

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
YORK AND NORTH HUMBERSIDE BRANCH

BROODIN'S REEL

February 2024

A NEWSLETTER

No. 176

Editorial

My cousin Diane in Canada became profoundly deaf in her early teens; a cochlear implant (a risky operation back then) in her late twenties brought a huge improvement in her life. “The one disappointment,” she said to me, “was that I was so looking forward to listening to music again, but it just didn’t sound the same at all after the implant.”

My mother became profoundly deaf after shingles, and my grandmother became progressively harder of hearing in her old age too. In my childhood I was eventually diagnosed with what I believe is now known as “glue ear”, although nothing happened until an operation at age 10. I became very good at unconsciously slotting in missing words, though sometimes I would get things quite back to front! The skill I gained then has stood me in good stead as a linguist.

Hearing aids have progressed enormously during our lifetime, from earphones with a big flat battery pack, to small behind-the-ear aids, to tiny in-ear ones which are all but invisible. Yet the problems, and our ears, are all different, and the difference made by hearing aids can vary quite significantly. For some people, what is the right level acoustically seems rather subdued and voices appear to mumble for others; for some, more distant sounds become amplified to the same volume of the sound that the listener is trying to pick out. Sometimes treble or bass sounds can become so distorted that they can feel painful or unpleasant. Occasionally, it may not be the fault of the ear or the equipment, but rather the “wiring” in the brain.

One place where something can be done about the sound is on the dance floor. Should music, whether live or recorded, seem uncomfortably loud, then have a discreet word with the MC who can then pass this on to the band. Nothing may happen instantly, but most musicians will be willing to cooperate. With recorded music, it can be much easier to adjust the sound – and it can be turned up as well as down!

Something else which can cause a problem for those with hearing loss is someone talking over the teacher or the MC. “But I’m helping my partner,” you protest – but you’re really not helping another two people with hearing loss nearby who are straining to listen to the teacher or MC. Whether you are actually helping your partner maybe questionable too. If you can’t hear or didn’t understand the instructions, then let the teacher or MC know! People sitting watching, even when they are speaking very quietly, can also interfere with someone’s hearing. [I’ve done that myself in the past, and apologize now.]

However, I’m at a loss to find a solution to a different kind of hearing problem. “How can you tell it’s a minor key?” “Well, you just do” is my only answer. Many years ago, we had an occasional visitor who had danced for many years but who couldn’t tell which was the first beat of the bar. “But it’s the loud one” was my best answer. “No,” she said, “they all sound the same.” Perhaps that was an undiagnosed auditory condition.

Then there is your own personal response to the music you hear. Does the music impel you forward, or does it drive you into the floor? Does it sound jolly good fun, or like a (bad) fairground ride? Do strathspeys in minor keys make you melt inside [me, as I’ve said before] or do they sound miserable and depressing? “Oh, what a fabulous tune!” has had the response “I’m afraid I didn’t notice” and “I don’t really hear the tunes.” [*Please don’t repeat that to any musicians you know!*] Maybe it is all down to the way your brain is wired!

Joyce Cochrane

WE ARE MOVING.

As from the beginning of February the Ryedale dancing group, more commonly known as the Pickering class are moving to a new home. We will be meeting at the same time, 7.30 - 9.30 pm every Wednesday evening in Kirby Misperton Village Hall YO17 6XN

There is a large hall with an ample car park so everyone is welcome to come and visit us if you are over this way.

A new chapter for our group.

Sheila Barnes, Pickering



Wed. 7th February: Tonight was the first evening for the Ryedale Branch in their new home at Kirby Misperton. Many happy years have been spent at our old home in Pickering but we have now outgrown the church hall that we used. The comment most often heard as the dancers entered the hall tonight was 'Wow, it's soo big!) Our new hall has everything that we need with a lovely floor and we look forward to many years of dancing on it.

Ken Wallace, Pickering

NEW DANCERS IN PICKERING

Following an intensive few weeks of local publicity 14 persons turned up at Pickering church hall during October of last year to meet Sheila Barnes their teacher. Each of the prospective dancers paid for 6 week of teaching and no time was lost before they were lining up and the music had started.

This was the third year in succession that Sheila had undertaken to teach dancing to complete novices and her bright and cheerful manner of teaching has always resulted in a high retainment. This year 12 of the 14 remained after their initial 6 weeks.

The initial 6 week course started at 6:30 and was one hour long. More experienced dancers, like Jennifer and myself were in attendance to assist as and where required. The emphasis is teaching through fun. Few of our newcomers knew each other before arriving for their first lesson and some had travelled quite a way to get to us but by the end of the first course they had bonded into a single unit and the 12 who had stayed to the end paid their fees for the following 6 weeks where they started at 7:00 and after 30 minutes they were joined by the senior class for the last half hour.

The progress of the beginners is very satisfactory, both for themselves and for the other Club dancers but it is the camaraderie from all members that binds it all together and makes everyone, no matter what their ability may be, feel welcome.

As the end of the teaching period approached it was decided to utilise the extra funding that had accrued to hire the Memorial Hall in Pickering and employ the Robert Whitehead Duo to come and play for a dance to be run purely for our members, who at the time totalled 34.

The dance was an opportunity for the new dancers to experience dancing to live music and it was a complete success, plus it was one occasion where we had musicians clapping and congratulating the dancers.

Now after 12 weeks the dancers are fully integrated into the normal class. The 12 who remained after the first 6 weeks are still with us and already we have enquiries about another beginners class, although a decision on that is still to be made

The dancers are told about the RSCDS, the local Branch, and their works. After some time with us they are given the opportunity to join and swell the Branch ranks

It is thanks to people like Sheila willing to give their time and teaching skills that we can hope to see the number of members in our area start to grow, and how necessary that is!!

Ken Wallace, Pickering

HARROGATE DANCE WEEKEND, 2 – 4 FEBRUARY



Thanks to Angie Francksen for this photo, showing RSCDS
Chairman William Williamson with dancers at Harrogate

SUMMER DANCING IS ON THE MOVE

Summer dancing is moving to a different venue this year. After using the quaint converted chapel in Askham Bryan for the past two summers, we are returning to the village hall in Stillington, which we used before Covid. The latter has better facilities and much more room for dancing and socialising than the rather cramped space at Askham Bryan.

Many of you will have danced at the Stillington Hall in the past, either for our summer evening or winter morning dancing sessions, our social dances with live music, or the Rod Downey Day of Dance. For those who are not familiar with the location, Stillington is 10 miles North of York city centre.

We start the summer dancing on Tuesday 2 July from 7.30 to 9.30 pm and will meet every Tuesday until our final session on 24 August. As before, dances will usually have one walk through, and a one or two easier dances each week will be recap only. Cribs will be available beforehand, and you are welcome to attend for as many or as few sessions as you can. The cost will remain the same as last year, at £4 per session including refreshments.



Once again we are running an End of Summer Dance at Stockton on the Forest, with live music by Leonard Brown. This will be on Saturday 31 August at 7.30 pm. Last year this event was a great success, attracting about 60 dancers from many different areas.

For more information contact:

Carol Hazell carmha@me.com 07973 966861

Ken Wallace kenwallace@btinternet.com 07733 004074

ANNUAL DANCE, STOCKTON on the FOREST, 23rd MARCH

Our branch Annual Dance takes place on Saturday March 23rd at Stockton on the Forest, beginning at 7.30 pm, and ending at 11.00 pm. Tickets cost £15, and you are asked to bring the usual contributions to a Faith Supper.

Ewan Galloway is making a very welcome return visit: he leads a great band. The programme, which has been devised by Joyce Cochrane, is as follows:

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|----|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Miss Allie Anderson | Jig 8x32 | RSCDS Lflt |
| 2. | The Lass of Richmond Hill | Reel 8x32 | RSCDS Graded Bk 2 |
| 3. | The Falkirk Lass | Strathspey 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 53 |
| 4. | The Abbot of Unreason | Jig 8x32 | Levy/Tin Woodman |
| 5. | Lady Sophia Lindsay | Reel 4x32 | Attwood/Alexander |
| 6. | Midsummer Common | Strathspey 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 49 |
| 7. | Last of the Lairds | Jig 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 22 |
| 8. | The Portincaple Oak | Medley S32/R32 | RSCDS Bk 53 |
| 9. | Saltire Society Reel | Reel 8x32 | RSCDS Lflt |

Interval

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|-----|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 10. | The Chequered Court | Jig 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 42 |
| 11. | The Clansman | Reel 6x32 | RSCDS Bk 32 |
| 12. | The Sands of Morar | Strathspey 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 45 |
| 13. | The Scallywag | Jig 8x40 | RSCDS Bk 52 |
| 14. | Gang the Same Gate | Strathspey 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 36 |
| 15. | The Castle of Mey | Reel 8x32 | RSCDS QEII DJ |
| 16. | Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan | Jig 5x32 | Goldring 14/2000 |
| 17. | Rougemont Castle | Strathspey 3x32 | RSCDS Bk 48 |
| 18. | Reel of the 51 st | Reel 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 13 |

Extras: Minister on the Loch Strathspey 3x32 Goldring/24 G&S
The Duke of Atholl's Reel Jig 8x32 RSCDS Bk 16

BRANCH AGM & DANCE, MARKET WEIGHTON, 6th APRIL

Our AGM and dance in April will take place at the Community Hall in Market Weighton, on Saturday 6th April. The dance begins at 7.30 and will end around 10.30. Apart from the great programme from Ken printed below, a further incentive to attend is the price: only £5!

You are asked to bring contributions to a Faith Supper. The AGM (probably pretty short!) takes place at the interval. We are always happy to have new members on the committee; please submit any nominations or proposals to the Committee in advance. Nomination forms are available from Joyce.

Ken's programme, danced to recorded music, is as follows:

The Raven's Dance	Jig	Haynes/Carnforth 5
Osgood Mackenzie of Inverewe	Reel	M Block
The Gentleman	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 35
Inchmickery	Jig	Goldring 14/2000
John of Bon Accord	Reel	RSCDS Bk 33
Rougemont Castle	Strathspey	RSCDS Book 48
Chased Lovers	Jig	RSCDS Book 53
The Montgomeries' Rant	Reel	RSCDS Bk 10

Interval

Welcome to Ayr	Jig	RSCDS Bk 47
The Lochalsh Reel	Reel	Skye 2/RSCDS Bk 53
The Damflask Strathspey	Strathspey	Bould/3 rd Sheaf Coll.
Links with St Petersburg	Jig	RSCDS Bk 46
None So Pretty	Reel	RSCDS Bk 19
The Water of Leith	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 53
Scotland's Gardens	Reel	Goldring
Wind that shakes the Barley	Reel	Duthie

BRANCH DANCE, PICKERING, 11th MAY

Our branch dance in May takes in the Memorial Hall, Pickering, on Saturday May 11th, beginning at 7.30 p.m. As last year, we will be dancing to live music from Robert Whitehead. The cost is £12 per ticket and you are asked to bring contributions to a Faith Supper.

The programme has been drawn up by Sheila Barnes and Jennifer Robinson and is as follows:

Joie de Vivre	Jig	RSCDS Bk 39
Bratach Bana	Reel	Drewry, Bon Accord
Deer Friends	Strathspey	Anderson/St. Martin Coll.
Gothenburg's Welcome	Jig	RSCDS Bk 37
Earl of Mansfield	Reel	RSCDS Lflt Dances
The Water of Leith	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 53
The Scallywag	Jig	RSCDS Bk 52
Far North Queensland	Strathspey	The Other Kangaroo Paw
Peggy Dewar	Reel	RSCDS Bk 38
The Edinburgh Toy Shop	Jig	RSCDS Book 51
The Lochalsh Reel	Reel	Skye 2/RSCDS Bk 53
Sands of Morar	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 45
The Dancing Master	Jig	Drewry, Donside
Zytglogge	Reel	Blackburn/Collecta Ursis
Red Kites over the Black Isle	Strathspey	Glen Orin Collection
Follow Me Home	Jig	RSCDS Bk 38
Chasing the Eclipse	Strathspey	Gallamore/Highland Road
Mairi's Wedding	Reel	Cosh

OBITUARY: JOANN TAYLOR

Joann passed away early December 2023.

Joann and Eric started their dancing life in Croyden before they retired to Kirkbymoorside in the late 1980's. They soon joined York Club on Monday nights, Pickering Wednesday evenings run by Margaret Jepson and Malcolm's Friday class.

Joann was responsible for introducing me to Scottish Country Dancing. She and Eric took me under their wing and the rest is history. Joann's enthusiasm for dancing was infectious as anyone who knew her will remember. Jo and Eric were involved with the Branch at all levels, taking part in the White Rose Festivals and street dancing in York as well as Branch Dances throughout the area.

I met with her and another dancing friend just a month before she died. She was her usual bright and cheery self despite the rigours of old age. I for one will always be pleased to have known both Joanne and Eric and grateful for her bouncy personality and inspiring me to take up Scottish Country Dancing.

Joann gave up dancing when she could no longer dance with vigour but never lost her interest in the activities of the Branch and its members.

Jennifer Robinson, Pickering



Jo (left) aged 90 with Brenda Barr (93), both former Scottish Dancers.

Thanks to Jennifer for the photo.

MEMBERSHIP FORMS

Membership Forms for RSCDS York & North Humberside Branch for the coming year accompany hard copies of this *Broun's Reel*. Jennifer will circulate digital copies with *Broun's Reel*; you should also be able to download them from the website. Membership for 2024/5 costs £34 (single adult), £57 (joint adult) and £19 (youth, 12 – 17). If you are not already a member, please do consider joining!

BRANCH WALK, Thursday 20th JUNE

Our annual walk will take place on Thursday 20th June, and will be led by Ken. He is planning to walk in the Wolds area. More details to follow!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- February 24 Y&NH Branch Afternoon Tea Dance, Darby & Joan Hall, Cottingham – recorded – afternoon tea provided
- March 9 Brighthouse SCDC Open Night, Waring Green - recorded
16 Northallerton Cal. Soc. Spring Dance, Northallerton Town Hall – Leonard Brown
23 Y&NH Branch Annual Dance, Stockton on the Forest – Ewan Galloway – Faith Supper
- April 6 Y&NH Branch AGM & Dance, Market Weighton Comm. Hall – recorded – Faith Supper
13 Richmond RSCDS Spring Dance – Marian Anderson
20 Leeds RSCDS Dance, St Chad's – Ian Slater
27 NW Craven RSCDS Spring Ball, Ingleton – Màrtainn Skene
27 Harrogate Saltire SCDC Spring Fling, Knaresborough – Ewan Galloway
- May 11 Y&NH Branch Dance, Memorial Hall, Pickering – Robert Whitehead – Faith Supper

