



The Leeds Branch Newsletter

Leeds Branch Children's Festival

Over 150 children met on Saturday 21st March for the 21st Anniversary of the Leeds Branch Children's Festival. Ray Jones acted as M.C. and kept the afternoon running to schedule. Peter Clark was the adjudicator and gave the children some valuable comments which will help them to improve their dancing.

The children were all very enthusiastic and were a credit to their teachers.

The Leeds team of younger dancers, taught by Barbara Caldicott, danced 'Scotland' very well indeed.



The Branch welcomes your news, 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.



The Junior team danced Scotland

The older girls under the guidance of Brenda Burnell danced 'MacDonald of Sleat' extremely well. Both teachers should be very proud of them.

As it was the 21st Anniversary of the Leeds Branch Children's



The Teenage team danced MacDonald of Sleat

Festival and the 75th Anniversary of the RSCDS each dancer received a badge commemorating this.

Many thanks to all who "gave up" their Saturday afternoon to come along and help.

We look forward to our 22nd Festival on 20th March 1999.

Jean Dyson

Designed and Produced by CLD Tel 01484 432270 Fax 01484 559722

Sat 20th June 1998 - 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

West Park CDC

Music - Neil Barron (solo) MC - Betty Fox

Programme

Kendall's Hornpipe	8 x 32J	Graded
Lothian Lads	8 x 32R	Drewry/Brodie Book
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	8 x 32S	RSCDS L/let
Joie de Vivre	8 x 32J	Book 39
The Reverend John MacFarlane	8 x 32R	Book 37
The Braes of Mellinish	6 x 32S	Book 25
Wild Geese	8 x 32J	Book 24
Inverneill House	8 x 32R	Book 35
Tribute to the Borders	8 x 32J	RSCDS L/let
Fife Ness	8 x 32R	RSCDS 4 /1978
Lady Lucy Ramsay	8 x 32S	MMM2
MacLeod's Fancy	4 x 32J	Book 33
The Dancing Bees	8 x 32R	Leeds 24 Graded
The Silver Tassie	8 x 32S	RSCDS L/let
Seton's Ceilidh Band	4 x 64J	Morison's Bush Coll'n
Saltire Society Reel	8 x 32R	RSCDS L/let

Extras

Major Ian Stewart	8 x 32J	Book 35
West's Hornpipe	4 x 32H	RSCDS 5/1965
The Dundee Whaler	4 x 32S	Clowes/Ormskirk Bk 1
The Barmkin	1 x 88R	Leeds 24 Graded

CERTIFICATE CLASS

The Branch is proposing to hold a certificate class later this year. It would be for candidates who are ready to take their Teacher's Certificate and also for dancers about to take their Preliminary Test. The classes will be held monthly on Sundays with an exam in early '99. If you are interested in attending such a course please contact Brenda Burnell (0113 2676655) for further details.

Basic Day School - 14th March 1998

On a lovely March morning, we gathered at St Mary's Church Hall for a Basic Day School with Peter Clark and Ian Slater. Yvonne Tredgett was there to welcome us and cheerfully (more of that later) allocated name badges to each of us.

We warmed up as is the usual format at the start of most classes. If, like me, you are not a morning person and haven't done a couple of miles jog round the block, a gentle warm up is certainly a good idea.

Peter gave the class a choice of concentrating on reels or on different forms of progressions. A few voices called out 'progressions' and so the programme was set for the day. We were guided through various progressive formations such as the Rondel, Tournee, Spurtle and the Targe. It was all good fun, as Peter keenly and clearly took us through the 'tricky' parts.

Ian provided us with the right music at the right time. Although he may have thought that we took him for granted as we concentrated on our geography and steps, we did in fact keep our ears peeled to the lilting sounds from the top.

Scarborough Weekend April 3rd -5th 1998

As always a thoroughly enjoyable weekend, held at the University College in Scarborough. Once you have signed in and unpacked it is non-stop fun, starting with a dance on the Friday evening.



Classes commenced on Saturday morning, bright and early! The teacher, Alison Russell, kept our attention throughout, starting with a very well thought out icebreaker to get us going. Alison breathed lots of energy and life into her classes, with some interesting choices of dances including Mrs MacArthur of Netherlee and 8000 Miles from Home. Of course this was all accompanied by superb music.

The free Saturday afternoon was most welcome, with a chance to relax or rush around Scarborough shopping centre as I chose to do, leaving just enough time to get ready for the evening meal and dance. Classes finished on the Sunday afternoon with only lunch now to share with friends (old and new), before going home.

The weekend is a great chance to make new friends, but most of all to enjoy yourself and learn!
Jennifer Edmondson

Our energy was recharged by a delicious lunch provided by Brenda Burnell and her merry team of ladies, who were perhaps dancing between the tables as we danced in our sets. Did I detect a glass of white wine stored behind a thin curtain on the window sill or was the sherry in the trifle playing tricks on me!

All in all, it was a very good day and enjoyed by everyone. We hope Peter will return and lead us to the top of the class.

Sou Robertson

RON BURNELL

Valhalla, in Scandinavian mythology, is the Palace of Bliss for slain heroes. In Scottish mythology McValhalla is the Palace of Bliss for Scottish Dancers who reach for a higher plane, and McValhalla has just acquired a new hero, Ron Burnell, who passed away recently.

Many will never have met Ron; some with longer memories will recall the man who arrived at Branch events driving the car transporting his wife Brenda (Madam President), and the plastic buckets containing the fruit salad and sandwiches etc. created by Brenda the previous night, to feed the hungry dancers.

Then there are the other people, like myself, with even longer memories, who will remember Ron when he was an active dancer. In the mid 50s before the Branch was formed, the Leeds Club had classes at the Leeds Modern School and he attended those. He also ran classes at Brudenell School and in those days he was much involved in the Scottish Dance scene.

Prior to those days, both he and I, although unbeknown to each other, were part of the 'thin red line' of defenders who kept out the enemies of the realm. Luckily (for both the enemy and England), there were not many enemies about in the late 40s and early 50s but we were ready for them (I think). The RAF was much weakened when we were both let out, but Ron's lovely sense of humour was very much born of his spell in the forces, and life around him was filled with laughter.

But life can be cruel! Ron contracted that most insidious of diseases which bears the name of its 'discoverer' James Parkinson. This disease effectively removed the humour from Ron's life, though I feel sure his inward dignity would have remained.

Ron has earned his place in the Palace of Bliss and our sympathy and best wishes must go to Brenda and their family who had the task of caring for him in his last years.

Alec Green

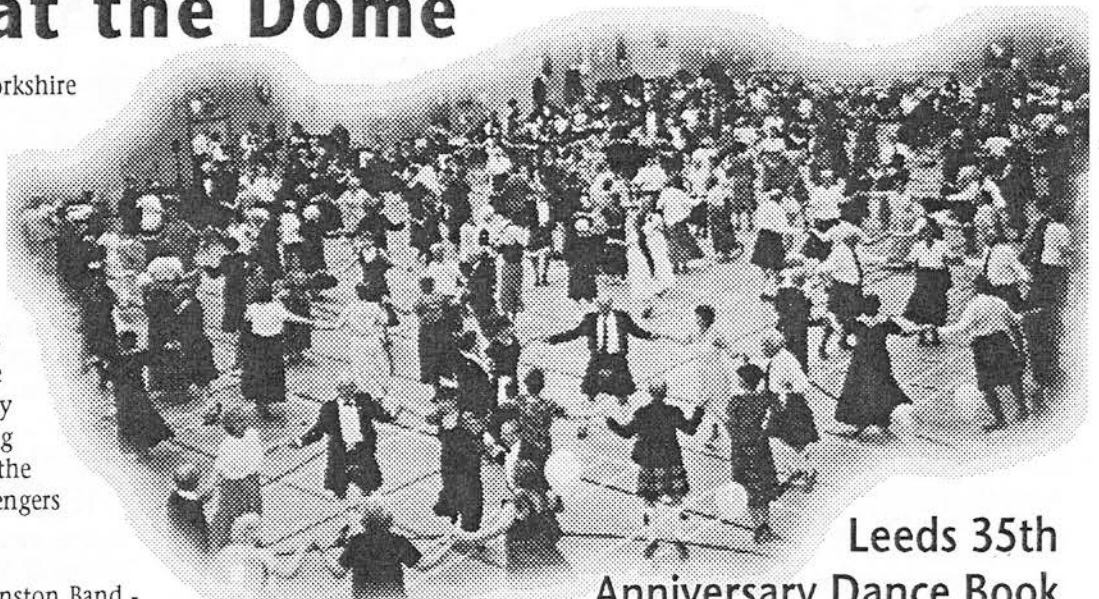
I would like to say thank you to all Branch members who have sent messages of condolence to my family in recent weeks. They have been a source of great comfort to us all.

We very much appreciate the generous donation made to the Parkinson's Disease Society from the Branch.

Brenda Burnell

The Do at the Dome

On Saturday 18 April, the Yorkshire and close-to-Yorkshire Branches held their very own RSCDS 75th Anniversary celebration at Doncaster Dome. Four hundred dancers, resplendent in tartan and finery, began the evening with a very Grand March. (Those 50 or so of us who travelled on the coach from Leeds were already in festive spirits, having enjoyed an extensive tour of the leafy suburbs, collecting passengers from all around).



Music was by the Muriel Johnston Band - six wonderful musicians who played without flagging, through a programme of twenty popular dances. Congratulations to them, and to the MCs who had their work cut out to marshall all those lines of dancers and keep up to the schedule.

There was a great atmosphere as old friends met and new ones were made. As you can see from the photographs, a good time was had by all, and the floor wasn't half as hard as the doomsayers predicted!

Well done, the organisers! And a big thank you to Brenda Burnell for undertaking the mind-boggling task of arranging the coach and its itinerary.

I can't wait for the Centenary Ball! See you there in 2023!

Chris McDonald



Bill Clement The Society Chairman cutting the celebration cake

Leeds 35th Anniversary Dance Book

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the following Branch members have been successful in having their dances selected for the new book.

Jean Baldwin of Otley
Brenda Burnell of Leeds
Reg Dyson of Otley
Malcolm Frost of Harrogate
Veronica Hughes of Brighouse
Jennifer Lindsay of Wakefield
Yvonne Tredgett of Doncaster

May I thank all members who contributed dances and offer our congratulations to the above, and commiserations to those whose dances were not selected. Please do not feel too disappointed if your dance was not selected on this occasion - the standard of dances was very high, with 16 of the 25 submitted scoring more than 70%.

The 'top three' were all strathspeys, devised by Yvonne Tredgett, Veronica Hughes and Brenda Burnell.

Our thanks are also due to the many musicians who produced some very pleasant and exciting tunes for these dances.

May I also thank all the members who assisted the Committee by turning up to dance through the 25 dances during February and March. Without this support the job would have been much more difficult. Special thanks are due again to Jack Judson who sustained life during three long Saturdays with some lively piano playing. Well done all round!

We all now look forward to enjoying these dances on next year's programmes. Gerry Yates

Highland Day School - 9th May 1998

On a sunny Saturday morning a number of dancers attended the Highland Day for a fun filled day of Highland Dancing. After limbering up we mastered 'Come Ashore Jolly Tar' and 'Shepherd's Crook' so hopefully we will be experts for the White Rose Festival at York. Some of us continued through to the afternoon session, where, with a difference we tackled 'Lochaber Swords' and a 'Step Jig' like the Irish Jig danced by competitors at Highland Games. It certainly was a challenge and those attending thoroughly enjoyed it. Thanks to Catherine Livsey for putting us through our paces.

Isabel Douglas

Demonstration at Bilton Gala, Harrogate - 4th May 1998

A demonstration team of dancers attended Bilton Gala, Harrogate on Bank Holiday Monday. Along with other performers they gave a twenty minute display of dancing. The event was held outside and the glorious weather attracted a large crowd.

Isabel Douglas

Thanks to everyone who gave up their time to dance at the demonstration, especially to Isabel for taking the lead on the day in my absence.

Catherine Livsey

Dear Branch Members

We would like to convey our deep appreciation to everyone who showed so much concern for us following the vandalism at the Branch dance on 21st February 1998, which resulted in our car being burnt out.

We were overwhelmed by members' kindness, many phone calls and the lovely flowers from the branch.

We cannot thank you enough, and not forgetting Hugh & Mary for getting us home.

Jean & Denys Waterhouse.

Classes

Fees

£1.50 per class, Advanced class £2.00
(due to class having live music.)

General

Tuesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Adel Methodist Church Hall, Adel,
Leeds 16

Commencing 21st April 98 - if demand,
until White Rose Festival in York

NO CLASS ON THE 26TH MAY

Teachers: Alan & Susan Carr

Advanced

Tuesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Mechanics Institute - Corner of Blackett
St & Thornhill St, Calverley, Leeds. On
street parking.

Commencing 28th April 98 - 19th May 98

Teacher: Avis Harrison

Beginners

**1st Three Wednesdays of month,
7.45 - 9.45pm**

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Knaresborough
Until 20th May 98

Teacher: Peter Clark

General

Thursdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Brackenwood Community Centre,
New Building, Lidgett Lane, Leeds 8
On-going

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Children

Fridays 7.15 - 8.45pm

Hawksworth Wood Primary School,
Broadway, Leeds 5

Commencing 24th April 98 - until
White Rose Festival in York

Teachers: Brenda Burnell,
Barbara Caldicott

Branch Socials

Fridays 7.45 - 9.45pm

at St Columba's UR Church Hall,
Headingley, Leeds
5th June 1998

Branch Social Dances

Increased Prices

The committee feels 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 will come into
effect in September at the start of the
new season.

At the Christmas dance the committee
experimented with the decoration of the
stage and the removal of the chairs at the
end of the room. They feel gives a focal
point, emphasising the band, and have
therefore decided to continue this practice
as it enhances the venue.

DATES, DATES, DATES

Saturday 20th June 1998

SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre
Music Neil Barron

Saturday 27th June

LEEDS CLUB SUMMER BALL

at St Chads - from 7.30pm

Tickets £7.50 including buffet supper
from Eric Wallace 0113 255 5028

Sunday 28th June 1998

Richmond Branch will celebrate the
RSCDS 75th Anniversary with a
festival of Scottish Country Dancing
for all in the grounds of

RICHMOND CASTLE 2 - 4.30pm

Everyone can take part, experienced
dancer or beginner.

For details - contact Richmond Branch

Secretary Fiona Turnbull - in Spring
01833 638449

Monday 6 July 1998

RSCDS LEEDS BRANCH AGM

at St Mary's Church Hall, Hawkwood
Ave, Leeds 5. At 7.30pm

Nominations and proposals etc. need to
be in by Monday 22nd June 1998

Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th July 1998

WHITE ROSE FESTIVAL

OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

at St Peter's School, Clifton, York.

Friday

8.00pm to 11.00pm

DANCE to records at St. Peter's School

Faith Supper - subject to confirmation

Saturday

2.00pm to 5.00pm

MASS DANCING

to David Cunningham and his Band
for both adults and children,

+ solo team demonstrations
and Ladies and Men's Highland displays

7.30pm to 11.00pm

EVENING DANCE

to David Cunningham and his Band
at The Assembly Rooms in Blake Street
Tickets £7.50 adult dancers £5.00 juniors
and spectators

A bar will be available

Further information and tickets from
Lesley Digby 01904 489662

If you wish to dance in one of the branch
mass display teams and/or joint
branch/club solo spot contact Catherine
Livsey

Day 01484 432270 Evenings 01484
306637

or fill in the form enclosed with this
newsletter by

Saturday 30th May 1998

Saturday 11th July 1998

THE ARDEN LEA CHARITY DANCE

organised annually by Roy and Doreen
Goldring

at Otley Civic Centre.

Further details from Roy Goldring

Tel 01943 601373

Saturday 19th September 1998

RSCDS LEEDS BRANCH HALF DAY SCHOOL

For teachers, prospective teachers,
advanced and intermediate dancers.

Numbers are strictly limited, early
application is recommended.

At West Park Centre from 1pm

Teacher Lesley Martin, Music Jack Judson

Classes £7.50 or with High Tea £10.00

Forms from Yvonne Tredgett

01302 851174

Saturday 19th September 1998

SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre

Music Robert Whitehead Band

Saturday 26th September 1998

BEGINNERS' CEILIDH

with refreshments

7.30 - 10.30pm

Mechanics' Institute

Corner of Blackett St & Thornhill St.

Calverley

Please spread the word!

Wednesdays starting

30th September 1998

NEW BEGINNERS' CLASS

Mechanics' Institute

Corner of Blackett St & Thornhill St.

Calverley

Teacher Brenda Burnell

NEW for Autumn

BEGINNERS' CEILIDH AND NEW BEGINNERS' CLASS

The Branch, in its endeavours to recruit
new members, is running a
BEGINNERS' CEILIDH 7.30 - 10.30pm
on Saturday 26th September
with orange juice and biscuits as
refreshment, at the Mechanics' Institute,
Corner of Blackett St & Thornhill St.,
Calverley. This is intended as a taster to
feed people into the New Beginners'
Class on Wednesdays at Mechanics'
Institute, Calverley. The class will start
on 30th September 1998, with Brenda
Burnell as its teacher.

If you know anyone who would be
interested, please spread the word!
New dancers mean a future for Scottish
Country Dancing.