

Dear Norman,

I visited Mrs Avey last Thursday evening, and had a long talk with her.

I am afraid that you were misled when you were told that she would know all about the Howsons, for in fact she lived at High Newton until 4 years ago, and knew nothing about the Howsons. Nevertheless, I am very grateful to you for putting me on to her, for she had a great deal of interesting information about dancing in High Newton and Field Broughton, and another lady staying with her added some further information about Ulverston. I doubt if it would be worth your while making a visit to them yourself, because I think I extracted all the important information, and I am fairly sure they ~~had no new steps~~ only had the standard steps.

One of the things she told me about was a dance called Greenclaeves, which was performed at High Newton up to about 1897. It is an old and rather clownish dance performed by three men - in the course of the dance they slap each other on the back and kick each other on the backside. It is of much more interest to the folk than to the dancers, but I was particularly interested in it because we have met it elsewhere, and its occurrences are very few and far between.

After I came home, I confirmed the early reference to Horse to Newmarket. In 1819 and in view of this, I feel we ought to add this to the list of dances which ought to be noted if it is possible. You yourself showed me a step of it when we visited your aunt - could I ask you to look out for someone who can remember the remaining steps, so that we can try to reconstruct it as far as possible?

The lady from Ulverston who was staying with Mrs Avey told me of another very interesting dance which your grandfather Stainton taught to the boys in his classes at Ulverston about 1890. This was a Sword Dance done either partly or wholly over ~~swords~~ swords. _____ I would very much like to have a full description of this dance, for it also, I suspect, is very old, and if you can find anyone who can remember anything about it (how many people took part - whether the swords were laid on the ground all the time or were ever held in the hand - how many swords - steps ^(d how were they arranged) _(if possible)), I should be very grateful indeed.

One final thing before I close. Mrs Avey's daughter is a pianist and plays for the Folk Dance Society meetings round about Carlisle. I haven't mentioned anything to her, but you might bear her in mind as a possible musician for your classes when you reach the stage of requiring one.

I'm sorry we did not manage to drop in again to see you. It was too late by the time I left Mrs Avey, and we had no time left on the Friday after we had packed. We definitely hope to return to Carlisle next year, but in any case I hope to return before that to do some further collecting.

With very best wishes to you both

Yours,
Tom

✓ Garden Cottage

Halim Island

G. O. Sands

Lawer

Oct. 4th 1961

Dear Tam.

Once again I must ask,
please accept my apologies for
late reply to your letter of
the 4th Sept. We have been
very busy at work and have
not had much spare time in
which to enquire about the dances
you mention. However regarding the
one "Hone to Newmarket". I happened
to run into B. Milburn last week
and he confirmed two of the steps
I remember. Unfortunately he cannot
give me any further data on it.
but I will make attempts to find

I started my class last night at 8 o'clock and on way dim of a light over the back of

show or explain the steps to me. who did overwords and can other also try hard to find some information I need. I shall and do my best to get the of some's time at his house I shall make a point

out of it is at all possible. Regarding "green leaves" have done black. up to me.

B Hillman has done the one called "overwords" but does not remember a great lot about it. apparently it is very similar to the one you yourself do. the No of words used. 4. background

Points together i.e.



Person doing the dance does the steps and the blades taken's great care not to touch the blades.

at the time of seeing Bruce. he was in rather a hurry to get home so had not a great deal of time so I could not get a deal out of him.

3
However I shall make a point
of seeing him at his home
and do my best to get the
information I need. I shall
also try hard to find someone
who did "Overwoods" and can either
show or explain the steps to me.

I started my class last
night at "Boston" and am very
disappointed over the lack of
enthusiasm. Pupils numbered two
of which ~~was~~ R. A. was one. You
see there is so much to share
focus at the local night classes,
and in addition this year
prospector has included Scottish
Dancing which is held the
same night as my class. However
I am going to try at Flookburgh.

positions with you called

reception. The confident I can get
it going somewhere in the district.

210
this next week, if it doesn't
take there, I shall form my
own class. The young lady
who did turn up has a Bronze
medal for Tap dancing, and I
personally think she will be
a good one, in any case I shall
give her special attention, because
I'm sure she is a natural.

Example of interest shown
by the Local Teenagers. I visited
the "Youth Club" in Grange just
to get an idea of who was
interested. Result, out of at least
40 mixed youngsters 15 Jan To 18.
Not one was interested. Still I'm
not taking any notice of that

210
This next much. It is assumed
take there. I shall return in
soon clean. The man I had
who did turn up that a young

reception. I'm confident I can get
it going somewhere in the district.

Mrs. King whom you called
on while on holiday at Eastwood
passed away suddenly about 3 weeks ago.

I am writing this in Bed so please
forgive scribbles. Started after the
class last evening, sore throat and
coughs. Please do not worry about
not seeing us before you left. We
shall no doubt see you up here
next year by which time I'm hoping
to have most of the information you
need.

Best wishes to Mrs. Flett and
children

Yours

W. A. M.

W. R. Adams

Holmes Island

Group of Dances

James

Dear Tom.

Please find enclosed cutting from Local Paper, which I'm sure you will be pleased to receive. if you were to look at the Dances and the names through a magnifying glass I'm sure you will recognise a few of them. I've had one on it but am afraid it was not too powerful.

However I recognised a few of the dances, such as "Highland Fling" "Hoop Dance",

Have made numerous enquiries about

the dance I am mentioning of "Cross Swords".

All Pupils wanting to attend
the next one which starts in Oct.
and will run 6 months. I'm hoping
to have a class of about 20.

Through giving exhibitions locally,
since I was, quite a few young
ones have contacted, and I'm sure
I'll get it going again around
here. The Lakeland Folk Dancers
are holding a Festival in the
Victoria Hall during a week Saturday
at which I will be performing. Am
also invited to one at Morecambe
in June. D. Blekinsop wrote to
say he had met you recently.
Whilst in your district. No doubt
you will be up this district
during the summer months, hope

It has a class of about 80.
and will run 6 months. The pupils
the next one which is to be in Oct.
All Pupils wanting to attend

the dance I am ² mentioned "Cross Swords"
but have met with no success
to now. However I shall keep
trying different people. One who
put an article in a periodical
called "Cumbria" a few weeks back.
I intend to visit this W/End.

If it is a fruitful journey I
shall write you all about it.

Here Tom. You remember me
telling you of the class at Carlisle
that failed? Well I tried at
Flookburgh and had a really good
turn out. 15 Pupils two of whom
are pretty good, the class has
now finished after a 12 weeks course

the dance I am mentioning of "Cross Roads"
I have met with no success
to me. However I shall keep
trying different people. One who

All Pupils wanting to attend
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112
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LIFE IN VILLAGE AND VALLEY—No. 37

When Finsthwaite children were
given 'Red Riding Hood' cloaks

LIFE was a placid thing in Finsthwaite in 1898, the year about which we write this week — but for 42 little girls of the parish it was one they remembered to their dying day.

For in October of that year, one of the "ladies" of the district, Mrs. Ernest Deakin, of Stock Park, presented each girl attending the day and Sunday schools with a scarlet cloth cloak.

I have tried in vain to find one carefully preserved but without success, but there is no doubt this was a truly wonderful gift — particularly for those children who belonged to large families and whose parents had to "make do" on very little.

There was the morning at the school when all the children were measured for their cloaks, all of which had their names carefully sewn in, and then the great day arrived when the cloaks were handed out to each happy child.

A photo wanted

Of a brilliant scarlet, and made in warm cloth to keep out the winter chills when children had such a long way to walk to school, the cloaks also had large hoods bound with black braid.

Where they all went to I know not, but they lasted for years, were often handed down to younger sisters, and one I know was in use until not all that long ago often being in demand for amateur plays and shows, and eventually was sent away in some Band of Hope collection of old clothes.

But if anyone has even a photo. of a Finsthwaite girl in her 1898 cloak, then do let me know.

Mrs. Deakin comes into the picture again because of the village's annual Christmas treat for the schoolchildren, for she gave to the school a Christmas tree laden with presents for each child—and even one each for the teachers.

Killed climbing

Her small son Jock had the honour of presenting the prizes and, child-like, before handing out the gifts, looked up wonderingly at the vast tree crammed with presents for other children and asked plaintively, "But which one is mine?"

JUVENILE BALL.
MR. R. C. ROBINSON
Reportedly concerned in the incidents of Eastmore and Highmore, last eve.
JUVENILE BALL

2521, 7473, 2027, 15, 2021

LARGE NEW ROOM OF MR. JOHN JACKSON,
On Friday Evening, Feb. 27th, 1863.

PART FIRST

[illegible]

29. 11.
 1. *Ammonia* *Ammonia* *Ammonia*
 2. *Ammonia* *Ammonia* *Ammonia*
 3. *Ammonia* *Ammonia* *Ammonia*
 4. *Ammonia* *Ammonia* *Ammonia*
 5. *Ammonia* *Ammonia* *Ammonia*
 6. *Ammonia* *Ammonia* *Ammonia*
 7. *Ammonia* *Ammonia* *Ammonia*
 8. *Ammonia* *Ammonia* *Ammonia*
 9. *Ammonia* *Ammonia* *Ammonia*
 10. *Ammonia* *Ammonia* *Ammonia*

PART SECOND

[illegible]

at Washington
Kearney, John Taylor
McClure, Frank Lee
Cannon, John Walter
Spencer, J. A.
Cannon, George S. Butler
Bryant, William
Ward, John Franklin
Pitts,
Major Thomas Peter Cannon and Son

PLANNING TO COMMENCE AT EIGHT O'CLOCK

Tickets One Shilling each to be of Mr. Roberts, at Mr. Clark's, Lincolns, Strand.

Dancing after the Ball, for Visitors

William A. Lakin, Prince Rupert, B.C.

This rare relic is an old juvenile dance bill of 99 years ago when the local dances were held in Mr. John Jackson's rooms.

Poor Jock — he served and lives with an elder sister at survived, the 1914-18 war, but Satterthwaite, taking great de- met his death abroad later in light in her garden. a climbing accident.

Needlework was, of course, encouraged at the village school, and Miss Lewthwaite's 10s. of prizes were shared by Eleanor Hunter, Elizabeth Dixon, Jane Ridding, M. A. Manley, Agnes Gibson, Annie Robinson and Ella Lewis in that order.

Miss Burton (she died over a hundred years old at Hollow Oak nursing home recently) gave a prize for drawing, which was won by Nicholas Manley.

The silent bells

First baptism of the year was that of Esther Elizabeth Coward, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Coward, of Graythwaite Farm. Today Esther

March saw the resignation of Mr. Manley, the village bell-ringer, who was succeeded by Mr. Daniel Fell, and who had the joyous task of handling the rare tubular bells which hang in the church of St. Peter.

Sad to say the bells have been silent for many years now—and one wonders for how

By R. STRIKE

much longer their voice is going to remain stilled, no longer ringing out their call to worship?

In order to encourage parents to send their children to school more regularly, the names of the most regular attenders were published in the parish magazine each quarter — and thus at the end of the first three months of 1898 we find the list topped by Elizabeth Hunter, Mary J. Coward, Roberta Robinson, Herbert Mashiter, Henry Hewartson, Richard Ridgins and Albert Whitehead.

Best attenders

Best attenders in the mixed department were Gilbert Clee, Harold Mashiter and Jackson Johnson, while best in the infants department were Alice Wright, Ellen Whitehead, Isabella Lewis, Sarah E. Johnson, and Jas. Johnson.

And to James Coward went the honour of being the best attender from far-off Graythwaite.

What has happened to all these worthy children who so dutifully trudged to school come fair weather or foul? Well, Mary J. Coward lives with her sister Esther at Satterthwaite; Roberta Robinson, a lively and alert personality, still resides in the village in a charming house which looks out over Gummershow; Herbert Mashiter later went to Ulverston; Albert Whitehead and his family moved to Barrow; Jackson Johnson moved to Bardsea, and will be remembered by many as driver of the bus which transported Bardsea people to the weekly shopping in Ulverston; while Alice Wright has just died "in exile" at Southport.

Spring wedding

Spring always brings a wedding, and so it was in Finsthwaite where on April 16, William Kellett and Eleanor Dacre were joined in holy matrimony.

Both bride and groom now lie buried in the little churchyard they knew so well, but their son, William, runs a cafe near Lakeside, another son George works on the Lakes

Steamers while their daughter, now Mrs. McGarr, has also not strayed from her birthplace.

The village was saddened in May by the untimely death of 14-year-old Margaret Anne Robinson, whose parents lived at The Laurels, at Lakeside.

Her father was, among many other things, the local dancing master, and his classes for the Children had a wide following in the parish.

Those old dances

These used to take place in a hut behind The Laurels, where children would be taught the intricacies of the Scottische, Polka, Hornpipe, Highland Fling and Hoop Dance.

One wonders what the worthy Mr. Robinson would have thought if he could see what passes for modern "dancing."

During June there were two baptisms in the parish—Mary, daughter of John and Mary Jane Holme, of Seattle, and Elizabeth Alice, daughter of Thos. and Sarah Margaret Briggs, of Finsthwaite.

The infant Mary is now Mrs. Park, of Newton, and has a son who keeps a wonderfully well ordered nurseryman's establishment at Barrowbanks.

Lectures 2s. a series

The month of September saw one baptism, that of Reginald, son of Robert and Harriet Minnie Ward Coward, of Low Graythwaite, and with winter coming on, village thoughts turned to indoor events, and so lectures on sick nursing, horticulture and poultry keeping were planned—any series for a modest 2s.

More "good attendances" were recorded for the third quarter of the year, among them Frank Jenkinson, who survived the 1914-18 war and still lives in the village; and Bessie Jenkinson, his sister, whose son Edward is now clerk of the parish church.

And the year ends with the traditional clothing club distribution, when the thrifty housewives of the parish traipsed down to the Misses Coward's "emporium" and spent their yearly savings—substantially increased by "dividend" in the form of subscriptions from the wealthier members of the parish.

Next week, Finsthwaite in 1899.

The author, R. Strike, is the Editor of the Barrow News.

Dear Norman,

We were ^{tremendously} ~~very~~ pleased to hear of your success with the class at Hookburgh - you sound as though you really have got the step-dancing going again in your district. We hope the next class will be as successful, and only wish it were nearer so that we could bring you in some customers. We are pleased to hear, too, about the Festivals - the publicity will help you.

We were very interested to see the cutting, and would like to follow this up, ^{but} ~~The editor~~ Unfortunately the cutting doesn't give the full name of the paper or the address of its office, so I don't know where to write. Could I bother you, please, to send me this information ~~cannot say is just to send me a~~ ~~cannot say is just to send me~~ ^{writes to the editor?} so that I can ~~try to obtain a copy of the photograph and try to get~~ ^{photograph} ~~and the name of the present owner of the programme?~~

We have just come back from ~~four~~ a few days in Northumberland, up near Hadrian's Wall. Very cold, but otherwise quite good weather. I went to see an old farmer & his wife one evening and obtained a good deal of interesting information about dancing up there in the old days. I think I will have to spend more time up there in the near future, for there is a lot of information still to be found, even if we don't find any new dances. ~~We~~ We hope to be back in Carlisle at the end of August for a week or so, so will see you then.

With best wishes to you both

Yours.

Tom Fleet

Garden Cottage
Hill Island.

George. O. Smith.

Dear Tom.

Thanks for welcome letter.
I now thought to put the
full paper in. However the name
and address is.

Borrow. Mail and News Office

Abbey Road.

Borrow - in. Furness.

Lancs.

Am pleased to see you have
collected more information during
your visit to Northumberland. I met
D. Blenkinsop at the Festival in
Sunderland, and had quite a chat with
him. He demonstrated the Northumberland

6
blog dance. ² which I like very
much. Miss Andersen ran the
Festival there were Teams from
Various places in the locality.

Am pleased to hear you will
be visiting Costmel again this year.
and both Mrs R. and myself are
looking forward to seeing you all
again Kindest regards to all the
family hoping to see you soon

Mum

N R Robinson

Dear Sir

I have for some time been carrying out research on traditional dancing in England, and I was very interested in the programme of a juvenile ball held in 1863 by Mr R. C. Robinson which you reproduced in an article you printed some time ago. In the course of my enquiries I have collected a fair amount of information about the Robinson family of dancing-teachers, who were, and still are, well known in your district, and the Mr R. C. Robinson mentioned in the programme is no doubt a member of this family.

Ball programmes of the type which you reproduced can add very considerably to our knowledge of the influence of the professional dancing-teachers on traditional dancing, and the existence of such a programme dating back to 1863 has made me wonder if any other readers of your paper own ball programmes of the period before 1914. I would very much like to see any ~~such~~ ^{of this type} programmes, and I would be most grateful if anyone who has such a programme and is willing to lend it for a short time would write to me at the University here.

I would also welcome any other information about dancing in the old days, and in particular I am anxious to obtain information about the sword dance taught by the "Robinson family". I shall be in the Carlisle-Furness district during the ten days August 22nd-31st, and will be very pleased to call on anyone who ^{might} be able to help me.

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