



The Leeds Branch Newsletter

Children's Festival 17th March 2001

Approximately 150 children descended on West Park for the Annual Leeds Branch Children's festival. The enthusiasm and standard of dancing was a joy to behold and a credit to all teachers concerned.

due to both Barbara Caldicott and Brenda Burnell.

My thanks to all who helped on the afternoon - Kath Dosell for her sterling work as Secretary,



RSCDS Chairman dancing with children

Teams came for near and far - own Branch, Gateshead, Newcastle, Darlington, Wakefield, Rotherham, Doncaster and all points in between.

Peter Clark, our adjudicator this year, gave some positive and encouraging pointers to both children and teachers and praised everyone on their standard of dancing.

The Branch Juniors danced A Reel for Jeannie extremely well and the seniors excelled themselves with The Reel of the 51st Division, all thanks

Mary and Eric Wallace who had a "sell out" at the Tuckshop, Val Hall and her team of tea-makers and anyone else who helped with counting lines etc. A Special thanks to Reg who had to put up with me whilst I organised the event with lists on every available space.

We look forward to next year's event which will be our 25th Festival - ideas are flowing even at this early stage.

Jean Dyson (Branch Secretary)

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. Email catherine@cld-design.co.uk

If for some reason you don't receive any copy of the Branch newsletter please contact Alan Carr on 01943 466702

AGM Monday July 3rd

St Mary's Church Hall, Hawkswood Avenue Leeds 5, at 7.30pm

The AGM will discuss the movement of next year's Branch meeting to later in the year. Also a very important proposal is being put forward changing the organisation and running of the RSCDS. Details can be found in the Newsbrief and you will be given more information with your agenda. The usual business will also be conducted, so make a date in your diary.

If you would like to serve on the branch committee then either speak to Jean Dyson any committee member or get someone to nominate you by filling in the enclosed nominations form.

Class Feedback

Many evaluation forms were returned and contained many complimentary comments for all classes. There were a number of constructive suggestions how classes could be improved and they will be taken on board if possible. One common area of improvement was more personal step practice particularly at Level 3. As a result of this the brief to Level 3 teachers will be changed giving them more flexibility to incorporate more technique.

Some things we cannot change, such as the floor at Brackenwood, but where we can improve, we will do our best. The findings have been passed on the Branch teachers whom I wish to thank for all their hard work in promoting dancing in Leeds.

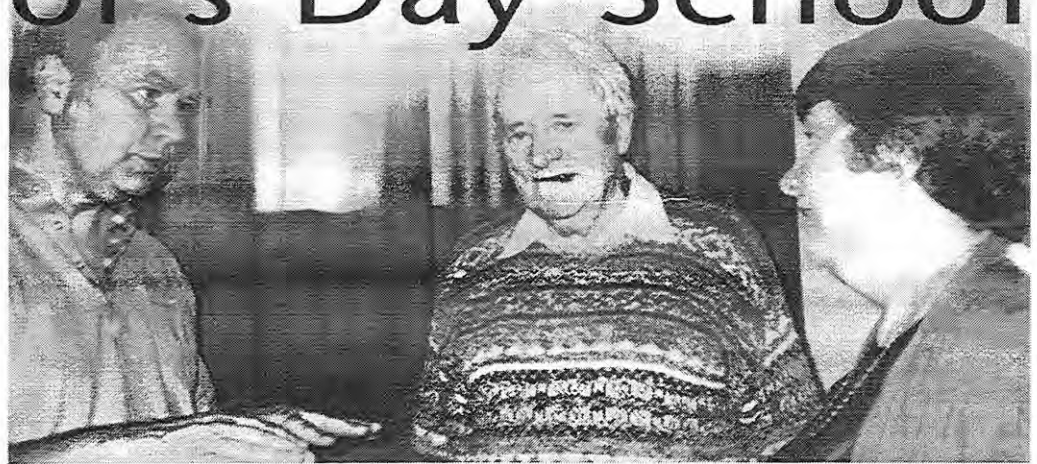
Subscription to this Newsletter can be taken out at £3.00 for 4 issues for non Leeds Branch Members.

Contact Brenda Burnell for details and form.

The Branch web site is www.rscdsleeds.freeserve.co.uk Why not give it a try.

Devisor's Day School

In February the Branch held their first Devisor's Day School. They invited John Drewry from Aberdeen to take the day. He arrived with a feast of new dances to tax our brains. I think we danced about twelve dances that were new to most of us. Two of the dances that he had devised were specially for our Branch - The Round Hay of Six and The New Leeds Strathspey. Many of the dancers had travelled quite a distance to join the Day School and several stayed on for the evening dance. At lunchtime we were well fed by Brenda Burnell and her team. At the evening dance, John taught a couple of the dances he had taught during the day and everyone enjoyed them. We were fortunate to have George Meikle and Alan Rintoul as our musicians



Is this the start of another John Drewry Dance?

both during the day and in the evening too. All had a good day - our thanks go to John Drewry.
Angela Hollingworth

Angela was our MC in the evening and our thanks must go to her for a very good dance. Many other people worked hard to make the day such a success - our thanks to all who were involved.

RSCDS Executive Meeting 12th May 2001

Those of you who have been following the efforts of the RSCDS to improve the way the Society goes about its business (if anyone has - congratulations for hanging in there!), will be delighted to know that at last things are moving forward. The Executive Council met on Saturday 12 May in Edinburgh.

Currently this consists of representatives of all Branches (usually about 120 people turn up), meets twice a year, and all the work done in the various committees has to be ratified before it can proceed. Quite often decisions have to be taken on the spot by representatives and these are not infrequently reversed at the next meeting, once everyone has had a chance to think and consult. Many decisions also have to go to the Society's AGM in November before they can be implemented. So a decision to raise subscriptions, taken last Saturday, cannot come into effect until November 2002. It has been obvious for a long time that reform was needed, but what ?

A working party was set up, reports given, points made, consultations carried out (this process began over two years ago!). On

Saturday we were asked to vote on three options for a new way of electing the Council. My instructions from the Leeds Branch committee were to vote for the first of these: that is, to have a Management Board (numbering about 45 people in total), elected by Branch Delegates at the AGM each year. This option was the one chosen by the council, by 59 votes to 55.

I could go on at great length about the various options and the arguments for and against that were put forward, but it's probably best if anyone who is interested contacts me, rather than me filling up pages of the newsletter!

The recommendation has to go to the AGM in November: details of how the new system will work are to be refined, so changes will be a while yet in coming, but at least the first step is now taken.

And, saving the worst for last, subscriptions look to be set for a hefty increase. If the level had not been kept so low over the years, the Society would not now be looking at a growing deficit. However, given the length of time it takes to get these decisions into effect, it won't be happening this year!

Chris McDonald

Sat 19th June 2001 7.30pm Strawberries & Cream SOCIAL DANCE West Park Centre

Music: Gordon Shand and his Band
M.C.s : Chris and Adrian MacDonald

Admission: RSCDS Members £5.00, Non Members £6.00,
Students £2, Children £1

Programme

J32x8	RSCDS L/let	Jubilee Jig
R32x8	Bk35	Inverneill House
S32x8	Bk21	Braes of Breadalbane
J32x8	Bk37	Gothenburg's Welcome
R40x6	Bk7	Red House Reel
S32x8	RSCDS L/let32	Mrs Milne of Kinneff
J32x8	Bk38	Follow Me Home
R48x4	Bk34	Neil Gow's Farewell to Whisky

J32x8	Archives	Luckenbooth Broach
R32x8	Drewry	Lothian Lads
S32x6	Bk21	Lea Rig
J32x8	Drewry	Bees of Maggieknockater
R40x8	Bk26	Ladies of Dunse
S32x4	Clowes	Dundee Whaler
J32x8	Bk16	Todlen Hame
R32x8	Bk13	Reel of the 51st Division

Extras

R32x4	Drewry	Blooms of Bon Accord
R32x5	Foss	Polharrow Burn
S80x1	Bk39	Robertson Rant
J32x4	Clowes	Posties Jig

Scarborough Weekend

30 MARCH TO 1 APRIL 2001

The journey to Scarborough was most pleasurable with lovely clear spring weather. A pleasant view of the sea and the green suburbs from comfortable accommodation was a fine start to the weekend.

After a delicious evening meal, the Friday social went with swing. The popular programme was danced to superb music and a good time was had by all. Not wanting it to finish, a couple of groups of dancers stayed quietly chatting, when one waiter, who had caught the congenial atmosphere, chose to light-heartedly smooch around the floor with a guest or two whilst serenading them with all the wrong words to "Unforgettable".

Saturday morning saw me up with the lark (for once) and everyone was eager to go. Our teacher for the weekend, Ann Dix, put us through our paces. With a super sense of humour and an air of fun, this vivacious lady set about teaching us many neat techniques which made us feel that we were really polishing up our performances. There had been a request for her to teach her own dances and they were very enjoyable.

Saturday afternoon's free time was spent with good company and balmy weather. After some leisurely shopping, we found ourselves sitting on a bench overlooking the North Beach. The colours of the sea and sky, and at last the warmth of the sun, made us linger longer than we

ought, but there was still time for a short rest before dinner and then into a rip-roaring evening dance, which brought the house down.

A good humoured Sunday morning class was given, which considered the energies we had expended over the last couple of days. After lunch, feeling a little sad that it was all over we packed our cars and bid farewell to friends old and new. Making our way home, after making a mental note not to miss next year, we couldn't help but reflect that the people who had never felt the exhilaration of Scottish Dancing really hadn't got a clue what they were missing.

*Kathie Dosell and
Sou Robertson*

NEWS EXTRA Good News!

Membership

The Branch has recently received a letter from Headquarters congratulating us on increasing our membership when membership is falling in many areas. Welcome to all new members and the committee looks forward to your continuing support at classes and socials. Well done to those people who encourage others to join the Leeds Branch.

Helen Russell:

Helen would like to thank the Branch members for their support at her recent class at Adel. Summer School Director, Johan MacLean, came down from Scotland and everyone enjoyed Helen's teaching and Ian Slater's playing. It was a good evening all round. We hope to have Helen teaching occasionally next year.

Congratulations

Good news as just been received from the RSCDS Headquarters, that Roy Goldring is to be awarded with the Society Scroll for all his work for Scottish Country Dancing. Congratulations from everyone in Leeds.

For Sale

Proper Kilt, Hunting Scott, Ladies 24" Waist. Could be reversed for man. Tel 01422 201880 with offers.

Obituary

Sadly recently one of our branch member Gerald Blockley died suddenly. Sincere sympathy to his family & friends.

Thank You

Last year the Branch Committee put forward my name to receive a Society Scroll and the Society decided to accept the Branch's recommendation. 'Thank you to our Branch committee and to the Society.'

Scrolls are normally awarded at the Society's AGM in November but I opted to receive my Scroll from the Society Chairman at our March dance in Leeds. I was quite alarmed that the date clashed with the Scottish Fiddlers' concert in York and many dancers told me that they would sadly not be at our dance in Leeds. In actual fact we had a very well

attended dance with lots of dancers there whom I have known over many years.

'Thank you to all of you who were there.'

Among the dancers there on March 17th were dancers from my ABC (Askwith, Brackenwood and Children's)



older girls (young ladies now) and reproducing the magic they had when they were dancing together in the children's class. 'Thank you to the ABC classes.'

Many friends and dancers who were not present at the dance sent cards and good wishes to me and I very much appreciated all of them. Please remember that without all of you members of the Branch and the Society, I could not have been awarded the Scroll. Please share it with me. 'Thank you to you all.'

Brenda

The inscription on the Scroll reads:

In recognition of outstanding service and loyalty to the Society.

For maintaining the aims of preserving the standards and traditions of Scottish Country Dancing.

For encouraging in others the knowledge & enjoyment of Scotland's Heritage of Dance and Music.



classes. These dancers come regularly each week and make it possible for me to continue to teach. It is very gratifying for me to see so many now attending our monthly dances and enjoying themselves. The icing on the cake for me was to see a reunion of the

Classes

Since Easter, all classes have averaged at least sixteen people. These numbers give us two complete sets and also generate more atmosphere making the evening more enjoyable.

After Spring Bank Holiday, the Tuesday Adel class will be concentrating on the massed dances at the White Rose Festival. So, if you are dancing in the afternoon, come along on Tuesday evening to Adel Methodist Hall, Gainsborough Avenue, behind the Lawnswood Arms and practice these dances. Both members and non-members are welcome and even if you are not participating in the Festival you can come along for a good evening's dancing.

There will be practice for the demonstration dances at St. Mary's Hall on June 11th, 18th & 2nd July after AGM & 9th July at 7.45pm when Catherine Livsey will be in charge of proceedings

Certificate/Examination Class

The Branch is preparing to run a candidate course in the second half of this year leading to an exam on Saturday December 8th. If you are interested in joining this course, contact Brenda Burnell (0113 2676655) for further details. The dates will be as follows:-

Sunday	June 17th	Sunday	July 8th
Saturday	September 8th	Saturday	September 29th
Saturday	October 6th	Sunday	October 21st
Saturday	November 10th	Sunday	December 2nd

Teachers' Workshop on June 16th

This will be a very good day for teachers and potential teachers. We welcome Graham Donald who will deal with personal technique and fault correction and Pat Clark who will advise us about teaching with recorded music. If you have not already applied do phone Yvonne Tredgett - 01302 851174.

DATES, DATES, DATES

JUNE 2001

- 2nd Summer Dance**
Dolphin Centre, Darlington
7.30 to 11.30pm
- 16th Teacher's Workshop**
St Mary's, Hawkswood Ave,
Leeds 5.
- 16th Social Dance**
End of Season Dance
7.30pm West Park CDC
Gordon Shand

JULY 2001

- 2nd RSCDS Leeds Branch AGM**
St Mary's Church Hall,
Hawkswood Avenue Leeds 5,
7.30pm
- 7th Ardenlea Dance**
Alastair Hunter
*Details & tickets from Roy
Goldring 01943 601373*
- 13th & 14th White Rose Festival**
St. Peter's School, Clifton, York.
Fri 13th 8pm - 11pm
Dance to records in the Memorial Hall
at St. Peter's School. Faith Supper.
Tickets £2.50 per head.

Sat 14th 2pm - 5pm
Massed dancing etc to George Meikle
and his Lothian Band.
If you would like to take part in a Leeds
branch team *contact Catherine Livsey
01484 432270.*
7.30pm - 11pm
Evening Dance to George Meikle and
his Lothian Band. Admission £5 by
ticket only, which includes
refreshments.
*Contact Mr M.G East on
01904 489799 for any White Rose
Festival tickets*

SEPTEMBER 2001

15th Half Day School
1pm West Park CDC
Teacher Bruce Frazer
Form enclosed in this newsletter
*Further information & bookings
please contact Yvonne Tredgett - 01302
851174.*

NOVEMBER 2001

23rd-25th Malhamdale Weekend
Teacher Andrew Mc Connell
*Further information & bookings
please contact Yvonne Tredgett - 01302
851174.*

Classes

Fees and Levels

Level 1, 2 & 3 - £2 per class,
£3 (if the class as live music).

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

All Levels

Monday, 1.45 - 3.45pm
Adel Methodist Church Hall, Adel, Leeds 16
Teacher: Brenda Burnell,
Barbara Caldicott, Susan Carr

Level 2

Tuesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm
Adel Methodist Church Hall, Adel, Leeds 16
Teacher: Alan Carr

Level 3

Wednesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm
Mechanics Institute, Calverley
This class will start again in September

Level 2/3 Classes will be combined for the Summer Term

There will be a Level 2/3 class on Tuesday evenings, starting **Tuesday 24th April**, at Adel Methodist Church Hall, Gainsborough Ave from 7.45 to 9.45. The teacher will be Susan Carr.

After Spring Bank Holiday, the Massed Dances for the White Rose Festival and the Evening Programme will be taught at this class.

Practices for White Rose Demonstration Dance plus Highland Dances if time will be at St. Mary's Hall on June 11th, 18th, 2nd July after AGM & 9th July at 7.45pm. Taught by Catherine Livsey

Level 1

Wednesdays except the
4th Wednesday of each month,
7.30 - 10.00pm
Holy Trinity Church Hall, Knaresborough

Level 2

Thursdays, 7.45 - 10.00pm
Brackenwood Community Centre,
New Building, Lidgett Lane, Leeds 8
Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Children

Fridays 7.15 - 8.45pm
Hawksworth Wood Primary School,
Broadway, Leeds 5
Teachers: Brenda Burnell,
Barbara Caldicott