

# Leeds Branch Dancers Newsletter

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*Malhamdale Weekend Course - December 2014*

## 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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Email: [glyn.cup@virginmedia.com](mailto: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.

## From the Chair...

### Hello again

I hope that everyone has enjoyed Christmas as much as I have. It's been a very busy time with lots of dances and Christmas celebrations including our own Christmas Dance with George Meikle playing, and a fantastic supper provided by Brenda Burnell and her class. Thank you for that Brenda and team; it was quite a feast. We also had the Adel Tea Dance, and this year, though threatened by snow the day before, we also celebrated Burns Night at the Ilkley class. Ian Slater played for both events and they were well supported and very much enjoyed.

Despite some uncertain weather, lots of you travelled to our January dance. It was lovely to see you there and to welcome the young people, who joined us from the Youth workshop. They added some extra energy to the dancing, even after dancing all day. A full hall; so it would be the evening that the hot water boiler went wrong! We think that it was frozen. The important thing was that the atmosphere was warm and friendly and everyone got a cup of tea in the end. Don Andrews moved everything along smoothly

The March dance will be a 'walk through' dance, so do encourage anyone inexperienced or less

confident to come along. It's a good programme with something for everyone and there will be a warm welcome for all.

In April we are holding another Highland Course. Do come along and give it a try. It's a lot of fun.

For the May dance we have a change of musician, due to unforeseen circumstances. We now have David Oswald to play for us. We will look forward to hearing him.

The White Rose Festival is on 11 July. We will be asking for the names of participants shortly so please put the date in your diary.

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

# Leeds and York Joint Ball

The Leeds and York Joint Ball was held at the Riley Smith Hall, Tadcaster on Saturday 15th of November. Brighthouse SCD club was well represented by 15 of our members.

As usual there was an interesting programme, and all dances were recapped once, and two dances, Broadford Bay and Branches Together were walked. One set, made up of 3 Brighthouse couples and 1 Leeds couple danced Broadford Bay perfectly. At the end of the dance, one of the Leeds ladies said she had never danced that dance before when no mistake had been made. She was told 'that's because you are dancing in the Brighthouse set.' (So there's modesty for you!).

There was an excellent supper, and at the end of the dance people were given doggy bags or boxes to take away any of the left over food, 'because it would only be thrown away'.

The band, the Craigellachie Band from Pinner, were excellent. They really made the dance come alive.

## Leeds Branch on the internet

The Leeds Branch provides several resources on the internet.

The main web site is at <http://www.rscdsleeds.org.uk/>, everything is accessible from here. It has details of upcoming events and links to cribs, the new shop, the White Rose Festival and the Facebook page.

The shop now has its own website at <http://rscdsleeds.uk>. It now provides online ordering and payments.

The Facebook page is updated with news and reminders about upcoming events, links to cribs are included. By liking the Facebook page these details will appear in your Facebook newsfeed. Search for Rscds Leeds Branch in Facebook and like the page.

On the main web site are details on upcoming events and links to cribs.

If you quickly want a printable crib for a Dance then the "Crib with Diagrams" is best.

The "Programme" link takes you to the Strathspey site. The Strathspey site allows you to customise a printable crib as well watching demonstration videos for each dance.

The White Rose Festival has links to application forms, details on the event and cribs for both the afternoon and the evening programme. The cribs are on the Strathspey site so they also offer diagrams and videos.

If you require any help accessing the above information speak to Adrian Dickin or email [adrian.dickin@gmail.com](mailto:adrian.dickin@gmail.com)

## Wanted

A struggling young student is looking for a sporan, belt and socks at a student friendly price. Please contact Irene Dracup, if you can help.

Much can be said about the floor! It is a sprung floor, (and in Pat's opinion gives the unpleasant effect of dancing on a trampoline) and most people enjoy the sensation, it is supposed to be good for the joints. However, the floor was also very slippery, so dancers had to be careful how they put their feet down. No Slip Stop could be used! what a difference it makes.

Pat Dewsbury

## Note by Irene

Before slip stop was invented we used soap flakes. Wetting the underside of the shoes helps but damages the leather if it's done too much. A drop or two of baby or vegetable oil rubbed into the soles gives longer lasting help but it needs to be done in advance and allowed to soak in overnight. Does anyone else have tips on this subject?

**Saturday 21st March 2014, 7.30pm**

## A walk through SOCIAL DANCE St Margaret's Church Hall, Horsforth, LS18 5LQ

Music: Neil Barron MC: Gerry Yates

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

### Programme

Maxwell's Rant	8x32 R	Book 18
The Machine Without Horses	8x32 J	Book 12
Scarborough Castle	8x32 S	Leeds Golden Collection
The Nurseryman	8x32 J	Book 37
Sueno's Stone	8x32 R	RSCDS 4 Dances 2008
Rougemont Castle	3x32 S	Book 48
Society Piper	8x32 R	R Goldring 10 Social Dances
The Hazel Tree	8x32 J	J Drewry Brodie Book

### INTERVAL

Miss Hadden's Reel	8x32 J	Book 23
The Summer Assembly	88x1 R	Book 35
Barbara's Strathspey	8x32 S	Book 46
Glastonbury Tor	8x32 R	Book 47
Campbell's Frolic	8x32 J	Book 15
Anna Holden's Strathspey	6x32 S	Book 42
The Royal Deeside Railway	8x32 R	Book 40
The Deil Amang the Tailors	8x32 R	Book 14

### Extras

Scott Meikle	4x32 R	Book 46
Welcome to Ayr	8x32 J	Book 47
The Minister on the Loch	3x32 S	Magazine Dances RSCDS

**All dances will be walked through**

# Adel Christmas Tea Dance 2014

One seasonal event not to be missed is the Adel Christmas Tea Dance, which this year took place on the 15th December. It consisted of a walk - through dance to live music, followed by tea and was a very sociable occasion with everyone getting in the Christmas spirit.

The MC was Don, who presided with his usual good humour and accurate recaps. It was a very good and interesting programme, including old favourites such as 'Cadgers', dances from recent books like 'City of Belfast', and of historical interest, 'Scottish Reform'. Don's duties also involved him nipping up and down a stepladder from the stage when he was needed to make up sets!

Ian Slater is the regular musician for our tea dances, and his playing has always lifted the room and made for a great atmosphere. The dance was well attended, with four sets of dancers. These included several visitors from other clubs, and we were also delighted to have Alan and Susan Carr dancing with us again.

The afternoon was rounded off with a faith tea, where we enjoyed an excellent spread and a chat round the table with fellow dancers. Many thanks to the Monday afternoon class, especially Jean, for organising this event and to Don for all his hard work.

Janet Brayson



Don Andrews in his finery

# Burns' celebration

Members of Don Andrews' Ilkley class were pleased to welcome a large number of guests to the Burns' Celebration held on Thursday 22nd of January at St. Margaret's Church Hall Ilkley.

Don had devised a programme of dances dating from the period when Burns was collecting music and folk songs during his travels around Scotland. The songs not only influenced his work but on occasions were incorporated into his poems. One such was The Lea Rig, a song, a poem and, a strathspey. It is very satisfying to observe that dances such as Hooper's Jig (1756) and The Machine without Horses (1772) have survived and continue to be enjoyed, today, over two hundred years later.

Our enjoyment was enhanced, as always, by the music provided by Ian Slater. Live music helps to provide any occasion with atmosphere and the dancers with enthusiasm.

Many thanks to Nadine who organised the afternoon and to all the participants who brought cake and sandwiches to the faith tea.

A thoroughly enjoyable celebration, hopefully the first of many.

Elisabeth Pugh

## Saturday 16th May 2015 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

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

Music: David Oswald Duo MC: Claire Johnson

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

### Programme

The Highland Rambler	8x40	R	Leeds Silver Jubilee
Quarries' Jig	8x32	J	Book 36
City of Belfast	3x32	S	Book 48
Never at Sea*	6x48	R	J Haddow
Napier's Index	8x40	J	Book 45
The Swan and The Tay*	3x32	S	Perth 800
Scott Meikle	4x32	R	Book 46
Red Rum*	8x32	J	Ribble Valley Book

### INTERVAL

The Montgomeries' Rant	8x32	R	Book 10
The Valentine	8x32	S	Magazine Dances RSCDS
Polharrow Burn	5x32	R	3 Dances by Hugh Foss
Tribute to the Borders	8x32	J	RSCDS Leaflet
Peggy's Strathspey	8x32	S	Book 41
The Meeting of the Waters	8x48	R	Strathtay Album
Macleod's Fancy	4x32	J	Book 33
The Irish Rover	8x32	R	22 SCD

### Extras

Royal Deeside Railway	8x32	R	Book 40
Flight of the Falcon	8x32	J	Priddey Anniversary Tensome
Cherrybank Gardens	3x32	S	Bankhead Book 1

All dances will be recapped

\*These dances will be walked through



# RSCDS Youth Workshop

On Saturday 17th January a group of young dancers assembled at Leeds University Union ready for a day of dance workshops. For myself it was my first time attending an RSCDS youth workshop, I was very much full of anticipation for what the day ahead held.



The day started by the group splitting into an intermediate and advanced class. Alastair Brown with Christina Hood playing violin taught the intermediate morning class. We started with a nice warm up focusing on footwork; thinking about pointing toes down not up and looking forward which in turn led to an upright dance posture instead of impersonating the hunchback of Notre Dame.

Our first dance of the day was The Laird of Milton's Daughter, a jig, with corners and turning to consider. Alastair led us beautifully on a step by step guide on how to do the perfect turn; eye contact, eye contact, eye contact, oh and smile, if you smile how can your partner do anything else but smile back! And the corner chain figured was ticked off.

Next was Neidpath Castle, a strathspey. This posed my biggest challenge, the Diamond Poussette, a phrase which led a to group groan. Yet, after walking it a few times we soon wondered why so many of us feared it; broken down

into easy chunks, we were all suddenly in sync and and we patted ourselves on the back ready for our final dance of the morning, The Music Makars, a reel. This combined everything we had learnt throughout the session rounding off a great back to basics workshop led with ease and patience by Alastair and Christina's beautiful playing.

After an excellent lunch, it was back to dancing, with Craig Houston teaching and Adam Brady playing accordion. In this session we danced The Vancouver Island Reel, a little known dance I was told, but I very much hope to see it on a dance programme soon, and Welcome to Ayr. I enjoyed the afternoon session thoroughly, Craig led the session with such enthusiasm and laughter, and his metaphor of each dance being like reading a book was delightful. It was also a pleasure dancing to such wonderfully played music by Adam.

We rounded off the afternoon with the choice of a highland or ceilidh workshop, I opted for the latter sticking with Craig as the teacher. We danced many ceilidh classics; Gay Gordons, Britannia Two Step, Military Two Step, Swedish Masquerade, Virginia Reel, St. Bernard's Waltz and Duke of Perth. Letting go of everything we had learnt in the Scottish dance sessions, we had pure fun, nothing better on a cold January afternoon. I really cannot recommend highly enough going to a Scottish dance workshop; it's a great chance to meet new people and develop as a dancer. I learnt so much from the day, and as a newbie felt very welcomed by the RSCDS crowd!

**Sarah Edwards**

A huge thanks Leeds Branch for a brilliant evening dance, to Lindsey Ibbotson for organising the day and also to Irene Dracup who provided a superb lunch spread. Very much looking forward to the next one!

# Malhamdale

December 6th 2014 was a beautiful day but very cold. I set out in bright sunlight for the Malhamdale weekend and arrived to see Newfield Hall illuminated by the light of a full moon. It was an attractive and atmospheric beginning to my first Malhamdale weekend. There was someone to welcome me and show me where to find my room allocation and my room! In fact there was always someone to help throughout the weekend.



*Graham Donald and Phill Jones*

Friday night was all entertainment with pre-dinner drinks and a good meal followed by dancing. This began with the appropriately named Happy Meeting. Derek gave clear

recaps at the start of each dance and, when asked, provided a walkthrough. The evening passed very quickly and was great fun. One of the dances presented a few difficulties but we all managed ok in the end.

Saturday brought the first workshop and after breakfast Graham put us through our paces in a subtle and humorous way. We started with easy dances to warm up but by the end of the morning my legs knew we had been working hard. A walk in the afternoon certainly prepared me for the evening meal if not the dance which started a little later than planned. Most dances were walked through with Graham talking us through the dances we had learned earlier.

On Sunday I was looking forward to a gentle class after a more than usually active Saturday. It was maybe not so gentle but it could have been sub-titled "The Tournee Made Easy". Over the course of the weekend we had learned several new dances including Charles Ogden's Jig, The Falkirk Lass, Haggarty's Brig, The Pawling Porch and Mr Gallamore's Strathspey; a good cross section of interesting dances.

Alan's after lunch speech sent us off on our way with a smile on our faces and December 8th was another cold sunny day, perfect for the drive home.

**Ann Hodges**

# Friday class

Defying the bad weather the Friday class have had a busy start to 2015.

In January four of our dancers attended the Youth Workshop in Leeds organised by the RSCDS and thoroughly enjoyed it and still had energy to dance again in the evening at the Branch dance.

## Here are their accounts of the day:

The dance workshop held on Saturday 17th January at Leeds University was a very good day. As well as being great fun I also feel I've learned some helpful things which will improve my dancing. In the first class we learned a lot about how to improve our footwork. When we put it into practice in a dance, I felt as though I was dancing better. In the second class we learned about phrasing and again put it to practice in a dance. I think the phrasing class has helped me a lot in preparation for Ellesmere Port. After a lovely buffet lunch that was kindly provided for us we went on to do the Highland class. I would love to say that this went well for me but I was hopeless! However, I will keep trying and maybe I'll eventually get it right. The day ended with an evening dance which was a lot of fun and had some good dances on the programme. Overall it was a really good day. While we had a lot of fun it also taught me a lot and has helped me to improve my dancing. I would definitely do it again.

### Carla

The workshop was great. I went in loving Scottish Country Dancing but not being 100% sure on every step. Over the course of the day little things that confused me whilst dancing were cleared up and my technique was improved a lot. I was taught exactly where to place my feet and now I feel more confident with my footwork. We also learnt two dances which would have frightened me before but I was talked through them slowly. I learnt how to phrase

dances and even learnt entirely new moves. I also attended a highland class which was extremely hard but thoroughly enjoyable. The day was a lot of fun and helped my dancing improve.

### Hannah

## And so into February!

Having practised hard our group (now depleted by Rachel and Matthew both getting jobs) we set out to cross the Pennines for the Young Persons' Festival. This used to be held in the Floral Hall in Southport. It was always a good experience for the children to dance in such elegant and grand surroundings on a wonderfully sprung floor.

Times moves on and things change. The Floral Hall has become part of a conference centre and the price was unrealistic for the falling number of children dancing. Last year we moved to Ellesmere Port and danced in their Civic Hall on a rather unreliable floor. It had 'give' in it so much so we ended dancing round a hole that appeared! With a further drop in numbers we went to a new venue, the Memorial Hall in Samlesbury. It was a pleasant hall and just big enough for the numbers this year.

The organisers had even organised good weather and it was a pleasant journey on the A59. There was usual buzz before the dancing began but once it did everyone, dancers and spectators, enjoyed a really good afternoon. The children danced really well and our solo - The Earl of Erroll's Reel - was very good. Losing two of our more experienced dancers, we had one of our new dancers and her Mum to complete our three couple set and they did not let us down.

The journey home was quiet and very quick for us. Where we will be next year is anyone's guess. It is sad to see the numbers gradually dropping but I would be very happy to go back to Samlesbury.

Now we have a few weeks to prepare for our own Children's Festival on March 21st.

### Brenda Burnell



# DATES, DATES, DATES

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

## 2015

### **Saturday 21 March Children's Festival**

The Grove Centre, Horsforth LS18 4BH  
Music: Neil Barron

### **Saturday 21 March Social Dance 7.30pm**

St Margaret's Church Hall, Horsforth  
LS18 5LQ  
Music: Neil Barron

### **27-29 March 2015 Scarborough Weekend**

Esplanade Hotel  
Teacher: Pat Houghton  
Music: George Meikle

### **Saturday 18 April Highland & Scottish National Day School**

St Giles Church Hall,  
Bramhope, LS16 9BA.  
Teacher: Catherine Livsey

### **Saturday 16 May Social Dance 7.30pm**

St Margaret's Church Hall, Horsforth  
LS18 5LQ  
Music: David Oswald Duo

### **Saturday 20 June Social Dance 7.30pm**

St Margaret's Church Hall, Horsforth  
LS18 5LQ  
Music: Ian Thomson Trio

### **Saturday 11th July White Rose Festival Afternoon 2.00pm - 5.00pm Evening 7.00pm - 10.30pm**

Gateways School, Harewood,  
Leeds LS17 9LE  
Music: Neil Barron and his 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.

## Back to Basics Moving On

**The dates for this term are Saturdays**

14th Feb, 28th Feb, 14th Mar, 25th Apr 2015.

Adel Methodist Church Hall, Gainborough Avenue, Adel, Leeds LS16 7PQ,  
2.30 till 4.45.

Teacher: Catherine Livsey

During the four classes it is intended to cover steps, transitions between steps and changes of feet, use of arms, progression in various set forms, phrasing, basic formations and more advance formations if time allows.

## Day School

### **Advance Notice:**

Our annual Day School will be held on Saturday 19th September. The teacher will be Di Rooney with music by Ian Slater.

Application forms will be available shortly.

## 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.uk](http://www.rscdsleeds.uk). for full details. or email: [sales@rscdsleeds.org.uk](mailto:sales@rscdsleeds.org.uk)

Please support your Branch shop!

## Classes

### **Summer Term 2015**

W/C 13th April to W/C 18th May

W/C 1st June to W/C 6th July  
(except Thursday afternoon class  
which finishes at half term)

**Fees:** £4.00 per class

Multi Class term ticket £86

for full 12 week term

(1/2 price for dancers in full time education)

### **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  
Teacher: 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**

1 March, 12 April, 10 May,  
7 June & 5 July 2015  
Teacher: Catherine Livsey

For dancers with a good knowledge of  
steps and figures and with ambition to  
extend their repertoire. All welcome.  
Teacher: Catherine Livsey

### **Further Information**

Contact Betty Hagart - Branch Secretary,  
10 Dorset Crescent, Harrogate, HG1 2LU Tel  
01423 521241 Email [e.hagart@talktalk.net](mailto:e.hagart@talktalk.net)

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

For further information and details, application  
forms, dance cribs and the Branch shop etc.

### **You can now follow the branch On twitter and facebook**

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Facebook Rscds Leeds Branch