



The Leeds Branch

NEWSLETTER February 1998

Secretary- Alistair Mason Tel. 01423 560684

Dear Dancers

Welcome to the February issue of the RSCDS Leeds Branch Newsletter.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an extra news sheet containing an important announcement about West Park. Please read this carefully. Thank you.

If, may be, you have a bit of spare time, I would like to hear from you with news, views, questions etc..... please contact me, Catherine Livsey, 6 Woodlands Avenue, Lepton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD8 0HZ. Tel 01484 432270 day or 01484 306657 evenings & weekends.

LEEDS 35th Anniversary Dance Book

May I pass on the Committee's thanks to all members who submitted entries for the new Branch Book of Dances. We have had 25 dances sent in from 12 devisers and I feel that this shows what talent we have here in Yorkshire. We are currently dancing them all through and making the final selection. Gerry Yates

SOUTHPORT FESTIVAL

On Saturday 7th February, the children's class set off to the 12th Annual Festival of Scottish Country dancing for young people in Southport, organised by the Wigan Thistle Society.

We danced in the newly refurbished Floral Hall,

complete with coloured glass dome ceiling, under the watchful gaze of Councillor and Mrs. Terry Francis, Deputy Mayor of Sefton and Councillor and Mrs. Kenneth Pye, Mayor of Wigan.

The programme consisted of general round the room dances for everyone, interspersed by individual dances for three different ability levels, the advanced teams doing both a strathspey and reel or jig. Owing to illness, only two of the junior team were able to attend, but the advanced dancers were more than happy to enter into the spirit and make up numbers.

Both halves of the programme were enriched by demonstrations of other forms of dancing, including Ball room and Jazz to the James Bond Theme. The senior team's own demonstration was "Prince Charles of Edinburgh" which was well received. The afternoon was rounded off with the presentation of certificates of attendance and participation in the demonstration.

After a quick walk by the sea, stopping to admire some swans and ducks there, we boarded the train. Changing in Manchester we arrived in Leeds exhausted but having very much enjoyed a successful day. Amie Daniel



BRANCH SOCIAL EVENINGS

Sat 21st March 1998 - 7.30pm
SOCIAL DANCE - West Park CDC
Music: Jim Berry Band
MC -Roy Goldring

Programme

| | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| J32 | Hollin Buss | Book 24 |
| R32 | The Sailor | Book 24 |
| S32 | From Scotia's Shore | RSCDS L/Let |
| J 32 | Ladies Fancy | Book 13 |
| R32 | Society Piper | 10 Social Dances |
| S32 | Birks of Invermay | Book 16 |
| J40 | Express | Book 20 |
| R88 | The Dancing Years | 3 Anniv. Dances L/Let |
| J32 | Campbell's Frolic | Book 15 |
| S/R32 | Cauld Kail | Book 9 |
| R32 | Yan Tan Tethera | Carnforth 1 |
| S32 | Anna Holden's Strathspey | Bankhead 1 Drewry |
| R32 | The Highland Lass | Book 30 |
| S32 | Miss Ogilvie's Fancy | Book 20 |
| J32 | Joe MacDiarmid's Jig | 5 dances '82 |
| R32 | General Stuart's Reel | Book 10 |

Extras

| | | |
|-----|------------------|--------------|
| J32 | The Swilcan | Book 23 |
| R32 | West's Hornpipe | 5 dances '65 |
| S | Shepherd's Crook | |
| S | 4c Strathspey | TBA |

Sat 16th May 1998 - 7.30pm
SOCIAL DANCE - West Park CDC
Music: Ian Slater (solo)
MC -Eric Wallace

Programme

| | | |
|-----|----------------------|----------------|
| J32 | Hooper's Jig | MMM II |
| R32 | Back to the Fireside | Book 38 |
| S32 | Fair Donald | Book 29 |
| J32 | The Kelloholm Jig | RSCDS L/Let 32 |
| R32 | College Hornpipe | Book 20 |
| S32 | Minister on the Loch | Leeds Graded |
| J32 | Gentle Shepherd | Book 17 |
| R32 | Cramond Bridge | London Jubilee |
| J32 | Luckenbooth Brooch | Glendarroch 28 |
| R32 | Fraser's Favourite | RSCDS L/Let |
| S32 | Sugar Candie | Book 26 |
| J32 | Airdrie Lassies | Book 26 |
| R32 | Corn Rigs | Book 4 |
| S32 | Drumelzier | Hogmanay Jig |
| J32 | Starry Eyed Lassie | Book 23 |
| R32 | Montgomery's Rant | Book 10 |

Extras

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|-------------|
| J32 | Joe MacDiarmid's Jig | RSCDS 5 '82 |
| S32 | Byron Strathspey | Deeside 2 |
| R40 | Argyll's Farewell to Stirling | L/Let |
| R32 | Reel of the Royal Scots | RSCDS L/Let |

JANUARY DANCE

Colin Dewar played brilliantly at the very well attended January dance. Not a sheet of music in sight all evening but a wonderful selection of lively tunes.

Pictured Colin Dewar (who played wonderfully at the January dance) and dances enjoying the music



A Taste of Whisky

On 30th January the branch did a demonstration at Bingley Grammar School for their Burn's/Whisky tasting evening. The demonstration containing both Country and Highland (Highland from pupils of Catherine Livsey's Highland class). The evening was a great success with the audience being very appreciative. Everyone including the dancers enjoyed themselves. Thanks goes to everyone who took part.

WEST PARK DEMOLITION THREATENED!

Unbelievable, but true! Apparently a local entrepreneur has submitted a planning application to Leeds City Council for the erection of a Rugby Academy on the West Park site. The original application proposed the demolition of all the existing buildings! A revised application is now to be made, but no-one knows what is in it!

This person does not even own the site, but that is no barrier to gaining planning permission, apparently. Local residents are gathering support to oppose the plans, as are users of the Centre. These include the Northern Theatre Ballet who use the gyms as rehearsal space, Leeds schools which use the playing fields and the Friends of the Youth Orchestra who also rehearse there.

The situation at the moment is that the local councillor, Judith Blake, is having a series of consultation meetings with interested parties. We have been invited along to put our case and will be doing so most forcefully.

The branch committee will be sending representatives to a meeting on 12th March 98 at 4pm. If you have any thoughts then speak to someone at the dance on Sat 21st February 98.

NEWCASTLE FESTIVAL

On the 14th February the branch entered a ladies team and junior team at the Newcastle Festival held in the University Ballroom.

The ladies team performed two dances The Cape Town Wedding and College Hornpipe. The adjudicator June Scott gave the team some very favourable remarks. For the Strathspey she remarked "Well done! a very pleasing performance, I thoroughly enjoyed it!"

The junior team danced Lucy Campbell and Wisp of Thistle and as you can see from the photo the team had the help of a very experienced junior Barbara Caldicott, who stepped in at the last minute due to the illness of one of the team. They also received some excellent remarks, from June Scott "Very attractive strathspey steps, and good covering and use of hands."

The junior team also entered the medley section. They were given a time limit of 8 minutes to perform a choreographed piece. The performance had to contain strathspey & jig & reel



time apart from that it was up to you. The juniors performed an excellent routine, and received a great deal of praise and applause. And from the adjudicator June Scott a word



of encouragement for their courage in tackling their medley of dances.

Everyone enjoyed the day a lot, especially watching the medley section which contained some very interesting performances. The winners in this section danced to some interesting tunes eg the teddy bears picnic. The ladies were already talking about next year.

I few of us stayed for the evening dance which was excellent, great music from Alistair Wood and band, a lively atmosphere, with a lot of young people attending (very promising).

Thanks to everyone who danced. Also thanks must go to the teachers for putting us through our paces, namely Avis and Brenda.

Catherine Livsey

CLASSES

Fees

£1.50 per class,
Advanced class £2.00
(due to class having live music.)

General

Tuesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm
Adel Methodist Church Hall, Adel, Leeds 16
Finishes for Easter on 7th April 98
Commencing 21st April 98 - if demand,
until White Rose Festival in York
Teachers: Alan & Susan Carr

Advanced

Tuesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm
Mechanics Institute - Corner of
Blackett St & Thornhill St, Calverley,
Leeds. On street parking.
Finishes for Easter on 31st March 98
Commencing 28th April 98 - 19th May 98
Teacher: Avis Harrison

General

Thursdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm
Brackenwood Community Centre,
New Building, Lidgett Lane, Leeds 8
On-going
Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Children

Fridays 7.15 - 8.45pm
Hawkswood Wood Primary School,
Broadway, Leeds 5
Finishes for Easter on 27th March 98
Commencing 24th April 98 - until White
Rose Festival in York
Teachers: Brenda Burnell, Elizabeth Yates
& Barbara Caldicott

Intermediate Social Class

This class will no longer take place

Branch Socials

Fridays 7.45 - 9.45pm
at St Columba's UR Church Hall,
Headingley, Leeds

6th March 1998, 1st May 1998
5th June 1998

CERTIFICATE CLASS

The Branch is proposing to hold a certificate class later this year. It would be for candidates who are ready to take their Teacher's Certificate and also for dancers about to take their Preliminary Test. The classes will be held monthly on Sundays with an exam in early '99. If you are interested in attending such a course please contact Brenda Burnell (0113 2676655) for further details.

DIARY DATES TO NOTE

14th March 1998 - Basic Day School, St Mary's, Hawkswood Ave, Leeds 5. Teacher Peter Clark, music Ian Slater.

21st March 1998 - Children's Festival, 2pm West Park, music Jim Berry Band.
Social Dance West Park, music Jim Berry Band

3-5th April 1998 Weekend School, Scarborough, teacher Alison Russell, forms available.

REMEMBER 18th April 1998 - Yorkshire's RSCDS 75TH ANNIVERSARY BALL at Doncaster Dome, music by Muriel Johnstone's Band. Be there and be seen! The event of the year Dress 'as formal as you can manage' **Cost of tickets £13**, and that includes supper. Students can go for £8.00 and spectators for £6.00. Ring 01302 851174, (Yvonne Tredgett) for more information and to reserve your tickets. See you all at the ball!

BUS FOR THIS DANCE IN DONCASTER

On the list at the moment are:-

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Jean Morrison +5 | Alistair Mason | Ida Gatecliffe | C Parker-Jones + 1 |
| Sheila Johns | Isabel Douglas | Betty Fox | N and J Watson |
| Fiona Hartley | Pat Hynes | D and S Robertson | Jean Baldwin + 1 |
| Kathleen Eyre | Hilda Hughes | R and J Dyson | H and M Peden |
| Val Hall | Sue Hartley | A and C McDonald | B and H Pearson |

If you wish to travel on the bus and your name is not here please contact Brenda (0113 2676655). Everyone will have the route the bus will take by the end of March. Suitable picking up places will be arranged in the meantime.

9th May 1998 Highland Workshop, St Mary's, Hawkswood Ave, Leeds 5.
10am Registration and coffee, 10.30pm - 12.30pm Beginners/Intermediate, 1.30pm - 3.30pm Advanced. Teacher Catherine Livsey

Why not give it a try. The morning will not be too difficult. If in doubt ring Catherine on 01484 432270 or 01484 306637. Application Forms now available from Yvonne Tredgett.

16th May TEACHERS' WORKSHOP, the Branch will be holding a Teachers' Workshop for dancers holding the Teacher's and/or Preliminary Certificates and also any candidates intending to take their Preliminary Certificate next season. There will be practical sessions as well as a discussion time. A lunch will be provided. Application forms from: - Yvonne Tredgett 17 Aviemore Road, Warmsworth, Doncaster, S. Yorks DN4 9ND. Tel 01302 851174.

Saturday 16th May 1998 - Social Dance West Park, music Ian Slater Solo

Saturday 20th June 1998 - Social Dance West Park, music Neil Barron Solo

Sunday 28th June 1998 - Richmond Branch will celebrate the RSCDS 75th Anniversary with a Festival of SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING FOR ALL in the grounds of RICHMOND CASTLE 2 - 4.30pm Everyone can take part, experienced dancer or beginner. For details - contact Branch Secretary - in Spring 98 (01833 638449).

The Arden Lea charity dance, organised annually by Roy and Doreen Goldring, will this year be held on 11th July at Otley Civic Centre. Further details later.

New Branch Class in Knaresborough

New Year - New Dancers - Bagpipes and Scottish Country dance music invaded Knaresborough on the 21st January for a "Come & Try" evening, led by Peter Clark, with help from wife, Pat, Chris McDonald and Ann Baranyai.

Thanks to great support from staff at the local paper (including a fabulous article) and great help in advertising it by Margaret Watson and others, two dozen of all ages attended. A surprise bonus was some splendid piping by Graeme Baranyai and Stan Goodall which helped everyone get their breath back for the rest of the evening. Classes started in earnest on 4th February, when a similar number submitted themselves to Peter's expert tuition... and were prepared to pay for it! Another, even better, article in "The Knaresborough Post" the following week, further swelled the numbers at the second class. Progress has been so rapid that we managed "The Barmkin" by the end of this evening - a sure comment on the effectiveness of Peter's teaching and enthusiasm of the members.

We meet in Holy Trinity Church Hall on the first three Wednesdays of the month until Easter, and probably until the end of May. Please tell any of your non-dancing friends who are within reach. Any experienced dancers who would like to come along to help are also welcome. Enquires to Malcolm Frost 01423 872686.