

# Leeds Branch Dancers Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1072452

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## Future Newsletters

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

Please send all copy for future newsletters to Catherine Livsey, 11A Hill Top Road, Moldgreen, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD5 9LX.

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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.



Jubilee Tea Dance May 2012

## From one Chair to the next...

In October at the AGM, I stepped down as chair after five years in the position. It as been an interesting time and one I think I have enjoyed! I would like to thank my committees over this time for all their support.

I would especially like to thank Lesley for all her work and help as secretary.

I would like to wish my successor and the committee all the best for the future.

**The new committee is:**  
**Interim Chair Person to be confirmed** - Irene Dracup  
**Secretary** - Lesley Enoch  
**Treasurer** - David Robertson  
**Membership** - Brenda Burnell  
**Committee Members** - Janet Brayson, Heather Foote, Betty Hagart, Alan Horsfall, Jane Walford, Robin Walford.

**Please note** due to the closure of West Park Branch dances will be at alternative venues see page 2 for more details and

'Dates, Dates, Dates' on page 8.

**You can now follow the Branch on the website, twitter and facebook**

[www.rscdsleeds.org.uk](http://www.rscdsleeds.org.uk)

**Twitter**

[www.twitter.com/RSCDSLeeds](http://www.twitter.com/RSCDSLeeds)

**Facebook**

Rscds Leeds Branch

Use this social media to keep up-to-date with our latest news.

**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](http://www.rscdsleeds.org.uk) Why not give it a try.

# From the Secretary

## Closure of West Park Centre

On Wednesday 7th November I received a telephone call informing me that West Park had been closed temporarily the previous Friday, due to an electrical fault. The committee are looking into a future home for our dances, but for the time being we are homeless and having to use various venues.

## To present we have found

**19th January - Junior School Hall, The Grammar School at Leeds, Alwoodley Gate, Leeds LS17 8GS**

**16th February - St Margaret's Church Hall, Church Road, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5LQ**

**15th March - Still looking for a venue, please keep looking at our website.**

**18th May - St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road, Leeds LS16 5JT**

**15th June - St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road, Leeds LS16 5JT**

**The Musician's Day School and Back to Basics Workshop on 16th February** will all be held at St Margaret's Church Hall in Horsforth, car parking is opposite the Hall in Fink Hill Car Park.

**The Children's Festival on 15th March** has still to be finalised, but we hope to be using a school in the North Leeds area.

## Class Prices

At the last committee meeting it was agreed that we would have to increase the weekly price of our classes; this is due to increased charges at a number of halls. The prices are: Single Class - £4.00 per session; Single Class Term Ticket - £43.00; Multi-Term Ticket - £80.00. Term dates are week commencing 7th January to week commencing 25th March, a 12-week term.

## 50th Anniversary Ball

Thanks - I would like to thank all members of the committee who helped to make the ball a success. The hall really looked great, thanks to our decorating team, to Isabel and Janet for the little bags of chocolates, I enjoyed making the floral table decorations. Catherine produced a super programme; and to Sandy Nixon and the Band for superb music. To all our dancers who came from far and wide really made the evening enjoyable. Finally we must not forget Andy Mirfin and the Staff at Leeds Grammar School.

# Request From New Zealand

During the summer I received an email from the Richmond Group in New Zealand, who were doing a programme of Roy Goldring's dances. They wanted some information on people whom Roy had dedicated his dances to. A couple of phone calls and my own knowledge soon had all the answers to send them. After the dance I received a follow up email thanking me for the information and saying how much the dancers had enjoyed hearing about different people.

The demonstration group performed Christine Godwin's tribute to Roy - This is an extract from Kate's email: 'The tribute performance of A Twinkle in His Eye went well, thanks to plenty of practice, and onlookers remarked on what a lovely dance it was to watch'.

Lesley

## Sat 16th January 2013 7.30pm WALK THROUGH DANCE

**Junior School Hall, The Grammar School at Leeds, Alwoodley Gate, Leeds LS17 8GS**

**Music:** Music: Ian Muir **MC:** Gerry Yates

**Admission:** £9, Non-member £10, Full time Education £3,

### Programme

Shiftn' Bobbins	8x32 R	Ormskirk 6, Clowes
Miss Allie Anderson	8x32 J	RSCDS Leaflet
Gang the Same Gate	8x32 S	RSCDS Book 36
The Chequered Court	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 42
None So Pretty	8x40 R	RSCDS Book 19
James Senior of St Andrews	4x32 S	RSCDS Book 42
The Piper and the Penguin	1x88 R	Scotia Suite
Mrs Stewart's Jig	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 35

### INTERVAL

Inverneill House	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 35
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	4x32 J	RSCDS Five Dances 1982
Silver Tassie	8x32 S	RSCDS Leaflet
The Hazel Tree	8x32 J	Brodie Bk, Drewry
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	5x32 R	14 Social Dances 2000
Anna Holden's Strathspey	6x32 S	RSCDS Book 42
The Royal Deeside Railway	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 40
Miss Hadden's Reel	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 23

### Extras

Saltire Society Reel	8x32 R	RSCDS Leaflet
Joie de Vivre	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 39
Blooms of Bon Accord	4x32 R	Deeside 2, Drewry
Oriel Strathspey	4x32 S	Book 32

# The History of West Park

West Park County Secondary School opened in 1952 as a mixed school with 1,600 pupils. In 1960 Moor Grange School was built on the other side of the Ring Road and the boys moved there leaving West Park as an all girls' school. It became West Park Girls' High School. It was in 1962 that our association with the school started.



The first Branch committee looked round Leeds for a suitable hall in which to hold our monthly dances. They found two schools with suitable halls. One was West Park and the other was Braimwood on Wetherby Road. Both these schools were relatively new and had sprung hall floors suitable for Scottish dancing. It was the intention to use these halls alternately for our dances and on Miss Milligan's first visit to Leeds we held the Day School at West Park and then moved to Braimwood for the evening dance. The latter had a very pleasant hall but had one small drawback. It was built with the stage along the long side of the hall and not conventionally as West Park was. So West Park became our 'home' for the monthly dances. In the early days most of these dances were to records but twice a year we had a band - in October and May.

When the children's class was established we were able to use West Park for that on Friday evenings. All continued smoothly for us for many years and we always had good caretakers. The first one lived in Queenswood Drive and moved into the caretaker's house when that was ready. He was followed by a very big man and we established a good relationship with him too. The last caretaker, before things started to change, was a coloured man who was wonderful and I was very sad to see him go. His wife had been left a house on the south coast and they decided to move into it.

Things began to change. A new caretaker came, the school had closed as a school and the caretakers' contracts were changed. The children's class moved into one of the gyms as the hall was used for something else on Friday evenings. There are two full sized gyms both with sprung floors in the block as you drive into the car park. When the school closed it became a computer centre for training teachers to teach computing to children. The computers were mainly housed upstairs along the long corridor where we have been coming in from the car park. During the time West Park was the computer centre several schools were bussed into the building while asbestos was removed from their own school.

All continued as before for our dances until the caretakers' contracts were changed. They had always been paid overtime for evening and weekend work but the new contracts obliged them to work ten sessions a week and these could be morning, afternoon or evening any day of

the week. The newly established caretaker took advantage of this and did not do Friday evenings or weekends but went off in his caravan to Blackpool each weekend. The children's class was moved to Hawsworth Wood School where it still is to this day and a new venue had to be found for the now well established Branch dances. To begin with we moved to the James Graham Hall at the Training College at Beckett Park. We used this lovely oak panelled hall for several years. It had a good floor and was about the same size as West Park. We also had to use other halls including St Margaret's Church Hall in Horsforth where we celebrated our 30th birthday.

Meanwhile things were happening at West Park. Computers were going missing and eventually the caretaker disappeared too. Negotiations were made over many months and eventually we were allowed to go 'home' for our monthly dances. The school had been neglected and was, to say the least, dirty. A few of us went early on Saturday evenings to clean the place before our dances. Eventually a good caretaker arrived and the place regained some of its former cleanliness. Other organisations were using the buildings and gradually improvements were made.

West Park's stage was the second biggest in Leeds and the site attracted Opera North who practised there. Later Northern Ballet moved in and made use of the two gyms. The Youth orchestras practised there and the Friday evening/Saturday morning Music Centre grew making more use of the buildings. Other Community organisations were also making use of the place. I remember going to one meeting there for leaders of various groups when everyone was astounded that we had been using West Park for so long!

Now with very little warning West Park has been closed because of a major electrical fault. After two previous attempts I fear this latest problem will see the end of the West Park Centre and along with Moor Grange and Braimwood schools it will be flattened and the land sold for more development. We have had our ups and downs over the years there but mostly it has been a happy association and I'm glad we were able to celebrate our 50th birthday there in June.





# Darlington Festival.

On Saturday, November 24th the dancers from the Friday children's class plus twin boys from the Alwoodley class set off for the Darlington Appreciation Day. Always apprehensive about the weather, I thought we would be alright this year. It was a murky morning and we drifted in and out of fog patches. We were slowed down by road works by about forty minutes but we arrived in time to have some lunch, get the children changed and have a quick walk through. We met up with Rachel and Helen who are now both at universities in the north east and they were wonderful at organising both the younger and older teams. Our two young dancers from the Friday class plus the twin boys from the Tuesday class (they may be joining us after Christmas) were joined by two older girls to dance in a three couple set. Apart from being rather disorientated in a strange hall the set dance, Easy Peasy, went well and later in first half our own choice dance, The

Waratah Weaver, went even better.

The older girls plus one of our young dancers and a Mum danced Major Ian Stewart and The Swilcan extremely well. Helen and Rachel had never danced The Swilcan before Saturday but such is their ability that there were no mistakes. Well done to both girls and thank you for joining us again. I really have missed them on Fridays since they have gone to university.



*The Swilcan Bridge at St Andrews*

The rest of the afternoon was busy with general dances including The Christmas Tree which was repeated! Music for the afternoon was provided by Ian Slater and Terry Chater, the organiser, was able to keep the afternoon moving so that everyone could enjoy the dancing.

On our way home we ran into the rain which accompanied us the rest of our journey. All safely back home now we have a rest until next year when we will prepare for the Southport Festival with fingers very tightly crossed that the weather is kinder to us than earlier this year.

Thank you to the Branch for their grant from the Children's Fund for travelling expenses. The drivers all said "Thank you".



Dancing the Broad Swords at the Highland Day School on Saturday 27 October. The next Day School is on Saturday 27 April. Come along for a great fun day.

## Sat 16th February 2013 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

St Margaret's Church Hall, Church Road,  
Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5LQ

Music: George Meikle & Musicians from the Day School  
MC: Avis Harrison

Admission: £9, Non-member £10, Full time Education £3,  
Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

### Programme

Good Hearted Glasgow	8x32 J	J Knapman, Collins
Festival Fling	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 44
The Windswept Moors	3x32 S	Goldring, Many Happy Hours
The Cocket Hat	8x40 J	RSCDS Book 44
The Reel of the 51st Division*	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 13
Lord Brownlow's Strathspey	3x32 S	Berkhamstead Diamond
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 22
The Kenora Reel	8x32 R	Drewry, Bankhead Bk 2

### INTERVAL

A Capital Jig	8x 32 J	RSCDS 2009
The Barmkin	1x88 R	Goldring, 24 G & S
Rannoch Moor	5x32 S	Goldring, Graded Bk 3
The Blackwater Reel	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 41
The Roselath Cross	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 41
Sands of Morar	8x32 S	RSCDS Book 45
Napier's Index	8x40 J	RSCDS Book 45
The Duke of Perth	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 1

### Extras

Sueno's Stone	8x32 R	RSCDS 2008
Roaring Jelly	8x32 J	Foss, Glendarroch
The Rose of the North	8x32 S	Goldring, Leeds 25th

\* The Reel of the 51st Division will be danced MEN only first, followed by an encore for all to join in.

# Malhamdale Weekend 2012

The three of us travelled up the A1 together - there is security in numbers we felt. However our slight nervousness disappeared as soon as we entered Newfield Hall, as a cream tea and a warm welcome from Yvonne awaited us, to set us at our ease. Not only did she recognise us as first timers, but greeted us almost by name.



Maureen (teacher) and John (musician)

"Well, which one of you is Eileen, which one is Katherine and which one is Sally?"

This was the only time in the whole weekend that the organisation required a little help from us. We

congratulate the organisers - as no detail was forgotten - from the allocation of the very comfortable rooms, to the very handy crib sheets for the evening social dancing for all of those dances that we should have known, but we have had a few sleeps since we last danced them.

The teaching sessions from Maureen Haynes were excellent. We were in no doubt that she expected the highest standard from us, but what fun we had trying to achieve that goal. We all felt that we had benefited from her expertise. John Browne not only gave a lively and uplifting musical accompaniment, but added his own useful commentary to the music Maureen had chosen.

The venue was perfect, and the scenery stunning. Even the weather had been ordered for us to allow us to make the most of afternoon walks in Malhamdale. Especially when we returned to Newfield Hall for wonderful food prepared for us by someone else.

We have only one small request - can we come next year, please?  
**By the Malhamdale Virgins**



The whole group

## An Ode to our Dance Teacher (Brenda Burnell)

### On the occasion of her 80th Birthday

At the start of all our classes  
Brenda puts the music on  
We all get up and form our sets  
But where's our memory gone

We recognise the tune of course  
But none of us will speak  
And then of course she says to us  
"You danced this just last week"

"Is it the one with reels of three  
Then circle round and back"  
"No, no," she cries with head in hands  
"Its called Pelorus Jack."

It's time to start a new dance  
Down the middle and back again

Set twice, then cross and cast one place  
Then dance a Ladies' chain

Now 1s and 3s dance rights and lefts  
Just keep your hands up please  
"You danced that nearly perfectly  
Wonders will never cease"

Now the last dance of the evening  
Is five by thirty-two bars long  
It's Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan  
And we NEVER get that wrong

**Poem written by Jay Dee  
(Alias Jean Dyson)**

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and messages after my stays in hospital and on my special birthday.

**Brenda**



# Birthday Dance in June

When the last Newsletter was sent out, I was unable to contribute. Now I have received some photographs of the Leeds Branch's birthday Dance back in June. I want to thank everyone who made the event happy and enjoyable. It was good to see older members dancing with newer ones to a good programme.

Who could forget the wonderful cake that Yvonne made for us? It was brilliant!

How lucky we were to hold this event in our 'home' hall.

**Brenda**



*Members past and present enjoying the dancing*



*Mair Pinnell (founder member) and Peter Clark (first Branch Secretary)*

## Our Branch Shop

"Really? I always thought it was their own business" was a comment I was astonished to hear recently when discussing with a fellow dancer the work that Christine and Ian undertake in running the Branch Shop.

The shop provides a dual role; it offers easy access to a range of goods - shoes, books and CDs - to those attending our dances and in doing so raises valuable income for the Branch. If you buy something from your shop you are supporting all the activities of the Branch.

As a result of work put in by Christine HALF of all current sales are to non-branch members from all corners of the world and this proportion is increasing. Hosting the shop involves not only selling items at a dance but transporting the goods to and from every dance, setting up and manning the shop, ordering supplies and accounting and giving over a significant proportion of their home to storing stock.

We are indebted to Christine and Ian for also bringing the shop to the Day School and the White Rose Festival; and for those occasions when you can't make it to a dance, the goods are available via the Branch website. An email to [sales@rscdsleeds.org.uk](mailto:sales@rscdsleeds.org.uk) will ensure the items are reserved for you.

**Betty Hagart**

# 50th Anniversary Ball



50 years is something to celebrate and a time to look back on all the years of fun and laughter that we have enjoyed in Scottish Dancing and to reflect on all the friendships we have made.

We had practised all the dances and looked forward to a really good dressed up affair. We weren't disappointed. The 50th anniversary ball was a grand event. Everyone was in their best bib and tucker. There were lots of lovely dresses to admire.

As we sipped our wine or orange juice we sat at round tables, spread with snowy white table cloths. The tables were beautifully decorated with flowers, arranged by Lesley Enoch and sweets wrapped by Isobel Douglas and Janet Brayson. I was at a table with some old friends and some gentlemen from Manchester whom I hadn't met before. It was good to meet old friends and new, who had come from other areas to help us celebrate.

It was a lovely programme and we danced it with enthusiasm helped by the clear recaps from our MC Catherine Livsey and wonderful music played by Sandy Nixon and his band. There were some super tunes.

At supper time we collected our meal to the piping of Alan Harrison. The meal was lovely, and it was just light enough for us to be able to dance again afterwards.

Judging by the comments that I have heard the ball was thoroughly enjoyed by one and all. Speaking for myself I had a fabulous time.

A great deal of behind the scenes work goes into an event like this including booking the hall, decorating it, checking health and safety, organising the catering, booking the band and piper. The committee deserve our thanks for all their hard work in delivering such a successful event.

**Irene Dracup**

## Sat 16th March 2013 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

Still looking for a venue,  
please keep looking at our website.

Music: Luke Brady's Band MC: Jean Dyson  
Admission: £9, Non-member £10, Full time Education £3,

### Programme

The Happy Meeting	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 20
General Stuart's Reel	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 10
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	8x32 S	RSCDS Leaflet
Pelorus Jack	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 41
The Provost Wynd	8x32 R	RSCDS 2nd Graded
MacDonald of the Isles	3x32 S	Carnforth Collection II
The Kelloholm Jig	8x32 J	RSCDS Leaflet 32
Miss Johnston of Ardrosson	5x32 R	R Goldring

### INTERVAL

The Jubilee Jig	8x32 J	RSCDS Leaflet
The Cumbrae Reel	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 28
The Robertson Rant	1x80 S	RSCDS Book 39
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 22
Scott Meikle	4x32 R	RSCDS Book 46
Fair Donald	8x32 S	RSCDS Book 29
Wild Geese	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 24
Maxwell's Rant	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 18

### Extras

Hooper's Jig	8x32 J	MMM2
The Dancing Man	8x32 R	RSCDS 2nd Graded
Cherrybank Gardens	3x32 S	J Drewry

# DATES, DATES, DATES

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

## 2013

### Saturday 19 January

#### Social Dance 7.30pm

Junior School Hall, The Grammar School  
at Leeds, Alwoodley Gate,  
Leeds LS17 8GS  
Music: Ian Muir

### Saturday 16 February

#### Musicians Day School

St Margaret's Church Hall, Church  
Road, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5LQ  
Teacher: George Meikle

### Back to Basics Dancing Workshop 2pm

St Margaret's Church Hall, Church  
Road, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5LQ  
Teacher: Catherine Livsey

### Social Dance 7.30pm

St Margaret's Church Hall, Church  
Road, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5LQ  
Music: George Meikle & Day School  
Musicians

### Saturday 16 March

#### Children's Festival

Still looking for a venue, please keep  
looking at our website or information  
at classes

Music: Luke Brady

### Social Dance 7.30pm

Still looking for a venue  
Music: Luke Brady's Band

### Friday 22 March

### to Sunday 24 March

#### Scarborough Weekend

Clifton Hotel, Scarborough  
Teacher: Jessie Stuart  
Musician: George Meikle  
Contact  
Yvonne Tredgett  
Tel: 01302 851 174

### Saturday 27 April

#### Highland and Ladies Step Day School

Adel Methodist Church Hall,  
Gainsborough Avenue, Adel, Leeds  
LS16 7PQ  
Teacher: Catherine Livsey

### Saturday 18 May

#### Social Dance 7.30pm

St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road,  
Leeds LS16 5JT  
Music: Neil Barron

### Saturday 15 June

#### Social Dance 7.30pm

St Chad's Parish Centre, as above  
Music: Frank Thomson Duo

### Saturday 13 July

#### White Rose Festival

Afternoon 2-5pm, Evening Dance  
7-10.30pm, Gateways School,  
Harewood, Leeds LS17 8GS  
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](http://www.rscdsleeds.org.uk) where you will  
find dance programmes, dance reminders and application forms.

## Spring Fling 2013

Spring Fling, the RSCDS weekend school run by young people, for young  
people, is coming to Manchester from 12 -14th April 2013, for participants  
aged 16-35. Teachers for the weekend are Catherine Livsey, David Queen,  
and Dianne Rooney, and the musicians are Ian Slater, Phill Jones, and  
Andrew Lyon.

On Friday and Saturday night are dances, which are open to everyone.  
Friday's dance is a "nice & easy" dance with Ian Slater playing, and  
Saturday's dance will have music from Scottish Measure. The dances will be  
held at Sale Masonic Hall. Booking for Spring Fling is open now.

For further details of Spring Fling, please see the RSCDS website or the  
Facebook event RSCDS Spring Fling Manchester. Alternatively, please speak to  
Gill Watts or Nicola Waugh.

If you know someone in the 16-35 age range who might be interested in  
attending Spring Fling, please pass the details on to them. And we look  
forward to seeing people of all ages at the Friday and Saturday dances.

## Classes

### Spring Term 2012

WC 7th January 2013  
to WC 25th March 2012

**Fees:** £4.00 per class

Single Class Ticket £43.00

Multi-Class Ticket £80.00

## 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

### Tuesday evening

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

### Thursday Afternoon

2.00 - 4.00 - General/Beginner  
(2.30 start 3rd Thursday of the month)  
St Margaret's Church Hall, Ilkley LS29 9QL  
Teacher: Don Andrews  
Class continues until WC 28th May 2012

### Thursday evening

7.30 - 10.00 - General/beginner  
Lidgett Park Methodist Church, Lidgett  
Place, Leeds LS8 1HG  
Teachers: Sou Robertson  
and Brenda Burnell  
This class continues all year round

### Friday evening - children

5.15 to 6.45  
Hawthorn Wood Primary School,  
Broadway, Leeds LS5 3QE  
Teacher: Brenda Burnell

### Sunday afternoon

6 Jan, 3 Feb, 3 March, 7 April,  
5 May & 2 June 2013  
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](http://www.rscdsleeds.org.uk)

