

# Leeds Branch Dancers Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 10720452

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*Branch Dance Feb 2010*

## 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 ...

Well, Summer is upon us and we are in the last term of the year. But there are still many dancing events for us to enjoy.

Firstly on the 19 June we have our Strawberries and cream dance with music from George Meikle The MC for the evening is Malcolm Brown, so come and join us for this great evening.

Then of course we have the White Rose Festival on 10 July at Gateways School, Harewood, Leeds with mass dancing in the afternoon and evening dance to the music of George Meikle & the Lothian Band. If you haven't signed to dance in the afternoon and would like to

then contact myself, Catherine Livsey. If you wish to come to the evening dance then contact Brenda Burnell. Our contact details are above in 'Future Newsletters'.

If you are able to help set up on the Friday and Saturday then please speak to Don Andrews 01535 605065.

After the summer break classes starts w/c 13 September 2010. Then we have our Day School on 18 September, details on the back of this newsletter under 'dates, dates, dates'. You can find a form in this newsletters letter. If you know anyone else that would like to come along, extra forms can be

picked up at Branch dances and classes or downloaded from the Branch website.

### From the committee.

Membership forms for next year will be out soon. You can either pick one up at the next Branch dance or from your class teacher or download it from the Branch website. Although it seems a long time away. In October we still need to find a new Treasurer and Secretary as both Gerry and Lesley have done more than the 4 years that our constitution allows. If you think you could take on one of these roles or know someone that could then please let me know or talk to Gerry or Lesley. I am sure they would give you all the help you need to fit into the role.

**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.

# Jean Morrison



Those of us in the Harrogate Strathspey and Reel Club were saddened to hear that our teacher and chairman, Jean Morrison, a long-term member of the RSCDS and a regular attender of the St Andrew's Summer School, died very suddenly on 5th March this year, aged 79.

Jean's great love was her family - she had a son and two daughters, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren - but Scottish dancing ran a very close second. Jean had been dancing since the 1960's and started teaching after about 15 years, instilling a love of dancing into many people, which continues to this day. Her husband, whom she had met at Teacher Training College, contracted Parkinson's Disease, and she nursed him for ten years. At the age of 60 she took up sailing, and in 2003 moved from Harrogate to Bridlington where she had a boat. She started teaching a dancing class in Bridlington, but also continued with her Harrogate class, and up until the end of last year drove the 60 miles from Bridlington every week, returning home the following day after staying with her son or a friend.

In spite of some problems with her health, including a very painful arthritic knee, which would have defeated most people, Jean's determination to keep dancing never waned, and she attended dances in different parts of Yorkshire almost every weekend. She had organised a Spring Dance for our Club, and almost her last task was to plan the programme for it. We are going ahead with this dance, as she would have wished, and are holding it on 22nd May as a tribute to her memory. It will include the dance Morrison's Measure, which Roy Goldring wrote specially for Jean. *Sue Gulland.*

# Good News

I am pleased to report that Malcolm Byrne is much better. He attended a class with Catherine but didn't dance, however he came with Catherine and some friends from America to the club dance at the end of April, and managed to dance 3 strathspeys. I spoke to him after the dance, and he said he felt most exhilarated at being in 4 different walls and having managed to dance. I hope your recuperation continues.

Also Alan Carr has now been given the all clear, and we hope that you continue to get stronger, and feel able to come and be with us in the not too distant future. We then look forward to seeing you back on the dance floor and also teaching.

*Lesley Enoch*

## Sat 19th June 2010 7.30pm STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spen Lane

Music: George Meikle & Lothian MC: Malcolm Brown  
Admission: £8, Non-member £9, Full time Education £3,  
Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

### Programme

Maxwell's Rant	8x32 R	Book 18
The Nurseryman	8x32 J	Book 37
The Valentine	8x32 S	5 Dances for 2009
Wind on the Heath *	8x32 R	Manuscript (Boyd)
Culla Bay	4x32 S	Book 41
Tribute to the Borders	8x32 J	RSCDS Leaflet
Bedrule	8x32 S	Book 33
The Sailor	8x32 R	Book 24

### INTERVAL

Rodney's Rant *	8x32 J	Manuscript (Dix)
Golden Wedding Strathspey	4x40 S	Book 33
Polharrow Burn	5x32 R	Foss
South From Oban	8x40 J	Leeds 10th
The Gentleman	8x32 S	Book 35
Fraser's Favourite	8x32 R	RSCDS Leaflet
Neidpath Castle	3x32 S	Book 22
Deil Among the Tailors	8x32 R	Book 14

### Extras

Swiss Lassie	8x32 R	Book 39
Jubilee Jig	8x32 J	RSCDS Leaflet
West's Hornpipe	8x32 H	5 for 1965
Machine Without Horses	8x32 J	Book 12

\* Will be walked

# Musicians' Workshop

The Musicians' Day School is an event I've looked forward to every year since the first time I attended.

This year it was held on Saturday 20th February. An early start saw me scraping ice from the windscreen, then to Adel for several hours of music led by Neil Barron on accordion. There were about twenty of us (?), mainly accordions, but also several fiddles, a double bass, a piano and a whistle - and apologies to any instrument I've missed!

During the morning we worked hard at playing through the sets of tunes Neil had chosen for the evening dance. We used the afternoon session for further revision and refinement, trying to incorporate Neil's interesting and useful tips. At half time Brenda and her team, as always, laid on a superb buffet lunch - this is something to look forward to in itself.

After the workshop there was a gap of several hours before the dance and most of the course attendees went home to return later. A few of us stayed over, though, and again Brenda's team made us comfortable at a local pub.

The dance at West Park Centre was well attended by both dancers and musicians, and it gave us a 'buzz' to be playing to a full floor. I think this works both ways - the dancers and the band tend to inspire each other. Neil seemed to accomplish the difficult task of keeping a large number of musicians together and at a steady tempo - I was aware of a good steady beat keeping me in my place!



I should have particularly liked to watch '1314' and 'The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh', but my one regret on these occasions is that I have to pay such close attention to the written music that I can only glance up occasionally and briefly. In this respect I should like to apologise to those dancers who thought we looked too serious - we're not miserable, just concentrating very hard.

It was over all too soon, and there I was at the end of the evening, again scraping ice from the windscreen, away home until next year.

Many thanks to all involved - Neil, Brenda, all the helpers, and of course, the dancers and musicians.

# Highland Day School

I booked to attend the Highland Day School just before I went on holiday, little knowing that I would be stranded in Spain thinking that I was not going to get home in time to attend. However, we did get home on the Thursday and I joined with about 17 others eager to learn the dances for the White Rose Festival.

In the morning we learnt the steps for the Highland Fling. I had done this before but it was a good opportunity to review and improve the steps, especially the cross-over step which I always find difficult. This was followed by the Shepherd's Crook, a familiar dance using several of the same steps as the fling.

Being a beginner I had only planned to stay for the morning session, but decided at lunchtime that I would also stay for the afternoon so that I could learn Village Maid.

Numbers were slightly fewer in the afternoon and we learnt the Foursome Reel, which I had never done before, and finished with the Village Maid, which was also new to me. I would have liked to spend more time on this last dance but as usual the end of the session came far too soon.

I would thoroughly recommend the day school to anyone who wants to have a go at Highland dancing, even if you are a complete beginner and especially if you want to join in the Highland dances at the White Rose Festival.

*Jane Chand*



I'd agreed to go to the Highland Day School on the 24th of April a long time ago. Unfortunately I hadn't quite realised this would require me to report to the bus station before ten o'clock - on a Saturday! Thankfully the weather was too nice for a lie-in anyway. We made it to the Adel Methodist Church Hall just in time for a ten thirty start. There were five of us from the Leeds University Union Scottish Dance Society (LUUSCD) who had been talked into trying out Highland dancing while meeting some members of the RSCDS Leeds Branch. Four of us had never done Highland dancing before, but after the warm-up Catherine started teaching us the basic moves. We got through all four steps of the Highland Fling, although for some reason by the third step my feet refused to do what they were told and I'd already given up on the arm movements by that stage. After a quick break and several cups of water we finished the Highland Fling and then started the Shepherd's Crook. Thankfully that was a bit easier as we'd done most of the moves either in our



LUUSCD classes or in the Highland Fling before that.

After a picnic on the freshly-mowed lawn, thanks to the beautiful weather, most of the LUUSCD people decided to go home. Judging by how my legs felt for the next day or two that was a wise decision! - *Saskia Bakker*

## Scarborough Weekend

After about 13+ years of dancing and never having attended a weekend school, I finally plucked up the courage last year to book. In for a penny, in for a pound was my motto, so I booked both Malhamdale and Scarborough.

Having enjoyed Malhamdale so much, I thought I would try to be better prepared for Scarborough, it was after all billed as 'suitable for the more experienced dancer'.

I printed off the required crib sheets and tried to learn the dances. Well I managed to learn just one of them! This was the first dance of the Friday evening program 'Machine without horses'. I danced this quite confidently. I managed to crib each of the other dances just before heading for the dance floor. A couple of the more complicated dances were recapped by Derek in his very succinct way. The evening soon passed amid much laughter and we headed for a night cap in the bar.

Saturday morning saw Pat Houghton put us through our paces. The warm up dance certainly had the class laughing and enjoying themselves. Her teaching manner was very easy and relaxed. The highlight of the morning for me was 'Up and down Ben Nevis'. This was one of the teacher's choices for the evening. Saturday night went pretty much the same as Friday night - but with no recaps.

On Sunday morning we learnt a fantastic dance called Fireworks. It was quite intricate and after the early morning start (the clocks went forward) required lots of concentration. Pat taught this so well. The main learning point from the teacher was to use all the music and not to be a 'plonker' ie. not to plonk yourself down at the end of

the phrasing. During the class George the musician had on more than one occasion too much music because we finished the dance a bar too early.

Everybody was so friendly and helpful during the weekend. I've even sent in my form to book for next year.

*Alison Palfreyman*



For the second year after a long break I chose to attend the Branch Weekend in Scarborough, excellent teaching from Pat Houghton from Inverness (Pat is teaching our day school in 2011), and music from George Meikle, good social dances on both Friday and Saturday, MC'd patiently by Derek Kendall. A time to catch up with dancers from other areas of the UK. A special thank you to Yvonne Tredgett for all her hard work in organising the weekend.

*Lesley Enoch*

# Leeds Children's Festival

Saturday 20th March saw about 80 to 90 children gather at St. Chad's for our Annual children's Festival.

This year we had a new musician in Luke Brady who played perfectly for the children in fact he played so well that only about two or three of us noticed that he put in an extra 4 bars so the team being adjudicated had time to get back to place. I think sometimes we "Oldies" could do with that kind of help.

This year we put in two demonstrations - Nova Scotia from Gateshead danced Schiehallion and Cookridge danced the Weaving Lilt.

The children all seemed to enjoy the afternoon as per usual. The Friday Class from the Branch danced - "Dancing in the Street" and as usual were superb. Thanks again Brenda for all your hard work.

Our adjudicator this year was Graham Donald who gave some very good advice and was "brilliant" with the children. (We have booked him for next year)

I received a letter from Gus Miller from Derby and I quote "My children's verdict of Leeds Festival was "FANTASTIC", We all enjoyed the day especially the last two dances to round up the Festival, talk about "raise the roof, the children will not forget the day for along time.

My thanks go to all the people who helped on the day.

*Jean Dyson*



## Southport

Once again on the first Saturday in February, The Intrepid Trio - Brenda, Kath and myself set off with a bus load of children and parents to Southport for the Annual Young People's Festival of Scottish Dancing.

Damp weather prevailed and our considerate coach driver took us the long way round to miss the football traffic.

Apart from two inconsiderate car drivers we arrived with half an hours grace to get the children changed into their costumes. There was a great atmosphere and some of our group were a wee bit nervous but it certainly didn't show in their dancing.

Cookridge danced a perfect Hebridean Weaving Lilt. I did hear from one very experienced dancer that they were superb. Our own Branch team danced Lord Maclay's Reel and believe you me their pas de basque-coupe certainly would put some adults attempts to shame. Well done Brenda. How do you get them to do it? They certainly love their dancing and put their all into it.

Our return journey was by motorway - rather foggy in places but our driver was brilliant.

We returned home tired but happy after another good afternoon's dancing.

*Jean Dyson*

# DATES, DATES, DATES

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

## 2010

### Sat 19 June

#### Social Dance 7.30pm

West Park Centre, Leeds  
Music: George Meikle  
MC: Malcolm Brown

### Sat 10 July

#### White Rose Festival Afternoon

#### 2-5pm

#### Evening Dance

#### 7-10.30pm

Gateways School,  
Harewood,  
Leeds LS17 9LE  
Music: George Meikle  
& the Lothian Band

### Sat 18 September

#### Day School

St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley  
Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire  
LS16 5JT  
Teacher: Jessie Stuart  
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

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) where you will find dance  
programmes and dance reminders.

## 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!**

## Classes

### Summer Long Term 2010

WC 12th April 2010  
to WC 5th July 2010

**Fees:** £3.00 per class,  
Single Class Term costs £30.00  
Multi-Class Term costs £45.00

### Autumn Term 2010

Starts WC 13th September 2010

## Classes

### Monday Afternoon

1.45 - 3.45 - General/Beginner  
Adel Methodist Church Hall, Gainsborough  
Avenue, Adel, Leeds LS16 7PQ  
Teacher: Don Andrews

### Monday Evening

7.45 - 9.45pm - Experienced  
Calverley Conservative Club,  
Victoria Street, Calverley LS28 5PT  
Teacher: Catherine Livsey,  
Malcolm Brown 1st, 8th, 22nd March &  
12th & 19th April

### Tuesday evening

7.45 - 9.45 Intermediate/Beginner  
Adel Methodist Church Hall, Gainsborough  
Avenue, Adel, Leeds LS16 7PQ  
Teacher: Irene Dracup

### 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

### 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  
Teacher: Brenda Burnell  
**This class continues all year round**

### Friday evening - children

5.30 - 7.00  
Hawthorn Wood Primary School,  
Broadway, Leeds LS5 3QE  
Teacher: Brenda Burnell

### Sunday afternoon

6 June & 4 July 2010  
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)