



# The Leeds Branch Newsletter

## From the Chairman

*It has been a mixed term for the Branch with a number of successful events and one or two disappointments. The attendance at the first dances was down on those of previous years but the November one was very enjoyable and it was good to see three lines of sets for the first time this season.*

*The classes have made progress but all of them would welcome a few more dancers. Why not make it a New Year's resolution to attend one of the classes and you will have a good time.*

*We have also released our latest book of dances and an accompanying CD. So if you are stuck for that last minute Christmas present for a dancing friend, why not treat them to a copy of the 'Silver Thistle Collection' album.*

*Finally, on behalf of the committee, and myself I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 1999 when I hope to see you at future Branch events.*

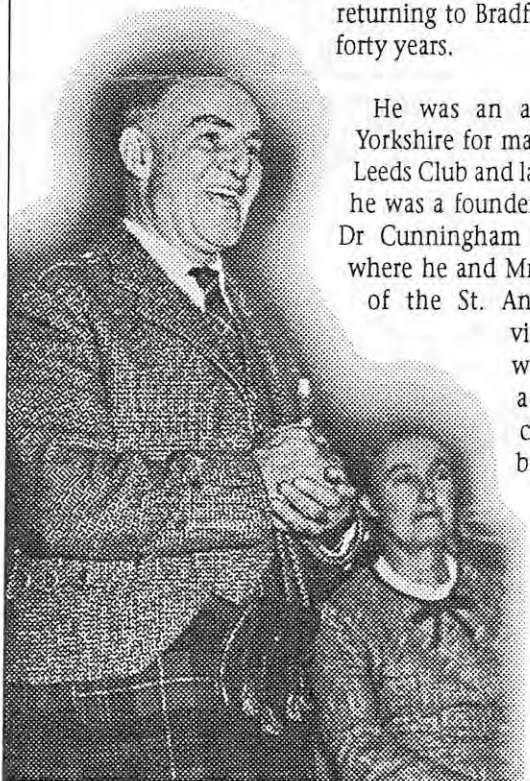
*Alan Carr*

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.

If for some reason you don't receive any copy of the Branch newsletter please contact Alistair Mason on 01423 560684

## Dr William Cunningham

A native of Paisley, Dr Cunningham spent his early life in Bradford before graduating in Medicine at St. Andrews University and returning to Bradford where he worked as a G.P. for forty years.



He was an active Scottish Dancer in West Yorkshire for many years being involved with the Leeds Club and later, when the Branch was formed, he was a founder member and the first President. Dr Cunningham retired to St. Andrews in 1964 where he and Mrs Cunningham became members of the St. Andrews Branch. Leeds members visiting Summer School were always welcome at their home and the activities of the Leeds Branch continued to be of interest to them both.

Dr Cunningham died peacefully at the age of 95 on St. Andrews Day. The funeral took place at Holy Trinity Church, St. Andrews where, for many years he was an Elder of the Church and a member of the Choir.

*Barbara Peel*

## JACK'S THE LAD

Congratulations to Jack Brown who was 90 in October. At the Harrogate Saltire Society class Jack celebrated his birthday at dancing, one straight after the other. Seton's Ceilidh Band, Roy Goldring's new strathspey, Jack's the Lad, composed for the occasion, and Roy's Geordies' Diamond Reel, composed for Jack and Joyce's diamond wedding earlier this year. Jack's the lad, indeed! Our very best wishes to him and Joyce.

## FOR ALL YOU SURFERS

The New Branch web site is [www.rscdsleeds.freemove.co.uk](http://www.rscdsleeds.freemove.co.uk) why not give it a try.

This site was created by Christine Parker-Jones, thanks to Christine for her work. If you have any comments on the site then you can email Christine on [cpi@psychology.leeds.co.uk](mailto:cpi@psychology.leeds.co.uk)

## CALLING ALL TEACHERS

The Branch is making a database of teachers in the area so that in the future more teachers can be involved in teaching for the Branch. If you have a full or preliminary certificate please could you fill in the questionnaire, which you should find in your Newsletter. Should you not find a copy in your Newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01943 466702 and I will provide you with one.

*Alan Carr*

# MALHAMDALE

We were rather late in booking for the weekend course at Malhamdale and were of course disappointed to learn that all the rooms were taken up. We mentioned this to our friends in class, who came up with an easy solution to a minor setback. They offered us floor space in their rooms, provided we took our sleeping bags. There was even an offer to sleep in the bath; but that we had to consider seriously - what if the taps drip! Well, these were offers we could not refuse.

So with great enthusiasm on Friday morning, we packed our sleeping bags, a kilt, dancing shoes and other paraphernalia for a great weekend ahead.

We turned up to inspect our floor space and as luck would have it, there were FOUR beds in the in the room. There were 3 single beds and a cot. Being a gentleman, David naturally offered to sleep in the cot. However, more good news awaited us as we checked-in. Due to a last minute cancellation, there was a double room available. This was swiftly snapped-up by David - I wonder why that was!

We quickly unpacked, after all 'possession is 9/10ths of the law'.

The aroma of fresh coffee, treacle cake and home-made biscuits drifted from the baronial hall and up the elegant winding staircase. We made our way to the spacious lounge and joined our friends to catch up with their news. It was lovely meeting 'old' friends again from Harrogate, North Allerton and Doncaster.

The first evening livened up with a social dance and an opportunity to meet our teacher,

*Derek and George*

Derek Haynes, and our musician,

George Meikle. The evening went all too quickly.

The following morning, we were all pleasantly surprised by the overnight snowfall which had settled and covered the landscape - reminding us that Christmas is just a few weeks' away.

With boundless energy, Derek worked us hard. Improving our technique to help us dance with greater pleasure.

## DARLINGTON

12 of us went to Darlington. It would have probably been 13 if Amie had been able to make it up from London.

The older dancers did the senior set dance "Swiss Lassie", as well as our choice dance "The Periwig". Both dances seemed to go quite well. We also danced our Scottish - American medley to celebrate American Thanks-giving. The younger dancers among us (of which there were 4) danced Cumberland Reel and Merry Reapers with support from the older dancers. Social dances were done between other choice dances. I think everyone enjoyed a very fun packed day.

*Dora Connolly*

## THE PERIWIG

At a recent Branch dance, we all enjoyed a demonstration of 'The Periwig' a dance recently published by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Whilst the dance is undoubtedly traditional the Society has, despite considerable research, been unable to trace its origin.

Barbara Peel would be pleased to receive any information which would help the Society in its search.



*Cosy Pas de Basque practice.*

In the afternoon 'free time' some of us pursued another great hobby - shopping. Some ladies took a left hand turn at the bottom of the tree-lined drive and headed towards Skipton, whilst others turned right and went for a walk in Malham.

The afternoon was icy and cold, but a brisk walk brought some colour to our cheeks. There were hardy souls about that afternoon, as we espied climbers free-climbing on the face of the cove. Alas, I didn't recognise these from the dance class.

George continued to provide us with great music for the evening's dancing as Derek helped us through a number of dances which just didn't come to mind without some prompting!

The next morning Derek once again filled the room with limitless energy, and as one person remarked, 'Derek is like Peter Pan'. I knew what he meant.

It was a great weekend enjoyed by everyone, and we look forward to the next meeting at Malhamdale. Next time, I will book early to avoid disappointment and avoid trying out the bath.

*Sou Robertson*

## THE DANCING CLASS FROM HELL

The Tuesday class on 10th Nov 98 at Pudsey was a disastrous affair, we arrived to find the hall locked, not a light on anywhere.

Whilst Barbara went key-hunting, accompanied by Dave, the rest of us stood shivering and trying to be brave.

Like penguins on an iceberg we huddled close together. "What you need is thermal gloves" said Margaret to Heather.

At last the door was opened and we rushed into the room, discarding coats and donning shoes but then, alas, Oh doom!

The floor shone like a mirror and though it looked quite nice, when we tried to dance upon it, it was as slippery as ice.

"That was quick" said Sheila, as she skidded down the set "I've only done the first 8 bars, I can't have finished yet"

Poor Ian had a mishap when he tried to turn his corner - his voice went up two octaves to a rather fine soprano.

We tried to dance some setting steps but daren't stretch or hop, then Pat came to the rescue with a bucket and a mop. She swabbed the floor from end to end which seemed to do the trick, for when we started dancing our shoes began to stick.

Travelling and setting and reeling on the side now became much easier without the slip and slide.

But although the dampened surface did wonders for our poise, our feet upon the floor made a very funny noise!

"Next week its back to Blakett Street" (Calverley), said Brenda, "Just as well, or we'd have to go on telly as 'the dancing class from hell". Anon

*Heather Craven/Sheila Johns*



# DANCE SCOTTISH WORLD WIDE 1998

After the success last year of the Young Scottish Dancers' Association's dancing in November it was decided this year to hold Dance Scottish World Wide to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Society. The dancing was to take place in the last week of November but we had a problem! On the last Saturday in November our children's class travels to the Darlington Appreciation Day and we needed the night before for our final practice. I asked if the children could dance instead at the November Branch dance as our celebration. It was agreed to and those of you who were there will remember seeing the younger dancers (along with two older ones) dance Jean's Jig from our new book.

The older girls danced The Periwig from the 75th Booklet and showed The ABC Jig before everyone had a go. The certificates and medals had just arrived



for the children's IDTA exams and our chairman made an excellent job of presenting these to our young dancers. It was a fun evening with good music from John Browne, a lively programme MC'ed well by Adrian and lots of dancers of all ages mixing and enjoying themselves.

## Successes in the IDTA exams

### Grade I

Elinor Bailey, Matthew Norwood

### Grade III

Dora Connolly, Claire Owen,  
Beatrix Thompson

### Grade IV

Dora Connolly, Mary Garvie,  
Amy Gunawan, Claire Owen,  
Lisa Palmer, Beatrix Thompson



## Sat 16th January 1999 - 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre

Music - Colin Dewar (solo) MC - Alastair Mason

### Programme

Espie McNabb	8 x 32J	MMM I
A Canonbie Ceilidh	6 x 32R	Edinburgh New Scotland 50th
Fair Donald	8 x 32S	Book 29
The Express	8 x 40J	Book 20
General Stuart's Reel	8 x 32R	Book 10
Bryony	4 x 32S	Leeds 35th
Ladies' Fancy	8 x 32J	Book 13
Sixteensome Reel	40 8 x 48	40R Book 6

The Dhoon	4 x 32J	Children's Book
Cadgers in the Cannongate	8 x 48R	Book 9
Village Reel	8 x 32S	Book 20
White Heather Jig	8 x 40J	Cosh Leaflet 22
The Periwig	4 x 48R	RSCDS Leaflet 33
Lady Lucy Ramsay	8 x 32S	MMM II
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder	1 x 128J	Hamilton Leaflet
The Montgomeries' Rant	8 x 32R	Book 10

### Extras

Duran Ranger	8 x 32R	Book 13
Jessie's Hornpipe	8 x 32J	Book 8
Jenny's Bawbee	8 x 24S	Book 5
The Frisky	8 x 32J	Book 26

*A Canonbie Ceilidh to be danced 6 times through? perhaps with 4 times encore if it proves enjoyable.*

## Sat 20th February 1999 - 7.30pm SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre

Music - Neil Barron (solo) MC's - Jean & Reg Dyson

### Programme

Wild Geese	8 x 32J	Book 24
Swiss Lassie	8 x 32R	Book 39
Seann Truibhas Willichan	6 x 32S	Book 27
Last of the Lairds	8 x 32J	Book 22
The White Cockade	8 x 32R	Book 5
Take Care	8 x 32S	Leeds 35th
The Nurseryman	8 x 32J	Book 37
The Collee Hornpipe	8 x 32R	Book 20

Jubilee Jig	8 x 32J	RSCDS L/let
The Reverend John MacFarlane	4 x 32R	Book 37
The Lea Rig	6 x 32S	Book 21
The Luckenbooth Brooch	8 x 32J	Dickson Glendarrock 28
Clutha	4 x 48R	Book 31
Sugar Candie	8 x 32S	Book 26
Muirland Willie	8 x 32J	Book 21
Ladies of Dunse	8 x 40R	Book 26

### Extras

Australian Ladies	8 x 32R	Campbell Geneva Park Dances
The Express	8 x 40J	Book 22
Lady Lucy Ramsay	8 x 32S	MMM II
The Music Makars	8 x 32R	Book 33

# Classes

## Fees

Level 1 and 2 £1.50 per class, Level 3 class £2.00 (due to this class having live music).

Level 1 Beginners, Level 2 General, Level 3 Experienced Dancers.

## Level 2 Starts 5th Jan 99

Tuesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Adel Methodist Church Hall, Adel, Leeds 16

Teachers: Alan & Susan Carr

## Level 3 Starts 5th Jan 99

Tuesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Mechanics Institute - Corner of Blackett St & Thornhill St, Calverley, Leeds.

On street parking.

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

**Note: On 26th January 1999 there will be no class, if you wish to dance that evening you will be more than welcome at Adel.**

## Level 1 Starts 6th Jan 99

1st Three Wednesdays of month, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Knaresborough  
Teacher: Peter Clark

## Level 1 Starts 3rd Feb 99

Wednesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Mechanics Institute - Corner of Blackett St & Thornhill St, Calverley, Leeds.

On street parking.

Teacher: Barbara Caldicott

We are having another try at getting this class started.

The class will start with a 'Come and Try' evening on the first night.

If you know of anyone who would like to start Scottish Country Dancing then please inform them about this class. Your help is greatly needed in spreading the word and publicising this class. Thank you.

## Level 2 Starts 7th Jan 99

Thursdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

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

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

## Children

Fridays 7.15 - 8.45pm Starts 8th Jan 99

Hawsworth Wood Primary School, Broadway, Leeds 5

Teachers: Brenda Burnell, Barbara Caldicott

## TEACHERS CERTIFICATE CLASS

Full & Preliminary

Sundays, 10.00 - 4.00pm

Askwith Village Hall, Askwith

Dates: 17th Jan 99, 7th Feb 99,

14th March 99, 9th May 99,

Teacher: Brenda Burnell,

Pianist: Pat Clark

# DATES, DATES, DATES

## WALK-THROUGH SOCIAL

Come and try a very enjoyable evening of social dancing. Dances are selected from the next Branch Social Programme. Every dance is walked through, so you can just turn up and enjoy the evening without having to prepare.

### Friday 8th January 1999

WALK-THROUGH SOCIAL DANCE

7.45 - 9.45pm

St Columba's UR Church Hall, Headingley.

### Saturday 16th January 1999

SOCIAL DANCE

7.30pm West Park Centre

Music Colin Dewar Solo

### Friday 5th February 1999

WALK-THROUGH SOCIAL DANCE

7.45 - 9.45pm

St Columba's UR Church Hall, Headingley.

### Saturday 20th February 1999

SOCIAL DANCE

7.30pm West Park Centre

Music Neil Barron Solo

### Friday 5th March 1999

WALK-THROUGH SOCIAL DANCE

7.45 - 9.45pm

St Columba's UR Church Hall, Headingley.

### Saturday 20th March 1999

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

2pm West Park Centre

Music Marion Anderson Band

### Saturday 20th March 1999

SOCIAL DANCE

7.30pm West Park Centre

Music Marion Anderson Band

### Fri 26th to Sun 28th March 1999

WEEKEND SCHOOL

Clifton Hotel, Scarborough.

Teacher Bill Zobel, Music George Meikle

**PLEASE NOTE YOUR BALANCE OF THE PAYMENT IS DUE BY 21st FEB 99.**

### Saturday 17th April 1999

CEILIDH

7.30pm West Park Centre

Music TBA.

### Saturday 24th April 1999

HIGHLAND WORKSHOP

10.00am St Mary's

Hawkwood Ave, Leeds 5

Teacher Catherine Livsey

### Friday 7th May 1999

WALK-THROUGH SOCIAL DANCE

7.45 - 9.45pm

St Columba's UR Church Hall, Headingley.

### Saturday 15th May 1999

SOCIAL DANCE

7.30pm West Park Centre

Music Ian Slater Solo

### Friday 4th June 1999

WALK-THROUGH SOCIAL DANCE

7.45 - 9.45pm

St Columba's UR Church Hall, Headingley.

### Saturday 19th June 1999

END OF SEASON DANCE

7.30pm West Park Centre

Music Ian Slater Solo

## Please Note

For our Ceilidh on 17th April, 7.30pm at the West Park Centre, the musician will **not** be Colin Dewar as advertised in the syllabus. We will let you know the musician and more details at a later date.

## THE SILVER THISTLE COLLECTION

Twelve more Leeds Dances to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the Leeds Branch of RSCDS

Books £2.50 plus postage

CD's £12.00 plus postage containing music for dances in this book and played by **David Cunningham and his Band.**

If bought together Book and CD may be purchased for just £13.50 plus postage.

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