

Bury Rangers Knowledge Organiser Buzzards: Country Dancing

Key facts

English country dancing goes as far back as 600 years.

It was particularly popular with Queen Elizabeth 1st.

Country dancing is social dancing where lots of people dance together.

Key Words	Definition
bar	A set number of beats before the beats are repeated.
chassay	A sideways movement, taking two hands or nearest hand moving to the right or the left.
dance	To move your body rhythmically to music.
pulse	The number and speed of the beats in music.
swing	To hold your partners hand and spin each other around.

Key Dances:

Patacake Polka

A Hold both hands with partner; to boy's left: heel, toe, heel, toe, 4 chassays (chassay to the left). Repeat to right.

B 3 claps each to partner's right, to partner's left, to partner's both hands, to own knees. Swing partner. (right, right, right; left, left, left; both, both, both; knees, knees, knees; swing)

(A chassay is a side-step: step and close)

Witch's Reel

A1 Top couple galop down (8 steps) and back.

A2 Top couple cast out and all follow; 1s arch at the bottom and all dance up through the arch.

B1 Join hands along lines and old 1s (now at bottom) join hands across the set to make horseshoe. The top girl starts thread the needle under arch made by the two boys at the top.

B2 Top boy starts thread the needle under the girls' arch.

Farmer's Jig

A1 All four couples dance up the set (towards the music), turn and dance back to places.

A2 All four couples galop up the set, and galop back to places.

B1 Right-hand stars in groups of four (Cps 1&2; Cps 3&4); left-hand stars.

B2 Top couple single cast to bottom of the set, others following; top couple arch at the bottom, others go through the arch – start again by dancing up the set.