



The Leeds Branch Newsletter

25th Children's Festival



Headquarters.

The Leeds team performed extremely well, a dance devised by Rachael Bailey called "Fizzy Marmalade", what a lovely name for a dance. Thanks to Brenda Burnell for teaching the class.

My sincere thanks go to Peter Clark (adjudicator), Ray Jones (MC) who

"came out of retirement" especially for the occasion, and Kathy Dosell (Secretary). Thanks also go to Eric and Mary Wallace who ran the Tuck Shop, Val Hall and her helpers for the tea and to anyone else who helped on the day.

The next Festival is on Saturday 15th March 2003 so book it in your diaries now.

Jean Dyson

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@dld-design.co.uk

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

On Saturday 16 March approximately 90 children gathered at West Park to mark the 25th Anniversary of Leeds Branch Children's Festival. Dancers came from far and near and were a delight to watch. Music was provided by Sandy Legget Trio who played wonderfully.

The children had been asked to devise a dance especially for the festival and so this year the Solo Teams performed one of their own dances.

The first dance of the afternoon was a round the room dance "Apple Turnover" devised by our own Matthew Norwood.

A book of the devised dances (available now from Yvonne at £1.00) has been published by Catherine Livsey and each child with a dance in the book was presented with a complimentary copy by Fiona Turnbull from



The devisors of the new dances

Membership Fees 2002-03

As reported in the previous Newsletter, the cost of Branch membership will have to go up to £12.00. The committee also decided to keep the cost of classes and socials at the same level as last year.

The increase will have to be ratified at the Branch AGM in October.

Membership fees are due on July 1st so please complete your forms and return them to Brenda Burnell with a cheque made payable to RSCDS Leeds Branch.

Refunds will be given if the increase is not confirmed at the AGM.

Alan Carr (on behalf of the committee).

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.

Musicians' Course

The Musicians' Day School on 16th February was almost filled to capacity with 17 people, mainly playing piano accordion, together with three fiddlers and a double bass. The participants were drawn from a wide area, with several from Lancashire and Cheshire, and the Knaresborough Accordion Club was well represented again - the fame of the Leeds Day School is spreading!

Neil Copland was our tutor this year and he introduced the day with a talk on playing solo accordion for classes, with useful tips such as ensuring that the appropriate parts of the tune are played if the teacher is working on a particular formation from a dance. He also demonstrated the different varieties of reels, jigs and strathspeys and how to select tunes which would encourage the dancers to concentrate on specific aspects of their dancing technique, such as developing a three-beat pas de basque, or strength in the strathspey travelling step. For musicians who are not dancers or teachers themselves this was really useful information.

We had received most of the music in advance, with alternative tunes provided by Neil for most of the programme, but he had invited submissions from the participants for sets of three alternative tunes for some dances. Several people had sent in sets, and it was interesting to play through them, evaluate their merits and



decide which to play in the evening.

Altogether we worked on 82 tunes, which made the day rather rushed. There was little time to bring out the finer points of expression, but the group contained some very competent and experienced players, and they were well able to conceal the mistakes of people like me in the back row whose sight reading at speed has scope for improvement!

There is clearly a demand for live music in classes, and I would recommend the day school to musicians who would like an opportunity to play without the exposure of playing solo. Many thanks are due to Brenda for organising the day, with the photocopying and distribution of prodigious quantities of music, and for a wonderful lunch.

Post Scrip

The standard required for playing Scottish dancing is extremely high because of

the necessity of playing the original tune (some of which challenge even experienced musicians!) followed by appropriate tunes. There seems to be little opportunity for less experienced players to develop these skills. I would welcome the opportunity to get together with other people occasionally to play simple tunes at a steady pace. Will anybody join me?

Elizabeth M. Yates, Tel. 01422 360595, e-mail: maryhoward@lineone.net

Sad Times...

David Brandon

It is deep regret we have to announce the death of David Brandon at the end of April. David was a founder member of our twin Branch in Los Angeles. In 1999 he and Mary, his wife paid a visit to Leeds. Mary taught the Brackenwood class and together they joined us at the October dance the following Saturday. Those that knew David will remember him as a very cheerful man thoroughly seeped in Scottish dancing.

Our condolences go out to Mary and David's family in California.

Jimmy Parnham

We are sorry to announce that one of our oldest Branch members has now

died. Jimmy and his wife Sally moved to Perth into sheltered accommodation but he kept up his membership of the Branch. Although not so active before they moved he was often in touch. He wrote very interesting letters and I shall miss these pages coming after our newsletters reached him.

Later this week more sad news reached us.

Sally Parnham has now died and there will be a joint service on Monday for Jimmy and Sally in Scotland.

Another Branch member,

Mary Peden, has also died suddenly this week. A charming and lively lady whom we shall all miss. Our condolences and thoughts go to Hugh at this very sad time.

Brenda Burnell

Highland Again!

Saturday May 11th saw the second of this season's Highland dance workshops. Catherine Livsey was the teacher once again, and the day followed the now familiar pattern of 'all comers' in the morning and 'intermediate/advanced' in the afternoon.

In fact the day was perhaps a little bit more structured than that description implies, because the White Rose festival has a number of Highland dances listed, and the Branch will be represented. At the Festival of course there is always the issue of 'weather permitting', because the Highland dancing is only

performed outside, and many readers will be only too familiar with what has happened in the last two years...

So, we concentrated on the Festival dances, the Strathspey, Reel and Half Tulloch (Foursome Reel), the six step Highland Fling, and the national dance Village Maid. After the usual efficient warm up and stretch, we launched into learning and improving the steps needed for the Foursome; the Highland Strathspey travelling step, the Glasgow Highlanders step, and the rocking and crossover steps. After that, we got some way towards

putting it all together, and went out to lunch in the sunshine thinking 'must try harder'! Really nice to do, though, and a good basis for working towards the Festival. Many thanks to Eric Wallace, not only for the excellent tea and coffee service, but also for making up the fourth set with great aplomb.

Some of the ladies put on a polished performance of Village Maid, and they will certainly do great credit to the Branch at the Festival. There is no reason why men should not dance it, and indeed we did join in, but the Festival instruction is 'ladies only'. Lastly we put together the necessary steps for the Highland Fling, with Catherine showing her usual patience and persistence with our

somewhat fumbling attempts. We've got about six weeks to work on it!

Though the Festival performers will be rehearsing on Monday evenings (ring Catherine for further info.) for the next few weeks, the next day school will be in October. Various suggestions have been put forward: a day of country dances with Highland steps, an 'intermediate' day seriously getting to grips with one or two dances, or the more usual format of beginners in the morning and intermediate/advanced in the afternoon. Your views to Catherine, please: 01423 306637, e-mail catherine@cld-design.demon.co.uk

Don Andrews

Sat 15th June 2002 40th ANNIVERSARY DANCE West Park Centre

Wine Reception 7pm - Dancing 7.30pm

Music: Kenny Thompson and the Wardlaw Band
M.C : Gerry Yates

Admission: Tickets only £7 from Alan Carr on 01943 466702 or any committee member

Programme

Maxwell's Rant	8x32 R	Book 18
Miss Hadden's Reel	8x32 J	Book 23
Auld Friends Meet	8x32 S	Leeds 21st Leaflet
The Highland Rambler	8x40 R	Leeds 25th
Bridge of Nairn	8x32 S	Book 13
Muirland Willie	8x32 J	Book 21
Fife Ness	8x32 R	4/78
The Minister on the Loch	3x32 S	24 Graded & Social
South from Oban	8x40 J	Leeds 10th

Pelorus Jack	8x32 J	Book 41
The Buchan Eightsome Reel	400 R	Book 21
The Rose of the North	8x32 S	Leeds 25th
Lothian Lads	8x32 R	Brodie Book (Drewry)
Cape Town Wedding	8x32 S	Book 39
The Hazel Tree	8x32 J	Brodie Book (Drewry)
Culla Bay	4x32 S	Book 41
Laird of Milton's Daughter	8x32 J	Book 22
The Duke of Perth	8x32 R	Book 1

Extras

The Weathercock	4x32 J	Leeds 25th
James's Jig	8x40 J	Leeds 35th
Oriel Strathspey	4x32 S	32
Shifftin' Bobbins	8x32 R	Ormskirk Book 6 (Clowes)

Sat 21st September 2002 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spenn Lane

Music: Ian Muir Trio M.C : Derek Kendall

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

Programme

Machine Without Horses	J	Book 12
Cramond Bridge	R	London
Staffin Harvest	S	4/78
Instructor's Choice		
Milton's Welcome	R	Book 33
Seann Truibas Willichan	S	Book 27
Follow Me Home	J	Book 38
Summer Assembly	R	Book 35

Joe McDairmid's Jig	J	5/82
Glasgow Country Dance	M	Book 23
Peat Fire Flame	R	Drewry
Instructors Choice	S	
Diamond Jubilee	J	Book 31
Cape Town Wedding	S	Book 39
Luckenbooth Brooch	J	Dickson
John of Bon Accord	R	Book 33

Extras

Quarries' Jig	J	Book 36
Baldovan Reel	R	Henderson
Lammermuir Hills	S	Goldring
West's Hornpipe	R	5/65

40th
ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE
CLOTHING

with
embroidered
Leeds RSCDS
logo
in old gold

POLO SHIRTS

£15

(available in white,
blue, bottle green,
red, in sizes
Ladies 10, Small,
Medium, Large)

LAMBSWOOL
V-NECK
SWEATERS

£25

(available in blue or
bottle green,
sizes 36" to 48")

LADIES
CARDIGANS,
WOOL/ACRYLIC

(sizes 34" – 48" in a
range of colours)

£30

or in white acrylic
at **£25**

Yvonne Tredgett
01302 851174
or at Branch dances

Teachers' Workshop and after



This year out Teachers' Workshop was held in April and followed a slightly different format focussing on teaching skills.

Helen Frame, from Ayr, 'taught' the day and Jennifer Wilson, from Elgin, provided excellent music for us throughout the day. Fifteen teachers from various Branches gathered at St Mary's, Hawksworth to put our teaching skills to the test. Working in pairs and then in groups of five, we all had to teach, analyse and be analysed. It was an enlightening and interesting 'enjoyed' by everyone. I'm sure it made us all think about and re-think our teaching techniques!

I feel this is a very valuable day in our Branch programme when teachers can get together and be taught. Our thanks this year go to Helen for steering us through an informative day and to Jennifer for her wonderful music and musical advice. I must personally thank all the helpers who prepared drinks, lunch and more

drinks for us throughout the day. This enabled me to take part in the workshop and I greatly appreciated that.

The icing on the cake!

In the evening the committee arranged an evening's dancing at Ben Rhydding where Jennifer Wilson played. A rather dusty piano was pulled out from the corner of the

stage and it didn't sound too good but Jennifer worked her charm on it. The piano responded to her and the dancers enjoyed her delightful music, dancing through an evening ably MCed by Susan Carr.

Thank you to all who made the evening run smoothly and especially to Jennifer for an unforgettable experience in Leeds Branch

Thank You ...

Dear Leeds RSCDS

Thank you for your sponsorship, support & help for the Swimathon that I took part in.

I completed the swim of 5000 metres (200 lengths) at Castleford swimming pool on 24 March 2002, in a time of 2 hours 13 minutes.

With your help I have been able to send a cheque of £1063.50 for Macmillan cancer relief.

Once again thank you very much indeed, I really appreciate your support.

Kind regards

Catherine Livsey

Scarborough 30th Anniversary Weekend

As ever, the Scarborough weekend went with a swing. Our teacher, Anita Mackenzie, was delightful. Though only small in stature she had a bi-ig voice and controlled us with humour. The theme of the class was thought provoking. Not "How good a dancer am I?" but "How good am I to dance with?" The dances we did were varied, some old, some new. I particularly enjoyed 'Miss Shearer's Strathspey', The Pink Panda and Ellie's Jig, we finished the Saturday morning class with hilarious round-the-room ceilidh dance called 'The Wheelbarrow'.

George Meikle, our musician, was superb. He played throughout the two morning classes and the two evening dances. He gave us wonderful tunes and rhythms which were a joy to dance to. Both evening dance



programmes were enjoyable, ably MC'd by Eric Wallace and Derek Kendall. Eric and Mary's dance to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary was 'borrowed' for the occasion, the title being '30 years on'.

The hotel provided good

food and comfortable accommodation and the weather was kind, fine and dry but crisp and cold. Sunday lunchtime came round too soon after another enjoyable class. We left reluctantly, tired in body but refreshed in spirit. The thoughts I took home were what fun it

had all been - good teaching, good music and good fellowship. I'd met up with old friends and made new ones. Next year's Scarborough weekend is already set for 28 - 30 March 2003. I know I can't wait.

Pat Hynes



DATES, DATES, DATES

Afternoon Tea Dance

The beginners class on Monday afternoons has been running now for 2 seasons. Just before Christmas 2001, we finished the term with an Afternoon Tea Dance and gave an open invitation for any dancer to attend. Our regular dancers came along and also a few visitors from Keighley, from Leeds, from Bradford and from Glasgow.



We will finish this season off on 27th May, again with an Afternoon Tea Dance (with refreshments). Here is the programme:

Joie de Vivre 8x32 J, The Sailor 8x32 H, Le Dix Juillet 4x32 S
St. Andrews Fair 8x32 J, White Cockade 8x32 R,
MacDonald of the Isles 3x32 S, Laird of Milton's daughter 8x32 J,
Round Reel of 8 1x88 R, Lea Rig 6 or 8x32S, De'il Amang the Tailors 8x32 R
(Every dance will be walked through.)

Anybody who is free during the day, please come along and dance with us (Adel Methodist Church Hall - behind the Lawnswood Arms 1.45pm - 3.45pm) Let these newcomers to dancing see what a lovely social spirit exists in the Scottish Country Dancing world!

Barbara Caldicott

MAY 2002

27th Afternoon Tea Dance
1.45 - 3.45pm Adel Methodist Church Hall.
See above for details.

29th End of Term Party
Knaresborough Class
7.30 - 10pm Holy Trinity Church Hall. Faith Supper.
*All dancers welcome.
Please come and join us.*

JUNE 2002

1st Summer Dance Darlington
Dolphin Centre, Darlington
Further details & tickets from Terry Charter 01325 240 757

15th 40th Birthday Dance
7.30pm West Park CDC
Kenny Thomson's Wardlaw Band
MC Gerry Yates
Tickets available from Alan Carr 01943 466702

JUNE 2002 continued

29th Otley Charity Dance
Civic Centre, Otley
Neil Barron
Further details & tickets from Roy Goldring 01943 601373

JULY 2002

5th White Rose Festival
& 6th St Peter's School, York

If you would like to be part of a branch team please contact Catherine Livsey 01484 432270 Day. Catherine will also be sending a block booking for tickets for the branch. If you want her to get tickets for you then please contact her ASAP.

SEPTEMBER 2002

21st Half Day School
West Park CDC
Please see enclosed forms for more details.

21st Social Dance
7.30pm West Park CDC

For further information & bookings for all branch events please contact Yvonne Tredgett 01302 851174 unless other wise stated.

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.

Summer Term Classes 2002

White Rose Festival Demonstration Dances & Festival Highland Dance

Mondays until Festival except Jubilee Bank Holiday, 7.45 - 9.45pm
Calverley Conservative Club, Calverley
Teacher: Catherine Livsey

Even if you don't want to take part in the demonstrations on the day, you are all more than welcome to come to the class and try these dances out. Further details from Catherine Livsey 01484 432270 Day.

All Levels

Monday, 1.45 - 3.45pm
Adel Methodist Church Hall, Adel, Leeds 16
Teachers: Barbara Caldicott, Alan Carr
Finishes 27th May 2002

Level 2

Tuesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm
Adel Methodist Church Hall, Adel, Leeds 16
Teacher: Susan Carr
Finishes 2nd July 2002

Level 2

Wednesdays except the 4th Wednesday of each month, 7.30 - 10.00pm
Holy Trinity Church Hall, Knaresborough
Teachers: Ann Baranyai & Malcolm Frost
Finishes 29th May, although the group will continue to meet throughout the summer, numbers willing contact Malcolm Frost for details of when classes are to be held.

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
Hawthorn Wood Primary School, Broadway, Leeds 5
Teacher: Brenda Burnell