

## *BROUN'S REEL*

February 2022

A NEWSLETTER

No. 168

### Editorial

I woke up this morning to a news report about the situation between Russia and Ukraine; President Putin has declared two regions as independent, not part of Ukraine but part of Russia, which seems incredibly worrying, and may be even worse by the time you read this.

You may wonder why this gets to feature in a Scottish Dance newsletter in Yorkshire. I was ready to start with a fairly light-hearted editorial, but can't find where I was going with it, and it seemed really trite in the light of the world situation. So why I am writing this? Mainly because of Malcolm Brown.

We have had links for some time with dancers in Russia, and I remember Vladimir visiting our branch and dancing with us some years back, when we sponsored his travel to St. Andrews. Our relationship with Vladimir came about thanks to Malcolm's work in Russia. Other teachers from the RSCDS, like Helen Russell, have also been over to teach in Russia, but Malcolm really was the pioneer, travelling great distances (sometimes rather uncomfortably) between Russian cities, teaching them dancing, helping train teachers, working with able bodied and wheelchair dancers together, and much more. Without his work, Scottish Country Dancing might never have taken off there as it has.

As things get worse in the current situation, and war seems possible, I think of those fellow-dancers in Moscow, Novosibirsk and Nizhny Novgorod, and possibly other places too. Those dancers are ordinary people like us. Even though we may think of their leader as a megalomaniac despotic dictator, we must remember that Russians are real people like us. There are so many lovely people in the dance world, and some of them are Russian.

Some of those lovely people are also dancers in Ukraine: there is a group of Scottish Dancers in Kiev, with an RSCDS teacher – they've been doing Scottish dancing there since 2005. St. Andrew is not only the patron saint of Scotland, but also that of Ukraine; they have links with Scotland and have held joint St. Andrew's night celebrations. Thinking of them under such dreadful pressure now is hard.

One of the great things about the RSCDS is that it is a world-wide organization, and as such one that fosters good relationships between people from all over the world. At summer school I have met dancers from Spain, Japan, France, Russia, Italy, Canada, the US, Hong Kong, Egypt, Australia, Ireland (both Northern Ireland and the Republic) and Germany – and those are just the ones I know about! When people become known to you, you feel differently about them.

The RSCDS really brought out the international fellowship it fosters, with its weekly online broadcasts on Wednesday nights through the worst of the pandemic. Each week, a teacher from a different part of the world taught the class, some pre-recorded due to the time differences, but some getting up at truly ungodly hours to broadcast live. There was time at the beginning and the end to send messages to others, and these really spanned the globe. Some people unable to watch the classes live sent in greetings after viewing the broadcasts on Fridays.

Right now, this international friendship seems so important. When people are in contact like this, understanding results. Surely this kind of cooperation gives us hope. Maybe some day again our fellow dancers in Ukraine and Russia and all over the world will be able to dance in peace and harmony.

Joyce Cochrane

## RSCDS MEMBERSHIP – AND NEW-STYLE FORM!

The RSCDS needs your support! Since the coronavirus pandemic began, the RSCDS has had little or no income from dances and events. The fabulous job it did in keeping Scottish dancing going worldwide has been costly. Therefore, the HQ membership subscription has risen to £25; the subscription to our branch is going up to £4, i.e., a total of £29.

What do you get for your membership? Locally, you get the expertise and enthusiasm from RSCDS-trained teachers, Broun's Reel, and reduced admission costs at most dances. Centrally, RSCDS HQ gives us online material, dance books, music, and the beautifully produced magazine, as well as the drive to keep Scottish Country dancing going. Links on the Branch website show what is available from the RSCDS.

You will see that the new membership form looks a little different. The biggest change is the inclusion of the possibility for Bank Transfer. This is because during the pandemic many people have become used to paying bills etc. online by bank transfer. However, the reference needs to be really clear as otherwise the treasurer has no way of seeing in the accounts who has paid and exactly what they have paid for! The instructions for this reference are clear on the form. **Please do not pay by bank transfer without this reference.** You can still pay by cheque if you prefer.

I would really urge you renew your subscription or re-join the Society. Membership subscriptions are due on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

## NEW PRICING POLICY ON DANCES

For some time now we have been making a loss on some of our dances, and so we are having to price events to reflect their cost more realistically. This means that prices for dances to live music will vary according to the cost of the hall, the band and any refreshments. We have tried to make a standard price for dances to recorded music of £10 for RSCDS members and £12 for non-members. By pricing dances more realistically we have been able to keep the local subscription to just £4.

## MALCOLM BROWN:50 YEARS OF TEACHING DANCING

Over the next few months Broun's reel will be sharing some recollections of Malcolm's teaching from around the world to celebrate his 50 years of teaching 1972 – 2022. In this issue Kimiko from the Saitama Branch shares her memories.



Malcolm & Helen visited Japan on February 19th 2004. We, the 78 participants in the first Weekend School of Saitama Branch welcomed Malcolm as our teacher. He had three classes with Pat Clark who played the piano on the 21st and 22nd.

He also gave us special classes on 19th and 20th in three different halls. One day when he had a free time, my friend and I took him and Helen to the Omiya Park where we strolled a while and then visited the John Lennon Museum. After that they joined a tea ceremony party at the branch secretary's house with Peter & Pat.



In June 2012 when Malcolm was the teacher of the Kuckucksnest School organized by Carola Fisher, my friend and I joined it. He taught from 28 to 30. In the evening on 30th we had the Dancing with the locals.

It is amazing where you can participate in Scottish Country Dancing around the world. I wonder how many miles Malcolm has travelled in the course of his 50 years of teaching?!

## A QUIZ FROM DOUGLAS (PART 1)

A quiz from Douglas, rather in the style of *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*. But do read the whole thing! And send me your best answers!

Complete the following :

1.	The Wind that...
2.	Mairi's...
3.	The Flying...
4.	Staircase...
5.	The Abbot...
6.	40 and ....
7.	The Wandering...
8.	Ecclefechan ....
9.	The Dream....
10.	Kendall's...
11.	Best Set...
12.	The Chequered ....
13.	Shiftin'...
14.	Swiss...
15.	Father Connolly's...
16.	The Machine ....

And some sample answers:

1	The Wind that.....	Needs Bicarbonate
2	Mairi's.....	Shotgun Wedding
3	The Flying.....	Insults / Buttress
4	Staircase.....	Out of Order
5	The Abbot.....	of Unreasonable Hopping
6	40 and .....	Not Caught Speeding
7	The Wandering.....	Mind
8	Ecclefechan .....	Tongue-twister
9	The Dream.....	Dasher
10	Kendall's.....	Mintcake
11	Best Set.....	in the Drawer
12	The Chequered .....	Career
13	Shiftin' .....	Positions
14	Swiss.....	Army Knife
15	Father Connolly's.....	Confession
16	The Machine .....	Without Change

## LAST EDITION'S QUIZ

Well, you may have done this at home, but I doubt it! No one even mentioned it... So no responses to publish!

Argyll: I thought of Argyll's Farewell to Stirling, Argyll's Bowling Green, and Argyll's Fancy, but there are several more, as I found out from the SCDD.

Braes: Breadalbane, Tulliemet and Balquidder occurred to me, but there are loads more I'd not heard of. (I understand the correct pronunciation of Balquidder is something like Bellweather??)

Country: There are a few "----- Country Dances" but I like "Keep the Country, Bonnie Lassie".

Da: means "the", used in Shetland. I only know two – Da Rain Dancin' and Da Tushker – see later.

Edinburgh: Gates of Edinburgh, Flowers of Edinburgh, and (I was proud of this) The One O'clock Cannon. No one has yet written dances called Sunshine on Leith or The Heart of Midlothian, but surely someone should!

Alcoholic dances – Johnnie Walker and Glayva, but there's a whole book...

Numbers: 1314, and 12 Coates Crescent!

## DA TUSHKER

A tushkar, tushker or tusker is "a spade with feathered blade for cutting peats."

Da Tushker (or Da Tushkar) is a reel from Shetland by RONNIE Cooper FROM THE COLLECTIOIN "Da Mirrie Dancers" and was recorded by The Boys of the Lough on the "Regrouped" album. Jim Johnstone recorded it on his album "Heather Medley", and it was also recorded by Ian Powrie. See [Tushkar \(Da\) - Traditional Tune Archive](#) for a copy of the tune, which is in the Ionian (Major) Mode. No, I don't understand that either!

The dance "Da Tushker" was written by John Bowie Dickson. Unlike many of his dances, it has not been published by Dunedin Dancers, but does appear in the Scottish Country Dancing Dictionary online, where you will also find a picture of a peat bank with a tushker. It must be almost 40 years since I last danced it (and yes, that does make me feel old!) The instructions are as follows, from the SCCD:

### **DA TUSHKER (R8x32) 3C (4C set) John Bowie Dickson**

1- 8 1s set, cross down to 2nd place, set and cross RH

9-16 1s dance reels of 3 on own sides (RSh to 3rd corners) and end giving RH

17-24 1s dance reels of 3 across (RSh to 2nd corner)

25-32 1s followed by 2s lead down between 3s, cast and lead up between 2s and cast to 2nd place.

## Y&NH ANNUAL DANCE, STOCKTON ON THE FOREST, 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH

For the first time in three years, we are able to look forwards to our Annual Dance, held at its usual venue, the Village Hall in Stockton on the Forest. The dance begins at 7.30 p.m. and ticket price is £20 for RSCDS members and £25 for non-members. You are asked to bring either a contribution to a Faith Supper or else to bring your own "Personal Picnic", as you prefer.

The music comes from Scott Band, and his band [I'm sorry, I just couldn't resist that]. The programme has been chosen by George and Di Edwards, and is as follows:

The Tattie Bogle	Jig	Haynes/Carnforth 1
Catch the Wind	Reel	RSCDS Bk 45
The Moray Rant	Strathspey	Drewry/Silver City
Napier's Index	Jig	RSCDS Bk 45
Glastonbury Tor	Reel	RSCDS Bk 47
Belle of Bon Accord	Strathspey	Drewry/Deeside 2
Bill Clement MBE	Jig	RSCDS Bk 47
The Royal Deeside Railway	Reel	RSCDS Bk 40
The Hazel Tree	Jig	Drewry/Brodie

### *INTERVAL*

Hooper's Jig	Jig	MMM2
John of Bon Accord	Reel	RSCDS Bk 33
City of Belfast	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 48
Farewell to Balfour Road	Jig	RSCDS Bk 52
Swiss Lassie	Reel	RSCDS Bk 39
The Cashmere Shawl	Strathspey	Boyd/Strathray
The Scallywag	Jig	RSCDS Bk 52
Glengarry Homestead Paw Bk	Strathspey	Brenchley/Kangaroo
Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran	Reel	Drewry

## BRANCH AGM & DANCE, NORTH NEWBALD, 23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL

Our AGM and dance in April will take place at North Newbald Village Hall, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. North Newbald is not far from Market Weighton, and for SatNav users the postcode is YO43 4SN. We used the hall for our Ceilidh/Dance in September and really liked it – parking is good, the floor is good, the hall is modern, light and airy, toilet and kitchen facilities are excellent.

The AGM takes place at the interval and is particularly important this year. We are asking for amendments to the Constitution; details will be circulated closer to the date. We have one new nominee to the committee, but as always, more would be welcomed! Please submit any nominations or proposals to the Committee in advance.

The dance begins at 7.30 and the cost will be £10 for RSCDS members and £12 for non-members. You are asked to bring contributions to a Faith Supper. The programme, danced to recorded music, has been chosen by Rachel and Joyce and is as follows:

Mrs MacLeod	Reel	RSCDS bk 6
Pelorus Jack	Jig	RSCDS Bk 41
Monymusk	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 11
Ramadan-ce	Reel	Drewry, Turkish Set
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	Jig	RSCDS Bk 22
The Duchess of Atholl's Slipper	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 9
The Chequered Court	Jig	RSCDS Bk 42

Scott Meikle	Reel	RSCDS Bk 46
Orpington Caledonians	Reel	RSCDS Book 49
Anna Holden's Strathspey	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 42
The Abbot of Unreason	Jig	Levy/Tin Woodman
Montgomerie's Rant	Reel	RSCDS Bk 10
The Dundee Whaler	Strathspey	Clowes
General Stuart's Reel	Reel	RSCDS Bk 10
City of Belfast	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 48
Gaelforce Wind	Jig	Haynes/Graded Bk 3

### **BRANCH DANCE, PICKERING, 14<sup>th</sup> MAY**

Another happy return – our May dance at the Memorial Hall in Pickering take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, beginning at 7.30. Music is from Leonard Brown, and tickets cost £15 for RSCDS members and £18 for non-members. Please bring either a contribution to a Faith Supper or else your own “Personal Picnic”, whichever you feel is best for you.

The programme has been devised by Jennifer and Sheila and is as follows:

Thomas Glover's Reel	Reel	Drewry/Cherry Blossom Bk
The Hazel Tree	Jig	Drewry/Brodie
Rougemont Castle	Strathspey	RSCDS Book 48
Swiss Lassie	Reel	RSCDS Bk 39
Pelorus Jack	Jig	RSCDS Bk 41
Sands of Morar	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 45
Polharrow Burn	Reel	RSCDS 3/2007
Jim's Haberdashery	Jig	MacPherson/Bannockburn 700
MacDonald of Keppoch	Medley	RSCDS Bk 49

Best Set in the Hall	Jig	RSCDS Bk 46
The Dandelion Picker	Reel	Barbour
Culla Bay	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 41
Gothenburg's Welcome	Jig	RSCDS Bk 37
Platinum Skies	Reel	Clarke/Belfast Platinum
City of Belfast	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 48
Follow Me Home	Jig	RSCDS Bk 38
Mairi's Wedding	Reel	Cosh

## A TRIBUTE TO PAT CLARK

It was very sad to hear from Peter that Pat had passed away on January 31<sup>st</sup>. I have some lovely memories of Pat and the manuscript copies of two tunes which she dedicated to me, and I learnt so much from her. Malcolm and Helen knew her so much better, and Malcolm has written this tribute to her.

### Pat Clark, Peter Clark and the Browns

It is hard to think about Pat without Peter, especially as their different strengths complimented each other so well. In his forward to the first Bruce Collection, a book which contains 41 tunes that she had composed, Peter writes:

Pat is a music graduate of the University of Leeds. She has taught and played piano, organ and flute. Her interest is not limited to dance music as she regularly accompanies choral groups and church services. She started dancing as a young girl with her sister in the Manchester area. Her regular playing for Scottish dancing started in 1962 when the Leeds branch was formed.

This is going to be a collection of memories from our many years of knowing each other. My first encounter was when I was teaching a Highland class, and they suddenly appeared, obviously knowing at least as much as me. Soon they became regular members of my Friday night class, driving down from north of Easingwold after a week of teaching in schools in the Peterlee area. I remember one week when we were doing a block marching exercise that Pat led her block in a manoeuvre as she climbed up and walked along the chairs. Having Pat in the class was especially interesting – when I used my computer to record the tune for General Stuart’s Reel at half speed, my idea of asking the class whether they recognised the tune was blown out of the water after three notes when she said “That’s General Stuart”!

Pat was always prepared to play for any branch activity, including the teacher training classes I taught, and always rose to any challenge. The standard “8 bars reel; 8 bars jig” was child’s play – 4 bars, 4 bars was followed by 2 bars, 2 bars. This came in handy when she played for visiting teachers at our Day Schools, not to mention the various teachers she played for at St Andrews.

When we decided to hold a branch weekend at the Cairn Hotel we asked Pat to play for classes, which she continued to do apart from the very last weekend we held. On our first Friday night we used recorded music, and Pat said that in future she would be prepared to play for us as well as play for classes – this gradually changed into Peter, Pat and initially Duncan playing for us on Friday nights as “The Cairns”.

Pat was a prolific composer and wrote several of the tunes and arranged all the music for the first book of dances produced by the branch in 1989, as well as the dances in the two dance books containing dances written by the Brown family, the Dunnington Collections. She published three books of her own compositions (The Bruce Collections), the third of which contains over 100 tunes.

Pat was always coming up with ideas for ceilidhs, both for our branch ceilidhs and the ones at St Andrews. As well as accompanying the boys playing their fiddles, she also came up with the idea of hiding in a Wheelie Bin while Peter and I hit it - ([Drumming - YouTube](#)) and the “Broadswords” - [Broadswords comedy PAL - YouTube](#)

In 2002 Helen and I travelled with them to a weekend course just outside Stuttgart, with Peter and Pat sharing the driving. I remember how reliant we were on Pat obtaining us accommodation in Belgium on the way back, as well as finding our food for the lunch time breaks. In fact, the entire trip was organised by them, and it worked like clockwork.

The following year we travelled with them to Japan for the Tokyo branch weekend – Peter and I were the teachers, while Pat played – We met up in Edinburgh where they had a flat and flew via Frankfurt to Tokyo. The photo shows us shortly after our arrival, when we were taken to a Sushi restaurant - when our “minder” Tom Toriyama naturally



started using chopsticks, at which point Pat asked if he ate everything with chopsticks – answer “yes” – even Ice Cream? So she wrote a dance “Ice Cream and Chopsticks”. One night we stayed in a Japanese house, with Helen and I being allowed a bed, while Peter and Pat slept Japanese style. By then they had moved up to Kingussie, which made it slightly less embarrass-ing when we were asked “Where in Scotland do we live?”. We finished up our visit to Tokyo with a visit to a department store, including a visit to the restaurant on the top floor where the chef was so famous that the sauce bottle had a picture of him on the front! (The things we remember...)

A few years later we all went to Vancouver for the TAC AGM and to Vancouver Island for the Summer School, and I have just looked at my video showing them dancing on the Ferry going across.

As Peter indicated in his forward to one of the Tune books, Pat not only played and composed - she also devised dances, taught dancing and danced herself. She did not confine herself to Country dancing but also embraced ladies step dancing. One dance she devised and taught at St Andrews one year is [The Way tae Fife - YouTube](#).

The highest accolade from the RSCDS is the award of the Scroll of Honour. This is awarded each year to a few individuals who have made an exceptional contribution, generally to the RSCDS at large/worldwide as well as locally. Pat received the Society’s “Scroll of Honour” in 2006, nominated by York & N Humberside Branch

I feel very fortunate and privileged to have counted Pat as one of my friends, and she will be sorely missed by her many friends all over the world.

Malcolm Brown, York



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

- March 26 Y&NH Branch Annual Dance, Stockton on the Forest – Scott Band  
26 Leeds RSCDS Club dance, St. Chad’s – Ian Slater
- April 1 RSCDS Richmond Social Dance, Richmond Town Hall  
9 RSCDS Richmond Spring Branch Dance, Richmond School – Marian Anderson  
23 Y&NH AGM & Dance, North Newbald – recorded  
(please note corrected date – editor’s error previously)  
23 Leeds Club dance, St. Chad’s – Neil Barron  
30 Harrogate Saltire SCDC Spring Dance, St. John’s School Knaresborough -
- May 14 Y &NH Branch Dance, Pickering – Leonard Brown  
21 Leeds RSCDS Branch Dance, Queen’s Hall, Moortown – Ian Slater
- June 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
- September 17 Y&NH Branch Dance, North Newbald – music tbc.  
17 Leeds RSCDS Branch Dance, St Chad’s – Ian Slater
- October 1 Y&NH Branch Afternoon School & Evening Dance, Stamford Bridge Hall (t.b.c.)
- November 19 Leeds RSCDS 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball, Riley-Smith Hall, Tadcaster – Ian Muir Trio
- December 4 Y&NH Branch Dance, Swanland – music tbc.  
December 17 Leeds RSCDS Branch Dance, St Chad’s – George Meikle  
31 Y&NH Branch Hogmanay Dance, Reading Rooms, Dunnington – recorded – *TICKET ONLY*

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