

The Lancashire Society

The Noise We Mek!



at Blackburn Library

The Lancashire Society moved along the canal from The Museum of Wigan Life to Blackburn Library on Thursday 8th October 2010 to meet and entertain members of the general public for the latest launch event for The Noise We Mek! project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Blackburn marks the furthest point of our project using the Leeds Liverpool canal as a baseline and Eanam Wharf (pictured right), once the loading and unloading point on the canal for cotton and coal, is now a business development and conference centre.

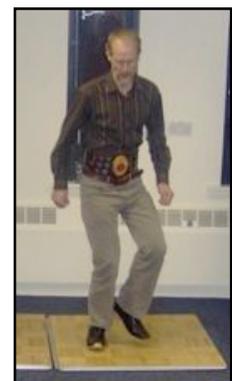


Although we were never sure how many people will turn up at these events despite the amount of advertising that was done through the library service and a piece in the Blackburn Times, we were pleasantly surprised by the dozen or so people who had turned up in the middle of Blackburn to attend this event including a lady that Sid and Mark had met earlier on in the day at the National Poetry Day Event that the library had also held. The format of the launch events have settled into a standard pattern and as has become the norm Sid opened the evening by welcoming everybody, explaining the aims of the project and sang Rochdale poet Edwin Waugh's Tum Rindle to the tune of "Robin Tamson's Smithy" – a tune specified by Waugh himself. The tune was played by Julian Taylor who continued to play the same tune whilst Alex Fisher danced in her clogs.



Alex then proceeded to give the group her customary demonstration of Clog Dancing explaining the different types of clogs such as everyday working clogs and dancing clogs. With accompaniment by Chris Pollington on accordion, we had a demonstration of different types of clog dance.

We also had Champion clog dancer Harry Cowgill turn up to give us a couple of dances complete with a replica of the belt that he was presented with for winning the clog dancing competition three times. Sid then reappeared with his scythe for a performance of "A Mower's Song"



An explanation by Barbara Hindley of why we are collecting recordings of the different accents and dialects from around the county was followed by an explanation by Chris of how we are going to use the recordings in our archive for the general public to refer to via the website www.thelancshiresociety.org.uk and a demonstration by Chris of the audio equipment, Mark Dowding on banjo and Sid on the bones (also called nick-nacks, rickers and several other names around the county) gave us a rendition of "A Weaver's Song". Mark then demonstrated the difficulty younger people can have when they try to read dialect works and why we need to record people who can read dialect works so that the younger generations can understand what these dialect pieces sound like when read out loud.



Julian Taylor and Richard Moss gave us a couple of tunes on fiddle and guitar before we all finished with what has become our standard finished song "Leaning on a Lamp Post" with everybody joining in the chorus.

The evening finished with tea and biscuits and the opportunity for the audience to discuss matters arising from the previous hour's music and demonstrations. It was interesting to talk to someone who had been involved with another Heritage Lottery Fund supported project in Blackburn and had come along to our talk to see what we were doing. There was a similarity in the fact that their group had bought similar audio recorders to us and had made recordings of people in connection with their own project.

Thanks go to the Blackburn library staff for letting the Society use the Abram room for the event and for providing facilities for making refreshments.

The final launch event for The Noise We Mek! project will be held at Astley Hall in Chorley on Wednesday 13th October from 7-00pm to 8-30pm.

Mark Dowding
9th October 2010