

Mrs Raw, Dent village, aged 75.

Born and brought up in Dentdale, and worked in Dent village as a young girl. She started going to dances at the age of about 17, and in her young days she danced only in Dent village itself.

In Dent, the dances were held in "Dent National School". There were only about 3 dances a year, the "Reading Room Ball", the "Sports Dance" held after Dent Sports meeting, and a dance round about Xmas time. All these dances were held on Fridays, and went on until about 2^½ in the morning.

In the Dale, there were also "cocked parties" in private houses with dancing as part of the entertainment; but these were mainly special events such as birthday parties. Old "Pop" John Mason, the local fiddler in Dent might also occasionally gather a few young people together for "a bit of a dance", but Mrs Raw never attended such gatherings.

The "Beaten Ball" at Deeside Lodge was going on at least 1920, and probably well before that.

The repertoire at the dances in Dent village which Mrs Raw attended was as follows

Quadrilles	Lancers	Square - 8
Swingin-6	Turn-off	Cottagers
Waltz	Polka	Highland Fling
Bar Dance	Heel & Toe Polka	

There was also "step-dancing", and "brush dancing". Mrs Raw has never heard of Cucassian O, Waltz Cotillion, Valsarina, and Polka Magowla in Dentdale.

"Step-dancing" was a dance on its own which formed part of the usual dance programmes. Mrs Raw said it was "generally done" by the men, but on pressing her further, I was told that she had never seen a woman doing it. There were always several people on the floor for "step-dancing", but "not so many could do it". She was not clear whether there was any "figure" in it, or whether there was only one step, but she was certain that those who

took part all did the same thing at the same time.

The "brush dance" was done as an entertainment. Only one or two could do it, and the principal performer was Billy Sunter (now dead, but would have been over 80 had he lived). It was done with an ordinary broom, head resting on the floor, and the broom was simply passed under or over either leg, with some sort of step-dancing in between (or during?) the passes.

Mrs Raw's husband also did the kibby movement (Cossack step) as a test of strength & skill, & others could do it also. But she has never seen it performed to music, and never heard it given a name.

To the best of her recollection, there were no dancing classes in Dent village, or elsewhere in Dentdale. [I learnt later that her brother, David Raw, had actually attended the classes held by Pop John Mason]