

WHITE THORN

As danced by the White Thorn at Cecil Sharp House November 1978. A dance for 8.
Sticks: 2 short sticks, held at bottom and twisted during the polka stepping in small circles

Step : polka done rather heavily.

CHORUS: "Step-&-Turns" : 8 bars on spot facing opposite waving both sticks high up.
All turn up once around taking 8 bars, polka step and leading hand only up & twisting.
All turn down once around taking 8 bars etc. (Probably originally 4 bars each way)

FIGURES:

1. Back-to-Back: 8 bars each way, back to back with opposite. Sticks crossed in front like a posy.
2. Turn-Partner: right hand turn of partner twice round in 8 bars.
3. Hands-Across: right hand star once around in 8 bars.
4. "Peel-Off" : top pair cast down outside. Others remain stationary until top pair pass them, then they join in stepping and movement. The top pair meet the leader at the bottom & these 3 come up the middle with arms on shoulders. No other pair does so. Others cast off as passed by previous pair and follow up the middle to place.

Repeat all the dance.

When back in place for second time after "Peel-Off", dance "Step-&-Turns" and then pause in place facing across for 4 bars. All turn left 90 deg, odds face up, evens face down & polka 4 bars, ending facing that way with both hands up and out.