

Newcastle Festival 11th February 2006

Once again the RSCDS Leeds Branch entered for three of the four sections of the Newcastle Festival, one of very few competitive events on the calendar: Ladies Team, Mixed Team, and Demonstration. The only 'missing link' was a Junior Team, a section in which Leeds has done very well in former years.

Both the Ladies and the Mixed teams are required to perform two dances, one strathspey and either a jig or a reel. This year both teams opted for relatively early dances, the jig Woo'd and Married and a' from Book 16 but collected from a publication of 1816, and Alltshellach from Book 23.

Newsletters

The Branch welcomes your news, stories, views, questions etc... Please send all copy for future newsletters to Stella Summers. Her e-mail address is stellaian@sums4.fsnet.co.uk 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. or Catherine Livsey, 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.

Robert Whitehead agreed to provide the music for us, both for rehearsal and for the two performances. His playing was a great support to the teams; it really helps to have his quality of musicianship available at

Having shared first place with the London team in 2005, the Ladies went one better this year and came away with the silver cup all to themselves. Though the mixed team performed creditably, with a points score not far behind the Ladies, they picked up no silverware this time round.

Adjudicator Lesley Martin wrote helpful comments on each performance, particularly complimenting the teams on their choice of early dances, so difficult to perform well.

For the 'Demonstration', 16 dancers performed a medley of four dances, a reel Culvain, Roy Goldring's recent strathspey Memories, and the 'quickies' Macleod's Fancy and The Creel, all to some toetapping music selected by choreographer Catherine Livsey from the more modern end of the Celtic tradition!

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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.

This went down very well with the audience, which was what really counted, but the judges chose as winner a very energetic but more traditional performance by the Dunedin Dancers with RSCDS Chairman Stewart Adam in the thick of it.

Ladies Team:

Dora Connolly, Heather Craven, Kathie Dosell, Isobel Douglas, Helen Freer, Julie Harrison, Pat Hynes, Sou-Moi Robertson.

Mixed Team:

Heather Craven, Pat Hynes, Christine Procter, Lesley Tompkins, Don Andrews, Alan Harrison, Alan Procter, Ray Williams.

Demonstration:

All the above and Geoff Hodges, David Robertson.

Coach and choreographer: Catherine Livsey.

To get involved?

Either come to the advanced class on Monday



evenings at Calverley Conservative Club, or the Sunday afternoon monthly classes at Askwith Village Hall on 9 April, 7 May, 4 June!

There is no pressure to take part in any demonstrations or competitions you can just come along and enjoy a different type of class.

An Invitation!

Once again the White Rose Festival of Scottish Country Dancing is being organised by the RSCDS Leeds Branch with strong support from the Leeds SCD Club. This year it is to be on Saturday 8th July, 2.00pm to 5.00pm, followed by a social dance from 7.00pm to 10.30pm.

It will be located at the Gateways School, Harewood. Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band will be providing the music along with Ian Slater, accordion, and Alan Harrison, pipes.

Helpers are needed for a variety of tasks, setting up, reception, marshalling, clearing away, and so on. It would be appreciated if anybody who is able to help either on the day or before it would contact Don Andrews, Lesley Tompkins, or Lesley Enoch: contact details below.

Duties can be arranged so that helpers can dance as well as helping, but a few non-dancers would be particularly welcome!

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

Lesley Tompkins: **0113 281 1279** Itompkins8@msn.co.uk

Lesley Enoch: 0113 277 7113 l.enoch@btinternet.com

Sat 18th March 2006 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE West Park Centre, Spen Lane

Music: Ian Slater M.C: Terry Chater Admission: £6, Non-member £7, Full time Education £3, Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

Programme

Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel Inverneill House Sugar Candie Monique's Jig The White Cockade Altshellach Machine Without Horses Starlight	J 8x32 R 8x32 S 8x32 J 4x32 R 8x32 S 8x32 J 8x32 J 8x32 R 8x32	Graded Book Book 15 Book 26 Goldring Book 5 Book 23 Book 12 Book 44		
INTERVAL				
Campbell's Frolic Struan Robertson's Reel My Friend Joe Lamb Skinnet The Sailor MacDonald of the Isles Todlen Hame The Montgomeries' Rant	J 8x32 R 8x32 S 8x32 J 8x32 H/R 8x32 H/R 8x32 S 3x48 J 4x32 R 8x32	Book 15 Book 16 Book 38 Book 14 Book 24 Haynes Book 16 Book 10		
Extras				
Shiftin' Bobbins Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan Sandy O'er the Lea Chequered Court	R 8x32 R 5x32 S 8x32 J 3x32	Clowes/Ormskirk Goldring MMM 2 Book 42		

Dancing in "Australia"

I was determined to go' Scottish Country Dancing 'on my recent visit to 'Australia' and almost as soon as I arrived, with the help of our hostess, went to the local library for information on classes in the area and to my surprise and pleasure there was one in 'Mordialloc' approximately 5 miles away. I rang the secretary Pauline and she told me that I should be most welcome although they would be closing for the summer holidays in three weeks. I had completely forgotten of course that they would close for the summer as do most of our classes.

When I arrived on the first evening they were just finishing their A.G.M. so I sat quietly. I had heard from other dancers

how they had been made welcome at classes around the world and this class was no different. Pauline, the secretary, introduced me to to the class and their teacher Christine and soon we were up and dancing to 'Maxwells Rant' amongst the dances we did was' Marie's Wedding' with a slight variation, but the dancers were very capable

Sat 20th May 2006 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE Please note: All dances will be walked through

West Park Centre, Spen Lane

Music: Alan Ross SCD Band M.C: Gerry Yates Admission: £6, Non-member £7, Full time Education £3, Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

Programme

Roaring Jelly Reel of the 51st Division Rakes of Glasgow None so Pretty The Nurseryman The Cashmere Shawl The Summer Assembly Quarries' Jig	8x32 J 8x32 R 8x32 S 8x40 R 8x32 J 8x32 S 1x88 R 8x32 J	Glendarroch (Foss) Book 13 B Book 11 Book 19 Book 37 Strathtay Album (Boyd) Book 35 Book 36		
INTERVAL				
EH3 7AF The Music Makars Adieu Mon Ami Napier's Index Portnacraig Oriel Strathspey Espie McNabb Reel of the Royal Scots	8x32 J 8x32 R 8x32 S 8x40 J 8x32 R 4x32 S 8x32 J 8x32 R			
Extras				
The Sailor The Rothesay Rant West's Hornpipe S-Locomotion	8x32 H 4x32 J 4x32 H 4x32 S	Book 24 RSCDS Birmingham 1973 RSCDS Five Dances 1965 Book 41		



and managed it very well. Imagine my surprise when Christine told me that Avis had been to the same church hall and taught the class, they all send you their regards Avis and hope that you will return very soon. I enjoyed the few classes I attended and it was wonderful to be able to say on my return "I danced in 'Australia" my thanks to all the dancers and their teacher Christine, the class of St Andrew's Church' Mordialloc', for making this possible.

I hope one day we can return warm welcome if the ladies from Australia come to our class.

Leeds SCD Club Autumn Weekend

The Leeds Scottish Country Dance Club are holding their annual weekend at The Joseph Rowntree Centre, Cober Hill, Scarborough 8-10 October 2006. We would like to extend a warm invitation to any members of Leeds Branch who may like to join us.

The weekend takes an informal approach with easy led walking available on both days or you can just stroll or drive along the coast. Yorkshire's other seaside towns Whitby and Filey are also quite close.

There will of course be Scottish Country Dancing on both evenings. We found the accommodation (and the food!) really excellent last year in this splendid centre. The cost is £87 with a deposit of £20. Last year several members of Leeds Branch joined us and we had a great weekend.

Further details may be obtained from Gerry Yates (tel 01422 360595) or from Lesley Enoch (01132 777113) who also has booking forms.

2005 Hogmanay Ceilidh at Knaresborough

This year, the members of the Wednesday class in Knaresborough asked for a Hogmanay Ceilidh.

Despite its being arranged at short notice, we had a good attendance, with about a third of those present being non-dancers.

We had the usual top class outside caterers for our class events (i.e. a Faith Supper), with everyone supplying their own liquid refreshments (to keep the excise man at bay).

Graeme Baranyai opened the evening with the pipes (before going on his way to his other appointments for the evening); then everyone enjoyed the mix of ceilidh, ballroom and country dances – the use of CD's (so all the best bands) gave us the flexibility to tune the programme as we went along – even to catering for a request for a cha-cha! The class performed a mass display of "Domino 5" and David Ferguson, with one of his family delighted everyone with some Burns music on piano and cornet. Big Ben chimed in midnight and, all too soon, it was time to leave to face the New Year.

Many of the non-dancers joined in the country-dances, particularly as their confidence improved during the evening. In fact, two of them so enjoyed it that they have now joined the class.

On top of that, it was a profitable evening that we have been asked to repeat next year. Make a note in your diaries. Malcolm Frost

Odds and Ends

As I sit listening to a new CD, I must recommend it to lovers of Scottish piano music. After many years Jennifer Wilson of Elgin has finally made a CD of her delightful music. Those who were lucky enough to be at Ben Rhydding a few years back when Jennifer was here in Leeds will remember her amazing music. The piano was very dusty and rather dilapidated but Jennifer's fingers brought it back to life - it was one of those magic moments in dancing. Anyone interested can contact Jennifer at Jenniferwilson1@btinternet.com

We welcome new member Hilary Allen and former member Chris Godwin back into the Branch. We hope to see you dancing with us soon.

Thank you to all the Branch members who have offered hospitality to the musicians on the 18th between their course and playing in the evening. It is very much appreciated.

The Glasgow Flower

A 32 bar Reel for 3 couples in a 4 couple longwise set

Bars

1-8 1's, 2's & 3's dance mirror reels on their own side, touching nearer hands as appropriate. 1's start by dancing in and down; 2's start by dancing out and up; 3's start by dancing in and up.

1's extend their steps at the end of the reel to finish in 1st place, in the middle of the set, facing each other; 2's extend their steps at the end of the reel (still with nearer hands joined) to finish in 2nd place, in the middle of the set, facing each other; 3's finish the reel normally, in the sidelines in 3rd place.

- 9-16 1's & 2's dance a poussette, except that on bars 15& 16, the 1st couple remain in the middle of the set, dropping the hand nearer the top and, pulling back the shoulder nearer the top (left for man, right for lady) finish back-to-back in the middle of the set, facing their own side.
- 17-24 2's, 1's & 3's dance double triangles, except that the 1st couple finishes in the sidelines with the 1st man facing out-and-up, whilst the 1st lady faces out-and-down.
- 25-28 1's track clockwise 1/2 round the set to 2nd place on opposite sides whilst 2's & 3's advance and retire diagonally into the centre of the set.
- 29-32 1's turn right 1 1/2 times to finish in 2nd place on their own sides

Repeat from new position

Music: Any good reel such as "Sandy's New Chanter" as played by Marian Anderson on her "St Bernard's Waltz" CD – HRMCD102

Devised by Malcolm Frost 22 November 2005 and inscribed to Ann Baranyai to commemorate her celebration of her 60th birthday.

Ann is very proud of her Glasgow roots. She now lives in Yorkshire. "Flower" is a Yorkshire term of endearment (especially to young ladies) and it seems well overdue for Glasgow to have a dance for its flowers (It was one of the few cities to have a Garden Festival). The dance includes some of her favourite figures; the final eight bars represent her love of Scottish Country Dancing (the advance-and-retire in the shape of a Saltire) around the world (the track by the first couple), with a special acknowledgement to the especially enjoyable dances in Pitlochry on numerous visits there – we know what they would do with the last four bars (it also enables the dance to be danced in a three-couple set when numbers so require – a new couple starting each repetition)

Happy Birthday, Ann!

Friday class news

Although numbers remain low it has been a busy time for the loyal members of the class.

On Monday October 17th 2005 Helen Wilson and Rachel Norwwod took their Introductory Grade of the new Society tests for young people. They have been waiting several years to take this test but their wait was rewarded with Distinction passes. They received their certificates and badges and now look forward to taking Grade 1 and possibly Grade 2 in May.

November 26th saw us travelling again to the Darlington festival. The Branch team performed well but as yet have not received their adjudication sheet. We borrowed two dancers from Cookridge School to make a full team for the set dance Galloway House and their solo Catch the Wind. As usual it was a full afternoon's dancing.

Terry divides the sets into easy or more difficult and each half of the room dances their appropriate dance at the same time. This works very well for the social dancing.

Travelling again by train we had two comfortable and punctual journeys. The latter were spent mostly in eating despite the Mums providing a fairly substantial tea at the festival. Keep up the work Terry, it always an enjoyable afternoon.







December 16th was the birthday of a very special lady in Leeds. Exiled from Scotland her daughter organised a piper and invited two of our class to perform a couple of dances at her 100th birthday. Whilst some of her companions were nodding Alice remained alert and appreciated the dancing very much.

Now we look forward to the Southport and Leeds Children's Festival and one or two more joining the Friday class.

Notes from the Minutes of Headquarters' Management Board Meetings

Summer School Staff Evaluations

The process of monitoring Summer School Staff should be name open. Where negative reviews were received teachers concerned were given the opportunity to make changes, however certain teachers were not being invited back after more than one year of negative reviews.

Three C.Ds should now be ready, Book6, Book 15 and Book 28.

The establishment of a "Core Repertoire" was proposed.

The perception being that there were too many dances leading to a "regionalisation" effect on programmes. It is proposed that we have a list of dances, of which every dancer should aim to have a working knowledge, and the dances to include all the basic formations. "Recapping" at the A.G.M dances

It was suggested that there would be no recaps for the Friday Ball but there would be an appropriate programme. There would be a recap for the Saturday programme, and crib sheets provided for both dances.

Ian Clark

Leeds Branch Note

Follow discussions about recapping it as been agree by the Leeds Branch Committee to try recapping dances at the next few branch dances. Please let committee members have your views on this, so we can decide whether it is worth continuing the recapping next season.

Brackenwood class news

Almost like The Windmill the Thursday class hardly ever closes but between Christmas and New Year we had one of those evenings when the forecast was not very encouraging and cancelled our dancing that week. It was a pity as we were to use it as a practice for the following week. We had been invited to the local St Andrews church to dance at their new year party. They had combined with another church for this evening and a very pleasant one it turned out to be. The evening started with singing some Scottish songs - we could have done with a few more sopranos or boxes to stand on to reach the high notes! Everyone joined in and kept to the lower notes! We all then had a light supper – soup and a roll followed by shortbread and Christmas cake. Then it was our turn to dance. We had a programme of easy dances and everyone enjoyed them selves.



As we do not have a Christmas party, we have a Burns' supper as near to the 25th as possible. Last Thursday saw us dancing and then having supper – haggis, neeps and tatties followed by apple pie and cream. Those still able to dance rounded off the evening by dancing Mairi's Wedding. It was sad that so many of our regulars were missing this year and that some past members of the class were unable to travel to be with us, however, the evening was enjoyed by all.



Adel Class - December 2005 Tea Dance

Haste Ye Back

Would you like to have a really good night out? Full of fun, together with the opportunity to burn away all those calories, which are accumulating over these long dark evenings? Well you can. All you need to do is arrange a Ceilidh at your local village /church /school hall, having contacted the R.S.C.D.s Leeds Branch Dance Team to come along and get you on your feet to dance as you have never danced before. The music is irresistible so everyone from 6 years of age to 76 years (plus VAT) is on the floor and dancing happily together. During a well earned break, the Dance Team take to the floor with a swirl of kilts; worn by the men, - and their elegantly dressed ladies; to give a demonstration of the dances which, after a little practice the rest of us could aspire to. After another dance or two by the enthusiastic novices, a solo dancer gave us an excellent display of Highland dancing, Seann Triubhas (without Trousers, when the kilt was banned by law), then a Sailors Hornpipe and finally an Irish Jig -Scottish version of course.

So that was the final clue for the evening, which of course had been spent Scottish Country Dancing. Having danced the night away and having whetted the appetite for more, why not join one of the local classes in your area. Throw away all those boring diet sheets and start to get fit and active to music of a special quality and sound. It is a wonderful social activity as the evening proved. Because the words on everyone's lips as the music faded were "When can we repeat this"?

Well I most certainly had enjoyed a great night. I wonder if the producers of Strictly Come Dancing would be interested? Watch this space.

If you would like a Ceilidh or demonstration or would even join the demonstration team than contact Catherine Livsey Tel 01484 306637 email catherine@cld-design.co.uk



Demonstration Team dancing at Rogerthorpe Manor.

Malhamdale 2005

"Are you going to Malhamdale this year" "I know you'll enjoy it"

I had heard of the great times that had been had at Malhamdale and how those who went always wanted to go back again. I had seen the photographs and picked up on what fun was had but had never got myself organised in time to go. This year I decided to change all that; I made sure that the dates were in my diary and booked myself in.

One Friday afternoon in mid November, I picked up Kathleen and Sue and off we went. I have been to Malham many times and passed Newfield Hall but I had never been in it. It is a grand country house with an impressive entrance hall and magnificent staircase. The welcome was as impressive, warm and friendly with a cup of tea and a cake. In the comfortable lounge with views over to the hills everybody was friendly and I was soon chatting to people I had never met before. I had tried to swot up on the dances on the evening programmes and as I sought to compare notes I was told "Don't worry, they'll all be talked or walked through". Phew, what a relief!

So, off to my room to get ready for dinner. It was very comfortable with the usual tea/coffee provision. The radio alarm was a thoughtful extra, so no fear of oversleeping. Dinner, and indeed the food I had all weekend was excellent with plenty of choice. Seated on round tables of eight made for good conversations and an opportunity to chat with new acquaintances.

Friday evening's social dance was a delightful introduction to the weekend. As I had been promised, our MC Derek Kendall recapped every dance and there was quick walk through whenever it was requested. The music provided by Phil Jones and Sue Jennings lifted our spirits and our feet and even brought a couple of people from the other group in the house to watch (a little wistfully, I thought).

On Saturday morning we got down to work. Our teacher Rachel Wilton made the whole morning a fun and yet learning experience. We learned two new dances for the evening programme and honed our skills in steps and movements. Her gentle and gracious manner and her



Sue, Rachel and Phil

ready smile led us by example to improve our whole dancing experience as we put into practice the eye contact that is such a mark of Scottish dancing.

Saturday afternoon provided an opportunity to walk the hills, visit the neighbouring small towns or enjoy the swimming pool and other comforts of Newfield Hall. The evening social dance was as exhilarating as the previous evening. Again the music was irresistible and my legs and feet only felt tired when it was all over. It was a wonderful programme of old favourites and new dances including one that had been written to commemorate a special birthday for Derek.

One more class on Sunday morning as the sun shone on the peaceful view from the windows. Again Rachel took us gently in hand and stretched us that little bit further to improve our dancing. But what fun it was too. Then it was time to thank everybody who had made the weekend such a success, not forgetting Yvonne Tredgett who made all the arrangements to ensure it happened. Then group photos and our final meal together, followed by our farewells.

"Well, what did you think of the weekend" "Oh, I've had a great time" "I knew you would enjoy it. Are you coming next year?" "I very much hope so" Ellen Thomas

Social Dance November 2005

This dance was dedicated to the memory of Derek Haynes and in appreciation of his contribution to our enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing. The well-attended dance, included Branch Members and Friends, making it an appropriate tribute. The programme was a mixture of dances written by Derek, and dances that Maureen had listed as being among his favourites. A new dance, The Inimitable Derek, written and taught to us by Roy Goldring, marked the occasion.

Over the years our dancing has benefited greatly from Derek's teaching, his popular dances, and his

demonstrations, but I suggest, most of all from his frequent appearance at our dances, accompanied by Maureen when they showed the happiness to be gained from Scottish Country Dancing. We shall miss that presence but strive to maintain the spirit. *Derek Kendall*



DATES, DATES, DATES

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

MARCH 2006

18th Children's festival West Park Centre 1.30pm Music: Ian Slater

18th Social Dance

West Park Centre 7.30 Music: Ian Slater MC: Terry Charter

24/26th Scarborough Weekend School Clifton Hotel

Music: Andrew McConnell Music: George Meikle

MAY 2006

13th Highland Day School

Adel Methodist Church Hall, 10am Registration, 10.30am -12.30pm Beginners, 1.30pm - 3.30pm Intermediate/Advanced. Teacher: Catherine Livsey Applications forms available at classes, branch dances and down load from the web site.

20th Social Dance

West Park Centre 7.30 Music: Alan Ross Trio MC: Gerry Yates

JUNE 2006

17th Social Dance (Strawberries & Cream) West Park Centre 7.30 Music: George Meikle & the Lothian Band MC: Catherine Livsey

JULY 2006

8th White Rose Festival

The Gateways School, Harewood 2-5pm Music: Robert Whitehead & the Danelaw Dance Band MC: Gerry Yates

Social Dance

The Gateways School, Harewood 7- 10.30pm Music: Robert Whitehead & the Danelaw Dance Band MCs: Alan Carr & Don Andrews Ask your class teacher about dancing at the White Rose Festival or contact Catherine Livsey 01484 306637 (Eve & Weekends) email catherine@cld-design.co.uk

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.

Application forms and information for all day schools and weekend are also available from Yvonne Tredgett, 17 Aviemore Rd, Warmsworth, Doncaster DN4 9ND. Tel 01302 851174. Classes

Spring Term 2006

WC 9th January to WC 3rd April. **Fees:** £2.50 per class, £28 single class, £43 any class.

Summer Term 2006

Short: WC 24th April to WC 22rd May. **Fees:** £2.50 per class, £9 single class, £19 any class.

Long: WC 24th April to WC 3rd July. **Fees:** £2.50 per class, £22 single class, £40 any class.

Classes Monday Afternoon

1.45 - 3.45 - General/Beginner 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

Tuesday evening

7.45 - 9.45 Intermediate/Beginner Adel Methodist Church Hall Teachers: Avis Harrison

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 Brackenwood Community Centre, New Building, Lidgett Lane, Leeds Teachers: Brenda Burnell/ Stella Summers

Friday evening - children

7.15 - 8.45 Hawksworth Wood Primary School, Broadway, Leeds 5 Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Sunday afternoon

1.45 - 3.45 12th March, 9th April, 7th May and 4th June 2006 . Askwith Village Hall. Experienced dancers interested in demonstration work and innovative dances. All Welcome Teacher: Catherine Livsey

For more information see www.rscdsleeds.org.uk