



The Leeds Branch Newsletter

Leeds - LA Link

Just one of the many delights of the TAC Summer School was the chance to meet some of our new "twins", from Los Angeles Branch.

The venue was the campus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, where four Leeds members, plus two Brits not unknown to us here, shared a "pod", in a student residence. The beautiful view of sea and mountains beyond made up for the lack of equipment (nothing to make a cup of tea in/with when we arrived - but we soon had that sorted out!).



The Branch welcomes your news, stories, 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

Teachers and musicians from Canada, the US and the UK, circulated round the classes, taking one or two sessions with each, so we had a chance to experience many styles.

Evening dances included a Twenties Night, with many stunning costumes in evidence (unfortunately our Chairman's moustache glue melted after a couple of

dances, but he looked the part even without it). For the final night banquet and ball the numbers swelled to 400 and we danced to the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra till 1.00 am.

It was a super week, and only two things were hard - the floors, and keeping up with the partying.

Chris McDonald

Five Years at Brackenwood

On Thursday September 23rd 1993 Leeds Branch started a new class in the Brackenwood Community Centre. For three weeks we had only three dancers and it was very hard work doing all two couple dances and especially in quick time! We evolved a way of coping by dancing a dance twice through, standing for 32 bars and then repeating the sequence and that just left two

32 bars to dance and we finished with the chord. At our birthday party we did the very first dance we ever did in class - Just as I was in the Morning - and then danced Highland Fair as we did in the early years! The Branch was just on the point of cancelling the class when more people came to join us and it just kept on increasing. After Christmas more people came to join us and we had a thriving class.

At the end of our second year we plucked up courage to enter a team for the Festival at Pudsey. We enlisted the help of our then chairman Walter Proven and had four men and eight ladies in our team. They were so proud of themselves at the end of the afternoon. The following year our numbers had increased so much that



Triumph at Brackenwood

we were able to enter two full teams. For the last two years, with more people joining the class, we have had three teams since the Festival moved to York.

celebrate Burn's Night in January and anyone's birthday (if we know about it!). All the dancers in the class are now Branch members and many of them come to our dances and other events.

For the past few years we have continued every Thursday right through the summer, taking only one Thursday off at Christmas. We traditionally

It was good to welcome old and new members to our fifth birthday party on September 24th 1998. *Brenda Burnell*



Margaret and George Read cutting cake at Brackeneood

A Southern Africa Tour

In late August I went on my first official examination tour for the RSCDS to Southern Africa. There was plenty of teaching and examining ahead of me and I was really looking forward to it. My co-examiner was George Lawson from Glasgow and we were to meet at Heathrow and travel to Cape Town together. This was not to be, however, as I missed the flight because the plane from Leeds/Bradford was delayed. The only way I could be there for the first exam was to fly the following day via Johannesburg. My main worry was that it would mean arriving midday, marking the

exam papers and going straight into the exam in the evening. Even though there is only an hour's time difference between England and South Africa, travelling overnight does not allow too much real sleep. However, I did arrive and coped with what had to be done and I slept really well that night despite my luggage still being at Heathrow.

The following day our hosts took us up Table Mountain but had to have us back for an interview with the local press before another exam in the evening. I

was beginning to feel less sleepy and was happier too, as half my luggage had arrived during the day. On the Thursday we were off to Cape Point, and on the way there passed through Fish Hoek where Mrs Stewart spent the last few years of her life. It was a pretty little town on False Bay, where the warm Indian Ocean laps the shore. We had to be back in time to take the class in Cape Town. George opted for the more advanced group (7 sets) and I had the beginners (3 sets). Friday was to be a more relaxing day, as all we had to do was to attend their Celebration Dance in the evening. We had a very scenic drive along the Atlantic coast of the peninsula and felt very relaxed for the evening. The Dance was held in a Country Club aptly named Kelvin Grove. A good crowd (dressed up in evening jackets for the men and mainly white dresses and sashes for the ladies), live music (the only band to play for Scottish dancing in South Africa), a lovely wooden floor, an excellent dinner and some popular dances (including the five for this special year) made it a most enjoyable event.

had a drive up into the mountains and down into fertile valleys where apples and grapes are grown but we had to be back to take part in a live radio show 'Invitation to the dance'. We were told that it came over well but we declined to listen to it.

The start of the second week saw us flying north to Johannesburg where we had more papers to mark for the exam there the following evening. Then it was off for a whirlwind tour of Pretoria before teaching their classes there, George again taking the more advanced and myself the beginners. The following day we went back to Johannesburg to fly to Durban. Again it was the same arrangement - papers to mark, an exam in the evening followed by a class. The dancers from Pietermaritzburg had travelled to join the Durban group and they had a very lively evening which George and I taught.

On the Friday we were off on our 'Trip to the Drakensberg' for the Johannesburg weekend school. It was held in a hotel nestling right in the Drakensberg Mountains.



The Cape Town Ball

Highland Day School 10th October 1998

This was definitely a must for anyone who wanted to have a go at Highland dancing. Catherine Livsey, our teacher, put us through our paces, showing us exactly how it should be done. It was great to see people of all ages there.

In the morning we had the beginners' class, starting with a very good warm up to get everyone going. People who had not done any highland dancing at all had the chance to learn a variety of steps from the Highland Fling, while for the more experienced of us, it was a very useful session for some of us to brush up on basics.

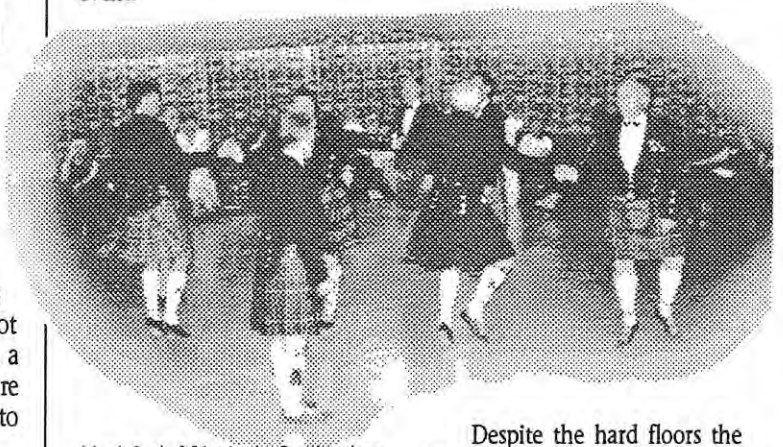
We were also shown the correct arm positions which was most interesting to learn. The morning finished with a foursome reel using steps that we had just been through.

Those of us who were staying for the more advanced session in the afternoon had the chance to relax for about an hour, with a packed lunch to keep our energies up.

In the afternoon session, Catherine taught us a highland step dance that so happened to be called Mairi's Wedding and a number of steps from the Sailors Hornpipe, which were great fun to have a go at.

Many thanks to Catherine for a superb day. If any one else would like to try their hand at Highland dancing there is another opportunity on Saturday 24th April 1999. See further newsletters for more details.

Jennifer Edmondson



Men's Reel of 51st in the Drakensberg

On Saturday it was back to work and we took a teachers' workshop. It was quite stimulating for us to see how their dancing responded to our teaching and I hope we passed on some useful teaching tips. The question that came back to us is the same the world over - how do we attract young people into dancing and keep them? We did our best to throw out a few ideas and everyone seemed very grateful for the time that we had spent with them. This was the last time we were with the dancers in the area. Sunday was a day of rest (well almost) and a chance to catch up on some paperwork for Headquarters. We

Despite the hard floors the dancers worked and danced hard all weekend. It was here that I met dancers from Haenertsburg where the present Duke of Atholl lives. It was good to hear that he is taking more interest now in Scottish things and has been back to Blair Castle several times. His son too is taking the title very seriously. Naturally I taught the group the Duke of Atholl's Reel and they were going back to show the Duke the dance!

The Duke and Duchess have very ordinary jobs and are on christian name terms with the dancers I met. He makes paper from elephant dung and she sells cabbages. I hope by now that they may have tempted the Duke to try his dance.

It was another long drive back to Johannesburg and a complete day of rest. George and I were staying with different hosts and so I was able to get the paperwork up to date and do some shopping. The following day we took the Branch classes in the evening. We shared the advanced class and then I was back with the beginners and George had the general class. And then it was back 'home' to sleep, as we had to be up very early to catch our flight to Harare.

We had had blue skies throughout our visit and this continued in Harare. It was warmer in Zimbabwe. I went into a school in the afternoon to teach three sets of children. They were just like ours but they dance



Children dancing (barefoot) in Harare

barefoot. We danced the usual dances that children enjoy and finished up with the Flying Scotsman. There was a difference there too. One of their teachers had made up a tape with genuine sound effects of steam trains! It was lovely to be with children again and I thoroughly enjoyed my hour and a half in their school.

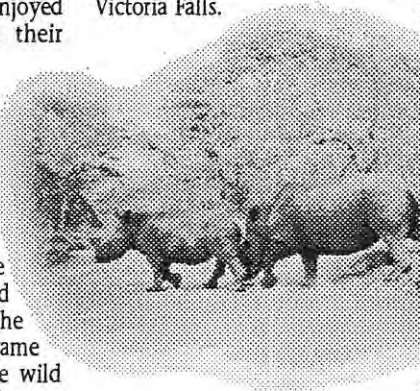
The following day there were exam papers to mark and more lessons to prepare. The exam (the final one!) was held in the evening. We had a rest day on the Friday because we had a very full weekend ahead of us. This gave us the chance to visit a small game park and see some of the wild animals. I shall not forget the two huge rhinos that crossed our path twice. Our hosts had never seen them so close before so we were very lucky.

The Saturday was warm as we went to the dance studios for the weekend school. The classes were divided up according to ability and we taught all levels over the weekend including one highland session - they wanted to be able to do the Foursome and Tulloch. There were two classes in the morning and two in the afternoon before everyone retired to refresh for dinner and Ceilidh in the evening. Our host had

rocked us in our shoes when he told us about the programme. 'They are all easy dances like the Earl of Mansfield' he said! They were fortunately all easier than that and shook down the very splendid meal. Two more classes on Sunday morning and more again in the afternoon before the dancers had to disperse to their various homes (a 6 hour drive to Bulawayo or 8 on the bus!). In the evening we had supper (their name for an evening meal) with the teachers in the area and I took a workshop with them.

There remained just one more class to teach in another school on the Monday afternoon before the end of a very satisfying and interesting tour with really

isolated groups in Southern Africa. They so look forward to visiting teachers who tour every four years. Once the paper work was completely finished and handed to George to take back to Scotland, I was up and away early to have a mini holiday at the Victoria Falls.



It seemed too good a chance not to see them when I was so close. Everyone said I would enjoy them but I was sceptical. I need not have been, they are huge, beautiful and truly awesome. They really took my breath away when I first caught sight of them! I was pleased that I took those extra two days and did the touristy things. My journey home was uneventful and I arrived back in time to leave the Day School catering in Alan's capable hands while I went to Edinburgh for an examinations meeting.

Brenda Burnell

Sat 21st November 1998 - 7.30pm

SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre

Music - John Browne

MC - Adrian & Chris MacDonald

Programme

Mrs Stewart's Jig	8 x 32J	Book 35
Cumbræ Reel	8 x 32R	Book 28
Braes of Tulliemet	8 x 32S	Book 7
The ABC Jig	8 x 32J	Leeds 35th
None so Pretty	8 x 40R	Book 19
Braes of Breadalbane	8 x 32S	Book 21
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	4 x 32J	RSCDS 5/82
Unicef Circle	1 x 88R	Leaflet
St Andrews Fair	8 x 32J	RSCDS 5/82
Blooms of Bon Accord	4 x 32R	Drewry Deeside Bk 2
Ladykirk Bridge	8 x 32S	Leeds 35th
Gothenburg's Welcome	8 x 32J	Book 37
The Highland Rambler	8 x 40R	Leeds 25th
The Gentleman	3 x 32S	Book 35
Old Nick's Lumber Room	8 x 32J	Book 26
Reel of the 51st Division	8 x 32R	Book 13

Extras

Neidpath Castle	3 x 32S	Book 22
Postie's Jig	8 x 32J	Clowes/Ormskirk Bk 5
Flowers of Edinburgh	8 x 32R	Book 1

Sat 19th December 1998 - 7.30pm

SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre

Music - The David Cunningham Band

MC - Alan & Julie Harrison

Programme

Machine Without Horses	8 x 32J	Book 12
Fraser's Favourite	8 x 32R	RSCDS L/let
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	8 x 32S	RSCDS L/let
The Rothesay Rant	4 x 32J	Birmingham '73
Flowers of Edinburgh	8 x 32R	Book 1
Minister on the Loch	3 x 32S	Goldring Graded
Follow Me Home	8 x 32J	Book 38
Anniversary Reel	4 x 32R	Book 36
The Duke & Duchess of Edinburgh	8 x 40R	Book 39
Tribute to the Borders	8 x 32J	RSCDS L/let
The Robertson Rant	1 x 88S	Book 39
Jean's Jig	8 x 32J	Leeds 35th
The Christmas Tree	4 x 48R	Another Newcastle Collection
Gang the Same Gate	8 x 32S	Book 36
St Andrews' Fair	8 x 32J	RSCDS 5/82
The Duke of Perth	8 x 32R	Book 1

Extras

Wind on Loch Fyne	3 x 32S	Dunedin 1
Hooper's Jig	8 x 32J	MMM II
Saltaire Society Reel	8 x 32R	RSCDS L/let
West's Hornpipe	4 x 32H	RSCDS 5/65

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

Teachers: Alan & Susan Carr

Level 3

Tuesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

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

On street parking.

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Note: On 10th November 1998 this class will held at the Queen's Hall Suite, Pudsey

Level 1

1st Three Wednesdays of month, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Knaresborough

Teacher: Peter Clark

Level 1

Wednesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

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

On street parking.

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Level 2

Thursdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

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

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Children

Fridays 7.15 - 8.45pm

Hawthornth Wood Primary School, Broadway, Leeds 5

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

Please Note

For our Ceilidh on 17th April, 7.30pm at the West Park Centre, the musician will not be Colin Dewar as advertised in the syllabus. We will let you know the musician and more details at a later date.

ROUND UP!

Half Day School 19th September 1998

One Saturday afternoon in September summer arrived to greet Scottish Country dancers as they arrived at West Park to be introduced to Lesley Martin our tutor for the Half Day School. Lesley guided us through various warming up exercises before leading us through dances from the new leaflet.

Excellent music was supplied by Pat Clark. Lady Susan Montgomery was introduced along with the Colonel, New Biggin, the New Way of Killiecrankie and the Periwig.

After an absorbing afternoon some of us departed for home, to recover for the evening's social dance, others remained at West Park to sample the delights of Susan Carr's delicatessen. This was excellent, especially the vegetarian option which was also sampled and admired by the meat eaters among us. *David Robertson/Catherine Livsey*

Beginner's Ceilidh 26th September 1998

An evening to inspire people who want to learn more about Scottish dancing, held at the Mechanics Institute in Calverley. A fun and relaxing evening. Gerry Yates provided us with a most enjoyable programme of fun and simple dances which everyone could do, with Ian Slater playing lots of lively music. A demonstration of the Gentleman was thrown in for good measure. There was also time to sit and chat with a drink. Many thanks go to Julie Harrison, in particular for organising the evening. *Jennifer Edmondson*

DATES, DATES, DATES

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.

Friday 6th November 1998

WALK-THROUGH SOCIAL DANCE

7.45 - 9.45pm

St Columba's UR Church Hall, Headingley.

Saturday 21st November 1998

"WORLD WIDE" SOCIAL DANCE

7.30pm West Park Centre

Music John Browne Solo

Friday 4th December 1998

WALK-THROUGH SOCIAL DANCE

7.45 - 9.45pm

St Columba's UR Church Hall, Headingley.

4-6th December 1998

BASIC SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE

WEEKEND SCHOOL

Malhamdale,

Teacher Derek Haynes,

Musician George Meikle

Forms & Booking Yvonne Tredgett

17 Aviemore Road, Warmsworth,

Doncaster DN4 9ND

Tel 01302 851174

Please note:

There are a few places still available please contact Yvonne to book your place now!

Branch Social Dances

Increased Prices

The committee felt 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 is now in effect.

Saturday 19th December 1998

CHRISTMAS/75TH CELEBRATION DANCE

7.30pm West Park Centre

Music The David Cunningham Band

Friday 8th January 1999

WALK-THROUGH SOCIAL DANCE

7.45 - 9.45pm

St Columba's UR Church Hall, Headingley.

Saturday 16th January 1999

SOCIAL DANCE

7.30pm West Park Centre

Music Colin Dewar Solo

Friday 5th February 1999

WALK-THROUGH SOCIAL DANCE

7.45 - 9.45pm

St Columba's UR Church Hall, Headingley.

Saturday 20th February 1999

SOCIAL DANCE

7.30pm West Park Centre

Music Neil Barron Solo

Friday 5th March 1999

WALK-THROUGH SOCIAL DANCE

7.45 - 9.45pm

St Columba's UR Church Hall,