**Portland Hill - Set dance for 8 with sticks – OFS Music**: Balquidder Lasses

* **Feet** Ranting or marching
* **Arms** Same arm and leg; ‘present’ sticks - both held parallel at ears
* **Step Up to Start**

Bring both arms up cleanly with first step – sticks parallel to ground – level @ ears

Forward 3 steps and a hitch = R, L, R, L hitch

Reverse 3 steps and hitch = L, R, L, R hitch

Rant x 4 – alternate arming - R, L, R, L

* **Figures**

1. Step up
2. **Stars**
3. Step up
4. **Square sets**
5. Step up
6. **Single Line**
7. Step up
8. **Corners**
9. Step up
10. **Diagonal cast to opposite side**
11. Step up on opposite side
12. **Diagonal cast back to place**
13. Step up
14. **Diamond**
15. Step up
16. **Final figure**

* **Star**

All 2 rants moving clockwise to form two right hand stars

BOTTOM

TOP

8

Turn star clockwise - 4 rants

**When back to place** – turn to face up – 1 rant - hands down;

2 rants on spot - present sticks

Turn to form left hand star – 1 rant – face counter clockwise

Turn star counter clockwise - 4 rants. Home - 2 rants – alternate arms

* **Square Sets**
  + - * First corners - 1, 4, 5 and 8 - dance 2 small squares
      * Second corners - 2, 3, 6 and 7 -dance around whole set

Travelling clockwise – 2 rants to next position alternate arming

Travelling clockwise – 2 rants to next position – present sticks

Repeat - until all back to place [make corners sharp]

* **Single Line**

2 rants into a single line – all facing up - odds in front of evens – alternate arms

2 rants on spot – present sticks

March 4 steps – arms down - and change places with partner [1 with 2; 7 with 8 etc] Odds – go left; evens – go right

4 rants on spot - alternate arms

March 4 steps – arms down – back to original place in line [Odds left & evens right]

2 rants on spot – present sticks. 2 rants home - alternate arms

* **Corners**

1st corners - 2 rants to meet - left shoulders – alternate arms

Meanwhile – 2nd corners 2 rants on spot/turn down ready to right hand turn with 1st corner – alternate arms – diagonal line

**All** turn line half way round - 2 rants

2nd corners - 2 rants forward to opposite corner – alternate arms

Meanwhile 1st corners 2 rants on spot/face up

**All** 2 rants to next place - counter clockwise - face up as you travel - present arms

CHECK Everyone has moved counter clockwise two places

REPEAT all above from new places – finishing at home

* **Diagonal Cast to Opposite Side**

Top couple immediately cast out to bottom of set – 4 rants – alternate arming

Other couples dance diagonals - 2 rants into central line and 2 rants into opposite position up the set – alternate arming

**Odd side ALWAYS going in front of the even – keep facing up**

When top couple get to the bottom of the set they join in the diagonal figure

All dance diagonally back – 2 rants into line and 2 into opposite place up the set whilst new top couple cast down to bottom of set

Repeat until each couple reach the top of set where they cast out to bottom [4 rants] until numbers 7 and 8 have cast to bottom

CHECK Set should be in place but evens and odds have swapped sides

**Step Up** on this side using usual legs

* **Diagonal Cast Back to Place**

Repeat diagonal cast until everyone is back to original place in set

* **Diamond**

Numbers 1 and 8 make 2 rants sideways [facing up] into central position – alternate arming

Meanwhile numbers 4 and 5 make 2 rants sideways [facing up] to outer positions - alternate arming

Meanwhile numbers 2, 3, 6 and 7 use 2 rants [facing up] to settle into neat central square - alternate arming

1

3

2

4

5

6

7

8

CHECK 2,3,6 and 7 are evenly spaced between diamond points set by 1,4,5 and 8

Everyone dances 2 rants [facing up] - present arms - to set diamond shape

Numbers 6, 7 and 8 dance forward 4 rants, swapping places with 1, 2 and 3 who will reverse straight back [and have priority] – alternate arming

CHECK 6 and 7 go outside 2 and 3; 8 goes right of 1

Meanwhile 4 and 5 dance 4 rants on spot - alternate arming

Numbers 3, 5 and 7 dance 4 rants across set, swapping places with 2, 4 and 6 - alternate arming – odds pass to front and evens pass to rear

Meanwhile 1 and 8 dance 4 rants on spot – alternate arming

Numbers 1, 2 and 3 now dance forward 4 rants, swapping places with 6, 7 and 8 who will reverse straight back [and have priority] – alternate arming

CHECK 2 and 3 go outside 6 and 7; 1 goes right of 8

Meanwhile 4 and 5 dance 4 x rants on spot - alternate arming

Numbers 2, 4 and 6 dance 4 rants across set, swapping places with 3, 5 and 7 - alternate arming – odds pass front and evens pass rear

Meanwhile 1 and 8 dance 4 x rants on spot – alternate arming

All dance 2 rants [facing up] - present arms – 2 rants to home – alternate arms

* **Final Figure**

All dance 2 rants sideways [facing up] into single line – odds before evens – alternate arming

In next 2 rants – 3 and 4; 7 and 8 turn left – alternate arming

1 and 2; 5 and 6 turn right – alternate arming

Two vertical lines of 4 now have 2 rants to turn clockwise into horizontal line

In next 2 rants - 2 and 3; 6 and 7 bend and meet in centre - forming big star

All dance 8 rants round, back to original places

Drop arms - 4 rants on spot and 4 rants into place forming horizontal line – facing forward

8 4 7 3 2 6 1 5

All **Step Up** in one line – after 4th rant, ending with raised crossed sticks

* **Lead off**

Music restarts

After 4 bars – everyone drops hands and turns in line to face in

[8,4,7 and 3 face towards 2, 6, 1 and 5]

Numbers 3 and 2 pair and turn ranting off together – alternate arming

Followed by 7 and 6; 4 and 1; 8 and 5

