



rscds
Dance Scottish

Leeds Branch, Dancers' Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1072452

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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 ...

Hello All

This is my first Chair Chat as I enter (hitting the ground dancing, obviously) into my new role as Chair. Before I look ahead to coming events, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Claire for her sterling work, first as Interim Chair and then as Chair. Energy and enthusiasm are the words that come to mind; Claire has been, and no doubt will continue to be, a very good friend to the branch.

Many of you will have danced with me at classes, social dances and day schools, or perhaps at Castle Howard, but for those who can't put a face to the name, I have been one of the committee at the kitchen hatch at recent dances. Released from kitchen duties (Note to the committee: still very willing to wield a teapot), I hope to have time to chat to more of you.

There are many opportunities to meet up over the coming weeks. The next **Family Ceilidh** is on Saturday 30 November at Holy Trinity Community Hall, Meanwood. The ceilidh in October was a tremendous success, not least because of the big

sound created by the 8-piece band, Bandiera Rossa. These are events that you can enjoy with friends who are new to dancing, with relatives who refuse to point their toes or with the youngest members of your family. The 6.30 start is ideal for families, so have an early tea and come along.

To those of you attending the **Malhamdale Weekend**, I am sure you will have a wonderful time. Indeed, I am quite envious. This event is regularly fully booked, so don't leave it too late to book for 27 – 29 November, 2020.

I may be only in the early stages of planning for Christmas, but the branch is fully organised. The **Christmas Tea Dance** is on Monday 16 December at 1.45. If you read my article in the previous newsletter, you will know how highly I rate this event. Now that the Monday class, which hosts the Tea Dance, has moved to West Park United Reform Church, there will be plenty of room to dance. Parking is

easy in the nearby streets, so fill a car and bring your dancing friends.

Saturday 21 December will see us all at St Chad's for the **Christmas Dance**. This follows the tradition of being a joint social dance with Leeds SCD Club. I am very grateful to the Club for organising this year's dance and I am delighted that we will be dancing to the George Meikle Trio.

The **Hogmanay Dance** rounds off 2019. Why not dance off those extra mince pies to the music of Ian Slater, with Don Andrews as MC?

Looking further ahead, the RSCDS is already making plans for its 100th anniversary in 2023. In comparison, the Leeds Branch is of no great age, so perhaps I should say that in 2022 we will be 60 years young. How do you think we should celebrate our diamond anniversary? It would be best if ideas came from the full membership, not just from the committee.

Wishing you happy dancing over the festive season, 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?

Membership

I do apologise in being so late in getting the shop vouchers to you this year but I have been going through our membership list very carefully to make sure everyone has a lifetime membership card and number. I want to thank all the dancers who have helped when I have contacted them and by the end of this month everyone should have their missing cards and shop vouchers. These will reach you at the classes or at the latest at the Christmas dance.

I would like to welcome to Leeds Branch the following new members:

Oliver Fowler and Sharon Taylor, Phil and Pam Westley and Sue Overend. And welcome back Rhona Thornton and Karen Giles.

Many thanks to all who have helped me.

Brenda

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

**Monday 16 December 2019
1.45pm to 3.45pm**

CHRISTMAS TEA DANCE

West Park United Reform Church, Spennings Lane, Leeds, LS16 5BD

Music: Ian Slater

Admission: £5, with loyalty card £1

Faith Tea, All dances will be walked

Programme

Happy Returns	8x32 R	MMM
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 22
Back to the Fireside	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 33
Triple Happiness	3x32 S	RSCDS Book 52
The Aviator	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 52
The Spring Fling Reel	8x40 R	RSCDS Book 50
The Moray Rant	3x48 S	Drewry Silver City
The Wild Geese	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 24
MacDonald of Keppoch	128 M	RSCDS Book 49
The Reel of the Royal Scots	8x32 R	RSCDS Leaflet

EXTRAS

Mrs Stewart's Jig	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 35
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Saturday 21 December 2019, 7.30pm

Leeds Branch and Leeds Club JOINT CHRISTMAS DANCE

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

Music: George Meikle Trio, MC: Jan Robinson

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

Programme

Cramond Bridge	8x32 R	The London Jubilee Book
Gaelforce Wind	8x32 J	RSCDS Third book of graded SCDs
Chasing the Eclipse	3x32 S	The Highland Road Coll
Staircase in Styria	5x40 R	The Sunday Class Dance Book 2
The Aviator	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 52
Barbara's Strathspey	8x32 S	RSCDS Book 46
The Ruby Rant	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 49
The Bees of Maggieknockater	4x32 J	Drewry: Thirty popular dances vol:2

INTERVAL

MacDonald of Keppoch	128 M	RSCDS Book 49
None so Pretty	8x40 J	RSCDS Book 19
The Water of Leith	4x32 S	RSCDS Edinburgh 90
The Chequered Court	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 42
The Land of the Prince Bishops	8x32 R	Ian Barbour: Dance and Celebration
It's Just for Fun	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 33
Scarborough Castle	8x32 S	The Leeds Golden Coll
The Falls of Rogie	8x32 R	Alexander Dances Book 1

EXTRAS

Glastonbury Tor	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 47
Pelorus Jack	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 41
Kilkenny Castle	8x32 S	Craigivar Book 2

All dances will be recapped.

Musicians' Workshop


rscds
Leeds Branch

Saturday 22 February 2020

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

The workshop is open to all musicians who wish to develop their confidence and expertise in playing for Scottish Country dancing.

The workshop sessions will be led by **Ian Muir** (Craigellachie), an experienced accordionist, band leader and composer. He is currently the RSCDS Director of Music, and has led many of the Summer School Musicians' weeks.

**Heather Foote 0113 2550860 heather@feete.org
or www.rscdsleeds.org.uk for booking form**

Going to a Ball?

What do you think when you know you are going to a Ball? Are you excited? Do you need a ticket? What can you wear? Will it be formal wear - 'posh frocks'? Who else do you know who will be going? How will you get there and back? Will you know the dances? How can you learn them?

So many questions and preparation are necessary and all in good time your arrangements are made and you are ready to set off for the event. But how did they manage in the past? We see glimpses of how it might have been in historical dramas. There is the odd drawing and very few accounts but Balls were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. I do not have a 'dance card' but was able to borrow one from the library and make a copy. Ladies could hang these on their wrists and partners could initial which dance they wished to dance with them.

The first real Ball I attended was in London in 1953 and the ticket had spaces for partners to write initials. Having become hooked on Scottish dancing at College, a friend and I decided to attend the London Branch Ball. This was held in a big hotel in the capital. We counted our money carefully and arranged to stay overnight at the hotel but we were not sure if the price included breakfast, so we left very early. The receptionist who checked us out was surprised when we left without breakfast but we could not risk having to pay for anything more! We caught an early train back to Hertford and promptly went to bed.

The one regret I have about this Ball is losing my ticket. It was large, about A5 size. Ladies could not carry them in their evening bags! At the end of the evening when I went to pick it up, it had gone and none were left. It would have been a lovely memento to keep. It was a threefold card with the Queen on the front (the Society had recently got its Royal Charter). Inside was the programme where each dance was listed with a recap.

In those days Balls were held on Fridays so they could finish at 1.00am on the Saturday morning. Dances on Saturdays finished by 11.00 or 11.30 so the hall could be locked by midnight – nobody danced on a Sunday. It was a wonderful experience to see all the ladies in beautiful evening dresses and the men wearing doublets and diced hose. The programme was traditional (as they were for most Balls) – Eightsome and Foursome Reels, Duke of Perth, Hamilton House, Monymusk, Glasgow Highlanders, Machine without Horses and after World War II Reel of the 51st became quite popular. There was usually a chance to attend a practice session in the afternoon so everyone knew the dances for the Ball. The Branch in Leeds used to have a similar Friday evening prior to a Saturday dance to go through the dances. We seemed to dance a lot more in those days when there were no reminders or 'walk-throughs' from the MC. My younger self would begrudge having to pay these days to stand and listen to MCs especially the long winded ones and see good musicians sitting there

when we pay them to play for our dancing.

Dancing has changed a lot since I first started dancing and Balls are not quite the occasions they were. I have attended Balls in Canada, USA and South Africa where the halls were beautifully decorated, wonderful refreshments, live music and lots of good dances with plenty of fun too. Here in the UK Balls I have attended have been at the AGM weekends in Scotland and locally in the Leeds area.

The balls in Scotland were always enjoyable as I was not involved in any arrangements and could dance and meet many friends too. In our local area I was usually involved in making the supper. The first big Ball in Leeds I remember was the combined one organised by the Branch, the Club and the Caledonian Society and was held in Leeds Town Hall in the late 1960s. I did not see much of the dancing as I was downstairs with a wonderful band of Mums preparing the supper for 250 dancers. There were long tables which we decorated with miniature broomsticks (we took the family out the previous weekend to collect the twigs and went home to make them up). The menu was ham (cooked and sliced by our local greengrocer) and salad followed by apple pie and cream with suitable silver charms. The latter were traditional at Hallowe'en when this Ball was held. My sister, Doreen, made 50 apple pies the previous day and not one bubbled out. There was a hot water boiler that made coffee and tea to round off the meal. The boiler ran non-stop for thirty minutes quenching the dancers' thirsts. Fortunately in those days we only made tea or coffee, there were no varying shades of either drink!!

When the Branch took the Ball on, on their own, a cheaper venue was found out of town and we moved to Pudsey Civic Centre. This had a good ballroom with small tables round the edge and a large adjacent kitchen. So for several years our Ball was held there. The girls from the Friday class served the meal to the dancers at their tables. We stuck almost to our previous menu but replaced the apple pies with either trifle or fruit salad. Two things about this time make these years memorable. The Centre had a bar which served drinks all evening but they were disappointed they did not sell lots of whisky but mainly large quantities of orange squash! The other shock was in the kitchen. There was a large island in the middle with eight gas rings so I took the eggs to hard boil them there but when I got to Pudsey in the morning I discovered there were no pans. As an afterthought I had put in my egg pan from home so I had to use that and boiled four at a time which took nearly all day but they were done just in time for the supper.

The Balls at Pudsey were becoming less formal and the numbers began to drop, so the Branch committee decided to hold a special formal Ball every five years. This was not followed through and York and North Humberside Branch decided to join with Leeds and host a Ball every year but alternately in York and Leeds and so it continues today.

I have happy memories and mementoes of Balls I attended over the years as I have already described but here are one or two more.

South Africa - in Cape Town the Ball there was in a beautiful Country Club and opened with a Grand March. It was very well organised and when the lines reached eight they peeled off and became Eightsome Reels for the first dance of the evening.

Canada – in Winnipeg for their weekend school the round tables were arranged around the dancing area. The tables had a circle of Scottie dogs (in black of course) with a lovely flower arrangement and candle in the centre. Royal blue sequins were scattered on the white table cloths. It all looked wonderful and I still have my Scottie dogs that I have used to cut tartan (or black) to decorate the short programmes for our weekend courses.

On the train to Edinburgh - when I travelled to one of the Executive meetings in Edinburgh, I found myself sitting opposite three young ladies. They were obviously travelling further on to a party where there would be dancing. After a while out came their crib sheets and they started learning their dances. Being interested I listened as carefully as I could but could not work out where they were going nor what the dances were they were learning. However my chance came when they went for some refreshments and left their papers on the table. There were the instructions for all the good old favourites - Duke of Perth, Hamilton House and Waltz Country Dance. I did not move the papers and that was as far as I got to finding out where and what they were doing that day. Were they Reelers? Definitely 'the county roll' would be much in evidence that evening. I do hope they all enjoyed themselves.

I hope you all have an enjoyable evening at this year's Ball.

Brenda

Friday 27 December 2019

7.30-10.30pm

'HOGMANAY' DANCE 2019

**West Park United Reform Church, Spen Lane, Leeds, LS16 5BD
(parking in West Park Drive)**

**Music: Ian Slater, MC: Don Andrews
Admission: £10 - pay at the door**

Programme

Welcome to Ayr	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 47
Links with St Petersburg	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 46
Autumn in Appin	4x32 S	RSCDS Book 31
The Clansman	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 32
Jim's Haberdashery	8x40 J	MacPherson/ Bannockburn 700
The Moray Rant	3x48 S	Drewry/Silver City
Glastonbury Tor	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 47
Major Ian Stewart	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 35

INTERVAL

The First Rain of Spring	3x32 J	RSCDS Book 49
The Countess of Dunmore's Reel	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 49
The Orchards of Co. Armagh	3x32 S	Anderson/ Belfast Platinum
Jennifer's Jig	8x32 J	Drewry/Bon Accord
Forty and Counting*	8x40 R	RSCDS Book 52
The Minister on the Loch	3x32 S	RSCDS Magazine
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder	128 J	Hamilton/Edinburgh 90
The Black Bear	8x32 R	Galbraith/ Bekhamsted Gold

EXTRAS

Father Connelly's Jig	4x64 J	Drewry/Donside
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All dances will be recapped. *Will be walked

Saturday 18 January 2020, 7.00pm

SOCIAL DANCE

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

**Music: Neil Barron Duo,
MC: Alan Horsfall**

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

Programme

Hooper's Jig	8x32 J	MMM
Peggy Dewar	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 38
The Robertson Rant	1x80 S	RSCDS Book 39
Jim's Haberdashery	8x40 J	Bannockburn 700
Fraser's Favourite	8x32 R	RSCDS Leaflet Dances
Linnea's Strathspey	8x32 S	RSCDS Book 47
Mrs Stewart's Jig	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 35
The Ruby Rant	8x32 R	RSCDS Book 49

INTERVAL

Miss Allie Anderson	8x32 J	RSCDS Leaflet Dances
The Recumbent Stone	5x48 R	The Greenburn Book 3
The Water of Leith	4x32 S	RSCDS Edinburgh 90
Major Ian Stewart	8x32 J	RSCDS Book 35
Chasing the Eclipse	3x32 S	The Highland Road Coll
Bratach Bana	8x32 R	Drewry: Bon Accord Bk
The Dundee Whaler	4x32 S	Ormskirk Scottish Dances
Weekends in Oban	8x32 J	Sue Porter
Rest and be Thankful	8x32 R	Grampian Coll of SCDs

EXTRAS

The First Rain of Spring	3x32 J	RSCDS Book 49
Fairwell to Balfour Road	1x96 J	RSCDS Book 52
Miss Eleanor	3x32 S	RSCDS Book 49

All dances will be recapped.

Memories of the Scarborough Weekend

In the good old days 30+ years ago our Scarborough Weekend was at the College of Education, when Beryl Pickering was in charge. I started helping out and before I knew it I was organising it. We were there happily for a good few years, then the college expanded and built new student accommodation, all single rooms with blocks of six people together. This worked out fine as the principal allowed me to put people in designated rooms i.e. friends and married couples together. Then one year when I got there she said that the plumbing wasn't working in one room, so she had moved everyone on a number. This meant that one married couple were on separate floors! This took some sorting out. Things went smoothly for a time and then the college started hiring out the premises to other groups while we were there. After all they were trying to make money. One year there was a group of very young, noisy drama students there and I must admit I started to feel threatened.

Derek had a friend who ran ballroom dancing weekends at the Clifton Hotel, so we went along to have a look and negotiate a deal with the manager. It was ideal - good ballroom and private dining room by the side - which we could use as a "sit-o-terie" (a place for sitting out - though usually outside) in the evenings. This was in 1999. We stayed there happily, until the hotel was sold to a chain. By this time it had got rather shabby, and we were hoping it would be spruced up, but unfortunately the new owners decided to turn the dining room into bedrooms and the ballroom into a dining room, so we had to move again.

I rang every hotel in Scarborough that stated on their website that they had a ballroom, and asked for the size. Every one said something like 9' by 12' until the Esplanade. It was superb. Again the ballroom had a sitting area by the side and I couldn't believe it when the manager said the price for the package. It was much cheaper than we had been paying. It was ideal, apart from a small ridge in the floor, but the good food and efficient friendly staff made up for that.

We had some "odd" incidents:-

One year I was called by the Clifton, on the Thursday afternoon before the weekend, to say the hotel was closed - an attack of food poisoning! They had arranged for us to go to the Crown which meant I had 50+ phone calls to make telling people of the change. The Crown was a much smaller floor. Some people chose to dance on the carpet. On the Saturday night we were taken to another venue, with a room with diagonal walls, it took all Derek's ingenuity to organise the sets! I was happy because for the first time I had four of my favourite "daughters" there - Nicky, Susan, Lorna and Helen, and as it was Mothers' Day they bought me a teddy.

Disaster struck on the Sunday morning when Christina fell (or was tripped) and broke her leg. This was Derek's first trip to the hospital. His second was a few years later when Pat fell over a bag handle in her room and broke her wrist/arm.

Another weekend was when Andrew staggered into the hotel with a very bad attack of sciatica. It didn't deter him from his wonderful teaching. George arrived with his wrist in plaster - he'd fallen off the roof of his caravan. This didn't mar his wonderful playing. It didn't help that the electricity was switched off on Sunday morning.

We have enjoyed many anniversaries - 25th, 40th with suitable cakes, and George's 20th year of playing, when a model of his little red mini, his pride and joy, was presented to him. There was also a cake for Kathy's 80th birthday, when she invited us all to a wine reception.

I have many other fond memories as I am sure all the dancers have, but I would like to thank everyone for supporting me, during the last 30+ years, especially Derek, Brenda, Janet and Alan. I shall miss it tremendously. I would have liked it to continue, at least to our 50th in 2022, - but life goes on!

Yvonne Tredgett



RSCDS Leeds Branch

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Saturday 19th October 2019

held at Held at Queen's Hall, Immaculate Heart of Mary,
294, Harrogate Rd, Leeds, LS17 6LE

Present:

Claire Johnson (Chair), Evelyn Davidson (Secretary), Ray Williams (Treasurer), John Pugh (Assistant Treasurer), Jill Woodman (Minute Secretary), Elisabeth Pugh, Nicola Waugh, Sharon Taylor, Don Andrews, Catherine Livsey, Adrian Dickin, Irene Dracup, Jo Dracup, Betty Hagart, Marion Walbank, Betty Sumpton, Jane Walford.

Apologies:

Brenda Burnell, Lee Davidson, Robin Walford, Emma Blair, Christine Parker-Jones, Ian Ashton, Alan Horsfall, Janet Brayson, Kath Dosell.

1. Minutes of the AGM 2018

The minutes were approved. There were no amendments or matters arising.

2. Secretary's Report

Secretary's Annual Report (1st August 2018- July 31st 2019) Circulated prior to the meeting.

Membership

Our membership continues to dwindle, and stood at 88 for the membership year ending 30th June 2019, but we recruited several new and lapsed members. Perhaps this year we will see an increase again, however slight. We have not increased any of our class or workshop/Day School fees, prices of dance tickets or membership subscriptions. We continue to depend on the profits of our very successful shop to balance the books; we are indebted to Christine Parker-Jones, the Shop Manager, for her hard work.

Charitable aims

We were thus able to meet our charitable aims of fostering knowledge and enjoyment of Scottish dance and music by providing affordable SCD classes and social dances to the residents of the Leeds area. We had live music for all our social dances, including Marian Anderson and her Scottish Country Dance Band for the joint ball with York Branch in November 2018, and also for the White Rose Festival in July 2019.

Classes

All our 8 classes are still running, and attendance at classes is steady, but most struggle to get more than a five couple set on a regular basis. The exact attendance figures at each class have been blurred and hard to track with the introduction of the (successful) transferable 10-class ticket. However a new register system should fix that for the current year, thanks to the ingenuity of our new Treasurer, Ray.

The Monday afternoon class's move to West Park United Reform Church in the spring went smoothly and they are now enjoying the facilities of the new venue.

The project of 'Bring a Dance to Class' has been successful in some groups and we hope it will be extended to others who have not yet tried it. This aims to give dancers a taster of teaching a dance to a friendly and supportive group, and hopefully encourage budding MCs and teachers to develop their skills and give our hardworking teachers a break. - possibly even a week off!

Social Dances

Since losing West Park School as a permanent base (due to its demolition in 2014) we have sought another permanent home for social dances. Having found that Corpus Christi College (Leeds 9) was unpopular with dancers, especially in the winter, and a rather large space for our dwindling numbers, besides having rather weird acoustics, and a booking system which only allowed us to make secure bookings for the current academic year, we sought yet another new venue. This we tried in May and June at Meanwood (Leeds 6) Trinity Community Hall, and will use this for our two family ceilidhs this autumn. It is rather smaller than our other venues, and seemed poorly ventilated on hot summer evenings, but is a very clean and friendly space with good car parking. In the New Year, we will be returning to St Chad's on a regular basis, with the hope that attendances will improve, both of Leeds Branch members and visiting dancers from other Branches and groups. Live bands have been booked for the next two years, with the Committee's approval, as we believe this is still a justifiable expense, despite the loss.

Day and Weekend Schools

While the Malhamdale Weekend last November was sold out and is so again for this current year, the Scarborough weekend has sadly folded due in great part to the loss of a suitable venue. We are indebted to Yvonne Tredgett for her dedication and hard work over many years, delighting dancers with a successful weekend of dancing and friendship.

The Musicians' Day in March 2019 was led by accordionist Ian Muir (Prestwick) making a return visit. He is a senior tutor at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and known throughout the world of Scottish country dancing. His brief was to work with the 24 participants, playing accordions, fiddles, flutes, keyboards, percussion and guitars to form them into a band to play a full programme of 16 dances for the evening's social dance. The result was the wonderful

sound of a full Scottish Dance orchestra - not often heard except in the Younger Hall, St Andrews, during musicians' week at RSCDS Summer School!

The Day Schools included two Highland Day Schools taught by Catherine Livsey, and the September 2018 Day School taught by Rachel Shankland, with music by Ian Slater.

Outreach and Family Events

Family Ceilidhs

After having to withdraw from the planned Family Weekend in Leeds last year, and the closure of our remaining children's class the year before, we have worked hard this year to plan two family ceilidhs which will be held this month and next at Trinity Community Hall in Meanwood.

Beckett Park

In early July, we joined the Friends of Beckett Park, Headingley, for their Picnic in the Park to advertise our classes (for fitness and friendship) and the new venture, family Ceilidhs (to encourage younger dancers). Both were well received by those (multi-generational) families attending the event. However, it may take some time before the effects of this publicity are felt.

Demonstration Team

The decision was taken in June, in view of an invitation to dance at Castle Howard for Countryfile Live, to revive a standing dem. team. We are now asking for more experienced dancers to sign up for this, in order to spread the load of responding to invitations to do a demonstration; these are good publicity!

Committee and Constitution

This year we welcomed 5 new members to the Branch Committee, and co-opted a new Treasurer, Ray Williams. With six experienced members retiring, this was effectively a completely new committee, who nevertheless quickly bonded into an efficient management team. The Constitution allows for 8 elected Committee members, and three officers, so we can accept nominations for two more members this year, one of whom must never before have served on the Committee. Committee members should normally serve for 2 years, but can serve up to 3 years, and it is suggested that half the Committee be replaced each year. From next year this will again be possible if the Committee is up to strength, and would allow for smooth transitions of members and workload, spreading the load of running a registered Charity in the fast-moving changes of a digital age.

A new post of Assistant Treasurer was instituted this year to support Ray, particularly in day-to-day routine banking. The AGM will be called on to vote on the motion adjusting the Constitution for this and to allow both the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, individually, to conduct online banking on our behalf.

Claire Johnson who bravely volunteered to be co-opted as Chair two years ago is standing down this year. We appreciate that this is necessary for her, and are truly grateful for that generous offer allowing us to benefit

from her professional skills and long experience of RSCDS and its workings. However, we have at least one able candidate for the coming year.

3. Treasurer's Report

Copies of The Report and Accounts were distributed at the meeting by Ray Williams. (See Report below).

I actively took over the role of Treasurer half way through the year. Gerry Yates had resigned from the post at the end of July 2018 but had continued to keep the books as best as he could after his resignation waiting for a new person to take over. Our thanks to Gerry for all the work he has done as Treasurer and apologies to him that we did not relieve him of his duties when he left his post. It is always difficult to change the accounting structure and move to a new accounting system at a year-end but even more difficult in the middle of an accounting year. However with lots of help from all those at the coal face we have finally got a set of accounts. Our bank, the RBS, have been incredibly unhelpful as we battled our way through their rules and regulations trying to get myself as the new contact, some of the committee as authorised signatories and access to internet banking. That battle is still continuing!

The format of the accounts is somewhat different as it is produced from a standard computer accounting package but the basic information remains the same. We have made a loss this year of about £2,000. Some of that loss is from some accounting adjustments I made when we changed accounting systems but it is still a loss. Our dances made a loss of nearly £1,700 and our classes a loss of £2,300. The White Rose Festival made a small loss of about £500, the shop made a profit of about £4,000 and Malhamdale made a profit of about £500. Once the new accounting system is bedded in we will be able to examine these activities in more detail to decide if action is needed to contain the losses. We still have a very healthy bank balance of about £31,000 so there is no immediate cause for concern.

My thanks to Cherry Connolly who has examined the books and not found any material matters for concern.

Ray Williams [Honorary Treasurer]

The Report and Accounts were formerly accepted by the AGM attendees. See page 11 for Profit & Loss Account and Balance Sheet.

Following on from Ray's written report, Ray remarked that the Children's Fund had been re-opened following a donation. The Fund can only be used for events that involve children. But Ray said this would include the ceilidhs in October and November, as they are family events.

4. Chair's Report - October 2019

Report by Claire Johnson, circulated prior to the meeting.

About the Branch

The Leeds Branch of the RSCDS was formed on 21st June 1962 by 4 members of the Leeds Scottish Country Dance Club - Miss Mair Pinnell, Miss Shirley Shields,

Dr. William Cunningham and Hammond Jack. Since our formation we have run dances with bands, initially only twice a year but now every month.

The aims of the Branch are to advance the education of the public in the area of Leeds and its neighbourhood, hereinafter called 'the District', in traditional Scottish Country Dancing, in particular by: -

- (a) supporting and promoting the work of the Society;
- (b) preserving and furthering the practice of traditional Scottish Country Dances;
- (c) providing or assisting in providing instruction in the dancing of Scottish Country Dances;
- (d) promoting the enjoyment and appreciation of Scottish Country Dancing and Music by any suitable means

As a Branch we are part of the global RSCDS and as such we are part of a huge network of dancers around the world - many of us have danced around the UK, some have danced further afield but everywhere there is a warm welcome.

Our Activities

As part of our outreach activities we have manned a stall at Becketts Park in July and danced at Country File Live at Castle Howard in August. Both events attracted a lot of interest from non-dancing people, only time will tell whether this can be translated into new dancers at our classes.

Future outreach plans include our new family ceilidhs in October and November.

A few Thank You's

My thanks as ever to all Branch members for coming to classes, attending dances and helping out - without you the Branch would not exist.

Special thanks to:

- All class teachers - for giving up their free time to plan and run our classes every week. The Branch could not operate without them.
- Evelyn - for being such a fantastic secretary and working tirelessly in support of the Branch
- Ray & John - for taking on the roles of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer
- Alan - for being so proactive in booking such wonderful bands
- Alan & Janet - for all their hard work on the Malhamdale weekend
- Janet for producing the dance cribs
- Adrian - our webmaster, for keeping the website up to date
- Catherine - for producing the Newsletter, forms and flyers
- Nicola - for taking on the Day School and running a lovely day as well as keeping our Facebook page up to date
- Heather - for the hard work on the ever-popular Musicians' Day School

- Christine - the Shop Manager, who not only keeps us financially afloat, but supplies patient IT support for the mysteries of Mailchimp and the eUpdate
- Jane and the White Rose Festival Committee - a huge job but exceedingly well executed
- The committee - for their dedication and support through the year

Finally a huge thank you from all the Branch Committee to Yvonne & Derek for their years of commitment and hard work on the Scarborough weekend, despite struggles with hotel problems they have shown such fortitude in achieving a memorable weekend for all.

4.1 Chair's Remarks

As well as the thanks written into the Chair's Report, Claire, on behalf of the Committee, verbally thanked all our volunteers individually, especially the class teachers - Don, Irene, Catherine and Brenda, for their dedicated ongoing work during the year.

It was asked if there would be an April dance in place of the Scarborough weekend. But it was felt this was unlikely, as that time of year often clashes with Easter or the Easter break.

5. White Rose Festival Report

Report by Jane Walford, Chair of the White Rose Festival, circulated prior to the meeting.

The White Rose Festival was a great success this year, dancing to the superb music of Marian Anderson and her Scottish Dance Band. We were very fortunate with the weather and managed to dance outside on a sunny afternoon after a week of frequent showers. We were very pleased to welcome the Chairman of RSCDS, Andrew Kellett, and his wife Wendy to open the Festival.

This year 19 adult and 3 junior teams attended, including a new junior team. This is fewer teams than last year when 24 adult and 4 junior teams came to the Festival. This year our date clashed with other events and some team leaders took a year off for personal/family reasons, and we hope to see these teams return next year. Claire Johnson has become our new MC for the afternoon and she competently guided us through the programme of adult mass, junior and Highland dances.

We received a lot of positive feedback from team leaders and dancers about the organisation of the event and the adult afternoon and junior programme were popular. This year we had less participation in the demonstration and Highland dances than in previous years. This was partly due to some teams bringing less experienced dancers who preferred to watch the demonstration dances, but we have received feedback from team leaders that the dances selected this year were more difficult and that they would prefer less complicated demonstration and more easily mastered dances next year. We are taking this feedback into account as we plan the programmes for 2020.

The evening dance was less well attended than in previous years but those who came enjoyed a lively programme to yet more superb music from Marian

Anderson, with clear recaps from MCs Don Andrews and Alan Horsfall.

Our income this year was £3237.80, less than last year as a result of fewer teams attending in the afternoon and consequently fewer evening dance tickets sold.

Our expenditure this year was £3650.98, very similar to last year, but resulting in a loss of £413.18.

Although we made a loss this year we have decided to keep the cost of attending the White Rose Festival and the price of the meals the same for next year.

The date for 2020 is Saturday July 11th, when we will be dancing to Susan MacFadyen and her band. Planning of the programmes is already well underway and the evening dance programme is available on the website. The adult afternoon programme is almost finished and will appear soon.

Thank you to the members of the WRF committee who work so hard throughout the year and to the numerous helpers who make the event a success.

6. Shop Report - August 2019

Report by Christine Parker-Jones, Shop Manager, circulated prior to the meeting.

Another year gone but this time it has been a rather disappointing year. Again, our global spread has increased to now include customers from Hong Kong and Argentina but the annual shop turnover has decreased even though the Leeds Branch Shop continues to be the 'go-to' resource for dance teachers around the world!

We have had 658 orders (down by 128) in the last year and taken £20,500 in sales (including taxes and postage) down from £26,000 in the previous year. Why the decrease? I think the main reason is the lack of new material coming out during the year. There was no new book and CD from Head Office and these accounted for £14,000 in 2017-2018. Not only that, but people buying those from us tended to buy other things at the same time.

The £5 vouchers, given to Branch members as a way of saying thank you for supporting the RSCDS and the shop, again proved popular - 32 were used saving members £160 in total. The offer is being repeated again this year to encourage members to renew and other dancers to join.

The total 'subsidies' provided by the shop amount to £1500. This includes the £5 shop vouchers, the Branch teacher's discount of 20%, the 10% discount

for pre-orders at the White Rose and ASCDS Festivals and the reduction provided on the purchase of some sets. We also provide a discount (of up to 25%) to other branches, whenever feasible.

Following on from a successful launch, the sale of PDF versions of books has proved popular, particularly to overseas customers because of the lack of postage charges. We now sell 64 titles (up from 48 last year) several of which are now only sold as PDFs and others for a nominal £1.

We are pleased to be able to offer all Jean Attwood's dances as PDFs.

Sales

In financial year 2018/19 we took £19,238 (excluding taxes and postage). This includes: *see table at the bottom of the page.*

Though down on the sales of the last two years, it has grown significantly from sales of £850 in our first year of trading in 2006.

Our sales have again been boosted by the sale of second-hand goods for other branches, notably Manchester, and retiring dancers, so many thanks to those concerned.

Last year's exciting addition to the shop of our card reader again proved popular at the festival. It does enable us to handle credit card payments from abroad but is an expensive option. PayPal transactions continue to grow and now account for 68% of our sales while cash is now less than 5%.

Customers

On a more optimistic note, our customer base has increased to 1013 which represents an increase of 76 customers, and the number on our mailing list has increased to 201. I am not sure how large our customer base could be but it was nice to reach the 1000 mark and it is always a pleasure to get new customers. Similarly, it would be great if we could get to 250 subscribers to our mailing list.

In the last year we have sent out 7 newsletters from the shop and though they are an effort to do, they always result in a spike in sales, so it is a worthwhile exercise. In addition, we try to advertise branch dances and other events in them. We sent out 3 additional newsletters - two to advertise second-hand goods, and one included a belated Christmas present - a free PDF book of dances for people to download. Needless to say this was our most popular newsletter.

	Sales 15-16	Value	Sales 16-17	Value	Sales 17-18	Value	Sales 18-19	Value	Difference
CDs	660	£6,664	817	£9,812	1047	£12,195	881	£10,446	(£1,749)
Books	687	£3,985	1104	£6,520	1407	£8,610	948	£5,787	(£2,823)
Shoes	80	£2,079	104	£2,559	106	£2,234	80	£2,183	(£52)
Accessories	35	£508	70	£1,021	43	£538	46	£822	£283
Total		£13,236		£19,912		£23,577		£19,238	(£4,341)

Products

There are currently 814 products listed on the shop, which is very slightly down on last year.

- 321 CD titles
- 480 Book titles
- 13 Categories of shoes

Top Ten Best sellers for 2017 - 2018

Product	Number Sold	Income
Dunfermline Branch 90th Anniversary Dances CD	104	£1038
Dunfermline Branch 90th Anniversary Dances Book	95	£853
The Musicians' Wedding CD	87	£942
The Musicians' Wedding Book	80	£560
Sunday Class Recorded Highlights Volume 1	45	£487
Book 52 CD	42	£455
Pilling (Little Green Book)	30	£210
Crowded Hall Book	25	£513
Book 52 Book	23	£230
Sunday Class Dance Book 2 CD	21	£227
Total		£5194

Thanks

I would like to finish with a thank you to all those of you who have supported the shop and hope you will continue to support us in the future. A big thank you to those who have donated items to the shop to sell and those who have acted as ambassadors to encourage others to use our shop. Thank you as well to Ray Williams for examining our accounts and giving them a clean bill of health.

7. GDPR Policy

There were no comments about the implementation of the GDPR Policy, which was felt to be working satisfactorily.

8. Publicity and Website

Evelyn reported that because we have no publicity officer, there was no publicity report, other than the comments in the Secretary's Report. The Committee will consider appointing a Publicity Officer next year.

9. Election of Committee and Officers

Marion Walbank was elected as Chair.

Evelyn Davidson was re-elected as Secretary.

Ray Williams was officially elected as Treasurer.

Sharon Taylor was elected as a Committee member and welcomed on to the Committee.

10. Appointments of Delegates to the Society's AGM

Currently Claire and Evelyn are the official delegates for the Society's AGM in Perth on 2 Nov 2019. Marion is also attending this year. Travel expenses to the AGM can be re-imbursed, but it still involves some expense. It was agreed that new delegates could be nominated by the Leeds Branch Committee before the Society's AGM in 2020.

11. Motions

11.1 Amendment of the Rule of the Duties of Office-Bearers.

Evelyn brought a Formal Motion to alter the Constitution rules to recognise a new Officer role (Assistant Treasurer) and allow either the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer to do digital and direct banking individually instead of having two signatories. This motion was formally passed at the AGM.

11.2 Motion from RSCDS HQ regarding membership subscriptions

The attendees at the Leeds Branch AGM agreed to the motion from RSCDS HQ, circulated prior to the meeting, that, from 2020/21, the amount of the Society's membership subscription should be reduced by £2.00. That is that only £18 instead of £20 out of the £25 will be sent to HQ. This will mean more money can be spent at the local level. This Motion will be discussed at the Society's AGM in Perth on 2 November 2019.

12. Any Other Business

None.

13. Date of next AGM

Saturday 17th October 2020 at 6.15pm at St. Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road, Far Headingley, Leeds, LS16 5JT. It is held before the Leeds Branch October Social Dance.

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Leeds Branch

Profit & Loss
August 2018 through July 2019

Aug 18 - July 19

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

White Rose Festival

Income	3,229.80
Expenditure	-3,724.64

Total White Rose Festival -494.84

Shop

Sales	21,923.00
Purchases	-12,297.00
Cost of Sales	3,015.00
Shop Expenses	-8,855.00

Total Shop 3,786.00

Income from Activities

Dance Admissions	4,225.85
Class Fees	4,040.02
PrePaid Tickets	3,113.00
Bookings	1,286.50
Malhamdale Bookings	9,570.00

Total Income from Activities 22,235.37

Subscriptions and Donations

Donations	100.00
Branch Subscriptions	1,718.00

Total Subscriptions and Donations 1,818.00

Bank Interest Received 2.46

Total Income 27,346.99

Expense

Malhamdale Costs	906.79
Deposits	8,332.25
RSCDS Subscriptions to HQ	1,356.00
Hall Costs	7,642.10
Musician Costs	3,890.00
Teachers Costs	3,032.65
Ticket Refunds	572.00
Other Costs	1,447.59
Internal Expenses	0.00
Previous Year Expenses	1,206.80

Total Expense 28,386.18

Net Ordinary Income -1,039.19

Other Income/Expense

Other Expense

Insurances	304.00
Publicity and Advertising	175.00
Printing, stationery & postage	397.76
Newsletters	200.00

Total Other Expense 1,076.76

Net Other Income -1,076.76

Profit for the Year -2,115.95

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Leeds Branch

UK Balance Sheet - Standard
Accrual Basis As of 31 July 2019

31 July 2019

ASSETS

Current Assets

Other Current Assets

Debtors and PrePayments	4,706.00
Shop Stock	7,120.00
WRF Provision Adjustment	-80.00

Total Other Current Assets 11,746.00

Cash at bank and in hand

Current Account

Unrestricted Account 6,049.56

Total Current Account 6,049.56

Savings Account

15,491.73

Petty Cash

Dance Cash	151.83
Monday Evening Class	88.00
Sunday Afternoon Class	69.00
Shop Petty Cash	75.00

Total Petty Cash 383.83

Shop Current Account 11,355.00

Shop Loan Account -5,801.35

White Rose Account 3,731.14

Total Cash at bank and in hand 31,209.91

Total Current Assets 42,955.91

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

Creditors and Accruals 8,590.69

Total Other Current Liabilities 8,590.69

Total Current Liabilities 8,590.69

NET CURRENT ASSETS 34,365.22

TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES 34,365.22

NET ASSETS 34,365.22

Capital and Reserves

Share Capital Account 36,481.17

Profit for the Year -2,115.95

Shareholder funds 34,365.22

DATES, DATES, DATES

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

2019

Saturday 16 November Joint Ball with Leeds/York and North Humberside RSCDS

7.30-11.00pm

Stockton-on-the Forest Village Hall,
York, YO32 9UQ

Music: Matthew Maclennan

MC: from both Branches

Friday 29 November - Sunday 1 December 2019 Malhamdale Weekend

(fully booked, with waiting list)
Newfield Hall, Airton, near Skipton,
BD23 4AA

Teacher: Ruby Wilkinson

Music: Alan Ross

Saturday 30 November Family Ceilidh 6.30-9.00pm

Holy Trinity Community Hall,
Memorial Drive, Meanwood,
Leeds, LS6 4LF

Music: Bandiera Rossa

Monday 16 December Christmas Tea Dance & Faith Tea 1.45-3.45 pm

West Park United Reformed Church,
317 Spen Lane,
Leeds, LS16 5BD

Music: Ian Slater

MC: Don Andrews

Saturday 21 December Joint Christmas Social Dance with Leeds SCD Club 7.30-10.30 pm

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

Music: George Meikle Trio

MC: Jan Robinson

Friday 27 December

Hogmanay Dance & Faith Supper 7.30-10.30 pm

West Park United Reformed Church,
317 Spen Lane,
Leeds, LS16 5BD

Music: Ian Slater

MC: Don Andrews

2020

Saturday 18 January

Branch Dance 7.00-10.00 pm

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

Music: Neil Barron Duo

MC: Alan Horsfall

Saturday 15 February

Branch Dance 7.00-10.00 pm

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

Music: Alan Ross, MC: tbc

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)

Saturday 21 March

Branch Dance 7.00-10.00 pm

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

Music: Phill Jones,

MC: Irene Dracup

Full details of these events will be circulated at Branch dances and posted on the Branch web site www.rscdsleeds.org.uk where you will find dance programmes, dance reminders, links to videos of these dances, and application forms.

Classes

2019 Autumn Term

W/C 9 September to W/C 16 December

2020 Spring Term

W/C 5 January to W/C 6 April

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 URC, Spen Lane, 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

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!

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

Facebook: RSCDS Leeds Branch