



The Leeds Branch Newsletter

Dear Dancers

Last season was a good one for Leeds Branch with many positive achievements to be proud of. Although most of the 75th Anniversary celebrations are now behind us, there are still many interesting events to look forward to. The 1998-99 Season will soon be upon us and I am looking forward to seeing you all at the many Branch functions planned for the coming year.

In the meantime, Happy Dancing. Alan Carr, Chairman

The Branch welcomes your news, views, questions etc..... please contact me, Catherine Livsey - Editor, 6 Woodlands Avenue, Lepton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD8 0HZ. Tel 01484 432270 day or 01484 306637 evenings.

If for some reason you don't receive any copy of the Branch newsletter please contact Alistair Mason on 01423 560684

A Right Royal Day Out ...

On 2 July, Brenda Burnell, Susan Carr and I representing the Examinations Committee, Teachers Association of Canada and Leeds Branch respectively, attended a Royal Reception at City Chambers, Edinburgh to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the RSCDS.



Julie Harrison, Brenda Burnell, Susan Carr, where did you get that hat!

Everyone was wearing their best bib and tucker and many of the ladies took the opportunity of wearing a hat. This became quite amusing when long lost friends were trying to embrace and their hats ended up at funny angles even though they hadn't started out that way.

Sat 19th September 1998 - 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre
Music - Robert Whitehead Band
MC - Gerry Yates

Programme

Tribute to the Borders	8 x 32J	RSCDS L/let
The Highland Rambler	8 x 40R	Leeds 25
The Gentleman	8 x 32S	Book 35
Maxwell's Rant	8 x 32R	Book 18
The Kelloholm Jig	8 x 32J	RSCDS L/let 32
Capetown Wedding	8 x 32S	Book 39
La Flora	8 x 32J	Book 27
Clutha	4 x 48R	Book 31
Happy Meeting	8 x 32J	Book 29
The White Cockade	8 x 32R	Book 5
Braes of Tulliemet	8 x 32S	Book 7
The Earl of Mansfield	4 x 48R	RSCDS L/let
C'est L'Amour	8 x 32J	Book 34
The Minister on the Loch	3 x 32S	Leeds Graded
Portnacraig	8 x 32R	Book 36
Shiftin' Bobbins	8 x 32R	Ormskirk Book 6

Extras

2 dances chosen by Lesley Martin, our day school teacher, will be danced during the evening.

Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	4 x 32J	Book 31
Angus MacLeod	2 x 64R	RSCDS L/let
The Dundee Whaler	4 x 32S	Clowes/Ormskirk Bk 1
Diamond Jubilee	4 x 32J	Book 31

Duncan Brown was one of sixteen young dancers representing branches from all areas of the UK who were to perform for Her Majesty, and as 11.45am approached their nerves were raw. Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith accompanied these dancers as they gave a very natural flawless performance. After meeting the dancers and musicians Her Majesty then proceeded to meet each of the team teachers and their groups.

Bruce Fraser my team teacher introduced her to a gentleman from Gothenburg and a lady from Vancouver and she commented on the fact that the Danish Royal family are accomplished Scottish Country Dancers and how internationally acclaimed our favourite pastime has become.

By the time Her Majesty was taking her leave the Chambers were full of excited chatter, but instinctively as she moved towards the door a hush came over the room, she gave a broad sweeping smile and left to the sound of rapturous applause.

A number of invitations were received by Headquarters for members of the Society to attend the Garden Party in the grounds of Holyrood Place that afternoon. Names were drawn out of a hat and the chosen guests, Alan and Susan Carr among them, spent a magical afternoon in what they described as a different world.

For my self I still feel that I will wake up one morning and discover that it was all a dream. I feel very honoured to have been asked to represent the Branch on this occasion and it will be one of my treasured memories for years to come.

Julie Harrison

75th Celebration Richmond Castle Sunday 28th June 98

A festival of Scottish Dancing was held in the grounds of Richmond Castle, organised by Richmond Branch. The weather could not have been better, it was a glorious sunny afternoon. Many different branches were represented. Within the castle walls, a reel, jig or strathspey could be heard from afar, enticing spectators to join in. It really was a lovely afternoon enjoyed by all.



Sat 17th October 1998 - 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre

Music - The Tillside Trio MC - Nigel Campbell

Programme

Campbell's Frolic	8 x 32J	Book 15
Cumrae Reel	8 x 32R	Book 28
The Silver Tassie	8 x 32S	RSCDS L/let
Diamond Jubilee	4 x 32J	Book 31
Mrs MacLeod	8 x 32R	Book 6
The Flower of the Quern	4 x 32S	Drewry Canadian Bk
Scottish Reform	8 x 32J	Book 3
Summer Assembly	1 x 88R	Book 35
Follow Me Home	8 x 32J	Book 38
Black Mountain Reel	5 x 32R	Haynes Glendarroch
Balmoral Strathspey	4 x 32S	Book 22
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	4 x 32J	RSCDS 5/82
Cauld Kail	8 x 32M	Book 9
None so Pretty	8 x 40R	Book 19
Keppoch's Rant	8 x 32S	Book 17
Postie's Jig	4 x 32J	Clowes Orms'k Bk 5

Extras

Joie de Vivre	8 x 32J	Book 39
The Falls of Rogie	8 x 32R	Alexander Book 1
Wisp of Thistle	8 x 32S	Book 37
Muirland Willie	8 x 32J	Book 21

NORMAN FOSTER

I was saddened to hear of Norman's death quite recently and in speaking to his family have realised that his life story has strangely turned full circle.

Norman was born in Leeds and spent his early years here before the family moved to Helensburgh when he was nine. Aged eleven he returned to boarding school in Yorkshire at Ashville College, Harrogate. He remained there (going home to Scotland for holidays) until he was old enough to take up an apprenticeship in Manchester.

It was here he met Joan when she was only fifteen and later married just before a promotion for Norman took the young couple to Belfast during the war. It was in Northern Ireland that Peter and Stephen were born. It was here too that Norman and Joan became members of the Belfast Branch and their interest in Scottish Country dancing developed.

After 25 years a further work move brought the Foster family back to Yorkshire and naturally they contacted the Leeds Branch. Norman quickly was drawn into Branch activities and became a very active member of the Branch committee from 1967 until 1972. During that time he was branch chairman for three years. It was at this time of his life that we in Leeds got to know Norman and his family. He was always full of fun and as I said at the AGM great to have in a demonstration team as he could always raise a laugh and relax everyone.

A life-long interest of Norman's was building scale models of steam engines. He created every part himself and with such high quality workmanship the models were borrowed by the railway museum in York! His inventive mind created a full size linear loom in the late 1940s. Due to a disagreement about patenting it, it was dismantled and left for a Swiss inventor to build one some ten years later.

An interesting life has been unfolded to me and now to you. Members who knew Norman will I'm sure remember him as a cheerful dancer and fun to be around with.

Condolences were sent from the Branch to Joan and her family.

Brenda Burnell

St Andrews 1998

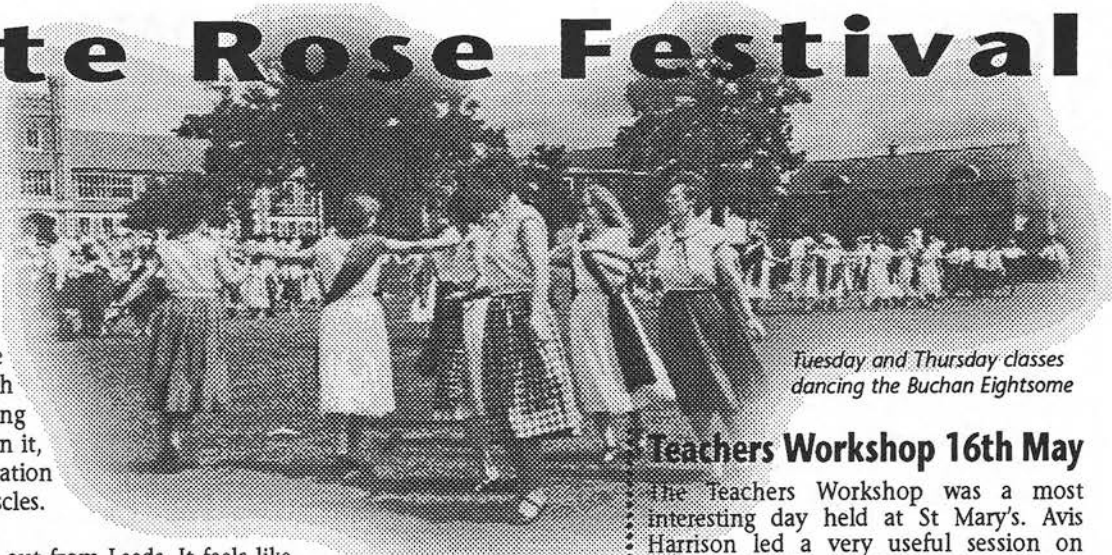
This year's summer school celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the RSCDS in style, with special celebratory dinners and garden parties, for those attending the second week as I did. I believe those who attended the first week were treated to a dance in Perth and were able to share a few drinks with friends at the Sherry reception in University Hall.

Festivities aside there was lots of dancing to be enjoyed, new dances to be learnt, and plenty of time to brush up and/or improve our dancing technique. Leeds branch was well represented over both weeks. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their time at St Andrews.

Jennifer Edmondson

White Rose Festival

Put the White Rose Festival for next year in your diaries. This year's was the second held at St Peter's School, York, and it was wonderful. It is a very pretty green field, with a view of the Minster. The watchers are up on a bank, so they see the dancing from above, which always looks well. Climbing that bank, or scurrying down it, are true tests of a demonstration dancer's dignity and leg muscles.



Tuesday and Thursday classes dancing the Buchan Eightsome

There was a very good turn-out from Leeds. It feels like home from home, with Gerry as the MC, and team after team from our various classes, and the Branch combined with the Club, and the Leeds Students, and various groups of Leeds old-timers. Remember what fun it was at Beckett Park, meeting all the old friends you had not seen for a year. It's just the same at York. The standard of dancing was not at all bad, considering how some of the teams I danced in met for the first time as an eight on the field. It was great fun being all mixed up, sometimes Club sometimes Branch. Next year, if you have any energy at all, put your name down, and we'll find you teams to dance in.



Above: The teenagers a la Scottish and American!!

There were solo demonstrations too. I am biased, but I thought that the Leeds RSCDS display was the best of them. For one thing, 16 dancers on a big field looks better than 8. We had a most ingenious medley devised by Catherine and Fiona. It began, unintentionally, with a much-admired 50 yard dash across the field by Jennifer. I was very proud of the teenage class, who, because this was the 4th of July, gave us a medley that began Scottish and turned into American Square and back again. We must see that again.

There was a team of Canadian girl highland dancers, not as good as our best soloists, but as a team very impressive. The children's teams as usual were a sheer delight - high spirits, unexpected variants, and the hope for the future. It was a sunny afternoon, rare this July, and everyone seemed happy. You must go next year.

Alistair Mason

Certificate Class ...

The Branch will be holding a certificate class throughout the new dancing season. The class will be taken by Brenda Burnell and the pianist will be Pat Clark. The classes will be held on the following Sundays in Askwith Village Hall from 10.00am until 4.00pm

October 18th	November 22nd	January 17th
February 7th	March 14th	May 9th

The exams will be held one weekend in June. That date will be decided when the group meets.

The fee for the course will be £50. Any dancer wishing to take their Preliminary Test or to complete their Teacher's Certificate should contact Alistair Mason for an application form and contact Yvonne Tredgett to acquire a Manual through our Branch shop (if they do not already have one!).

Brenda will be away on an examination tour until the September half day school should any likely candidates wish to talk to her (0113 2676655).

Teachers Workshop 16th May

The Teachers Workshop was a most interesting day held at St Mary's. Avis Harrison led a very useful session on Technique while in the afternoon Peter Clark and Brenda Burnell used a novel exercise to make us think about different teaching styles.

Just before lunch, Pat Clark led discussions on the use of music in class and the vital role it plays in keeping Scottish Country Dancing alive. The day finished with further discussions.

Many thanks to everyone who made the day possible.

STOP PRESS

Leeds Branch to "twin" with Los Angeles Branch

When the Society's Chairman was attending our Celebration Ball in Doncaster earlier this year, he was delighted to hear that Doncaster Branch had twinned with the New Zealand Branch. At a subsequent Executive meeting he said he thought this to be an excellent idea and would like to see more round the world links.

I made a formal proposal to Leeds Branch committee and they readily accepted the idea. I then approached Los Angeles and they too have agreed to my proposal. Initially we will exchange Newsletters and other news. Hopefully next year we shall be visited by two of their teachers and maybe others too. We will offer hospitality to any Los Angeles Branch members who find themselves in our area. Similarly any of our members who visit Southern California will be assured of a warm welcome there.

If any Branch members have other ideas about developing our twinning, I'm sure the Branch committee would be pleased to hear from them. I must add that this will not work like the Exchange Visits have done in the past but will maintain longer lasting links between our two Branches.

Brenda Burnell

Classes

Fees

Level 1 and 2 £1.50 per class, Level 3 class £2.00 (due to this class having live music).

Level 1 Beginners, Level 2 General, Level 3 Experienced Dancers.

Level 2

Tuesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Adel Methodist Church Hall, Adel, Leeds 16

Commencing 8th September 98

Teachers: Alan & Susan Carr

Level 3

Tuesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Mechanics Institute - Corner of Blackett St & Thornhill St, Calverley, Leeds.

On street parking.

Commencing 22nd September 98

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Note: If there isn't a Level 3 class, dancers are more than welcome to attend any other Branch Class eg Level 2 class at Adel.

Level 1

1st Three Wednesdays of month, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Knaresborough

Commencing 9th September 98

Teacher: Peter Clark

Level 1

Wednesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Mechanics Institute - Corner of Blackett St & Thornhill St, Calverley, Leeds.

On street parking.

Commencing 30th September 98

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Level 2

Thursdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Brackenwood Community Centre, New Building, Lidgett Lane, Leeds 8

On-going

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Children

Fridays 7.15 - 8.45pm

Hawthorn Wood Primary School, Broadway, Leeds 5

Commencing 4th September 98

Teachers: Brenda Burnell, Barbara Caldicott

TEACHERS CERTIFICATE CLASS

Full & Preliminary

Sundays, 10.00 - 4.00pm

Askwith Village Hall, Askwith

Dates:

18th Oct 98, 22nd Nov 98, 17th Jan 99, 7th Feb 99, 14th March 99, 9th May 99,

Teacher: Brenda Burnell,

Pianist: Pat Clark

DATES, DATES, DATES

Friday 4th September 1998

WALK-THROUGH SOCIAL DANCE

7.45 - 9.45pm

St Columba's UR Church Hall, Headingley.

Saturday 19th September 1998

RSCDS LEEDS BRANCH HALF DAY SCHOOL

For teachers, prospective teachers, advanced and intermediate dancers.

Numbers are strictly limited, early application is recommended.

At West Park Centre from 1pm

Teacher Lesley Martin, Music Jack Judson

Classes £7.50 or with High Tea £10.00

Forms from Yvonne Tredgett

01302 851174

Saturday 19th September 1998

SOCIAL DANCE

7.30pm West Park Centre

Music Robert Whitehead Band

Branch Social Dances Increased Prices

The committee feels it is necessary to increase the entrance fee to Branch dancers by 50p for members and non-members (other categories eg student will remain the same). This is to pay for a security person to patrol the car park at West Park. The increase will come into effect in September at the start of the new season.

At the Christmas dance the committee experimented with the decoration of the stage and the removal of the chairs at the end of the room. They feel this gives a focal point, emphasising the band, and have therefore decided to continue this practice as it enhances the venue.

Saturday 26th September 1998

BEGINNERS' CEILIDH

with refreshments

7.30 - 10.30pm

Mechanics' Institute

Corner of Blackett St & Thornhill St.

Calverley

Please spread the word!

Wednesdays starting

30th September 1998

NEW BEGINNERS' CLASS

Mechanics' Institute

Corner of Blackett St & Thornhill St.

Calverley

Teacher Brenda Burnell

Friday 2nd October 1998

WALK-THROUGH SOCIAL DANCE

7.45 - 9.45pm

St Columba's UR Church Hall,

Headingley.

NEW for Autumn

WALK-THROUGH SOCIAL

Come and try a very enjoyable evening of social dancing. Dances are selected from the next Branch Social Programme. Every dance is walked through, so you can just turn up and enjoy the evening without having to prepare. The 1st Walk-through Social is on Friday 4th September 1998. See you there!

BEGINNERS' CEILIDH AND NEW BEGINNERS' CLASS

The Branch, in its endeavours to recruit new members, is running a BEGINNERS' CEILIDH 7.30 - 10.30pm on Saturday 26th September with orange juice and biscuits as refreshment, at the Mechanics' Institute, corner of Blackett St & Thornhill St., Calverley. This is intended as a taster to feed people into the New Beginners' Class on Wednesdays at Mechanics' Institute, Calverley. The class will start on 30th September 1998, with Brenda Burnell as its teacher.

If you know anyone who would be interested, please spread the word! New dancers mean a future for Scottish Country Dancing.

Saturday 10th October 1998

HIGHLAND WORKSHOP

10am Registration & Coffee

10.30 - 12.20pm Beginners and those

wishing to improve on the basic movements/steps.

Complete Beginners very welcome so why not give Highland a try!

1.30 - 3.30pm Intermediate and Advanced

Teacher Catherine Livsey (MBATD

Highland & Scottish National). Classes £3

per session or both sessions £5 for the day.

Form included with this Newsletter or

from Yvonne Tredgett 01302 851174

Saturday 17th October 1998

SOCIAL DANCE

7.30pm West Park Centre

Music Tillside Trio Band

Friday 6th November 1998

WALK-THROUGH SOCIAL DANCE

7.45 - 9.45pm

St Columba's UR Church Hall,

Headingley.

Fri 26th to Sun 28th March 1999

WEEKEND SCHOOL

Clifton Hotel, Scarborough.

Teacher Bill Zobel, Music George Meikle

Costs £90 for the weekend. £20 deposit

Forms and deposits Yvonne Tredgett 17

Aviemore Road, Warmsworth, Doncaster

DN4 9ND Tel 01302 851174

Please note: Deposits are required by 20th September 1998.