

Leeds Branch Dancers Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1072452

ISSUE 71 DECEMBER 2013

From the Chair...

A lovely Summer became a mellow Autumn during which we enjoyed two dances in Leeds and a great Joint Ball at the Riley-Smith Hall in Tadcaster. Thank you to York and North Humberside for all the work put into the organisation of it. It's our turn next year and we've booked the same venue.



News from the Society AGM is that membership contributions to Headquarters will go up by two pounds next year. This is to help with work to try to stem the flow of the currently diminishing membership. In Leeds we bucked the trend last year and actually increased our membership a little, but we are still a long way short of our halcyon days and we should continue to try to attract new members, especially younger ones, in order to secure our future. Any ideas about how to advertise ourselves will be very gratefully received. Why not encourage your friends and family to come along? We have our usual programme of events planned for the coming year, so there are classes, day schools, weekends, dances and festivals to be enjoyed and everyone will be welcomed.

By the time you read this we will be in the middle of Christmas celebrations. The Committee wish a very happy Christmas and New Year to all our friends and members. I look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Irene Dracup

Your Committee

At the AGM in October several new members were elected to the Branch committee. The membership of the committee is now as follows -

Chairperson	Irene Dracup
Secretary	Betty Hagart
Treasurer	Gerry Yates Co-opted since the AGM
Membership Secretary	Brenda Burnell
Committee	Alan Horsfall Heather Foote Ian Clarke Jane Walford Janet Brayson Jean Weatherill Pat Cowles

Future Newsletters

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

Please send all copy for future newsletters to Irene Dracup
21 Lawns Drive, Leeds LS12 5RJ
Tel:0113 2631310
Email:glyn.cup@virginmedia.com

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.

Subscription to this Newsletter can be taken out at £6.00 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.

Friends, Dancing, Classes (and the RSCDS AGM)

The AGM was held in Perth this year, but the host city is almost irrelevant as there is very little time available for exploration if you make the most of what is available over the weekend.

There was in fact too much on offer for the time available, dance classes on Saturday and Sunday morning, run this year by Maureen Haynes and Janet Johnston, the final of the Dance Music for the Future competition, the Youth Forum and of course browsing in the RSCDS shop. The AGM was slotted in on Saturday afternoon. It was a little lengthy, but it was interesting to listen to the reports from the various committees, understand how our subscriptions are spent by Head Office, and hear first-hand how hard everyone works and what has been achieved over the year.

The highlight of the weekend was definitely the dancing! The dances are held in the huge domed sports hall of Perth's Bell's Sports Centre and it is an experience unlike any other to dance with hundreds of other dancers from across the UK and from around the world to superb live music. Both the informal dance on Friday evening to Susan MacFadyen and her band and the formal ball on Saturday dancing to Alastair Wood and his band were most enjoyable. The atmosphere was friendly and lively, and the quality of the music kept everyone dancing enthusiastically right up until the last chord.

We went to Perth knowing only a handful of people and came away having met and danced with dozens of friendly dancers from around the world.

Robin and Jane Walford

Sat 18th January 2014 7.30pm

SOCIAL DANCE

St Margaret's Church Hall,
Horsforth LS18 5LQ

Music: Phill Jones MC: Don Andrews

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

Programme

All the Eights	8x32 J	Leeds Golden Collection
The Saltire Society Reel	8x32 R	Leaflet
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	8x32 S	Leaflet
The Machine without Horses	8x32 J	Book 12
Inverneill House	8x32 R	Book 35
It wisnae me*	4x32 S	Book 47
Gothenberg's Welcome	8x32 J	Book 37
Mrs MacPherson of Inveran	8x32 R	Drewry, Bon Accord

INTERVAL

Welcome to Ayr	8x32 J	Book 47
The Royal Yacht Britannia	8x40 R	Book 43
The Partnership*	96 S	Goldring 2002
The Luckenbooth Brooch	8x32 J	Dickson
Glastonbury Tor*	8x32 R	Book 47
The Valentine	8x32 S	5 for 2009
Follow Me Home	8x32 J	Book 38
The Highlandman Kissed His Mother	8x32 R	MMM

Extras

The Lea Rig	6/8x32 S	Book 21
John of Bon Accord	8x32 R	Leaflet
Jubilee Jig	8X32 J	Leaflet
Jovial jack	8X32 R	Leeds Golden Collection

*Dances will be walked through.

Sat 15th February 2014 7.30pm

SOCIAL DANCE

St Margaret's Church Hall,
Horsforth LS18 5LQ

Music: Ian Slater MC: Catherine Livsey

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

Programme

The Greenbelt Jig	8x32 J	Moments in time
Maxwell's Rant	8x32 R	Book 18
Cape Town Wedding	8x32 S	Book 39
Best Set in the Hall	8x32 J	Book 46
Back to the Fireside	8x32 R	Book 38
Peggy Spouse MBE	8x32 S	Book 46
The Coopers Children*	8x32 J	Leeds Golden Collection
Angus Macleod	4x32 R	Alex T Queen

INTERVAL

Mrs Stewart's jig	8x32 J	Book 35
Glastonbury Tor*	8x32 R	Book 47
Culla Bay	4x32 S	Book 41
Joie de Vivre	8x32 J	Book 39
Cuckoo Clock*	8x32 R	Ian Barbour, Dance & Celebration
The Gentleman	8x32 S	Book 35
Follow me Home	8x32 J	Book 38
Reel of the Royal Scotts	8x32 R	RSCDS Leaflet

Extras

Neidpath Castle	3x32 S	Book 22
The Sailor	8x32 R	Book 24
St Andrew's Fair	8x32 J	RSCDS 5/1982
Midnight Oil	5x48 J	Bankhead Book 3

*Dances will be walked through.

My Favourite Dance

STAFFIN HARVEST			4x32 S		
① ③ ② ④ S X _R	② ② ④ ④ ① ① ③ ③ S X _R	○○○ ○○○	② ② ④ ④ ① ① ③ ③ S X _R	1 2 3 4 ④	1 2 3 4 P ③

H Mitchell, RSCDS 4/1978

4C/4C longwise set

Among my favourite dances are those that I enjoy because they consist of interesting and/or unusual figures that fit together well, and those that are favourites because of some other feel-good association. Among those dances that sit in both categories is Staffin Harvest. The dance was published in a booklet entitled *Four Scottish Country Dances, 1978*. During the dancing year that followed its publication I enjoyed both teaching the dance and dancing it, without ever giving a thought to the derivation of its name.

The next summer John and I spent two weeks on Skye, camping in various parts of the island, and walking in the mountains. The weather at the start of the holiday was grim - wet, windy and cold! Towards the end of the first week the weather began to improve. We reached the Trotternish peninsula and found a lovely campsite in the far north-east of the island at Staffin. The village and its fields border a wide sandy bay. Imagine my surprise to see the harvest being cut and stacked in stooks to dry in the sun - the Staffin harvest in action! We climbed the mountains in the area - the Quiriang and the Old Man of Storr (also a dance of course) in glorious weather and enjoyed views towards Staffin, its harvest fields and the sea. It was a wonderful holiday, one that left me with many lasting memories, not the least of which was the harvest in Staffin on a sunny day. I think of that holiday every time we dance Staffin Harvest.

Betty Hagart

Dance Information

Staffin (Scottish Gaelic: Stafain) is a district with the Gaelic name An Taobh Sear, which translates as 'the East Side', on the northeast coast of the Trotternish peninsula of the island of Skye.



Harvesting On The Edge Of Staffin Bay

History note from Don Andrews

The dance was written in 1976 by Mr HPC Mitchell of Vancouver, inspired by the same experience as that enjoyed by Betty, viewing the traditional harvesting methods of the islanders when he was there on holiday. The figures in the dance represent the ebb and flow of the harvesters, to and fro across the fields.

Sadly in the original 1978 edition of the dance the Printers forgot to include the name of the deviser, and issued an apology later. The omission was corrected in the Pocket Edition.

Joint Ball

On the 16th November over one hundred dancers from Leeds and York and North Humberside Branches danced to excellent music from Ian Thomson's Band at the Riley Smith Hall in Tadcaster, where a varied supper was provided. The Balls are a chance for the men to bring out their jackets and our ladies to dress in all their finery and this they did in style.

Iain Keegan had devised a super programme, which was ably MC'd By Christine and Irene.

It was an excellent evening of dancing. Our thanks go to York and North Humberside for their work in organising it.

Lesley Enoch

Branch Day School 2013

Nearly 40 dancers from different parts of the country arrived in Leeds for our annual Day School on 21st September, the furthest coming all the way from Colchester. Our teacher for the day was Janet Johnston from Edinburgh, whom we had first come across at Crieff. We had liked her sense of humour then, and she was well received by the class. The musician for the day was Ian Slater - they had not worked together but made an excellent team.

The morning saw us literally being put through our paces. Janet focussed on steps, and especially on different forms of pas de basque such as forward, backwards and the poussette. She mixed the dancers up well, and this added to the friendly atmosphere.

In the afternoon she concentrated on social dances, including some from the Leeds Golden Collection (Jovial Jack, Nifty Ninety, and Candyfloss). She also taught Rory O'More from Book 1, and Miss Nancy Arnott from book 32 which was an Instructor's Choice on the evening programme.

Over tea Janet had many stories about famous 'names' such as Mrs Milne of Kineff, and she joined us for a very enjoyable evening's dancing to the Glenraig Band, programme courtesy of Betty Hagart.

Janet Brayson

A Stranger at a Dance

I was recently at a Branch Dance in Leeds, and was surprised to see someone I know vaguely from other dancing events. His wife was in the band, and he had come along to the dance. Over the course of the evening, he often seemed to be without a partner, or looking round the room for someone to dance with. That night I danced with him 3 times, as he never seemed to have a partner.

But it made me think: as a Branch, how welcoming are we to visitors? I have always thought of the Branch as being full of friendly people - my experience of coming to a Branch Dance for the first time without anyone I knew resulted in an invitation (& the offer of a lift) to a class every week. I couldn't have felt more welcomed!

So, my challenge to us all: every dance we go to, we should try to dance with someone we don't know, someone who doesn't dance at our class, whose name we aren't even sure of. There are so many people who we see every month at the dance, yet never dance with (and I am just as guilty of that as the next person). Never mind if you don't know the dance - they might know it! And if they don't, never mind - someone else in the set will help. If it does go a bit wrong, you'll make friends in the confusion. And if you see someone at a dance you don't recognise, who is maybe a visitor, ask them for a dance. Make them feel welcome, so they tell people in their local classes how good it is to go to a Leeds dance. There will always be dances we want to dance with a particular partner, and friends we don't see often who we must get a dance with, but who knows, maybe the person you ask this time will become just one of those friends.

So, as we start the New Year, my dancing New Year's resolution will be to dance with more people I don't know. I'd like to think that other people will make the same resolution. And please, if you haven't danced with me before, come and ask me!
Nicola Waugh

Thank you for this thought provoking article Nicola.

I agree with Nicola but perhaps not everyone does have the confidence to ask a stranger to dance and maybe MCs could help. If you see a stranger, perhaps you could ask the MC to introduce them over the microphone. Would that help? The wonderful Lesley Digby, when she was an MC, always had one dance where she asked you to find a partner that you had never danced with before. At the Joint Ball we could have an 'excuse me' where we asked Leeds members to ask a York and North Humberside person to dance or vice versa. Perhaps we should appoint a host/hostess, whose job it would be to greet newcomers and visitors. Does anyone have any more ideas? Would anyone like the host job?

There's a tendency too for Leeds people to sit at one side of the Hall and visitors at the other. We could all walk across the room a bit more.

For some of us it's a bit like hours in the day and days in the week, there aren't enough dances to dance with everyone you want to dance with, and perhaps not enough energy, but let's all make an effort to welcome visitors and newcomers. Let us know your thoughts and experiences.
Irene Dracup

Highland Day School

On 26th October a group of dancers from total beginners to the very experienced met at Adel Methodist Church for the Highland Day School. The beginners among us were keen to try something new, with the more experienced looking to improve their technique. We arrived to discover the large hall full of little dancers with pink ballet shoes. As a result, the morning beginner's session was a rather cosy and friendly affair in the smaller hall. The up side of this being that the experienced dancers were close enough for me to watch their footwork, if not duplicate it.

In the morning Catherine taught the individual steps for Barracks Johnnie. Having covered the steps individually the challenge for me was linking them together in the dance, but I had fun trying. In the afternoon Catherine moved on to The Jacobite Swords and a taste of the Sailors Hornpipe. I am afraid after the morning my brain could not cope with any more and I left the more experienced dancers to it. Some beginners with better staying power than me also enjoyed the afternoon session.

Following an enjoyable day some of us went to the Brasserie at West Park for a meal. It was a great way to round off the day with no brain power required.

The next Highland Day School will be on 26th April 2014. Why not come along and try out the dances for the White Rose Festival then join us for a meal afterwards?

Emma Blair



Holiday Notices

Received by the Secretary

If you wish to have copies of attachments or flyers mentioned below please apply to the secretary Betty Hagart

Scotland

Hello Branch Secretaries,

Please find attached the information and Application Form for the Helensburgh Branch SCD Weekend in April 2014 which I would ask you to circulate to all your members.

Helensburgh is a lovely seaside town to visit in the Spring when the Cherry blossom is at its best and we have a great Weekend in store for you next April.

Linda Gaul (from Pitlochry) is our teacher for the Class on Saturday morning accompanied by Frank Thomson. The superb Bands of Marian Anderson and Frank Thomson are playing on the Friday and Saturday evenings respectively and Linda will be giving a talk at our Coffee morning on the Sunday.

4th - 6th April 2014 - Helensburgh is the place to be!!

Many thanks

Helen Cameron (Weekend Secretary)

Spring Fling

18-20th April in Lyon. Spring fling itself is open to 16-35 year olds, but Lyon Branch is holding a Weekend School the same weekend. More details will be on RSCDS website.

Poland

Dear Dancing Friend

I am Katalin Konya, the organiser of a SCD Weekend and tourist programme in Poland. I am organising this programme in cooperation with Jim Cook.

This time we would like to invite you to a SCD weekend course to be held 29 May - 1 June 2014 in Zakopane, Poland.

We will have Atsuko Clement and Graham Donald to teach and Keith Smith and David Cunningham to play for us during the course.

The dance course will be held in the four-star Hotel Belvedere in Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains. In addition to dancing there will be time for socialising, having fun, sightseeing and trying Polish highlander culinary specialities.

You are also welcome to join the optional tourist programme of 6 days (1 - 6 June

2014) following the weekend course. Through the tour we offer you lots of interesting programmes, including visiting UNESCO World Heritage sites in Krakow, Wieliczka where we will dance in one of the beautiful chambers of the famous salt mine and Auschwitz as an optional programme. Besides the above, there will be many more interesting activities.

For more information and application, please see the attached leaflet where you can find the details of the dance weekend and the tour.

We hope to see you in Poland next year.


Kind regards, Katalin Konya

Australia


Greetings from Canberra!

The Canberra and District Branch is hosting the 39th Australian Winter School from 28 September to 4 October 2014 and invites all RSCDS dancers to participate. We hope you will be able to draw the school to the attention of dancers in your club.

Further information concerning the school and a downloadable registration form are available on the Canberra Branch website at www.rscds-canberra.org



NEW ZEALAND BRANCH SUMMER SCHOOL 2014-15



the thistle and the fern


Knox College, Dunedin, where the first nationally-organised summer school was held in 1957-8, will be the headquarters for the 58th school which will run from 28 December 2014 to 5 January 2015.

Dancers will be accommodated in single rooms at the recently-refurbished Knox College. There are also many motels nearby.

The usual range of classes, plus a musicians' class, will be held. Dance classes and evening functions will be held at Knox College and at school and church halls and gymnasia elsewhere in Dunedin. The musicians' class will be housed in the Logan Park High School music suite.

A visit to the Orokonui Wildlife Sanctuary is part of the Summer School programme, and Dunedin also has a variety of other attractions for you to enjoy. These include the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Olveston (stately home), Larnach Castle, Otago Museum, Otago Settlers Museum, the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame at the Dunedin Railway Station, the scenery and wildlife (penguins and seals) of the Otago Peninsula, the Taieri Gorge train, and many cafés and eateries.

Plan now to enjoy southern hospitality and the scenic and historic attractions of Dunedin and Otago.



Organiser: Janet Favel
P O Box 8163
Gardens
Dunedin 9041

Telephone: 64 3 473 8178
Fax: 64 3 477 9837
Email: janet.favel@dancescottish.org.nz

DATES, DATES, DATES

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

2014

Saturday 18th January

Social Dance 7.30pm
St Margaret's Church Hall,
Horsforth LS18 5LQ
Music: Phill Jones

Saturday 15th February Back to Basics Workshop 2.00pm

Adel Methodist Church Hall,
Leeds LS 16 7PQ
Teacher: Catherine Livsey

Social Dance 7.30pm
St Margaret's Church Hall,
Horsforth LS18 5LQ
Musician: Ian Slater

Friday 14th - Sunday 16th March

Scarborough Weekend
Esplanade Hotel
Teacher: Bill Zobel
Musician: George Meikle

Saturday 15th March

Children's Festival
The Grove Centre, Horsforth
LS18 4BH
Music: Neil Barron

Social Dance 7.30pm
St Margaret's Church Hall,
Horsforth LS18 5LQ
Music: Neil Barron

Saturday 26th April
Highland and Ladies Step Day School
St Giles Parish Church Hall, Church Hill,
off Leeds Road, Bramhope LS16 9BA
Teacher: Catherine Livsey

Saturday 17th May
Social Dance 7.30pm
St Margaret's Church Hall,
Horsforth LS18 5LQ
Music: Adam Brady

Saturday 21st June
Social Dance 7.30pm
St Chad's Parish Centre,
Leeds LS16 5JT
Music: Marian Anderson Duo

Saturday 12th July
White Rose Festival
Afternoon 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Evening 7.00pm - 10.30pm
Gateways School, Harewood,
Leeds LS17 9LE
Music: Luke Brady's 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, dance reminders and application forms.

Other Term Dates

Summer Term

week commencing 28 April to week commencing 7 July

The Branch Shop

We stock a wide ranging selection of items for Scottish
Country Dances including books, cds and shoes.

If you would like any thing else we don't stock we are happy
to try and get it for you.

See www.rscdsleeds.org.uk for full details.

Please support your Branch shop!

Classes

Spring Term 2014

WC 6th January 2014
to WC 7th April 2014

Fees: £4.00 per class
Single Class Ticket £45.00
Multi Class Ticket £85.00

Classes

Monday Afternoon

1-45 to 3-45pm General/Beginners
Adel Methodist Church, Gainsborough
Avenue, Adel, Leeds, LS16 7PQ
Teacher: Don Andrews

Monday Evening

7-45 to 9-45pm Experienced
Calverley Conservative Club,
Victoria Street, Calverley, LS28 5PT
Teacher: Catherine Livsey

Tuesday Evening

7-45 to 9-45pm General/Beginners
Adel Methodist Church, Gainsborough
Avenue, Adel, Leeds, LS16 7PQ
Teachers: Irene Dracup

Thursday Afternoon

2-00 to 4-00pm General/Beginners
(2-30 start on third Thursday
of each month)
St Margaret's Church Hall, Ilkley, LS29 9QL
Teacher: Don Andrews

Thursday Evening

7-30 to 10pm General/Beginners
Lidgett Park Methodist church,
Lidgett Place, LS8 1HG
Teachers: Brenda Burnell, Stella Summers
If the door is locked please ring:
07932 486340 to gain entry

Friday Evening (Children)

5-15 to 6-45pm
Hawthorn Wood Primary School,
Broadway, Leeds, LS5 3QE
Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Sunday Afternoon

January 12th, February 2nd,
March 2nd, April 6th, May 11th,
June 8th, July 6th 2014
For dancers with a good knowledge of
steps and figures and with ambition to
extend their repertoire.

All welcome.
Teacher: Catherine Livsey

For more information see
www.rscdsleeds.org.uk

