



# The Leeds Branch Newsletter

## From the chair



Leeds Branch members at the Scarborough Weekend with teacher Jessie Stuart and Musician George Meikle

Birthday greetings to the St Columba's Scottish Country Dance Club, which is enjoying its 40th anniversary this year!

Counting up the Branch's activities over the last few months, there have been a very successful and enjoyable musicians' course, a terrific children's festival, and a highly successful Scarborough week-end. All are written up elsewhere in this Newsletter so I have no need to go into detail, but I am sure all members will join me in thanking those colleagues who have put so much effort into running these events, and to thank those who came to share their expertise: Nicol McLaren with the musicians, Peter Clark with the children, and Jessie Stuart with the Scarborough residential week-end. Incidentally, Nicol will be playing for a Branch social dance in November 2005.

Unfortunately, among a number of 'ups', there has also been one 'down'. Looking to the future, there is a need for more teachers in the area. Nothing wrong with the current ones, of course, but if we want to expand, which we need to do, and don't want to put too much pressure on those we already have, we need some additional ones. So, we attempted to recruit a 'candidates' course' - RSCDS talk for teacher training course. Helen Russell kindly agreed to teach it, and we

Andrews!), and it also meant the group dynamics would probably be a bit lacking. Then two dropped out, so we had to call the attempt off. We are still open to offers with a view to trying again, so please let me know if you are interested at all. Currently, the RSCDS is revising the syllabus for the teaching certificates, so when the new one is adopted a résumé will appear in the Newsletter, and that might attract and inspire!

But a really big 'up' has been the response to the White Rose Festival. Not all entries are in yet, but it looks as if we have about thirty adult teams and about ten children's teams. Tickets are still available for the evening dance, so even if you are not dancing in the afternoon I hope you will come to that: 7.00pm to 10.30pm in the Blue Sports Hall at Beckett Park, George Meikle and the Lothian Band. Details appear elsewhere in this Newsletter.

You will also find an application form for the September day school. Please fill it in and send it off! And don't forget what I said in the last chairman's piece about offering your services on the committee. All these activities we put on don't run themselves!

**Enjoy your 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](mailto: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.

advertised it across the north of England. Initially we recruited seven applicants so we made arrangements to run it, although we felt seven was a very low number. It made the cost quite high (ie much cheaper than St

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](http://www.rscdsleeds.org.uk) Why not give it a try.

# The White Rose Festival

## THE AFTERNOON

### The Outdoor Festival of Scottish Country Dancing. The Acre, Beckett Park

George Meikle and the Lothian Band,  
Alan Harrison (Pipes)

Any Branch members or colleagues who are not yet placed in a team for the Festival but who would like to participate should contact Catherine Livsey to discuss how they might be included. Catherine can be contacted on (work) 01483 432270, (mobile) 07860 758348, e-mail [catherine@cld-design.co.uk](mailto:catherine@cld-design.co.uk)

The general dances to be performed during the afternoon are The Queen's Quadrille, Fifty Years On, Sauchie Haugh, Highland Rambler, Silver Threads, Swiss Lassie, Lady Auckland's Reel, Chequered Court, Dundee Whaler, Glasgow Highlanders, Shiftin' Bobbins, Dashing White Sergeant.

Dress code: men, kilt or trews; women, white dress or blouse/skirt with (optional) sash.

Also if you would like to take part in the branch teams for the four demonstration dances Prince Charles of Edinburgh, Micklegate Run (York - Dunnington), Because He Was a Bonnie Lad & New Virginia Reel, also contact Catherine Livsey on the above numbers, practices for these dances are on Wednesday 26th May, 9th June & 16th June at 7.45 at Calverley Conservative Club and Sunday 16th May, 6th June and 4th July at 1.45 at Askwith Village Hall.

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## DIY Cribs

Make your own crib sheets for any dances you attend, by logging on to Charles Upton's site:

[www.minicrib.care4free.net](http://www.minicrib.care4free.net)

Once you have downloaded the necessary files, making your personal crib sheet takes only a few minutes. Try it, it's easy!

*Susan Carr*

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## Kilt and Accessories

Ancient Smith Tartan  
Waist 38", length 25"  
Hand made by Morrison's of Edinburgh  
Very good condition  
Also day sporrans, kilt hose, and flashes  
Offers in the region of £150

Contact: William or Doreen Smith,  
0113 2613 363

## WHITE ROSE FESTIVAL EVENING DANCE

The Blue Sports Hall, Beckett Park  
7.00pm to 10.30pm

George Meikle and the Lothian Band

Last of the Lairds	J 22	The Fyket	J 5 Trad
Anniversary Reel	R 36	Reel of the Royal Scots	R Lft
Argyll Strathspey	S 35	Glasgow Highlanders	S 2
Montgomerie's Rant	R 10	Swiss Lassie	R 39
Fifty Years On	J 43	Kelloholm Jig	J Lft
The Gentleman	S 35	MacDonald of the Isles	S Carnforth
Midnight Oil	J Bankhead	Inverneill House	R 35
Ladies of Dunse	R 26	Miss Milligan's Strathspey	S Lft
Schiehallion	M Thurston	Todlen Hame	J 16

### EXTRAS

Joie de Vivre	J 39	Back to the Fireside	R 38
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Entry by ticket only, obtainable from Brenda Burnell,  
0113 2676 655, [brenda@gunnyjwar.demon.co.uk](mailto:brenda@gunnyjwar.demon.co.uk)

Tickets: Adults £7, full time education £4, under 16 £2  
Light refreshments.

More information on the White Rose Festival  
visit the website [www.rscdsleeds.org.uk/festival](http://www.rscdsleeds.org.uk/festival)

Sat 19th June 2004 7.30pm

### SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spenneth Lane

Music: George Meikle and the Lothian Band

M.C: Reg and Jean Dyson

Admission: £7.00, Students £3, Children £2

#### Programme

The Laird of Milton's Daughter	J8x32	Book 22
Polharrow Burn	R5x32	Foss
Adieu Mon Ami	S8x32	Book 24
Quarries' Jig	J8x32	Book 36
Johnnie's Welcome Hame	R8x40	Book 32
Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord	S1x64	Drewry
Miss Welsh's Reel	J8x32	Graded
Cadgers in the Cannongate	R8x48	Book 9

The Last of the Lairds	J8x32	Book 32
The Summer Assembly	R1x88	Book 35
Margaret Parker's Strathspey	S8x32	Book 31
Follow me Home	J8x32	Book 38
Lothian Lads	R8x32	Drewry
The Silver Tassie	S8x32	Leaflet
Joe McDiarmid's Jig	J4x32	5/82
General Stuart's Reel	R8x32	Book 10

#### Extras

The Saltire Society Reel	R8x32	Leaflet
Muirland Willie	J8x32	Book 21
The Machine without Horses	J8x32	Book 12
Neidpath Castle	S3x32	Book 22

# Musician's Day School



What an excellent day of music-making we had with Nicol McLaren at the Musician's day School in February!. A wide variety of instruments - as well as fiddles, accordions and keyboards we had an oboe, double bass and bass guitar, and musicians ranging in age from 15 to senior citizens, with several new participants this year. Although we played many traditional tunes, Nicol has a wonderful talent for adding interesting harmonies, which make well-known tunes exciting and interesting to play. I shall certainly look forward to the next musician's workshop, as each one is unique in the

arrangements and tunes shared by the tutors. It is a very special day, culminating in the opportunity to play for the Branch dance as apart of a 12-strong band. Welding together so many musicians to produce an integrated sound in the space of only a few hours is no mean feat, but Nicol's special blend of enthusiasm for the music and ability to communicate with the group made it happen. I can recommend the day to anyone - you certainly don't have to be an expert! *Elizabeth M. Yates*

I'm sorry if you were not able to be with us for the February dance because we had another evening of wonderful music. Nicol worked his magic on the musicians and gave us a great sound for the dance.

*Brenda Burnell*

**Sat 18th September 2004 7.30pm**

## SOCIAL DANCE

**West Park Centre, Spen Lane**

**Music:** Marian Anderson Duo

**M.C.:** Alan Horsfall

**Admission:** RSCDS Members £6.00, Non Members £7.00,  
Students £3, Children £2

### Programme

Hooper's Jig	J 8x32	MMM II
The Music Makars	R 8x32	Book 33
The Lea Rig	S 6x32	Book 21
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	J 8x32	Book 22
The Royal Yacht Britannia	R 8x40	Book 43
INSTRUCTOR'S CHOICE	Strathspey	
Kenora Reel	R 8x32	Drewry
Mrs Stewart's Jig	J 8x32	Book 35

### INTERVAL

The Jubilee Jig	J 8x32	Leaflet
John of Bon Accord	R 8x32	Book 33
Sugar Candie	S 8x32	Book 26
INSTRUCTOR'S CHOICE	Reel/Jig	
Glen Alva	R 8x32	Forbes
Argyll Strathspey	S 8x32	Book 35
50 Years On	J 4x40	Book 43
The Montgomeries' Rant	R 8x32	Book 10

### Extras

Mrs MacLeod	R 8x32	Book 6
Swiss Lassie	R 8x32	Book 39
Roaring Jelly	J 8x32	Foss
Neidpath Castle	S 3x32	Book 22

## The September Day School

The Leeds Branch September Day School will have a slightly different format this year, owing to the visit of well-known teacher and tutor, Mary Murray.

For many years, Mary has successfully tutored teacher candidates for the Vancouver Branch. She also tutored at St. Andrews and has taught workshops for teachers all over the world. I have been to several of these and they have all been both stimulating and thought provoking.

In the morning session, Mary will bring out the teaching points and challenges of some of the dances in the most recent RSCDS publication, Book 44. Because the Committee would like everyone who teaches, or is interested in teaching, to benefit from this opportunity, there will be no restriction on qualifications for the morning programme.

The afternoon will revert to the format of recent years with a general class in which Mary will teach most of the dances from Book 44. I am sure all dancers and teachers will find this session enlightening and enjoyable, because Mary has the rare ability to make dancers feel relaxed, yet at the same time inspired to do their very best.

You will find all the details on the application form in this newsletter. So fill it in right away as we anticipate a great demand.

*Susan Carr*

# Children's Festival

Saturday 20th March saw our 27th Annual Children's Festival. Approximately 120 young people descended on the West Park Centre full of enthusiasm and ready for an enjoyable afternoon's dancing.

This year we were honoured to have with us the Chairman of the R.S.C.D.S., Jean Martin and her husband Iain. Another guest from o'er the border was Sue Porter who is the youth director for the Society, all three have extended their thanks and appreciation to the Leeds Branch.



As usual teams were from far and wide and adjudicator Peter Clark gave the children some good advice and useful tips on how to improve their dancing. I think the adults there also learned from him.

Leeds Branch Juniors danced Espie McNabb extremely well and the Senior team who danced Shepherd's Crook should be very proud of themselves. Thanks to Brenda Burnell for teaching them so well.

My thanks to anyone who helped on the day especially to Eric & Mary Wallace for a "sell out" at the tuck shop. To Val Hall and her team for providing refreshments, to line counters, money takers, and all other helpers, my grateful thanks.

*Jean Dyson (Branch Secretary)*

LETTER FROM RSCDS CHAIR JEAN MARTIN  
22 March 2004

Dear Jean Dyson

This is just a brief to say thank you for inviting us to attend the Children's Festival and Dance and Saturday. Iain and I enjoyed both events very much indeed and were very conscious of all the effort which had gone into the preparations. To have over 120 children dancing for the afternoon is no feat! Leeds Branch and you in particular should be very proud of the achievement.

We also enjoyed the evening dance and meeting more of the dancers from Leeds and the surrounding area. I recognised quite a number of people though I couldn't always put names to faces. The meal beforehand too was lovely. Not quite the tea and bun we had imagined! Again all the effort that producing a proper meal involved was much appreciated.

Aileen was an excellent hostess and we had a very pleasant time with her before heading north on Sunday morning.

Please will you pass on our thanks to all the members of the Leeds Branch who made us so welcome and contributed to the enjoyment of our visit.





# Scarborough Weekend 2004



For some reason this year, the Scarborough weekend crept up on me, and the day before found me having to make the momentous decisions about what to pack and what to wear. Suddenly it was "lovely stuff" to be doing and even nicer things to look forward to. On Friday afternoon, I picked Val up and off we went. This year the journey had been re-thought and was very enjoyable, with little or no hold-ups en-route (unlike the party from Kent who took 9 hours to arrive due to three very bad road accident delays - not to them I hasten to add). We arrived well on time and found familiar and friendly faces milling around us. Dancers who had not been before were soon feeling welcome and there was a really good air of expectation about the place. We were soon registered and settled in our room (beautiful sea views) with no problems at all.

We all gathered for dinner, which proved to be really good. The delicious choices of starters, main course and puddings were many and various with ample portions, and this proved constant throughout the weekend. Once satisfyingly refreshed, we formed up for the cause of the gathering - The Dancing.

George Meikle was once more our musician, with his own inimitable style, soon had us going well. During the first dance there was a ladylike hooch and it didn't take us long to learn that this was our teacher, Jessie Stuart, thoroughly enjoying herself. She made sure that she danced in every set and also that she had met everyone long before the morning class would begin. She had a quiet assurance about her with a smile that lit up the room and it was obvious we were in for a really good weekend.

The Saturday morning class was as we had come to expect - super. The dances were taught with a flourish and were of the kind that you could get your feet into. Exhilarating compilations of formations were completed with gorgeous tunes from George coupled with loads of laughs and the class was over before we knew it.

Our free time that afternoon saw Val, Sue and myself toddling into Scarborough for various shopping aspirations, but other things took our attention.

Coming round a corner into the bottom of the main shopping street, we heard the unmistakable strains of marching music. There was an Orangeman's parade coming, with various representatives from all over the north of England. Very moving. When the procession had passed we continued our visit to the shopping area, had lunch, looked around and made our way back to the Clifton, feeling well relaxed for the coming evening. Once again at dinner, the choices were as good as the previous evening and then the music struck up and a lively evening was experienced by everyone.

The next day, Jessie's relaxed personality had a way with the class and she took us sailing through her programme, with all the elements of sheer enjoyment that could possibly be mustered. At lunch, again with a lot of good choices, we discussed the weekend and what we had done. Just as suddenly as it had crept upon me, it was over, the car packed, our au revours taken and we were on our way.

When I have enjoyed myself as much as I did that weekend, I always feel a little sad when it is all over, but instead of going straight back home, Val and I took advantage of the gorgeous weather to take a meandering quiet road home via Thornton-le-Dale. En-route we passed day old lambs and calves (we stopped to look at one and found we had a traffic jam at the back of us - all of 3 cars), wildlife presented itself to us at various times and inviting home produce was purchased from a road side table. It took us about 4 hours to get home and the journey was a gentle wind down from the fun packed time of the last couple of days. Still, all good things come to an end but not looking to wish our time away - roll on next year.

*Kathie Dosell*



*George Meikle and Jessie Stewart*

# Spring Fling Youth Easter Weekend

On the weekend after Easter I went to Cambridge along with 3 others from Leeds (Jenny Edmondson, Eleanor Rastall, and Elly Bailey) for the Spring Fling, this year's RSCDS Youth School. This is only the second school for dancers aged 16-35, as last year's was cancelled due to lack of interest, but I am glad to say that the weekend this year was very well attended, with over 60 dancers coming from all around the world; well there were 2 Australians and an American (although admittedly none of them had come to the UK specially for the weekend!).

The weekend started with a social dance on the Friday night where we all got the chance to listen to our brilliant musicians for the weekend, David Hall (accordion, from Brussels) and Angela Young (pianist, from London) for the first time. Luckily the evening's dancing finished at 10 o'clock giving us the chance to recuperate before Saturday morning.

On Saturday we were split into 2 classes for the day where we were given excellent tuition from Deb Lees (Newcastle) and Duncan Brown (Exeter). They both provided very lively classes, as well as managing to polish up our footwork and some of the more complicated figures.

In the evening we had another social dance, which the 'locals' attended. It was a wonderful night with a great programme. We got the chance to dance the Hebridean Weaving Lilt to mouth music.

On Sunday morning we had a class all together as we only had one hall available, again great fun was had by all, including the musicians who played some brilliant piano duets. Debs made up a medley for us to demonstrate to each other, which was a Tour of Scotland, starting in the borders with Lauderdale Lads, going north into strathspey time with Autumn in Appin and then ending in St Andrews for Summer Assembly.

Those of us who had enough energy stayed for a Half Day School of Highland Dancing in the afternoon, which was also great fun, I certainly learnt a lot.

Overall it was a brilliant weekend and I shall certainly be attending next year's Spring Fling wherever it may be, there was quite a lot of discussion about next year's venue but nothing has been decided.

I would like to thank Adam and his team from



Cambridge for organising a fantastic Spring Fling, as well as our teachers and musicians and the RSCDS Youth Director, Sue Porter, who drove all the way from Oban to Cambridge for the weekend.

*Dora Connolly*

This was an excellent weekend with lots of Scottish Country dancing, socialising and partying and an opportunity to meet other young dancers. You could also try ladies' step dancing and highland dancing too. Even the men had a go at ladies' step dancing!

While we in Cambridge we had a trip to Scotland starting in Lauderdale with Lauderdale Lads, then we went to Appin in the autumn with Autumn in Appin!! We finished in St Andrews with Summer Assembly. This was a medley of three dances cleverly put together. We had fabulous music to dance to.

There was a reunion of Eleanor Rastall, Dora Connolly, Ellie Bailey and myself. We all used to dance together at the Branch's Friday night children's class in Leeds. It was great to dance with and see each other again.

The Youth Weekend will be going to Scotland next year. Check out the RSCDS website for more information or contact the Youth Director, Sue Porter. If you missed the chance to go this year, come and join us next year.

*Jennifer Edmondson*

Just before you decide to go, remember this weekend is for young dancers between 16 and 35. It is good to hear this course has been such a success this year.

# Rocking at Adel

Twenty three dancers from as far afield as Lancashire, Hull, and New Zealand South Island turned up on Saturday 8th May to revise, or learn from scratch, the four Highland dances listed for the White Rose Festival this year: Highland Fling, Foursome Reel, The Shepherd's Crook, and Scottish Lilt. It was very nice to see the age range, too, which ran from fourteen to (putting it politely) five times that and a bit.



The morning started with Catherine Livsey's usual gentle warm-up to Madonna's music American Pie, followed by a tiny bit of step practice. Shedding, rocking, crossover, double shake and rock, and then put them together for a four step fling. Shepherd's Crook followed a little bit of strathspey travelling, and then lunch.

A few of the morning dancers left at this point, though a couple who had intended to leave didn't as they had got addicted, and we were reinforced by a few

experienced dancers. This, of course was a great help with the Foursome Reel and Half Tulloch not only to help maintain the geography of the dance but also to help with the additional setting steps required for the section in reel time and the half tulloch. With their help, the dance was accomplished. Finally, as a 'warm-down', we all did a couple of steps of the Scottish Lilt, and then the ladies demonstrated the whole four step dance with aplomb.

**An instructive, and very enjoyable, day.**

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# A Friend from Japan



The Monday afternoon class were delighted with a visit from Yuko on March 29th. She was a regular at the class last year for a few months while her husband was working at Leeds University. She returned to Japan intending to seek out Scottish Country Dance classes.

She says she has done 'a little dancing' since we last saw her, and is now clearly a more experienced dancer, and much more proficient in the English language. We look forward to our next visit from Yuko.

*Barbara Caldicott*

# DATES, DATES, DATES

## MAY 2004

### 24th Afternoon Tea Dance

1.45 - 3.45, Adel Methodist Church Hall,  
Gainsborough Avenue, Leeds 16

#### PROGRAMME

1	Scots Bonnet	J8x32	Book 10
2	Maxwell's Rant	R8x32	Book 18
3	Wisp of Thistle	S8x32	Book 37
4	Major Ian Stewart	J8x32	Book 35
5	Argyll's Farewell to Stirling	R4x40	Dingley
6	Argyll Strathspey	S8x32	Book 35
7	Good Hearted Glasgow	J8x32	Leaflet
8	Fraser's Favourite	R8x32	Leaflet
9	The Ring of Brodgar	S4x32	5th Carnforth
10	De'il Amang the Tailors	R8x32	Book 14

Everybody is welcome. Our newcomers to dancing would benefit enormously from dancing with experienced dancers like yourselves.

*Barbara Caldicott*

## 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

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

## SEPTEMBER 2004

### 18th Day School

West Park Centre, Spen Lane, Leeds 6.  
Teacher: Mary Murray, Music: Ian Slater  
Information and application form in this newsletter or contact Yvonne Tredgett 17 Aviemore Rd, Warmsworth, Doncaster DN4 9ND, or see branch website [www.rscds.org.uk](http://www.rscds.org.uk)

#### Followed by a Social Dance

West Park Centre, Spen Lane  
MC: Alan Horsfall  
Music: Marian Anderson Duo

## MARCH 2005

### 11-13th Scarborough Weekend

Clifton Hotel Scarborough. Teacher: Ann Dix, Music: George Meikle  
Cost £105, a deposit of £20 secures your place and should be submitted by 1st September 2004, balance paid by 1st February 2005.  
For further information and application form contact Yvonne Tredgett 17 Aviemore Rd, Warmsworth, Doncaster DN4 9ND.  
Tel 01302 851174

# Classes

## Fees

£2.50 per class

#### Term tickets (11 weeks)

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

## Classes

**Autumn Term:** Starts week commencing 13th September 2003. TBA. Details in the August Newsletter.

### 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: Alan & Susan Carr until 25th May, Catherine Livsey until Festival.

### Wednesday evening

Contact Malcolm Frost for class dates and venue of 4th Wednesday. 7.30 - 10.00pm  
Holy Trinity Church Hall, Knaresborough  
Teachers: Ann Baranyi and Malcolm Frost

### Thursday evening

to 6th July (White Rose Festival preparation) and ongoing through Summer, contact Brenda Burnell for details  
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: 16th May, 6th June, 4th July.  
(includes White Rose Festival demonstration dances preparation) Askwith Village Hall.

Experienced dancers interested in demonstration work and innovative dances. Everyone welcome.

Teacher: Catherine Livsey

For more information see  
[www.rscdsleeds.org.uk](http://www.rscdsleeds.org.uk)