

Leeds Branch, Dancers' Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1072452

ISSUE 89 MAY 2018

PLEASE NOTE

New membership forms for 2018-19

The Regulations around Data Protection in the EU will become legally stricter on May 25th this year (2018). All organisations whether statutory, voluntary or business must now comply fully or face penalties. RSCDS, with Branches worldwide, has a rather unusual structure whereby the Branches are independent, but linked to HQ in Edinburgh. For this reason we have to have a reciprocal arrangement with HQ to share your membership data with them. We, as a Branch, store your data in a variety of ways, on paper and on electronic databases, in order to administer classes, social dances and other Branch events, but we do not share these with any other party or for any other purpose.

PLEASE READ AND COMPLETE THE NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM CAREFULLY.

- Remember to tick the first **"Please tick to confirm"** box about sharing your details with HQ.
- Every adult Member should fill in a separate form. This includes Life Members. If there are two at the same address, please staple them together.
- An adult parent or guardian should sign the form of a Youth Member (17 or under).

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.

Interim Chair's Remarks

Hello all,

I'm just back from Spring Fringe and was struck by the universal language that is dance; even with the variety of languages spoken by most of the dancers. We were slightly stumped when we met the Estonian dancers. However after a few false starts sign language won the day and we all enjoyed the evening dances.

We have so many fantastic events coming up in Leeds before the end of season with two Branch dances, two Club dances and a Spring Fling for Ilkley before the season finale of the

White Rose Festival so hopefully we will see you at some of the events.

Looking forward to next season - put the 15th September in your diaries for the Day School and the 17th November for the joint Ball - phew I'm exhausted just writing that list!

To more mundane, but essential matters now, many of you will have received communications from charities about keeping in touch with you, well we are no different. New legislation means we have to confirm with you how we can keep in touch and what data you are happy for us

to keep on file, so we will be in touch at some point to ask you all just so we keep legally compliant.

Speaking of legal compliance can I ask you to take a look at the small article inside on the Branch Constitution. Hopefully at the June Branch dance we need to hold a Special General Meeting to review and ratify the amended constitution, subject to the approval of the members. The article explains what is changing and why so take a look and come to the June Branch dance to have your say.

Happy Dancing

Claire Johnson

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?

My Friend Val



Val larking about at Shambelli House

It is with deep sadness that I tell you that my friend, Val Hall, passed away peacefully on 30th April this year after a very long and difficult illness. I had known Val for years before we found that we had a mutual interest in Scottish Country dancing and later, lots of other things besides. We joined the Leeds Branch at much the same time and before long Val was right in the middle of all sorts of things once she had become involved on the committee, on which she served for much longer than most. Well known for her service with the teapot and coffee jar, of which she brewed copious cups for Musicians Day Schools, Children's Festival days, Day Schools and Branch Dances, and anything else requiring refreshment, she was reliable and steadfast when jobs needed to be done, and gave the Branch an enormous amount of service. As a member of the Catering Crew, led by Brenda, she was invaluable when we were called upon to produce food for whatever function that came about. When decorating the Sports Halls for the White Rose Festival she was there up the steps every time. She had a super sense of humour, could find her way around dances far quicker than I, and was always good fun to be with. We journeyed thousands of miles together to dance (singing

as we went, all the Scottish songs we could find) and to visit Scotland at every opportunity - me usually getting lost and her navigating my way out of it. She had guts and determination as I know she had a lot of pain with her feet, and I never knew how she managed to dance, but dance she did and loved it. She would have been delighted to know that her favourite reel "The Blooms of Bon Accord" had been chosen, even as an extra, for the evening dance at the White Rose Festival this year.

Our thoughts go out to her husband, Nigel, and their family and I know she will be much missed by all.

Kathie Dosell

Diana Ashworth

The RSCDS Leeds Branch notes the death of Diana Ashworth. An obituary recognizing Diane's contribution to Scottish Country Dancing will appear in the August issue of the Branch newsletter.

Saturday 16 June 2018, 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

Corpus Christi Catholic College,
Neville Road, Leeds, LS9 0TT

Music: Robert Whitehead MC: Claire Johnson
Admission: £9, Non-members £11, Full time Education £3

Programme

Currie Mountain	8x32 R	New Brunswick Collection
Fair Enough	4x32 J	RSCDS Book 51
Cherrybank Gardens	3x32 S	Bankhead Book 1
Blooms of Bon Accord	4x32 R	Deeside Book 2
Kelloholm Jig	8x32 J	RSCDS Leaflet Dances 12
The Silver Strathspey	8x32 S	RSCDS Book 44
The Montgomeries' Rant	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 10
Tribute to the Borders	8x32 J	RSCDS Leaflet Dances 31

INTERVAL

Staircase in Styria	5x40 R	Margaret Gray
Chasing the Eclipse	3x32 S	Highland Road Collection
Broadford Bay	8x32 R	RSCDS Leaflet Dances 32
Neil M Grant	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 49
The Robertson Rant	1x80 S	RSCDS Book 39
Napier's Index	8x40 J	RSCDS Book 45
Barbara's Strathspey	3x32 S	RSCDS Book 46
The Irish Rover	8x32 R	22 SCDs

Extras

The Raven's Dance	8x32 J	Carnforth Collection 5
Scott Meikle	4x32 R	Book 46
Minister on the Loch	3x32 S	24 Graded & Social Dances

All dances will be recapped

Scarborough Weekend Course

This was the first time we attended the Scarborough weekend and what a cracking time we had with the added bonus of good weather. We were given a really warm welcome and the friendliness of the regulars made it a great weekend.

George Meikle's music as always got dancers up on the floor including those with weary feet. We are, however, biased as we are very lucky to have George play at our Dumfries Branch classes on a regular basis. Our teacher John Wilkinson was a previous RSCDS chairman who has taught classes all over the place and during the weekend he certainly put us through our paces. John's clear light-hearted instruction on an unfamiliar formation or footwork within a varied choice of dances (including a quadrille) kept our minds focussed throughout both mornings. After a light lunch on Saturday, we took ourselves off for a wander along the 'front' as we still had some energy to burn. A super programme of dances on both Friday and Saturday night kept us on our feet throughout. We will add that if your bed does not call you, there are usually some folks to be found enjoying a well-earned rest with a sociable drink afterwards!

The Esplanade Hotel is beautifully situated with sea views. Meals were good, the staff helpful and the hotel was comfortable. We found it was a weekend of excellent classes, music, dancing and also socialising with like-minded people that made the trip down from 'Bonnie Scotland' worthwhile and all being well we will definitely be booking up for next year! My better half made only one minor comment which is... he would have preferred a few more dances on the Friday night programme! As we know weekends like these don't just happen as there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes, so once again thank you to Yvonne and her helpers for organising this annual dancing weekend.

Alan & Jacqui



Highland Day School April 2018

Once again aspiring highland dancers gathered at St Giles at Bramhope with one aim; to have a good time.

There was a little kaffuffle in the car park as the grass cutters had abandoned their cars in the middle, perhaps not expecting any other visitors. This was sorted out in due course.

In the morning Catherine taught us a small repertoire of steps which could be used in the Fling, the Foursome and Shepherd's Crook. We also learned the pattern of the Foursome half reel and Tulloch. By lunchtime our legs and arms had had a good workout and we were ready to sit down and enjoy our sandwiches and a natter.

After lunch we went quickly through Shepherd's Crook and then moved onto the ladies' step dance Blue Bonnets. There was dismay when Catherine announced steps five and six as we only do four for the Lilt. They were duly learnt and agreed not to be too taxing.

Eileen, our resident highland expert, was shown an alternative, more challenging step, so we all went home with something to practise so that we are White Rose Festival ready.

Our thanks to our teacher Catherine Livsey.

Irene Dracup

Day School



Saturday 15th September 2018

St. Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road, Leeds LS16 5JT

We are delighted to welcome Rachel Shankland as our teacher. She teaches the advanced class in Edinburgh and has taught internationally and at Summer School in St. Andrews, where she is Depute Director.

Teacher : Rachel Shankland

Musician : Ian Slater

**Book via Mairi Devlin
mairidevlin@btinternet.com**

Proposed Constitution Changes

As I mentioned in my letter at the front of this newsletter we are hoping that as many members as possible will be able to support a Special General Meeting during the tea break at the June dance. I want to take a little time to explain why we are looking to amend the constitution and what the changes mean.

Our eagle eyed Honorary Secretary spied that our current constitution (available on the website www.rscdsleeds.org.uk) referenced an out of date version of the Charities Act. The committee felt that as a minimum we should update this!

We are fortunate to have on the committee someone who is highly experienced in legal matters who volunteered to review the wording and to update it accordingly; so the proposed changes are as follows:

1. **Section 3 a** – was “RSCDS” changed to “Society” - note: earlier we say we will refer to the RSCDS as the Society, this change is just to be consistent with what we say we will do
2. **Section 6 ai)** – was – “The Chairman, Honorary Secretary, and Honorary Treasurer shall serve as Trustees in Terms of the Charities Act 1993” – changed to “The Chairman, Honorary Secretary, and Honorary Treasurer shall serve as Charity Trustees in accordance with law and Charities Commission guidance.” This is the change in respect to the out of date Charities Act, the new wording future proofs the constitution from any further changes to the Charities Act.
3. **Section 7 sub clause 4** (Honorary Treasurer) – was “cause accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act to be kept and to ensure that the annual accounts of the Local Association are properly examined or audited as required by law.” – changed to “cause accounts to be kept and to ensure that the annual accounts of the Local Association are properly examined or audited as required by law.” Again this is a future proofing change in the event that the Charities Act ceases to exist, there is no material change to the role of the Honorary Treasurer.
4. **Section 10** – section name changed from Disbandment to Dissolution.
5. **Section 10 sub clause 2** – Was “The Secretary shall call a meeting of all the members of the Local Association of which not less than 21 days’ notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting the Committee shall have the power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Local Association.” – changed to “The Secretary shall call a meeting of all the members of the Local Association of which not less than 21 days’ notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting the Committee shall have the power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Local Association.”

6. **Section 10 sub clause 3** – was “ The balance of funds, after all liabilities have been met, and all property belonging to the Local Association shall be transferred to such other charity having objects similar to those of the Local Association (excluding geographical limitations) as members in General Meeting, whom failing, the Committee, shall decide.” Changed to “The balance of funds, after all liabilities have been met, and all property belonging to the Local Association shall be transferred to such other charity, having objects substantially similar to those of the Local Association as the charity’s trustees, after consultation with the members, shall decide in accordance with law.” - Explanation: Currently section 268 Charities Act 2011 permits the trustees by 2/3 majority to resolve to transfer the assets to a charity provided the purposes of the transferee are substantially similar and it is expedient in the interests of the branch. So this is a change to comply with UK Law in that the Trustees are legally responsible for the Branch and have to make the final decision, however we recognise that we are a Branch made up of members who must be consulted.

I appreciate that this may seem like a lot of changes but we are just ensuring that we comply with UK Law and trying to future proof the constitution to ensure that we don’t have to change the constitution too frequently. Hopefully you will support us in this change.

Attention all Branch Members

To all Branch members: The Branch bank, where we operate our current account, The Royal Bank of Scotland, seem to be tightening up on details on presentation of our members’ cheques.

It will lessen my hassle if you would please ensure that the payee on all cheques to the Branch is completed as “**RSCDS LEEDS BRANCH**”.

They have recently returned our cheques where the payee was entered as: “ RSCDS LEEDS” or simply “RSCDS” or even “LEEDS BRANCH RSCDS”

As you would expect the majority of our members get it right every time and it would ease the Treasurer’s task if you were among them.

Remember: The name of our bank account is “**RSCDS LEEDS BRANCH**”.

Thank you all.

Gerry Yates
Hon Treasurer

Musicians' Day Course

Each alternate year we try something new and different for the Musicians' Day course. This year we invited a pianist, Jeremy Hill, to teach the course. It was a new venture for him as well as us. We were fortunate enough to be allowed to use the Steinway piano at Adel Methodist Church.

Jeremy is a dance teacher as well as a musician and the theme was how to play for dancing. A number of us were privileged to go along to dance in the afternoon. All the dancers found it fascinating and those musicians who also dance found it immensely useful. There were some, who play for fun and do not aspire to play for dancing, who seemed a bit puzzled.

It made us all appreciate how difficult playing for Scottish Dancing can be. Musicians have to know lots of tunes, be able to play at different speeds, play different numbers of bars and different numbers of repetitions of the bars, eight times through or ten or six etc. Of course there are skills needed to be able to make up the sets too. All in all I think I'll stick to dancing!

I think everyone got something useful from the course and enjoyed it.

Thanks are due to Jeremy for teaching and to Heather Foote and her team for the organisation.

Next year will be the year when the course will be about playing for the evening dance so we look forward to seeing and hearing all the musicians again then. In the meantime an enthusiastic group come to play for us at Adel on most of the Tuesdays immediately before our monthly dance. They play dances which are on the next programme. A good evening is had by all. Do come and join us. I'll ask for the dates to be put on the website in future.

Irene Dracup

Grimaldi 700

Recently, in our dance class, I was introduced to a dance that I had never heard of before: "Grimaldi 700" by Roy Goldring. This brought back memories of a dance weekend in Italy I attended about 20 years ago. During a tea break, I got talking to a young man about dances we particularly enjoyed. I said that some of my favourites were Roy Goldring dances and that we hoped to persuade him to write a dance to celebrate my in-laws diamond wedding anniversary. The man said that was a coincidence as he also hoped to get Roy to write a dance, but for the Grimaldis, the royal family of Monaco, as it was their 700th anniversary coming up. I blurted out "but they were pirates who seized the throne!" He replied, "yes, but I live in Monaco and I want them to do me a favour!" I think the favour he wanted was to do with buying land, but I felt rather out of my depth and changed the subject.

I had never heard any more about it, but it seems that we were both successful ; Roy wrote "Geordies' Diamond Reel" for my in-laws and, presumably wrote "Grimaldi 700" for the mysterious young man.

Vicki Brown

Keep On Dancing!

I enjoyed reading Evelyn Davidson's informative 'Learning Dances in Words and Pictures' (Issue 88, February 2018). There was much with which I could identify. The Editor wondered if I might like to write a short article for the newsletter. Oh, dear! I suggested ballet. Well, that would be different, came the reply!

I was born, bred and educated in Glasgow. Being more fairy elephant than Sugar Plum, ballet wasn't even a consideration. However, I did enjoy the Scottish country dancing lessons taught by my gymnastic teacher. I have fond memories of watching the beautiful dancing on the Scottish television show 'The White Heather Club'.

Fast forward to my early fifties and a need to re-evaluate my fitness regime. For me, unexpectedly, this led to ballet classes for adults which I found I enjoyed. Retirement provided a welcome opportunity to return to Scottish dancing - I had discovered English folk dancing on moving south of the border. So, I turned up at the Adel class one Monday afternoon five years ago. Fortunately I still remembered how to skip change of step!

I've been struck with some of the similarities between ballet and Scottish country dancing. Ballet shoes are worn for both forms of dance. I prefer split soles as it is much easier to point the toes. I wear black shoes for both classes but pink is a popular colour for ballet. Pointe shoes are banned in most adult ballet classes on Health and Safety grounds. Contrary to popular opinion, we do not wear tutus in ballet classes - they take up too much room! I usually say I look like Trixie (Call the Midwife) in her combinations. I'm more suitably attired for Scottish dancing !

Both forms of dance are challenging to learn, especially in the early stages, but rewarding when, finally, things start to make sense. Correct posture and positioning of the hands, as well as the feet, are important. Improvement comes with practice and making use of teaching aids including Youtube, animations and cribs. The music, especially when live, is wonderful. An ability to count the beats - four, or even eight - is very useful, if not essential, to keep in time. French names are used to describe basic steps in both forms of dance. In Scottish dancing this dates from the 'Auld Alliance' and in ballet to its formalisation at the court of King Louis XIV in France.

Dancing brings health benefits, both physical and mental. It is good exercise and very sociable. So, keep on dancing - what's not to like?

Leonie Shapiro

Leeds Branch Children's Class

The Branch is sorry that the Children's class is closing at the end of this term, after so many years, a fuller report will appear in the August Newsletter.

We would like to thank Brenda for all dedication and hard work, inspiring so many children.

DATES, DATES, DATES

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

2018

Saturday 16 June

Social Dance 7.30pm

Corpus Christi Catholic College,
Neville Road, Leeds, LS9 0TT
Music: Robert Whitehead

Saturday 14 July

White Rose Festival

Afternoon 1.30 - 5.00
Evening 7.00 - 10.30

Gateways School, Harewood,
Leeds, LS17 9LE

Music: Marian Anderson and her
Scottish dance Band

Saturday 15 September

Day School

Morning Session
10.30am to 12.45pm

Afternoon Session
2.00pm to 4.15pm

St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley
Road, Leeds, LS16 5JT

Teacher: Rachel Shankland
Music: Ian Slater

Social Dance 7.30pm

St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley
Road, Leeds, LS16 5JT
Music: Susan MacFadyen

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.

The Branch Shop

We now sell James Senior shoes, including colourful pumps and ghillies.

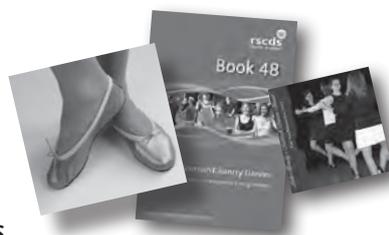
We stock the latest books and CDs from Head Office, Branches, clubs and individuals from around the world.

Why not take a look at our new range of ebooks for purchase, plus some free ones too to download.

Visit www.rscdsleeds.uk for full details of these and lots of other goodies or email: sales@rscdsleeds.uk

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

Please support your Branch shop!



Follow us on  @RSCDSLeeds

Classes

Summer Term 2018

W/C 9 April to W/C 21 May

W/C 4 June to W/C 9 July

Fees: £4.00 per class

or ten class ticket **£35** for *members only*
(all fees half price for those 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 9.30pm General/Beginners
Lidgett Park Methodist church,
Lidgett Place, LS8 1HG
Teacher: Brenda Burnell
If the door is locked please ring:
07932 486340 to gain entry

Friday Evening (Children)

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

Sunday Afternoon

1.45- 3.45pm
Askwith Village Hall, Askwith, LS21 2JB

3 June and 8 July 2018

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

Further Information

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

Twitter www.twitter.com/RSCDSLeeds

Facebook Rscds Leeds Branch