

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
YORK AND NORTH HUMBERSIDE BRANCH

BROUN'S REEL

May 2021

A NEWSLETTER

No. 165

Editorial

After so long without dancing, it is with both trepidation and excitement that I'm writing this editorial. I feel rather like a child in a toy shop – so many wonderful things on sale, and I wonder if I'll be allowed to have any of them. And I want them all! This time, we have some real dates to put in the calendar (see the end of this newsletter), even if they may not all come to pass. Today I wrote some events in my diary for the first time this year. Life is looking up!

While it's possible that some events may have to be cancelled if there is another upsurge in the Covid pandemic, or another new variant is even more threatening, I really believe that most or all of our events can go ahead. (I almost wrote "if there is a fourth wave of Covid" but then remembered we haven't had a third wave yet, according to politicians and commentators. We do however seem to have had two second waves, one in October/November and then the Kent variant in December/January.) But that's beside the point, just like you find when you're having a real conversation with me...

I've had various conversations with different people about returning to dancing. I think that everyone is aware of a need for a gentle return to dancing and flexibility in how we approach the next season. Many people will have lost the habit of dancing weekly, and it's been such a long time that our bodies may need to readjust. For most of us, going in full tilt on returning to classes is not a good idea unless you enjoy injuries... We may also need reminders of how to do figures, steps, dances – it may no longer come as easily as it once did. There is probably a need to pace

sessions carefully and, whether you are a class member or teacher, be sensitive to the problems that others may experience.

This has also been considered by some of the teachers in the RSCDS online classes, and some useful suggestions have been made. This is a good point to thank the RSCDS for the hard work that has gone into keeping things going during the pandemic, particularly Angela with the online sessions, and all those teachers and musicians who have given their time to prepare and lead the online classes. There has also been some interesting material in the Friday night *Dance Scottish at Home* sessions, with music podcasts, interviews and background information, and online jigsaws to occupy that free time. Although in my case there has not been a lot of it! There have also been all sorts of Scottish dance classes on the internet, and many people involved there have worked very hard to keep us all going. From me there is a really big thank you to Morag Johnstone and Andrew and Mechthild Timmins. You've been great!

Also thank you to those who've worked to keep our branch together, whether with walks, zoom sessions, or just the admin needed to keep the branch ticking over – however you've helped, you have our gratitude. We can only move forward towards a more normal existence because of what you have done. Encouragement and enthusiasm shared has also been important. We are a good shared community – to quote Jean Swearman, there are so many nice people in Scottish Country dancing. To actually dance with other people again will be great, and we may need more ventilation and therefore extra warm clothes next autumn and winter, but hopefully we will be able to dance together indoors – even touching hands maybe! It is really so very sociable.

In the immortal words of John Lennon, “you may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one.” So join me in dreaming, and I'll see you at as many dances as we can all get to next season. And to quote Julia Roberts this time, in *My Best Friend's Wedding*: “What the hell? Life goes on! Maybe there won't be [*fill in the gap with something that looks really unlikely*]. But by God, there'll be dancing!”

Joyce Cochrane

BRANCH COMMITTEE

The officers and members of the Branch Committee for 2021 – 2022, following the virtual Branch AGM on April 29th, are as follows:

Chairman	Annegret Jamieson (01482 850118)
Secretary	Helen Brown (01904 488084)
Treasurer	David Proctor
Minutes Secretary	Joyce Cochrane
Committee Members	Jennifer Robinson Rachel White Rita Eastwood

BRANCH DANCE, NORTH NEWBALD, 18th SEPTEMBER

This is both a new venue and a new venture for us. We intend to hold this as a joint ceilidh dance/Scottish Country dance, and are hoping that we will be joined by ceilidh dancers from North Newbald.

Annegret and I visited the hall and were impressed by what it has to offer; in addition to a bright clean hall with a pretty good floor, there is a very nice kitchen and a good-sized car park too. As usual, there will be a link to the venue on Google maps on the branch website.

We do not yet have a programme but we are very aware that many of us have not danced for months, so the programme will not prove strenuous. We don't want people injured on our first night back in over 18 months! The programme will be sent out as usual with the Chairman's letter in the summer.

We will be dancing to the music of Robert Whitehead who we are hoping will also provide a musical interlude. Depending on government advice nearer the time, refreshments could be a Bring and Share supper, or simply a Bring and Eat supper! The cost will be £5, and the treasurer is happy to accept payment in advance or cash on the door. I hope you will be able to join us.

MALCOLM'S ALLSORTS

Following Robert Whitehead's Zoom talk on Monday 24th May, we have another new venture to get us back into the world of Scottish Dancing. Malcolm hopes to put together a series of programmes on Zoom, in which he will introduce and talk about SCD music, based primarily on the music we already know, use and like. Each programme is to include ten tracks which would contain some variety within them, one being a purely listening track showing the versatility of the musicians.

The first one will take place on Monday 7th June at 19.30 on Zoom, and a link will be sent to members later. The Committee hopes that this can become a fortnightly event to take us through the summer until we can dance again.

The eating of liquorice allsorts during the session is not obligatory!

Y&NH BRANCH WALK & LUNCH, 24th JUNE

This year's Club walk will take place on Thursday 24th June, starting and ending at the Wold Inn in Huggate. It is a four mile walk on good tracks and will depart the Inn at 10:30. I will be leading the walk and there will be the opportunity to cut short the walk for those who so wish.

Lunch is booked at the Inn and we will pick from the menu on the day. The Inn has a large car park and we have permission to use it in the morning.

I've told the Wold Inn that I will contact them nearer to the date with numbers, so if you're thinking that this will be a good opportunity to catch up with your dancing friends, along with a walk, good food and a beverage, then please send me a short email before 20 June:

kenwallace@btinternet.com

Ken Wallace, York

MEMBERSHIP

Understandably, several people did not renew their membership last year – many thanks to those who did! Membership subscriptions were due on 1st March, and it's not too late to renew for this season if you would like to. You can now see that you are getting something again for your money! Please contact Helen Brown. She or I can send you a membership form by email or post.

SAD NEWS – GORDON CAMPBELL

It is sad to hear of the death of Gordon Campbell very recently. Gordon was a well-known member of the branch from the Cottingham area, and danced for many years with the Cottingham and Willerby groups. I hope to include a proper obituary in the next Broun's Reel and if you wish to contribute any tributes or memories, I will be happy to receive them. Gordon will be much missed. Our condolences to his family.

DANCE GROUP NEWS

All the dance group news and photos this time come from the Cottingham group. This doesn't mean that other groups haven't done anything, simply that they haven't contacted me! Our group has also met monthly on Zoom.

We met for a walk on April 7th – a cold (but bright) day as you can see, but we really enjoyed the walk, looping between Cottingham and Skidby. We were led by Harry and Margaret Mann.



Right – Reeta, Margaret, Pam and Joyce



Left - Dianne,
Pam and Lynne,
at Skidby.

Below – Julie
and Margaret in
Nut Wood

Harry and

Margaret led us again for our next walk on May 7th. It was a beautiful day with varied terrain and scenery, starting from Raywell. It was a

great day in excellent company, and a walk I'll definitely do again. Won't it be super to dance with everyone - soon!

THE ARCHIVE CORNER

Thanks again to Allan Hight for these photos.



Harrogate Weekend School, Cairn Hotel, February 2017.



The Saturday night programme was as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| The Raven's Dance | Merry St. Andrews |
| The Ambassador's Reel | Black Mountain Reel |
| Balmoral Strathspey | Teacher's Choice (S) |
| Rodney's Rant | The Zoologist |
| Teacher's Choice (R/J) | Knight's Heys |
| Barbara's Strathspey | S-Locomotion |
| Monica's Way | A Capital Jig |
| The Drunken Sailor | Cherrybank Gardens |
| Staffin Harvest | The Highland Rambler |
| Swiss Lassie | |

I don't know which dance is in the photograph, but it would be rather nice if it were Monica's Way!

Stockton on the Forest Day School Dance October 2019



The Day School was taught by Deb Lees and the evening dance was to the fabulous music of Màrtainn Skene's Highland Dance Band.

Thomas Glover's Reel
The Tattie Bogle
The Winter Garden
Teacher's Choice
James Gray
Far North Queensland
The Ruby Rant
Major Ian Stewart
The Irish Rover

Bratach Bana
Born to Dance
Autumn in Appin
The Scallywag
Teacher's Choice
Polharrow Burn
Gothenburg's Welcome
The Singing Sands
Reel of the Royal Scots

AND FINALLY... THE ANSWERS

More people spoke to me than wrote to me about this! But so many people had a tale to tell about the dances. It was great to get those, and some of the memories and/or anecdotes will follow. It was great to read of them – thank you to those who wrote. I’m sure lots more of you have stories others would like to read too.

The winners, with the first completely correct set of answers, were Maureen and Paddy Chevens, who duly received a very small prize. Here are the correct answers, with a few comments from Maureen:

Scottish Country dances containing a place name.

1. Ship from a port in the north east of Scotland, but it didn’t catch fish. **The Dundee Whaler**
2. Growing in gardens in the Scottish capital. **Flowers of Edinburgh**
3. Mountain where the mass of the earth was first estimated. **Schiehallion**
- 4/5. Two famous dukes from two different places. **The Duke of Perth** and **The Duke of Atholl** [MC: we feel these are more famous than Hamilton or Roxburgh!]
6. Place where Allan Breck and Jamie Balfour met in Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Kidnapped*, at a particular season. **Autumn in Appin**
7. Town where John, the Bonnie Lass and the Blooms all came from. [MC: Bon Accord – which is **Aberdeen**, of course] [JC: I should have said “city”, not town, of course]
8. Gentlewomen came from this town in the Scottish Borders Note (historic spelling) ... **Ladies of Dunse** [MC: Duns] [JC: Terry Pratchett fans will have spotted an oblique reference to the christening in *Carpe Jugulum*.]

9. ...but young girls came from this town. **Lassies of Dunse** and **Airdrie Lassies** were both correct [MC: and from Abernethy, Brechin, Clydeside, Glasgow, Torryburn - and several individuals too!]
10. This slow dance comes from a town on the A68 SE of Edinburgh. **Dalkeith Strathspey**
11. Which of two islands in the Firth of Clyde gave their name to this dance in quick time? [MC: well it's surely **The Cumbrae Reel** – so they both did!]
12. Range of mountains on a Scottish island. **The Cuillins of Skye**

Another set of answers came from Douglas Jamieson, who hasn't been dancing as long as Me, Paddy, Maureen and Iain and so hadn't come across all our old favourites. It was a valiant attempt nevertheless and an interesting read.

Douglas is puzzled... but determined!

Having followed the RSCDS Friday podcast and being hooked on their quiz, I was instantly taken by yours, with the usual frustration of the 'I-should-know-this' 'I'm- sure -we've- done -this'... I think I can have a go at most of yours, since we have done them, but am stumped by one and many have the wrong association with another.

1. Can only think of Ullapool ferry but my geography says NW rather than NE. *[JC: your geography was correct!]*
2. Flowers of Edinburgh - answer to one of RSCDS qs. *[Aw shucks! And I thought I was being original.]*
3. Schiehallion - schoolboy memory *Correct!*
- 4.5. Duke of Perth / Duke of Atholl the only dukes I know *Correct answer! And since you know them, you could give me an introduction some time...*

6. Autumn in Appin - long-time favourite dance. Learned to do it with Jean Swearman, who kept me straight. Still have children's edition of the book with illustrations.

7. Bon Accord *According to Wikipedia, this is either the city motto - or a big shopping centre.*

8. Ladies of Dunse - have done this 'recently'

9. Lassies of Dunse - just a guess. Don't recall having done it *But correct.*

10. Stumped. Only know Jedburgh but no dance association.

11. Guess Ardrossan (Miss J of there) where had a family holiday when I was 14 and was beaten at tennis by a lovely pensioner who couldn't move from the baseline and had me running all over. Humiliation for budding school champion! *Really interesting! Unfortunately, not correct...*

12. Guess the Cuillins, on Skye where daughter no 2 got married. We have done a dance with that association and a memory of it being 'tricky' for me. *What a great memory to associate with the dance.*

Fun. Thank you.

Douglas Jamieson, Cottingham

And finally, another interesting read.

Iain Keegan was the first to reply – I wanted Aberdeen and not just Bon Accord, and he didn't mention The Duke of Atholl, so he didn't win the prize on two mere technicalities. But he does get an accolade for sending in such an excellent contribution!

The choice of dances, assuming I guessed correctly, was such that most of them resonated with me in some way.

The Dundee Whaler is distinctive in form, and there is always an element of uncertainty: will the first lady remember to start crossing with the left hand?

Flowers of Edinburgh. To dance in Princes Street garden, I passed the floral clock and well-tended flower beds.

Schiehallion. When I danced with Dunedin Dancers, we had a programme of dances for performances, but if we needed a one-off item or to extend the programme, we threw in either Bonnie Anne or Schiehallion. It only took a quick Google search to confirm it had been used to estimate the mass of the earth.

Argyll's Strathspey. My first contact with Scottish Country Dancing was when we were staying in Oban for a family holiday, and took a trip to Dalmally to see dancing in the open air. The dance is a gem of Roy Gouldring's. If you have a partner who interacts, turn and twirl is great fun and when a tournee comes together that is very satisfying.

The Duke of Perth. This was popular as the last dance on the programme, together with Cadgers in the Canongate and Hamilton Rant. I went to St Andrews for the 50th anniversary summer school in 1973. As there were many long standing members attending because of the anniversary, I was demoted to the Advanced class from the Very advanced. This had its advantages as there were more younger people in the class (this was 48 years ago) and the teacher was May Yarker, who was great fun. At one of the evening dances, the Duke of Perth was on the programme. She had been researching some of the old dances, and had found a set of instructions which began "hook right arm, turn and throw partner off on back".

Feeling a bit constrained by the stultifying atmosphere surrounding the anniversary, she said, "Shall we try that?" So we did, and had a most enjoyable dance.

Autumn in Appin. When I first came to York, there was a Country Dance class taught by Joanna Fogden, from Leeds. As the Leeds branch's 10th anniversary book had just been published, she was teaching dances from it, among which was Autumn in Appin.

Bon Accord. The Bonnie lass was another distinctive dance which could be used as a filler for demonstrations. The double bow and curtsey at the beginning gave it a special air.

Ladies of Dunse. I was at At Andrews the year this was taught. There was always the challenge of going down the middle, back and casting. Would the second couple get back in time to start the figure of eight? Would the first couple finish the figure of eight in time to do the rights and lefts?

Airdrie Lassies. A fun dance with no particular resonance for me

Dalkeith's Strathspey. My father had a cousin who lived in Lasswade, so when we visited, reaching Dalkeith was a sign we were almost there. Similarly when I was travelling to Edinburgh later. The dance had its challenges: using the weight of the kilt to bring you round into line for the setting without overshooting.

Cumbrae Reel. After the dire book 27, this was the standout dance in book 28. Cutting short the rights and lefts to dance up and turn ready for the charge down the hall - most notably the Leeds University Union for the evening dance following the Leeds Festival.

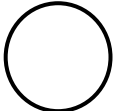

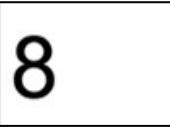












Cuillins of Skye. The year after we went to Oban, we stayed a couple of night at Kyleakin and took the ferry over to Skye. There we saw the Cuillins looming over us, capped with cloud. As with much of Scotland, you can either have sun or atmosphere!

BRANCH WEBSITE

Please notice the new website address: www.rscdsyork.com. Rita says that at the moment it just contains basic information, including links to the venues we use for dances on Google maps. There can also be a news page that anyone can contribute to.

Picture Puzzle

These six pictures are taken from Diana Hastie's puzzle in the DSAH edition of 7th May published on the RSCDS website. Diana has kindly given permission to use it and adapt it. All of the answers are the names of dances.

1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

Now try inventing your own, or send in memories or anecdotes to do with these dances!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please note that if the situation with the coronavirus pandemic changes, there may have to be changes to this listing. At present we only have a planned programme from our branch.

- June 24 Y&NH Branch walk & lunch, Millington.
- September 18 Y&NH Branch dance/ceilidh, North Newbald Village Hall – Robert Whitehead duo
- October 2 Y&NH Afternoon School & Evening Dance, Stockton on the Forest – Abigail Brown, Gillian Stewart; Braes of Wansbeck
- November 13 Y&NH and Leeds RSCDS Joint Ball, Stockton on the Forest, York – band tbc.
- December 5 Y&NH Branch pre-Christmas Afternoon Dance, Swanland – Ian Slater
31 Y&NH Branch Hogmanay Dance, Reading Rooms, Dunnington – recorded – *TICKET ONLY*
- 2022**
- January 22 Y&NH Branch Afternoon Dance, Gate Helmsley Village Hall – recorded
- February 26 Y&NH Branch Afternoon Dance, Darby & Joan Club, Cottingham – Recorded
- March 26 Y&NH Branch Annual Dance, Stockton on the Forest – Scott Band

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Copy date for next issue: 21st August 2021 (or thereabouts!)