



## Future Newsletters

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

Please send all copy for future newsletters to Stella Summers. Her e-mail address is [stellaiian@sums4.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:stellaiian@sums4.orangehome.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. or Catherine Livsey, 11A Hill Top Road, Moldgreen, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD5 9LX. Tel 01484 515257 Email [catherine@cl-design.co.uk](mailto:catherine@cl-design.co.uk)

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

## The Wet Weather Alternative, or, White Rose Festival 7-7-07an 'outdoor' Festival of Scottish Country Dancing)

Gateways School, Harewood

Each year at WRF time, the committee anxiously scans the skies, counts how many of the cows are lying down, checks the north side of the trees for moss, to see whether 'The Festival' is going to enjoy a gloriously sunny day out on the sports field or perhaps has to make a last minute decision, 'indoors', or 'out'?

This year, really, the decision was made well in advance. Indoors. When we arrived to set up on the Friday afternoon, there was half an inch of standing water on the running track.

But were we downhearted? Oh no. Just implement the wet weather alternative, and make the best of it. And, thanks to a lot of energetic and enthusiastic labour, everybody did.

Of the thirty eight teams entered, which incidentally was a record for recent years, twenty nine were allocated spaces in the Sports Hall to dance to the music of Nicol McLaren's Glenraig Band. Nine adult teams and their associated ten junior teams took over the Performing Arts Centre, with Ian Slater playing for

them. A bit of a squash, but they managed, and managed well.

Pipe Major Alan Harrison started the proceedings with everybody, including adults, children, and many spectators, in the Sports Hall. Behind Alan, with the Saltire in the capable hands of Terry Chater, the children made a circuit of the hall. Then RSCDS chairman Irene Bennett opened the event with a short speech. Alan and Terry led all the 'PAC' dancers, with Irene, outside, across the yard and into their hall, where Irene took the opportunity to address the children.

Then MC Jean Dyson took over Business in the PAC and the whole programme was completed, children's dances, adult dances, demonstration dances, Highland dances, the lot. Thanks Ian, and thanks, Jean.

Meanwhile MC Gerry Yates got the Sports Hall programme going with everything on the programme danced except the children's dances. In the gaps, four general dances from the evening programme were introduced, with brief 'recaps'.

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Subscription to this Newsletter can be taken out at £3.00 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.

# Chairman's Report

The past season has ended on a high note with a successful Festival - despite being forced indoors by the downpours from the preceding week.

So many people enjoyed Nicol McLaren's music that we hope for a strong turnout when he plays at the September dance. With Ann Dix teaching the Day School, at Queen's Hall, the new season should begin in fine style.

Every dancing group seems to need more dancers at the moment and the committees of the Branch and the Leeds Club are keen to encourage members to support each others dances. Obviously some do so already but more dancers would make a real difference.

Leeds and York branches are joining together for the November Ball; an opportunity for a splendid evening.

Unfortunately I cannot be involved in any aspect of dancing for several weeks and am stepping down from the Branch Committee with immediate effect.

Jean Dyson has agreed to chair the next meeting and I am sure she will have the full support of the other members.

Doreen joins me in thanking dancing friends for the cards, enquiries, flowers, good wishes and help received during the past weeks.

**Roy Goldring 4-8-07**

A big thank you to Roy for his work over the last couple of years as chair. We all wish him speedy recovery.

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## Thank You

May I take this opportunity to say a big "Thank You" to everyone who got in touch with me after my recent accident.

Your telephone calls, messages wishing "Good Health and Speedy Recovery" and "Happy Birthday", flowers, cards and gifts all helped to keep my spirits up during a very difficult time. Back in Leeds it was lovely to see you all and be involved once more in Scottish Dancing and the Festival and although I didn't dance, I thoroughly enjoyed my day with everyone. I cannot think of a nicer group of people to be involved with. Once again thank you all and keep dancing.

**Kathie D**

## 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 13 and Book 34.

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.

**Please support your Branch shop!**

**Sat 15th September 2007 7.30pm**

## SOCIAL DANCE

**West Park Centre, Spen Lane**

**Music:** Nicol McLaren & Glenraig Band M.C: Derek Kendall

**Admission:** £6, Non-member £7, Full time Education £3, Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

### Programme

Hoopers Jig	J8x32	MMMI
Fraser's Favourite	R8x32	RSCDS Leaflet
The Minister on the Loch	S3x32	24 Graded - R Goldring
South From Oban	J8x40	Leeds 10th Anniversary - 5 Shields
Instructor's Choice		
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	S8x32	RSCDS Leaflet
Polharrow Burn	R5x32	RSCDS Leaflet 2007
The Last of the Lairds	J8x32	RSCDS Book 22

### INTERVAL

The Laird of Milton's Daughter	J8x32	RSCDS Book 22
From Scotia's Shores We're Noo Awa'	S8x32	RSCDS Leaflet
The Music Makers	R8x32	RSCDS Book 33
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	R5x32	14 Social - R Goldring
Instructor's Choice		
Inverneill House	R8x32	RSCDS Book 35
Peggy's Strathspey	S8x32	RSCDS Book 41
The Bees of Maggienockater	J4x32	Canadian Book - J Drewry

### Extras

Montgomerie's Rant	R8x32	RSCDS Book 10
Round Reel of Eight	R1x88	RSCDS Book 27
MacDonald of the Isles	S3x32	Carnforth II - D Haynes
Haste to the Wedding	J8x32	Book 25

# White Rose Festival continued

The response from the participants was a delight to behold. Such enthusiasm, such dancing, it presented a great opportunity for newer dancers to join in and learn from experienced dancers. One 'newcomer' remarked that 'the demonstration dances were amazing, and showed us the road we are going along'. One group wrote in to say 'our team enjoyed it more than any previous...', another 'bravo on a super Festival much enjoyed by all'.



The day ended with an evening social dance. Very nearly 260 dancers thoroughly enjoyed the evening, in particular Nicol's excellent music. Most of them were still on the floor at the end of the evening, dancing Mairie's Wedding with all the twirls and twizzles and leaps and jumps that you only do when you are really into it, and huge circles for the final 'six' (!) hands round and back.

Nicol brought the evening to a close with Auld Lang Syne, two circles of dancers linking hands round the hall.

Then, regretfully, all off home - until 12th July 2008, Gateways School, Harewood! *Don Andrews*

## Thank You

A big thank you to all teachers in Leeds for all the hard work put in training the Leeds teams. I attended all the classes at different times in the months leading up to the festival, and am certain that all dancers enjoyed themselves. The only downside this year was that we had such a lovely day, but had to dance indoors, due to the waterlogged field.

*Lesley Enoch*

## Raffle

As Janet Washington couldn't attend the White Rose Festival she kindly donated a voucher for a silk sash in the tartan of your choice for her selection (retail value approx £50). We are going to hold a raffle for this. Tickets will be sold at the next few branch dances. If any one would like to donate any other quality prizes we welcome them. Contact Don Andrews on 01535 605065, email donald@hbandrews,fsnet.co.uk

## From the Society Chair

I was delighted to be invited to the 2007 White Rose Festival. For most of my dancing life I had known about the festival and had heard how wonderful it was but I had never had the opportunity to attend. I was not disappointed - except for the fact that it had to be held indoors. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience - the warm welcome I received, the invitation to participate in a team and the great atmosphere at the evening dance. The gifts were unexpected and greatly appreciated - the Silver Thistle CD and book and, from the children, a delightful thistle paperweight. Congratulations to the committee for their efficient organisation and best wishes for many more White Rose Festivals.

*Irene Bennett*

## White Rose Festival 2008

The committee is anxious to bring 'new blood' into the Festival committee to help develop this nationally renowned event. (Indeed, on occasions, its renown is such that international representation has been known!)

If anybody is interested in helping, and they would be made very welcome, please contact

Lesley Tompkins on 0113 281 1279  
or Don Andrews on 01535 605065.  
Lesley's email is ltompkins8@msn.com,  
Don's donald@hbandrews,fsnet.co.uk

# The Festival over the Years ...

It is a long time ago since I became hooked on Scottish dancing. I was brought up on English country dancing but once introduced to Scottish dancing, by a Ranger group shortly before leaving Bradford for college, I found this much more challenging and rewarding. I attended dances in London whilst at college and paid two visits to the Summer School in St Andrews (which has also changed enormously - but that's another story) and then I returned to Bradford to start school teaching. My interest in Scottish dancing led me to contact the affiliated groups in Leeds. I went to Moor Allerton on Fridays (by tram to Moortown Corner and then on foot), the University group on Tuesdays (often calling at the Town Hall afterwards for some old time dancing before catching the steam train or bus back to Bradford) and, of course, the Club's dancing at Adel where the last Ledgard bus to Leeds took most of us home (there was no problem parking then as only the doctors who danced and one or two other people had cars).

As my first year back in Yorkshire progressed I was made aware of "The Festival" at Beckett Park. I danced at the Festival with the University group for a year or two and I loved the challenge of learning new dances ready for July. I never could understand why other people didn't know their dances after they had been taught them and practised them for weeks. Over time I gained my teaching certificates and Scottish dance classes (as opposed to social dancing) developed in the area and I would eagerly look forward to the list of dances coming out for 'this year's Festival'. We'd glance down the list and always started practising the more awkward dances early so that by the time July came round everyone was well prepared to enjoy the afternoon.

The massed dances were far more energetic than the ones we do today but then many of us were considerably younger! The Festival always started with the Grand March lead by the City of Leeds Pipe Band and they remained on the field to play for The Eightsome Reel. It was a half Eightsome with everyone taking one turn in the centre. The massed pairs of dances followed with the children having their turn and some teams putting on a solo dance. They were very often lost in the middle of "The Acre" as were visiting solo highland dancers - Bobby Watson and Jackie Johnstone. The latter were, however, much appreciated at the evening dances.

Not always did everything go right how ever hard we practised. There was the year when we danced the Fivesome and arranged to finish in a straight line - the man with two ladies on each side of him - but our line had three ladies at one side and one on the other! One of the wet years (and there were only two and a half in the first thirty five years) the University group danced the Baldovan Reel (quite new then). We danced to the pipes and had practised with the piper the previous week and had no difficulties. On the Saturday it was a different story. The piper had composed a tune and the top couple couldn't hear it. We stood for six bars and I was ready to curtsy but no one moved a muscle. About forty bars later the top couple started right across the music. 'Ouch' I said inside as I watched the piper's face get redder and redder. Needless to say he was furious and we were shame faced!

The Festival grew into a big social event with teams travelling as they do now from various parts of the UK. A recording by Jimmy Shand - O'er the Border -

**Sat 20th October 2007 7.30pm**

## **SOCIAL DANCE**

**West Park Centre, Spens Lane**

**Music:** Keith Smith M.C: Alan Horsfall

**Admission:** £6, Non-member £7, Full time Education £3,  
Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

### **Programme**

The Machine without Horses	J 8x32	Bk 12
De'il Amang the Tailors	R 8x32	Bk 14
The Blithest Lass That Ever Was Seen	S 8x32	Misc 2
The Moudiewort	J 8x32	Bk 11
The Irish Rover	R 8x32	Cosh
Neidpath Castle	S 3x32	Bk 22
Jim's Haberdashery*	J 8x 40	Macpherson
Back To The Fireside	R 8x32	Book 38

### **INTERVAL**

The Last Of The Lairds	J 8x32	Bk 22
The Morrison Measure*	R 8x32	Goldring
Jean Martin Of Aberdeen	S 3x32	3 Dances 2006
Tribute To The Borders	J 8x32	Leaflet
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh	R 8x32	Bk 39
MacDonald of the Isles	S 3x32	Carnforth
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	J 8x32	Bk 22
The Montgomeries' Rant	R 8x32	Bk 10

### **Extras**

The Lea Rig	S 6x32	Bk 21
Campbell's Frolic	J 8x32	Bk 15
Catch the Wind	R 8x32	Bk 45

\* **Will be walked through**

was made at one of the Festival dances at the University in the late 1950s. Some dancers were commenting about having to walk to the ends of the lines at our latest Festival dance but it would have taken considerably longer in the University Refectory! You almost needed a telescope to see the other end of the hall there.

After the 35th Festival the weather took a hand and we had a succession of wet days and indoor festivals. I'm not too sure how the adults fared but I was banished to a new sports hall belonging to Carnegie College with the children. The acoustics were appalling and with or without a microphone no one could make themselves heard. So it was bush telegraph round the room and then put on the music. Fortunately the music could be heard and the dancing went well. We had to turn it into a social dance for the juniors to keep them entertained for three hours. We did manage but the number of junior teams gradually declined during 'our' wet years. It is sad for me now that we only had ten junior teams this year whereas we often had twenty seven teams in earlier Festivals. Mind you if other groups have as much trouble getting their juniors to learn the dances, I'm not surprised the numbers have fallen! Oh for a microchip we could implant on the day into some of those children.

When Beckett Park (and other Leeds venues) no longer became available for the Club a group in York took over the running of the Festival and we had some good Festivals in York in lovely surroundings. The weather took a hand in things again and we had two Festivals where we all dashed inside and shed our dripping raincoats to dance. The outdoor Festivals in York were very photogenic and spectacular. When the organisers decided they had done enough no-one came forward to take over and

## Sad Losses

David Normand Harris has been the convenor of the Education and Training Committee for the last two years and we were looking forward to an Examiners' Seminar this summer with him. Sadly he died and was not able to be there with us. He had brought a freshness to the examination system and his communication skills were excellent.

Joan Foster too sadly died this summer. Older members will remember her coming to Leeds with her family from Belfast. Norman and Joan along with their two sons were prominent members of our Branch and danced with us for many years. Our condolences go to Steve and Pru Foster.

after one fallow year we brought it back to Leeds. Our 'old home' at Beckett Park became quite a headache with new officials in charge. Gone was the homely Leeds Training College to be replaced by Leeds Metropolitan University. So we moved to the Boys' Grammar School. A superb day there when we all caught the sun, but the LGS was not available to us for the following year, so we were on the move again to Gateways School. It was rather a cool Festival that year but the setting was great. We have been made very welcome at Gateways School and despite the atrocious weather rendering the ground unfit we were able to hold a second Festival indoors there. We do hope for a good day next year.

Finally, I must congratulate the Brackenwood dancers on knowing their dances this year. Our last two practices were a revelation to me -maybe I'm finally getting the hang of preparing teams for the Festival!

Long may the White Rose Festival in July continue.

*Brenda Burnell*

RSCDS Leeds and York and North Humberside Branches

## Autumn Ball Nov 07 Sat 17th November 2007 7.30pm West Park Centre, Spens Lane

Music: George Meikle and the Lothian Band

M.Cs: Malcolm Brown & Alan Carr

Admission: £7, by Ticket from Jerry Yates

### Faith Supper

#### Programme

Miss Allie Anderson	J	RSCDS Leaflet
John of Bon Accord	R	Bk 33
Wisp of Thistle	S	Bk 37
Polharrow Burn	R	RSCDS Leaflet 2007
Major Ian Stewart	J	Bk 35
Roy's Dance (Branches Together)	S	
The Chequered Court	J	Bk 42
The Minister on the Loch	S	Goldring
The Montgomeries' Rant	R	Bk 10

#### INTERVAL

Yan Tan Tethera	J	Haynes
John McAlpin	S	RSCDS Leaflet 2007
The Earl of Mansfield	R	RSCDS Leaflet
The Wild Geese	J	Bk 24
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	S	RSCDS Leaflet
Summer Wooing	R	Bk 38
Culla Bay	S	Bk 41
Pelorus Jack	J	Bk 41
The Reel of the 51st Division	R	Bk 13

#### Extras

The Bees of Maggie Knockater	J	Canadian Book - J Drewry
Clutha	R	Bk 31
The Silver Tassie	S	RSCDS Leaflet

# Free Open Days at Adel

Monday September 3rd at 1-45

Tuesday September 4th at 7-45

Adel Methodist Church, Gainsborough Avenue, Leeds

The Adel classes are hosting two Open Days to welcome dancers to the new season.

Please come along and bring anyone you know who would like to see what Scottish Country Dancing is all about.

Guests do not need a partner and should wear soft shoes.

Please note that on Tuesday evenings, there will be a Beginners class at Adel, which will run in conjunction with the normal class. This will commence on Tuesday September 11th at 7-45.

We look forward to seeing you on either of these two dates.

For further details, call either Sue or Alan on 01943 466702

## RSCDS Dance Scottish Week

7-15 September 2007

We are also trying to get new people to come to class during this week. So please try and encourage your friends to come along. We have some poster. If you think you can put one up somewhere then contact Catherine Livsey 01484 515257.

## DATES, DATES, DATES

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

### 15th September

#### Day School

Queens Hall, Harrogate Road  
Leeds 8

Teacher: Ann Dix

Musician: Ian Slater

#### Social Dance 7pm

West Park Centre, Leeds

Music: Nicol McLaren &

Glencraig Band

### Sat 20 October

AGM followed by Social Dance

West Park Centre, Leeds

Music: Keith Smith + 1

### Sat 27 October

#### Highland Day School

Adel Methodist Church Hall,  
Gainsborough Avenue, Adel, Leeds 16

Teacher: Catherine Livsey

### Sat 17 November

Joint Ball with York RSCDS 7.30pm

Tickets £7 from Gerry Yates

West Park Centre, Leeds

Music: George Meikle & Lothian Band

### Sat 30 November - 2 December

#### Malhamdale Weekend

Teacher: Ian Hall

Music: Heulwen Hall

Full details of these events will be circulated at Branch dances during the summer 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.

Application forms and information for all day schools and weekends are also available from Yvonne Tredgett, 17 Aviemore Rd, Warmsworth, Doncaster DN4 9ND. Tel 01302 851174.

## Classes

Autumn Term 2007

WC 10th September 2007

to WC 17 December 2007

**Fees:** £3.00 per class,

Single Class Term costs £38.00

Multi-Class (Term for any number of Branch class). £50.00

## Classes

### Monday Afternoon

1.45 - 3.45 - General/Beginner

Adel Methodist Church Hall

Gainsborough Avenue, Adel, Leeds 16

Teachers: Susan Carr & Don Andrews

### Monday Evening

7.45 - 9.45pm - Advanced

Calverley Conservative Club,

Teachers: Malcolm Brown until 29

October 2007 then Catherine Livsey

### Tuesday evening

7.45 - 9.45 Intermediate/Beginner

Adel Methodist Church Hall

Teachers: Alan Carr, Irene Dracup

### Wednesday evening

7.30 - 10.00 - General/Beginner

Holy Trinity Church Hall

Knaresborough contact Malcolm Frost

for venue 4th Wednesday of each

month 01423 872686

Teachers: Ann Baranyai

and Malcolm Frost

### Thursday evening

7.45 - 10.00 - General/beginner

Brackenwood Community Centre,

New Building, Lidgett Lane, Leeds

Teachers: Brenda Burnell/

Stella Summers

### Friday evening - children

5.30 - 7.00 re-commencing again

12th January

Hawthorn Wood Primary School,

Broadway, Leeds 5

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

### Sunday afternoon

1.45 - 3.45

7 Oct, 11 Nov & 2 Dec 2007.

Askwith Village Hall.

Dancers interested in demonstration work, innovative dances and

technique. All Welcome

Teacher: Catherine Livsey

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