

Mrs Florence Hird, The Rose & Crown, Lowgill, Tatham Fell, aged 65.

Born in Horton-in-Ribblesdale, but left there at the age of 2. From then until the age of 18 Mrs Hird lived at Mewth Head, and then she came to Lowgill, where she has lived since.

Mrs Hird remembers her father talking of doing some kind of Reel, and a dance called the Highland Fling; he also spoke of people doing step-dancing, though she has never seen any. Her father's recollections presumably refer to the Craven district, round Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

When Mrs Hird came to Lowgill in 1913, the dances in use in the district were

Quadrilles,	Lancers	Crescission (○)
Cottagers (couple meeting couple)	Spanish Waltz	Swinging Six
Sir Roger	Polka Mazowka,	La Vannerie
Maxina		

Mrs Hird did not know the names Buttered Peas, Turn-off-six, Huntsman's Chorus.

I asked if there were any dances in longways formation, and she said that there was one which was danced with a handkerchief. I asked if the name of it was Kendal Ghyll, and she agreed that it was. She couldn't remember the details of it, but thought that it differed from Sir Roger in that the latter was for as many as you pleased, while Kendal Ghyll was probably not. In Kendal Ghyll, partners held the hanky between them, & passed over the other couples.

At Lowgill, the dances were held in the school. They used also to have parties in the houses — they danced on the stone floors. They also used to dance in barns. At her own home, they danced in the loft over the stables on the occasion of family parties, weddings, or birthday parties; for these occasions the loft was scrubbed & the floor polished; the music was a piano, and sometimes an accordion.

At all these parties, they would have a supper, & then dance until daylight.

Mrs Hird went to some parties at Hamby where they had a fiddle; this usually lasted until 7½ in the morning. For these parties, & also for the public dances, the girls had proper dancing shoes with high heels. A few men wore heavy shoes, but the girls didn't like dancing with them — most men had patent leather evening shoes.

Mrs Hird herself was never taught to dance, but she knew of a dancing class held at Bentham about 1914. This was run as a spare-time enterprise by a Mr Hainsworth, one of two brothers who came from Bolton to Bentham to start up a garage business there.

Mrs Hird had never heard of a dance or game involving 3 men (i.e. Greensleeves), nor had she heard the name Greensleeves. She also had never seen the broomstick dance or the frog dance.

Mrs Bramwell, Lowgill, aged c. 80

She sounded so promising — she had lived in Lowgill all her life — but had never been to a dance of any sort!