

Champion Folk Dancing

During the 1920s and 30s, the Girls' school competed against other folk dancing teams at the Norfolk and Norwich Festival, held annually in Blackfriars Hall, Norwich. Thetford's Norwich Road School gained a good reputation, winning the county competition twice for their Country, Morris and Sword dancing under the tutelage of the Headmistress, Mis Palmer.



The teaching of Needlework has developed considerably. Simple dressmaking is now taught, and the dresses worn by the school team at the recent Folk Dancing Festival, were made by the girls themselves.

This year the school holds the banner for Country, Morris and Sword Dancing, and since 1928 has gained ten certificates for Country Dancing. Much of this is due to the special work done by the Teacher of Class II.



1935 - Sword Dancing.
 Top row from left to right: Madge Makins, Sybil Lake, Ivy Pitcher, Kathy Cook, Ivy Crick
 Next row: Winnie Hiller, Larna Coate, Rose Jacobs, Joan Rutherford, Joyce Ramms.
 Front row: (?), Edna Hurrell

"During my last year at school [Norwich Road Academy] I was taught folk dancing by Mrs. Whitehand, Headmistress of the Girls' school. I can still clearly remember dancing to 'Green Sleeves; and other dances, accompanied by music on an old win-up gramophone. In the summer our dancing lesson took place outside in the playground".
 (Extract taken from 'All in a lifetime - The Reminiscences of Daphne Burlingham, Nee Shaw, of Thetford)