 32 bar strathspey for three couples in a four couple longwise set.

This dance is for Ashley Weller who celebrated a significant birthday with a Mad Hatter's tea party.

## *Bars Description*

- 1-4 1st couple lead down, right hands joined, below 3rd couple, cross over and cast up one place as 2nd couple step up.
- 5-8 1st couple dance half a figure of eight around their 3rd corners (man up, woman down) to end in 2nd place own sides.
- 9-10 Extended Espagnole for 3 couples: 2nd woman with 1st woman, also 1st man with 3rd man, lead by the right hand to the opposite sides and cross while 2nd man and 3rd woman dance across singly. End with all the women on the men's side in the order 1,2,3 and all the men on the women's side in the order 2,3,1.
- 11-16 Repeat the figure three more times from new positions. All are briefly facing their partners at the end of bar 14 then continue crossing once more to finish with the men in the order 1,3,2 and the women in the order 3,2,1.
- 17-20 2nd woman with 1st man and 3rd woman at the top, also 3rd man with 2nd man and 1st woman at the bottom, dance right hands across.
- 21-24 2nd woman and 3rd man pass right shoulders and dance left hands across at the other end finishing on the sidelines still with the men in the order 1,3,2 and the women in the order 3,2,1.
- 25-32 All dance a three couple bourrel ending in the order 2,1,3.

## **Music**

- Suggested tune: The Bonnie Breist Knots (Traditional).
- Suitable recording: The Bonnie Breist Knots (Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent: Ready... And!).

## **Alternative version for a three couple set**

### *Bars Description*

- 1-4 1st couple cross right hand then cast off two places as 2nd and 3rd couples step up.
- 5-8 1st couple dance half figures of eight up around 3rd couple (who are in 2nd place).
- 9-32 As for the four couple version, but starting and ending in the order 2,3,1.

## **Notes**

- An earlier version of this dance had leading across with the left hand from the men's side (as used in the 4 couple version of this figure in Kyle Castle). With only 3 couples, using right hands from both sides is more symmetric. Those in 2nd place always cross in front.

# *Back to Square One*

A 32 bar hands-free strathspey for four couples in a square set.

The Covid pandemic encouraged hands-free dances. During the first lockdown my number one favourite local walk included Tavistock Square in London. Unusually it has more statues of women than men and also several monuments for peace. So I kept going back to it - also in the series of subsequent lockdowns.

## *Bars Description*

- 1-4 1st and 3rd couples dance half a Men's Change. This is half a Men's Chain but without taking hands: the men pass each other left shoulder then the opposite woman right shoulder. They end facing their new partner (1st and 3rd men facing 3rd and 1st women) as 2nd and 4th couples face their partner.
- 5-8 All dance back to back with the person they are facing, passing right shoulder.
- 9-10 All dance two bars of Highland Schottische setting to the right. The women end shoulder to shoulder in the centre, the men well outside the set.
- 11-12 All now travel for two bars starting with the left foot. The women chase clockwise half way round the centre to the opposite sides while the men curve round to the next man's place anticlockwise to face a new partner on the sides of the square.
- 13-16 All repeat bars 9-12 with two bars of Highland Schottische to the left. Then, starting as usual with the right foot, the men chase anticlockwise half way round the centre while the women curve round to the next woman's place clockwise. 1st and 3rd couples are now facing their partner, 2nd and 4th couples are facing their opposite (2nd and 4th men facing 4th and 2nd women).
- 17-20 All dance back to back with the person they are now facing, passing left shoulder.
- 21-24 2nd and 4th couples dance half a Men's Change. All end facing their partner in the order 2,3,4,1.
- 25-32 All dance half a Grand Change (a Grand Chain without taking hands) with two bars per person ending in the order 4,1,2,3.

## **Music**

- Suggested tune: The Lonach Highlanders (Alexander Walker).
- Suitable recording: Miss McLean of Inverness (Kafoozalum: London Branch 75th Anniversary).

## **Notes**

- The final "Grand Change", with two bars per person, was intended for the pandemic period and is quite slow. If preferred, this could be replaced by a one bar per hand chain ending with progression 2,3,4,1. Or else by a promenade as recently suggested to me by the Lyon Branch.

# *The Benign Presence*

A 32 bar strathspey for three couples in a longwise set.

This is for Rachel Wilton who has benignly presided over RSCDS London Branch for many years.

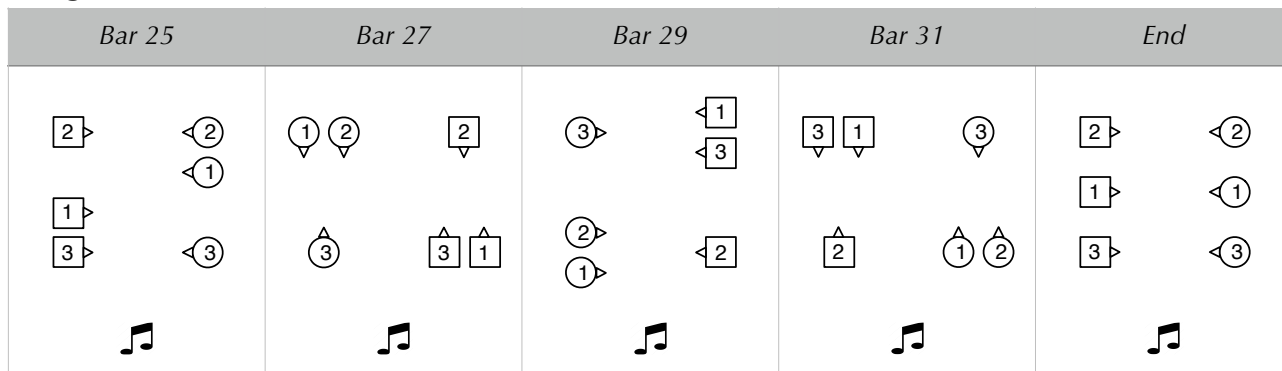
## *Bars Description*

- 1-4 1st and 2nd couples set advancing and take nearer hands facing up. Then 1st couple cast off to 2nd place as 2nd couple dance up to 1st place facing out. 3rd couple turn to face up.
- 5-8 All dance half a mirror reel of three on the sides. 1st couple start down and in. 3rd and 2nd couples end with extra loops.
- 9-16 1st couple turn giving right hands about three quarters to face their 1st corner position. They then turn their 1st corner left hand, partner right hand and 2nd corner left hand to end back to back on the diagonal, facing their 3rd corner position.
- 17-24 1st couple dance corner pass and turn with their 3rd corners who turn each other with both hands in the centre. 1st couple pass right shoulder to repeat with their 4th corners and shorten their steps to end on their own sides with 1st man just above 2nd man (in 3rd place) and 1st woman just below 3rd woman (in 1st place).
- 25-32 All dance "accompanied rights and lefts". 1st man and 1st woman accompany 2nd man and 3rd woman respectively in alternate half right and half left hands across, progressing around each corner anticlockwise, while 3rd man and 2nd woman progress clockwise. 1st man is either above or towards the women's side of his companion while 1st woman is either below or towards the men's side of hers. Initially 1st couple dance ahead of their companions.
- 25-26: 1st woman with 3rd couple at the top, also 1st man with 2nd couple at the bottom, dance half right hands across. 1st and 3rd women end side by side in 1st man's place facing down while 1st and 2nd men end side by side in 3rd woman's place facing up. 1st couple are on the outside.
  - 27-28: 1st and 3rd women with 2nd woman, also 1st and 2nd men with 3rd man, dance half left hands across. 1st and 3rd women end side by side in 3rd man's place while 1st and 2nd men end side by side in 1st woman's place.
  - 29-32: All repeat bars 25-28 from new places, 1st couple are now following their companions. On bars 31-32 1st couple shorten their steps to end in 2nd place, briefly retaining hands with 3rd man and 2nd woman who make polite turns. All finish back on their own sides in the order 3,1,2.

## **Music**

- Suggested tune: The Pride of Loch Norman (Luke Brady).
- Suitable recording: Chasing the Eclipse (Luke Brady: Take Your Partners For... Vol 5).

## Diagrams (music at the bottom)



## Notes

- I saw the figure of bars 25-32 being done spontaneously for fun by energetic young German dancers in a quicktime dance which officially ended with the standard rights and lefts for two couples. I thought it would be good to try it more sedately in a strathspey.
- At the time I was not consciously aware of the Wheelie Chain figure by John Drewry which appears in Drummond Castle (and others). The figure here is slightly different in that 1st couple dance round anticlockwise and are ahead of their corner for the first four bars, whereas in the Wheelie Chain 1st couple dance round clockwise and always follow their corner.



*Rachel Wilton*  
(left, with Ian T Muir)



*Simone Jones*

# *Blue Sky, Yellow Sun*

A 32 bar strathspey for four couples in a longwise set. 1st and 3rd couples start on opposite sides.

This dance was written the Saturday after the invasion of Ukraine. In London the weather was fine. I went out walking but kept thinking of those suffering far away. The combination of the yellow sun in a pale blue sky reminded me of the Ukrainian flag which gave me the title.

Later, Wouter Joubert kindly offered his tune "And when it rains..." which he has dedicated "in support of peace and to all those who are bullied by tyrants".

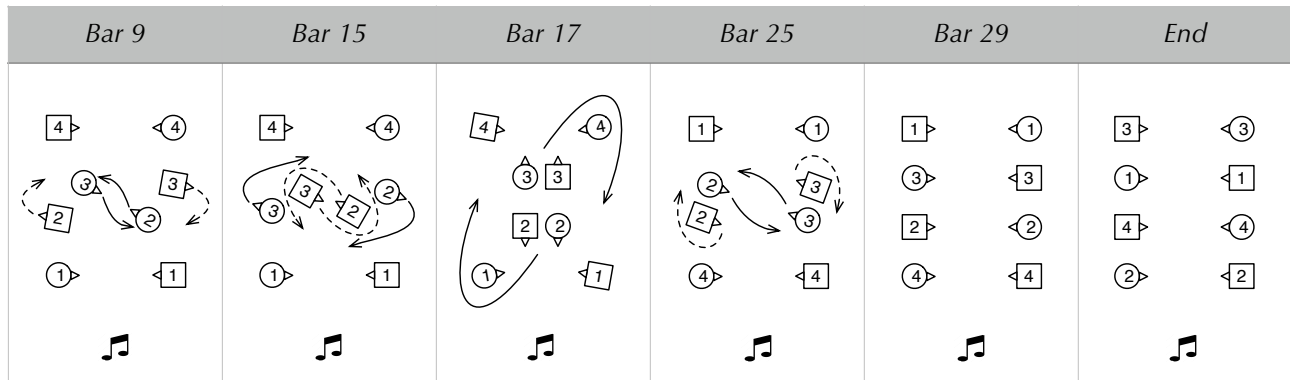
## *Bars Description*

- 1-8 1st and 2nd couples, also 3rd and 4th couples, dance right hands across and left hands back. 2nd and 3rd couples end with the two men facing each other in the centre and the women facing out on the sides.
- 9-16 2nd and 3rd couples dance a reel of four across the set. 2nd and 3rd men start by passing each other left shoulder as 2nd and 3rd women curve to their right. On the last two bars the two women dance three quarters round each other left shoulder and up or down the centre as their partners curve up or down into the centre. Both couples end in promenade hold on the centre line, 2nd couple facing up in 2nd place, 3rd couple facing down in 3rd place.
- 17-20 2nd couple in promenade hold dance half a right shoulder reel of three across with 1st couple as 3rd couple dance similarly with 4th couple. 2nd couple end facing down, 3rd couple facing up on the sides.
- 21-24 2nd couple dance half a left shoulder reel of three on the women's side as 3rd couple dance half a left shoulder reel on the men's side. Both couples end on the sides and release hands.
- 25-28 2nd and 3rd couples dance half a Men's Chain with the women casting into their loop on the side.
- 29-32 4th with 2nd and 3rd with 1st couples join hands on the side and set advancing to the centre. They then each circle four hands half way round to the left. The final order is 2, 4, 1, 3 with 2nd and 1st couples on opposite sides.

## **Music**

- Original tune: And when it rains... (Wouter Joubert).
- A 4x32 recording of this is available via <https://my.strathspey.org/u/murrough/recording/>

# Diagrams (music at the bottom)



## And when it rains...

In support of peace and all those who are bullied by the tyrants of this world.  
24 February 2022

Wouter Joubert

Fm F Bm/F Bm<sup>7</sup>/F Fm F B<sup>b</sup>m C<sup>7</sup> Fm

5 Fm F Bm/F Bm<sup>7</sup>/F Fm F B<sup>b</sup>m C<sup>7</sup> Fm

9 B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F/A B<sup>b</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> Dm

13 B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F/A B<sup>b</sup> C<sup>7</sup> Fm

Creative Commons Copyright - Wouter Joubert 28 October 2019

# The Chiswick Jig

A 32 bar jig for three couples in a four couple longwise set. This dance was requested by the Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club as a fairly simple warm up jig to use as the first dance on a programme.

## Bars Description

- 1-4 1st couple dance down, nearer hands joined, below 3rd couple and cast up to 2nd place own sides. 2nd couple step up on bars 3-4.
- 5-8 1st couple turn one and a quarter times with the right hand to end on the centre line with 1st man above 1st woman.
- 9-16 1st man with 2nd couple, also 1st woman with 3rd couple, dance left hands across. 1st couple pass left shoulder to dance right hands across with the other couple and end facing their 1st corners.
- 17-24 1st couple dance a diagonal reel of four with their 1st corners, starting by passing right shoulder. 1st couple end by passing each other right shoulder to 2nd place on opposite sides.
- 25-28 All three couples flow into a chase half way round the set clockwise.
- 29-32 3rd and 2nd couples continue chasing back to place while 1st couple turn once round with the right hand ending in the order 2,1,3.

## Music

- Original tune: Jig for Danny (Frank Reid). Alternative tune: Allison's Jig (Gillian Cummins).
- Pending a recording of Jig for Danny use: Allison's Jig (David Hall and his Scottish Dance Band: Reel Friends Book 2).

## Jig for Danny

Frank Reid

6

12

# *The D and D Side Caledonians*

A 32 bar reel for three couples in a four couple longwise set.

The "D and D Side" are the MiniCrib team consisting of David Haynes and Diana Dainton. Since 2013 they have continued the work originally started in the 1990s by Charles Upton of the Deeside Caledonian Society. Together they have provided thousands of new cribs for the benefit of the SCD community and have also been diligently revising older ones. Thank you!

After an initial progression the dance features setting in approximate D shapes, one on each side, then continues in a more conventional fashion. In practice the D shapes may be more like O shapes but its the thought that counts!

## *Bars Description*

- 1-2 1st couple set.
- 3-8 1st couple dance three quarters of a figure of eight on the sidelines starting left shoulder to 2nd couple (or 1st man casting if preferred as 1st woman starts down the centre). 1st man ends in 2nd place own side as 1st woman crosses up to face him in the centre. 2nd couple step up on bars 3-4.
- 9-10 All three men join nearer hands on the side as 1st woman joins outer hands with 2nd and 3rd men who turn slightly inwards. All set in as close to a D shape as is comfortable.
- 11-12 1st woman, pulling right shoulder back, petronella turns to 2nd place own side as 1st man sets advancing to face her. 2nd and 3rd men keep setting to end facing in on the sides.
- 13-16 1st couple repeat bars 9-12 on the women's side. On the last two bars, 1st man, pulling right shoulder back, sets turning and advancing slightly to face 2nd man on the diagonal as 1st woman sets advancing to end in tandem behind him. 2nd and 3rd women set for all four bars and end facing in on the sides.
- 17-20 1st couple dance half an alternating tandem reel of three on the 1st diagonal, starting right shoulder to 2nd man, and end in tandem, with 1st woman leading, facing 3rd man.
- 21-24 1st couple dance half an alternating tandem reel of three on the 2nd diagonal, starting right shoulder to 3rd man, and end in 2nd place opposite sides.
- 25-28 All chase half way clockwise to own sides.
- 29-32 All turn their partner once round giving right hands. The order is now 2,1,3.

## **Music**

- Suggested tune: Doris's Legacy (Muriel A Johnstone).
- Suitable recording: In Balance (Ian Robertson and Muriel Johnstone: Full Circle).

# *The Editor Emeritus*

A 32 bar jig for four couples in a longwise set. 2nd and 4th couples start on opposite sides.

This dance is dedicated to Eric Ferguson who has worked tirelessly for the international Scottish Country Dance community for several decades. His contributions include writing thousands of “E-cribs” and maintaining and adding to the contents of the Scottish Country Dance Database (SCDDB, also known as the Strathspey Database or DanceData). He has always been ready to offer a helping hand to others by sharing his expertise or making quick database updates. The extra hand holds in this dance are a symbol of that.

## *Bars Description*

- 1-4 2nd and 3rd couples petronella turn to the centre line and set to their partner.
- 5-8 2nd and 3rd couples, giving right hands, turn three quarters to the opposite side and set to their partner.
- 9-12 2nd and 3rd couples dance half a figure of eight out of the nearest end, returning to their original places.
- 13-16 2nd and 3rd couples dance left hands across.
- 17-20 1st and 2nd couples, also 3rd and 4th couples, each dance right hands across slightly less than half way round so that 1st and 4th women are closer to the centre line while their partners are closer to the sidelines. All keep right hands joined in the crosses and 1st and 4th couples also join left hands up and down, slightly on the diagonal.  
All balance.
- 21-24 1st and 4th couples, retaining left hands, half turn moving out to the sidelines.  
Meanwhile 2nd and 3rd couples, retaining right hands, cross over to 1st and 4th places.  
All four men end facing out while the woman all end facing in.  
All balance in line on the sides and end turning to their right to face up and down.
- 25-28 All dance half a reel of four on the sides, starting by passing right shoulder.
- 29-32 3rd and 1st couples, also 4th and 2nd couples, each circle four hands round to the left.  
End in the order 3,1,4,2 with 1st and 2nd couples on opposite sides.

## **Music**

- Original tune: Eric Ferguson, E-crib Master (Wouter Joubert) played ABAB.
- The dance was written for this tune which was composed by Wouter as a gift to Eric on his retirement from active editing of the Strathspey Database.
- A 4x32 recording of this is available via <https://my.strathspey.org/u/murrough/recording/>

# Eric Ferguson, E-Crib Master

For Eric, who "retired" from SCD on 10 Jun 2020

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is in the treble clef and the bass line is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, A, D, A/E, E7.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is in the treble clef and the bass line is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, E7, A, D, E7, A.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is in the treble clef and the bass line is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: E, A/E, E, E/B, B7, E, E7/D.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is in the treble clef and the bass line is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: A/C#, E7, A, D, A/E, E7, A.

Creative Commons Copyright - Wouter Joubert 11 June 2020

# *The Generous Tunesmith*

A 32 bar jig for three couples in a four couple longwise set.

This dance is dedicated to Wouter Joubert who regularly gifts tunes he has composed to other dancers and dance devisers. In particular he offered a tune for a dance to be written for Eric Ferguson. I made two attempts at such a dance. Eric preferred one and it seemed obvious to offer the other dance to Wouter. Both were devised with the same (excellent) tune in mind but Wouter subsequently preferred to assign another new tune for this dance.

## *Bars Description*

- 1-4 1st couple cross over giving right hands and then set to their partner.
- 5-8 Giving right hands on the men's side and left hands on the women's side, 1st couple half turn 2nd couple, ending in double triangles position. Then all set as in double triangles.
- 9-12 1st couple dance half a diagonal reel of four with their 1st corners, starting by passing right shoulder. 1st couple end crossing to 2nd place own side.
- 13-16 1st couple with 3rd and 2nd men (in 3rd place) dance mirror set and link with 1st couple casting to 3rd place as 3rd and 2nd men dance in and up ending in 2nd place facing out.
- 17-20 2nd and 3rd couples half turn giving right hands on the men's side and left hands on the women's side while 1st couple cross over giving left hands. Then all set facing in on the sides without taking hands.
- 21-24 Giving left hands on the men's side and right hands on the women's side, 1st couple half turn 2nd and 3rd women, ending in double triangles position. Then all set as in double triangles.
- 25-28 1st couple turn their 1st corners with the right hand and end passing right shoulder to lines of three across, 1st man between 3rd and 2nd men at the top, 1st woman between 3rd and 2nd women at the bottom. The corners dance for four bars.
- 29-32 All chase three quarters of the way round clockwise ending in the order 2,1,3.

## **Music**

- Original tune: A Baker's Half-Century (Wouter Joubert).
- Though the dance was first devised for the tune Eric Ferguson, e-crib Master (also by Wouter Joubert).

# Diagrams (music at the bottom)

Bar 7	Bar 13	Bar 17	Bar 21	Bar 25	Bar 29

## A Baker's Half-Century

This became the tune for the 51st dance in our 50th anniversary book.

Wouter Joubert

Creative Commons Copyright - Wouter Joubert 12 January 2020

# *Gravitational Waves*

A 32 bar reel for three couples in a four couple longwise set.

The dance celebrates the first direct detection by the LIGO detector of gravitational waves produced by two black holes circling and merging together over a billion light years from Earth. This event was observed on 14 September 2015 almost exactly a century after the existence of gravitational waves was predicted by Einstein in his General Theory of Relativity.

Bars 5-12 represent the LIGO detector which has two 4 km long arms arranged in an L shape. Bars 13-16 show the circling and merging black holes. The wiggly reels are the resulting gravitational waves and the final circle is for the Nobel Prize medallions awarded by the Swedish Academy in recognition of this amazing scientific achievement.

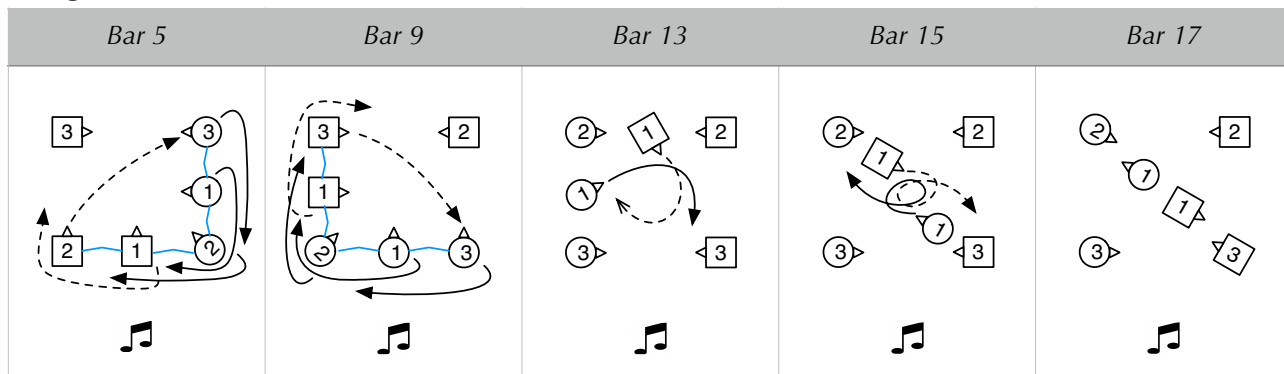
## *Bars Description*

- 1-4 1st couple set to each other. Then 1st man casts off to 2nd place as 1st woman, starting slightly to her left, makes a petronella turn to end facing down in 1st place between 2nd couple who step up.
- 5-8 LIGO (or L-shape) set and link:
  - 2nd and 1st women with 2nd, 1st and 3rd men set taking hands in an L shape. 2nd man at the vertex faces in diagonally with arms at right angles.
  - 2nd woman (with left hand free) dances diagonally across to 3rd man's place while the other four pull right shoulders back and cast clockwise to form a new L shape with 2nd man again at the vertex between 1st and 3rd women on the women's side and 1st and 3rd men across in 1st place.
- 9-12 Repeat the LIGO set and link figure of bars 5-8 from new places. This time 3rd woman dances diagonally across to 1st man's place as the other four cast clockwise. The corners are now diagonally opposite their starting places, 1st man is in 2nd place on the women's side and 1st woman is on the centre line in 3rd place.
- 13-16 1st couple dance clockwise around each other, passing right shoulder, starting by making a wide loop about half way round, moving into the centre. Then coming towards each other they birl (or turn tightly about one and a half times with the right hand) to end facing their 1st corner position (3rd corner person).
- 17-20 1st couple dance half a diagonal reel of four with 1st corners, starting by passing right shoulder. They then pass left shoulders with each other (a wave-like wiggle) to face 2nd corner position (4th corner person).
- 21-24 1st couple dance half a diagonal reel of four with 2nd corners, starting by passing right shoulder. They then pass right shoulders with each other to end in 2nd place on their own side.
- 25-32 All circle six hands round and back, ending in the order 2,1,3.

## **Music**

- Original tune: Einstein's Prediction (Ian Robertson).
- An 8x32 recording of this is available via <https://my.strathspey.org/u/murrough/recording/>
- The video used: 8x32 Reels (Marian Anderson and her band: Bordering on Scottish, track 5).

## Diagrams (music at the bottom)



### Optional Extra

- If 3rd and 2nd women do not want to rest (as the observing physicists) in bars 5-8 and 9-12 respectively they may set and turn about singly on the spot, pulling right shoulder back. There is no associated symbolism for this.

## Einstein's Prediction

Reel

Original tune for the dance "Gravitational Waves"

Ian Robertson

Chord progressions for the six staves:

- Staff 1: A A/E A A<sup>7</sup> D A/C# Bm E<sup>7</sup>
- Staff 2: A A/E A A<sup>7</sup> D A/C# E<sup>7</sup>/B A
- Staff 3: D A/C# Bm D A F#m Bm E<sup>7</sup>
- Staff 4: D A/C# Bm D A F#m E<sup>7</sup> A
- Staff 5: D A/C# Bm D A F#m Bm E<sup>7</sup>
- Staff 6: A A/E A A<sup>7</sup> D A/C# E<sup>7</sup>/B A

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# *The House Keys of Lisbon*

A 32 bar strathspey for three couples in a triangular set.

The title was inspired by a BBC news article about a Portuguese law allowing descendants of Jews expelled in the 15th and 16th centuries to return and claim citizenship. Apparently a few families who took refuge in Istanbul still have keys to the houses in Lisbon that they were forced to leave centuries ago. These keys have been passed down for generations as family heirlooms. For more details see [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/Turning\\_Portuguese](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/Turning_Portuguese).

Those keen on symbolism can imagine the six dancers starting at the points of a Star of David and that the hands across and turns represent keys in locks.

This dance also provides an opportunity to thank several people that I know in Lisbon: firstly Adriana Duarte for organising the Curia weekends; also Isabel Monteiro and Isabel Neves for devising lovely dances; and Barbara Gray, Joana Ferreira, Roger Picken and Sue Willdig for running the Carcavelos, Lapa and Telheiras SCD groups.

## *Bars Description*

- 1-4 All three men dance left hands across back to place.
- 5-8 All set and link.
- 9-12 All three women dance left hands across back to their partner's place.
- 13-16 All set and link back to original places but the women stay facing out.
- 17-20 All dance four bars of Schiehallion reels, passing left shoulder in the centre, and end with the women facing out again, having progressed one place anticlockwise.
- 21-24 Giving left hands, all turn their corner once round and face their partner. Then, giving both hands, all turn their partner once round and open out to form a circle.
- 25-32 All circle six hands round to the left and back. The progressed order is 2,3,1.

## **Music**

- Suggested tune: Da Slookit Light (Tom Anderson). This was written as a lament for the lights of houses in Shetland being extinguished as people moved away. It seemed appropriate for this dance.
- Suitable recording: Da Slookit Light (Chris, Julie and Nick Dewhurst: Short and Sweet).

# Musical Chairs

A 32 bar strathspey for four couples in a longwise set.

This dance is for Joanne and Willie Lawrence who have both taken on vital organisational roles in the London Scottish Country Dance community. Joanne is chair of London Branch while Willie is convener of the St Columba's Dancers. Among their many tasks both are involved in booking musicians and Willie also computerised the St Columba's CD collection.

## *Bars Description*

- 1-2 1st man and 2nd woman, also 3rd man and 4th woman, change places giving right hands.  
Meanwhile 1st woman and 2nd man, also 3rd woman and 4th man, set facing on the diagonal (covering with those crossing).
- 3-4 1st and 2nd couples, also 3rd and 4th couples, chase one place clockwise ending in the order 2,1,4,3. 1st man and 4th woman stay facing out.
- 5-8 1st and 4th couples dance left hands across and end on the sides facing the ends.
- 9-16 All dance reels of four on the sides, starting by passing right shoulder. 1st and 4th couples end facing in diagonally after their last left shoulder pass.
- 17-18 1st woman and 4th man change places giving left hands.  
Meanwhile 1st man and 4th woman set facing on the diagonal.
- 19-20 1st and 4th couples chase one place anticlockwise ending in the order 2,4,1,3. 1st woman and 4th man stay facing out.
- 21-24 2nd and 4th couples, also 1st and 3rd couples, dance right hands across.
- 25-32 2nd and 4th couples, also 1st and 3rd couples, dance an all round poussette.  
The final order is 2,4,1,3.

## **Music**

- Suggested tune: Crowhillock (Archibald Duff).
- Suitable recording: Silver Halsway (George Meikle and the Lothian SDB: Reel Friends Book 3).

## **Executive summary (committee chairs always like these!)**

Ends (RH)	Middle (LH)	Reel	Middle (LH)	Ends (RH)	Poussette
Progression	Hands Across		Progression	Hands Across	

# *The Nimble Flower of Nyon*

A palindromic 32 bar strathspey for three couples in a longwise set.

For Florence Burgy, originally from Geneva, but now living in nearby Nyon.

## *Bars Description*

- 1-4 1st and 2nd couples dance half left hands across, then each half turn their partner by the left hand and retain hands.
- 5-8 2nd couple continue with another half left hand turn ending in 1st place opposite sides where they set to each other. Meanwhile 1st couple cast up and cross down briefly keeping right hands joined to face each other in the centre in 2nd place.
- 9-12 1st couple dance right shoulder around each other to end facing out in 2nd place opposite sides. They then turn 3rd couple once round with the nearer hand (right on the women's side, left on the men's side) and end in the centre in tandem, 1st man leading, facing 2nd man (in 1st woman's place).
- 13-16 1st couple dance half an alternating tandem reel of three across with 2nd couple, starting by passing 2nd man by the right shoulder and end still in tandem, with 1st woman leading, in the centre in 2nd place facing the men's side.
- 17-20 1st couple dance half an alternating tandem reel of three across with 3rd couple, starting by passing 3rd man by the left shoulder and ending side by side in the centre in 2nd place opposite sides facing up.
- 21-24 1st couple, starting up between 2nd couple, turn them once round with the nearer hand (left on the men's side, right on the women's side) ending in 2nd place own sides. They then dance left shoulder around each other and end taking left hands to face down.
- 25-28 3rd couple set to each other then half turn with the right hand retaining hands. Meanwhile 1st couple cross down with the left hand between the setting 3rd couple and cast up to 2nd place own sides coming in to take right hands.
- 29-32 1st and 3rd couples each half turn their partner by the right hand, then dance half right hands across to end in the order 231. Between repeats, 3rd woman may end facing out and looking to the left.

## **Music**

- As a palindromic dance with four bar figures the ideal music might be of the form ABCDDCBA where each of A, B, C and D are four bar phrases.
- A suitable alternative recording is: Bruce's Men (Luke Brady's SDB: Take Your Partners For...).

## **Notes**

- Those who prefer a more conventional right hand start, and changes of direction before or after setting, can exchange left and right handedness between bars 1-6 and 27-32.

# *Nurse Dent*

A 32 bar jig for 3 couples in a 4 couple longwise set.

This dance is for John Dent, a regular at Gay Gordons classes in London for many years and a participant at the Gay Gordons residential events at Laurieston Hall near Castle Douglas, Scotland. Those weeks usually included a cabaret night. One year we had several medics who produced a short shadow show of an operation going horribly wrong. John stole the show with a comic psycho performance as knife wielding Nurse Dent - an unforgettable memory of those gatherings.

## *Bars Description*

- 1-8 1st and 2nd couples dance a chain progression, but at the end 1st couple only half turn right hand to end facing up in tandem, 1st woman above 1st man.
- 9-12 1st couple, with 1st woman leading, dance half a tandem figure of eight around 2nd woman. 1st woman ends crossing to face out in 2nd place opposite side.
- 13-16 1st and 3rd couples dance left hands across. On the last bar 1st woman starts to dance up the centre.
- 17-20 1st couple, with 1st woman leading, dance half a tandem figure of eight around 2nd man. 1st woman ends crossing to face out in 2nd place own side.
- 21-24 1st and 3rd couples dance right hands across ending on the sides.
- 25-32 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples circle six hands round to the left and back.  
The final order is 2,1,3.

## *Music*

- Suggested tune: The Brig (Traditional).
- Recording: Closeburn Lassies (Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band: The Blackwater Collection).



*John Dent*



*Tavistock Square*

# *Out of Quarantine*

A 40 bar reel for three couples in a four couple longwise set. This was written as it seemed we were emerging from the Covid pandemic and it might be safe to tentatively start taking hands again.

## *Bars Description*

- 1-4 1st couple cross passing right shoulder, then cast off one place as 2nd couple step up.
- 5-8 1st couple dance left shoulder round each other nearly one and half times to end back to back on the diagonal facing their 3rd corners.
- 9-12 1st couple set to 3rd corners. 1st couple cast away to the corner position behind them as the corners dance in and face the position they just left.
- 13-16 1st woman, 2nd man, 3rd woman and 1st man dance half a diagonal reel of four starting by passing right shoulder.
- 17-20 1st man and 3rd woman, also 1st woman and 2nd man, giving right hands, turn one and a half times. 2nd woman and 3rd man end in the corners while 1st couple pass left shoulder to end back to back on the diagonal facing their 4th corners.
- 21-32 1st couple repeat bars 9-20 with their 4th corners. 1st couple end the turns on the centre line, left shoulder to partner, 1st man below 1st woman. All the corners face clockwise.
- 33-36 1st couple turn once (or twice!) round with the left hand ending on the centre line while the corners chase half way clockwise to own sides.
- 37-40 1st woman with 2nd couple, and 1st man with 3rd couple, each dance right hands across ending on the sides in the order 2,1,3.

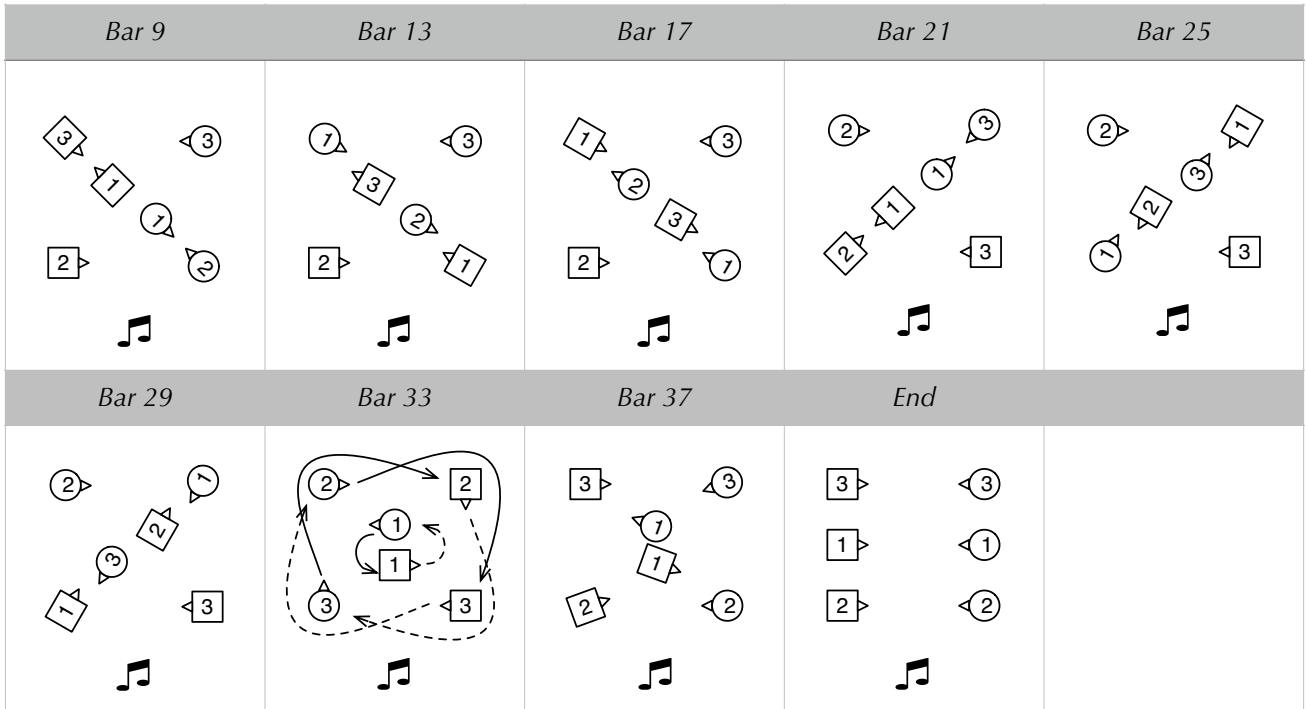
## **Music**

- Suggested tune: Chinese Dance (Traditional).
- Suitable recording: A Set of Reels (Neil Barron and his SDB: Music for Scottish Dancing).

## **Notes**

- The sequence of set to corners and cast away followed by half a diagonal reel of four comes from Jaywalking by Campbell Tyler.

**Diagrams (music at the bottom)**



*Florence Burgy*



*Jim and Aline Cook*

# *Pavonis Mons*

A 32 bar reel for three couples in a four couple longwise set.

I am one of those who think the RSCDS made a mistake in naming the signature figure from Linnea's Strathspey as a "Three Couple Chain Progression". It is really a two couple chain progression with the outer pair of dancers accompanied by 1st couple taking them in promenade hold. Reels of three do not get renumbered if some of those involved in the reel are couples in promenade hold. This dance was written to include a truly three couple chain progression. Like the three couple Bourrel it results in losing one's partner - or regaining them if they have already been lost in the right way as in this dance. This figure has been used by Iain Boyd (The Copper Beech, 2017) and also proposed by Ed McIntosh.

Searching for a showy title with some reference to "three" and "chain" I remembered the linear chain of three massive shield volcanoes on the Tharsis plateau on Mars. Pavonis Mons, which means Peacock Mountain in English, is the central peak - and also the smallest, being a mere one and a half times the height of Earth's puny Mount Everest.

## *Bars Description*

- 1-4 1st couple cross over giving right hands and cast off one place as 2nd couple step up.
- 5-8 1st couple dance half a figure of eight out the end to their right, left shoulder round their 3rd corner, to end on the centre line, 1st man above 1st woman.
- 9-12 1st man with 2nd couple, and 1st woman with 3rd couple, dance left hands across ending on the sidelines. 1st and 2nd men face down, 1st and 3rd women face up.
- 13-16 1st man followed by 2nd man dance in tandem right shoulder around 3rd man to change places. 1st woman followed by 3rd woman dance similarly around 2nd woman. The order is now 1,2,3 on the men's side and 2,3,1 on the women's side.
- 17-24 All dance a truly three couple chain progression:
  - 1-2: All turn the opposite person three quarters with the right hand to the centre line.
  - 3-6: 2nd woman and 3rd man dance half way round clockwise to the other end of the centre line. Meanwhile 1st man with 3rd woman, and 2nd man with 1st woman, turn one and a half times with the left hand to change places.
  - 7-8: All turn their partner three quarters with the right hand into allemande hold facing up.
- 25-32 All dance a three couple allemande to end in the order 2,1,3.

## **Music**

- Suggested tune: Kirk's Hornpipe (Traditional).
- Suitable recording: Still Buzzing (Robert Whitehead and The Danelaw Scottish Country Dance Band: The Geordie Diamond 1950-2010)

# *Sightlines from Chernex*

A 32 bar strathspey for four couples in a longwise set.

This dance is for Jim and Aline Cook who kindly invited me for supper in their former holiday home in the village of Chernex. This was in the hills above Montreux from where they had a lovely view over the eastern end of Lake Geneva and the surrounding mountains. Chernex, which is pronounced like "Shairnay", is on the Montreux Oberland Bernois or "GoldenPass" railway line. This climbs and winds its narrow gauge way up from Montreux, through the gorgeous scenery of the Bernese Oberland, to the rail and river junction at Zweisimmen. The reels, snake pass and tournée may be taken to illustrate the loopy nature of the line.

The tournée often elicits groans even from experienced dancers, however Aline Cook thinks it makes a nice pattern when viewed from above. So just imagine Aline's appreciative eye is upon you and do your best! As encouragement the entry into the tournée is a little easier in this dance though that might disappoint true connoisseurs of the figure.

## *Bars Description*

- 1-4 1st and 3rd couples dance half a figure of eight round the couples below them.
- 5-6 All four couples cross over giving left hands.
- 7-8 1st and 4th couples set. Meanwhile 2nd and 3rd couples dance half left hands across and face the end couples on the sides. The order is now 1,3,2,4 with 3rd and 4th couples on opposite sides.
- 9-16 All dance reels of four on the sides starting by passing right shoulder.
- 17-20 1st and 3rd couples, also 2nd and 4th couples, dance right hands across ending still close in the centre, with 3rd and 2nd women ready to pass each other left shoulder.
- 21-24 3rd and 1st couples, also 2nd and 4th couples, with the women all leading their partner, dance a Snake Pass, curving left shoulder around the other two couples to end on the sidelines beside their partner in the other half of the set. End with 2nd man, 2nd woman, 1st man and 1st woman down the men's side and 4th woman, 4th man, 3rd woman and 3rd man down the women's side.
- 25-32 4th with 2nd couples, also 3rd with 1st couples dance a slightly modified tournée. On the first bar all take promenade hold with their partner and dance in to the centre line, men diagonally slightly to their right, so that 4th and 2nd men, also 3rd and 1st men, are left shoulder to each other. All then continue with bars 2-8 of the tournée as usual. End in the order 2,4,1,3.

## **Music**

- Suggested tune: A Glint of Gold (Drummond Cook).
- Suitable recording: A Glint of Gold (Colin Dewar and his SDB: A' the best fae Banffshire).

# *Simone's Serendipitous Meeting*

A 32 bar jig for 3 couples in a 4 couple longwise set.

Simone Jones, who is originally from Belgium, met her future husband there for a month and then corresponded for four years before joining him in London. Despite thinking she knew everything about him she had unfortunately neglected to ask Ron if he shared her passion for dancing and was very upset to find he did not.

One day in church she poured out her (only) disappointment to the complete stranger who happened to be sitting next to her. This kind lady recommended she try Scottish Country Dancing where she could come without a partner. Simone was immediately hooked and was subsequently taught and examined as a qualified RSCDS teacher by the redoubtable founder of the RSCDS, Miss Milligan, who praised her for "teaching so well in a foreign language". Fifty years later Simone still teaches weekly at the Epping Forest Scottish Association.

The first eight bars reflect this story then the remainder of the dance is quite traditional.

## *Bars Description*

- 1-2 1st woman sets to 1st man who smiles beatifically but does not set back.
- 3-4 1st woman turns and sets to 2nd woman who does set back and ends taking 1st woman in promenade hold (1st woman on the right of 2nd woman).
- 5-6 2nd and 1st women in promenade hold dance down to 3rd place on the women's side facing out. 3rd woman steps up to 2nd place.
- 7-8 2nd and 1st women dance back to places behind the women's side with 2nd woman leading 1st woman ahead by the left hand (launching her into her Scottish Country Dancing career). 3rd woman steps back down to 3rd place.  
  
1st woman ends facing in and down, 2nd woman facing out and up. 2nd man also turns to face up and out while 1st man is now released from his impersonation of Simone's non-dancing husband and joins in for the rest of the dance.
- 9-16 All three couples dance Inveran reels.
- 17-24 1st and 2nd couples dance double figures of eight, starting with 1st couple crossing down and 2nd couple casting up.
- 25-28 1st couple half turn 2nd couple with the easy hand (right on the mens side, left on the womens side) and then half turn 3rd couple with the other hand.
- 29-30 1st couple dance up to the top with nearer hands joined as 3rd couple loop back into 3rd place.
- 31-32 1st couple cast into 2nd place ending in the order 2,1,3.

## **Music**

- Suggested tune: Greenholm (Traditional).
- Any recording of "The Happy Meeting" is very suitable for this dance too.

# *Splendour in the Grass*

A 32 bar strathspey for three couples in a longwise set.

The title comes from seeing a sign attached to a lamp post on Hampstead Heath which read:

*"There is splendour in the grass" (Wordsworth).*

*There is also my lost hearing aid!*

*Unusually pleasant reward offered...*

The dance contains the Snake Pass figure but any snakes in the grass should be assumed to be slow worms (which are actually lizards).

## *Bars Description*

- 1-2 1st and 2nd couples set.
- 3-6 1st woman and 2nd man cast, and followed by their partners, they chase half way round clockwise.
- 7-8 2nd and 1st couples cross back to their own sides passing right shoulder.
- 9-12 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples advance for one, retire for one and link as in Set and Link for three couples. 1st couple end on the centre line facing clockwise, 1st man slightly above 1st place, 1st woman slightly below 3rd place. 3rd and 2nd couples end facing their partner across the set in 1st and 3rd places respectively.
- 13-16 1st couple cast clockwise to 2nd place opposite side. Then, giving left hands, they turn three quarters to end on the centre line with 1st man below 1st woman.  
Meanwhile 3rd and 2nd couples dance back to back with their partner.
- 17-20 3rd couple with 1st woman, and 1st man with 2nd couple, each dance right hands across to the same places. 1st couple end left shoulder to each other on the centre line.
- 21-24 1st woman followed by 3rd couple and 1st man followed by 2nd couple dance the Snake Pass, curving left shoulder around the other dancers and ending on the sidelines in the order 2,1,3.
- 25-32 1st and 3rd couples repeat bars 1-8, but with 1st man and 3rd woman casting and both couples chasing half way round anticlockwise, then passing left shoulder to end on their own sides in the order 2,3,1.

## **Music**

- Suggested tune: Poppy Fields Strathspey (Ian Robertson).
- Suitable recording: Strathspeys 3x32 (Ian Robertson and Rob Alderton: Double Take).

## **Notes**

The figure of bars 1-8 and 25-32 has a 2-4-2 bar pattern so may cross the music. The people who cast in those figures are always the man in 2nd place and either top or bottom woman.

# Summer Superstars

A 32 bar reel for three couples in a four couple longwise set.

Dedicated to Graham and Caroline Hamilton with many thanks for having run the London Summer Tuesdays seasons for such a long time.

## *Bars Description*

- 1-5 1st and 2nd couples half turn their partner with the right hand, then dance half right hands across.
- 5-8 2nd and 1st couples dance left hands across. 2nd couple end on the sidelines but 1st couple end in the centre between 3rd couple, facing down in tandem, with 1st woman leading.
- 9-12 1st couple dance right hands across with 3rd man and end in tandem, with 1st woman leading, on the 2nd diagonal facing up to 2nd woman.
- 13-16 1st couple with 2nd corners dance half an alternating tandem reel of three. 1st couple start by passing 2nd woman left shoulder and end facing down on the centre line with 1st man now below 1st woman.
- 17-20 1st couple dance left hands across with 3rd woman and end in tandem, with 1st man leading, on the 1st diagonal facing up to 2nd man.
- 21-24 1st couple with 1st corners dance half an alternating tandem reel of three. 1st couple start by passing 2nd man right shoulder. 1st woman takes the lead and ends curving, right shoulder back, into 2nd place on the men's side as 1st man crosses to 2nd place on the women's side. All face in.
- 25-32 Cross and Rotate (as Set and Rotate for three couples but crossing over to start):
- all cross over to their own sides giving right hands to their partner,
  - all chase round a quarter clockwise to lines of three across facing up and down,
  - all change places up and down giving right hands to their partner,
  - all chase round another quarter clockwise to their own sides in the order 2,1,3.

## **Music**

- Original tune: Hamilton Astronomicles (Frank Reid). However there is no recording of this yet.
- Alternative recording: The Punch Bowl (Alan Gardiner and his SDB: Highlander Music Vol 7).
- Graham also likes the supporting tunes in the recording Pulling Bracken (Marian Anderson and her SDB: Highlander Music Vol 12).
- Or any good reel: Graham Hamilton suggests letting the musicians choose.
- There is also a live recording by Frank Reid and his band playing his original tune. This is freely available for download via <https://my.strathspey.org/u/murrough/recording/>

# Hamilton Astrononicles

Frank Reid

5

10

15



*Graham and Caroline Hamilton*



*Joanne and Willie Lawrence*

# Winter In Wasdale

A 32 bar strathspey for four couples in a square set. In the first 16 bars the 2nd and 4th couples copy the 1st and 3rd couples four bars later. The turns with both or right hands and the half left hands across may all be done hands free if preferred.

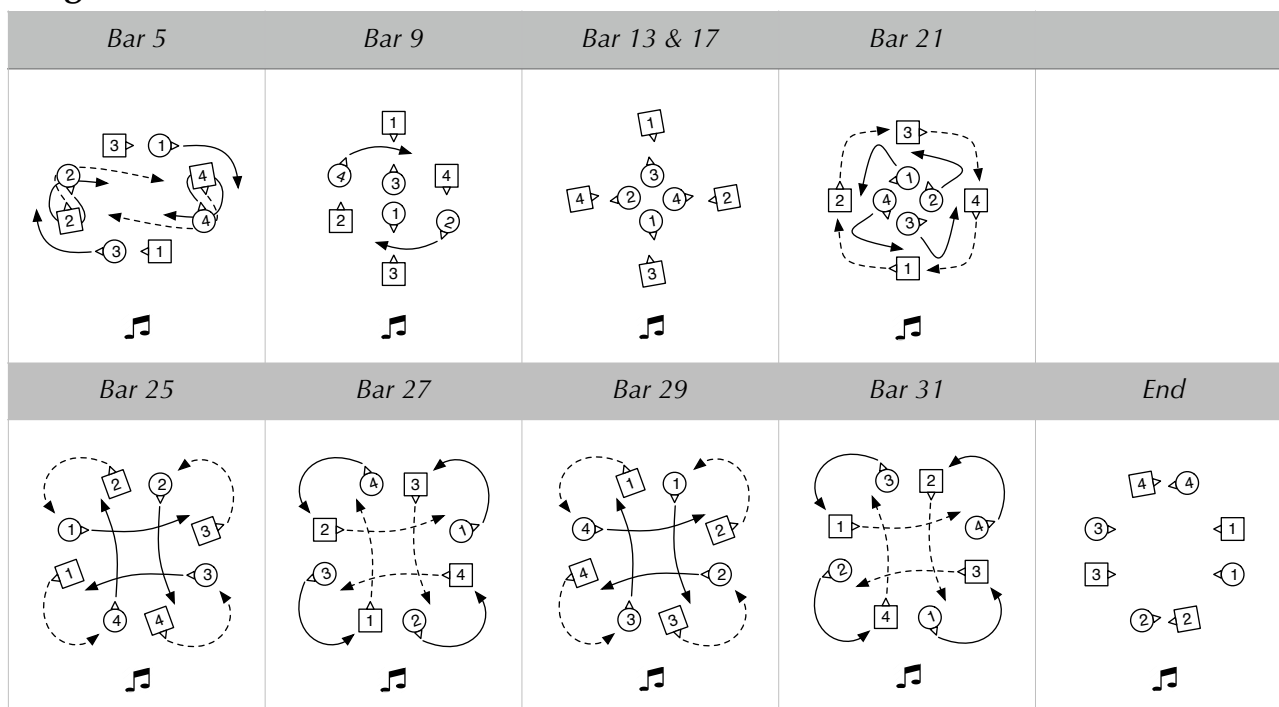
## *Bars Description*

- 1-2 1st and 3rd couples each half turn their partner with both hands and open out into the centre with the women leading.
- 3-4 1st and 3rd couples chase half way round clockwise in the centre and end in tandem, facing the sides, with the men leading, followed by the woman who is not their partner.
- 5-8 3rd man with 1st woman, and 1st man with 3rd woman, in tandem, passing 2nd and 4th couples right shoulder, dance clockwise half way round outside the set. The men end back to back on the centre line facing out to the women on the sides.  
Meanwhile 2nd and 4th couples dance as 1st and 3rd couples in bars 1-4.
- 9-12 1st and 3rd couples set to the facing person then advance and retire for one.  
Meanwhile 2nd and 4th couples dance as 1st and 3rd couples in bars 5-8, passing through the setting couples. End with all the women on the sides facing in to the men who are back to back in the centre facing out.
- 13-16 1st and 3rd couples dance back to back with the facing person.  
Meanwhile 2nd and 4th couples dance as 1st and 3rd couples in bars 9-12.
- 17-20 All dance half intersecting right shoulder reels of four with a quick left hands across in the centre. End with the women on the sides facing clockwise and the men still left shoulder to each other in the centre facing anticlockwise.
- 21-22 The women all chase clockwise one place round the outside of the set. Meanwhile the men all set advancing with a short step to the right and a longer step to the left, ending, still back to back in the centre, one place to their left facing out to their partner in the order 4,1,2,3.
- 23-24 All turn their partner three quarters with the right hand and end with the men facing in and the women facing out.
- 25-32 All dance a Corner variation of Schiehallion Reels:
- 1-2: The men cross straight over (eg from 1st man's to 3rd woman's place) to face out and slightly to their left while the women loop left around the corner to the next man's place anticlockwise (eg from 1st woman's to 4th man's place) and face in.
  - 3-8: Repeat this pattern three times. On their last cross, the women end pulling back right shoulder to face in or face their partner in the order 2,3,4,1.

## **Music**

- Suggested tune: Oor Mary (Charlie Galloway).
- Suitable recording: Miss McLean of Inverness (Kafoozalum: 75th Anniversary of London Branch).

## Diagrams (music at the bottom)



## Notes

In an echo of Autumn in Appin, the original idea for this dance had the pairs taking promenade hold for the chases round the outside in bars 5-8 and 9-12. On the last bar the women would lead the men across right hand to end in the centre. This version was not tested before the Corona virus lockdown. Promenade hold was impractical for a solo video test during the pandemic so this was revised to chasing in tandem (and hands free turns). The promenade version will hopefully be tested in future and might be reinstated.

I was unable to find any existing examples of dances with what I refer to here as a Corner Schiehallion. This is a (reverse) Schiehallion reel rotated by 45 degrees. Instead of crossing diagonally and looping on the sides, here the crossing is parallel to the sides and the looping is round the corners at the ends of the diagonals. The men are each followed by their corner rather than their partner who they fleetingly meet in passing every 4 bars. The track is that followed by two dancers in Postie's Jig (thanks to Keith Rose for pointing this out).

This is a busy dance: 2nd and 4th couples only have a four bar respite. However those keen for a fully active variation could have 2nd and 4th couples compactly dance back to back on the sides in bars 1-4 which would give a cyclic completeness to the first half of the dance.

# Diagrams by Keith Rose

**ASHLEY IN WONDERLAND** 8x32 S

Murrough Landon, 2017, <https://my.strathpey.org/u/murrough/AshleyInWonderland.pdf> 3C/4C longwise set.

**THE EDITOR EMERITUS** 2C & 4C start on opposite sides 4x32 J

Murrough Landon, 2020, <https://my.strathpey.org/u/murrough/EditorEmeritus.pdf> 4C/4C longwise set.

**BACK TO SQUARE ONE** Do not give hands 4x32 S

Murrough Landon, 2020, <https://my.strathpey.org/u/murrough/BackToSquareOne.pdf> 4C/4C square set.

**THE GENEROUS TUNESMITH** 8x32 J

Murrough Landon, 2020, Fields of Gold 3C/4C longwise set.

**THE BENIGN PRESENCE** 3x32 S

Murrough Landon, 2019, <https://my.strathpey.org/u/murrough/BenignPresence.pdf> 3C/3C longwise set.

**GRAVITATIONAL WAVES** 8x32 R

Murrough Landon, 2019, <https://my.strathpey.org/u/murrough/GravitationalWaves.pdf> 3C/4C longwise set.

**BLUE SKY, YELLOW SUN** 1C & 3C start on opposite sides 4x32 S

Murrough Landon, 2022, <https://my.strathpey.org/u/murrough/>, Fields of Gold 4C/4C longwise set.

**THE HOUSE KEYS OF LISBON** 3x32 S

Murrough Landon, 2020, <https://my.strathpey.org/u/murrough/HouseKeysOfLisbon.pdf> 3C/3C triangular set.

**THE CHISWICK JIG** 8x32 J

Murrough Landon, 2018, <https://my.strathpey.org/u/murrough/ChiswickJig.pdf> 3C/4C longwise set.

**MUSICAL CHAIRS** 4x32 S

Murrough Landon, 2022, <https://my.strathpey.org/u/murrough/MusicalChairs.pdf> 4C/4C longwise set.

**THE D AND D SIDE CALEDONIANS** 8x32 R

Murrough Landon, 2022, <https://my.strathpey.org/u/murrough/DAndDSideCaledonians.pdf> 3C/4C longwise set.







