

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
YORK AND NORTH HUMBERSIDE BRANCH

BROUN'S REEL

September 2021

A NEWSLETTER

No. 166

Editorial

And so finally, a Broun's Reel which contains plans for a programme for the season which is just beginning. We look forward to a return to "normal", "whatever that may be", while at the same time thinking that it may never be quite the same again. Some of us are looking forward with eagerness and determination; some of us with trepidation; many of us falling in between the two, mixing anticipation with caution.

In planning for this season, the Committee has tried to hold several considerations in mind. We know people may be apprehensive about returning for a number of reasons, some to do with safety and some to do with fitness. Sometimes too it's more of a change of lifestyle, especially when people have been shielding, or going out only for early morning walks, having all their shopping delivered, and seeing people only on screens in two dimensions. Going to a dance, travelling, meeting other people in the flesh – it may all seem rather daunting, and the first step is the hardest.

As far as safety goes, the Branch has published a list of safety considerations which has been sent out to all Branch members ahead of the North Newbald dance. It hasn't been constructed as a very formal risk assessment, but rather in the order in which things may occur before or during a dance – beginning with "if you are showing symptoms of coronavirus, please don't come" and "we encourage you to have a lateral flow test."

Ventilation seems to be the most important thing at a dance, and venues like North Newbald and Stockton on the Forest are easy to ventilate. It does mean that you could feel colder than usual if you are sitting out, so it would seem sensible to bring something warm to wear in that event. Many dancers would prefer to keep facemasks on, but this cannot be compulsory and you must

use your own judgement. It is also difficult to breathe and dance in a face-mask: visors may be a better solution. I'm sure all our dancers will be aware that whatever they think, others may think differently – please be sensitive towards other people!

Another problem is touching other people, sometimes hard to avoid in many of our dances. My group had been doing right hands across with fists in the middle, passing right shoulders instead of crossing with the right hand, but in the last few weeks have started using hands but sanitizing them between dances. This is the solution most other groups seem to have adopted. Plenty of sanitizer will be available! We literally have litres of it available, but you may still prefer to bring your own small bottle.

In devising the programmes for dances in the next few months, we have tried to avoid any prolonged face-to-face dancing, so few pousettes, allemandes, etc, where you dance closely with your partner, appear. This removes many wonderful dances, but when these programmes were drawn up we had no idea how things would develop. It seems that we were right to be cautious.

Another consideration has been refreshments. Since the pandemic began, the advice has been not to bring home-made food or have food on open plates. Again, erring on the side of caution, we have asked people to bring their own picnics (e.g. to North Newbald), or food will be provided from a licensed provider (e.g. Marks and Spencers – other supermarkets are available!) and handled by a very limited number.

Finally, we know that many people have not danced for quite some time, and so in these coming dances, programmes tend to be shorter, and you will not have to flee the dance floor so as not to be encouraged to make up sets. MCs should give a little more recovery time between dances, and dances will be repeated rather than forcing people to risk tired muscles by dancing when they don't want to.

I hope all this doesn't sound too grim! I for one am really looking forward to dancing again, and I do hope you are too. You're a very fine band of people and it will be wonderful to see everyone again!

Joyce Cochrane

BRANCH HALF DAY SCHOOL & DANCE, 5th October 2021

Our Half-Day School and Evening Dance will be held at its usual venue, Stockton on Forest Village Hall, on Saturday 5th October.

The Half-Day School will be taught by Abigail Brown, a young teacher from Glasgow who has begun to really make a name for herself as a Scottish Dance teacher (Dundee, St. Andrews...), and a member of the Youth Committee of the RSCDS. She is also Helen and Malcolm's granddaughter! Abigail will be accompanied on piano by Gillian Stewart from Newcastle who played for us in 2019. The Half-Day School will begin at 2.00 and end at 5.15, and will include a short refreshment break. High Tea will be available at the end of the Class.

The evening dance will begin at 7.30 pm. and end at around 11 pm. The music comes from The Braes of Wansbeck Dance Band, making a most welcome return. During the interval, a light supper will be provided (rather than a Faith Supper) – this is a Covid safety precaution.

Prices are as follows:

Class only: RSCDS member £12 / Non-member £15

High Tea £6

DANCE Only: RSCDS member £12 / Non-member £15

All Day: RSCDS member £28 / Non-member £32

Please apply by 30th September if possible. This is particularly important if you would like the High Tea – we need the numbers for catering – but there is no problem if you want to make a last-minute decision and just turn up to the afternoon class or the dance. If you do book and then need to cancel due to Covid reasons, that will not be a problem. The notes on risk assessment already sent out to dancers will apply. Obviously, please don't attend if you are showing symptoms!

If you have not received an information/application form electronically you can download it from the branch website (see back page) or ask for a printed copy by contacting:

Annegret Jamieson (01482 850118) annegretjamieson@gmail.com
 or Helen Brown (01904 - 488084) hcnbrown@btinternet.com

The following programme has been chosen by Nigel Bell:

Happy Returns	Reel	RSCDS MMM2
The Abbot of Unreason	Jig	Levy/Tin Woodman
City of Belfast	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 48
Gaelforce Wind	Jig	Graded Book 3
Teacher's Choice		
Glengarry Homestead	Strathspey	Kangaroo Paw Bk
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	Reel	Goldring 14/2000
The Dream Catcher	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 45
Reel of the 51st	Reel	RSCDS Bk 13

Interval

Orpington Caledonians	Reel	RSCDS Book 49
The Dundee Whaler	Strathspey	Clowes
Inchmickery	Jig	Goldring 14/2000
Catch the Wind	Reel	RSCDS Bk 45
Teacher's Choice		
Jennifer's Jig	Jig	Drewry
Gramachie	Strathspey	RSCDS MMM1
The Highland Rambler	Reel	Leeds 25

Extras:

Mairi's Wedding (Reel) Wind on Loch Fyne (Strathspey)
 MacLeod's Fancy (Jig)

LEEDS RSCDS / YORK & N.HUMBERSIDE RSCDS JOINT BALL
STOCKTON ON THE FOREST, 13th NOVEMBER

The annual Joint Ball held by our two branches will be held on Saturday 13th November at Stockton on the Forest Village Hall. The dance will begin at 7.30 pm and the supper is catered for by our Branch. Tickets cost £15 for dancers – that’s a reduction on the 2019 price! (Make the most of it.) We are dancing to the music of the excellent Martáinn Skene and his band.

The programme, incorporating suggestions from Leeds RSCDS, has been drawn up by Helen Brown and is as follows:

Ecclefechan Feline	Jig	McMurtry - Petit Chat Celtique
Catch the Wind	Reel	RSCDS Book 45
Muse Cottage	Strathspey	Let’s All Dance Too (Goldring)
Welcome to Ayr	Jig	RSCDS Book 47
Trip to Bavaria	Reel	MacGregor Brown/Guide to SCD (ex-Collins)
Fair Donald	Strathspey	RSCDS Book 29
Rodney’s Rant	Jig	RSCDS QE Diamond Jubilee
Scott Meikle	Reel	RSCDS Book 46
Sugar Candie	Strathspey	RSCDS Book 26
The Montgomeries’ Rant	Reel	RSCDS Book 10

Interval

The Cranberry Tart	Jig	Glasspool /7 Year Itch
The Dream Catcher	Strathspey	RSCDS Book 45
The Zoologist	Jig	RSCDS Book 46
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	Reel	Goldring/14 Social 2000
Sands of Morar	Strathspey	RSCDS Book 45
Kendall’s Hornpipe	Jig	RSCDS Graded Book 1
Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran	Reel	Drewry/Bon Accord
City of Belfast	Strathspey	RSCDS Book 48
Deil Amang the Tailors	Reel	RSCDS Book 14

Extras:

West’s Hornpipe	Reel	RSCDS 5 Trad 1965
Blooms of Bon Accord	Reel	Drewry /Deeside 2

BRANCH DANCE, SWANLAND, SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER

Our December dance takes place on the first Sunday in December, at its usual venue, Swanland Village Hall (far side of the pond). As usual, the musician will be Ian Slater. Remember – this is a **Sunday afternoon** dance and will begin at **2.00 pm**. You do not need to bring any contributions to food – refreshments (mince pies, Christmas cake and shortbread) will be provided. The dance will cost £8 for RSCDS members, and £10 for non-members.

The programme, drawn up by Rachel and Joyce, is as follows:

The Dashing White Sergeant	Reel	RSCDS Book 3
Napier's Index	Jig	RSCDS Bk 45
Gramachie	Strathspey	RSCDS MMM1
The Abbot of Unreason	Jig	Levy/Tin Woodman
Wind on Loch Fyne	Strathspey	Dunedin 1
Reel of the 51st	Reel	RSCDS Bk 13
The Dream Catcher	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 45
Mairi's Wedding	Reel	Cosh

Interval

Ramadan-ce	Reel	Drewry, Turkish Set
The Wandering Wallaby	Jig	RSCDS Book 50
The Lea Rig	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 21
Red House	Reel	RSCDS Bk 7
Sands of Morar	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 45
The Chequered Court *	Jig	RSCDS Bk 42
The Dundee Whaler *	Strathspey	Clowes
Gaelforce Wind	Jig	Graded Book 3

* Time permitting

BEING SECRETARY

It has been suggested that members of the committee say what some of the jobs on the committee involve. So here goes!

First of all, I shall give you a bit of my history. In my early teen, my mother was on committees and got me to help her with addressing envelopes. I did that about once a month so I quickly remembered names and addresses (I can still remember some of the names, but not the addresses!) When I was 18 I went to Secretarial College in London and learned my trade. My first committee was the dancing class I went to and I was Assistant Treasurer. I suspect they asked me to join so that I wouldn't leave the class, however SCD was in my bones after the first class! After we got married, there was no committee work for a while but then I joined the York SCD Club committee for a few years. Then we started the Branch and, at the inaugural meeting, it was suggested that I be the new Secretary.

Obviously, things have changed since we started in 1975. Then, I took the minutes in shorthand, typed them up using at least two sheets of carbon paper and repeated that twice more so that all 9 committee members had their own copy. Actually, I hate doing minutes and was very pleased when it was decided to have a Minute Secretary! Nowadays, Joyce types them straight onto her laptop during the meeting and we get them within hours. Different Secretaries over the years have added "improvements" to make things easier for themselves and those that followed. When Rita Eastwood was Secretary, emails were just becoming popular and she used them to communicate with Headquarters. Prior to that, it had been typed letters back and forth. Now we email all the time and can get a response almost immediately and it makes admin so much easier. With the membership subscriptions George Edwards found that if we used a different colour paper for the forms each year, it was easier to see who had renewed their membership by the different

colour. I have used this system for years though now many people download their form from the website onto white paper. I now use a highlighter to emphasise which year it is. Next year I shall use a different colour highlighter. Even though I am a trained secretary, I am not very good at filing. When Chris Hare was secretary, she neatly filed each topic in those plastic folders you can put in a ring binder or lever arch file – it's so much easier to find correspondence and details about hall bookings! Thanks to all previous secretaries.

It used to be the norm for the Secretary to book all the halls and all the bands. Mike George from the Hull area was the first to suggest that he book the halls in Hull. Gradually, this has evolved into those who live in the area where the dance will be held, book the hall. Obviously this has lightened the Secretary's load which is very helpful. Some members like to travel to dances while others prefer to stay nearer home. For those who travel, it gives them an opportunity to hear different bands and they can make a suggestion to try them. Another way is to have a good CD that you like and try to book the band for a dance. We usually discuss it in committee though I admit that sometimes I have booked the band then told them! Talking of bands, it is so much easier now to use email to communicate with bands. From the initial contact to the reply and then using email for the confirmation of the booking can all be done in 24 hours rather than having to telephone or write a letter, get a reply and then confirm by letter. Thank goodness for the digital era!

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The Membership Secretary does not have to be a committee member but it is a job I have done for a few years. I have records on my computer back to the days when we were given a free book. I have decided I don't need to have a record of who had a free book in the 1990s! All the records for membership are on a password protected Excel spreadsheet complying with GDPR requirements.

Like any job, those on the committee are what you want or are able to put into it. The committee is very supportive and we help each other if needed. Personally, I am a committee person – I am on four at the moment. One of my son's once said that he goes on committees to find out what's happening which I think is as good a reason as any. If you would like to come on the committee, we should love to have you. I am sure you have some good ideas lurking in in your brain and you don't have commit to doing it for 2 or 3 years, 1 year is perfectly acceptable. At the moment, all our meetings are on Zoom and it seems to work very well. If you would like to join us for a meeting to see what goes on, that's fine. And if you would like to have a go at being Branch Secretary even better as I have to come off next April!

Helen Brown, 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.

MALCOLM'S ALLSORTS

During the summer, Malcolm did a series of four one-hour talks on Scottish Dance music and musicians. After some hitches in the first broadcast, the rest of the series was really excellent, and received very good reviews. Malcolm had put a lot of thought into it and research behind it, and the whole series was interesting, informative and entertaining. Thank you, Malcolm, and congratulations!

BROUN’S REEL no. 165 /DIANA’S PICTURE PUZZLE

Thank you for another interesting issue and to say I couldn't resist having a go at the quiz. These are my answers – didn't look anything up, promise!

- 1. Round Reel of Eight ✓
- 2. Reel of the Royal Scots ✓
- 3. Deil Amang the Tailors ✓
- 4. Bedrule ✓
- 5. Red House ✓
- 6. Mairi's Wedding [possible, but I think The Dancers’ Wedding (RSCDS Book 41) is a better fit.]

Red House I just happen to know because it has cropped up several times in the RSCDS podcasts, always with the implication it is a well-known classic. I can say that in the six or more years we've been dancing I've never done it! Not surprising given the numbers. There is a good YouTube demo by the Graziani family in Bologna (the parents run the SCDS there) which shows how you can dance successfully in a very confined space. I think they had a project to do a dance a day during the first lockdown, All very good.

Re the previous quiz, I didn't get Dalkeith's Strathspey but happened on it earlier this week and earmarked it for a possible future suggestion.

Douglas Jamieson, Hull

**NEWS FROM PICKERING,
APRIL – AUGUST**

I missed the entry for the last magazine so here is a brief resume of what we have been getting up to.

A group of eight of us plus Ruby meet for a walk in



Duncombe Park on April 6th. It was a cold wind but fine and the spring flowers were lovely. When we met in May we decided to take coffee and make a bit more of a break. Again, lots of nattering and catching up as we sat on the bridge for a drink and a biscuit.

We met at Rievaulx Terrace for our June get together. The terrace is only open the first weekend each month so we made of the opportunity and met on Sunday morning for a walk through the woods and back along the terrace. There were nine of this time plus Ruby of course.



Our July meeting took us back to Breezy Knees and it was good to see the garden at a totally different time of year, equally as colourful. Seven of us finished the walk with a picnic lunch and it did stay fine for us.

We decided it was time to think of starting dancing again so our August meeting was held at the Parish Hall in Pickering where we discussed future meetings and health and safety issues with regard to covid. We did manage three dances with no hands and it felt good to be back on the floor in a set.

We look forward to getting back to our regular Wednesday night slot mid-August with a 6 week beginners session starting on 6th October 2021.

Jennifer Robinson, Pickering

BACK TO DANCING IN COTTINGHAM

The Cottingham group returned to dancing in July, beginning with just an hour, with warm-ups, cooldown, and lots of short bursts to get us back into moving to music. We started initially with no hands at all, no partners (unless you were a couple anyway!) and using chairs and beanbags as partners. This is how we got on!



Thanks to
Lynne Brooks
for the
photos!

Y&NH BRANCH WALK & LUNCH, 24th JUNE

It was already a hot morning when we set out for the Branch Walk from the Wolds Inn in Huggate, and as it became hotter shade was at a premium.

The walk was led by Ken, who had chosen a lovely route with varied terrain and some fabulous views, typical Wolds landscape with



rolling chalk hills and green “dry valley” bottoms. Left, Ken is explaining how the agriculture differs from other regions due to the geography!

Lunch at the Wolds Inn was outside with a good awning providing shade. We all really enjoyed the generous proportions of our lunch.

The company was great, the food was great, the walk was great – what more can you ask? Thanks for everything, Ken!

Unfortunately, in the last section I began to suffer from migraine/heat exhaustion. Thank you so much, all of my wonderful fellow walkers. I was in very safe hands.



Joyce Cochrane

OBITUARY – GORDON CAMPBELL

“Who on earth put down the Eightsome Reel on Choices Night?” roared Gordon.

“ME” said Rachel.

To his question “Why on earth would you do that?”, Rachel replied, “You see, Gordon, I’ve never danced the Eightsome Reel.”

“What?” he replied. “Surely you’ve done the Eightsome before”.

“Yes, Gordon”, she replied, “I’ve *done* the Eightsome – but I’ve never *danced* it.”

And Gordon’s face was wreathed in the biggest smile. He understood.

Dancing really mattered to Gordon. He was a very good dancer himself, and was most helpful and encouraging to new dancers. However, perhaps the biggest sin in his book was not caring about dancing, just “doing” it, not doing it as well as you could. It didn’t matter if you went wrong (and if he was partnering you, you were unlikely to go wrong); what did matter was if you didn’t think dancing was important!

Gordon, born Gordon Ross Campbell, was a proud native of Dundee first, a Scotsman second, and British only third. Even though he lived in India (or Singapore?) and Merseyside – he and June and their family lived in Southport for some years before moving to East Yorkshire – he never lost either his accent or his Scots identity. He loved his native land, and knew it well, travelling all over first with June, and later, after June’s death, with Brenda George.

I had many conversations with Gordon, and liked him very much; he was a staunch supporter and a good friend. I know much about his interests and ideas and enthusiasms, though much less about his own history. This then is not a standard mini-biography tribute, but a presentation of the man I knew. Gordon was a great raconteur and

joke-teller, as we would see at the Branch Dinners we used to have: you would split your sides. Timing and delivery were spot-on.

Gordon was also a big fan of Scottish folk music, and went up to Pitlochry every year for the annual Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain concert. We would enthuse about them together! One year they played at the Beverley Folk Festival, and perhaps eight of us, urged on by Gordon, went to hear them play. It was a great night!

Another enthusiasm of Gordon's was Robert Burns, and he'd done a lot of reading about him as well as reading the poetry. He despaired of finding any English people who really understood Burns and where he was coming from, and was absolutely delighted to find that I, as an English person, "got" Burns. He would read Burns poems aloud at ceilidhs or other class and branch events, and I still remember a superb reading he did of "The Bonnie Lass o' Ballochmyle". At his most enthusiastic, he would call out "Wha's like us? Damn few and they're a' deid!"

Scottish Country Dancing was his biggest passion. I think he'd done it at school, but took it up seriously when he met June. I seem to remember they danced regularly when they lived in India (or was it Singapore? I can't ask him now...) After moving to the East Riding, the pair of them were stalwarts in the Branch, dancing first with George Main's Willerby group and then in Cottingham. Gordon served three terms of three years on the Branch committee between 1987 and 2001. He loved visiting Scotland on holiday; he and June had travelled extensively, dancing wherever they could. In later years he continued these visits with Brenda. It was legendary that whenever he went to Scotland, the weather was fine and sunny!

Gordon died on 18th May 2021, aged 87. He will be missed. Our condolences to his children Lynne and Ross, and their families.

Joyce Cochrane

MEMORIES OF GORDON CAMPBELL

I have memories of Gordon Campbell from our Monday night class in Cottingham.

He was an enthusiastic dancer who took time to master the dances but above all he loved the music. He knew what he liked and would sometimes comment to Joyce if she chose a track he didn't like or in his opinion it didn't have a strong enough beat.



I knew that Gordon had danced with his late wife before I started dancing. One night he brought a variety of tartan sashes to the class and some of us chose one for a donation to the Stroke Association. They are hand stitched with pleats to sit right on the shoulder.

After Mike George passed away, Brenda and Gordon became firm friends who danced and took holidays together. We used to see them most Friday nights in our local pub in Cottingham. Over a fish and chip supper we'd chat about Rugby League, their coach trips, and their love of Scottish Country Dancing.

Gordon will be missed – but I can wear his sash with fondness.

Lynne Brooks

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.

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|-------------|-----|---|
| 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 – Martáinn Skene. |
| December | 5 | Y&NH Branch pre-Christmas Afternoon Dance, Swanland – Ian Slater |
| | 31 | Y&NH Branch Hogmanay Dance, Reading Rooms, Dunnington – recorded – <i>TICKET ONLY</i> |
| 2022 | | |
| January | 22 | Y&NH Branch Afternoon Dance, Gate Helmsley Village Hall – recorded |
| February | 4-6 | Harrogate Weekend, Cairn Hotel, Harrogate – Rachel Shankland; Neil Barron, Alan Ross; Marian Anderson. |
| | 26 | Y&NH Branch Afternoon Dance, Darby & Joan Club, Cottingham – Recorded |
| March | 26 | Y&NH Branch Annual Dance, Stockton on the Forest – Scott Band |
| April | 9 | Y&NH AGM & Dance, North Newbald – recorded |
| May | 14 | Y &NH Branch Dance, Pickering – Leonard Brown |
| September | 18 | Y&NH Branch Dance, venue t.b.c. – recorded |
| October | 1 | Y&NH Branch Afternoon School & Evening Dance, venue t.b.c. |
| November | | Date & venue t.b.c. – Leeds RSCDS 60 th Anniversary Dance |

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