



# The Leeds Branch Newsletter

## From the chair



September Dance 2003

Two splendid dances accomplished so far, with excellent music from the John Renton Quartet and from the Keith Smith/James Gray duo. Keith and James were new to the Branch, but they really did make an impact. They'll be back, though sadly not for a while because, not surprisingly, they are booked up well ahead.

I also had the pleasure of dancing to the Chris Dewhurst Band at the Leeds Club in September. I had heard them before, at Ingleton, and liked what I heard, and I had no reason to change my mind at St Chad's. They come to us in May, well recommended!

The half-day school in September, an opportunity to get to grips with the

dances from Book 43, was well led by Peter Clark, with Pat Clark providing the music. The event was quite well attended, with visitors coming from quite a distance to get the benefit of Peter's guidance.

Jean Dyson reports elsewhere in the Newsletter about the Leeds Branch AGM held in October. I was very pleased that the revision of the Branch constitution was approved, not least because it enables us to retain the services of Jean as secretary for a fourth year! I have to thank Ian Clark and Alan Horsfall for the considerable amount of work they put in to the revision.

The situation now is that although the Branches are independent organisations, HQ does like to take a look

at constitution revisions. I e-mailed a copy to the Society secretary, and got an immediate reply that she saw no problems and will put it to the Management Committee when it meets of the 15th November. She particularly liked our new 'object': supporting and promoting the work of the RSCDS. How strange that it has never been in before. Taken as read, I suppose.

Jean Dyson also lists the membership of the new committee, but I would like to add that various members have taken on particular responsibilities as 'link persons'. Aileen Gray will link with Yvonne Tredgett on day and week-end schools and the shop, Catherine Livsey will link with Christine Parker-Jones

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 2676655.

over the web site, and Stella Summers will link with Val Hall over catering.

Val has completed her sentence as a committee member (for a time anyway), but I am sure we are all grateful that she has agreed to continue as 'main provider' of catering services, supported as always by many others.

I have taken over from Alan Carr as social sub-committee convenor, arranging the bands, dance programmes, and so on, but as I do not have anything like Alan's depth of knowledge or experience, I am fortunate to be able to call on the support of Brenda Burnell and Catherine Livsey on the sub-committee. I shall also rely on Alan for a lot of help, which I am sure he will be pleased to give.

Enjoy your dancing, and keep on supporting Branch activities!  
*Don Andrews*

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.

# A Real Musical Treat

All those dancers who were able to attend our October dance will remember the wonderful music we had that night. Many of you remember Keith Smith playing before for a dance – the evening when he joined Andrew Lyon and David Queen and further back when he played solo for The Wild Geese when Muriel Johnstone and Marian Anderson got lost on their way to West Park. These moments of magic were surpassed when Keith played for our last dance with James Gray. Their obvious delight in playing together (and sharing the tunes) was transmitted to all the dancers that evening.

A photograph does not do justice to them playing – you really need a video! Every part of Keith moves as he creates his wonderful music. James too, although anchored on his piano stool moves his head and body to the rhythms.

It is a long time since the clapping of the dancers went on for so long at the end of a dance. They could be clapping still if the final polka had not been played!

Keith is not available next year to play again for us but we have booked him with James for the Christmas dance in 2005. Join Keith and James and put that date in the end of next year's diary!



Keith Smith & James Gray

## Highland Day School

A good time was had by all at the Highland class on 25th October under the careful guidance of Catherine Livsey. It was nice to see some new comers. We went through Shepherd's Crook and were introduced to two sword dances as well as a ladies dance (Blue Bonnets).

We are looking forward to the next Highland Day School on 8th May 2004 and hope to see more new faces as anyone would be able to cope.

*Monique Gray*

## Leeds Branch A.G.M. 2003

Thank you to all who attended the A.G.M. in October. Numbers were enough to make us quorate. The new Constitution was agreed on and a copy will be sent to all members in due course. There was no item of contention at the meeting. The following were elected to Office and Committee:- Don Andrews (Chairman), Jean Dyson (Secretary), Gerry Yates (Treasurer), Alan Horsfall, Susan Carr, Brenda Bumell, Aileen Gray, Catherine Livsey and Stella Summers. There is still room to co-opt 2 more members and if anyone is interested please let either Don Andrews or myself know.

*Jean Dyson (Honourary Secretary).*

## OUR GRATEFUL THANKS

Our grateful thanks are extended to both David and Sou-Moi Robertson for their tremendous work and many many hours put in whilst examining and auditing our accounts over the last 6 years.

As a Charity we have to submit these accounts to the Charity Commission and of course it stipulates how it should be done and believe me it is no easy task. Over the last two months David and Sou-Moi have worked almost 50 hours having had to recreate all transactions from scratch to extract various sets of figures and then prepare a four page detailed report to the Charity Commissioners standards.

After having audited the past 6 years' accounts they have decided to call it a day. Thank you David and Sou-Moi from all of the Committee and Members of the Leeds Branch.

### Sat 20th December 2003 7.30pm CHRISTMAS SOCIAL DANCE West Park Centre, Spenn Lane

Music: David Cunningham M.C : Alan Carr  
Admission: RSCDS Members £6.00, Non Members £7.00,  
Students £2, Children £1

#### Programme

Nice to See You	R 4x32	Book 40
Wild Geese	J 8x32	Book 24
Cape Town Wedding	S 8x32	Book 39
The Nurseryman	J 8x32	Book 37
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	R 5x32	Goldring 14 Social Dances
The Gentleman	S 8x32	Book 35
C'est l' amour	J 8x32	Book 34
Clutha	R 4x48	Book 31
Miss Hadden's Reel	J 8x32	Book 23
Mrs Macleod	R 8x32	Book 6
Argyll Strathspey	S 8x32	Book 35
Old Nick's Lumber Room	J 8x32	Book 26
The Music Makars	R 8x32	Book 33
Moray Rant	S 3x48	Drewry /Silver City
Diamond Jubilee	J 4x32	Book 31
Reel of the 51st Division	R 8x32	Book 13

#### Extras

The Laird of Milton's Daughter	J 8x32	Book 22
MacDonald of the Isles	S 3x32	Carnforth 2
Blooms of Bon Accord	R 4x32	Drewry /Deeside
MacLeod's Fancy	J 4x32	Book 32

# Brackenwood's Tenth Birthday



Brenda cutting the cake with the 3 original members, Margaret, Pauline and George.

On September 18th 32 past and present members of the Thursday night Branch Class met to celebrate ten years of dancing at Brackenwood Community Centre. The group was joined by the Branch chairman, Don Andrews, for this occasion.

The volume of noise increased as old and new dancers chatted and caught up on news. A full evening's dancing followed for everyone. To mark this special birthday of the class, we had a celebration cake cut by the original members of the class.

To remind everyone of our humble beginnings, we danced Roxburgh Castle as the three original members and teacher

## Sat 17th January 2004 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spen Lane

Music: Alan Ross Trio M.C : Eric Wallace

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

### Programme

Good Hearted Glasgow	J 8 x 32	Collins Page 212
Flowers of Edinburgh	R 8 x 32	Book 1
Anna Holden's Strathspey	S 8 x 32	Book 42
Earl of Mansfield	R 4 x 48	RSCDS Leaflet
Wild Geese	J 8 x 32	Book 24
Corian Strathspey	S 3 x 32	Book 43
Gentle Shepherd	J 4 x 32	Book 17
Duke of Perth	R 8 x 32	Book 1
Ladies of Dunse	R 8 x 40	Book 26
Hunting Horn	J 8 x 32	S D Archives No 66
Ladykirk Bridge	S 8 x 32	Leeds 35th
Bea's Delight	R 8 x 32	Book 43
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	J 4 x 32	RSCDS 5 for 1982
Culla Bay	S 4 x 32	Book 41
St Andrew's Fair	J 8 x 32	RSCDS 5 for 1982
Swiss Lassie	R 8 x 32	Book 39

### Extras

MacLeod's Fancy	J 4 x 32	Book 33
Byron Strathspey	S 3 x 32	Deeside 2 (J Drewry)
De'il Amang the Tailors	R 8 x 32	Book 14
Music Makars	R 8 x 32	Book 33

learnt 2 couple dances i.e. twice through and stand for 32 bars and then repeat, finishing with two further repeats of the dance and the final chord. Later we incorporated chairs and went on to 3 couple dances!

Just as we were about to close the class our fortunes changed and numbers increased rapidly. By the end of two years 12 dancers went to the Summer Festival (that year held at Pudsey) and since then we have had up to three teams dancing at the Festivals.

Over the years the dancing area has been enlarged and now with bigger sets (they have grown in size with confidence!), we have adequate room to dance. Despite a rather peculiar floor for dancing, we have held regular classes throughout the year – like the Windmill we never close. This year, however will be the exception as will not be dancing on Christmas Day nor on New Year's Day. The group of dancers at Brackenwood have always welcomed new dancers and created a very happy class.

Here's to the next ten years!

## THE WHITE ROSE FESTIVAL 10th JULY 2004

dancing to George Meikle and the Lothian Band

At the AGM I did raise the possibility of finding a sponsor or sponsors for this event. Some financial support really would help, particularly to enable us to encourage children and young people to participate. Please contact either myself or the treasurer Cherry Connolly if you have any suggestions. The amounts do not need to be large to make a good deal of difference.

The working group is as follows:

Don Andrews	Convenor/programme planning/Beckett Park
Brenda Burnell	Children/young people/programme planning
Cherry Connolly	Treasurer
Kathie Dosell	Secretarial and publicity support
Jennifer Edmondson	To be arranged!
Lesley Enoch	Catering/link with Leeds SCD Club
Catherine Livsey	Programme planning/publicity
Alan Proctor	Pre event support
Lesley Tompkins	Secretary
Gerry Yates	Festival MC/programme planning

I am very grateful for the amount of support and information we are getting from the York Festival organisers. They really have given a lot of practical advice and information, as well as encouragement.

We are getting a considerable amount of interest from other Branches and groups. Over seventy have been contacted so far, though mainly only through their secretaries, who may well have too much on their plates to follow up this particular item. If colleagues are aware of anybody in other Branches or groups who would like to take the lead in their own areas, let us know and I will arrange for their names to be added to the mailing list.

Our next working group meeting is scheduled for 23rd November. The main item on the agenda will be to agree the afternoon and evening programmes, which will then be sent out to all those on the mailing list early in 2004.

Don Andrews

# Dancing in Krasnodar with the Kuban Dancers

In early Sept, 50 RSCDS dancers not only from Europe but also Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the U.S.A had an amazing 10 day dancing holiday in Krasnodar and by the Black Sea, organized by Fiona Grant (Bristol) and Ilona Gumenyut of the Kuban Scottish Dancers. We had teachers from the U.K and also New Zealand and San Francisco making it truly international and Scottish Measure provided the music. We spent two weekends in Krasnodar enabling the Russian dancers to join the classes and evening dancing.

On the first Sunday, after classes, we had an excursion to a Cossack restaurant in Krasnodar with lots of food accompanied by music and dancing and later in the day were guests of the Kuban Dancers and were treated to an amazing three hour display of song and dance by various groups of the region, all in beautiful costumes.

Monday saw us on our way for 4 days to the Black Sea to stay at the Yamel Hotel, overlooking the sea and set in the foothills of the beautiful Caucasus Mountains. It had a superb swimming pool and once again lots of lovely food. Whilst there we had two memorable trips, one to Kisilov Rock, a geological feature on the beach. To get there entailed quite a long walk, steep in places, through the forest and a ten-metre rock climb up from the beach, which was quite a challenge. The other trip was to a camp in the



Caucasus, where we could walk in the woods, swim in the ponds and sample a Russian Bath. This was a group sauna with sheets provided and branches to beat each other, and needless to say lots of laughing could be heard. Our hosts provided us once again with an enormous barbecue and even cut the grass for us to dance out of doors. Lots of fun was had in the evenings with Fiona teaching us Scottish Quadrilles, Orkney and Shetland Reels and Ilona trying to teach us Russian Dances.

Friday on our return to Krasnodar we visited a Space Museum and another picnic lunch, which took two days to eat (I think the Russians think we need feeding up).

We finished our trip with a Highland Ball, which started with a Grand March piped in by one of the group. The local and international T.V stations came and interviewed Fiona, David Queen and Ilona, so everyone now knows about Scottish Dancing over there.

The hospitality shown to us by everyone in the hotels and the Kuban Dancers was excellent and the holiday was a truly wonderful experience with lots of food, good company and plenty of international dancing.

*Betty Sumpton*

**Sat 21st February 2004 7.30pm**

**SOCIAL DANCE**

**West Park Centre, Spen Lane**

**Music:** Nicol McLaren plus Musicians from Workshop  
M.C : Brenda Burnell

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

## Programme

Happy Meeting	J 6 x 32	Book 29
Highland Rambler	R 8 x 40	Leeds 25th
Monymusk	S 8x32	Book 11
Wild Geese	J 8x32	Book 24
Miss Johnstone of Ardrrossan	R 5x32	Goldring
Glasgow Highlanders	S 8x32	Book 2
The Nurseryman	J 8x32	Book 37
Clutha	R 4x48	Book 31
Argyll's Fancy	J 4x48	Graded
Jaunty Jack	R 8x32	Leicester
The Duchess Tree	S 8x32	Drewry
Mrs MacLeod	R 8x32	Book 6
The Nut	J 8x24	Book 1
The Robertson Rant	S 1x80	Book 39
Reel of the Royal Scots	R 8x32	RSCDS Leaflet 27
Waltz Country Dance	W 4x40	Book 4

## Extras

Hooper's Jig	J 8x32	Misc 2
Reel of the 51st Division	R 8x32	Book13
Minister on the Loch	S 3x32	Goldring

## Dancing in the Alps

Ian Slater is arranging a week of Scottish dancing to live music in Mayrhofen, Austria. Depart Manchester 2nd June 2004, accommodation in a four star hotel, and there is five star walking in the Zillertaler Alps. An extra week can be added.

Further details from Ian and Kathryn Slater on 01943 874757, [ianandkathryn@slater89.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:ianandkathryn@slater89.freeserve.co.uk)

## KIND REGARDS!

David Beecroft of Beecroft's Coaches sends his kind regards to all members of Exchange Visit Teams, and hopes that all are keeping well.

Any messages to David can be passed on via Lesley Enoch on 0112 277 7113, [l.enoch@btinternet.com](mailto:l.enoch@btinternet.com)

# Partying, Etc, in Perth

Well, if I called this piece "Report on the 74th Annual General Meeting of the RSCDS" you'd probably pass hastily to the next article! Which would be a shame, because there is a lot more to what people refer to as "the AGM" than the meeting. But before I get into that, here is a brief summary of the business.

The meeting was held on 1 November in the Gannochy Trust Complex in Perth; organised by HQ, the Perth & Perthshire Branch and a number of other Branches who took responsibility for

other aspects of the weekend. This is an innovation, in the spirit of more involvement all around, which one can only applaud. 257 delegates and 244 observers were present, and, for the first time, postal voting was included in the elections for the Management Board and Committees – so even though Leeds Branch had two reps, we had the three votes we are entitled to, because one could be sent in by post. Not very earth-shaking for us, maybe, but for a Branch like New Zealand with a thousand or so members, another step towards better connections.

The proceedings were in the usual format, conducted with aplomb by Jean Martin of Aberdeen, the current Chairman. This year saw an appearance by one of the Hon Vice Presidents, the Hon. Peregrine Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe. He presented the Scrolls of Honour and it was very pleasant to see one go to Derek Haynes who has taught classes and courses for the Leeds Branch many times, and who dances with us at West Park regularly. Elspeth Gray, the Society's very capable administrator, delivered the Annual Report. This is the end of the first year of the new regime – and she was able to tell us of a number of projects which are getting under way. The long-discussed refurbishment of part of 12, Coates Crescent has at last begun! The new procedure for the appointment of Examiners is nearly settled, the revised exam syllabus has been started. Linda Gaul is to be director of Summer School. Sue Porter takes over as Youth Director. A new Child Protection policy is in place. The programme of updating the recordings goes on, as does the revision of the Manual. The Strategic Plan for 2003-4 has been circulated to Branches and the web-site has been improved. The AGM is now part of the Annual Conference. Medal tests for children are to be introduced. Pocket Editions up to Book 29 are to be put on to CD Rom. The McNab Video project is still alive! And the Bulletin will be out shortly!!

Then Richard Turnbull, chair of the General Purposes and Finance Committee, took centre stage. As Financial Reports go, this was not at all bad! No proposed increase in the subscription. Sales are up (the message is "support your Branch Shop") and although investment income is down, it is not as bad as it might have been. The main preoccupation has been the Society's VAT position. Richard did not attempt to explain this in detail, but pointed out that two experts consulted in the attempt to sort it out, are not in agreement about the situation – so what hope is there that the rest of us will understand! Nothing is resolved, this could be a long-running saga!

Apart from the results of the elections – nothing controversial there- and a very good vote of thanks from Jean Martin, that was it. All over in less than two hours – unlike the five hour



marathon last time it was held in Perth. All in all, my impression is that the new structure has breathed some energy into the Society – let's hope it continues.

Two discussion sessions were held in the morning. The first was called "Branch Forum" and was organised by Berks/Hants/Surrey Border Branch. The topics under discussion were communication, branch interaction, society publications and how we use them and the use of a professional film to promote membership. This is quite a lot to cover in an hour, but it did give branches an opportunity to air their concerns and to suggest possible improvements and new directions. The second was "The Floor is Yours" and was concerned with whether the Society should continue to be a Branch-based organisation, or should become member-based. The case for each was put and a discussion was held. No conclusion emerged.

And then there was the dancing! The Ball on Friday night was splendid – the great advantage of Perth as a venue is that all the dancers can fit into one hall. I think there were about 500 on Friday, but there was plenty of room and Neil Copland provided splendid music. On Saturday the dance was informal and lots more people turned up – David Cunningham and a large number of musicians played and we danced all the old favourites. You could even go to class on Saturday morning, if you had any spare energy!

There were quite a few Leeds Branch members there for the weekend this year, and many of our former dancers who have moved away were there amongst the throng. I think that's the nicest thing about the AGM, you never know who you'll see, only that you'll be pleasantly surprised!

Next year's is in Edinburgh, the weekend of 5/6 November. Why not go?

*Chirs McDonald*

## SIR JIMMY SHAND

Anyone who enjoys Scottish Dancing and the associated music, will know the name of Sir Jimmy Shand. We were fortunate to welcome Jimmy to Leeds where he played for some of the early festivals organised by the Leeds Club. He also played for dances in Harrogate.

On 12th September a Sculpture in Sir Jimmy's memory was unveiled in his home town of Auchtermuchty. So whenever you go up to Scotland it may will be worth taking a visit to see this sculpture.

*Audrey Hinchliffe*

# DATES, DATES, DATES

## DECEMBER 2003

### 15th Monday Afternoon Tea Dance

1.45-3.45pm

All Branch members invited. Come along and show our newcomers to dancing what a wonderful hobby Scottish Dancing is.

#### Programme

Border Meeting	5x32 Jig	Goldring
Reel of the 51st Division	8x32 Reel	Book 13
Cape Town Wedding	8x32 Str.	Book 39
Wild Geese	8x32 Jig	Book 24
Domino Five	5x32 Reel	Haynes
Argyll Strathspey	8x32 Str.	Book 35
The Nurseryman	8x32 Jig	Book 37
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	5x32 Reel	Goldring
Byron Strathspey	3x32 Str.	Drewry
Nice to See You	4x3 RtR	Book 40

### 17th Knaresborough Class Christmas Party

at 7.30pm Holy Trinity Church Hall. All welcome, Faith Supper, the programme will be based upon a list of dances requested by class members

### 20th Christmas Social Dance

7.30pm West Park Centre  
Music: David Cunningham

### 29th Monday St Columba's Dance

7.30- 11pm St Columba Church Hall  
Faith Supper. Music: Ian Slater  
Tickets: £5 Available from Avis Harrison or Pat Hynes

## JANUARY 2004

### 17th Social Dance

7.30pm West Park Centre  
Music: Alan Ross Trio

## FEBRUARY 2004

### 21st Musicians' Workshop

Adel Methodist Church Hall

Plans are well underway for this workshop. Nicol McLaren will be leading the course and the musicians in the evening. If you have not received a form and would like to attend the workshop please contact Brenda Burnell on 0113 2676655.

### 21st Social Dance

7.30pm West Park Centre  
Music: Nicol McLaren and members of the Musicians' Course

## MARCH 2004

### 20th Children's Festival

West Park Centre, Music: Ian Slater

### Social Dance

7.30pm West Park Centre  
Music: Ian Slater

# Classes

Fees £2.50 per class.

Term tickets (14 weeks): £30 for one class, £45 for any number of classes.

## Classes

**Finish for Christmas** week commencing 15th December 2003 (inclusive)

**Spring Term** begins week commencing 5th January 2004 through to 2nd April (inclusive)

### Monday afternoon

1.45 - 3.45pm

Adel Methodist Church Hall, Gainsborough Avenue, Adel, Leeds 16

Teachers: Barbara Caldicott,

### Monday Evening (Advanced)

7.45 - 9.45pm

Calverley Conservative Club, Calverley  
Teachers: Various - December Malcolm Brown, January/February Catherine Livsey

### Tuesday Evening

7.45 - 9.45pm

Adel Methodist Church Hall, Adel, Leeds 16

Teacher: Susan Carr

### Wednesday Evening (Beginners)

7.45 - 9.45pm,

**Finishes 10th December**

The Stables, Back Church Lane, Adel, Leeds 16

Teacher: Catherine Livsey

More info contact Catherine Livsey 01484 432270 or Don Andrews 01535 605065

### Wednesday Evening

except the 4th Wednesday of each month,

7.30 - 10.00pm

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Knaresborough

Teachers: Ann Baranyai & Malcolm Frost

### Thursday Evening

7.45 - 10.00pm

Brackenwood Community Centre, New Building, Lidgett Lane, Leeds 8

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

No class: On 25th December 2003

### Friday Evening Children

7.15 - 8.45pm

Hawthorn Wood Primary School, Broadway, Leeds 5

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

### Sunday Afternoon

1.45 - 3.45pm 23rd Nov & 14 dec 2003

Askwith Village Hall

Experienced dancers interested in demonstration work and interesting dances

Teacher: Catherine Livsey

More info see [www.rscdsleeds.org.uk](http://www.rscdsleeds.org.uk) or pick up a leaflet at a Branch Dance