

OLDHAM (pronounced Owddham)

performed by the Lanchester Morris Men.
Seen at Thaxted 1968, danced through 3 times.

The dance is a fixed version of the Royton dance which includes ways done by the Royton Boys. It is of interest because it does reflect a personal contact with Royton rather than the Karpeles book. Out of deference to Manley the stepping sequences have been de-emphasised and the dance called Oldham. It is difficult to understand why the MMM want to walk this tightrope. MMM claim all dances in Oldham area were fixed sequence

STEPS

Polka step - normal step, weight mostly on back foot, free foot tapped in front and just a little crossed over. No sign of snatch back taught by Bentley.

SLINGS

twists (tw) above head with the polka step, 3 to a bar and 4th freewheeling.

Circles - outward (oc) right hand clock, left opposite, mostly wrist action, mostly in vertical plane across front of body.
inward (ic) opposite directions to outward, mostly wrist action, in vertical planes, inside forearms, almost at right angles to outward circles.

SEQUENCES

NUMBER ONE

oc oc oc oc oc
R - L - / rts rf rts - / oc throughout

NUMBER TWO

both hands on partner's shoulders
Rts - Rtb - / rts rf rts - /

ts=toe to side, f=toe forward but not crossed, tb=toe back
Each movement done with hop on supporting foot.

MOSSLEY

oc oc tw tw tw
R - L - / Rhc - Lhc - /

STEP-UP

Step-up-&-back, done twice, starting inside foot each time.

Slings = ic ic / oc oc / , done four times.

Step-up = 3 steps forward & swing free leg forward with lift of supporting foot.

Step-back = 3 steps backward & swing free foot back and up bending leg well at knee, with lift of supporting foot.

On the first step of the first of the two step-ups, the men "dip" by leaning well forward with weight on the forward foot. At the same time the other foot is slid a little back and raised up behind. - A Royton feature

THE DANCE

- Step Up (normal) (8b)
 Lead them Round (8b) odds led by No.1 cross over at top of set & go down outside of evens, while evens, led by 2 cross over at the top and go down inside odds, thus reversing set & changing sides.
- Step Up (reversed)(8b)
 Lead them Round (8b) as before to place, odds outside evens again.
 Step Up (normal) (8b)
 Rights and Lefts (8b) corners cross, 1st cus(2b), 2nd cu(2b) and back (4b). Pass right shoulders each time. Some confusion/as^{to} whether it should be 1/2 or 1 1/2 clockwise turns while crossing.
- Step Up (normal) (8b)
 One Half (8b) bar 1 - 1st cu approach, face down and put inside hands on shoulders while 2nd cu cast up
 bar 2 - 1st cu do down middle while 2nd cu approach, face down and put inside hands on shoulders.
 3-4 - 2 bars polka facing down with inside hands on shoulders.
 5-8 - both cus cast up to place no hands on shoulders.
- Step Up (normal) (8b)
 Inside (8b) 1st cu turn in and face down centre of set (2b) and lead rest down the middle till set reversed(4b) lines now much closer, and polka till end (2b)
- Step Up (reversed)(8b) lines closer, still
 Inside, up in Single File (8b) 1st cu turn in, lead up middle in single file, odds in front of evens, behind the conductor. Odds & evens alternate. face out on diagonal towards own place and do single-mossley stepping sequence. ie. Mossley forward(2b) step-back(2b) Mossley forward on diagonal again(2b) Polka (2b) to place and face partner.
 On spot facing partner, right foot forward first.
- Single-Mossley (8b)
 Polka (8b) *Royton did this in single file facing up - mmm afraid of kicking back sides*
- Advance-no.2s-turnRound-(24b) No.1 towards partner starting right foot(2b) polka backwards to place (2b) No.1 towards partner again starting left foot but still right foot out & cross etc(2b) polka in this position and place both hands on partners shoulders. In this position Number Two four times - left foot to side first. (8b)
 Turn round, two times, downward, thus -
 1-2 turn round downward, from facing partner back to place, with 2 hopsteps, 1/bar.
 3-4 approach partner with 2 hopsteps.
 5-6 turn round downward again with two hop steps ending in place facing up.

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Outside (8b) 7-8 Step-up leading into next figure.
Step Up(reversed)(8b) cast out from the top, end facing down.
In-&-Out (8b) progressive straight hey on each side started by 1st cu at the bottom, ending with set in normal position. Give hands in passing. 1st cu pass inside first.

Step Up(normal) (8b)
Polka (8b) On spot facing partner.
Cross Morris, or Nancy. oc throughout, one to bar.

1-4 face partner, lead in with preliminary hop on left foot. Spring off of right foot, bringing right up to left while in air, but landing on right, and quick step on left. Partners pass left shoulders, turning clockwise so that almost back-to-back when passing. Complete turn to face partner, in partner's place, with 2 steps, turning clockwise.
5-8 repeat to place.
9-12 face front, step on right and tap left toe forward, step on left and tap right toe forward.
13-20 everyone complete turn clockwise with 3 steps & tap toe, then complete turn anticlockwise ditto.
21-40 repeat 1-16 but at end of first turn end facing up and twist slings above head till end, feet still.

Slings twist in all figures except where mentioned, also twist free hand where possible.

DIFFERENCES FROM KARPELES BOOK

- 1. slinging, particularly in Step-up
- 2. new figure - Up in Single File and Mossley on diagonals
- 3. turns in TurnRound and CrossMorris

CONDUCTOR

Step Up Face set & do steps facing down.
Lead them Round 1st half - polka at top facing down till movement complete, then move down to bottom in the Step-up-reversed, progressing only on the step forward & marking time on the step back men back.
Lead them Round 2nd half - polka backwards to place leading inside polka on spot, then go to bottom on the Step-up-reversed, then turn & lead single file up, facing up.
Single Mossley face on diagonal to evens side.
In other polka figures, polka step on spot. Stationary in CrossMorris