



# rscds The Leeds Branch Newsletter

Dance Scottish



Above  
Branch Girls at Darlington Festival, see  
page 4 for report.

Right  
Branch Girls plus Dora who took their  
Medal Test in November.



## Future 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.orangehome.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, **Please note New address details** 11A Hill Top Road, Moldgreen, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD5 9LX. Tel 01484 515257 Email catherine@cl-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.

# Coming Events

## Advance Notice

York & North Humberside Branch have agreed to join with us in organising a ball on 17th November 2007. Detailed arrangements have still to be settled and we hope to have a further announcement in the spring.

Much closer to the present are the **Branch dances** in February, March and May. Avis' programme with Ian Muir is followed by Gerry's evening with the Danelaw Band on March 17th. On May 19th, Lesley Digby will be on stage with Ian Slater playing the music. We offer a special welcome to Lesley who has supported our dances for many years.

**The Children's Festival** will be at Abbey Grange School this year and will start at 2:00pm, a bit later than in previous years. If you can spare the time to watch or to help, you will be most welcome. Fiona Turnbull will be keeping a friendly eye on the proceedings and will, no doubt, have some pertinent points to make.

We are delighted to confirm that **Ann Dix** will be teaching the **day school** at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Hall, Harrogate Road on September 17th. Application forms will be available in the spring

*Happy Dancing  
Roy*

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.



Presentation of the RSCDS Scroll to Avis Harrison by Roy Goldring.

**Sat 17th March 2007 7.30pm**

## **SOCIAL DANCE**

**West Park Centre, Spen Lane**

**Music:** Robert Whitehead and The Danelaw SCD Band  
**M.C:** Gerry Yates

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

### **Programme**

Maxwell's Rant	8x32 R	Book 18
Quarries' Jig	8x32 J	Book 36
Argyll Strathspey	8x32 S	Book 35
Burnieboozle	8x32 R	RSCDS Southport
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	4x32 J	RSCDS Five Dances for 1982
Auld Friends Meet	8x32 S	RSCDS Leeds Leaflet (Goldring)
MacLeod's Fancy	4x32 J	Book 33
None so Pretty	8x40 R	Book 19

### **INTERVAL**

The Round Reel of Eight	1x88 R	Book 27
The 51st Travellers	8x32 J	Book 44
Wisp of Thistle	8x32 S	Book 37
The Miller of Sessnie	5x32 J	15 Social Dances (Goldring)
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh	8x40 R	Book 39
Alison Rose	4x32 S	Imperial Book 2
Miss Allie Anderson	8x32 J	RSCDS Leaflet
De'il Amang the Tailors	8x32 R	Book 14

### **Extras**

The Sailor	8x32 H	Book 24
Baldovan Reel	4x32 R	Baldovan Dances (Henderson)
Kiss under the Stairs	8x32 J	MMM 2
Minister on the Loch	3x32 S	24 Graded & Social Dances (Goldring)

# Branch Shop

The shop has recently been re-stocked and here are some of the items on offer.

## **CDs**

All the RSCDS CDs are now in Stock.

There is also a comprehensive list of 200 CDs we can get for you. This can be downloaded from the website, picked up at branch dances or posted to you.

## **Books**

Recent books and CDs produced by other branches such as Birmingham and Banffshire are in Stock as well as all the RSCDS books and the pocket editions.

## **Shoes**

Full range of ballet shoes, plus others to order

## **Miscellaneous**

RSCDS Ties, slip stop, stationery and a range of other goods.

If you would like any thing else we are happy to try and get it for you.

**Please support your Branch shop!**

## For Sale

Kilt and Sporrans for sale. 34 ins waist for man approx 5ft 8ins

Tartan is Ancient Hunting MacDuff

Contact - Brian Spence 01943 862125

# Obituaries

## Margaret Snowdon

Older members of the Branch will be sad to hear of the death of Margaret Snowdon, a lifelong member of the Society and an active participant in all the dances, and ceilidhs in the 1960/70's.

Our condolences go to her family.

## Jeff Nixon

Jeff Nixon passed away suddenly on 26th January 2007.

Jeff and his wife Ruth were past members of the Branch and used to dance regularly.

He was co-founder of the City of Leeds Pipe Band which remains his legacy.

He and the Band played for the Festival (pre White Rose) on many occasions both during the afternoon, and at the evening dances.

Our thoughts and best wishes go to Ruth and family.

# WHITE ROSE FESTIVAL 2007

**Saturday 7th July 2007,  
Gateways School, Harewood.**

Anybody willing to help with the event please let me know: this is one of the major showpieces of the Scottish dance calendar.

'Setting up' begins at Gateways School at about 2.00 pm on Friday 6th, laying out the field and the Sports Hall.

Work continues on the Saturday morning from about 10.00am pitching tents, marking out the assembly area and other 'last minute' jobs that can't be tackled the day before for security reasons.

Visitors begin to arrive any time after 11.00, and need help with car parking, welcoming and looking after.

During the afternoon there is a real need for non-dancers to make themselves available for staffing the information tent, helping visitors to find their way around, and 'trouble shooting'.

Finally, after the event, at about 5.00pm, help is needed with tidying up and clearing away. 400 or so dancers inevitably leave their mark even if in small measure, and we like to leave the site as we find it, spick and span.

Anybody willing to help, particularly on the Saturday, please contact me on 01535 605065, [donald@hbandrews.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:donald@hbandrews.fsnet.co.uk)

**If you would like to join us, and enjoy a fantastic afternoon and evening of dancing than please contact Catherine Livsey for details and to reserve your place. Tel 01484 515257 or email [catherine@cld-design.co.uk](mailto:catherine@cld-design.co.uk)**

## Frequently Requested Dances

The following letter appeared on the Strathspey web site recently, and may be of interest.

George was asked to share his 'top 50' requests, together with naming a few he particularly liked playing. Top of the 'top 50' is Montgomerie's Rant, and Cherrybank Gardens comes in at number 50. Three of Roy's dances are included: John of Bon Accord, Rose of the North, and The Reel of the Royal Scots.

The list you are after with dances and occurrences is shown at the foot. It goes without saying that Lothian Lads is placed so high is because it was devised for the band and most folk like to put it on the programme when we are playing for them.

As to the three dances I like playing most, they would be as follows:-

- 1 - "John of Bon Accord" because it was written by one great deviser as a tribute to yet another. Most dancers do not realise that the original tune was composed by me. The fact that my tune fits so well is just co-incidental as I had never seem the dance, and Roy had not heard the tune, until they were married together and published in Book 33.
- 2 - "The Dream Catcher" because of the fantastic Eric Allan original tunes.
- 3 - "Scott Meikle" - Yes I know that the original tune is another one of my own compositions, but it and the rest of the set of tunes I use always seem

to be enjoyed by the dancers and it really appears to get the dancers 'going'. The fact it was devised for my son has nothing to do with it!

Kind regards *George Meikle, Dunfermline*

**Sat 19th May 2007 7.30pm**

### SOCIAL DANCE

**West Park Centre, Spenneth Lane**

**Music:** Ian Slater M.C: Leslie Digby

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

**Each Dance Will Be Walked Through**

#### Programme

Yan Tan Tethera	J32	D Haynes
The Old Man of Storr	R32	Children's Bk 6
The Birks of Invermay	S32	Bk 16
Napier's Index	J40	Bk 45
The Morrison Measure	R 32	R Goldring
Lady Susan Montgomery	S 40	RSCDS Leaflet
Machine Without Horses	J 32	Bk 12
Trip to Bavaria	R 32	MacGregor/Brown

#### INTERVAL

Mrs Stewart's Jig	J 32	Bk 35
Peggy Dewar	R 32	Bk 38
Sandy O'er the Lea	S 32	MMM 2
Major Ian Stewart	J 32	Bk 35
Clutha	R 48	Bk 31
The Gentleman	S 32	Bk 35
South From Oban	J 40	S Shields Leeds 10th Anniversary
De'il Amang the Tailors	R 32	Bk 14

# NO SILVERWARE but...

**the Leeds Branch teams competed as usual at the Newcastle Festival on Saturday 10th February, thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and certainly showed that the Branch maintains a very good standard of dancing. Evidence? Well read on...**

**The class winners for the adult events were:**

Ladies: London RSCDS

Mixed: Newcastle RSCDS Team 2

Display: Edinburgh RSCDS

London's ladies team chose to dance *Wisp of Thistle* and *Major Ian Stuart*, and put on their usual silky smooth performance. Particularly impressive in this section though was the Glasgow based Alba SCD's *Autumn in Appin*, with the circle in the last eight bars accurately maintained and the dances casting away, if you will excuse the poesy, like falling leaves. Quite delightful.

Newcastle's 'Team 2' chose *It's Just for Fun* and Barry Priddey's *Sands of Morar* for its entry in the mixed class, and both were danced with accuracy and spirit and the team thoroughly deserved its victory, with strathspey dancing of the highest quality. Alba's mixed team also performed *Autumn in Appin*, and once again achieved the lovely 'falling leaves' effect.

An interesting innovation this year was entries from an 'International Team' with dancers from half a dozen different countries – including Hungary. The organising genius though was Dora Connolly who I seem to remember is a Leeds Branch member. They get everywhere.

A less welcome innovation was a 'mixed team' made up of two men and six women. I do hope the organisers legislate for that in future. Do seven women and one man make a mixed team?

The Display section was won by Edinburgh RSCDS, and the trophy for the 'highest score' went to London.

And Leeds? The dances chosen were the reel *Summer Wooing*, Book 38, and the strathspey *Peggy's Love*, Book 8. Some carefully selected quotes from adjudicator Peter Clark's report could be written down and used in evidence of the standard achieved:

**Ladies:** 'Skip change well done...pas de basque showed good rhythm...reels well phrased...strathspey travelling step neatly performed...poussette very well done'.

**Mixed:** 'Poussette was commendable...slip step into circle flowed well into the chase...there was a controlled turn into the poussette...the handing was good...the change of feet unobtrusive...a pleasing demonstration...well done'.

Why not join the team next year? You'd enjoy it!

## Children's Festivals

### Darlington Children's Festival

At the end of November we again travelled by train to Darlington for their Festival. A fleet of taxis took us from the station to Longfield School. We had a great afternoon's dancing and Terry again kept things going. The Darlington parents had prepared an excellent tea and the music was provided by Neil Copland and his band was very good and fantastic to dance to. Our set dance was *Galloway House* and we chose to dance *Kendall's Hornpipe* as our solo. Helen Brown was the adjudicator and gave us one or two tips to improve our dancing. It was an enjoyable afternoon but like all good things it had to come to an end and all but one of the taxis came for us to return to the station. Just with minutes to spare Terry emptied his car and gave Helen's Mum and Mrs Burnell (she had the tickets!) a lift to the station. We hope it will be as good next year. Thank you Terry.

### Southport Festival

This Festival is run by the Thistle Club of Wigan at the beginning of February and this year it was their 21st Festival. It was moved to Southport when the number of dancers outgrew the halls in Wigan. The Floral Hall is a lovely place to dance in and has the second best ballroom floor in the country (the best is just up the road in Blackpool).

We travelled by coach and after negotiations with the coach company we were able to eat our lunches on it and



be ready to dance at 2.00. The Grand March this year was at the beginning as this was a special year. After speeches the dancing got underway and it was a busy afternoon. There was a good atmosphere with bags of smiles. For our solo this year we danced a four step Scottish Lilt which went very well. The music was provided by Ian Slater and we enjoyed dancing to him. Birthday cakes were piped in and all the teachers were brought into the middle as the cake was cut by the organisers of the event. Everyone had a piece of cake. The dancing finished in the traditional manner with the *Dashing White Sergeant* and a cascade of balloons – many of which came back with us on the coach. Overall it was a great success.

*Rachel and Helen*

# Hogmanay at Higham



On December 28th ten Leeds dancers converged on Higham Hall near Bassenthwaite Lake to take part in the Annual Hogmanay Celebrations. This is a Victorian Gothic country house which hosts a feast of dancing eating and partying or should I say partying, eating and dancing (PED).

The course was organised by Maureen Haynes and elegantly taught by Anne Dix (of Culla Bay fame). The music was provided by George Meikle who along with Anne and Maureen made up a 'Dream Team'.

After a hearty Cumbrian Breakfast, the mornings were taken up with classes where Anne taught a wide range of dances including some of her own which were well received. It is hoped that she will teach some of them at our September Day School. Fell walking was available in the afternoon but because of 'anno domini' and inclement weather,

most people had a relaxing afternoon preparing for more PED. After a three-course dinner, the evening concluded with social dancing to George's music and another P

New Years Eve found the men in black jackets and the ladies decked out in their most glamorous outfits for a long evening of PED. There were photo calls, dancing and a number of Ceilidh items one of which saw Sou Moi Robertson and Jean Weatherill don a rustic garb to take the journey to Widdecombe Fair. 2007 was welcomed with champagne, more dancing and the first party of the New Year.

After a final Cumbrian Breakfast, all the participants, most of whom were a little sleep deprived, set off to various corners of the U.K. having already signed up for Hogmanay at Higham 2007-8.

*Alan Carr*

# Term Tickets

**There will be one price only for 'term tickets'** for Branch classes in 2006/7.

The price will be the same as for 'single class' tickets in previous years, but holders will be able to use them for any Branch class.

**The price for the spring term will be £27.50.** The term runs for 13 weeks from week commencing 8th January 2007 to week commencing 2nd April 2007.

It is hoped that this arrangement will encourage dancers to support other classes as well as their own, and so extend their range of experience.

Looking at it purely financially, as the Branch runs five classes each week, (plus a few extra 'dem' classes on Sundays) it means that for £27.50 you can attend up to 65 classes at 42p per class.

Try comparing that with your local adult education service!

## **SUMMER TERM CLASS DATES AND PRICES**

A 'short term' runs from Easter to Spring Bank Holiday. A 'long term' runs from Easter to the White Rose Festival.

'Short term' classes will run from week commencing 16th April to week commencing 21st May, six weeks. £2.50 per class, or £12.50 for a term ticket which entitles holders to join any Branch class.

'Long term' classes will run from week commencing 16th April to week commencing 2nd July, but excluding Spring Bank Holiday week (wc 28 May\*). £2.50 per class or £24 for a term ticket - any Branch class.

*\*Classes may meet during this week by arrangement.*

## **DATES, DATES, DATES**

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

### **2007**

**Sat 13-15 April**  
**Scarborough Weekend**  
Teacher: Helen Russell  
Music: George Meikle

**Sat 12 May**  
**Highland Day School**  
Adel Methodist Church Hall,  
Gainsborough Avenue, Adel,  
Leeds 16  
Teacher: Catherine Livsey

**Sat 19 May**  
Social Dance 7.30pm  
West Park Centre, Leeds  
Music: Ian Slater

**Sat 16 June**  
Social Dance 7.30pm  
West Park Centre, Leeds  
Music: George Meikle

**Sat 7 July**  
White Rose Festival  
Afternoon 2-5pm  
Evening Dance 7-10.30pm  
Gateways School, Harewood,  
Leeds LS17 9LE  
Music: Nicol McLaren and the  
Glencraig SCD Band  
Ask your class teacher  
for more details

**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](http://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 2007**

WC 8th January 2007  
to WC 2nd April 2007

## **Summer Terms 2007**

short WC 16th April 2007  
to 21st May 2007  
long WC 16th April 2007  
to WC 2nd July 2007

**Fees:** £2.50 per class,  
see opposite for term costs and further  
details on term dates

## Classes

### **Monday Afternoon**

1.45 - 3.45 - General/Beginner  
Adel Methodist Church Hall  
Gainsborough Avenue, Adel, Leeds 16  
Teachers: Susan Carr & Don Andrews

### **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: Alan Carr

### **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**

5.30 - 7.00 re-commencing again  
12th January  
Hawksworth Wood Primary School,  
Broadway, Leeds 5  
Teacher: Brenda Burnell

### **Sunday afternoon**

1.45 - 3.45 4th Mar, 1st Apr, 6th  
May, 10th June, 1st July 2007.  
Askwith Village Hall.  
Dancers interested in demonstration  
work, innovative dances and  
technique. All Welcome  
Teacher: Catherine Livsey

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