

The quest to keep this dance history alive

■ Enthusiast is looking for pictures of a morris dance once forgotten from memory

By Gareth Dunning
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AN enthusiast hoping to keep the tradition of the old Lymm morris dance alive is trying to find more information about its past.

Geoff Bibby is researching the history of the dance and has already tracked down pictures of it from the 1920s.

He said: "I would love to trace more photographic evidence from the families of the youngsters who danced the old Lymm dance in the 1920s.

"It is very likely that someone out there will have photographs in family collections that are historically important in the history of the Lymm dance, but have never been aired publicly.

"I have already traced photographs of the Statham dancers from the 1923 Statham May Queen celebrations, but I am certain that there will be more photographic evidence from other years."

And Geoff has found the names of youngsters taught by Lymm morris dancer Ned Rowles to dance in the old Lymm dance.

He is hoping families of them can help in his quest for pictures.

The dance was revived in the 1970s.

The youngsters were: Bert Apple-



Statham dancers Willy Watts, Harold Struthers, Brian Leigh, Herbert Taylor, Ernie Wibberly, Ned Rowles (leader), Albert Riley, Arnold Struthers, Ken Lockyer with Bob Hartley, seated

ton, R. Clare, George Finney, Robert Hartley, Brian Leigh, Kenneth Lockyer, A Massey, Albert Riley, Frank Stirton, Arnold Struthers, Harold Struthers, Herbert Taylor, Willy Watts, Ernest Wibberly.

Ernest Leather, J. Owen, T. Rushworth, R. Wibberley, Arnold Appleton (musician), Jimmy Brooks, Arnold Atherton, H. Clark, J. Hin-

ton, F. Percival, G. Gilberts, Arthur James, H. Leigh, George Percival, Harold Ravenscroft, F. Sewell, Tom Smith.

The 1927 troupe was all girl. The 1928 troupe was mixed and the 1929 troupe was all girl.

In 1930 there were Morris Dancers in green and orange although there is no other information and

no names were listed.

In 1931 an all boy troupe performed the Old Dance.

All these named dancers would have been approximately 11, 12 or 13 years old at the time of their participation.

■ Anyone with information should call Geoff on 812725 or email us at newsdesk@guardiangrp.co.uk.