

THE ENGLISH FOLK DANCE & SONG SOCIETY

EFDSS

2nd. January, 1970

NORTH WEST AREA
4, BLUECOAT CHAMBERS
SCHOOL LANE
LIVERPOOL, 1
Tel: 051 - ROYal 7423

Dear Tom,

I am sure you will be very sad to hear that Norman Robinson passed away yesterday. He danced at our Folk Show at the Theatre Royal St. Helens on December 12th and just before his second performance his chest was giving trouble - a severe pain - the dancers took him to the hospital which was only 50 yards away and it was a thrombosis. He has had a few set backs but on Wednesday of this week Audrey & David Anderton had seen him that night and reported how well he seemed. His wife was there and stayed until Thursday 4.30 and just after she left he had a relapse and the doctors were unable to save him. It is terribly sad.

Stuart Lawrence is going to write an obituary for the magazine and he and I both think that you would like to do so. I think the next magazine is due any day but if it should be late there might be a chance of an inclusion otherwise it will go into the next one.

With all good wishes to you and Joan for 1970.

Yours sincerely,



President: Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret
Area Organiser: Miss E. M. Anderson

Vice-Presidents: Douglas and Helen Kennedy
General Secretary: Kenneth F. Goode

Brooka Cottage,
 Lindale-in-Bartmel
 Grange - o' Sands
 Lanes.

Jan. 7th

Dear Tom & Joan,

I am sorry to tell you
 that Hartman died on the 1st of Jan. in
 Hospital at St. Helens. He had been dancing
 at the Theatre Royal on the 12th of Dec
 when he had a severe coronary thrombosis.
 Jay Larsen was playing for him & I
 thought they might have been in touch
 with you & told you the news. However as
 I have said, he was taken to Hospital
 immediately & though he was terribly ill
 he thought he had a chance as the
 days went by & he seemed to get a bit

stronger, but alas, I had been to see him
on the afternoon of the 1st & he was so
happy & felt so much better I came home
feeling happier myself, but he had just
passed away quietly & without pain and
soon after I left the Hospital.

As you can imagine it has been a
terrible shock to me & I cannot believe it
even now.

The funeral service was at Grange
on Monday the 5th & he was cremated
at Lancaster. As you can imagine a great
many people were there, he was so widely
known & loved.

See how they try to go all & I
am so sorry you were not informed earlier.

Sincerely Yours.

Betty.

THE ENGLISH FOLK DANCE & SONG SOCIETY

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EFDSS

CECIL SHARP HOUSE
2 REGENT'S PARK RD.
LONDON N.W.1.
Tel: 01 - 4 8 5 2 2 0 6

Mr T.Flett.
64 Kingfield Road,
Sheffield, S11 9AU

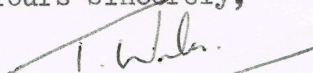
Jan 21st 1970

Dear Mr Flett,

Thank you for your letter of Jan 18th 1970, and I note your comments regarding the illustrations for Frank Rhode's article.

Re. the obituary on Norman Robinson. Ofcourse, we do not normally carry more than one obituary, but in this case I think I could print one in EFDSS News and the other in English Dance and Song. I would be very pleased to have the photograph you mention for reproduction. I have not yet received the contribution from Stuart Lawrence, but I will let you see a copy of it, when it arrives.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Wales.

Editor: English Dance and Song.



President: Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret

Artistic Director: S. A. Matthews

Vice-Presidents: Douglas and Helen Kennedy

General Secretary: Kenneth F. Goode

30th January, 1970.

Dear Mr. Wales,

I enclose my obituary of Norman Robinson, together with a photograph taken about 10 years ago. As this is my only copy of the photograph, I should be grateful if you would return it to me when you have finished with it.

Will you be good enough to send a copy of the magazine containing the obituary to Mrs. Robinson. Her address is: Broeka Cottage, Lindale-in-Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands, Lancs.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. T. Wales,

Editor.

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Yours sincerely,

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Norman Robinson, who died on January 1st, was a descendant of the family of dancing-masters of that name who practised in Westmorland and North Lancashire for the best part of a century. Norman's great-grandfather was Joseph ('Old Jos') Robinson of Lakeside, who ran dancing classes from about 1860 until about 1905. 'Old Jos' taught the Lakeland style of step-dancing in his classes, and it is entirely to him and his family that we owe the preservation of this style today. 'Old Jos' was followed by his sons, Stainton and Alfred, and in turn Stainton was followed by his son, 'Young Jos'. Norman, who was taught by his uncle 'Young Jos', was one of the best step-dancers I have seen.

I first met Norman in 1960 at his home in Grange-over-Sands, when I was collecting information about dancing in the Lake District. He had not at that time been dancing regularly, but he had all of his grandfather's and uncle's steps at his toe-tips. He was extremely keen to pass these on, and over many visits he gave me the greatest assistance in learning the steps that he knew. Subsequently he began to dance again and to teach locally, and I can remember what a thrill it was to come into the square at Flookburgh one frosty night and to hear the rattle of clogs coming from the village hall.

His dancing became more widely known from his exhibitions at dance festivals all over the country, from Aberdeen to the Royal Albert Hall, and his death will cause a sad gap in future festivals. Those who knew him more intimately will miss him, not only for his dancing, but also for his wide knowledge of the Lakeland and its people, and above all for his enthusiasm and kindness.

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Brooka Cottage
Lindale-in-Cartmel
Grange-O-Sands
Lancs.

Jan. 15th 1970

Dear Tom & Joan,

Thank you so much for your kind letter. I did write & give you the bad news myself, but perhaps it was not the right address I gave.

So please call & see me whenever you come to Cartmel. I may not stay here in this house, but I hope to get one somewhere in the district. Things are a bit difficult as you know & I have not decided just what I am going to do, but one thing I hope to get a job of some kind, it will help a lot I hope.

There is such a terrible empty ness, as

You know Loran was always so full of life, it's hard to believe he has gone.

However, time is a great healer I am told.

If I do get to Chesterfield, I will give you a ring certainly, but I have no plans to go there as yet.

The Turness Morris men whom Loran was trying to teach are very anxious to carry on his work, but of course they do not know all the steps & one of them came to see me on Monday, so I gave you a line. I hope you don't mind. I expect they will get in touch with you. Loran was hoping his dancing would be carried on after his day as you know so if you can help the Morris men, I would be very grateful to you.

Love to Joan & the girls,

Sincerely Yours Betty.

know & perhaps we could
see you later.

I shall be invited
an obituary for the EFSS
magazine, but I would
like to express to you, personally,
my appreciation of ~~ff~~ all the
help & kindness which Norman
gave me when I was
collecting the step-down.

~~we have~~

Our visits have not been very frequent,
but we ~~still~~ felt with you both that we
~~that you were~~
Just picked up the conversation exactly where
it stopped last time.

We have just received a letter
from EA telling us of Nona's
death. We are desperately
sorry to hear of this &
we all send you our
sincere sympathy. We
feel particularly badly that
it ~~was~~ should be while
he was dancing that he was
taken ill.

We still miss him
very much as we have
become very fond of you both.
We hope we may call &
see you when we next come
to Cartmel & if you should
come & visit your friends near
here we hope you will let us

know & perhaps we could
see you then.

I shall be invited
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like to express to you, personally,
my appreciation of ~~ff~~ all the
help & kindness which Norman
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POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

EFDSS

CECIL SHARP HOUSE
2 REGENT'S PARK ROAD,
LONDON, N. W. 1.



Mr T.M.Flett.

University of Sheffield,

Dept.of Pure Mathematics,

Hicks Bldgs,

Hounsfield Road,

Sheffield,S3 7RH

THE ENGLISH FOLK DANCE AND SONG SOCIETY
Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London N.W.

Date as postmark

Dear ~~Sir/Madam~~ Mr Flett,

Thank you for Obituary
for the magazine English Dance and Song/
~~EPDSS News/Club Folk.~~

Yours faithfully,

TONY WALES.

Editor.

