

Tony Thinking Aloud lxxvi

I was watching the television at the weekend. First to see how Adam Peaty was getting on with his dancing, rather different to his swimming. He described the difference as a change from working flat in the water to upright on the dance floor.

All so different from Television Dancing Club and then Come Dancing in the 1950s. At the beginning it was Victor Sylvester and his Ballroom orchestra basically music for dancing. A little tuition with the steps, 'left back, forward, one two three quick quick slow!'. With Come Dancing came competition from Dancing Groups all over the country, the beautiful gowns made by mother who has sewn endless sequins on by hand! Not the rather different dance outfits of today!

I also watched Countryfile about the fully automated hop picking. A contrast to the traditional hop picking done by families from the East End of London who spent their holidays camped out in very basic huts picking the hops by hand into large open bins, the family working together. Saint Dunstan Church in London, where many of the folk came from, took a team to support the many pickers in an informal but important social way. We went to be part of the team while I was at college – hence a little in depth knowledge. I identified with the 80 year old lady on Countryfile who was one of the last family pickers!

How things have changed with Television Dancing and Hop Picking. How so much has changed. People often resent change. I have been told many times 'I do not like change in church!' I would ask them would they prefer candles as the only means of light, or do they approve of the modern use of power! They usually think again!

We have all had to change in the pandemic, do things differently, and give support to others. Life has made us find better ways to be alongside others. Let's see how Adam gets on with a change of activity. With the example of hop picking see the advantages of mechanisation and appreciate change

Pause, reflect, and think about life, how things have moved on and hopefully continue to be more helpful to each other.