

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
YORK AND NORTH HUMBERSIDE BRANCH

## ***BROUN'S REEL***

May 2022

A NEWSLETTER

No. 169

### Editorial

On the local news on television last night, Peter Levy reported that a portion of fish and chips looked likely to go up to nearly £10 at our local chippies. Coffee and a cake at a Beverley café will set you back £6+; a pub meal (2 courses) costs around £20; you'll pay £5.30 for a 45 minute Aquafit class at the local municipal leisure centre. A ticket to see Hull City play will cost you £27 (sorry to those outside my area – and please excuse the dreadful pun - Bridlington Town and York City just aren't in the same league); a standing ticket for Hull KR will cost £22. Finally, a concert at the Hull Bonus Arena will cost you £73.94 to £154.10 for the Pet Shop Boys, while Paloma Faith seems positively reasonable at £45.60 - £53.87.

I'm sure that by now you can see where I am heading. At the recent AGM, there was a lot of concern that dances with a three-piece band like Scott Band's outfit would cost £20. Bear in mind the star quality of Scott and his band, and the distance they have to travel (both in terms of fuel and time), and the cost of hiring a hall like Stockton on the Forest, and then the price you pay for a dance like that begins to seem a lot more reasonable. Of course, if we could guarantee more people attending the dance, we could lower the price for the ticket. It's worth thinking about!

Some people may argue that in times of high inflation and approaching hikes in fuel costs, that it becomes too dear. And for two of you, that's £40 and not £20 for a dance, and that is too much. But for a single person, carrying all the costs of running their household on their own, is that any less really? It's not as if every dance will cost that either. These big dances only occur three times a year – the Day School dance, the Joint Leeds/Y&NH Ball, and the Annual Dance in March. I really think they are worth saving up for!

The prices could be cheaper, of course, if we only ever used a solo musician or a duo sourced fairly locally. Or if we used lower league players locally instead of the Premier League bands we use for our big dances. But would there not be a loss of quality and the loss of that sense of occasion? The drawing power of the big names for these "big dances" and for Harrogate cannot be over-estimated. Especially where there is competition from other dances nearby (sorry to those from Hull and the East Riding who don't understand this!) in the same month, it is vital that we have the best musicians we can, in my view.

It's not only the drawing power of the big names in the SCD world. The music is so important to the way the dancing goes, I feel. A really good musician or band can just lift the whole event, so that you feel you can't stop dancing, and the tunes sing on in your head all the way home. A really good dance gives a high to your life for the whole week, or even month! There are still dances I can still really enthuse about years later. The music is a big part of it, but there is also the theatre of the event, the social interaction and the shared joy.

I often feel that in the past we haven't charged enough for dances, or even dance classes – surely a night Scottish dancing in your local class or club is worth a lot more than the price of a coffee in a café? It is sad that so often, people only value what they pay for, and the more they pay, the more they rate it. What comes at a low cost does not seem to matter as much. I disagree. But I hope you will agree that we really need to value our dances, and to pay a fair price for them.

Joyce Cochrane

### **LETTER FROM RUSSIA**

In my editorial for the February edition of Broun's Reel, I spoke of Scottish Country Dancing in both Ukraine and Russia, and of how there were dancers, and good people, in Russia as well as in Ukraine. I hope that you will understand why I have included this letter from one of our friends in Russia.

"We are here just between worlds, people who, like me, hate what Russia is today. What it is doing. We are between shame and jail.

"The world outside stops every thing or thought which has Russian roots. The RSCDS has banned us officially; we do not exist again for the other RSCDS world, like in 2004...

"At the same time we are seen as saboteurs and betrayers by our government and by many citizens who trust and support the power of Russian tanks. As some dancers do too...

"We live peacefully in an aggressive country, being hostages. One false word and you are fined. A second - fined. The third one - jailed. Not totally yet, thank God.

"Some ask why we still live in Russia, some point us the direction saying "Exit"! Out or Russia.

"I hope that, in having our Spring School in three days' time, we can unite dancers, and unite people to teach them to be kind to others. As the RSCDS does."

*For understandable reasons the authors of the articles from Russia have not been identified.*

### **Branch Awards**



The AGM dance at North Newbald on 23rd April, 2022, turned out to be a little more than expected for Sue and me. We had a good venue, an excellent programme and a longer than usual agenda for the AGM, which prompted much discussion about the future of the Branch.

In her closing remarks, our Chairman, Rachel, then announced that there was one more

small task to perform and, looking furtively in our direction,



she eloquently introduced the presentation of Branch Awards to Sue and myself. The commendations were humbling but we were both extremely proud to receive these awards and we are grateful to the 2021/22 Chairman, Annegret and Rachel, and the Committee, who have proposed and supported our awards.

We have also received letters of commendation from Lorna Ogilvie, the RSCDS Chairman; an honour indeed for both of us.

Nigel and Sue Bell

### **MALCOLM BROWN: FROM A RUSSIAN PERSPECTIVE**

This story began somewhere in the middle of 2006 when my colleagues said: "Let's have an International Scottish dance weekend in Moscow, to bring live dance traditions in Russia and to open Russia for other dancers from Europe". It was my third year of Scottish country dancing.

A year later, four foreigners came to teach us and to play music for our dancing. Years passed and we still remember their names and faces - Ken, Barbara, Irene and Malcolm. Most of participants remember only one name - Malcolm Brown! The shadow of his charisma shone so brightly that years after Russians still remember the main phrase of that weekend: "Yes Malcolm".

Immediately after our introduction Malcolm was invited to St Peterburg where we had a surprise for him. When he looked at the class, he saw a wall of dancers in t-shirts with a big label saying "Yes Malcolm!". Two years ago, I saw people still wearing the replicas of those t-shirts.



After that Malcolm became popular in different parts of Russia. It didn't matter that there were a number of events with other European teachers, you already know the name of most popular guest!

The St Peterburg's dance festival signed a kind of contract (joking!) for his annual visits! During this time, I moved to another big Russian town Nizhniy Novgorod. Here we created a couple of big events introducing Russia to Malcolm or maybe vice versa! A year after Malcolm and Helen Brown were our teachers at very special dance weekend in Moscow.

After that we decided to introduce Malcolm to other, noncentral parts of Russia and chose Perm as the town located far to the East and suitable for more people from Ural and Siberia regions to attend.

It became a historical event. Malcolm's teaching was met with a warm and enthusiasm and made him famous for the years to come. Local dancers found Malcolm's star so magnetic that they never miss the event. They've made a series of multi-cities events where guest teachers travel between cities having classes and events in each of them. The geography of such travels included towns from Samara to Novosibirsk...

In short -- over the years when Malcolm visited Russia 2-3 times per year implanting his knowledge of Scottish country dancing into a very different culture, with people in different regions of Russia that lay distantly from each other, say 2-3 days of traveling by train.

### **BRANCH DANCE, NORTH NEWBALD, 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

As last year, our September dance will be part-ceilidh, part Scottish Country dance, to the music of the Robert Whitehead duo. With invitations to local people who are enthusiastic but inexperienced, the programme will aim to be very accessible and (hopefully) attract new dancers. More information and programme to follow later.

### **BRANCH COMMITTEE**

At the Branch AGM on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Branch members voted to dismiss the former provision that committee members could only serve for three year, and so you will see some familiar names still serving on the committee. The members of the Branch Committee for 2022 – 2023, are as follows:

Chairman: Helen Russell

([helenthekelpie@gmail.com](mailto:helenthekelpie@gmail.com); 01482 804178)

Treasurer: David Proctor

Acting Secretary: Joyce Cochrane

([jcochrane@jcochrane.karoo.co.uk](mailto:jcochrane@jcochrane.karoo.co.uk); 01482 871790)

Minutes Secretary: Joyce Cochrane

Membership & Communications: Jennifer Robinson

Publicity & Marketing: Angie Francksen

Members: Ken Wallace

Helen Brown

Ruth Potter.

A huge thank you to those volunteers who have stepped up to join the committee.

## **WHITE ROSE FESTIVAL 2022**

The White Rose Festival will take place this year on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July at its usual venue, Gateways School, Harewood. Lynne Brooks is organising a team to dance at the Festival, trained as for the last several years by George Edwards. Practices are at St. Luke's Church Hall, Willerby, on the following dates: June 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and July 7<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please contact Lynne: [lynnegardiner9@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lynnegardiner9@yahoo.co.uk) .

Spectators are welcome!

## **Y&NH BRANCH WALK & LUNCH, 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE**

Our Branch walk this year will take place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, leaving the Plough Inn at Allerthorpe (near Pocklington) at 10.30 am. Ken Wallace will lead the walk and will need to know numbers, so please contact Ken on 07733004074 if you intend to join us.

Distance 4 miles, easy level walking

Parking should be available at the Plough Inn.

Lunch will follow afterwards at the Plough Inn – there is seating inside and outdoors. You can of course just join us for lunch – it's booked between 12.30 and 1.00. Ken needs to know numbers for lunch; the Plough Inn have asked that lunch requests be ordered in advance – please let Ken know ([kenwallace@btinternet.com](mailto:kenwallace@btinternet.com) ).

Ken has this limited menu for you to choose from. I think Ken said that there is a soup option too, if you want soup and a sandwich.

Sandwiches: (all served with chips & salad)

Ham & Mustard

Tuna Mayo & Cucumber

Fish Finger

Hot Roast Sandwich (not sure on meat but it will either be beef, pork or gammon)

Ploughmans (cheese, chutney, lettuce & tomato)

Main Courses:

Fish & Chips with either mushy or garden peas

Beef lasagne

Sweet potato, spinach & feta lasagne

Gammon

Scampi with either mushy or garden peas

Steak & Potato Pie

If anybody has any allergies or dietary requirements please let Ken know, along with your choices.

### **A QUIZ FROM DOUGLAS**

In the last issue Douglas produced a quiz in the style of *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*. Only one person's answers came my way – thanks, Dianne! Have a go, everyone else..

1.	<b>The Wind that...</b>
2.	<b>Mairi's...</b>
3.	<b>The Flying...</b>
4.	<b>Staircase... to Heaven (shades of Led Zeppelin!)</b>
5.	<b>The Abbot... Ale</b>
6.	<b>40 and .... I'm envious</b>
7.	<b>The Wandering...</b>
8.	<b>Ecclefechan .... Where did I leave it?</b>
9.	<b>The Dream.... Perfect dancer!</b>
10.	<b>Kendall's...</b>
11.	<b>Best Set... of dentures</b>
12.	<b>The Chequered ....</b>
13.	<b>Shiftin'...</b>
14.	<b>Swiss...</b>
15.	<b>Father Connolly's...</b>
16.	<b>The Machine ....</b>

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*Please note that if the situation with the coronavirus pandemic changes, there may have to be changes to this listing.*

- May 14 Y &NH Branch Dance, Pickering – Leonard Brown  
21 Leeds RSCDS Branch Dance, Queen’s Hall, Moortown – Ian Slater
- June 22 Branch Walk & Lunch, Plough Inn, Allerthorpe  
25 Leeds SCDC Grand Final Dance, St. Chad’s – Robert Whitehead Trio
- July 2 RSCDS Richmond Outdoor Summer Social, Reeth  
9 Leeds White Rose Festival, Gateways School, Harewood  
9 Leeds White Rose Festival Dance, Gateways School – Susan MacFadyen
- September 10 Great Ayton SCDC dance, Parochial Hall, Great Ayton – Marian Anderson  
17 Y&NH Branch Dance/Ceilidh, North Newbald – Robert Whitehead duo  
17 Leeds RSCDS Branch Dance, St Chad’s – Ian Slater
- October 1 Y&NH Branch Afternoon School & Evening Dance, Stockton on the Forest: Di Rooney, Gillian Stewart, Ewan Galloway  
29 York SCDC Autumn Dance, Stockton on the Forest: Sandy Nixon
- November 19 Leeds RSCDS 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball, Riley-Smith Hall, Tadcaster – Ian Muir Trio
- December 4 Y&NH Branch Dance, venue tbc.; Ian Slater (tbc.)  
17 Leeds RSCDS Branch Dance, St Chad’s – George Meikle  
31 Y&NH Branch Hogmanay Dance, Reading Rooms, Dunnington – recorded –  
*TICKET ONLY*

2023:

- February 3-5 Y&NH Harrogate Weekend School, Cairn Hotel – Rachel Shankland/Alan Ross/Scott Band  
February 25 Afternoon Tea Dance, Darby and Joan Hall, Cottingham - recorded

BROUN'S REEL, our newsletter, is published four times a year and can normally be collected at the Branch Dances held in September, December, February and May. Readers wishing to obtain Broun's Reel by post should send 4 (or more) first or second class stamps, together with a note of name and address, to Joyce Cochrane, 22 Newton Drive, Beverley, HU17 8NX. Please don't also collect a further copy from the dances, or we might run short!

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