

Dance Scottish Leeds Branch Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 10720452

ISSUE 56 February 2010



The Leeds Branch team at the Newcastle Festival

From the Chair ...

I hope we will soon be getting rid of all this cold weather. We have some great things to look forward to in the spring.

Firstly on the 20th March there is our Children's festival. Come along and give your support, it is great watching the children have such fun. In the evening is the Branch dance with music from Luke Brady and a delightful programme from MC Jean Dyson.

The 26th to 28th March brings the Spring Fling for 16 - 35 year olds to Newcastle. If you are young at heart you can join the young people at the Ceilidh on Friday and the Ball on Saturday night. Details on the back page of this newsletter. Saturday 24th brings the Highland

Day School with teacher Catherine Livsey. The day is suitable for all and will cover the highland dances for the White Rose Festival. Application forms are available for download on the Branch website or pick one up at your class or branch dance.

Saturday 15th May is the Branch dance with music by Nicol McLaren. We welcome Veronica Hughes as MC for the first time for the Branch so please come and give her your support. She has given us an excellent programme which I am really looking forward to.

From the committee.

Although it seems a long time away, in October we will need a

Future Newsletters

The Branch welcomes your news, stories, views, guestions etc...

Please send all copy for future newsletters to Catherine Livsey, 11A Hill Top Road, Moldgreen, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD5 9LX. Tel 01484 515257 Email catherine@cld-design.co.uk

Copy should be with her at least three weeks before publication for the November, February and May issues, and early July for the August issue.

If for some reason you don't receive a copy of the Branch newsletter please contact Brenda Burnell on 0113 267 6655.

new Treasurer and Secretary as both Gerry and Lesley have done more than 4 years that our constitution allows. If you think you could take on one of these roles or know someone that could then please let me know or talk to Gerry or Lesley. I am sure they would give you all the help you needed to fit into the role.

Bad weather policy. If the weather is bad in the future, could you either check the branch website or phone Lesley Enoch on 0113 277 7113 to see if either a branch dance or class has been cancelled.

Here's to Sunshine to put a spring in the step this spring.

Catherine Livsey

Subscription to this Newsletter can be taken out at £5.00 for 4 issues for non Leeds Branch Members.

Contact Brenda Burnell for details and form.

The Branch web site is www.rscdsleeds.org.uk Why not give it a try.

Allen Bargh



Branch Shop

The shop is now well stocked and here are some of the offerings.

CDs

All the RSCDS CDs, including the two new ones - Book 9 and Book 11.

Plus a comprehensive list of over 200 CDs we can get, and any others from Music in Scotland. The list can be downloaded from the website, picked up at a branch dance or posted to you.

Rooks

Pilling, Originally Ours and Index to Formations and Movements in SCD as well as recent books and CDs produced by other branches such as Birmingham and Banffshire. All the RSCDS books and the pocket editions.

Shoes

The Happy Meeting

Full range of ghillies and ballet shoes, plus others to order

Miscellaneous

RSCDS Ties, slip stop and the latest DVD of We Twa.

If you would like any thing else we are happy to try and get it for you.

or see www.rscdsleeds.org.uk for more details Please support your Branch shop!

Allen Bargh passed away in early December. His funeral just before Christmas was attended by a number of Branch members who risked the bad weather to get to the crematorium. He was evacuated to his grandparents' farm in Skipton, before joining the RAF where I learned he first did Scottish dancing. He kept his interest in dancing all his life, and the last time we saw Allen was at the club dance at the end of November. He was a regular at Branch dances, even though he wasn't a member. He always asked as many different ladies as possible to partner him during the evening, disappointed if you'd already got a partner, also if he'd found a partner and the set was made up. As well as Branch dances he attended others around West Yorkshire, always travelling by public transport, often making arrangements for a lift for part of the journey to where the dance was being held, sometimes changing his mind at the last moment and not letting anyone know, resulting in him having to get there by alternative means. His family said they had found programmes from dances organised by six different groups. As well as Scottish dancing he enjoyed walking.

Lesley Enoch

Sat 20th March 2010 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spen Lane

Music: Luke Brady Band MC: Jean Dyson Admission: £8, Non-member £9, Full time Education £3, Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

Programme 8 x 32 |

Book 29

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The Provost Wynd	8 x 32 R	Goldring 24 Graded & Social		
The Bonnie Lass O' Bon Accord	1 x 64 S	Drewry		
J B Milne	8 x 32 J	H Foss		
Dancing in the Street	4 x 32 R	Book 42		
The Winding Nith	4 x 40 S	Johnstone		
Pelorus Jack	8 x 32 J	Book 41		
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	5 x 32 R	Goldring (14 for 2000)		
	INTERVAL			
Campbell's Frolic	8 x 32 J	Book 15		
Cumbrae Reel	8 x 32 R	Book 28		
Cherrybank Gardens	3 x 32 S	Drewry		
Hamilton House	8 x 32 J	Book 7		
Reverend John MacFarlane	4 x 32 R	Book 37		
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	8 x 32 S	RSCDS Leaflet		
Kelloholm Jig	8 x 32 J	RSCDS Leaflet 32		
General Stuart's Reel	8 x 32 R	Book 10		
Extras				
Roaring Jelly	8 x 32 J	Glendarroch Sheet Foss		
West's Hornpipe	8 x 32 R	RSCDS 1965		
S-Locomotion	4 x 32 S	Book 41		
Postie's Jig	4 x 32 J	Ormskirk 5		
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Leeds Branch Workshop - 05 December 2009

Dances of the time of Robert Burns (last half of the 18th Century)

On 5th December a large number of people turned up to The Bramhope Methodist Church Hall for the 'Dances of the Time of Robert Burns' workshop.

Robin Lambie led us on a romp through the beginnings of Scottish Country Dancing starting with early ring dances which involved rather monotonous music and steps.

We are all so used to being told to 'keep your hands UP' that he had to keep reminding us to keep our 'hands DOWN'.

Then we moved on to some early reels, where again in contrast to later dances, there was strictly 'no touching'

The finale was a complete contrast to the earlier dances. In the 18th Century people danced to carol music- in this case 'Ding Dong merrily on high'(the words were added in the 19th century).

A circular progressive dance started quietly enough but the progression was achieved by the man throwing his partner up in the air and onto the next man!

An excellent lunch was laid on and the participants were very grateful for the work done 'behind the scenes' to achieve the success of the day

Robin "Dancie" Lambie provided a really interesting and thought provoking lesson, once we found the hall, tucked away as it is underneath the Methodist Church in Bramhope.

Perhaps the title seemed appropriate in this, the Burns 250 anniversary year, however, it would probably be more accurate, if highly heretical, to call it Dances before the RSCDS messed them up!

We began in around 1390 with our Branles (pronounced "brawls") which are strange Ceilidh type dances and progressed in leaps and bounds to the 1850s at which point some of the formations and the dances were beginning to look familiar. We practised our steps, singles and doubles, forwards, backwards, left and right; we practised our triples, rising on the first beat and sinking gently on the others as you do, which gave an interesting and jaunty flow to the dance. The accomplishment with which the ladies flirted suggests that the art is far from dead. Pity we didn't have the appropriate

costumes with close fitting hose and frock coats for the men and billowing silk and sparkling jewellery for the ladies. Ah, one can only imagine how the ball-rooms of the 18 century must have reverberated.

Robin also had the appropriate period music to accompany his dances featuring strange mediaeval instruments and the ubiquitous fiddle. We don't know how he acquired them but as they were on magnetic tape they could be original recordings. There were no "chords" as we have today so it is incumbent on the dancers to listen to the first couple of notes and leap into action at the appropriate point, preferably in the right direction.

Some of the formations we practised will not be found in the RSCDS manual, probably because they are almost impossible to describe in words. In fact it wasn't until around 1651 that anyone tried. They were fun to dance though and invariably the linking was faultless, at least for the man. This is not surprising really as all the "Dancies" (peripatetic teachers and devisers) were men. Even Pilling is drawn from the man's perspective. It was Jean Milligan and her colleagues who "feminised" the dance and produced the arrangements we know today.

So what was the over-all impression of the day? Well:

- Early dances seem to use different muscle groups, at least that's what my legs are telling me.
- Some of them are a bit brisk too. Just try rights and lefts in four bars in reel time! Clearly the sets were smaller than those used by the dances of today (RSCDS influence again) and the steps of the time were designed to suit.
- The dances are highly sociable and require a high degree of cooperation from the participants in order to execute them effectively.

Just to add a Seasonal note I'm sure that last tune was a well known Carol. In the end, the gentlemen certainly had the ladies off their feet.

And did we have fun? You bet we did!

Very many thanks to the Leed Branch for giving us something a little bit different.

Very anonymous

To Malhamdale and Beyond



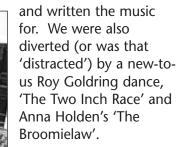
There is something very enticing about the prospect of a dancing weekend in a great Country House as Advent begins. Nevertheless, following a time-honoured routine, we arrived at Newfield Hall on the last Friday of November three hours later than planned, in the dark, far from convinced that traversing the conspicuously flooded landscape along the diminutive lanes suggested by the ever helpful Satnav was our wisest decision that day.

The lights of the House, reassuringly sited on the hillside above flooding levels, were a welcome sight indeed. Through the front door the Welcome also became truly warm, both from Nina, Bridget and their Holiday Fellowship (HF) staff and from the attentive care of Yvonne and Derek, particularly for those new to the event. Entirely unaided by GPS or a map, Yvonne guided us to our room through a veritable maze of corridors although, noticing Christine's difficulties in climbing stairs, Bridget spontaneously suggested a room change to the ground floor which was gratefully accepted.

The timetable for the evening meal and subsequent dance proved to be aspirational rather than literal, which allowed for a welcome rest before the programme began. Hotel-type dance floors are often a bit of a disappointment for Scottish dancers but the Newfield floor proved capable and adaptable, and as a bonus one could even hear most of Derek's very efficient dance instructions from the back!

The programmes were interesting without being overtaxing. This was probably just as well since reliably counting three, four and five couple sets sometimes proved a more complicated procedure than expected, but the atmosphere was relaxed and convivial in the finest traditions of social dancing and the general enjoyment was palpable.

Both Pat and Peter Clark, taking a day each to simultaneously improve our skill levels and entertain the forty six dancers, proved clear and instructive teachers. We were introduced to a number of interesting new dances, including 'Anna's Weding Cake', 'The Thinker' and 'Red house Square' which was a delightful dance that Pat had both devised



Despite the prevailing weather conditions Saturday afternoon

turned out to be both dry and sunny ('warm' would have been too much anyway) so most dancers took the opportunity to walk or drive the ancient and very 'English' local scenery and towns. Our personal discovery of note was the invitingly stocked farm shop at Airton.

We slept well, despite it transpiring that the space above our room was occupied by a small herd of elephants of nocturnal habits, and the catering was both to a generally high standard and of a generous quantity to ensure that no-one left the table feeling in any way hungry. The HF staff could not have been more helpful or facilitative and our grateful thanks must go to them for making what was after all a short weekend break into something which seemed much more. Thanking HF in no way dimishes our thanks to those who made up the other essential elements of the weekend, particularly Derek and Yvonne for the sheer amount of hard unobtrusive work that successful event such as this always depend on, as well as the fact that they do the same year after year for the benefit of we dancers.

Typifying the quality of the weekend was the incident on Sunday morning when there was a general power failure during the last dance. Pat was providing the music on her keyboard at the time but, far from bringing about a premature ending to the dancing, Peter simply unpacked his accordion and continued playing as if nothing untoward had happened - to the enormous appreciation and pleasure of all.

A final big Thank You goes to all those dancers who we met for the first time and hope to meet again, the pleasure of whose company will outlast even the happy recollection of the late evening comfort of sitting with friends in front of the fire in the Whernside Lounge drinking a pint of Skipton (Copper Dragon Ed) bitter.

Roll on next year!

Richard and Christine Badcock

Children's activities

Since the start of the dancing season the dancers have been busy. In September we start preparing for the Medal Tests with the tests just coming before the half term holiday in October. This year we had successes in the Introductory Grade, Grade 2 and Grade 3.

Back to dancing after Bonfire night and we have to decide which dances we can do for adjudication at the Darlington Appreciation Day. This year they had to be from the Medal Test syllabus. I'm afraid I made the decision that we should do La Flora and Reel of the 51st Division as these dances show all three quick-time steps. We duly travelled to Darlington (this year in December) to a new venue. It was very pleasant and the teams danced well but only received a verbal adjudication in a very quiet voice. In December we do not have classes as everyone becomes involved with Christmas activities.

Come the new year we began practising for the Southport Festival but were somewhat thwarted this year because of the extreme weather we all experienced. When the temperatures rose we had three very busy weeks getting our dances ready. This year we had our team in the more advanced section and everyone enjoyed the more challenging dances. Having battled with snow last year (only at our side of the Pennines), this year it was fog! In all the years I have travelled with children to Festivals, I have never had fog until last Saturday. Fortunately it was not too thick, so we travelled there and back safely. Our solo dance was Lord MacLay's Reel and the girls danced it very well. It is good seeing so many children dancing in the lovely Floral Hall (that now has a posh new name). Mainly the teams are from Lancashire and Cheshire but we don't seem to be able to tempt them over to our Festivals in Yorkshire

Now on the horizon we are to dance at the UNICEF Ceilidh and then next month will be our own Children's Festival. Some years we can overlap the dances we learn for our various events but this year is proving more tricky than most!

Valentines in Newcastle

On the 13th February 8 ladies set out with supporters to Gateshead to take part in the annually held Newcastle Festival. No cupid in view, only the angel of the North.

No trophy this year to romance about, but the ladies came joint 3rd with Newcastle. The team 'loved' this result as they were completing against some of the best dances world wide.

The team gave a bubbly performance of The Royal Yacht Britannia and a dreamy presentation of Gang the Same Gate

Our love letter (Adjudication sheet comments) was full of praise and romance. "Lovely team to watch. Used music well, dance flowed and looked fun" for The Royal Yacht Britannia. For Gang the Same Gate "A gentle dance performed as a team. Most enjoyable to watch.

After the competition, dinner for three at a near by restaurant, and a well deserved glass of wine. Then back to Emmanuel College for a lively dance to the music of Marion Anderson and band.



I was really proud of the team and like to thank Kathie, Isabel, Joyce, Pat, Heather, Nicola and Eileen for all their hard work, dedication and support. Sorry no red rose for each of you, but I hope you will accept my words of gratitude instead.

Catherine Livsey

Knaresborough Class Supports RNLI Burns Night

This year, in addition to the class's own "Burns Night", for the second year running we danced a display at the Burns Night run by Knaresborough Cricket Club in support of the RNLI, raising over £600.

Last year the dances had a "Lifeboats" theme, so we chose a "Burns" theme this year: "Burns Hornpipe", "Silver Tassie" and "Cutty Sark", the final one, of course, also having an indirect nautical link

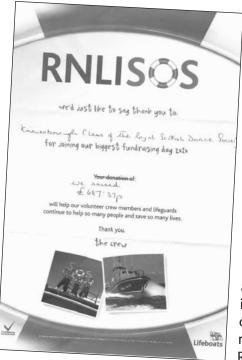
The request had come in too late for us to practise anything before Christmas, and then we lost two weeks' classes at the beginning of January because of the weather. This adds to the achievement of the team that they learnt the dances in only one class, with a very polished performance on the night, despite the chosen dances having some challenging elements. Thank you all concerned.

The following Wednesday, our own "Burns Special" class included the same dances in its programme of dances with Burns associations, along with our own haggis, neaps and tatties supper, prepared by Ann.

We should have had our "Valentine Special" by the time you read this but that won't include haggis, which is reserved for "Burns Night" and St Andrew's Day" each year, as part of trying to maintain the traditional essence of Scottish country dancing. These complement the emphasis of our classes on other weeks that concentrate on providing our members with a solid knowledge of the formations

Rogerthorpe Manor Burns Night

On Friday 22nd January about 17 dancers were invited to dance as part of Rogerthorpe Manor's Burns Night Celebrations. We did two demonstrations, including Eileen doing the Sword Dance and the Seann Truibhas, as well as Alan Harrison piping during the four course meal, after the meal we did a number of ceilidh dances and were able to get quite a lot of the guests to join in. Those who were there thought that this was the best year yet that we had been present. Thank you Catherine for all your hard work.



and footwork needed for our dancing tradition, rather than try to learn each dance individually. The class' ability to display three dances from only one evening's class (that also included other dances) would appear to indicate the value of this (the recognised RSCDS) way.

Members Update

Malcolm Byrne

Catherine and Malcolm have had to return home from Florida, due to Malcolm being ill, he's had to have a colostomy due to the diverticuli having ruptured and caused an abscess, he has had the operation and is now out of hospital and recovering at home, he is very weak, but is able to walk about the house a little. Catherine says that she hopes to be able to come through to Leeds as soon as Malcolm is strong enough to stand the drive, and she will join the dancing and Malcolm talk to all the dancers. We all wish Malcolm a speedy recovery, and look forward to seeing you soon.

Alan Carr

I have just spoken to Susan (14th Feb), and Alan's chemotherapy is progressing well and that he is in good spirits and is hoping for a good outcome after the treatment. Susan hopes to start dancing again soon, and Alan hopes to be able to manage to come the festival in July, to be able to catch up with all his friends. We hope the rest of your treatment is successful and that you will be among us once again.

Looking at programmes in a different light

Each month when I settle down to write out the wall programmes for the Branch dances, I get quite excited but in a very different way from most dancers. I wonder if the letters will all fit together!

Having been taught to write three different ways, I have now evolved my own script which is a mixture of normal joined up writing (having written rows and rows of pot hooks), Marion Richardson (joined up script) and italic. Being a left hander has caused many problems – I always twisted nibs in dip-in pens and fountain pens. I wasn't allowed to do lettering in my art exams and once both my daughter and I were not allowed on a calligraphy course because it was not suitable for left handers! However I was luckier than my sister who was caned for being left handed.

When I started teaching life was getting a little

easier if you wrote with your left hand. Biros appeared (horrid things giving no character to anyone's writing) and then felt pens - lovely ones with broad tips and I could write thick and thin without twisting a nib.

Now to get back to the programmes. I know which letters have 'tails' and which are tall letters but will the dance titles fit together. I really like 'Machine without Horses', 'St Andrews Fair' and 'Miss Iohnstone of Ardrossan' because they don't have any tails but I quake when I see dances with 'Happy' or 'Peggy' in their titles. Sometimes they do fit above other dances but very often they clash and letters have to be compromised. Next I look at the length of the titles – the worst two are 'lan Powrie etc, etc' and 'From Scotia Shores etc, etc'. There are others where the letters need to be put closer together like 'Laird of Milton's Daughter' and 'Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh'. As I work my way down the programme my thoughts wonder could dances with single word titles be made to work - and my pen begins to do things on its own. It has a habit of mis-spelling words. The worst one is

'Jubilee' when my pen insists on putting in a double 'II'. So out comes the spare paper, scissors and double sided selotape (what would we do without that) and a repair job ensues and my pen's mistake is cunningly disguised.

Each programme takes roughly fifteen minutes depending on the length of the titles. I love 'Clutha' and 'Waverley'. After two programmes my back and neck need a rest. I quite enjoy getting to number 13 as then I can sit down to do the rest and only my neck aches then.

You will be thinking, 'why do I do it?' I love good writing and enjoy producing clear large programmes with pens I can write easily with without crossing a nib!

Brenda

Sat 15th May 2010 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spen Lane

Music: Nicol McLaren & Glencraig MC: Veronica Hughes Admission: £8, Non-member £9, Full time Education £3, Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

Programme				
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	8x32	J	Book 22	
The Highland Rambler	8x40	R	Leeds Silver Jubilee (25th)	
Fair Donald	8x32	S	Book 29	
The Weathercock	4x32	J	Leeds Silver Jubilee (25th)	
Sleepy Maggie	8x32	R	Book 11	
The Minister on the Loch	3x32	S	RSCDS 2008	
Bratach Bana	8x32	R	Drewry Bon Accord	
Johnnie Walker	S64+J6	64 M	N&H Robson Whisky Collection	
INTERVAL				
Pelorus Jack	8x32	J	Book 41	
The Montgomeries' Rant	8x32	R	Book 10	
The Dream Catcher	96	S	Book 45	
Major Ian Stewart	8x32	J	Book 35	
The Black Mountain Reel	5x32	R	Haynes Carnforth 3	
Gang the Same Gate	8x32	S	Book 36	
The Bees of Maggieknockater	4x32	J	Drewry Canadian Book	
The Reel of the Royal Scots	8x32	R	RSCDS Leaflet	
Extras				
The Piper and the Penguin	88	R	Scotia Suite	
Postie's Jig	4x32	J	Clowes Ormskirk 5	
MacDonald of the Isles	3x32	S	Haynes Carnforth 2	
St Andrew's Fair	8x32	J	RSCDS 1982	

DATES, DATES

The many dances arranged locally are listed in the Yorks & North East Scottish Country Dance Diary.

2010

Sat 20 March

Children's Festival St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road, Leeds Music: Luke Brady

Sat 20 March

Social Dance 7.30pm
West Park Centre, Leeds
Music: Luke Brady

26 - 28 March RSCDS Spring Fling for 16 - 35 year olds

The Ceilidh and the Saturday Dance are open to everyone of any age

Ceilidh - 26 March 2010 7.30 pm, Blackfriars Hall, Newbridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne Dancing to Real to Reel

Evening Ball - 27 March 2010 7.30 pm, Dress Formal/Highland Wallsend Memorial Hall Dancing to Ceol na h-Alba

£10 Non RSCDS Members/ £8 RSCDS Members/£4 U16 or Full Time Education To reserve tickets, phone Catrina (07779 859583)

Fri 26 - 28 March Scarborough Weekend

Teacher: Pat Houghton Music: George Meikle

More information and application form from Yvonne Tredgett, 17

Aviemore Road, Warmsworth, Doncaster DN4 9ND.

Tel: 01302 85 11 74.

Sat 24 April

Highland Day School
Adel Methodist Church
Hall, Gainsborough Avenue,

Adel, Leeds 16

Teacher: Catherine Livsey

Sat 15 May

Social Dance 7.30pmWest Park Centre, Leeds

Music: Nicol McLaren

Sat 19 June

Social Dance 7.30pmWest Park Centre, Leeds
Music: George Meikle

Sat 10 July

White Rose Festival Afternoon 2-5pm Evening Dance 7-10.30pm Gateways School,

Harewood, Leeds LS17 9LE Music: George Meikle &

the Lothian Band

Full details of these events will be circulated at Branch dances and posted on the Branch web site www.rscdsleeds.org.uk where you will find dance programmes and dance reminders.

Classes

Summer Short Term 2010

WC 12th April 2010 to WC 24th May 2010

Fees: £3.00 per class, Single Class Term costs £17.00 Multi-Class Term costs £25.00

Summer Long Term 2010

WC 12th April 2010 to WC 5th July 2010

Fees: £3.00 per class, Single Class Term costs £30.00 Multi-Class Term costs £45.00

Classes Monday Afternoon

1.45 - 3.45 - General/Beginner Adel Methodist Church Hall, Gainsborough Avenue, Adel, Leeds LS16 7PQ Teacher: Don Andrews

Monday Evening

7.45 - 9.45pm - Experienced Calverley Conservative Club, Victoria Street, Calverley LS28 5PT Teacher: Catherine Livsey, Malcolm Brown 1st, 8th, 22nd March & 12th & 19th April

Tuesday evening

7.45 - 9.45 Intermediate/Beginner Adel Methodist Church Hall, Gainsborough Avenue, Adel, Leeds LS16 7PQ Teacher: Irene Dracup

Wednesday evening

7.30 - 10.00 - General/Beginner Holy Trinity Church Hall Knaresborough and Markington Village Hall on 4th Wednesday of month Teachers: Ann Baranyai and Malcolm Frost

Thursday Afternoon

2.00 - 4.00 - General/Beginner St Margaret's Church Hall, Ilkley LS29 9QL Teacher: Don Andrews

Thursday evening

7.45 - 10.00 - General/beginner Brackenwood Community Centre, New Building, Lidgett Lane, Leeds LS17 6QP Teacher: Brenda Burnell This class continues all year round

Friday evening - children

5.30 - 7.00

Hawksworth Wood Primary School, Broadway, Leeds LS5 3QE Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Sunday afternoon

20 Dec 2009 & 10 Jan, 7 Feb, 14 March, 11 April, 9 May, 6 June & 4 July 2010 1.45 - 3.45 Askwith Village Hall, Askwith Dancers with a good knowledge of steps and figures and with ambitions to extend their repertoire. All Welcome Teacher: Catherine Livsey

For more information see www.rscdsleeds.org.uk