

Leeds Branch Dancers Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1072452

ISSUE 96 FEBRUARY 2020



Musicians' at the Tuesday Class.



Future Newsletters

The Branch welcomes your news, stories, views, questions etc...

Please send all copy for future newsletters to Irene Dracup
21 Lawns Drive, Leeds LS12 5RJ
Tel:0113 2631310

Email: glyn.cup@virginmedia.com

Copy should be with her at least three weeks before publication for the November, February and May issues, and early July for the August issue.

If for some reason you don't receive a copy of the Branch newsletter please contact Brenda Burnell on 0113 267 6655.

Chair Chat ...

Scottish Country Dancing is surely the antidote to cold winter weather and, judging by the excellent turnout for the Branch January dance, many of you were ready to get the blood moving and enjoy good music and friendly faces.

That Saturday was a busy day for twelve members of the Branch who, prior to the dance, dropped in on Champion House - a residential nursing home in Calverley - to provide a bit of entertainment. In Catherine Livsey's capable hands, a programme of popular dances interspersed with highland dances and piping went down a treat. If you would like to join in events where we promote Scottish Country Dancing, do please tell your class rep or any member of the committee. Our demonstrations emphasise the social, fun side of dancing. Cast aside any image of complex dances and sylph-like dancers who wouldn't dream of smiling: this is Leeds - fun, friendly, inclusive.

May I recommend the eUpdate for up-to-the-minute news on events? As I write this, there are still activities to look forward to in

January but, by the time you receive this newsletter, a new decade of dancing will be well under way. The calendar has a splendid array of Burns Night events, including a Leeds Branch demonstration and a highly recommended ceilidh organised by our affiliated group, the Harrogate Saltire SCDC. I hope you found an event to suit you.

Our dances for the rest of the season will be at St Chad's at 7.00. The **21st March dance** is to the music of Phil Jones with Irene Dracup as MC. On this occasion there will be a faith supper. The next **Highland Day School** is on 25 April, and so we dance our way towards lighter evenings and the **16th May dance** to the music of Ian Muir. Jill Woodman and I are your MCs for the evening: just part of a plan to increase the number of Branch members who can be called upon to take on MC duties. Fortunately, we are receiving lots of support from our teachers.

After the huge success of the **family ceilidhs** last year, we are running two further ceilidhs on 7 March and 2 May. Do tell your friends and bring them along. Following on from

the ceilidhs, there will be a 6-week beginner's/ceilidh class starting in September: the aim is to bridge the gap between complete novices and the standard of our general classes which, I'm sure you will agree, are not suitable for dancers expecting ten minutes of an Orcadian Strip the Willow. More information in the next newsletter.

Just before I sign off, please check that you have **The White Rose Festival** in your diary. On 11 July 2020, Leeds will again be the centre of the SCD world, as dancing friends from around the country congregate to share the pleasure of dancing together. Organising a major event such as this is a mammoth task and I should like to thank Jane Walford and her team for giving us all this annual delight. See you there!

Marion

Subscription to this Newsletter can be taken out at £6.00 for 4 issues for non Leeds Branch Members.

Contact Brenda Burnell for details and form.

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

Robin Walford

It is with great sadness that we announce that Robin Walford died on Thursday 23rd January at St Gemma's Hospice in Leeds, where he had been since the New Year. Many of you will know that Robin had been ill for some time. Robin will be sorely missed as an enthusiastic dancer and Branch member for many years. Our thoughts are with Jane and her family at this difficult time.



Leeds Branch on the internet

The Leeds Branch provides several resources on the internet.

The main web site is at www.rscdsleeds.org.uk/, everything is accessible from here. It has details of upcoming events and links to cribs, the new shop, the White Rose Festival, Facebook pages and Twitter.

The shop now has its own website at rscdsleeds.uk. It now provides online ordering and payments.

If you require any help accessing the above information speak to Adrian Dickin or email adrian.dickin@gmail.com

Saturday 21 March 2020, 7.00pm SOCIAL DANCE (with Faith Supper)

St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road,
Leeds, LS16 5JT

Music: Phill Jones (solo) MC: Irene Dracup

Admission: £9, Non-members £11, Full time Education £3

Programme

The Royal Deeside Railway	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 40
The Zoologist	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 46
Sands of Morar	8x32 S	RSCDS Book 45
Miss Johstone of Ardrossan	5x32 R	RSCDS 30 popular, Vol 2
The Dancing Master	1x96 J	RSCDS 30 popular, Vol 2
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	8x32 S	RSCDS Leaflet dances
The Peat Fire Flame	8x40 R	Drewry, Bon Accord Book of SCDs
Best Set in the Hall	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 46

INTERVAL

The Sailor	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 24
Major Ian Stewart	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 35
Jacqui Watson's Strathspey	3x32 S	Leeds Golden Collection
The Reel of the 51st Division	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 13
Postie's Jig	8x32 J	RSCDS 30 popular, Vol 2
The Glengarry Homestead	4x32 S	The Kangaroo Paw
The Corner House Jig	8x32 J	Carnforth coll of SCDs 3
Jovial Jack	8x32 R	Leeds Golden Collection

EXTRAS

The Minister on the Loch	3x32 S	Magazine Dances
Scott Meikle	4x32 R	RSCDS Book 46
Roaring Jelly	8x32 J	Glendarroch Scottish Dance Sheets

All dances will be recapped.

Saturday 16 May 2020, 7.00pm SOCIAL DANCE

St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road,
Leeds, LS16 5JT

Music: Ian Muir

MCs: Marion Walbank & Jill Woodman

Admission: £9, Non-members £11, Full time Education £3

Programme

EH3 7AF	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 40
Lochalsh Reel	8x40 R	Skye Collection 2
City of Belfast	3x32 S	RSCDS Book 48
The Reverend Robin Walford	8x40 R	Ian Dall More information to follow
The Elephant Stampede	4x48 J	Aurora 10th Anniversary Book of SCD
The Gentleman	8x32 S	RSCDS Book 35
The Black Mountain Reel	5x32 R	RSCDS 30 popular, Vol 2
Hooper's Jig	8x32 J	RSCDS 30 popular, Vol 2

INTERVAL

Shiftin' Bobbins	8x32 R	RSCDS 30 popular, Vol 2
The Bees of Maggielknockater	4x32 J	RSCDS 30 popular, Vol 2
The Wind on Loch Fyne	3x32 S	RSCDS 30 popular, Vol 2
J. B. Milne	8x32 R	RSCDS 30 popular, Vol 2
Macleod's Fancy	4x32 J	RSCDS Book 33
The Orchards of Co. Armagh	3x32 S	Belfast Branch Platinum Anniversary Dances
Joie de Vivre	8x32 J	RSCDS 30 popular, Vol 2
Trip to Timber Ridge	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 52

EXTRAS

Tambourine	8x40 R	East Ivanhoe Book
The Happy Meeting	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 29
Scott Meikle	4x32 R	RSCDS Book 46
Moneymusk	8x32 S	RSCDS Book 11

All dances will be recapped.

Meet Your New Committee

Following the Branch AGM on October and the new Committee's first meeting in early December, when jobs were allocated for the coming year, we can now announce who is doing what!

First a warm welcome to **Marion Walbank as our new Chair**. Marion has already been visiting classes and events to meet as many of you as possible, but will already be known to those who attended social dances last year as the cheerful face of the catering Co-ordinator. She heads our 'strategic planning' for the future development of the Branch as well as keeping us on our toes with current projects such as the Family Ceilidhs. Obviously she chairs our Committee meetings and is one of our three elected Officers who are Trustees for the Charity Commission. Marion is also one of our current named delegates to the Society AGM next November

Alan Horsfall was re-elected by the Committee at their first meeting as **Vice-Chair**.

He stands in for the Chair when required and as current 'Father' of the Committee keeps us right on history and custom. Apart from his duties as Vice Chair, crucially, he is the person who researches, contacts and books the bands who play for our social dances, normally up to two years ahead! He is also one of the organisers of the popular Malhamdale Weekend course and a popular MC at social dances.

Ray Williams, our Treasurer, is the second Trustee. He was co-opted early last year and was confirmed in post at the 2019 AGM. The Branch Treasurer is our book-keeper and is responsible (jointly with the Chair, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer) for our bank accounts. He produces the end-of year audited accounts and reports for the Branch at our AGM, and for annual returns to RSCDS Head Office and the Charities Commission.

Evelyn Davidson was also confirmed as **Secretary**, the third Officer and Charity Trustee. She deals with Branch correspondence - nowadays mostly by email. The Secretary books venues for dances, ceilidhs and most classes, dealing with contracts with the venues and legal obligations. She also liaises with Membership Secretary and Head Office on membership matters, and ensures our returns are accurate and the HO website kept up to date. She produces the annual report to HO and Charities Commission on the activities of the Branch, ensuring that these activities have met our charitable obligations. She also books the MCs for social dances, and collects their programmes in time for wider publication to teachers and classes. She is also the second named delegate to the next Society AGM.

We have a new post of **Assistant Treasurer**, formerly approved at the AGM. **John Pugh**, had agreed to this role on being elected to the Committee in 2018, when no-one stood for the post of Treasurer. He was duly approved by the Committee (confirmed at the AGM 2019) and has handled the majority of day to day receiving and banking of monies from classes and dances since joining the Committee, and is usually to be seen 'on the door' at dances. We hope both he and

Ray will shortly have the long-awaited online banking permissions, which will at last bring our banking procedures up to date.

Our **Minute Secretary is Jill Woodman**, who takes notes at all Committee meetings, the AGM and any Special Meetings and then writes up the formal Minutes - a challenging task. She keeps the current Minute Book.

Elisabeth Pugh is our Catering Co-ordinator, taking over from Marion. Her job is to see that the interval refreshments at social dances and ceilidhs for both dancers and bands is provided, served and cleared up. She needs a rota of volunteers to provide a couple of helpers at each event. Please let her know if you are willing to do a shift - helpers get discount at dances!

Our **Day School Co-ordinator is Nicola Waugh**, who plans and organises the annual September Day School. Currently she also keeps our Facebook page up to date.

Another warm welcome to our newest recruit as a **Committee member: Sharon Taylor**. Sharon is a relatively new, but enthusiastic dancer, who can remind the 'old hands' what it is like to be a new dancer learning dances and customs, and attending social dances and workshops for the first few times.

There are also two ex-officio non-voting members of the Committee:

Membership Secretary, Brenda Burnell, who keeps the paper membership forms and deals with renewals and new members. She also teaches a class almost every Thursday of the year, and produces the beautiful handwritten posters of the programme for our social dances.

And **Christine Parker-Jones, the Shop Manager**, who not only manages our wonderful shop which keeps us in the black, and contributes her extensive IT skills with help for the eUpdate and transferring the membership data to electronic formats suitable for the 21st century, but is an enthusiastic source of ideas for recruiting new members.

The Branch Shop

We now sell James Senior shoes, including colourful pumps and ghillies.

We stock the latest books and CDs from Head Office, Branches, clubs and individuals from around the world.

Why not take a look at our new range of ebooks for purchase, plus some free ones too to download.

Visit www.rscdsleeds.uk for full details of these and lots of other goodies or email: sales@rscdsleeds.uk

If you would like anything else we don't stock we are happy to try and get it for you.

Please support your Branch shop!

First Impressions

I just booked in time for one of the last places at the November Malhamdale weekend 2019, without knowing clearly what to expect.

Having had nearly a month of rain, the weekend forecast was for cold, clear, sunny skies, and with registration not until 4pm on the Friday, I made the most of the lovely weather, walking for a few hours further up Malhamdale, arriving at Newfield Hall just after 4pm. I thought I might be one of the first to register, but to my astonishment I found most people had already arrived and were tucking in with gusto to tea and cake! I thought I wouldn't know anyone, but was delighted to find a number of people I knew from the Leeds and Askwith dances.

Newfield Hall belongs to HF Holidays and is a beautiful old 19th century house, set in lovely rural grounds. It had just been refurbished, so I was seeing it at its best and it was (almost) exclusively ours for the whole weekend.

I just had time for a swim (yes, they have a very reasonably sized swimming pool) before dinner at 7pm. The meals are sumptuous with a number of choices for starters, mains and desserts, all beautifully presented and delicious. Mind you, I hardly cook at all, so I'm grateful for anything prepared! But no, it really was excellent food. More than that, and in common with all HF houses, you eat at round tables of six or eight. Seats are not reserved and you sit with different people each meal, so it is a very sociable occasion and a good way to meet new Scottish dancers. Some had come quite a distance, including folk from Nottingham, Somerset, Leicester and London. There were about 45 of us altogether, the number being restricted by the size of the dance floor, not the number of bedrooms.

The Friday and Saturday evening dances started almost as soon as the meal was finished, but I noticed no-one had any trouble dancing on utterly full stomachs! The dance programmes were not too difficult so all could enjoy the dances, and with excellent re-capping from Alan Horsfall and excellent accordion playing from Alan Ross, they were most enjoyable evenings. Chatting with others after the dances with a nightcap by an open fire, just rounded off the day very nicely.

The dining room outside wall is all window and on Saturday morning while tucking in to a full English breakfast (shouldn't that be Scottish?) we were treated to a stunning view of frosted fields and silhouetted bare trees against a rising sun. Unforgettable. Time off on Saturday afternoon gave us a chance to be outside and enjoy a walk. Two of us walked up by the side of Malham Cove and across the pavement before returning to Malham via Janet's Foss. A lovely ramble which just fitted into the two free hours before the walk-through practice for the Saturday evening dance.



Alan Ross and Ruby Wilkinson

Ruby Wilkinson was our teacher for the two class sessions on Saturday and Sunday mornings. I was very pleased to meet her having just learnt the dance 'Ruby Wilkinson's Farewell to Cranshaw'. She made the sessions most enjoyable and good fun. Just a few stretching exercises, then into learning dances which most of us had not done before. We had a lot of laughs, especially over 'Double Posties Jig' and the final session finished with a wild rendition of 'The Willow Tree'. Surprisingly, there was only one injury!

So Malhamdale turned out to be a wonderful immersive experience which I would thoroughly recommend. Indeed, I enjoyed the weekend so much, I have already booked for 2020!

Jill Woodman



Dancers attempting the Double Postie's Jig

RSCDS Leeds' Musicians' Group

Here's a taste of what our musicians get up to between the annual Musicians' Day workshops in February.

They play for Irene's Adel class on the Tuesday evening before most Branch social dances, practising putting together 'sets' of music for the repertoire selected by our MCs, as well as learning the 'stop/start/play a few bars and repeat' routine for class musicians.

They also get to see how their speed of delivery and emphasis on the rhythm helps or hinders the dancers as they learn new dances and figures. Definitely a two-way learning experience!

They rehearse as a group twice monthly now at the Chemic Tavern near Hyde Park on Sunday evenings. One night is for dance music, and the other for 'Scottish music, airs and songs'. For the third year running now they have also masterminded the Chemic's Burns Night event on the Saturday nearest Burns Night, when they play a range of Scottish country dance music, airs and songs.

They are regularly now supported by a group of Irish musicians, and Anna from the Chemic, who leads the singing of some of Burns' songs. Others amongst the regulars contribute Scottish folk songs and ballads. A haggis supper, complete with neeps and tatties, is served for a modest fee.

Ev Davidson, Sub-Committee rep.



Burns Night with the Thursday Class

The Lidgett Park class held our annual Burns Night celebration on Thursday 23rd January. Alan Horsfall was MC, ably prompted by our teacher, Brenda Burnell. We began with some key topical dances - Burns Hornpipe, Burns Night and Burns Bicentenary Strathspey - and followed with a selection of dances which included tacking with the Dundee Whaler and reeling with the Royal Scots.

We continued the evening with our traditional Burns Night supper, provided by class members. Sadly, this evening the piper was at home, unwell. The haggis was convincingly addressed with Burns' words, and a sharp knife, by Emma. We then tucked into haggis, including an excellent veggie version, neeps and tatties, followed by apple pie.

The evening was very much a team effort, with particular thanks to Brenda for making it happen, Alan, Emma, and those who cooked the haggis, swede and potatoes.

Incidentally, I picked up some Burns' facts from Findmypast:- 'During his brief 37 years of life, celebrated Scottish poet Robbie Burns fathered 12 children with four different women... (and he) has over 600 living descendents'. And further trivia - haggis has been banned in the US since 1971 because it may contain sheep lung which they will not allow for human consumption! (Should we petition against this ban, as part of our US trade deal??)

Louise Cottingham



DATES, DATES, DATES

The many dances arranged locally are listed in the Yorks & North East Scottish Country Dance Diary.

2020

Saturday 15 February

Branch Dance 7.00-10.00 pm
St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Rd,
Leeds LS16 5JT
Music: Alan Ross,
MC: Catherine Livsey

Saturday 22 February Musicians' Workshop 10.00 am-4.15 pm

St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Rd,
Leeds LS16 5JT
Tutor: Ian Muir (Craigellachie)
Application forms on website

Saturday 7 March

Family Ceilidh 6.30 - 9.00 pm
Holy Trinity Community Hall,
Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LF
Music: Bandiera Rossa

Saturday 21 March

**Branch Dance 7.00-10.00 pm
(with faith supper)**
St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Rd,
Leeds LS16 5JT
Music: Phill Jones,
MC: Irene Dracup

Saturday 25 April Highland Workshop White Rose Festival Highland Dances

Morning Session
10am to 12.30pm (Beginners &
Improvers) Complete beginners
welcome.
Afternoon Session
1.30 - 3.30 (Intermediate &
Advanced) Open to all who wish
to try.
St Giles Church Hall, Church Hill,
Bramhope, LS16 9BA
Teacher: Catherine Livsey
Music: Recorded

Saturday 2 May

Family Ceilidh 6.30 - 9.00 pm
Holy Trinity Community Hall,
Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LF
Music: Bandiera Rossa

Saturday 16 May

Branch Dance 7.00-10.00 pm
St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Rd,
Leeds LS16 5JT
Music: Ian Muir (Prestwick)
MCs: Marion Walbank
& Jill Woodman

Saturday 20 June

Branch Dance 7.00-10.00 pm
St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Rd,
Leeds LS16 5JT
Music: Robert Whitehead
MCs: tbc

Saturday 11 July

White Rose Festival 1.30-5pm
Gateways School, Harewood,
Leeds LS17 9LE
Music: Susan MacFadyen & her
Scottish Country Dance Band

Evening Dance 7-10.30pm

Gateways School, Harewood,
Leeds LS17 9LE
Music: Susan MacFadyen & her
Scottish Country Dance Band

Saturday 24 October Highland Workshop

Morning Session
10am to 12.30pm (Beginners &
Improvers) Complete beginners
welcome.
Afternoon Session
1.30 - 3.30 (Intermediate &
Advanced) Open to all who wish
to try.
St Giles Church Hall, Church Hill,
Bramhope, LS16 9BA
Teacher: Catherine Livsey
Music: Recorded

Full details on our website
www.rscdsleeds.org.uk,
where you will find dance
programmes, dance
reminders, links to videos
of these dances, and
application forms for day
schools and weekends

Classes

2020 Spring Term

W/C 6 January to W/C 30 March

2020 Summer Term

W/C 20 April to W/C 18 May
W/C 1 June to W/C 6 July

Fees: £4.00 per class
or ten class ticket £35 for (*for Branch
members only*) All fees half price for
those in full time education. First class
free for newcomers.

Monday Afternoon

1.45 to 3.45pm (General/Beginners)
West Park United Reformed Church,
317 Spen Lane, Leeds, LS16 5BD
Teacher: Don Andrews

Monday Evening

7.45 to 9.45pm (Experienced)
Calverley Conservative Club,
Victoria Street, Calverley, LS28 5PT
Teacher: Catherine Livsey

Tuesday Evening

7.45 to 9.45pm (General/Beginners)
Adel Methodist Church Hall, Gainsborough
Avenue, Adel, Leeds, LS16 7PQ
Teacher: Irene Dracup

Thursday Afternoon

2.00 to 4.00pm (General)
(2.30 to 4.30pm on third Thursday
of each month)
St Margaret's Church Hall, Ilkley, LS29 9QL
Teacher: Don Andrews

Thursday Evening

7.30 to 9.30pm (General)
Lidgett Park Methodist Church Hall,
Lidgett Place, LS8 1HG
Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Thursday Evening (Formerly St Columba's Dancers)

7.30 to 9.30pm (General)
West Park United Reformed Church,
317 Spen Lane, Leeds, LS16 5BD
Teacher: Don Andrews

Sunday Afternoon Workshops

Coming soon (next term)

(see website for details)
Teacher: Catherine Livsey

Further Information

www.rscdsleeds.org.uk

For further information and
details, application forms, dance
cribs and the Branch shop etc.

**You can now follow the Branch
on Twitter and Facebook**

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/
RSCDSLeeds](https://www.twitter.com/RSCDSLeeds)

Facebook: RSCDS Leeds Branch