



# The Leeds Branch Newsletter

## Children's Festival Saturday 20th March 1999

On Saturday 20th March over 120 children gathered at West Park Centre, Leeds, for the 22nd Leeds Branch Children's Festival.

There was a happy atmosphere and some very enjoyable dancing. Teams came from as far away as Darlington, Gateshead and Derby, as well as the more local teams.

There were some excellent solo dances by the teams as well as the social dances for all.

The two Leeds teams did extremely well. The Juniors danced "Summer Assembly" and the Teenagers danced "The Robertson Rant". Both teams were a credit to their teachers, Barbara Caldicott and Brenda Burnell respectively.



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

Alice Murphy, the adjudicator, gave some very useful tips to both dancers and teachers. Ray Jones, our resident M.C., once again kept the afternoon going with a swing and kept us all in order.

My grateful thanks to all members who helped in any way.

We look forward to another successful Festival on Saturday March 18th 2000.  
*Jean Dyson.*



*The Band - Marion Anderson Trio*

## Highland Workshop 24th April 1999

Once again an enjoyable day taught by Catherine Livsey. In the morning Catherine worked through Strathspey and Highland Reel setting steps, in preparation for a dance called the Richmond Diamond Medley, devised by Catherine. This was enjoyed by all. If anyone would like a copy of this dance then contact Catherine Livsey.

The afternoon went equally well, with Catherine teaching the 'leg aching dance "The Earl of Errol". This is the ladies solo dance for the festival, so you will be able to see the results of this day in York. Catherine finished off the day by teaching the Scottish Lilt, helping bring our legs back to normal.

The next Highland Day School is on the 9th October 1999 at St Mary's, Hawkswood Ave, Leeds 5, so put it in your diary now and come and join us for a very enjoyable day. It is fun trying something different like Highland and the morning session is for complete beginners. So why not give it a try!

### From the Chairman

### WANTED - NEW DANCERS

During this year, there has been a drip feed of new dancers joining the Branch which is pleasing but we have failed to start a successful level one class. We have tried in both September and January at Calverley starting with a 'Come and Try Night' in each case.

Initially, the Calverley class was successful, due mainly to the efforts of Barbara Caldicott who donated much energy to publicise, advertise and teach the class. In spite of good quality instruction, the numbers dropped off, so now we have very few dancers feeding through to the level 2 classes.

A few bright ideas are needed to attract new dancers. If you have any please feel free to talk to any member of the committee who will willingly put your ideas forward at the next committee meeting on the 13th June 1999, for discussion.  
*Alan Carr*

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

# Blue Skies for Scarborough Weekend

Beautiful spring weather greeted dancers from as far as St Andrews and Broadstairs as they arrived at the new Scarborough venue. The Clifton Hotel overlooks the North Bay and many rooms have panoramic views over the bay and surrounding countryside. The hotel ballroom, which has a sprung dance floor and integral restaurant, was exclusively ours for the weekend. We were all impressed with the tasteful décor and

On Saturday we awoke to another fine, sunny day and after we had enjoyed a hearty breakfast it was time for work to begin in earnest. The 'dynamic duo' - Bill Zobel and George Meikle - kept us on our toes all morning with some unusual dances and



Above: George Meikle our Musician and MC's Eric Wallace and Alan Carr.  
Left: Dancing at the Hotel.



varied menus, with waitress service being an added bonus.

After a leisurely dinner the evening's dancing began. Our MC, Eric Wallace, led us effortlessly through the programme, aided by some superb playing from our musician for the weekend, George Meikle.



Bill Zobel our teacher enjoying the dancing.

wonderful music, the emphasis being on listening and dancing to the music. Mistakes were allowed, but only 'in time to the music'!

As usual Saturday afternoon was free time - one brave soul was spotted paddling in the sea - but most people enjoyed a stroll or a visit to the shops. Peasholm Park is less than 5 minutes from the hotel and the town centre approximately 20 minutes' walk.

By Saturday evening old friendships had been renewed and new friendships begun, and the relaxed and happy atmosphere was very evident. With Alan Carr as MC and yet more superb playing from George we danced our way through another excellent programme, including the dances we had been taught in the morning class, one of which had been written by our own Roy Goldring.

Sunday morning brought us another lovely day, albeit an hour early! There was still time for a breath of fresh air after breakfast and before the last class of the

weekend. Yet again Bill's teaching and George's nimble fingers kept our enthusiasm going and lunchtime came round all too quickly. It was a treat to relax over our last meal and be looked after by the friendly waiters and waitresses.

It only remained to say goodbye to friends old and new and make our way home, taking with us the happy memories of another successful Scarborough Weekend.

The new venue proved to be extremely popular but because numbers were limited it was inevitable that some applicants were unlucky. Next year BOOK EARLY to ensure you are one of the lucky ones.  
*Heather, Sheila and Isabel.*

## Visitors from Zimbabwe

Two lady travellers from Harare in Zimbabwe will be in Leeds in July to dance with us at the White Rose Festival. They will be staying on for the week following when dancing and classes are getting scarce! It was discussed at the committee meeting on Sunday. On Tuesday after the Festival, the Branch will have an end of term class/social/dance/flip at Adel Methodist church hall. Anyone is welcome to come and meet our visitors. Further details will be sent out with the agenda for our AGM. At the moment keep Tuesday July 13th free.

It will also be open house at Brackenwood on Thursday July 15th.

## YOUR BRANCH NEEDS YOU!

On the 3rd and 4th July 1999 some of our Branch members are taking their Preliminary and Full Teaching Certificates. We need your help as stooges for the practical teaching part of the test. If you can spare any time during this weekend, please ring Brenda Burnell on 0113 267 6655 and let her know which parts of the day you are available. Anybody is welcome, so do try and help your branch. It is good fun too. The exam will be held at the Mechanics Institute, Calverley, Leeds.



# A Visit to Los Angeles

In March after our Children's Festival I left Leeds to visit our twin Branch in California. I went in anticipation of attending their weekend school and a couple of other day schools. I was also expecting some warm sunny weather but none of these things worked out quite as I had planned! Enid Fowler had to withdraw from the teaching staff for the LA weekend and Marjorie McLaughlin found herself in the east of Canada for one of the day schools so on both of these occasions I was asked to deputise. I must admit that at the third course, I was relieved to see both teachers - Oberdan Otto and Fred DeMarse - there on the day! As for the weather, that too was not what I expected. The sun did shine but there was some very heavy rain (falling as snow on the nearby hills) and mostly it was cool if not really cold. I often longed for my winter jacket, but it did have its compensations and it was a pleasure to dance and get thoroughly warmed up.



Warm up at the LA weekend

The Los Angeles weekend was most enjoyable. It, like our own, was held in a hotel but, unlike our own, the classes in LA had to dance in carpeted rooms! There were many weary feet dangling in the pool during Saturday afternoon to be ready for the Ball in the evening. It was a pleasure to meet Simon Scott and Jo Hamilton (the other teachers) and to work with Calum MacKinnon and Andy Imbrie (the musicians).

The Day Schools were organised by the Sacramento Branch where Oberdan and Fred taught and for the San Gabriel Valley Branch where I deputised and taught with Fred. At this course I inherited a talk so I was able to show my age and talk about Miss Milligan and some of the other older members of the Society who are no longer with us. We ended the session dancing some of the dances from Book 1 as they were originally published.

I attended some of the classes in California and was allowed to dance with the Red Thistles at one of their practices. I also visited a newly-formed children's class. It seems incredible to me that in such a large urban sprawl only one very new group of young people was dancing. We are very lucky in Leeds to have older girls from our children's class and University students attending our Branch dances now. I sincerely hope the group I saw will become well established class and feed some younger dancers into the Branch in Los Angeles.

The highlight of my stay in 'sunny but cool' California was definitely my visit to the new Getty Museum. I had listened to the reviews of it when it opened and was keen to see it for myself. As the day to go got nearer I became more sceptical about it but I need not have been so. It surpassed my wildest dreams. I just thoroughly enjoyed it so much so that I was taken back again a second time to have another look at my favourite exhibits.

First to Van Gogh's 'Irises' and then to a wonderful little French inlaid table which opened up into a card table or writing desk. The craftsman who made it in 1725 definitely knew what would please me - it was beautiful.

After a few days in Santa Barbara doing more interesting things it was time to return home and settle back into Leeds routine again with lots of happy memories and a gradually filling scrapbook of my adventures in California. *Brenda Burnell*

## Increase of Fees - Branch Fees and Class Fees

How long is it since the price of a Branch class went up? So long that no-one on the committee could quite remember! This has to change - rises in hall hire and other costs mean that from September classes will cost £2.00 per night, £3.00 for level 3, to partially cover the cost of live music. The proposed rate for Branch membership for 1999-2000 will be £10.00 per member. For this you get your subscription copy, the Bulletin, two RSCDS Newsbriefs, 4 Branch Newsletters, reduced entry to Branch dances, the opportunity to attend Summer School, discount at Seniors, etc, etc. In addition, your subs enable the committee to organise classes, day and weekend schools, and generally help keep Scottish Country Dancing alive and well in the Leeds area. Where could you get better value for a tenner?

## YOUR LAST CHANCE!

The committee have decided that due to falling number and lack of demand (as dances from the forthcoming Socials are now taught at classes) the Walk through Social on 4th June will be the last one that the branch will hold for the time being. So come and help this event go out with a bang! 7.45-9.45pm St Columba's UR Church Hall, Headingley. Let's all put it in our diary and make it a night to remember.

Sat 19th June 1999 - 7.30pm

### SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre

Music - Sandy Legget MC - Eric Wallace

Admission: Members £4.50, Non Members £5, University Students £2, Children £1

#### Programme

Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel	8 x 32J	Graded
Cramond Bridge	8 x 32R	London Jubilee
Take Care	8 x 32S	Leeds 35th
Argyll's Fancy	4 x 32J	Graded
Portnacraig	8 x 32R	Book 36
My Friend Joe	8 x 32S	Book 38
Wild Geese	8 x 32J	Book 24
Fraser's Favourite	8 x 32R	RSCDS Leaflet 3
Roaring Jelly	8 x 32J	Ross-Glendarroch Sheet 6
Ladies of Dunse	8 x 40R	Book 26
Follow your Love	3 x 32S	Friendship Dances
Frisky	8 x 32J	Book 26
Summer Assembly	1 x 88R	Book 35
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	8 x 32S	RSCDS Jubilee L/Let
Starry Eyed Lassie	8 x 32J	Book 23
Duke of Perth	8 x 32R	Book 1

#### Extras

Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	4 x 32J	RSCDS 1982
Neidpath Castle	3 x 32S	Book 22
Blooms of Bon Accord	4 x 32R	Drewry-Deeside 2
Bees of Maggieknockater	8 x 32J	Drewry-Canadian Book

# 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

**Finishes Tuesday 13th July 1999.**

**No class Tues 1st June 1999**

## Level 3 Starts 5th Jan 99

**Tuesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm**

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

On street parking.

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

This class as now finished for the Summer. You will be more than welcome at Adel if you still wish to dance on Tuesday night.

## Level 1 Starts 6th Jan 99

**1st Three Wednesdays of month, 7.30 - 9.45pm**

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Knaresborough

Teacher: Peter Clark

**Finishes Wednesday 19th May 1999.**

## Level 1 Starts 3rd Feb 99

**Wednesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm**

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

On street parking.

Teacher: Barbara Caldicott

**Finishes: Wednesday 25th May 1999.**

## Level 2 Starts 7th Jan 99

**Thursdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm**

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

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

**Finishes: On going.**

## Children

**Fridays 7.15 - 8.45pm Starts 8th Jan 99**

Hawksworth Wood Primary School, Broadway, Leeds 5

Teachers: Brenda Burnell, Barbara Caldicott

**Finishes: On going.**

**THE NEW TERM  
WILL START WEEK  
COMMENCING  
13TH SEPT 1999**

# DATES, DATES, DATES

## 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 Sandy Legget

## Monday 21st June 1999

WHITE ROSE FESTIVAL PRACTICE FOR SOLO DEMONSTRATION

7.45pm St Mary's, Hawkswood Ave Leeds 5

## Monday 28th June 1999

WHITE ROSE FESTIVAL PRACTICE FOR SOLO DEMONSTRATION

7.45pm St Mary's, Hawkswood Ave Leeds 5

## ARDEN LEA CHARITY DANCE Otley Civic Centre

3rd July 1999

Music by Alistair Hunter

Ticket now available from Roy Goldring  
Tel 01943 360 1373

## Monday 5th July 1999

LEEDS BRANCH AGM

7.30pm St Mary's, Hawkswood Ave Leeds 5

## Monday 5th July 1999

WHITE ROSE FESTIVAL PRACTICE FOR SOLO DEMONSTRATION & MASS DANCE PRACTICE

After the AGM St Mary's, Hawkswood Ave Leeds 5

## 9th and 10th July 1999

WHITE ROSE FESTIVAL

St. Peter's School, York.

Dance Friday Night, Festival Saturday afternoon, Saturday evening dance.

If you wish to go and haven't applied, please contact Catherine Livsey Day 01484 432270 or Evenings 01484 306637 Urgently.

## Tuesday 13th July 1999

OPEN EVENING FOR ZIMBABWE VISITORS

7.45pm Adel Methodist Church Hall, Adel, Leeds 16.

## P R E V I E W

EVENTS TO COME NEXT TERM

Make a note of them now!

Half Day School 18th Sept 1999  
West Park. Form with this newsletter.

Highland Day School 9th October 1999  
St Mary's, Hawkswood Ave Leeds 5

Malhamdale 10-12 December 1999

## RSCDS Winter School

The RSCDS are planning to run a winter school similar to the St Andrew's Summer School at Pitlochry in February 2000. More details later or if you are interested then let a member of the committee know so we can give you more information when we get it.

## BOOK REVIEW

### THE SILVER THISTLE COLLECTION

Once again Leeds have produced an interesting book of new dances. Eight or nine are very social dances and two or three of these could become as popular as "Highland Rambler" from the 25th Anniversary book and "South from Oban" from the 10th Anniversary book.

*Congratulations*

*T.W.C*

*Why not see for yourself get your copy today!*

## 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.**

**Now available from**

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