

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
YORK AND NORTH HUMBERSIDE BRANCH

# *BROUN'S REEL*

May 2023

A NEWSLETTER

No. 173

## Editorial

“Welcome to the Centenary Edition of Broun’s Reel!” is how I’d like to start today. However, that would imply we only had RSCDS Centenary material in the newsletter, so I can’t. (Hmm!) Nevertheless, this edition does have a focus on the RSCDS’s Centenary, both via this editorial and the inclusion of several photos. Please excuse a slightly longer editorial than usual! And my apologies to those who know more than I do about the founding of the RSCDS: I’m beginning with a *very* potted history of the Society.

The SCDS – it hadn’t yet acquired the R – was formed in 1923, aiming to preserve the “delightful national dances of Scotland” and their particular character. Miss Jean Milligan, a PE lecturer at Jordanhill College, Glasgow, with a long-standing interest in the country dances of Scotland, and Mrs. Ysabel Stewart (of Fasnacloch – *that* Mrs. Stewart), Guide Commissioner for Argyll, founded the Society in order to preserve and promote Scottish country dancing. They saw the values inherent in their own dance tradition in the face of the threat from popular jazz and American dancing which rural Scotland had resisted prior to World War 1.

One of the remarkable attributes of traditional Scottish country dancing, for Miss Milligan and other writers, was that it was for all levels of society, rather than for any particular class. In today’s phrasing, it was very inclusive. The “friendly social spirit so characteristic of Scottish gatherings of the past”, they felt, was being

lost. Miss Milligan insisted that “Scottish dancing belonged to all grades of society” (from *Won't You Join the Dance?*) She was also very definite, however, that SCD was ballroom dancing rather than folk dancing. My own thought is that even if this were once true, SCD really has a foot in both camps nowadays.

The shortage of men (especially young ones) after the war led to the adoption of a custom we now take for granted. Quite simply, there weren't enough men to go round. Women therefore had to dance in the man's position – and quite clearly they were “ladies dancing in the man's position”, with frequent changes of partner: Miss Milligan did not approve of cliques keeping the same partner in ‘superior’ sets! I have always thought of this as ‘sharing the men around’ – no exclusive “dibs” on them in a dance. It was great to be at a dance just once when there were more men than women!

This inclusivity has meant that now Scottish Country Dancing can be danced by anyone, anywhere. The RSCDS has a world-wide presence, and dancers in so many countries feel bonded by the enthusiasm we have in common for our dancing. The influence of the RSCDS also means that wherever you go, not only in the UK but in all four corners of the globe, you will find the same dancing and the same spirit.

What does the RSCDS mean to me? I believe passionately in its aims. I love the dancing and dancing with a group, and especially I love the amazing feeling that comes from a set which dances together almost as a single unit. I love the music! I love it all! I ascribe a great deal of what social confidence I have to Scottish Country dancing. Most of all, I love to see people coming away really happy from dancing on a Monday night.

Monday nights are like so many things in the SCD world. They wouldn't happen if it weren't for so many people giving their time and energy voluntarily. Douglas sweeps the floor before we begin so that we can dance on it. Lynne takes the money and books the hall so we have somewhere to dance. A small team organizes the tea and biscuits

between them. They wash up! People stack the chairs away at the end and draw the curtains. No one asks them. They just do it. Thank you, all of you.

This weekend (as I write) sees the Coronation of King Charles III. He has stressed the importance of volunteers at all levels in our society, and this is true of so many in our dance world too. At all of our dances, someone has volunteered to take the money, to sort the room if needed, to put the kettle and make tea, to bring that equipment, to record the playlist if needed, to open up, to lock up, to MC, to look out for others. These are not just members of the committee, but non-committee members of the dancing community too. At HQ, much of the RSCDS is likewise organized – kept going, if you like – by other volunteers who feel they are giving something back. The King’s late mother was our Patron and a dancer, and surely appreciated how useful volunteers are to an organization like ours. So, thank you, all of you who volunteer, whatever it is that you do. We couldn’t run without you.

One of the chief preoccupations of many is the future of the Society, with membership in the UK in decline. We really do have to look to the future. How can we recruit more people? Especially younger ones? Do people see in us the great joy we have in our dancing? And if not, why not? I think it’s a really hopeful sign that our own Branch is launching new things in the Society’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year – all led by volunteers, of course! There is Angie’s work on social media, Carol’s on the Yorkshire Diary, the new website. I think it is really important that we are looking ahead.

Miss Jean Milligan ended her introduction to the first SCD Manual *Won’t you join the dance?* thus:

“The greatest object now for the RSCDS is to spread friendship and happiness wherever it goes.” I hope it still does, and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Joyce Cochrane

## **A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT**

Monday 17 April was a significant event in this year's calendar, but one which most of you won't have been aware of at the time. It was the day on which the new online Yorkshire Diary was finally launched, nearly a year after the idea was initially discussed by Helen Russell, Angie Francksen and me, and seven months from when work started on it in earnest.

For those of you who haven't yet had a chance to "play" with it, the online Diary replaces the former paper version, with which I'm sure you were all familiar. Malcolm did sterling work editing this for many years, and I had originally volunteered to take it over from him. Then Covid struck, and as we all know, almost everything to do with SCD was put on hold.

By the time dancing restarted, it seemed appropriate to move the Diary online. While it is sad in some ways to see the demise of the paper version, which served as a useful and valuable reference guide, the new Diary has many advantages. For instance, the Branches and Clubs who subscribe to it can alter and add information at any stage during the year. They can even put in details for events taking place at any point in the next five years, the hope being that this will minimise any clashes of dates, which inevitably impact on attendance.

As well as listing dances, the Diary also gives details of SCD classes, workshops, and day schools, so it offers a wealth of information. There is even the option to download cribs for dances, where subscribers have made these available for inclusion (see User Guide for instructions).

Although it has always been called the Yorkshire Diary, the online version continues to cover a broader area which encompasses areas such as Newcastle, North West Craven, Retford etc.

To have a look at the Diary, log on to the Branch website at [rscdsyork.org](http://rscdsyork.org). Here you can open up the Diary, by clicking on its logo. There is also a link next to the logo to the User Guide, which will take you step by step through how to use the Diary, until you become familiar with it.

We hope you enjoy the Yorkshire Diary and find it useful. If you have any comments or queries about it, do please get in touch.

Carol Hazell     [carmha@me.com](mailto:carmha@me.com)

## **BRANCH WALK & LUNCH, MELBOURNE, JUNE 15th**

As in the last two years, Ken is leading our Branch Walk, starting and ending this time at the Melbourne Arms, where we will also meet for lunch.

The walk will start from the pub in the village of Melbourne (YO42 4QJ), leaving at 10.30, and is 4 miles on the flat. Please advise Ken if you will be going on the walk! The village of Melbourne is to the west of Pocklington and through Allerthorpe, the scene of last year's walk, which was through varied land, accessible to all, and most enjoyable.

You will not need to select your meal in advance. We will choose from the pub menu on arrival and the menu can be seen by searching for the pub on line (e.g., Facebook , Instagram). However, please let Ken know in advance if you intend to join us for the meal, as he will need to let the pub know numbers. Ken's contact details are as follows:

Ken Wallace: mobile: 07733 004074

Email: [kenwallace@btinternet.com](mailto:kenwallace@btinternet.com)

## **MEMBERSHIP FORMS**

New membership forms have been out for a while now. If you have not yet renewed your membership, then please do so as soon as possible! If you are not a member, it would be great to welcome you to the fold. It would be wonderful to have a boost to our numbers in the Society's Centenary year! If you need a new form, contact Jennifer or me by email or me by post:

Jennifer Robinson     [jar.doha@gmail.com](mailto:jar.doha@gmail.com)

Joyce Cochrane        [jcochrane@jcochrane.karoo.co.uk](mailto:jcochrane@jcochrane.karoo.co.uk)

12 Newton Drive, Beverley, HU17 8NX

## SUMMER DANCING 2023

When summer arrives, most SCD Branches and Clubs stop dancing until the start of the new season in September. Those of you who would like to carry on dancing during July and August will be glad to hear that we are running weekly dance sessions over the summer again this year.

We are returning to last summer's venue, Askham Bryan's quaint village hall, which is a former chapel. It is situated on the main street of Askham Bryan village, and is easily accessible from York, Harrogate, Leeds and surrounding areas.

Everyone is welcome to attend, and for as many or as few sessions as you like. As before, we will be doing a mixture of familiar dances and ones that may be new to you. Most of the dances will be walked through, except for a few easy dances each week, which will be recapped. We may also include some more complicated dances which could be repeated over several sessions if people want the chance to learn them.

Our first session is on 19 July, 7.30 – 9.30 pm, and then weekly until our last session on 30 August **except for 2 August when the hall is unavailable**. The cost is £4 per session including refreshments.

This year we are also having an **End of Summer Dance with live music by Leonard Brown on Saturday 2 September**. This will be at Stockton on the Forest Village Hall, starting at 7.30 pm, and it will be a walk through dance. Tickets are £10, and can be bought in advance from Ken or Carol, or you can pay on the door. The programme and crib will be available nearer the time.

We hope you will be able to join us over the summer.

For any queries, contact

Carol: 07973 966861 [carmha@me.com](mailto:carmha@me.com)

Ken: 07733 004074 [kenwallace@btinternet.com](mailto:kenwallace@btinternet.com)

## “A LITTLE DANCE-TIME STORY” Competition!

In Maureen Chevens’s “little dance-time story” for you, in which the missing words were all references to dances. The only person to have sent me their answers in Anne Dawson -congratulations! Anne says:

“I started this when it came out and have had several goes at completing it. I am missing one and some are possibly wrong but I have had a go. It was fun to do it but it wasn't easy at times to find the dance that fitted the narrative. So here are my answers.” Anne’s are on the left, mine (Ed.) are on the right:-

Eden	1314
The Chequered Court	??
Holyrood House	Hamilton House X
Brisk Young Lad	Brisk Young Lad
Lassie Come and Dance With Me	Lassie Come & Dance With Me
Because He Was A Bonnie Lad	Because He Was A Bonnie Lad
He Had a Twinkle In His Eye	??
Bonnie Kate of Aberdeen	Bonnie Kate of Aberdeen
The Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord	The Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord
John of Bon Accord	John of Bon Accord
The Bonniest Lass in all the World	(ditto)
Angus Macleod	Angus Macleod
Marquis of Huntly	MacLeod of Harris
Happy Meeting	Happy Meeting
Happy Returns	Happy Returns
She's Ower Young to Marry Yet	She’s Ower Young to Marry...
Rakish Highlandman	??
The 21st September	The 21st September
The Reverend John Macfarlane	The Reverend John Macfarlane
Luckenbooth Brooch	<i>Kiss Under the Stairs*</i>
Fergus McIver	??
The Silver Tassie	The Silver Tassie
The Merry Dancers	The Merry Dancers
Merrily Danced the Quaker's Wife	??
???	?? The Nifty Ninety??

Nice to See You  
Pretty Ladies  
None So Pretty.

Nice to See You  
Pretty Ladies  
None so Pretty

As I said I am sure that a few are wrong”.

Anne Dawson, Scarborough

*\*I knew this was wrong but I couldn't resist... Anne, I take my hat off to you!*

*Now try reading the story again with the answers.*

*Joyce*

## **NEW WEBSITE**

At the time of writing, the branch website has reverted to its old name [rscdsyork.org](http://rscdsyork.org). It is currently still in the hands of Malcolm Brown, but there will be a change of software in the near future, as I understand it, and then Ken Wallace will become the new webmaster. Watch this space!

## **Y&NH BRANCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

Keep your eyes on Facebook and Instagram! Angie Francksen is updating our pages regularly. If you have never used them, don't be afraid of negative reports that you hear of social media; almost all organisations now have a facebook page. Our pages really do look very professional.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**HARROGATE WEEKEND 2024**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Cairn Hotel, Harrogate**

**Leaflets and application forms coming soon.**



## **BRANCH DANCE, COTTINGHAM, 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

The opening dance of the season will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> September at the Darby and Joan Hall, Finkle Street, Cottingham (HU16 4AZ for SatNav users). This is the hall where we have held the February Afternoon Tea Dance for several years. The dance begins at 7.30 but will finish around 10.00 pm, following a suggestion from the Cottingham and Willerby groups: this means a slightly shorter programme. You are asked to bring contributions to a Faith Supper.

The following programme is based on suggestions from the two local groups and has been put together by Joyce Cochrane:

Catch the Wind	Reel	RSCDS Bk 45
Farewell to Balfour Road	Jig	RSCDS Bk 52
Midsummer Common	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 49
Roaring Jelly	Jig	Foss/Glendarroch
MacDonald of Keppoch	Medley	RSCDS Bk 49
Glastonbury Tor	Reel	RSCDS Bk 47

### *Interval*

The Scallywag	Jig	RSCDS Bk 52
Trip to Timber Ridge	Reel	RSCDS Bk 52
Sands of Morar	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 45
Inchmickery	Jig	Goldring 14/2000
City of Belfast	Strathspey	RSCDS Bk 48
Mairi's Wedding	Reel	Cosh

### Extras:

Red Kites over the Black Isle	Strathspey	Glen Orin Collection
Reel of the 51st	Reel	RSCDS Bk 13
Pelorus Jack	Jig	RSCDS Bk 41

## RSCDS CENTENARY IN PICTURES

From our Centenary Dance in March; the RSCDS Centenary Ball in Edinburgh; and the Centenary celebration in Japan.



Left:  
card signed by all present at the Branch Centenary Dance on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Right:

Helen and Ian Russell, and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake, at the Society's Centenary Dance in Edinburgh



**RSCDS York & N Humberside Centenary Dance 25.3.23**



Photos from Angie Francksen.



Six past Chairpersons at the RSCDS Centenary Ball



Helen Russell in Japan.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

- |           |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| May       | 13 | Y&NH Branch Dance, Memorial Hall, Pickering – Leonard Brown   |
|           | 13 | Brighouse SCDC Open Night – recorded  |
|           | 20 | Leeds RSCDS Branch Dance, St. Chad’s – Robert Whitehead (duo)   |
| June      | 10 | Brighouse SCDS Annual Dance - Màrtainn Skene  |
|           | 15 | Y&NH Branch Walk, Newton on Derwent (4 miles)   |
|           | 17 | Leeds RSCDS Dance, St. Chad’s – Leonard Brown   |
|           | 24 | Great Ayton SCDC dance, Chop Gate – recorded  |
|           | 30 | Pickering Group end of term dance, Memorial Hall, Pickering – Robert Whitehead  |
| July      | 2  | Leeds RSCDS Rod Downey Workshop, Queen’s Hall, Moortown – (2.00 – 5.30)   |
|           | 8  | Leeds White Rose Festival & Evening Dance – Gateways School, Harewood – Susan MacFadyen                                     |
| September | 2  | End of summer dance, Stockton on the Forest – Leonard Brown   |
|           | 9  | Great Ayton SCDC Celebration Dance, Chop Gate – Ian Muir  |
|           | 16 | Y&NH Branch Dance, Darby & Joan Hall, Cottingham. – recorded  |
|           | 16 | Leeds RSCDS Day School & Evening Dance, St. Chad’s – Duncan Brown, Ian Slater   |
|           | 30 | NW Craven RSCDS Centenary Ball, Preston Patrick Memorial Hall, Milnthorpe – Robert Whitehead                                |
|           | 30 | Newcastle RSCDS Centenary Dance, Stannington – Roddy Matthews & Allan Smith   |
| October   | 7  | Y&NH Y&NH Branch Half Day School & Evening Dance, Stockton on the Forest – Deb Lees, Gillian Stewart, The Braes of Wansbeck |



- October 21 Leeds/Y&NH Joint Ball, Riley-Smith Hall, Tadcaster –  
Phill Jones
- 28 **York SCDC 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance**, Stockton on the  
Forest Village Hall – Sandy Nixon
- November 11 Great Ayton SCDC dance, Chop Gate – Leonard Brown
- December 3 Cottingham/Willerby classes Christmas Social, St  
Andrew’s Memorial Hall, Willerby – recorded
- 9 Y&NH Branch Pre-Christmas Dance, Memorial Hall,  
Pickering – 1.00 p.m. – Ian Slater
- 31 Y&NH New Year’s Eve Dance, Dunnington – recorded.  
Time tbc
- 2024
- January 6 Great Ayton SCDC New Year Dance, Chop Gate –  
Marian Anderson
- February 2-4 Y&NH Harrogate Dance Weekend, Cairn Hotel,  
Harrogate
- 

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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