



The Leeds Branch Newsletter

From the chair



Dancing the Flavours of Red at the Newcastle Festival

It has been quite a busy time since the last 'From the Chair'. There have been three good dances, the children's groups have enjoyed trips to Darlington and Southport, the adult groups have been practising hard for their trip to **Newcastle***, and the demonstration team (in one case nearer to making an exhibition of themselves than a demonstration, but the least said about that the better!) has had two bookings. A very nice letter was received from one of our hosts, ending 'Lots of our members and guests from other clubs have sent messages to say how very much they enjoyed the whole evening, so thank you all very much for

making it such a success'. Our thanks to all those members who do offer their services for such publicity events, and put in the time and effort to practise for them.

While writing this piece, incidentally, an e-mail came in confirming that that the Branch is to perform, with the Bradford City Pipe Band, at the Keighley Show on Saturday 3rd September. Let Catherine Livsey or me know if you would be interested in joining us.

Sadly the committee has decided in view of the low response to go no further with the proposed 'candidates' course' (teacher training). However, there is a

glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. The Society is now moving into the recently revised teacher training programme, which consists of a series of five units. The first three units leading to the first certificate are the Written Paper, Practical Dancing, and Teaching; Level 1.

The Written Paper, which is based firmly on the Manual, must be successfully completed before attempting the other two units, and preparation for it can be by home study. The first opportunity to take this paper will be on the 19th March. Details appear elsewhere in this Newsletter – your 'starter for ten'!

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.

By some mysterious electronic happenstance, I find myself on the Strathspey web site 'list'. This means I receive loads of e-mails from other dancers, mostly based in North America but not all, on all sorts of subjects like terrific new dances or how to teach skip change to children. But in view of the fact that the Branch has just acquired a new CD player, one series of messages did interest me, initiated by a request for advice on music for classes. You will find the full text elsewhere: computer buffs, don your anoraks and woolly bonnets. And that message was the easy bit for beginners. You should see the rest of it!

Meanwhile, enjoy your dancing. *Don*

*** their worthwhile trip to Newcastle – see report!**

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?

A Day with Roy Goldring

Saturday 20th November saw 24 eager dancers gathered at St Mary's Church Hall for Deviser's Day. We were delighted to have our very own local Deviser, Roy Goldring instructing us, assisted by his wife Doreen.



Doreen got us off to a good start with a warming up session - much needed as the outside temperature was around zero! Roy soon got into his stride, in his unique and inimitable style, giving excellent direction and a brisk walk-through for every couple. His instructions were peppered with his usual witticisms and it was great to hear one eager, but not too experienced dancer say, 'I am so relieved he has a sense of humour!'

Phil Jones provided the musical accompaniment and was complimented on his excellent timing despite the fact that he must have had frozen fingers! Some members of the committee provided lunch and the break gave everyone a chance to relax and chat.

The programme included an inspiring selection of dances, which were only a small sample of those Roy has written. It was rewarding to have the opportunity to be involved in the creative process and to have the input of dancers welcomed.

A most enjoyable day was rounded off with coffee before the dancers headed home to Lockerbie, Sheffield, Leicester and many points in between. Taking part in exhilarating dances in a happy and relaxed atmosphere, really made it possible for every dancer to produce their best.



Alan playing a lament at the evening dance for dancers who passed away recently

Aileen Gray



Sat 19th March 2005 7.30pm

SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spen Lane

Music: Ian Slater **M.C.:** Gerry Yates

Admission: £5, Non-member £6, Full time Education £3,
Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

Programme

Roaring Jelly	J 8x32	Glendarroch Sheet 6(Foss)
The Saltire Society Reel	R 8x32	RSCDS Leaflet
Lord Elgin's Reel	S 8x32	Book 26
Kenora Reel	R 8x23	Bankhead Book 2 (Drewry)
C'est l'Amour	J 8x32	Book 34
The Gentleman	S 8x32	Book 35
The Earl of Mansfield	R 4x48	RSCDS Leaflet
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	J 8x32	Book 22

INTERVAL

Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	J 4x32	RSCDS 5 Dances for 1982
Fortieth Anniversary*	R 5x32	Leaflet (Goldring)
Argyll Strathspey	S 8x32	Book 35
The Chequered Court	J 8x32	Book 42
Portnacraig	R 8x32	Book 36
S-Locomotion	S 4x32	Book 41
St Andrew's Fair	J 8x32	RSCDS 5 Dances for 1982
Shifftin' Bobbins	R 8x32	Ormskirk Book 6 (Clowes)
(* will be walked)		

Extras

Fife Ness	R 8x32	RSCDS 4 Dances for 1978
The Duke of Perth	R 8x32	Book 1
Gothenburg's Welcome	J 8x32	Book 37
Oriel Strathspey	S 4x32	Book 32

Children's Festivals

Darlington 2004

On a cold Saturday at the end of November the Leeds children's team set out for Darlington. Unfortunately one dancer couldn't come, but luckily Mrs Wilson agreed to take her place. Thank you Mrs Wilson. We danced in the intermediate section and despite having only six dancers in our team we managed quite well.

This year we were both glad that we were allowed to dance Shepherd's Crook, as we didn't do it last year. The afternoon tea was up to standard and very good.

Overall the day was super.



Southport 2005

At 11.00 am Leeds RSCDS dancers got on the coach to go to Southport. After a long 2 1/2 hours we finally arrived and everyone clambered off the coach. The first thing we noticed that had changed, at long last, was that we had a sign for the Grand March at the end of the Festival.

We found our seats and sat down to have our lunch. Then we got changed ready to dance. Our first dance was Snakes and Ladders (devised by Rachel Norwood). Only five people from our class could come so yet again Mrs Wilson joined us along with two dancers from Cookridge School, Natalia and Claire. We thank all three of them for stepping in so we could go to Southport.

We had a great day and this year we were able to stay to the end. The last dance was Dashing White Sergeant and during this dance the balloons were released from the net above the ballroom. Everyone got a balloon – there was one for every dancer!

We had a great day at Southport.

Helen Wilson and Rachel Norwood

We now look forward to our own Festival at West Park on March 19th - come along to join in the fun.

On Saturday 4th February, I joined Brenda Burnell and the



children from the Friday Class and Cookridge Primary School and off we went to Southport. No

train journey this time, we played safe and went by coach. The children travelled ever so quietly but you could here the inevitable "Are we there yet?"

It was a pleasant journey but we arrived to rain but this did not dampen the spirit. The children all changed into their "glad rags" they certainly looked smart.

They all danced extremely well and were a credit to Brenda. The Branch should be very proud of both Brenda and the children - it's certainly a wee bit scary dancing in front of so many people. Some of the dances were new to me so I congratulate all of them.

David Queen danced Seann Truibhas brilliantly but the children were not invited to join him.

"Stone the Crow" Morris Dancers had a solo spot dancing with sticks and invited anyone over 12 to join them. Luckily no one got their hands in the way.

We had a peaceful journey home, the children were tired but had thoroughly enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to next year.

Jean Dyson

Sat 21st May 2005 7.30pm

SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spenn Lane

Music: Robert Whitehead Trio **M.C:** Catherine Livsey

Admission: £6, Non-member £7, Full time Education £3,
Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

Programme

Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel	J 8 x 32	Graded Book
The Montgomeries' Rant	R 8 x 32	Book 10
Culla Bay	S 4 x 32	Book 41
Pelorus Jack	J 8 x 32	Book 41
Polharrow Burn	R 5 x 32	Foss
Sugar Candie	S 8 x 32	Book 26
Chequered Court	J 8 x 32	Book 42
Peggy Dewar	R 8 x 32	Book 38

INTERVAL

Jessie's Hornpipe	J 8 x 32	Book 8
Broadford Bay	R 8 x 32	RSCDS L/Let
Cape Town Wedding	S 8 x 32	Book 39
Bonnie Anne	J x 96	MacNab 2
Galloway House	R 8 x 32	Graded Book
Gang the Same Gate	S 8 x 32	Book 36
Mrs Stewart's Jig	J 8 x 32	Book 35
Reel of the Royal Scots	R 8 x 32	RSCDS L/Let

Extras

Neidpath Castle	S 6 x 32	Book 22
St Andrew's Fair	J 8 x 32	RSDCS 1982
The Sailor	R 8 x 32	Book 34
John of Bon Accord	R 8 x 32	Book 33

The Sound of Things to Come

Recently, on the Strathspey chat line, somebody enquired about the best sound system for classes. After a number of witticisms about 'why don't you buy a musician', the following response appeared from a correspondent in California. While I am not suggesting we should fill our Newsletter with a stream of highly technical (and to many of us incomprehensible) contributions, I would be interested to know more. Any offers? *Don*

We have not been very happy with either of the two Califone units we have purchased. On one, the CD player failed a couple of weeks after the warranty ran out. The other, the boombox version, still works, but it doesn't play home-burned CDs reliably. Since I insist that copies be used, rather than originals (class is a harsh environment for CDs), this made the machine unsatisfactory. The tempo increments are a bit on the big side. As others have said, it seems a bit on the flimsy side, and the lid does pop open too readily. Volume is adequate for maybe around 4 sets, possibly 6 if they're really quiet.

Amazing Slowdowner (<http://www.ronimusic.com/>) (for both Mac and Windows) plays MP3s and has variable speed in approximately 1% increments (up and down). Its interface for controlling tempo is easy to use. Pitch does not change as tempo changes. It also plays native audio formats (aiff on Mac, wav on PC).

iTunes together with Amazing Slowdowner is a *great*

combination. iTunes (also available for both Mac and PC) turns out to be enough of a database. Without much work, one can have SCD recordings organized and identified by type, number of bars, and number of repetitions. If you need a 4x48 jig, just click where it says "4x48 jigs" and you immediately see a list of everything you have in that category. You can easily store several thousand SCD recordings on even a modest (by today's standards) size hard disk, if you use a compressed format such as mp3. On the downside of the laptop approach, long-term reliability is still an unknown (for us, anyhow) and you do need an external amp and speakers, so there's more stuff to cart around.

One can also get CD players intended to be rack-mounted. They're not very portable, and need external amp and speakers, but do tend to be higher quality than the boomboxes.

There are nice looking portable units marketed to DJs (the kind of DJ you hire for a wedding reception), but they tend to be big, heavy, and expensive. *Don MacQueen*

<http://strathspey.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/strathspey>

Booking dances

The evening had just started. 'Would you care for the next dance?' 'Sorry, I'm already booked up until the interval, but I have a couple of free slots in the second half.' Sounds familiar? Probably, because this practice of booking partners way ahead is becoming all too common and can easily snowball out of control as others feel obliged to join in, just to have a chance of a dance with one or two favourite partners.

To my mind, the practice is not only contrary to the social nature of Scottish country dancing, but is also impolite to our visitors and inconsiderate to the inexperienced who often welcome an invitation to dance as the evening progresses. Of course, there will be times when you want to ask someone for a particular dance but, in general, is there any reason to book a partner for more than the next couple of dances?

Can anything be done about it? Probably not. There will always be the inveterate 'bookers' who prowl the floor, inviting the select few to dance with him or her throughout the evening but, at the very least, it should be seen as perfectly normal to decline such offers without causing any offence. *A.P.*

Courtesy RSCDS London Branch journal, The Reel, December 2004.

Sat 18th June 2005 7.30pm

'STRAWBERRIES & CREAM' SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spen Lane

Music: Green Ginger **M.C:** Malcom Brown

Admission: £6, Non-member £7, Full time Education £3,
Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

Programme

Maxwell's Rant	R 8x32	Book 18
It's Just for Fun	J 8x32	Book 33
Staffin Harvest	S 4x32	RSCDS 4 Dances for 1978
Old Nick's Lumber Room	J 8x32	Book 26
The Duchess Tree	S 8x32	Drewry - Brodie
Golden Gateway Reel*	R 8x32	McMurtry - Devil's Quandary
The Machine without Horses	J 8x32	Book 12
Gang the Same Gate	S 8x32	Book 36
The Sailor	R 8x32	Book 24

* see www.rscds-sf.org/dances/GoldenGatewayReel.htm or by post from Don Andrews (sae please)

INTERVAL

Tribute to the Borders	J 8x32	RSCDS Leaflet
The Plantation Reel	R 5x32	Pinewoods Collection Vol. 2
Moment of Truth	S 8x32	Book 37
The Dancing Master	J 96	Drewry - Donside
Campbell of Laphroaig	M 8x16 16R	Wilma Miller - Ladies of Dunse
Bratach Bana	R 8x32	Drewry - Bon Accord
Neidpath Castle	S 3x32	Book 22
The Chequered Court	J 8x32	Book 42
The Montgomeries' Rant	R 8x32	Book 10

Extras

The Robertson Rant	S 80	Book 39
West's Hornpipe	R 8x32	5 Trad SCD for 1965

Newcomer to Newfield Hall

Last year I'd heard members of my weekly RSCDS class excitedly talking about 'going to Malham' but let the opportunity slip by to join them. This year I decided to 'go for it' which was why I found myself on the winding road from Gargrave driving through grey drizzling rain on a Friday afternoon. I saw the lights of a country house shining through the gloom and thought how warm and welcoming it looked but it was only on drawing up at its pillared porch that I saw the full magnificence of Newfield Hall. Once inside, the interior design was sumptuous with a grand staircase, lofty atrium reception area, great fireplaces and fine drapes and curtains. What a setting! I was immediately made welcome by the gathering of friendly fellow Scottish dancers enjoying a cup of tea and I met several more when all the newcomers were invited for pre-dinner drinks in Yvonne's room. Yvonne does the hard work of organising the event.

At dinner everyone of the eight of us round the table, commented on how good the meals were, whether they'd selected the vegetarian option or the fish or meat dishes. My choice of homemade soup, succulent trout and chocolate dessert was scrummy.

I scuttled back to my room for frantic revision of the crib sheets for the night's dances, which as usual only created a fog and anxiety in my mind. This, thank goodness, was dispelled, as once on the dance floor, Derek Kendall re-capped and if necessary quickly walked through the dances. He coaxed us all to a level of confidence that ensured we danced with much gaiety while the lively music of Pat and Peter Clark on the keyboard (electronic piano) and the accordion put a spring in our feet.

The first treat next morning was the wonderful view of the Dales from the huge windows of the dining room. What a backdrop for the classes, which Pat and Peter gave there (after the tables were cleared away). My concentration was really on their instruction. Sometimes Pat taught while Peter played and then they swapped roles; a double treat. The 'warm up' set the tone for their excellent teaching, clear, effective and with a touch of humour, though I'm not sure I fully got the details of the exercise to persuade our knees to turn out at the requisite angle which involved washing up at the kitchen sink!! What I did get was that attending to the finer points of the dancing techniques really does make the moves more flowing, and I occasionally managed to adjust my enthusiastic pace and unruly footwork so that I was able to glide in a manner more appropriately gracious as befitted the refined setting of the Newfield Hall as well as the dances.

The afternoon was mild, and many of us used our free time to explore the shopping delights of Grassington, or Gargrave, or wandered further a field. And certainly one jaunty tweed hat was purchased. Some used the tempting swimming pool. Others walked the hills at



MC Derek and Teachers/Musicians Pat and Peter

Malham, where there was much peace and beauty and the far reaching views to admire. It was a huge relief to be able to relax and enjoy the afternoon's activities without too much pressure of having to swot up the evening's dances, knowing that Derek would be there to help us towards stress free dancing. But before the dancing there was a Christmas evening meal which was little short of miraculous given that the staff had been coping with the crisis of a broken water pump so had 'no water' all afternoon. The festive meal with crackers and gaiety was so good and generous that we had slight difficulty in rousing ourselves to begin the evening's dancing. However the magic of the music and Derek's guidance meant we had fourteen glorious dances before bed.

Sunday morning's light was soft pink and one of our company joined a Yoga group (that happened to be using Newfield Hall as well) to salute the sunrise. The morning dance classes, through Peter and Pat's humour and enthusiasm got us perfecting our 'set and links' so that they curved smoothly and we also rose to the challenge of an intricate dance inspired by Gandolf from the Lord of the Rings!

There was a farewell lunch and we left with slightly sore feet, many memories of merry dancing and fun and learning and the resolute determination to return next year for the Malham weekend that is great value and not to be missed.

Sue Hayton

White Rose Festival 2005

I am sure everybody will be aware by now that the White Rose Festival is to be held this year on the 16th July at Leeds Grammar School.

The reason for the change of venue is that Beckett Park is not available for 'outside bookings' at any time in July, but LGS also has some real advantages. The outside dance area is large and flat, there is a good sloping area to one side for spectators, there is a pavilion with a raised verandah for the band and changing rooms for the dancers. The Sports Hall, which is the same size as Beckett Park, is very close at hand, there is a good and inexpensive restaurant on site, and although the space for spectators in the Sports Hall will be restricted, there is a good circulation area nearby where non-dancers can move about, sit and chat, or get a drink.

There is also a second hall, the Assembly Hall, should we need it. So, it all looks very promising. It would be nice if the weather were kind to us!

We have just learned that Jackie Johnstone is able to accept our invitation to open the event. Jackie demonstrated Highland dancing for many years while the Festival was run by the Leeds SCD Club at Beckett Park, and this year a dance he devised is on the list of 'demonstration' dances – Doon Hame.

As an innovation this year, we are inviting dancers who are not able to make up a full team, either individuals or small groups, including those from abroad who are perhaps on their way to St Andrews Summer School which starts two days later, to put in an application so that we can either make up new teams or assign them to existing ones. We particularly hope that this will encourage overseas involvement.

All local groups, all those who attended last year, and all Scottish Branches south of the Edinburgh/Glasgow line and all English and Welsh Branches will have received notification of the event by now. Details are also on our Web Site, which also has a link with the RSCDS site. The dances chosen are as follows:

AFTERNOON		
Children	Adults	Demonstration
Rabbie's Reel	The Queen's Quadrille	Rose of Glamis
The Wild Geese	Festival Fling	Strictly Scottish
Antarctica Bound	Seann Truibhas Willichan	Maid of the Mist
Miss Jessie Dalrymple's Reel	The Immigrant Lass	Doon Hame
The Piper and the Penguin	12 Coates Crescent	
Fizzy Marmalade	Johnnie's Welcome Hame	
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	The Grey Wanderer	
Petronella	The New Brudenell Jig	
The Reel of the 51st Division	Autumn in Appin	
The Dashing White Sergeant	Village Reel	
	The Reel of the 51st Division	
	The Dashing White Sergeant	
EVENING		
Nice to See You	Joie de Vivre	Extras
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	Polharrow Burn	Miss Hadden's Reel
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	Sugar Candie	Swiss Lassie
John of Bon Accord	It's Just for Fun	Clutha
Tribute to the Borders	The Silver Thistle	The Silver Tassie
Gang the Same Gate	Culla Bay	
Festival Fling	The Nurseryman	
Schiehallion	The Reel of the 51st Division	

All derivations and so on can be found on the information circulated to groups or on the web site www.rscdsleeds.org.uk. If you would like to dance for the branch in any of the above sections then either contact your class teacher or Catherine Livsey 01484 432270, email catherine@cld-design.co.uk

Festival Success!

The 21st Newcastle Festival was held at Emmanuel College, Gateshead, 12th February 2005. Three teams represented the Leeds Branch, Ladies, Mixed, and Display, under the direction of Catherine Livsey.

The format for the Ladies and Mixed teams consisted of a strathspey and a reel or jig, danced in any order. This year both the Ladies and Mixed teams danced Minard Castle and Gang the same Gate. The team took to the floor for the first dance, which was performed by the 1st couple dancing with supporting couples twice through and the 2nd couple repeated. This was followed by a slightly nervous pause whilst the adjudicator Lesley Martin noted her comments and score. A bell was sounded and the 3rd and 4th couples each danced the second dance, again twice through.

The Ladies section was the first to be danced with the Leeds team putting in a really excellent performance to be awarded joint first position with the London Branch, with a total of 172 points. Congratulations Ladies, it was thoroughly deserved. The Mixed section followed and the Leeds team acquitted themselves admirably by being awarded 172 points with the winning team, London, gaining 180 points. Well-done Mixed team, another strong performance.

The finale to the Festival was the Display section and for the first time Leeds Branch entered a team of 16 dancers. The format for this section was any combination of dances, one being a strathspey, in a time limit of 8 minutes. Our theme was "Flavours of Red". Catherine innovatively choreographed 4 dances, Red Biretta, Red Ribbon, Red House and Le Moulin Rouge.

Lesley Martin was joined by Fiona Turnbull for the judging and awarded first place to Newcastle. The Leeds team was loudly applauded by the knowledgeable audience and we were delighted with our performance. An excellent day was rounded off with dinner at a local restaurant and dancing to Colin Dewar and his band.

Many thanks must go to Catherine for her forward-looking vision, regarding Scottish Country Dancing, and also to our ubiquitous chairman, Don Andrews, for his tremendous input and organisational skills.

Classes are held at Calverley on Monday evenings and monthly at Askwiith on a Sunday afternoon.

Demonstration dancing is great fun, so come along. You will be most welcome.

Alan Procter



The winning Ladies Team, Pat, Louise, Isabel, Heather, Sou, Catherine, Kathie and Pauline with Trophy and the mixed team Alan, Ray, Don, David, Sheila, Cherry, Betty and Christine performing Gang the Same Gate



The whole team celebrate winning the ladies section trophy

Celebrations at Brighthouse!

Brighthouse S.C.D.C. is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, it was started at the same time as the Waring Green Community Centre, which is our regular venue. We move into our anniversary year with our first lady chairman, Rachel.

We meet every Thursday at 7.30pm and the first part of the evening is given to learning new dances or refreshing old ones, perhaps preparing for our next Open Night or some other event on the calendar. The second half, after our tea and biscuits, is a programme of hopefully well-known dances prepared by a club member. Once a month Diana comes in to ensure our standards have not slipped too far from Miss Milligan's ideals. Every month we hold an Open Night, usually the second Saturday (but please check the diary) and they maintain their popularity. Is it the programme or the Cornish pasties that attract our visitors?

Our March open night is always a programme of visitors' choice, compiled from earlier suggestions; August is when we hold a Charity Dance which, over the past few years has raised several hundred pounds for the Macmillan Nurses. This year, July 9th will be our big event, our Anniversary Ball with the Alan Ross Trio. At the time of going to press, the programme and other details are not yet finalised. We started 2005 with a very successful New Years Day dance. It was very well attended with a very generous faith supper, all proceeds were donated to the Asian Tsunami appeal. Our thanks to everyone who made it such an enjoyable evening and we extend an invitation to all our future activities.

The Centre's central heating system is out of order at the moment, but you will still receive a very warm welcome.

George Watson

Spring Tea Dance

The Monday Afternoon Class is holding its Spring Tea Dance on Monday 23rd May 2005, starting at 1.45, in Adel Methodist Church Hall, Gainsborough Avenue, Leeds 16.

The programme of dances will appear on the Branch web site nearer the time and will include some White Rose Festival dances.

All dances will be talked through, and again we are fortunate to have Ian Slater to play for us.

Admission will be £2.50 including refreshments.

Further details, including the programme when ready, from Alan and Susan Carr 01943 466 702



Dancers enjoying the Christmas Tea Dance

September Day School

Preliminary Notice

The Branch will be running a full day school at West Park on 17th September to introduce the new book of dances, Book 45.

We have been very fortunate to obtain the services of Margo Priestley, a very well known, well liked, and well respected teacher. Ian Slater will provide the music for the day school.

The format will be much the same as the 2004 day school with Mary Murray. The morning session, 10.00-12.45, is open to all, but its emphasis will be on 'teaching points' in the new dances, and so it will be of special interest to

teachers or others who are interested in the learning/teaching process.

The afternoon session, 2.00-4.15, will be of general interest and open to all dancers of intermediate standard and above (ie over 1 year experience).

Coffee, lunch, and tea will be available, and during the tea break there will be an opportunity to view recent Scottish Dance videos

The social dance in the evening will be to the music of the Jean McConnachie Band, a very well respected group from Dumfries, with Jean and Reg Dyson as MCs.

Booking Forms will be available both on the web site and at future dances.

Teaching Certificate Part 1 - Unit 1

Although the Branch has not been able to raise enough interest to offer a full Teaching Certificate course, the new regulations do enable us to make a start by offering a 'Unit 1' test.

Unit 1 is a pre-requisite for moving on to the Units 2 and 3, which make up the First Certificate. It is a written test only, with the examination paper based on the RSCDS Manual of Scottish Country Dancing. Attendance at a course is not necessary for this Unit; preparation may be by home study. Successful candidates may then apply for a Unit2/3 course run elsewhere, for example at Summer School.

The test will be held at the West Park Centre, room 2, on the 19th March 2005, 10.00am - 12.00. Candidates will need to fill in an application form and pay a fee of £7. Candidates must be current members of the Society.

A specimen paper, with sample answers, can be found on the Society web site www.rscds.org/whatsnew

For further information please contact me immediately by 'phone or e-mail. Entries must be with the Society by 4th March.

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

Bits and Pieces

Dance On Magazine

In November 2004 a new magazine called Dance On! was launched. It is published monthly and costs £2 + 70p P & P each month. It is for people that enjoy Scottish Traditional dance. It covers Country, Old Time, Ceilidh, Step, Highland, Shetland, Orcadian, Hebridean etc and its music. The branch has copies of the first 4 issues for you to look at. If you are interested in Dance On the contact details are 7 Achachork, Portree, Isle of Skye IVS1 9HT. Tel 01484 613104 email editor@danceon.co.uk or www.danceon.co.uk.

MacNab Video

On sale shortly from head office a video containing all the MacNab dances. 5 of these dances are performed by members of the Leeds Branch. If you are interested in this video contact RSCDS 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7AF, Scotland, Tel 0131 225 3854.

The Web Site

www.rscdsleeds.org.uk

The site now has a new feature. If you click on a dance listed on the home page, say the December dance, then, when the programme comes up click on Crib Sheet, you will get the dance reminders for the whole programme on screen, all ready to print out. And, if you look below **See also** on the home page, you will find 'Full list of dances'. Click on that, and you will get a long list of dances in alphabetical order. Click on a dance title, and your dance reminder will appear before your very eyes. Thanks, Christine

Missing Creil Jacket

If anyone as Creil jacket made by Macnaughtons that they picked up in mistake for their own then contact Ian Watson 01937 842044, email: ifra@watson13.freeserve.co.uk who will arrange exchange of the two jackets.

Branch CD Player

The Branch CD player, mentioned in the November Newsletter, has now arrived. It is available for use by any member, on short term loan, for teaching or demonstration purposes. It will be in Ian Clark's safe keeping: 0113 2678 228.

It plays tapes as well as CDs, but the variable speed facility only works on CDs. Don't forget it is quite heavy. At 22lbs, you wouldn't want to carry it far. But it is not short of volume!

For Sale

3 Kilts (2 Mens and 1 Ladies), 2 Sgian Dubhs, Socks and Tabs, 2 belts, 1 Sash, 1 Sporrán and other accessories.

If you are interested in any of the above items please contact Mrs Benson on 01943 464830

Other Dates

Ilkley Scottish Dance Club

Saturday 12th March at Ben Rhydding Methodist Church Hall, Music by Neil Barron, Everyone Welcome

Saturday 14th May

at Bolton Abbey Village Hall, Music by Phil Jones
Further details from Jean Dyson 01943 461022

Charity Dance

(Advance Notice), Saturday 2nd July

at Otley Civic Centre, Music by Neil Barron

Further details from Roy & Doreen Goldring 01943 601373

The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra

Scotland's foremost traditional music orchestra

Saturday 23rd April 2005, 730pm

YORK UNIVERSITY CENTRAL HALL

For information, visit the website at www.sfo.org.uk

For enquiries about advance ticket reservation, contact David Lunt 01506 842628 (Davidalunt@aol.com)

DATES, DATES, DATES

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

MARCH 2005

11-13th Scarborough Weekend

For further information, contact Yvonne Tredgett, 17 Aviemore Rd, Warmsworth, Doncaster DN4 9ND 01302 851174

19th Teaching Certificate Unit 1 Test:

room 2, West Park Centre,
10.00 – 12.00 noon.

Children's Festival

1.30 – 5.00pm, West Park Centre

Adjudicator: Helen Brown:

Music: Ian Slater

Followed by a Social Dance

West Park Centre

Music: Ian Slater MC: Gerry Yates

MAY 2005

14th Highland Day School

Adel Methodist Church Hall

10.00-12.30 (basic) and 1.30-3.30 (intermediate/advanced)

Tutor: Catherine Livsey

£4 per session or £7 both sessions. Students £3/£5

Very valuable for those attending the White Rose Festival!

Application forms from Yvonne Tredgett (address above)

21st Social Dance,

West Park Centre 7.30

Music: Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw

MC: Catherine Livsey

JUNE 2005

18th The 'Strawberries and Cream' Social Dance

West Park Centre 7.30

Music: Green Ginger

MC: Malcolm Brown

JULY 2005

16th White Rose Festival

Leeds Grammar School 2.00-5.00pm

followed by a Social Dance in the LGS Sports Hall 7.00-10.30pm

Music: George Meikle and the Lothian Band, throughout

MCs: Gerry Yates, Alan Carr, Donald Andrews

SEPTEMBER 2005

17th DAY SCHOOL

The new season will commence with a Day School, led by Margo Priestley, at West Park Centre, introducing RSCDS Book 45:

Music: Ian Slater

The Day School will be followed by a **Social Dance**

Music: The Jean McConnachie Trio

MCs: Jean and Reg Dyson

Full details of these events will be circulated at Branch dances during the summer and posted on the Branch web site, www.rscdsleeds.org.uk

Classes

Fees £2.50 per class

Term tickets

Short term - single class £13, any number of classes £20

Long term - single class £26, any number of classes £40

Dates

Short term - finishes at Spring Bank - wc 18 April - wc 23 May (6 weeks)

Long term - up to White Rose Festival - wc 18 April - wc 11 July (12 weeks)

(Holiday breaks for 'May Day' or Spring Bank to be arranged by classes.

Classes

Monday Afternoon

1.45 - 3.45 - General/Beginner

(incl White Rose Festival preparation)

Adel Methodist Church Hall

Gainsborough Avenue, Adel, Leeds 16

Teachers: Alan and Susan Carr

Monday Evening

7.45 - 9.45pm - Advanced

Calverley Conservative Club,

Teacher: Catherine Livsey

Finishes: 21st March 2005

Tuesday evening

7.45 - 9.45 Intermediate/Beginner

(incl. White Rose Festival preparation)

Adel Methodist Church Hall

Teachers: Alan and Susan Carr,

Catherine Livsey

Wednesday evening

7.30 - 10.00 - General/Beginner

Holy Trinity Church Hall Knaresborough

contact Malcolm Frost for venue 4th

Wednesday of each month 01423 872686

Teachers: Ann Baranyai and Malcolm Frost

Thursday evening

7.45 - 10.00 - General/beginner

(incl White Rose Festival preparation)

Brackenwood Community Centre, New

Building, Lidgett Lane, Leeds

Teachers: Brenda Burnell/Stella Summers

Friday evening - children

7.15 - 8.45

(incl White Rose Festival preparation)

Hawksworth Wood Primary School

Broadway, Leeds 5

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Sunday afternoon

1.45 - 3.45 10 April, 8 May, 5 June, 3 July
Askwith Village Hall.

Experienced dancers interested in demonstration work and innovative dances. White Rose Festival

Demonstration and Highland dances

All Welcome

Teacher: Catherine Livsey

For more information see www.rscdsleeds.org.uk