

11/10/80

Tonight myself, Julie Jarman + Cath Hays visited several clubs in Stakeford + Newbiggin.

First we tried to find Pop Dodds at the Banktop Social Club, Stakeford. He was not there but we met his wife Sybil who worked behind the bar.

She told us that he was 69. He had learnt to dance from her two uncles (maternal) Norman + Charlie Hunter. They came from West Sleekburn. They both used to teach clog dancing at their houses after one had moved to Barnington + the other? Stakeford. Charlie was the better + used to dance on a 2' square pedestal - effectively a board which he used to put on top of a table.

We then went to the Central Club, Newbiggin.

We met Wheaty Fanell, son of Dickie Fanell (d.c. 30 yr. ago). His father was a champion clog dancer + he has his championship belt at home, although he got rid of his cups + medals. He hadn't learnt to dance from his father but his sister had (her name is Lily - he lives with her.). Their address is.

114 Newbiggin Rd.
? Ashington.

Lily is 72.

Dickie Fanell (DF) gave lessons to individuals who came to his house, there were both men + women + he had a board in his back yard. He also said that DF used to eat his tea in the kitchen whilst listening to his pupils next door. His father danced straight - hands by sides and only do schottische (I asked about a walk but he said no). He bought his clogs from Woods

of Glasgow + Whearty thought they were still in business 10yrs ago. He also said his father used to dance for as long as 20mins at a time. He said his g. father (i.e. DF's fa) had come from Glasgow and that in DF's day a man named George Mackintosh had won the world Championship - he too was from Glasgow. He said DF's fa was a dancer also. He remembered DF going to Hexham 'just after the war' + said that he had beaten Jackie Toaduff when aged 65 in a competition in Stanley. He gave us information on the following people who DF had taught.

Jack Bunell - moved to America + made a lot of money dancing - has relations in Stanley.

The Daly's - lived in Blaydon.

The Sands of Northnew, Newbrygin. They also did ballet.

A person named ? May. (surname).

Verdon Dobinson of Westfield Cres.

Jackie Carr - a bandmaster of West End, ? Meldon Tenace.

He also mentioned a dancer named Walter Doyle.

A woman, whose father was called Edward Yearham, said he had danced either with Albert Bloome or DF. She also said that 2 sisters Stella Gilchrist (now living in Colchester) and Mary Gilchrist (now in Gosforth) learnt from DF. Stella was better than Mary. She said that

Stella had beaten DF in a competition in Merpeth.

Another woman (N50) had a g. father named Thomas Bell who was a clog dancer. She knew the tune 'Threshing Machine' + recognised the click heels step from S. Sherry's waltz (No 9). + that her g. fa used to dance the waltz.

A man said that DF was the local champion and worked in Newbiggin pit. He also mentioned Stella + Mary Gilchrist + said that their father's name was Jimmy + that their uncle Philip Gilchrist lived at

23 or 25 Westmoreland Ave
Newbiggin.

He also knew of a man named Jimmy Teasdale who had danced on TV N15yr ago + came from Stanley - he said he was a champion.

A woman (N60) used to dance when at school in the Scotwood Rd. She was taught by a member of staff - a Miss Carr from Jarrow who married a Mr Ainsley, also from Jarrow. The children used to dance as a team, wearing black skirt, shawl + white blouse. They danced to Blaydon Races, Cushie Butterfield, Coffy Johnny + Keel Row. Used to dance as mixed cus. in sets of 4, 2 facing 2, man on L. In sets 2 men used to change places and then women changed.

Her friend came from Westerhope + said she had also learnt to dance at school.

Also met a man who remembered s-d on the sea wall at Newbiggin. A man named Wilkinton danced with them - he worked in Newbiggin pit + had a bad leg.