



The Leeds Branch Newsletter

From the chair



Christmas Dance December 2003. Music by the David Cunningham Band pictured right.

Usually in these notes I reflect on recent past events. Perhaps a little bit of that this time, as we have had some very enjoyable dances since I last wrote, but mainly I would like to look forward to future events both during the rest of this season and into 2004-5.

So, this season. By the time you receive this Newsletter the Musician's Course will just be over. Indeed, those who are at the February dance will be listening to the players performing on stage. But in March there is the Children's Festival, organised by Jean Dyson. We are honoured that both the Society chairman, Jean Martin, and the Youth Director, Sue Porter, will be attending, and also that Peter Clark has agreed to adjudicate. It is a lively event, and well worth a visit. It is guaranteed to overcome your angst about the future of Scottish Country Dancing!

On the 8th May is the Highland Day School, which will concentrate on the Highland Dances included in the White Rose Festival, and there is more on that elsewhere in the Newsletter.

On the 15th May the regular monthly Branch dance has a slightly different slant. It is intended to encourage 'newer' dancers to attend. Gerry Yates and Barbara Caldicott have devised an interesting but straightforward programme, and all dances will be briskly 'walked' to ensure that everybody has the confidence to take part. We hope the dance will be well attended, because if there is one ingredient that makes a dance go well, and encourages people to come again, it is a full hall. The band is the Chris Dewhurst band from Lichfield. They are fairly new on the Scottish dance circuit, but they have a lot of experience on the English country dance scene. I have danced to them twice, once in Ingleton and once at St Chad's, and have been really impressed on both occasions.

The season draws to a close under the highly tuned baton of George Meikle, first at the Strawberries and Cream Dance in June and then again at the White Rose Festival at Beckett Park.

For the 2004-5 season I have listed the bands for the dances elsewhere in the Newsletter. There are also a number of 'special events'. We start the season with a day school led by Mary Murray, a Canadian Scot who

teaches at St Andrews. Sue Carr has provided some information about her. In November Roy Goldring has agreed to run a 'Devisor's Day School', and in

February we intend to enter teams in the Newcastle Festival once again. In March we have the Children's Festival. In July, hopefully, there will be the White Rose Festival at Beckett Park, though that depends to some extent on how well this year's Festival is attended.

From all this you will gather that your committee has not been sitting on its hands, and I am grateful to all the members for their commitment and their willingness to take jobs on. But we do have to think about the future. This year we have managed with a committee of nine people, though the constitution allows eleven. This doesn't inhibit the planning process, but it does put a lot of pressure on the nine. So, next year we would benefit from a full committee. Think about it.

More immediately, we would like occasional help from colleagues at the dances: taking the money at the door and helping with the interval drinks. If you are willing, please have a word with any committee member. The good news is that although you may have to miss two or three dances, you get the rest of them free!

Most importantly, though, we will be looking for a new secretary, a key job. Jean Dyson has provided outstanding service for almost four years, and the Constitution limits service in this office to no more than four years. If you think you could consider taking this job on Jean will be pleased to explain what it involves. Or, if you think anybody else would be a worthy successor I need say no more.

Happy dancing Don

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 Brenda Burnell on 0113 267 6655.



Subscription to this Newsletter can be taken out at £3.00 for 4 issues for non Leeds Branch Members.

Contact Brenda Burnell for details and form.

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

The White Rose Festival

So far, thanks to the efforts of Catherine Livsey, Lesley Tompkins, and Kathie Dosell, close to 170 sets of application forms have been sent out to all Branches and Scottish Dance groups in the area of the country between Edinburgh and London – plus a few more! I still have a few copies left, so if you know of any other interested parties, let me know and I will put a batch in the post.

Applications must be in, to Brenda Burnell, by the end of April, and because the Sports Halls at Beckett Park have safety limits on the number of dancers who can be accommodated, applications will be treated on a strict 'first come first served' basis.

The whole set of documents can be accessed on the web site:- www.rscdsleeds.org.uk/festival

The Leeds Metropolitan University directorate is very interested in what we are doing. The vice-principal Frank Griffiths and his wife will be attending, and I have been asked to discuss with Frank (who happens to be friend of a friend!) how the university can be more involved. Bearing in mind the university has a long and very honourable tradition in physical education, Carnegie College and all that, this could be very useful to us.

Also, I have just heard that Stewart Adam, Chairman Elect of the RSCDS, and his wife Chris will also be attending.

We will need help on 'the day'. Please let me know if you can make yourself available, and also on the Sunday morning for clearing up.

We have made the Highland dances as 'accessible' as possible, four step Fling and four step Scottish Lilt. We hope there will be plenty of people willing to give it a go, including you! Highland Day School 8 May applies!

February Dance Indian Visitors



February Dance 2004 - Indian Visitors

The programmes, in brief, are as follows:

Afternoon Adult Dances

Queen's Quadrille, Fifty Years On, Sauchie Haugh, Highland Rambler, Silver Threads (Leicester), Swiss Lassie, Lady Auckland's Reel, Chequered Court, Dundee Whaler, Glasgow Highlanders, Shiftin' Bobbins, Dashing White Sergeant.

Demonstration Dances

Prince Charles of Edinburgh, Micklegate Run (York – Dunnington), Because He Was a Bonnie Lad, New Virginia Reel.

Highland Dances

Highland Fling (four step), Scottish Lilt (four step), Shepherd's Crook, Foursome Reel and Half Tulloch.

Children's Dances

Reel for Jeannie, Kendall's Hornpipe, The Barmkin, Knit the Pocky, Flying Scotsman, Espie MacNab, Tying Shoelaces, Jig for Mrs Dunn

Evening Dances

Last of the Lairds, Anniversary Reel, Argyll Strathspey, Montgomeries' Rant, Fifty Years On, The Gentleman, Midnight Oil, Ladies of Dunse, Schiehallion // The Fyket, Reel of the Royal Scots, Glasgow Highlanders, Swiss Lassie, Kelloholm Jig, MacDonald of the Isles, Inverneill House, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Todlen Hame // Joie de Vivre, Back to the Fireside.

Don Andrews

Sat 20th March 2004 7.30pm

SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spenn Lane

Music: Ian Slater **M.C.:** Peter Clark

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

Programme

Roaring Jelly	R 8x32	Foss
The Ladies of Dunse	J 8x40	Book 26
The Gentleman	S 8x32	Book 35
The Wild Geese	J 8x32	Book 24
Glen Alva	R 8x32	Forbes
Monymusk	S 8x32	Book 11
The Argyll Square	J 96	Book 43
The Montgomeries' Rant	R 8x32	Book 10

Cherry Bank Gardens	S 3x32	Drewry
The Sailor	H 8x32	Book 24
Willie with his Tartan Trews	J 8x40	Book 14
Glasgow Country Dance	8x 16S+16R	Book 23
The Bramble Bush	J 8x32	Book 25
Gang the Same Gate	S 8x32	Book 36
Mrs Stewart's Jig	J 8x32	Book 35
The De'il among the tailors	R 8x32	Book 14

Extras

Round Reel of Eight	R 88	Book 27
12 Coates Crescent	S 4x32	Book 40
The Wooden Horse	J 3x32	Drewry
Inverneill House	R 8x32	Book 35

Southport Festival

I was delighted and honoured to be invited as a guest at the 18th Festival of Scottish Country Dancing held by the Thistle Society, Wigan in the beautiful Floral Hall at Southport on the 7th February. I even had a place of honour with important guests like the Mayor and Mayoress of Wigan and of Southport.

I arranged to travel with Brenda Burnell who took a party of 15 children from the Branch Class and Cookridge Primary School, plus a few parents. We travelled from Leeds via Manchester to Southport and arrived to a blue sky but a cold wind.



What a beautiful setting for the dancing. Some of the dances had been devised by children especially for the celebration and a book of these dances has been published. Congratulations to two of our younger dancers, Rachel Norwood and Helen Wilson, whose dances are included in the book. The Children danced extremely well and Brenda must be very proud of them.

Iain Mottram from Manchester performed the Highland Fling then all the children joined him for a second version. What a sight, about 150 children with Iain in the middle dancing the Highland Fling. Just imagine that. Arms and legs all over the place.

After a full afternoon's dancing we began our journey back. Southport to Manchester without a hitch. Train from Manchester delayed (what a surprise). Finally it arrived and guess what – sorry no seats allocated because of delay. The kindly conductor said "Come along" and led us into 1st Class!! One small compartment for us all, standing room only for some with six of us standing in the doorway. We finally arrived back in Leeds at around 8.40pm tired but having had a lovely time. Perhaps I may go again next year. *Jean Dyson*

Sat 15th May 2004 7.30pm

SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spen Lane

Music: The Chris Dewhurst Band

M.C's: Barbara Caldicott and Gerry Yates

Admission: RSCDS Members £6.00, Non Members £7.00, Students £2, Children £1

Programme

Good Hearted Glasgow	J 8x32	Leaflet
Montgomery's Rant	R 8x32	Book 10
Wisp of Thistle	S 8x32	Book 37
Major Ian Stewart	J 8x32	Book 35
The De'il among the tailors	R 8x32	Book 14
The Ring of Brodgar	S 4x32	5th Carnforth
Scots Bonnet	J 8x32	Book 10
Fraser's Favourite	R 8x32	Leaflet

Miss Allie Anderson	J 8x32	Leaflet
Argyll's Farewell to Stirling	R 4x40	Dingley
Argyll Strathspey	S 8x32	Book 35
Maxwell's Rant	R 8x32	Book 18
C'est l'Amour	J 8x32	Book 34
S-Locomotion	S 4x32	Book 41
Saltire Society Reel	R 8x32	Leaflet
South from Oban	J 8x40	Leeds 10

Extras

West's Hornpipe	H 4x32	5 for 1965
Balmoral Strathspey	S 4x32	Book 22
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	R 5x32	Goldring
Reel of the Royal Scots	R 8x32	Leaflet

Dances will be walked through.

A School Visit

A request was made by Morley Victoria Primary School for information on Scotland and Scottish Country Dancing for a project year 6 was doing.

Brenda Burnell, myself and chauffeur Reg went along on Wednesday 4th February where we were made very welcome.

The children were interested in the items we took along - Tartans, flags, postcards, books and of course Kilt and Day Jacket for the boys and White Dress and Sash for the girls.

The highlight for them seemed to be the dancing. We taught them A Reel for Jeannie, The Haymakers and The Flying Scotsman and as they had done some English Country Dancing they knew how to dance to music. They were brilliant and put their all into the dancing.

The staff were interested too and I have sent the information on the Children's Festival to them and hope that some may come along even if they only watch.

I have had a phone call since thanking us and telling us that the children talked about it all week. We must have left a "good impression". *Jean Dyson*

Darlington 2003

We enjoyed going to the Darlington Festival this year even though we didn't get chance to dance Shepherd's Crook! The Christmas Tree was a lot of fun to do and everyone enjoyed dancing it. Our solo was Petronella and it was very tiring dancing it as first couple as we had to dance it three times through. This year we danced in the intermediate and senior sections as we just had eight dancers. Dora (now at Newcastle) and Elly (now at Durham) came and danced with us again to make up the teams. Our other intermediate dance was Kendall's Hornpipe and that went well. We danced as last couple in the senior dances and they were the Duke of Perth and Laird of Milton's Daughter. We enjoyed dancing with the 'big ones' and all in all it was a great day.

Rachel Norwood and Helen Wilson



Monday Afternoon Class Christmas Party

FULL AND PRELIMINARY TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE

The Branch is planning a teacher training course, to be taught by Helen Russell.

The course will begin with two sessions in July, and will reconvene in September. It will then have regular sessions until the assessment in December.

In order to make firm plans for this important course, could anybody who is interested in participating please contact me as soon as possible, certainly before the 15th March 2004.

Don Andrews 01535 605065 Donald@hbandrews.fsnet.co.uk

Take the Floor on the Road

Charles Ogden wrote and told me about a new cd that is out. Take the Floor on the Road, celebrating 25 years of BBC Radio Scotland TRCD0305, Thane Multimedia Ltd.

The recording includes a track by Neil Barron taken from the 'Take the Floor' visit to Leeds on the 23rd October 1996. The track used is a St Bernard's Waltz with tunes by the Shetland composers Tom Georgeson and Ronnie Cooper. Charles informs me that you can obtain a copy of the cd by sending a cheque to (and also made payable to) Thane Multimedia Ltd, The Warehouse, North Burnside, Cupar, Fife, Scotland KY15 4BH. Price including p&p £12.99. *Catherine Livsey*

Brackenwood Class Burns' Night



Mary Murray

We are very fortunate to be able to welcome Mary Murray back to Leeds for our 2004 September Day School.

Mary was introduced to Scottish Country Dancing at Larbert High School, Stirlingshire, where she became a member of the school team and participated in some festivals in central Scotland. After High School Mary joined the Falkirk Branch and danced with their demonstration team in various countries in Europe.

In 1966 Mary and her husband Jim moved to Vancouver, British Columbia. Since then, she has taught all levels of classes for the Vancouver Branch, directed their demonstration group, and has conducted numerous candidate courses.

Mary is a well known and popular teacher outside Vancouver. She has taught at the St. Andrews Summer School for the past fifteen years and has also taught the TAC Summer School, the New Zealand Summer School, the Australian Winter School and the Winter School at Pitlochry.

Mary is much in demand as a visiting teacher at weekend workshops. She has taught all over North America as well as in Denmark, France, Germany, Hawaii, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Australia, and the UK.

Put September 18th in your diaries now!

Susan Carr

Garforth Ladies visit to Brackenwood Class



Music for Branch Dances

September 2004 to December 2005

Date	Musicians	MC
18 September 2004	Marian Anderson Duo	Alan Horsfall
16 October 2004	Ian Slater Solo	Alan Proctor
20 November 2004	Alan Ross Trio	Nigel Campbell
18 December 2004	Neil Copland Trio	the McDonalds
15 January 2005	Stuart Anderson Quartet	Donald Andrews
19 February 2005	George Meikle Trio	Derek Kendall
19 March 2005	Ian Slater Solo	tba
21 May 2005	Robert Whitehead Trio	Catherine Livsey
18 June 2005	Green Ginger	Malcolm Brown
17 September 2005	Jean McConnachie Trio	
15 October 2005	tba	
19 November 2005	tba	
17 December 2005	Smith/Gray Duo	

The Newcastle Festival

14 February 2004

Sadly we have no trophies to report this year. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the trip was well worth while, we enjoyed ourselves, and we learnt a good deal both in preparing for the event and during the day.

The Branch entered both a Ladies' team and a Mixed team. I am told that it is the first time a mixed team has gone from Leeds, so that is a useful achievement in itself.

The ladies danced *The Royal Yacht Britannia* and Mr Robert H. Mackay, the mixed set danced *Major Ian Stewart* and *The Gentleman*. Comments from the adjudicator were quite favourable on all counts, and it is probably true to say the 'issues' (polite way of saying criticisms!) were fairly well known to us. All our dancers are extremely grateful to Catherine Livsey for the huge amount of work she did preparing the dances with us.

But the main benefit from attending this Festival was to enjoy and learn from what the adjudicator, Helen Frame, called a 'feast of Scottish dancing'. And a feast it was. It started promptly at 11 o'clock and continued pretty well without pause until after 6 o'clock. Every performance was worth watching, and few spectators left their seats. Some performances were outstanding, like the young people from the Aberdeen Airyhall Dancers and



The Mixed Team - Alan Proctor, Lesley Tompkins, Catherine Livsey, David Robertson, Betty Sumpton, Don Andrews, Ray Williams, Christine Proctor & Sheila Johns.

the energetic and powerful Alba Scottish Country Dancers from Glasgow. It was interesting to see how many members of the top teams clearly had a background in Highland dancing, with their precise footwork, poise, and presentation.

The day ended with a very well attended social dance to the music of Colin Dewar's band. The programme included a nice mixture of well known and more challenging dances, many of them danced with more vigour and less precision than anything we had seen during the morning and afternoon.

It is rumoured that one or two of our members just managed to get into bed before the milk was delivered.



Ladies Team - Alison Gundy, Kathie Dosell, Catherine Livsey, Sou Robertson, Pat Hynes, Isabel Douglas, Heather Craven, Monique Gray and music provided by Robert Whitehead.

Malhamdale 2003

The end of November saw another successful Malhamdale weekend.. We had a full complement of 43 people, with levels of experience ranging from less than a year's dancing to qualified teachers. There were several new faces this year, and it was nice to see friends who had moved away such as Maureen, Clifford and Clare.

Ann Dix was our excellent teacher for the weekend, and as well as teaching two very good new dances (Brunette D'Ecosse and The Committee Meeting) and step practice, she emphasized the purpose of Scottish Country Dancing - to have fun. She reminded us that dancers at all levels can make mistakes, that we should dance to the level of our partner and that we should make allowances, where necessary, for those less nimble on their feet.

Ann was aided and abetted by Jack Judson on the piano. Dancing to piano music was a new experience for some, but as the weekend progressed we enjoyed Jack's lively playing and also his sense of musical humour - on Sunday we started the day with "Onward Christian Soldiers". and if he thought we were not paying enough attention we were treated to a few chords from the Dead March!

On Friday and Saturday evenings we had two excellent programmes of dances courtesy of Derek Kendall. He made a patient MC, with walk throughs when necessary, so nobody needed to feel intimidated by unfamiliar dances.

The weekend was as usual organised by Yvonne, although this year there were one or two problems which she was not able to prevent. Many of us woke to no hot or cold water on Sunday due to the pumps and back ups both breaking down, but we have got used to having a little adventure or experience at Malhamdale and the standard of food and accommodation is so good that most people take these little mishaps in their stride.

Photographic records of the weekend were made in abundance by Brenda. And the pictures show how much everyone enjoyed themselves. It was nice to see her dancing with us again as and when needed to make the sets up.

The weekend gave opportunities for other activities. Some used their coffee breaks to have a go at "Le Roc" - a form of jive with a group from Cardiff. On Saturday afternoon the traditional bad weather did not prevent people from enjoying a variety of other activities such as shopping, walking or watching the fireworks and



switching on of the Christmas lights in Settle.

Sunday lunchtime and the time for the tired but happy group to make their ways home came all too soon, though of course there is Malhamdale 2004 to look forward to!

Janet Brayson and Alan Horsfall

DATES, DATES, DATES

MARCH 2004

20th Children's Festival

West Park Centre, Spen Lane, Leeds. Festival commences 1.30
Adjudicator: Peter Clark MC: Jean Dyson
Music: Ian Slater. ALL WELCOME!

Followed by a Social Dance

West Park Centre, Spen Lane
MC: Peter Clark Music: Ian Slater

26th-28th Scarborough Week-end

Contact: Yvonne Tredgett, 17 Aviemore Rd, Doncaster, DN4 9ND

MAY 2004

8th Highland Day School,

The main aim of the day is to learn the Highland Dances for the White Rose Festival. If you are not intending to go to the White Rose Festival you are still welcome to join us for an interesting fun day with plenty to learn for all levels. Teacher Catherine Livsey
Adel Methodist Church Hall, Gainsborough Avenue, Leeds 16
Contact: Yvonne Tredgett (above) or Catherine Livsey, 01484 432270 Catherine@cld-design.co.uk. Application Forms available at February Branch Dance or from the web site www.rscdsleeds.org.uk.

15th Social Dance

West Park Centre, Spen Lane
MC's: Barbara Caldicott and Gerry Yates
Music: The Chris Dewhurst Band

APRIL 2004

2nd Otley Caledonian Society Dance,

Civic Centre, Otley. Ticket £5 further details from Jean Dyson 01943 461022.

JUNE 2004

19th Strawberries and Cream Social Dance

West Park Centre, Spen Lane
MC's: Jean and Reg Dyson
Music: George Meikle and the Lothian Band

JULY 2004

3rd Charity Dance

Otley Civic Centre. Please contact Roy Goldring 01943 601373 for further details.

10th The White Rose Festival of Outdoor Scottish Country Dancing (entries by 30th April)

Beckett Park Campus of the Leeds Metropolitan University
MC: Gerry Yates.
Music: George Meikle and the Lothian Band, and Alan Harrison, pipes.
followed by **Social Dance**,
Beckett Park Sports Hall
MC's: Don Andrews and Ray Williams
Music: George Meikle and the Lothian Band

Classes

Fees

£2.50 per class

Term tickets (11 weeks)

£24 for one class, £35 for any number of classes, unless otherwise stated.

Classes

Summer Term begins week commencing 19th April. For finish date, see individual classes.

Monday afternoon

to 24th May (Term ticket £12.50)

1.45 – 3.45pm

Adel Methodist Church Hall,
Gainsborough Avenue, Adel, Leeds 16
Teacher: Barbara Caldicott

Tuesday evening

to 6th July (White Rose Festival preparation)

7.45 – 9.45pm

Adel Methodist Church Hall,
Gainsborough Avenue, Adel Leeds 16.
Teachers: tba

Wednesday evening

to 24th May (or to be advised)

except the 4th Wednesday of each month
7.30 – 10.00pm

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Knaresborough
Teachers: Ann Baranyi and Malcolm Frost

Thursday evening

to 6th July (White Rose Festival preparation)

Brackenwood Community Centre
New Building, Lidgett Lane, Leeds 8
Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Friday evening - children

(White Rose Festival preparation)

7.15 – 8.45

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

Sunday afternoon

1.45 – 3.45: 7th March, 18th April,
16th May, 6th June, 4th July.

(includes White Rose Festival preparation)
Experienced dancers interested in demonstration work and innovative dances. Everyone welcome.

Teacher: Catherine Livsey

For more information see
www.rscdsleeds.org.uk