



rscds
Dance Scottish

Leeds Branch Dancers Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1072452

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Friday Class dancing at Darlington

Future Newsletters

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

Please send all copy for future newsletters to Irene Dracup
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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.

From the Chair...

Hello Everybody

Is there anyone out there? I'm not sure because I'm not receiving your views and articles. Most of the contributors to the Newsletter still have sore arms from the twisting up the back. Still, I'm used to being ignored. After all, I am a Scottish Country Dance Teacher! End of moan; but am I getting any sympathy?

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Christmas Dance enjoying the music of George Meikle and his Band and Alan Horsfall's programme. It was a great evening that set us all up for the Festive Season.

At the January Dance Phill Jones was on top form and Don Andrews

programme danced really well. We were very lucky with the weather; when others are suffering so much, I really do think we have to count our blessings.

Hot news from the Committee is that we have come to an agreement with Leeds Scottish Country Dance Club about holding a joint Christmas Dance in 2015. It's not possible to do it in 2014, as hall and band bookings have already been made, both by the Branch and the Club. I hope that members will support this move. After more than 50 years of co-existing I think that it is high time that the Club and the Branch do something together.

Also, I am pleased to report that we now have Gerry Yates as our

treasurer. His skills and experience will be very much welcomed by the Committee.

Snowdrops are appearing in parks and gardens as I write and I am starting to feel the energy rising for the coming spring. We have The Children's Festival and a Social Dance to look forward to on 15th March with Neil Barron playing for us. Then we have a Highland and Ladies Step Day School on 26th April. This is the one where we practise the Highland dances for the White Rose Festival. Why not give it a try? You might be better than you think! Then there is a Social dance on 17th May with Adam Brady playing for us. Do come and join us at these events.

Irene Dracup

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.

Sad News

Members old and new will be saddened by the deaths of three of our visiting teachers at the end of last year. Rene Fidler and Bill Hamilton both taught day and weekend schools for us in the early days of the Branch. Similarly but more recently Ann Dix has taught courses for us. They are all a great loss to Scottish dancing.

On a brighter note

We should offer our congratulations to Nora Dunn who was 100 in December. She came to examine our teacher certificate exams and is well known to the children for the dance A Jig for Mrs Dunn that has featured in the syllabus for the Medal Tests.

Help for Heroes

Elizabeth from Great Yarmouth sold quizzes at our September dance in aid of Help for Heroes. She has let us know that £584 was raised. Thank you to all who contributed.

More Sad News

Last Monday night Gordon Bennett was celebrating with his group at Wellington Hill. It was 60 years since he first stepped on to a dance floor. It was a good evening's dancing then at the end he collapsed and died. What a way to go but what a shock for his friends and family.

Gordon has been a life member of the RSDCS. Although he has not danced socially for a very long time because of his wife's ill health but he regularly attended our Teachers' Workshops. He kept a lively interest in Scottish dancing and usually included a note about this or that with his membership form. He started social dancing as did I at Fetter Lane in London but I had left the south before he started dancing. I shall miss his little notes and observations.

Our condolences go to his family and friends

West Park Centre is now being pulled down. It is definitely the end of an era. How lucky we were to be able to celebrate our Fiftieth Birthday in our 'home'.

I passed West Park this evening (Friday 7th). It is a pile of rubble now except for the long corridor down to the old dining room. It is very sad to see it in this state but we have many happy memories recorded in our scrapbooks

Brenda

Sat 15th March 2014 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

St Margaret's Church Hall,
Horsforth LS18 5LQ

Music: Neil Barron MC: Jean Dyson

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

Programme

Happy Meeting	8x32 J	Book 29
The Dancing Man	8x32 R	Goldring, 10 Social Dances
Argyll Strathspey	8x32 S	Book 35
Old Nick's Lumber Room	8x32 J	Book 26
General Stuart's Reel	8x32 R	Book 10
The Dundee Whaler	4x32 S	Clowes, Ormskirk SDs
It's Just For Fun	8x32 J	Book 33
Mairi's Wedding	8x32 R	Cosh 22 SCDs

INTERVAL

Pelorus Jack	8x32 J	Book 41
Ladies Of Dunse	8x40 R	Book 26
Monymusk	8x32 S	Book 11
The Rover's Rant	8x32 J	Goldring, 12 More Social Dance
Cumbræ Reel	8x32 J	Book 28
The Robertson Rant	1x80 S	Book 39
Muirland Willie	8x32 J	Book 21
Shifftin Bobbins	8x32 R	Clowes Ormskirk 6

Extras

Campbell's Frolic	8x32 J	Book 15
Highland Rambler	8x40 R	25th Silver Jubilee
Cherrybank Gardens	3x32 S	Drewry Bankhead

Sat 17th May 2014 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

St Margaret's Church Hall,
Horsforth LS18 5LQ

Music: Adam Brady MC: Avis Harrison

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

Programme

EH3 7AF	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 40
Tambourine	8x32 R	East Ivanhoe Book 1
Rougemont Castle	3x32 S	Exeter Branch 40
Vintage Simon	5x32 J	RSCDS Book 47
Scotland's Gardens	8x32 R	R Goldring
Peggy Spouse MBE	8x32 S	RSCDS Book 46
Spiffin	5x32 J	Chicago 25th Anniversary
The Kissing Bridge	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 47

INTERVAL

The Fruit Cake	8x32 J	Greenburn 3
Sueno's Stone	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 2008
Peter White	8x32 S	Alex May, 20 SCD Book 1
Torridon Lassies	8x40 J	Kangaroo Paw
Saltire Society Reel	8x32 R	RSCDS Leaflet, Goldring
Sugar Candie	8x32 S	RSCDS Book 26
Cumbræ Reel	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 28
Roaring Jelly	8x32 J	Foss

Extras

Irish Rover	8x32 R	Cosh
Hazel Tree	8x32 J	Drewry Brodie Book
Paisley Weavers	3x32 S	Carnforth 4

A Stranger at a Dance continued

These comments, from Pat Dewsbury, Secretary of the Brighthouse Scottish Country Dance Club, sharing her experience at Brighthouse, are in response to Nicola Waugh's article and my comments in our last Newsletter. I remarked that Leeds Branch members sit at one side of the room and visitors at the other. It is as if there is a County Boundary down the middle of the room. I understand that the same thing happens at Brighthouse.

Your Newsletter was very interesting. The article about dancing with a stranger is what we were most concerned about. It is absolutely impossible to dance with everybody with only 20 dances and I usually spend at least 2 of those in the kitchen; and of course, I may get asked to dance by someone and it would be rude to refuse them in order to dance with someone else. Then there is the 'booking', which I think is wrong, but after walking across the room

you find that the person you are aiming for is booked and by then it is too late to get in a set. Oh well!

Also, while ever we continue to sit on 'our own' sides we will never mix. We have talked about this on and off for years. I don't know what the answer is, but am glad to know we are not the only club to have this problem.

Pat Dewsbury

Comment

The answer is blindingly obvious to me now. I am the worst person in the world for heading for the same chair. That way I can remember where I put my stuff. In future I shall become nomadic and sit in different places. I plead for sympathetic help at the end, when I am wandering around pathetically looking for shoes and coat.

Irene Dracup

The Friday class

Although the numbers remain low we have a very loyal few who support our annual visits to Darlington and Southport (now Ellesmere Port). The team danced well when we visited Darlington in late November and the adjudicator's comments were very good. Our younger girls have now grown and with the help of Rachel (at Teesside University) and Helen (at Newcastle University) our team looked like a team.

They danced **The Royal Yacht Britannia**

' Good covering - they were aware of their partners. Very natural dancing with nice smiles and the circles were good.'

And **The College Hornpipe**

' good circles and good footwork. The promenade was danced well and hello/goodbye was excellent. They were very relaxed dancers and a pleasure to watch. A lovely performance.'

The Floral Hall at Southport has now become too expensive so a new venue at Ellesmere Port was found. The Civic Centre there has a panelled hall of a good size. The floor was good until a hole appeared! As luck would have it a maintenance man was in the building and able to make emergency repairs. He was warmly applauded for his efforts and a red and white cone marked the spot for the rest of the afternoon. It was an interesting diversion when we sang one or two old-time songs!

The rest of the afternoon went smoothly and the journey home was snow free - just a lively wind to contend with and light rain.

Next Saturday most of our girls will be dancing at Gateshead with Terry's group, so I hope to be there to support them.

Brenda



Memories of December Branch Dance

It is early on Sunday December 22nd (at least it is not light yet!) and I just feel I should write about last night at the Branch dance. It was a magical evening for me and so good to have all the girls back together again. I still cannot believe how spoilt I felt but I can look at the flowers and know it was real.

Christmas seemed to come early for me as I read the adjudicator's glowing comments from our visit to the Darlington Children's Festival three weeks ago. What more could I ask for?

I had asked the girls to come to the December dance so a presentation could be made of their medals. The exams were in October. We have taken Cami as far as Grade 3 - sadly for us she will be returning to the USA next summer and will not be able to complete the last two grades. Now Carla and Hannah have passed their last two grades, all the girls that danced last night have a 'full set'.

What happened next was a complete surprise to me! During the week I wondered if I should ask the girls to dance one of the dances they did at Darlington but with so much going on at home, I did not take it any further. But they did dance - a dance they made up themselves of all the best bits they have enjoyed dancing over the years - and it was spectacular. It was a joy to see them

A Reel for Brenda

- 1-8 1C turn RH, cast 1 place, 2s move up on 3+4, turn LH to face Man's 1st corner (man in front)
- 9-24 Dolphin reels, finish facing 4th corner (partners 2nd corner)
- 25-48 Hello Goodbye setting for 4 bars (to face your 1st corner position), turn that corner into the middle, they dance Right shoulder round each other to the next person on (2nd corner position), do half a reel of 4 with them. Repeat with the couple in the middle (3rd lady and 2nd man). Ends with 3rd man and 2nd lady in the middle facing down
- 49-56 3rd man leading, chase round 3rd man position, between the men, across the set, out between the ladies and round the 1st lady position, ending 3rd man between 3rd couple position and 2nd lady between 1st couple position
- 57-64 Circle and pivot, ending in 2 lines facing down, 3rd couple on their own, with 1st and 2nd couple behind, (1st lady joins the line behind)
- 65-72 Down the middle and back, 3rd couple don't come back up. As the 1st two couples reach top the 1st couple curl in to face down, ending back to back with 2nd couple.
- 73-88 7 + 3's
- 89-96 1st and 2nd couple 'hop - step 7+ 3' into 'V' shape while 3s walk in with the flowers and make the point of the 'V'

dance so well with precious little practice. It culminated with a presentation of an amazing floral arrangement, choreographed into the dance finale. I understand that had to be re-arranged because I was at the wrong end of the hall!

It is these special moments that are my reward for working with the Friday class. Although the hall was cold for non dancers, I came home in a rosy glow of having enjoyed a magical evening - lovely music, great to see so many dancers dancing an interesting programme ably MCed by Alan and the best Christmas present I could have been given from the Friday girls. Well done everyone who kept it all a secret, it is a night I will treasure for ever.

An afterthought - I came home to watch "Strictly Come Dancing" but it was a bit of an anti-climax. I really felt I had had a better evening than the finalists and the winners!

Brenda

Medal Tests

At the Christmas dance a number of young ladies were presented with medals. Here is a little bit from Lucy to explain what the tests involve:

Every year, dancers from the Leeds Branch participate in Medal Test Assessments. The purpose is straight forward - to help the dancers improve and to reinforce their interest in the Scottish dancing culture. Students are required to learn three dances and perform these in front of an examiner. The dances are graded according to the following criteria: steps, rhythm, formation, deportment, hand movements and team work. They must also demonstrate a good knowledge of Jigs, Reels and Strathspeys. Results can range from a pass to a pass with distinction and there are five medals to collect in total.

Medal Tests Achievers

Carla Devine and Hannah Philpott passed their Grades 4 and 5

Cami Turner passed her Grades 2 and 3. She is returning to the States in summer where we hope she will find a class to continue dancing.

In previous years Rachel Norwood and Helen Wilson completed their 'set' followed by Lucy Hawkins and Eden Philpott.

After the presentation we were treated to the performance of a dance written as a tribute to their teacher Brenda Burnell. Helen has written the dance down for us and Brenda has written to say how thrilled she was.

Adel Christmas Tea Dance 2013

Oh what a lovely afternoon! The Adel Christmas dance seems to get better every year. This year we had dancers from Brighouse and some from Wakefield, who had joined us for the first time, along with a couple who had recently moved to Otley. We are always so delighted when dancers from other classes across Yorkshire come and join us.

The floor was full of eager dancers, which created a fantastic atmosphere, and a great spread was laid out for everyone to enjoy.

Our very own Don Andrews gave us a great programme and the icing on the cake had to be Ian Slater's music, which always makes one want to dance. As an added bonus, all of the dances were walked through, which is a real help for those of us who have senior moments!

What more can I say except I wish you all a very happy, and more importantly healthy New Year. Keeeeeep dancing!!

Christine Swayne

Ilkley Tea Dance 2013

The Ilkley afternoon was as enjoyable as the Adel afternoon but with more Ceilidh type dances and with inexperienced dancers joining in with us. Everyone enjoyed the treat of Ian Slater's music; some of us for the third time in a week; and for the second time in a week Don Andrews was leading us through the dances. Our novices did extremely well, better than some of us experienced dancers, at times. It all added up to lively and fun afternoon followed by the usual great spread. How Ian and I and one or two others managed three teas/suppers in a week I don't know. All in all, it was quite a week. Many thanks to Don and Ian for making the tea dances work so well.

Irene Dracup

The Glaramara Gathering 12th - 16th October 2014

Do you enjoy walking as well as Scottish Country dancing? Does the Lake District in autumn appeal to you? If your answer to either or both of these questions is "yes" perhaps you would like to join a group of like-minded people for a few days of walking and dancing at a stunning location in the heart of the Lake District.

For the last few years we have been staying at "Glaramara", a superb guest house situated in Borrowdale where the emphasis is on friendliness, comfort and excellent cuisine. The house has undergone extensive refurbishment recently and can offer 20 ensuite twin rooms and 21 single rooms with handbasin and ample shared shower and toilet facilities. All rooms have a hospitality tray with unlimited tea, coffee, etc. The cosy bar with open fire provides a quiet retreat either for tired dancers or maybe non-dancing partners who have been out on the hills all day.

Dancing each evening is organised by Gerry Yates and daily walks of varied levels are organised by Alan Fox. You may of course choose to do your own thing – Keswick, with its many shops, swimming pool and excellent theatre is a pleasant 20-minute bus ride away. You are also welcome to stay in the house and relax.

Cost per person: £229 for single room with shared facilities; £253 for ensuite twin room

This includes full board with packed lunch and afternoon tea.

Application forms will be available in March. If you are interested please send me an email or give me a ring: mhcraven@talktalk.net or 01943 461705.

Heather Craven



Does anyone know the year this photo was taken?

DATES, DATES, DATES

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

2014

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.

KILT FOR SALE

We have a kilt for sale, in good condition. The asking price is £55: Size.32" waist, 24" drop. Tartan: Dress Fraser. Enquiries to Don Andrews 0791 4892360

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

Summer Term 2014

WC 28 April 2014

to WC 19 May

WC 2 June 2014

to WC 7 July 2014

Fees: £4.00 per class

No Single or Multi term tickets

available as the terms are short

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

Teachers: Catherine Livsey,

Malcolm Brown

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

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.

For more information see

www.rscdsleeds.org.uk

