

# Leeds Branch Dancers Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 10720452

ISSUE 53 May 2009



*Our February Dance*

## Future Newsletters

The Branch welcomes your news, stories, views, questions etc...

Please send all copy for future newsletters to Catherine Livsey, 11A Hill Top Road, Moldgreen, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD5 9LX. Tel 01484 515257 Email [catherine@cld-design.co.uk](mailto:catherine@cld-design.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.

If for some reason you don't receive a copy of the Branch newsletter please contact Brenda Burnell on 0113 267 6655.

## From the Chair ...

How time flies. We are now in the final term of the season.

But before the end of season there is still much to enjoy. For those of you who don't work. Why not come and enjoy a lovely afternoon at the Summer Tea Dance and Ceilidh on 18th May, more detail in this newsletter under dates, dates, dates.

Your last dance of the season is our Strawberries and Cream dance, this is usually a lovely evening. The band is the Alan Ross Trio and your MC is myself.

Before we break for the summer we have the White Rose Festival. If you would like to take part and haven't already signed any of the lists then please contact me urgently to book your place.

If you feel you will miss dancing over the Summer they why not try the Wednesday evening Knareborough class, which continues until the 12th August and then restarts on 1st September, or the Thursday evening Brackenwood class which continues through the summer. Details of venues on the reverse of this newsletter.

### From the committee.

It was agreed at the last committee meeting that we should increase the cost of entry into our Branch dances as the Leeds Club would be doing the same. This is mainly due to increased running costs, for example the cost of bands. So from September, entry to Branch dances will be £8 for members of

The Society and £9 for Non-members. This is still a very cheap night out.

We also agreed that at all our Branch dances, all dances would be recapped except where indicated on the programme. We hope this will encourage more of you to join us at Branch dances. Please don't be afraid to ask more experienced dancers to dance.

Also, a reminder that next year's membership is now due. This is £18 for the year and is very good value. To name a couple of benefits: 2 magazines and 4 Branch Newsletters per year, as well as reduced entry into branch dances. So please think about joining and help promote Scottish Country Dancing. Membership forms are included in this newsletter.

**Catherine Livsey**

Subscription to this Newsletter can be taken out at £5.00 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.

# Children's Festival 21 March 2009

Between 70 & 80 children gathered at the new venue, St. Chad's Hall, for the Leeds Branch 32nd Children's Festival.

Although not as many teams this year everyone enjoyed themselves. I quote from a letter from Gus Miller of Derby. "Yet another superb Children's Festival, please convey our thanks to all who helped. Although ours was a small band our wee ones certainly enjoyed their day, their smiling faces said it all."

The Leeds Branch team danced very well and their Earl of Errol's Reel would take some beating. Well done Brenda!

Sorry there are no photos this year as the camera packed up.

Ian Slater once again played superbly during the afternoon and continued in the same vein at the evening dance. Thanks Ian.

My thanks go to all who helped during the afternoon - too many to mention by name.

We look forward to next year when we hope numbers will be up.

**Jean Dyson**

## The Catering Crew

For several years a group of ladies from the Branch have supported me in preparing food for Branch events. I would like to tell you what they all do.

**Stella** is our super soup maker.

**Jean** is our pastry chef and salmon expert (or is that Reg?).

**Betty** brings the bread and is our last minute shopper if we have forgotten anything.

**Val** is our ever ready tea and coffee lady. Always there with welcoming drinks for our visitors.

**Kathie** is my taxi lady (and she's very good at peeling onions too) and transports all the things we need for these events.

We don't have any union disputes as everyone can mix and match and do whatever job needs doing without being asked!

Our last effort was to make tea for the helpers at the Children's Festival who stayed on to the dance at night. Soon it will be our Strawberry Dance in June and the ever ready crew will be there to help again.

A very, very big thank you to all these dancers and any others who get roped in to help us.

**Brenda**

## Branch Shop

The shop is now well stocked and here are some of the offerings.

### CDs

All the RSCDS CDs, including the two new ones - Book 9 and Book 11.

Plus a comprehensive list of over 200 CDs we can get, and any others from Music in Scotland. The list can be downloaded from the website, picked up at a branch dance or posted to you.

### Books

Pilling, Originally Ours and Index to Formations and Movements in SCD as well as recent books and CDs produced by other branches such as Birmingham and Banffshire. All the RSCDS books and the pocket editions.

### Shoes

Full range of ghillies and ballet shoes, plus others to order

### Miscellaneous

RSCDS Ties, slip stop and the latest DVD of We Twa.

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

or see [www.rscdsleeds.org.uk](http://www.rscdsleeds.org.uk) for more details

**Please support your Branch shop!**

**Sat 20th June 2009 7.30pm**

### Strawberries & Cream SOCIAL DANCE

**West Park Centre, Spens Lane**

**Music:** Alan Ross Trio **MC:** Catherine Livsey

**Admission:** £7, Non-member £8, Full time Education £3,  
Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

#### Programme

Kiss under the Stairs	J 8 x 32	MMM
Maxwell's Rant	R 8 x 32	Book 18
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	S 8 x 32	RSCDS Leaflet
Gothenburg's Welcome	J 8 x 32	Book 37
General Stuart's Reel	R 8 x 32	Book 10
The Gentleman	S 8 x 32	Book 35
Haste to the Wedding	J 8 x 32	Book 25
Angus Macleod *	R 2 x 64	Alex T Queen

#### INTERVAL

Miss Allie Anderson	J 8 x 32	RSCDS Leaflet
The Montgomerie's Rant	R 8 x 32	Book 10
The Robertson Rant*	S 1 x 80	Book 39
The Immigrant Lass	J 8 x 32	Book 39
Findlater Castle •	R 8 x 32	Banffshire Branch Jubilee Book
Sugar Candie	S 8 x 32	Book 26
Mrs Stewart's Jig	J 8 x 32	Book 35
The Reel of the Royal Scots*	R 8 x 32	RSCDS Leaflet

#### Extras

A Trip to Bavaria	R 4 x 32	Collins
Miss Stevenson's Fancy	S 6 x 32	3rd Camforth Collection
St Andrew's Fair	J 8 x 32	5 for '82
John of Bon Accord	R 8 x 32	Book 33

All dances with be recapped except where indicated

\* No recap • Walk through

# Behind the scenes for a Musicians' Day School

On a pleasant February Saturday morning musicians and the catering crew from Leeds Branch met together with Nicol McLaren. It was our annual Musicians Day School held at Adel Methodist Church Hall.

We had a little panic the week before when we knew new windows were being fitted but the secretary assured me that they had an event on the Friday evening and would be cleaning the place!

Photocopying music for over twenty musicians (there were 57 sheets) drained my cartridge and an older one dry. Kathie's also ran dry so the last few were photocopied. Finally everything was set for the start and we took our places - the musicians and Nicol in the hall and the catering crew in the kitchen. It's always a pleasure to work at the musicians' day and have live music to help us along.

About half the musicians were 'regulars' with a big group of new players from the other side of the Pennines. They all worked very hard with the music Nicol had prepared for them but come lunchtime everyone was glad of a leg stretch before having the lunch we had prepared. Then back to work for the musicians and clearing up for us. We retired to the Lawnswood Arms when the course had finished along with any musicians that stayed on to play in the evening but could not get home and back.

The evening dance went well and the music was very good - most of the "regulars" stayed on in the evening and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A delightful quote from one of the accordionists rounds off the day very well "I found a few more notes this evening!"

Thank you to all the people who made this day a success - especially Nicol.

**Brenda**



# Newcastle Festival - Feb 14 2009

Dear Brenda,

Thank you for allowing us to borrow Rachel and Helen to complete the Darlington Juniors' team. So far we have danced a junior team at Newcastle Festival every year except the first. This year it looked extremely doubtful as we only had three members left from the previous year's winning team - two stopped dancing, two were on holiday and one was to be a bridesmaid.



We met Helen and Rachel at Darlington station at 10.40 a.m. and drove to Emmanuel College arriving about noon. When the rest of the team arrived we introduced the girls to the other team members although some had danced with them at the White Rose Festival in July. Then they had a "CD" practice. After lunch we watched the senior teams dancing and took part in the general dances to get the feel of the hard floor. Later Robert played for a last minute run through

and to let the team dance to live music. The three "apprentices" had only ever danced to CDs. The whole team danced very well and finished a creditable second.

After tea, which included a visit to the chip shop, there was time to rest before the evening dance. Despite the hard floor I think the girls enjoyed themselves. It was our pleasure to escort them throughout the day and evening.

One of our dancing mothers and daughter with a larger house took them home for bed and breakfast. We called for them at 10.00 a.m. to take them home to Leeds in time for lunch.

Thank you again Brenda, Rachel and Helen.

**Betty and Terry**



# Dancing in the Land of the Dragon

Many, many years ago, I was a fanatical dancer with the Leeds Branch in the early years of its vital enthusiasm.

I have always felt quite international, I'd been in the Leeds Team on exchange visits to Sweden, Germany and Holland, with midnight receptions at the British Embassy – I'd danced round American cities whilst on an educational study tour – I'd sweltered through demonstrations in Australia – but September 2008 brought me the greatest international surprise of all.



Tibet and China were the prelude to a visit to the Olympic Site in Beijing – but naturally we had to pop into Xian to pay a visit to the Terra Cotta Warriors. The first day in Xian, fighting fit, we performed our Tai Chi in a park in the shadow of an ancient pagoda at 8.30am – by 9 o'clock I was exhibiting my strength by ringing the huge, ancient bell from one of the Chinese Dynasties, and by 10am I was sauntering along the ramparts of Xian's great wall. Funny, thinks I, the altitude of 13,000 feet in Tibet must have seriously affected my hearing. Could that possibly be Scottish Dance Music? Frantically, I raced to peer over the battlements, and lo and behold, miles below in an ornamental garden, pranced a group of Chinese Scottish Dancers, heeling and toeing to Scottish music instead of the usual Chinese stringed instruments.

I rallied my gang of fellow tourists, and as the music stopped we yelled our loudest and wildest, and to our joy, the dancers turned, and looked up, and waved & waved & waved. This was, for me, one of the great highlights of the tour. Sadly, unless we had abseiled down hundreds of feet, there was no chance of contacting them, and we sadly had to move on along the path of the "tourist track."

I just managed to take this snap, but forgot to use my zoom lens at a moment when it looked like a highland fling!

So I've not only to thank the Leeds Branch for this special thrill, but also for the happy, exciting years when I danced with you, and we were all young, full of beans and vitality, and life in the Leeds Branch was great.

It's now thirty years since I came down south, and dancing here has never been the friendly joy it was up

north, where Scottish Dancing seemed to take over our lives. Happily, I am a life member, and over the years I have kept a track on the Branch through the Newsletter and also snippets from Brenda, and it always gives me joy when I read about all your activities, which keep the Branch so alive and prospering.

My dancing days ended at Grassington one dark night when a coach decided to change my destination from the Branch Christmas Dance at 7.30pm to an operating table at Airedale at 8.30. The first time I had missed the dance despite the 250-mile drive to be with you all.

But I still get a thrill when I hear the sound of Scottish Dance Music – I learned to walk again to the rhythm of "Scotland the Brave," and when I go to my hydrotherapy class to keep me mobile, underwater my feet can still do step practice with a rather neat pas de bas, with my feet at the correct angle, even though I can't manage to perform on dry land.

So many thanks to the Leeds Branch – for my happy dancing years with you – for keeping me in touch with your newsletter – for friendship and laughter, and for the fact that whenever I hear Scottish music, my feet start tapping, and I'm a dancer once again.

With congratulations to you all my Best Wishes.  
Sincerely – **Dorothy Haley**

I would like to convey thanks to Dorothy on behalf of Leeds branch for her continuing support and her interesting article. Also for the donation of £50.00 that came with this correspondence to be used to encourage our younger dancers.

Thank you. **Catherine Livsey**

# The Scarborough Weekend 27th-29th March 2009

Each year Yvonne organises a wonderful weekend of Scottish Dancing by the sea in Scarborough. And if you are quick about it you may be lucky enough to get booked in for 2010. Just to whet your appetite, I'll give you a flavour of what happened this year....



We arrived at the Clifton Hotel to their usual warm welcome and the friendly hubbub of dancers greeting

each other. Just time for a quick change before joining Yvonne and Derek at their soiree for drinks before dinner and a chance to meet old friends and make new ones. After dinner we enjoyed an interesting programme of dances, clearly re-capped by Derek when requested, to the magical music of George Meikle. Who else can inspire you to renewed energy and the desire to keep on dancing when you've been dancing your socks off for 3 hours and it really should be time for bed?

Saturday morning and the class is wondering what is our teacher, Jessie Stuart, going to be like? She took us by surprise with an unusual warm up routine, using waltz rhythms. We soon felt at ease with her and the morning class sped by as she introduced us to dances and formations we hadn't met before or in quite those combinations - all with a sense of fun. It was great to appreciate the relationship between Jessie as a teacher and George as a musician.

Saturday afternoons are free to enjoy as you will. Some take the opportunity to walk on the beach, take a hike in the moors nearby, ride a donkey, paddle: The choices are endless but Christina and I decided to visit The Rotunda, which Prince Charles re-opened recently following its refurbishment. We were amazed to see Yorkshire's very own dinosaur there and especially enjoyed the children's interactive part of the museum.

After a lovely dinner, the evening dance. It was all that is best about Scottish Dancing - fun, physicality, laughter, gracious partners and poetic music.. And somehow after all that when Paul, the best waiter in the world, had given us our breakfast on Sunday morning, we were ready for more! Jessie taught us some dances from the north of Scotland, where she lives, that deserve to be more well known down here.

Thank you Yvonne, Derek, Jessie and George and all the dancers for a memorable weekend.

## Mairi Devlin



**Sat 19th September 2009 7.30pm**

## SOCIAL DANCE

**West Park Centre, Spen Lane**

**Music:** Robet Whitehead & Danelaw Band **MC:** Irene Dracup

**Admission:** £8, Non-member £9, Full time Education £3,  
Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

### Programme

Hooper's Jig	J 8x32	MMM
The College Hornpipe	R 8x32	Book 20
The Lea Rig	S 8x32	Book 21
Argyll's Fancy	J 4x48	Graded Book
Teacher's Choice•		
Macdonald of the Isles	S 3x32	Carnforth Collection 2
Ladies' Fancy	J 8x32	Book 13
Fife Ness	R 8x32	4 for 1978

### INTERVAL

The Frisky	J 8x32	Book 26
Fisherman's Reel	R 5x32	S Petyt-Dunblane Holiday
Teacher's Choice•		
Tribute to the Borders	J 8x32	RSCDS Leaflet
The Duke & Duchess of Edinburgh	R 8x40	Book 39
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	S 8x32	RSCDS Leaflet
St Andrew's Fair	J 8x32	5 for 1982
The Highland Rambler*	R 8x40	Leeds Silver Jubilee Book

### Extras

Campbell's Frolic	J 8x32	Book 15
The Montgomeries' Rant	R 8x32	Book 10
The Dream Catcher	S 1x96	Book 45
The Sailor	R 8x32	Book 24

\* No recap • Walk through

# DATES, DATES, DATES

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

## 2009

**Mon 18 May 1.45 - 4.45**

**Adel Summer Tea Dance  
and Ceilidh**

Adel Methodist Church Hall,  
Gainsborough, Avenue, Leeds L16 7PQ  
Musician: Malcolm Dews  
MCs Don Andrews/Susan Carr

**All dances will be walked through,  
many are suitable for new dancers,  
bring a friend!**

### Programme

Nice to See You  
Gay Gordons  
The Suzuki Circle  
12 Coates Crescent  
The Kingston Flyer  
Festival Interceltique  
UNICEF Circle  
The Borrowdale Exchange  
Barley Bree  
The Dream Catcher  
Virginia Reel  
The Dashing White Sergeant

**A 'faith tea' will be served after the  
dancing.**

**Sat 20 June**

**Social Dance 7.30pm**

West Park Centre, Leeds  
Music: Alan Ross Trio

**Sat 11 July**

**White Rose Festival**

**Afternoon 2-5pm**

**Evening Dance 7-10.30pm**

Gateways School, Harewood, Leeds  
LS17 9LE

Music: George Meikle & Lothian Band

**Sat 19 September**

**Day School**

St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road,  
Leeds, West Yorkshire LS16 5JT

Teacher: Mervyn Short

Musician: Ian Slater

**Morning Session** Technique, for all  
levels of dancers, with a good basic  
knowledge of formations

**Afternoon Session** Unusual Social  
Dances

**Basic Course** for Beginners and less  
experienced dancers

Morning session only

Teacher: Catherine Livsey

Music: Recorded

**Sat 19 September**

**Social Dance 7.30pm**

West Park Centre, Leeds  
Music: Robert Whitehead  
& Danelaw Band  
MC Irene Dracup

**Sat 2-4 October**

**Leeds SCD Club Autumn  
Weekend**

The Joseph Rowntree Centre, Cober  
Hill, Cloughton, near Scarborough.

The weekend consists of walks on  
both Saturday and Sunday with  
something suitable for all. You may  
of course prefer to visit either  
Whitby or Scarborough or simply  
relax in the Centre and gardens.  
Dancing on both Friday and  
Saturday evenings will be  
accompanied by recorded music (all  
the best bands!). The holiday  
includes dinner and bed & breakfast  
for two nights. Special dietary  
requirements can of course be  
catered for. The cost of the  
weekend is just £100.00 per person.

If you would like to join us for our  
Autumn Weekend contact Lesley  
Enoch 0113 277 7113 by 31st  
March.

**Sat 27-27 November**

**Malhamdale Weekend Course**

Teachers/Musician Pat and Peter Clark

The level of classes will be  
Intermediate. Classes on Sat and Sun  
morning. Dances on Fri and Sat  
Evening. The cost will be £155 - a  
deposit of £35 will secure your  
place. The size of the dancing area  
limits numbers, it is essential to  
apply quickly! Preferably by June 1st.

More information and application  
form from Yvonne Tredgett, 17  
Aviemore Road, Warmsworth,  
Doncaster DN4 9ND.  
Tel: 01302 85 11 74.

**Full details of these events will  
be circulated at Branch dances  
and posted on the Branch web  
site [www.rscdsleeds.org.uk](http://www.rscdsleeds.org.uk), were  
you will find dance  
programmes and dance  
reminders.**

## Classes

**Summer Term 2009 Short Term**

WC 20th April - WC 18th May

**Summer Term 2009 Long Term**

WC 20th April - WC 6th July

**Fees:** £3.00 per class,  
Short Term

Single Class Term costs £12.00

Multi-Class Term costs £20.00

Long Term

Single Class Term costs £27.00

Multi-Class Term costs £40.00

## Classes

### Monday Afternoon

1.45 - 3.45 - General/Beginner

Adel Methodist Church Hall, Gainsborough  
Avenue, Adel, Leeds LS16 7PQ

Teachers: Susan Carr & Don Andrews

### Monday Evening

7.45 - 9.45pm - Experienced

Calverley Conservative Club,  
Victoria Street, Calverley LS28 5PT

Teacher: Catherine Livsey

### Tuesday evening

7.45 - 9.45 Intermediate/Beginner

Adel Methodist Church Hall, Gainsborough  
Avenue, Adel, Leeds LS16 7PQ

Teachers: Alan Carr, Irene Dracup,  
Catherine Livsey after Spring Bank

### Wednesday evening

7.30 - 10.00 - General/Beginner

Holy Trinity Church Hall Knaresborough  
and Markington Village Hall on

4th Wednesday of month

Teachers: Ann Baranyai and Malcolm Frost

**This class continues during the Summer  
break until 12th August and then restarts  
on 1st September.**

### Thursday Afternoon

2.00 - 4.00 - General/Beginner

St Margaret's Church Hall,  
Ilkley LS29 9QL

Teacher: Don Andrews

### Thursday evening

7.45 - 10.00 - General/beginner

Brackenwood Community Centre,  
New Building, Lidgett Lane, Leeds LS17 6QP

Teachers: Brenda Burnell

**This class continues during the Summer.**

### Friday evening - children

5.30 - 7.00

Hawthorn Wood Primary School,  
Broadway, Leeds LS5 3QE

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

### Sunday afternoon

7 June & 5 July 2009

1.45 - 3.45 Askwith Village Hall, Askwith  
Dancers with a good knowledge of steps  
and figures and with ambitions to extend  
their repertoire. All Welcome

Teacher: Catherine Livsey

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