

Mrs T. J. Holgate, Downham, aged 69.

Mrs Holgate was born and brought up in Clapham. She was taught to dance by her father, who used to play for dancing. Her parents would not let her go to dances until she was 18, but she was one of a family of 11, and they danced in the kitchen, even when she was too young to go to public dances.

She knows all the dances listed by her husband, but in addition she had done Kendall Ghyll, the Swinging-6, and the Square-8. She had done these most often in her own home, but they were still done occasionally in public dances when she began to attend these. The least common was the Square-8, the most popular was the Kendal Ghyll; the latter kept up for a long time.

In Kendal Ghyll, there were 4 in a set, linked in a star by handkerchiefs. They went round and back as fast as they could, and, if they were still standing, they waltzed on to the next couple. Those who fell over in the stars "were out."

Mrs Holgate has no recollection of step-dancing, and there was certainly none in the Square-8. But she learnt some simple clog-dances in school. In her young days most of the children went to school in clogs, and when they went out into the playground for "physical exercise" a teacher used to show them simple tap-type steps as one of the exercises.

Mrs Holgate also took part in Morris dancing in Clitheroe during the first world war, as a member of a women's team trained by a man [one of the old men's side?]. But Julian Pilling will follow this up.