



The Leeds Branch Newsletter

1/2 Day School



Dancers enjoying the branch dance. Why not join the fun - there are plenty of opportunities.

A small but select group, 32 in all, gathered in St Mary's Church hall on Saturday afternoon of the 15th September 2001 for the Leeds Branch annual 1/2 day school.

Bruce Fraser was to be our instructor with musical accompaniment by Jack

Judson. Bruce soon had us at our ease and after the usual warm-up exercises put us through our paces on aspects of technique before tackling the dances.

"Over the Water to Charlie" (new version) was followed by "Miss Shaftesbury's Fancy", a Strathspey with a sneaky

habit of finishing figures with you on the wrong foot. Quite a challenge.

After break we all enjoyed John Drewry's "Stonehaven Lassies", a delight to dance with each figure flowing smoothly into the next. This was followed by "Miss A. O. Cummings" from the 75th Aberdeen book. We finished with a simple dance "The British Grenadiers" and a warm down exercise.

In closing the class Bruce complimented us on the generally high standard of dancing and hoped that each of us had found something in his teaching to work on for future improvement. Terry Charter thanked Bruce on behalf of us all for an interesting & absorbing afternoon.

The musical accompaniment was

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@cl-d-design.co.uk

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

superb. It was great to see Jack back again looking & playing so well after his recent illness. The choice of tunes & the humour in his playing complemented Bruce's tuition and made for a happy & relaxed atmosphere. All in all it was a highly enjoyable afternoon. Such a pity that more people didn't take the opportunity to join us.

Pat Hynes



Ivy celebrates her 81st birthday

Our New Members

Welcome to new members of the Branch this year

- Thomas and Lisa Kaufmann
- Jonathan Klein
- Richard Laycock
- Edward and Lisa Wilson

Have you paid your Membership?

Anyone who has not paid their membership fees for this season please contact Brenda. Fees were due on July 1st this year.

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.freemove.co.uk Why not give it a try.

Manchester RSCDS Day School

We went to the Day School held at Levenshulme High School in Manchester on Saturday 29th September. It was Rachel's third visit and Helen's first. The children were of different ages from five to eleven and there were fifteen other children dancing. The teacher this year was Alison Littlejohn from Wales. She was very nice. After our lunch we had a play out. We were given a comment slip and had to give them in at the end of the day 3'

We learned a few new dances. One of them was called Mother and Baby Turtles, the children's name is Frog in the Bog!

We both made quite a few new friends and had a very enjoyable, if tiring, day. We would encourage other children to go.

Helen Wilson and Rachel Norwood

Rachel and Helen taught the Leeds class the Frog in the Bog dance one Friday night!



Helen Wilson & Rachel Norwood

Sat 15th December 2001 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre

Music: George Meikle M.Cs : Alan & Susan Carr
Admission: RSCDS Members £5.00, Non Members £6.00,
Students £2, Children £1

Programme

EH3 7AF	8x32J	Book 40
The Sailor	8x32R	Book 24
Lord Elgin's Reel	8x32S	Book 25
Pelorus Jack	8x32J	Book 41
Flowers of Edinburgh	8x32R	Book 1
Wisp of Thistle	8x32S	Book 37
Bees of Maggie Knockater	4x32J	Drewry
The Buchan Eightsome	400 R	Book 21
Jubilee Jig	8x32J	RSCDS Leaflet
John of Bon Accord	8x32R	Book 33
Cape Town Wedding	8x32S	Book 34
Roaring Jelly	8x32 J	Foss
Ladies of Dunse	8x40R	Book 26
Cherrybank Gardens	3x32S	Drewry/Bankhead 1
White Heather Jig	4x40J	Cosh
Reel of the Royal Scots	8x32R	RSCDS Leaflet

Extras

Wild Geese	8x32J	Book 24
Minister on the Loch	3x32 S	Goldring 24 Graded
Blooms of Bon Accord	4x32R	Drewry
Nice to See You	8x32R	Book 40

Sat 19th January 2002 7.30pm

SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre

Music: Robert Whitehead Band M.C : Derek Kendall
Programme : Yvonne Tredgett
Admission: RSCDS Members £5.00, Non Members £6.00,
Students £2, Children £1

Programme

Hooper's Jig	8x32J	Misc. 11
Maxwell's Rant	8x32R	Book 18
Culla Bay	4x32S	Book 41
MacLeod's Fancy	4x32J	Book 33
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh	8x40R	Book 39
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	8x32S	RSCDS Leaflet
Tribute to the Borders	8x32J	RSCDS Leaflet
Clutha	4x48R	Book 31
Luckenbooth Brooch	8x32J	Glendarloch
Reverend John MacFarlane	4x32R	Book 37
Sugar Candie	8x32S	Book 26
Gothenburg's Welcome	8x32J	Book 37
Fraser's Favourite	8x32R	RSCDS Leaflet
Neidpath Castle	3x32S	Book 32
Its Just for Fun	8x32J	Book 33
Blooms of Bon Accord	4x32R	Drewry

Extras

Glasgow Country Dance	M 16S x 16R	Book 23
The Sailor	8x32 R	Book 24
Robertson's Rant	1x80 S	Book. 39
Mrs Stewart's Jig	8x32 J	Book. 35

Report on Rscds AGM Perth

3 November 2001

The agenda for this meeting looked daunting. There was a clutch of motions connected to the new management structure and three proposed figures for the annual subscription. We started with the usual pleasantries at two thirty and emerged, exhausted but, for the most part, happy, at quarter to seven!

The matter of the subscription was interesting. The finance committee were asking for it to be set at £15 – an increase of nearly 90%. Their arguments to support this were weak – all they could really say was, well, if things go badly, we might need this amount of money. Unfortunately, their credibility was not helped by the fact that for the last two years they have forecast huge deficits which have failed to materialise – in fact, this year we are £12,000 insurplus. So, without too much ado, the meeting approved an annual subscription of £10 for 2001 – 2003.

The matter of management and membership was much more complex. The executive council in May had voted for what is known as option A. This was not the option which the high heid yins favoured and their preference, option C, made a comeback here as a motion from Bristol Branch. Option B also got another airing, as a motion from Edinburgh Branch, and the status quo was

going to be proposed by New Zealand Branch, but they withdrew.

It was a good thing that all this was debated at the AGM. It certainly gave many people the opportunity to state their case on a much wider platform than at the Executive, and when the votes were eventually cast the result was a resounding endorsement of the Executive's decision, to opt for option A, that is a Management Board elected by Branch delegates at the AGM.

Other motions were: to allow postal voting and to alter the number of delegates which branches

can send. Both of these would have helped overseas branches and both were defeated, unfortunately. I'm not convinced that at that point people were very clear about what they were voting on, and I hope that we'll see these issues raised again in the near future.

It wasn't all grind however. We had the pleasure of seeing Roy Goldring receive the Scroll of Honour for his contribution to dancing, and it was good to see him and Doreen at the meeting and the dance that evening. The social side of the weekend went

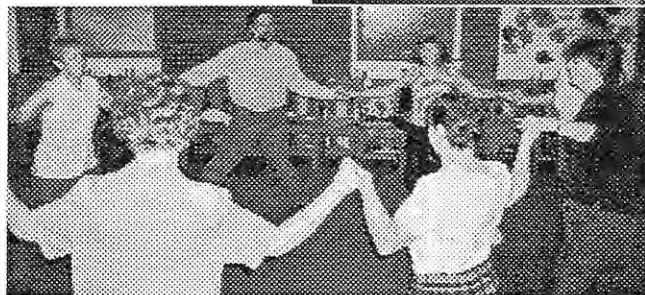
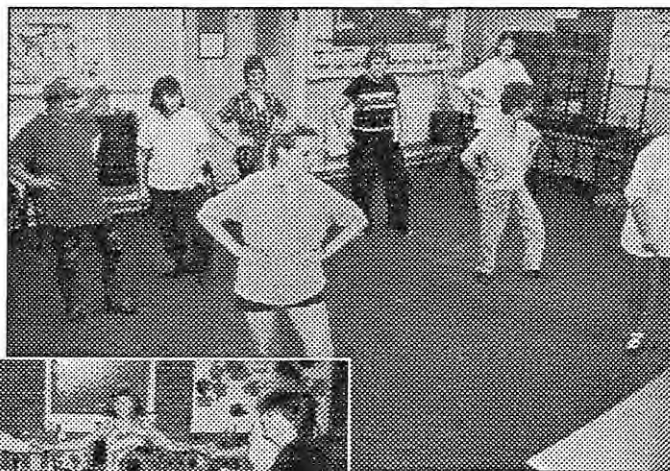
swimmingly, thanks to the efforts of Perth and Perthshire Branch and Messrs. Cunningham and Dewar. Over six hundred dancers in one hall is a sight to remember – and any member of the RSCDS can attend the meeting as an observer, so why not consider making the trip to Aberdeen next year?

A special message for the youth of the parish – check out www.rscds.org/youth/easter <<http://www.rscds.org/youth/easter>>. The Society is planning an 18-30s weekend in Stirling, 3-7 April 2002. Wish I qualified!

Chris McDonald

Branching Out...

We have been spreading the gospel of Scottish Dancing, Catherine Livsey with her "Sailor's Hornpipe" workshop and Barbara Caldicott with her "Scottish Squares" workshop at the Saltire Day of Dance on 20th of October. It was the 15th



Day of Dance. They run twice a year, one in the spring, one in the autumn and have so far raised £65,000 for Oxfam and other charities. There is always a sprinkling of Scottish dancers there who come along to

sample other types of dance from "Jive" to "Argentinian Tango" from "Victorian" to "Appalachian" and more recently workshops which are moving away from dance into "Songwriting", "Tai Chi"

and "Hand Reflexology".

It is also quite rare to find several halls in one village with good floors for dancing! Those people who wanted more information about Scottish Dancing in their area, left their details. Who knows, we might get a few more in our classes from the Day of Dance?

Highland Day Course

13th October 2001

taught by Catherine Livsey

'Strong as a gymnast, elegant as a ballet dancer'.

If only! But we did try!

Twelve of us arrived for the morning session, aimed at beginners. Conveniently, that divides in groups of three, so after a brisk but thorough warm up and stretch, we launched into Shepherd's Crook.

Catherine's aim at these day schools is to provide something for everybody, and as Shepherd's Crook does contain some Highland steps and does appear from time to time on social dance programmes it provided a good launch pad for the day, particularly as most of us had some idea of how it goes.

'Some idea', though, can always be worked on, and it was. How to make the first 'down and back' figure look impressive, how to perform the Schottische, rocking, and crossover steps neatly, how to add polish to the 'shepherd's crook' figure. Finally, and for me the most demanding, how to put together the shedding step without falling over.

At the end of a couple of hours or so, I think it is fair to say we had a good idea of the geography of the dance, how the steps ought to be done, and what we needed to go away and practice.

Those who stayed for the afternoon gathered round for a very sociable lunch, a bottle of wine and plastic cups in the middle of the table, and talked about (oddly enough) dancing. There were participants there from some distance, Leicester and Rochdale as well as more locally, so there was quite a wide

range of experience to contribute.

One experienced Highland dancer joined us for the afternoon session, and once again there was a convenient number to attempt a new dance for four women and two men, probably to be called 'St Andrew's Sword'. For a novice like me this introduced new steps and new figures, including a delightful and exciting crossing reel, none of which claim to have mastered. It sowed the seeds of curiosity, though, which I was able to follow up from Highland Dancing and from Derek Haynes' Highland crib cards. When it comes round to the next Highland Day School on 11th May 2002 I shall be better prepared. Can I suggest you book the date in your diary now?

While 'surfing the net' the other day, I looked up Highland dancing and found over sixty sites. One of them was headed 'Top Ten Reasons Guys Should Do Highland Dancing'. It is a list of such appallingly sexist content that the editor would certainly exclude it from this family journal, but it put me in mind of creating a list of my own entitled 'Why Sign Up For The Next Highland Day School'.

1. There's something for everybody, so you will enjoy it.
2. You will be in a group that laughs with you.
3. It's certainly very good exercise.
4. You will extend and develop your range of country dance skills.
5. You will feel more confident when country dances with Highland steps appear on programmes.



Derek Haynes lists seventeen, and there are probably more.

6. You will learn something more about Scottish dance traditions.
7. You can follow up the day with practice at home, guided by Highland Dancing and Derek Haynes' cards.
8. You will get the experience of dancing

to pipe music, a bit different to dancing to a country dance band.

9. The editor will probably cut this out, but Catherine is a thorough, knowledgeable, and helpful teacher.
10. Add a reason of your own, and you're up to ten!

Don Andrews

Sat 16th February 2002 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE West Park Centre

Music: Neil Copland & Day School Students

Programme : Brenda Burnell

Admission: RSCDS Members £4.50, Non Members £5.50,
Students £2, Children £1

Programme

Happy Meeting	6x32 J	Book 29
The Sailor	8x32 R	Book 24
Lord Elgin's Reel	8x32 S	Book 26
A Dance for Ivy	8x32 R	
Middling Thank You	8x32 J	Book 15
Minister on the Loch	3x32 S	Goldring 24 Graded
Major Ian Stewart	8x32 J	Book 35
Reel of Five	32S/32R	Book 27
Clutha	8x48R	Book 31
Machine without Horses	8x32 J	Book 12
Mairi's Wedding	8x40 R	
Braes of Breadalbane	8x32 S	Book. 21
Miss Hadden's Reel	8x32 J	Book. 23
The Music will Tell You	8x32 R	Book. 41
The Robertson Rant	1x80 S	Book. 39
Pelorus Jack	8x32 J	Book. 41
Reel of the Royal Scots	8x32 R	L/let

Extras

Triumph	8x24 R	Book 1
Wild Geese	8x32 J	Book 24
Maxwell's Rant	8x32 R	Book 18
Neidpath Castle	3x32 S	Book 22

Teachers' Workshop

Saturday April 20th 2002 at St Mary's Church Hall Hawksworth

This year, the Branch Teachers' Workshop is taking a different format. It will contain elements of the Teaching Skills Courses held recently in Edinburgh and St Andrews. The Branch has been fortunate in obtaining the services of Helen Frame, who taught the course at St Andrews to organise the Workshop.

We will also have the pleasure of welcoming Jennifer Wilson, who will be in charge of the music.

The course is aimed at practising teachers and all the participants will be expected to take part in a practical teaching exercise working in small groups.

The Workshop will run from 10am to 5pm, with breaks for lunch and drinks, all of which will be included in the cost of £15.

Application forms can be obtained from Yvonne Tredgett to whom they should be returned:

Yvonne Tredgett, 17 Aviemore Road, Warmsworth, Doncaster, S Yorkshire DN4 9ND. Telephone 01302 851174

Early application is advisable as the number of places will be limited

DATES, DATES, DATES

NOVEMBER 2001

23rd-25th Malhamdale Weekend

Teacher Andrew Mc Connell

Musician George Meikle

*Further information & bookings
please contact Yvonne Tredgett -
01302 851174.*

DECEMBER 2001

15th Christmas Social Dance

7.30pm West Park CDC

George Meikle/Alan Rintoul

MCs Alan & Susan Carr

**YOU ARE INVITED TO
ADEL MONDAY CLASS
CHRISTMAS TEA DANCE**
Gainsborough Avenue Adel

1.45pm Monday

17th December

Admission £2

to include refreshments

Programme

W Waltz Country Dance

R Flowers of Edinburgh

J Joe McDiarmid's Jig

S Byron Strathspey

R Montgomeries Rant

J Border Meeting

S Cherrybank Gardens

R Domino Five

J Trip to Gatlinburg

Reminders will be given

JANUARY 2002

19th Social Dance

7.30pm West Park CDC

Robert Whitehead Band

FEBRUARY 2002

16th Musician's Day Course

St. Mary's Hawkswood Ave,
Leeds 5.

Neil Copland

16th Social Dance

7.30pm West Park CDC

Neil Copland &

Day School Students

MARCH 2002

16th 25th Children's Festival

2pm West Park CDC

Sandy Leggett Trio

MC Peter Clark

16th Social Dance

7.30pm West Park CDC

Sandy Leggett Trio

22nd - 24th Weekend School

Clifton Hotel, Scarborough

Anita Mackenzie/
George Meikle

Further information & bookings

please contact Yvonne Tredgett -

01302 851174.

APRIL 2002

20th Teacher's Workshop

St. Mary's, Hawkswood Ave,

Leeds 5.

Helen Frame

Classes

Fees and Levels

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

Level 1 - Beginners.

Level 2 - General.

Level 3 - Experienced Dancers.

Terms

Autumn wc Sept 10th 2001 to wc Dec 10th 2001

Winter wc Jan 7th 2002 to wc March 25th 2002

Summer wc Apr 8th 2002 until White Rose Festival

Spring Term Classes

All Levels

Monday, 1.45 - 3.45pm

Adel Methodist Church Hall, Adel, Leeds 16

Teachers: Barbara Caldicott, Alan Carr

Level 2

Tuesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Adel Methodist Church Hall, Adel, Leeds 16

Teacher: Susan Carr

Level 3

Wednesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Mechanics Institute, Calverley

Teacher: Catherine Livsey

Jan 9th to Feb 13th

No Class Jan 23rd

Roy Goldring

Feb 20th to March 27th,

No class March 20th

Level 2

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

Teacher: Brenda Burnell