



The Leeds Branch Newsletter

From your Chairman

At your annual general meeting just before the October Branch dance, I was 'elected' as your chairman. At the same time, the new committee was installed, many of its members with an impressive record of service to the Branch. As I am sure you will know, under the terms of our constitution, committee members and officers have time limited periods of office, so, after thanking three of our colleagues for their efforts, we sadly had to let them go: Brenda Burnell, Jean Morrison, and Helga Pearson. Believe me, without their cheerful and willing hard work over past years, the Branch dances and other social events could not have happened.

The full list of committee members appears elsewhere in this Newsletter, but perhaps I should make it clear that Brenda Burnell continues her essential work as membership secretary. She will no doubt also continue to produce the Dance Reminders, the beautifully manuscripted programmes which decorate the walls of the West Park hall, and the photographic record of Branch activities. Not to mention the lunches!

I am sure that you are all aware that for the last year the Branch has been without a chairman. This has put a double load on the secretary, Jean Dyson, who has enabled the Branch to continue its work almost without a hiccup by doing both jobs, with distinction. The Branch owes Jean a substantial debt of gratitude.

By comparison with most of the committee, I am a fairly recent recruit to Scottish dancing, and very new on the committee, with only one year of service. Brenda and I (Andrews, not Burnell!) started about eight years ago. She started first, with Roy and Doreen Goldring at Wells House in Ilkley. Soon after we found that there was a class in Keighley, where we live, on an evening when I was free, so I started as well. There we met Alan and Christine Proctor, who introduced us to the NW Craven Branch. We still enjoy our friendship with members of that Branch, and the excellent dances at Ingleton. Now we do two or three classes a week, mainly in Leeds, and dance socially most Saturday evenings.

At the AGM I set the committee and the Branch two objectives for this year. First, to up-date the Branch constitution. This doesn't sound very exciting, and indeed it isn't, but it's



necessary. The Society has changed its constitution recently, and Branches need to keep in line. While we are at it, we might as well consider what other changes might benefit the Branch at this point in its history. This

work has already started, and all members will be kept informed of progress so that they can give a considered opinion at the 2003 AGM. If approved there, the revised constitution then has to go to the Society for ratification.

Second, I am keen that we do a thorough review of publicity. This forms the route to increasing awareness of our activities, increasing attendance at classes and at dances, and increasing membership. We already have the Newsletter, the web site, occasional demonstrations, and of course word of mouth, but I am sure we can do more. I look forward to receiving



An Unexpected Surprise

For those who were able to attend the October dance will remember the music

that evening and for those who were unable to come you missed a rare treat! Andrew Lyon (accordion) and David Queen (fiddle) were playing that evening but were joined after the interval by Keith Smith. His playing added a new dimension to the second half and it was most enjoyable. When the legs were beginning tire the splendid music kept us all going to the end.

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.

your ideas. I can always be contacted on 01535 605065, donald@hbandrews.fsnet.co.uk
Good dancing

Donald Andrews - October 2002

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 new Branch web site is www.rscdsleeds.org.uk Why not give it a try.

A Young Person's Guide to St. Andrew's



This summer Ellie Bailey and I received Society scholarships to attend a week of Summer School. After several months of wondering what Summer School would actually be like, we were not disappointed. It was a fantastic week. We enjoyed every minute, even the piper playing at 7.30 in the morning!

We danced every night in the Younger Hall, which was brilliant, and the live music from well known Scottish Country Dance musicians, including David

Cunningham and Muriel Johnstone, was amazing.

After dancing two classes in the morning, a country dance and a ladies' step class, as well as most afternoons and in the evening, we arrived back in Leeds thoroughly exhausted.

We would like to thank the Branch committee for making this possible by nominating us for scholarships. It is definitely an experience we will remember.

Dora Connolly

St Andrews 2002

The Leeds Branch very kindly applied for a scholarship for me to attend this year's Summer School in St Andrews. I travelled up on the train with my friend, Dora, via Edinburgh to Leuchars, where we were picked up and taken to the University. Dancing didn't start until the next day, so we had time to explore the town and settle in. We were invited to a meeting after dinner for first timers where we got chance to talk to the organisers, ask questions and meet some

of the people that would be in our class.

The next morning I was woken up by Jim Rae playing his bagpipes right under my window! Despite this I managed to successfully negotiate the way to my first class. This class concentrated on

technique and I think it improved my dancing a lot. The second class I opted for was the ladies' step which I enjoyed. It was rather a strain on my memory (not to mention my legs) by the end of the week. The highland taster session just about finished me off but it was definitely worth it.

The social dances were held each night were great fun and gave me chance to meet people from other classes – everyone was very friendly. There was a party on the last night at which we ended staying up far too late And after that and the cumulative effects of the bagpipes, I slept on the train all the way back to Leeds.

I had a great time and I'll definitely be going to Summer School again.

Elly Bailey

Invitation ...

The branch is starting a demonstration class the first class is on Sunday 1st December 2002 at Ashwith Village Hall at 2pm to 4pm, teacher Catherine Livsey. Any experienced dancers (of at least one year) are very welcome. You will not be pushed into taking part in demonstrations if you don't want, and just wish to come to the class to learn more challenging dances and choreography pieces, although the main aim of the class is to have practiced dances that can be used for demonstrations. Further details from Catherine Livsey Tel 01484 306637.

Kilt for sale

I am an ex-member of the Leeds Branch and have not been dancing for many years. I would be very interested in selling my equipment for a modest sum. The items consist of: Kilt (Caledonian tartan), day jacket and montrose doublet (both made by Brenda Burnell), ghillies, socks, 2 sporrans, jabot and lace cuffs. The kilt would fit a man of 34-36" waist, approx. 42" chest and 6' tall. Everything is in excellent condition.

Any reasonable offer would be accepted. Contact Peter Conway pconway593@aol.com 0113 266 7639.

Sat 21st December 2002 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

West Park Centre, Spen Lane

Music: David Cunningham Trio M.C : Alan Carr

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

Programme

The Hollin Buss	32J	Bk 24
John of Bon Accord	32R	Bk33
Oriel Strathspey	32S	Bk32
The Chequered Court	32J	Bk42
Reverend John MacFarlane	32R	Bk37
From Scotia's Shores We're Noo Awa'	32S	RSCDS Lft
Wild Geese	32J	Bk24
Fisherman's Reel	32R	Dunblane Holiday

Ladies of Dunse	40R	Bk26
Tribute to the Borders	32J	RSCDS Lft
Miss Gibsons Strathspey	32S	RSCDS Lft
Vintage 62	32J4	Goldring
Swiss Lassie	32R3	Bk 39
Cherrybank Gardens	32S	Drewry
Macleod's Fancy	32J	Bk33
Reel of the Royal Scots	32R	RSCDS Lft

Extras

Pelorus Jack
Neidpath Castle
Mrs MacLeod

An Earth Shattering Summer

The end of July saw my family re-united for the annual holiday, once more in Scotland, this time at Onich, a little south of Fort William. I had forgotten just beautiful this area is and together with all the various activities close by it fitted everyone's holiday bill.

I was personally delighted to find an advert for "Scottish Country Dancing" - every one welcome. Held every Tuesday evening at Kilmallie Hall, Corpach (on the road to Mallaig). As jet lag left the rest of the family unable to come, my sister Rose and I went by ourselves. We thought that as it was summer it would probably be a small class. We could not have been more wrong. Parked outside was an empty

coach and inside, besides the regular dancers, were 40 Japanese dancers on their way home from St. Andrews.

The atmosphere was charged with sheer and utter pleasure as we were drawn into dancing with these graceful partners. There was no time to sit down between dances and we soon became quite fluent at saying "please" and "thank you" in Japanese (but we never learned how to spell it). Teatime came and we were presented with hand made greetings cards and sweetmeats together with a crash course in origami. Everyone signed the visitors book and the second half proved just as energetic as the first. Our teacher, Norma McClellan, had done a superb job of

restructuring her class because of the influx of students so that throughout a thoroughly good time was had by all.

The Japanese group was so pleased with the evening that at the end, their spokesman made a lovely speech and Norma was presented with a beautiful hand painted silk scarf.

The next week the family came with us and once more the same warm welcome from the regular dancers was extended to us. Lots of lovely dances done with the evening brought to a close by "Seton's Ceilidh Band", and with many, many voices all saying "Haste Ye Back", we took our leave, looking forward to when we do return.

The Scottish holiday over,

and after a short sojourn in Paris, a couple of weeks later found Rose and I at the Birmingham Symphony Hall for what was billed as a Scottish Tattoo. To me it was more a celebration of Scottish history with some Irish culture thrown in, but having said that it was a really good show. Three pipebands, a brass band, an Irish band, a group of young Irish dancers, a really good group of young Highland dancers, and three sets of members of the country dancing groups of the Midlands - accompanied by George Meikle and the Lothian Band - who brought the house down during their solo spot. So many Auld Scots Sangs were sung with the audience joining in, then the show being brought to a close with a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne.

Going home, we thought we would wind down gently with a nightcap and a game of scrabble, but nature had other ideas. It capped the evening with an earthquake that measured 4.6 on the Richter Scale, the epicentre being just 10 miles away. Ivy Lawson, who was visiting family in Walsall at the same time, found herself shaken out of bed. All quite terrifying, but thankfully no one was hurt and not a lot of damage done.

All in all thinking back, I had to concur with nature - it really was an earth-shattering finish to a most enjoyable summer.

Kathie Dosell

AGM Party ...



Leeds branch members at the RSCDS AGM in Aberdeen, Susan Carr, Julie Harrison, Alan Harrison, Adrian and Chris McDonald, Brenda Burnell, and Alan Carr.

Half Day School



On Saturday 21st September we arrived at West Park for an excellent afternoon of dancing. Lead by our teacher John Wilkinson we managed to go through all the dances in the new book 42. Although hard work and mentally challenging our spirits were kept up by wonderful playing by Jack Judson. Jack always delights with some unusual tunes, because of this I always enjoy Jacks playing very much.



In the evening we were treated to a new band for the branch the Ian Muir Trio. An excellent

band to dance to. They managed to keep our very tired feet going right to the end.

Catherine Livsey

From the Secretary

It was pleasing to see more members at this year's AGM. The secretary reported on the success of last season's events, and hoped the support would continue. In view of the improved attendance, it was agreed to hold next year's AGM before the 2003 October Branch dance.

The treasurer, Jean Morrison, reported a profit for the season and hoped that this would continue. Jean was thanked for keeping the books in order.

Alan Carr read out the last report on the proceedings of the Headquarters Executive Committee as it will cease to exist after the AGM in November. It will be replaced by a Management Board of

eighteen elected members, plus the convenors of the three Standing Committees, the Chairman and the Chairman-Elect.

The following were elected to the Branch Committee

Chairman	Don Andrews
Secretary	Jean Dyson
Treasurer	Derek Kendall
Committee	Susan Carr, Alan Carr, Val Hall, Alan Horsfall, Adrian Mc Donald

Jean Dyson

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

Highland Day School (October 12th)

If anyone likes a challenge, laughter, and good company, I can thoroughly recommend the Highland Day School with Catherine Livsey as tutor.

Having never done any Highland steps my wife Christine and I decided to give it a try. On October 12th we duly arrived for the 10.30 start feeling somewhat apprehensive, which only increased when we realised that we were definitely at the mature end of the class. But most of the faces were familiar, and as usual the females outnumbered the males.

The class began with Catherine's usual excellent warm-up routine and any stiffness of the limbs was soon dispelled. Coupé pas-de-basque was then taught and at this early stage I realised that this could be one of those days when brain and body lacked a certain amount of co-ordination. I apologise to the

young lady behind me who had to take evasive action from my flailing limbs. But as the morning progressed we beginners were gradually showing some improvement at trying to emulate the more experienced dancers. Rocking Step and Glasgow Highlanders Step followed coupé pas-de-basque, our repertoire of steps was increasing. As the steps were taught they were incorporated into dances and the morning soon flew by.

After lunch we were joined by fresh faces whilst others took their leave. Shedding, Crossover, Toe and Heel, Shake and Travel, Brushing: all new terms and all new steps to the uninitiated. We tackled them all with enthusiasm. Then the highlight of the day, a dance called Dumfries Flirtation: 32 bars of concentrated effort, 16 bars of complete mayhem, followed by 50 bars of uncontrollable laughter. The sight of a slightly ruffled Don

Andrews extracting himself from a complicated movement involving three people was worth the day's fees alone. An enjoyable day was finished off with a Dunedin dance, The 26th March.

The class gave us our first insight into Highland steps, and it has also given us the confidence to try dances such as Lord Maclay's Reel, Winding Nith, and Glasgow Highlanders when they appear on social programmes.

It would have been nice to see more participants in the class. Catherine puts a great deal of work and enthusiasm into the day and I am sure anyone attending would not do home disappointed.

Alan Proctor - NW Craven Branch



We dare you to come to the next Highland Day School on April 12th 2003, detail in the next newsletter, put it in your diaries now.

Sat 18th January 2003 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spen Lane

Music: The Robert Whitehead Trio M.C : Avis Harrison
Admission: RSCDS Members £5.00, Non Members £6.00,
Students £2, Children £1

Programme

Happy Meeting	6x32J	Bk29
The Dancers Wedding	8x32R	Bk41
Fair Donald	8x32S	Bk29
The Earl of Mansfield	4x48R	RSCDS Lft
The Roselath Cross	8x32J	Bk41
Moray Rant	3x48S	Drewry
Broadford Bay	8x32R	LSCDS Lft32
Miss Mary Douglas	8x48J	Bk10

Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloch	8x32R	RSCDS Lft
The Nurseryman	8x32J	Bk37
James Senior of St Andrews	4x32S	Bk42
Not I	8x32R	Bk28
Rakish Highlandman	8x40J	Bk19
Anna Holden's Strathspey	6x32S	Bk42
Red House	6x40R	Bk7
The Hazel Tree	8x32J	Drewry

Extras

Pelorus Jack	8x32J	Bk41
Peggy Dewar	8x32R	Bk38
Sauchie Haugh	8x32S	RSCDS Lft
Saltire Society Reel	8x32R	RSCDS Lft

Sat 15th February 2003 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spen Lane

Music: John Brown & David Queen M.C : Jean & Reg Dyson
Admission: RSCDS Members £5.00, Non Members £6.00,
Students £2, Children £1

Programme

Jubilee Jig	8 x 32 J	RSCDS Leaflet
The Silver Thistle	8 x 32 R	Leeds 35th
INSTRUCTOR'S CHOICE	Strathspey	
Gothenburg's Welcome	8 x 32 J	Book 37
John of Bon Accord	8 x 32 R	Book 33
Donald Bane	8 x 32 S	Book 17
Miss Allie Anderson	8 x 32 J	RSCDS Leaflet
Reverend John Macfarlane	4 x 32 R	Book 37
Machine Without Horses	8 x 32 J	Book 12

Bratach Bana	8 x 32 R	Drewry
The Gentleman	8 x 32 S	Book 35
INSTRUCTOR'S CHOICE	Jig	
Dancing in the Street	4 x 32 R	Book 42
The Robertson Rant	80 S	Book 39
Laird of Milton's Daughter	8 x 32 J	Book 22
Maxwell's Rant	8 x 32 R	

Extras

Major Ian Stewart	8 x 32 J	Book 35
Blooms of Bon Accord	4 x 32 R	Drewry
College Hornpipe	8 x 32 R	Book 20
Birks of Invermay	8 x 32 S	Book 16

WE DARED, DARE YOU? Read on...

After eighteen months of attempting to dance: frustration, tears, and laughter at the Macreary class (beginners/intermediate) a sense of calming and comfort had set in. Yes, we could dance, here anyway.

We had the basics and the ability to dance, so what next? The advanced class? 'Aargh' we heard you scream. Dare we or dare we not?

With our nerves in tatters and frequent loo trips we ventured into the unknown. Could we cope?

Well, after several advanced classes we're still here. Our brains smoke with concentration and our feet have taken on a new lease of life, but so has our dancing. Yes, amazingly, we enjoy it! We still make mistakes but even the most experienced dancers do – after all we are only human (even in the advanced class!).

Avis Harrison and her advanced class members have made us feel very

welcome.

Remember, the only limits are in your mind. Don't think, just do it!

So don't hesitate to further your dancing. Bring along your brain (essential!) and shoes (necessity!) to Calverley Conservative Club on Monday evening 19.45 till 21.45.

We dared, dare you? See you soon!

Christina Quirke and Angela Welsh

The next 10 weeks of classes taught by Catherine Livsey will include dancers will a small amount of Highland (eg dancers like Lord Maclay's Reel) and will also work on and develop more complexed dances, working on balance and easy of movement.

For further information contact Donald Andrews on 01535 605065, donald@hbandrews.fsnet.co.uk

New participants welcome at any time!

Classes

Fees and Levels

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

Term Ticket - £30.00 this allows you to attend as many Branch Classes as you wish.

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

Classes

All Classes finish for Christmas in the week beginning December 16th.

Spring term commences week beginning 6th January 2003, except the level 3 class which commences on 13th January 2003.

All classes finish week commencing 7th April.

All Levels - Social Class

Monday's, 1.45 - 3.45pm

Adel Methodist Church Hall, Gainsborough Avenue, Adel, Leeds 16

Teachers: Barbara Caldicott, Alan Carr

Level 3

Monday's, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Calverley Conservative Club

Teachers: Catherine Livsey

Nov 18 - 16 December 2002, and 13th January - 10th February 2003.

Malcolm Brown

Feb 17 - 10 March 2003

Roy Goldring

March 17 - 7 April 2003

Level 2

Tuesday's, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Adel Methodist Church Hall, Adel, Leeds 16

Teacher: Susan Carr

Level 2

Wednesday's except the

4th Wednesday of each month,

7.30 - 10.00pm

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Knaresborough

Teachers: Ann Baranyai & Malcolm Frost

Level 2

Thursday's, 7.45 - 10.00pm

Brackenwood Community Centre,

New Building, Lidgett Lane, Leeds 8

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Children

Friday's 7.15 - 8.45pm

Hawthorn Wood Primary School,

Broadway, Leeds 5

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

DATES, DATES, DATES

NOVEMBER/DEC 2002

29th Malhamdale Weekend

/1st Teacher Alice Murphy
Music John Browne

DECEMBER 2002

13th Walkthru' Dance

7.30 - 10pm, Holy Trinity
Church Hall, Knaresborough
Further details Malcolm Frost
Tel 01423 872686

16th Christmas Tea Dance

1.45pm Adel Methodist Church
Hall, Gainsborough Avenue

Programme

1	Espie MacNabb	J.8x32
2	Happy Returns	R.8x32
3	Dundee Whaler	S4x32
4	Happy Meeting	J8x32
5	Summer Assembly	R4x32
6	Monymusk	S8x32
7	Ways in New Hall	R8x32
8	Butterscotch and Honey	S4x32
9	Vintage 62	J4x32
10	De'il Amang the Tailors	R8x32

Members of the Monday Class would like to invite all members to their Christmas Tea Dance. The cost will be £2.00 including refreshments. All dances will be recapped.

21st Christmas Dance

7.30pm West Park CDC
Music David Cunningham Trio

JANUARY 2003

18th Social Dance

7.30pm West Park CDC
Music Robert Whitehead Band

FEBRUARY 2003

15th Intermediate Day Course

Teacher Derek Haynes,
Musician Jack Judson
Adel Methodist Church
commencing 10.00am

£12 including lunch & £16
for course and evening
dance saving £1.

This course is intended for dancers with at least one years experience and the aim is to expand their knowledge of technique, phrasing and figures.

15th Social Dance

7.30pm West Park CDC
Music John Browne & David Queen

Advanced notice

May 17th 2003 Teaching Skills Course with Elma McCausland. Full details in the New Tear.

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