



rscds
Dance Scottish

Leeds Branch Dancers Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 10720452

ISSUE 55 December 2009



Dancing at the Joint Ball in November

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

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.

with Neil Barron and the musicians from the day school. This gives us an incredible lively sound that is great to dance to. Alan Horsfall will be the MC for the evening.

In March we have the Childrens Festival which is a great spectacle to watch.

From the committee.

Following the Branch AGM on the 17 October I would like to introduce you to your committee Chairman Catherine Livsey, Secretary Lesley Enoch, Treasurer Gerry Yates. Members 2 years to serve Don Andrews, Susan Carr, Irene Dracup, Martin Lee and Robin Walford; 1 year to serve Jean Dyson, Isabel Douglas and Nadine Wharton. We welcome Robin to our committee.

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year and Happy Dancing!!

Catherine Livsey

From the Chair ...

The year seems to have flown by, our first term is nearly over and Christmas and a new year is upon us.

I hope you have a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Our new term starts on 4th January 2010. Why not make a new years resolution and try some of the other classes this year. If you get a Multi-Class ticket you can go to as many classes as you wish for £45 for the term. This is great value. All of the general classes take beginners so why not encourage you friends to give Scottish dancing a try. We also have the Monday evening and Sunday monthly classes for more experienced dancers, these are excellent classes if you wish try

something a little different. Please note you don't need years of experience to come, just feel comfortable with the basic formation eg Reels. These are fun enjoyable classes. All classes details on the back page of this newsletter.

Our first dance of the new year is on 16th January with music from Phill Jones and Mc Gerry Yates.

In February we have the Musicians Day School, so if you play an instrument or know anyone that does why not try the day school, everyone has a great time playing with others. More details from Brenda Burnell.

Then we have what I think is one of the highlights of the season, the February branch dance on 20th

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 Why not give it a try.

Knareborough Classes



Each year on the Wednesday nearest 31st October, the Knareborough Class of The Royal Scottish Dance Society run their class as a "Halloween Special" where all the dances have an Halloween Connection. The photo shows some of the class "gathered around the cauldron".

The Knareborough class meets on Wednesday nights throughout the year between 7:30 and 10pm. They meet at the Village Hall, Markington on the fourth Wednesday each month and in Holy Trinity Church Hall on the other Wednesdays, where we set out to enjoy ourselves learning the traditional social dancing of Scotland and the footwork and formations needed to achieve it. But the first priority is always to enjoy ourselves. All are welcome - with or without their own partner

Thank you

Jacqui Watson writes: I am very touched that all our Scottish Dancing Friends in the Leeds RSCDS Branch and Club have offered me so much support, friendship and encouragement. I would like to thank both organisations for the flowers and good wishes.

Sad News

I was sad to hear this week that Allen Bargh had died. He will be sadly missed. He often came to our branch dances.

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 for more details

Please support your Branch shop!

Sat 16th January 2010 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spenn Lane

Music: Phill Jones MC: Gerry Yates

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

Programme

Roaring Jelly	8x32 J	Glendarroch Sheet
Fraser's Favourite	8x32 R	RSCDS Leaflet
Gang the Same Gate	8x32 S	Book 36
MacLeod's Fancy	4x32 J	Book 33
Figure it Out	3x32 R	Graded & Social 3 (Goldring)
The Rose of the North	8x32 S	Leeds Silver Jubilee (Goldring)
It Should be Fun	4x32 J	Graded & Social 3 (Goldring)
None so Pretty	8x40 R	Book 19

INTERVAL

The Cranberry Tart	8x32 J	Seven Year Itch (Glasspool)
Anniversary Reel	4x32 R	Book 36
Kilkenny Castle	8x32 S	Craigear Book 2
Polharrow Burn	5x32 R	RSCDS 3 Dances by Hugh Foss
Napier's Index	8x40 J	Book 45
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	3x32 S	RSCDS 3 Dances 2006
Catch the Wind	8x32 R	Book 45
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	8x32 J	Book 22

Extras

Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	4x32 R	RSCDS Five Dances 1982
The Sailor	8x32 H	Book 24
The Piper and the Penguin	88 R	Scotia Suite (Goldring)
S-Locomotion	4x32 S	Book 41

Highland Dance School 24 Oct



I regularly attend day courses organised by various branches of the RSCDS. The one I try never to miss is the Highland and Ladies Step Day School put on twice each year by the Leeds branch. The course provides a morning class aimed at beginners, and an afternoon session for dancers with more experience. However, most dancers can learn a lot from both sessions and many do in fact stay for the whole day.

The most recent of these courses was on 24 October 2009. In the morning, we worked at two steps of the Sword Dance. To do this dance really well requires physical fitness and technical accomplishment well beyond most of us in the class; yet anyone with a good country dancing technique can easily learn the basic sequence of movements, and will enjoy extending their repertoire of steps beyond those used in country dancing. Most steps consist of four repetitions of the same pattern, which allows for easy recovery after the inevitable memory lapses.

In the afternoon, we studied 'A Tribute to J.L.McKenzie'. This dance, which is in a slowish 3/4 measure, emphasises graceful, gently-flowing movements, in contrast to the angular style of the Sword Dance. There are sections of fast, intricate footwork alternating with slow, controlled

movement- all very hard to execute with any sense of continuity, and also very unforgiving to the memory! This really is a virtuoso piece. We were all greatly amused at our attempts to achieve the nearly impossible!

The day was strenuous, instructive and entertaining. I think we all came away with experience which, as well as being valuable in its own right, will improve all our dancing. *Geoff Hodges*

As I had the key and the very important refreshments I arrived early at the Highland Day Course at Adel. Our teacher Catherine Livesey was not far behind me. We waited and waited, then, just as I was relishing a private lesson, a whole bus load turned up. It was a nice full room that, after a warm up, started off attempting to do a highland setting step. It isn't so easy to transfer from 3 to 2 beats and Eileen Murray now has our sympathy for learning this in reverse. Next we launched into a sword dance with some giggling and kicking of swords and mixed degrees of success. Following a break for lunch and some changes of pupils we tackled a dance in the most unusual 3/4 time. It was novel and fun and although not mastered by all, especially me, we all enjoyed it and would be happy to try it again.

A good day was had by all. *Irene Dracap*

The RSCDS AGM - A Brief Report

Brief for two reasons: not a lot happened, and I was rather more interested in addressing a nasty cold with a hot whisky and lemon than in taking copious notes.

After last year's fireworks, it was mostly pretty low key. But as the delegates entered the main hall, they were presented with a multi-coloured document titled '2008 -2009 Financial Highlights'.

You may remember that in 2008 the newly elected chairman, Alex Gray, announced his intention of ensuring that the Society should be back in the black by 2009. The efforts that had already been put in place had worked. The Society's General Fund showed a positive balance of over £25,000 this year, as opposed to a deficit of almost £115,000 last year. A fair amount of money had been expended from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund - but that is what it is there for, to be spent helping to achieve the Society's objectives, capital as well as interest if a good case can be made out.

The financial report really was the highlight, and a genuine success. But those who attended the Leeds Branch AGM may remember agreeing to second an amendment, drafted by the Leicester Branch, to the Society's new constitution. The amendment aimed to limit the effect of one particular clause which stated that an elected member of the Management Board 'may be

removed by majority resolution of the Management Board', which seemed to Leicester, and to us, to be a rather undemocratic way of going on.

Keith Oughton from Leicester proposed the amendment to the meeting, and on your behalf I seconded it. The amendment passed by a huge majority. I don't have the figures, but from memory it was something like 230 for, 30 against.

Following the meeting I was in discussion with a group of acquaintances, and remarked that I was surprised the MB hadn't defended the original proposal more robustly. Someone else remarked 'It wasn't defensible' - and that was Alan Mair, a former Society chairman!

Apart from that, all the usual business was done. People elected, scrolls presented, reports applauded, etc etc. Rumour has it that the two dances were good, and Sue Porter's class well supported, and the Q&A session with the Management Board heirarchy much appreciated. And so on.

But I was off for another hot whisky and lemon.

Don Andrews

At this years AGM Barbara Peel received the Society Scroll. Congratulations Barbara from Leeds Branch

Joint Ball - Sat 21 November

An excellent evening of dancing. Thanks to York and North Humberside branch for organising such a fantastic event. Here are a few pictures of everyone enjoying themselves.



Day School - 19th September

A good day of dancing enjoyed by all. Here are a few of your comments.

The nervous glances of a dozen less experienced dancers were exchanged as Catherine led us through the warm-up movements - some familiar, some less so. The smooth succession of four dancers, followed by a second, and a third group was rather uneven - with occasional lengthy pauses before all felt confident to set off across the hall. Catherine put great emphasis on good, rhythmic stepping; we managed to move forwards with a certain grace, but backward movement was more haphazard, despite her excellent example and explanation.

Several of our number had been keeping late nights prior to the Day School, and the concentration they needed for the dances Catherine taught us was taxed to the utmost. However, everyone cooperated to try and complete the dances in a recognisable manner, and we were delighted when we executed the figures in approximately the time allocated.

By the end of the morning, we felt we knew every inch of the floor intimately and we had moved forward a step change in our Scottish Country Dancing skills. A very enjoyable and educative session! Lucinda Hodges (RSCDS Bramhall Branch).

I arrived at my first day school with a mixture of anticipation and anxiety. I have been dancing for just over a year and I was anxious that I would know enough of the figures and be able to keep up with the more experienced dancers. I didn't need to worry. I soon met up with some familiar faces from my regular weekly class and also some dancers that I hadn't met before and everyone was very friendly and welcoming.

Once the class started I knew that I had made the right decision to come. Mervyn's style of teaching was clear, patient and very encouraging, and I found that my technique improved as we practised the steps, all beautifully demonstrated by Mervyn.

In the morning session we put our step practice to good use in some social dances, and I found that I could tackle them with confidence. In the afternoon session aptly called 'Unusual Social Dances' we learnt some delightfully unfamiliar dances, one of which Mervyn had written himself, which were great fun. Throughout the day we were accompanied by excellent and uplifting music performed by Ian Slater.

By the end of the afternoon my feet

ached and my legs were tired but the whole day was most enjoyable and very rewarding. I will have no hesitation in signing up for the next day school! Jane Walford (Leeds)

This year Brenda and Irene had encouraged some of the teenage dancers to come along and here are their comments:

I really enjoyed the day school - everyone was so friendly and it was fun to learn some new dances. The less experienced dancers class in the morning was great and I learnt a lot about the finer points of some familiar figures. After a wonderful lunch, I joined the main class for the afternoon feeling somewhat nervous. I knew, having been dancing for less than a year that it was going to be a challenge but thanks to the other dancers I was pulled through and really enjoyed myself at the same time. I loved the whole day and would love to do it all over again. Eleanor (Irene's class).

I gather that both Helen and Rachel from Brenda's class both enjoyed the day school, and I am certain learned new things.

Sat 20th February 2010 7.30pm

SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spen Lane

Music: Neil Baron & the Musicians from the Day School **MC:** Alan Horsfall

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

Programme

EH3 7AF	8x32	J	Book 40
The De'il Amang The Tailors	8x32	R	Book 14
Take Care	8x32	S	Burnell Leeds Silver Thistle
The Laird of Miltons Daughter	8x32	J	Book 22
Nottingham Lace	96	R	Bradley
The Trysting Place	6x32	S	Book 35
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	4x32	J	RSCDS 1982
1314	S64/R64		Drewry Rondel Book

INTERVAL

Miss Mary Douglas	8x48	J	Book 10
The Irish Rover	8x32	R	Cosh 22 SCDs+2
The Braes of Breadalbane	8x32	S	Book 21
Tribute To the Borders	8x32	J	RSCDS Leaflet
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh	8x40	R	Book 39
Sauchie Haugh	6x32	S	RSCDS Leaflet
Major Ian Stewart	8x32	J	Book 35
Reel of the Royal Scots	8x32	R	RSCDS Leaflet

Extras

Flowers of Edinburgh	8x32	R	Book 1
The Sailor	8x32	H	Book 24
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	8x32	S	RSCDS Leaflet
The Jubilee Jig	8x32	J	RSCDS Leaflet

DATES, DATES, DATES

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

2010

Sat 16 January

Social Dance 7.30pm

West Park Centre, Leeds
Music: Phill Jones
MC Gerry Yates

Sat 20 February

Musicians Day School

Adel Methodist Church
Hall, Gainsborough
Avenue,
Adel, Leeds 16
Teacher: Neil Barron

Sat 20 February

Social Dance 7.30pm

West Park Centre, Leeds
Music: Neil Barron &
Musicians from the
Day School
MC Alan Horsfall

Sat 20 March

Children's Festival

St Chad's Parish Centre,
Otley Road, Leeds
Music: Luke Brady

Sat 20 March

Social Dance 7.30pm

West Park Centre, Leeds
Music: Luke Brady

Fri 26 - 28 March

Scarborough Weekend

Teacher: Pat Houghton
Music: George Meikle

More information and
application form from
Yvonne Tredgett, 17
Aviemore Road,

Warmsworth, Doncaster
DN4 9ND.

Tel: 01302 85 11 74.

Sat 24 April

Highland Day School

Adel Methodist Church
Hall, Gainsborough Avenue,
Adel, Leeds 16
Teacher: Catherine Livsey

Sat 15 May

Social Dance 7.30pm

West Park Centre, Leeds
Music: Nicol McLaren

Sat 19 June

Social Dance 7.30pm

West Park Centre, Leeds
Music: George Meikle

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

**Full details of these
events will be
circulated at
Branch dances and
posted on the
Branch web site
www.rscdsleeds.org.uk, where you will
find dance
programmes and
dance reminders.**

Classes

Spring Term 2010

WC 4th January 2010
to WC 22nd March 2010

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

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

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
Hawksworth Wood Primary School,
Broadway, Leeds LS5 3QE
Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Sunday afternoon

20 Dec 2009 & 10 Jan, 7 Feb, 14 March,
11 April, 9 May, 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