

BONFIRE DANCE

This is a Round Dance in Reel Time for any number of couples, but preferably not fewer than six. It is supposed, traditionally, to have been danced around the Bonfire on St. John's Eve.

Formation: All stand in ring, facing centre, ladies on right of partners.

A. Advance and Retire

All join hands and advance gradually towards centre with promenade Step (4 bars). All retire to places (4 bars). 8 bars

B. Rings

Still holding hands all side-step anticlockwise, finishing with two short „threes“ (4 bars). Side-step back to places, finishing as before (4 bars). 8 bars

C. Advance and Retire – repeat A.

8 bars

D. Rings – repeat B, but this time all side-step clockwise and back to places. On the last „three“ partners turn to face each other. 8 bars

E. Side-step In and Out

From this new position, all dance side-step to their right – that is, the ladies towards the centre and the gents outwards. Without doing „threes,“ all side-step back to places.

4 bars

F. Link Arms

Linking right arms, partners dance two Promenade Steps clockwise, to partner's place. Release arms. Link left arms and return anticlockwise with two Promenade Steps to face each other as before.

4 bars

G. Side-step In and Out – repeat E, except that this time the gents side-step towards centre and ladies outwards. 4 bars

H. Link Arms – repeat F, except that left arms are linked first and then right. All finish facing centre of ring. 4 bars

I. The Rose

The ladies advance slowly towards the centre with Promenade Step for 4 bars, taking hands in a ring on the fourth „three.“ They now sidestep anticlockwise, and on the two „threes“ they turn right to face outwards, rejoining hands in „back to back“ circle (4 bars). Side-step clockwise, finishing with two short „threes.“ During this 12 bars the gents have remained stationary with left hand on hip and right toe pointed slightly forward. Ladies now advance towards partners, both taking right hands and turn to finish in original positions (4 bars).

16 bars

While ladies remain stationary, with left hands on hips and right toes forward, the gents perform the Rose, but in the ring they side-step clockwise first. 16 bars

J. Swing and Exchange Partners

Partners now take crossed hands and swing slowly for 4 bars to exchange places. (Lady is now left of partner in ring.) Partners bow to each other (1 bar); turn to face new partner (1 bar); bow to new

partner (1 bar); face in and all take hands, ready to recommence dance.

8 bars

The dance may be repeated as often as desired, each lady passing on one place further to the left, while each gent passes to the right.