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September 2026

Our date for resuming dancing is September 25th as we don't dance in August.

We have just had our summer social with fruit punch and nibbles as well as dancing which was extremely pleasant.

If you are thinking about joining us but are worried about not having a partner - don't be as there will always be someone to dance with - even if it is not every dance. If you are worried about being a complete beginner - don't be - because each dance and movement is taught and there are some of us who have been dancing since our start 13 years ago who still need the instructions. Just be prepared to laugh and enjoy the music and the company. Remember too it's good for you physically and mentally - keeps you thinking and nimble. We'd love to have you.

2026

The start of another year. For anyone interested in joining us - please feel free just to come along to Collingham Memorial Hall on the FOURTH FRIDAY(not always the last Friday in the month).

We open doors at 9.30am for setting up, chat and paying dues - at present £2.00 a session. Then we have a warm up session where we either learn or practice various dance patterns and steps before going on to dance set dances in blocks of 2 or 3.

You don't need a partner as there are many people who come on their own and penty of help if you have never danced before.

It's excellent exercise for both body and mind and we laugh a lot because everyone goes wrong at some time or other.

We look forward to seeing you.

September 2025

We started off in a very quiet way this month as it seemed a great many of our members had taken the opportunity to go away now that schools have restarted.

However, it did give us the opportunity to do some square dances as the numbers were right and this is not often the case, as we don't like people sitting out too often.

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I am hoping next time there will be a few more but if you are thinking of joining us why don't you just turn up on October 24th at about quarter to ten and introduce yourself - see if you like the dancing- and us. We will be pleased to see you.

July 2025

This month our dancing date is 25th July and it will be our last one in this session as there is no dancing in August.
In honour of the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen we will be doing some of the dances she might have danced and which appear in film adaptations of her books.
We will also be having a little celebration of a summer punch and nibbles kind so if you wish to attend - bring a glass.
We meet as usual in Collingham Memorial Hall and doors open at 9.30am for setting up and then we start to dance around 10.00ish.
This will be a good time to get to know people, especially as we don't dance in August, and will not meet again until the fourth Friday in September. Just come along and introduce yourself - no partner needed.

March 2025

Our meeting on 28th went very well although we were quite small numbers. We concentrated on casting and Ladies Chain - I think one of the delights of dancing is getting one figure to slide smoothly into the next so that the pattern of the dance is apparent. Next month we meet as usual in Collingham Memorial Hall, 0nFriday 25th April 2025 . Doors open at 9.30am for setting up, paying dues (£2.00 at present) and having a catch up before starting to dance around 9.45am -10.am. We usually start with a bit of learning and then do dances with that particular figure in it. All welcome. No experience needed.

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February 2025

Our next meeting will be on February 28th. New members welcome. No partner needed. Just wear peelable layers - you warm up quickly with the dancing, and soft shoes. We will start off with some tuition of various moves and then move on to doing dances which involve those moves so that it doesn't matter if you have no experience. Just come with no expectations of anything but a friendly group having fun- we are enthusiasts, not experts.

January 2025

We had a pleasant morning with a break for mulled wine and nibbles and a selection of seasonal dances such as Frosty Morning and Winter carousel.

December 2024

There will be no dancing in December as it is too near Christmas Day. Our first meeting in 2025 will be 28th January in our usual haunt of Collingham Memorial Hall. If you haven't been before this might be a good time to come along and see if you like us. We will be having our Winter Jolly when we stop halfway through the morning and have nibbles and mulled wine and a chance to socialise. The dances will be easy too. Just turn up - doors open 9.30am for setting up and dancing begins somewhere around 945am - 10.00am.

November 2024

Last month we were a bit thin on the ground as some people were ill and others freed from grandparenting and were off on their travels. However, we still managed a full dancing programme, of 4 and 5 couple dances . This month I hope we will be back to normal and have a few more dances to choose from.

Date 22nd November - start time as usual 9.30ish for setting up and paying dues - currently £2.00 per session and then dancing in sets of 2 or 3 dances followed by a short break. Members bring their own drinks as we don't have a formal tea break. All are welcome - let me know you are coming , wear comfortable shoes and peelable layers as dancing warms you up.

There will **not** be a session in DECEMBER as it falls too close to Christmas. Instead we will have a party session on January 3rd 2025 when

everyone brings something to nibble and there is mulled wine. Don't be afraid of coming to join then as it is a good time to chat to the group members. I look forward to meeting you. Lesley

July 2024

We have just had our last session for the summer. There will be NO session in August. We will resume dancing on Friday September 27th 2024 and welcome all who wish to try it. Folk Dancing is very good for you on many counts. It is easy weight bearing exercise - good for the bones, circulation and heart. It is full of patterns and different manoeuvres - good for the brain and flexibility. It is fun and we laugh a lot when we get in a mess - very good for the endorphins that raise mood and keep you enjoying life. Come along and give us a try! No partner or experience needed.

January 2024

We started the New Year well with enough of us to try out various forms of dance and some figures which we haven't danced before. If you have thought of giving us a try but haven't danced before don't be afraid. All the dances are called and walked through and each session we try to emphasize a different figure in order to refresh memories. Just come along, introduce yourself and we will do our best to make you feel welcome and make sure you have someone to dance with .

December 2023

For the last session in 2023 we will be dancing on December 29th not 22nd which would be our usual 4th Friday in the month. We will still meet at Collingham Memorial hall and I shall be there at 9.30 ish to set up. We will start dancing at about 10.00am and do a few topical dances such as Snowball and Frosty Morning before having a break for mulled wine and shared nibbles and finishing with a few more well known dances. The wine won't be very alcoholic so bring a wine glass as there aren't any available at the hall. Everyone brings a few nibbles to share with the rest of the group. Even if you haven't been before, feel free to come and try us out -

it's a good time to get to know people as we don't usually have a prolonged break in a dance session.

Dates for 2024 are Jan 26th, Feb23rd, March 23rd, April 26th, May 24th, June 28th, July 26th, NO AUGUST, Sept 27th, Oct 25th, Nov 22nd, Dec 27th

July 2023

Our end of year party this month was a relaxed and very pleasant session with easy dances and an interval involving a low alcohol red wine punch or soft drinks and a wide variety of nice nibbles. There will be NO DANCING IN AUGUST as the hall will be filled with a bouncy castle and children at holiday club.

We recommence September 22nd 2023 . Come along, no partner needed and we will start with our usual teaching/ reminder session followed by dances which involve it as part of a very mixed programme.

Jan 28th 2023

We had our first session of the New Year on 28th and went back to the tried and tested formula of a teaching half an hour followed by dances featuring those figures and techniques. Covid has certainly had an effect on memory. 2-3 years of non or intermittent dancing means one can forget an awful lot! However, a refresher proved to be very effective and some really nice dancing ensued. Our next session is the fourth Friday in February which is the 24th. If you want to come just email me to say so and turn up at the Collingham Memorial Hall to see if you like us.

December 2022

Hello All - we will be having our Christmas dancing session on Dec 30th 2022 - not the proper date which would have been Dec 23rd - a bit too close for comfort!

Bring a small contribution of bring and share nibbles and a glass if you want some mulled wine. We will be doing easy dances with a festive flavour so if you just want to see if you like us come along to Collingham Memorial Hall any time between 9.30am and 10.00am and introduce yourself.

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Merry Christmas everyone from Lesley Newnham

November 2022

It has become very clear that what I said in July 2022 still pertains. Covid has not gone away and the numbers of people dancing have still been quite small because of general concern about infection. I think our precautions about keeping doors and windows open have paid off as although people have caught Covid, myself included, I don't think anyone could attribute it directly to dancing.

Our next session is Friday 25th November in Collingham Memorial Hall as usual, doors open at 9.30am for setting up and paying dues - at present £2.00 - before starting to dance about 10.00am. Feel free to come for a taster session to see if you like it. No expertise or partner required.

December session will be Friday 28th December and will be a bring and share refreshments seasonal 'jolly'

July 2022

It is amazing to think we have been dancing now for almost 6 months and that, as far as Covid goes, nothing seems to have changed much. However, nobody seems to have developed Covid as a direct result of attending dancing, maybe because of the wide open doors and windows and careful testing. Numbers have been variable and there are still dancers who are not ready to join an indoor vigorous activity yet. Our date this month is 22nd when we shall have our summer 'jolly' as it will be our last for the summer. There will be NO dancing in August. If you want to test us out it will be a good time to socialise and meet people and to do some easy dancing. Come along and introduce yourself or give me a call to discuss things.

March 2022

We have started again - a bit quietly as there are still a lot of our members who don't feel confident enough to come. We have danced in January and February - so far without anyone who has reported it breaking out in Covid that could be attributed to Folk Dancing. I am trying to arrange dances

without ballroom hold closeness and we dance with all the doors and windows open. Fortunately dancing keeps you warm enough for this not to be a problem. So if you feel like joining us contact me and we welcome all levels of ability.

August 2021

Sadly, because of the amount of infection floating about , some of it affecting people who have been double jabbed , we have decided that September is too soon to start an activity which involves physical contact, is indoors and usually causes heavy breathing. So I have put back the start until January 2022.

As we missed our coffee morning last time because the weather was appalling, we are having a gathering on Friday 20th August from 10.30am - 12.30 at 8 Northfield Place, Wetherby, LS22 6TB . I will provide biscuits but bring your own drink and cup and maybe a folding chair as I don't have enough. The same applies to potential new members as with the last meeting. If the weather is dreadful again please stay at home as I don't have room indoors to space you out.

April 2021

Well - that was an unfounded bit of optimism wasn't it? I have just indulged in another bit of optimism. I have booked our room in Collingham Memorial Hall for September 24th 2021 starting at our usual time of 9.30am. That might be a bit fierce for people who haven't danced for over a year but I suspect our first session will involve as much catching up with each other as dancing. So fingers crossed and if you fancy having a look at us to see if it appeals then just come along. There is some parking at The Memorial Hall but not enough and there is more over the road at the shops and down Church Lane. Collingham is also on a main bus route.

We are also planning a simple social get together in the small park at the side of the Memorial Hall on June 25th at about 10.00am or 10.30am . Bring your own coffee and biscuits and something to sit on and we can listen to some music while we find out what has been going on for everyone.

If you would like to join this group Click Here and use the group's application form

March 2020

The Folk Dancing will be suspended until further notice while we help to get the corona virus under control. Look forward to seeing you later in the year.

Jan 24th 2020

We will be having our winter 'jolly' as we didn't have it in December. Dances will have a seasonal flavour and we will stop for drinks and nibbles halfway. If you haven't been before and would like to join us please bring a small contribution to the feast and a glass for a drink. Introduce yourself to me before we start and then just have fun!

December 2019

August certainly didn't go according to plan - I had my appendix out and the session was cancelled. October and November we were getting used to the new accoustics of the 'improved 'Memorial Hall.

As December falls on 27th and there are only a small number of people who could be free to party it has been decided to skip this session and start with a winter celebration in January when we will have our dancing fuelled by mulled wine and nibbles. If you want to come along, feel free to join us - bring a small nibble contribution - it will be a good time to get to know people. Remember it is always the 4th Friday in the month and not the last as there are sometimes 5 Fridays

August 2019

All not going according to plan in Collingham. This month we are dancing at St James Church rooms Wetherby which might be a bit of a squash. However, it won't be any worse than July when we were in the Supper room of the Memorial Hall which was also housing a number of tables and chairs which were protecting the part of the floor which the Beer Festival had wrecked! After some protest they reduced our rent by half for July . Don't let any of this put you off if you are thinking of joining - come along for your free trial and see if you like the dancing and us. Wear peelable layers of clothing as it gets a bit heated from time to time and bring a drink if you need one. Look forward to seeing you all.

July 2019

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Collingham Memorial Hall is undergoing renovation at the moment. Despite this I am assured that we will still be able to dance this month on 26th as usual , although we may be in the Supper Room to the rear of the building. Come in by the side entrance nearest the car park unless otherwise directed. Newcomers are always welcome and you don't need a partner as people pair up as necessary. Tuition is given and as old hands frequently go wrong - including me- mistakes are readily forgiven.

Wetherby & District U3A
Folk Dancing
April 2019

April was devoted to the Playford type dances. Joshua Playford was a dancing master in the 1700s who carefully wrote down the music and movements in small manuals called 'The Dancing Master', of dances which had become fashionable at the assemblies and at court. These were then taught at home to the young eligibles so that they did not disgrace themselves when they first went into company. Some are slow and graceful but others are quite lively and must have been a bit of a trial to those wearing layers of petticoats or regimental uniform. Next Meeting May 24th - doors open 9.30ish, dancing to start about 10.45ish.

March 2019

Unfortunately I have had to cancel the session this month as I am ill and there are not enough other callers to fill the gap. Next month will be Friday 26th April.

January 2019

As the year had taken me by surprise we did a recap of all the basic moves we do and some we had not done for a long time. It was a good way to start the year. I had a lot of help from other dancers who do some calling, Gill, Rosemary and Peter so I was able to dance myself quite a bit - which served to remind me that it is a very good workout both mentally and physically.

Date of next dancing is February 22nd - earlier in the month this time as the first Friday was actually 1st and we always meet on 4th Friday.

Come and join us - the more the merrier

If you would like to join this group Click Here and use the group's application form

October 2018

Date for this month is the 26th and we shall be refreshing the figures that we did last time - Ladies Chain and Right and left through as well as the usual do-si-dos, stars and circles and we'll add a reel or two to the repertoire. Beginners need never worry as there is always the half an hour or so at the beginning to learn and practise before putting it all into an actual dance.

Come and join us - it's a really good physical workout and keeps you thinking too - but all carried along by the music and the laughter if it all goes pear-shaped.

August 2018

Our summer jolly went well in July as did this session where we practised figures of 8, ladies chain and right and left through before going on do the dances which involve them. Next session is on September 28th. Doors open at 9.30am for a leisurely start setting up and paying dues before starting with the tuition session which helps everyone remember what the various steps are. All welcome.

July 27th

We will be having our summer 'jolly' where we have drinks and nibbles halfway through and a chance for a more prolonged chat that we normally manage between dances.

If you fancy coming along to try us out this is a good time to do so as the dancing will be simple and you will have a chance to talk.

Just contact me on 01937 845773 or email l.newnham45@gmail.com

Next Meeting June 28th

We will be having our usual warm up learning session - May was very good learning some of the less usual steps which were those used in the 18C and 19C - as in Jane Austen novels. This month we will do a bit of weaving about with reels of 3 and 4 before putting them in dances.

Don't be afraid of knowing little or nothing- we all learn all the time and we all forget what we've learned from time to time. Any queries contact me on 01937 845773 or l.newnham45@gmail.com

If you would like to join this group Click Here and use the group's application form

Next meeting April 27th

April 27th in Collingham Memorial Hall. If you would like a 'taster' session either contact me beforehand on l.newnham45@gmail.com or 01937 845773, or simply turn up at the hall - we use the fire door entrance at the side - and introduce yourself. Wear 'peelable layers' as it gets quite warm with all those dancing bodies, and soft shoes, although you may find trainers have too much grip for smooth dancing. Having said that, smooth dancing is not always apparent so don't be afraid of standing out as a beginner. We always do some tution before doing set dances.

Ceilidh

Peter Ibbotson asked me to circulate ceilidh details as follows
The Ceilidh is in Bramham Village Hall on Saturday 10th February.
£12 including a pie and pea supper. 7pm - 10pm. There will be a bar.
Tickets from Emily 844345. Dancing to Lairum Rise.

Our next regular meeting is February 23rd 2018 in Collingham Memorial Hall. Doors open 9.30ish. Learning session of dancing 9.45am. Dancing set dances 10.15ish until about 11.45am

January 2018

We had our Christmas Jolly on December 29th - or tried to. Unfortunately that was the day it snowed like the clappers and as there was no heating in the hall for some reason after half the morning we broke for a warming glass of mulled wine and some of the delicious nibbles everyone had provided and then scurried homewards before we were snowed in.
Our next meeting is January 26th beginning as usual with 9.30am set up and a teaching/revision half an hour to remind everyone of what they have forgotten over Christmas. Happy New Year to you all.

December 2017

The Christmas Showcase went very well and the 12 people who represented us did three dances with appropriate titles of Festive Circle, the Snowball and Pass the Port carrying it off with just a merest hint of a

hiccup to reassure all watching that we are not perfect!
Our Christmas Jolly is on 29th December in the Collingham Memorial Hall as usual starting at 10.00am. If you wanted to come for a taster session this would be a good time to chat to various members and to start with some easy dances. Just let me know you are coming and introduce yourself when you get there. You are very welcome.
Our First session of the New Year is on 26th Jan 2018 which is our usual 4th Friday and will start at 9.30am

October 2017

We will begin to put together a programme for the Christmas Showcase at the Engine Shed on Dec 13th as we will be part of the entertainment. The summer months have been relatively quiet with a smaller number of dancers but we have done some good work on interesting movements such as figure of eight and right and left through. The teaching session at the start of each morning has really paid off and we can now do some quite advanced dances and beginners can cope because they have just practised the moves.

March 2017

January and February got us off to a good start. I indulged myself, as promised, by starting the teaching of an advanced dance called 'Levi Jackson Rag' which has a very unusual formation and a tricky 5 handed ladies star. We made a pretty good stab at it which shows how far some of the group have come since our starting days, because there were one or two complete beginners and several members who hadn't been for ages and they managed as well as any. So don't worry if you haven't danced for 20, 30, 40 years or even ever at all- we do easy stuff as well. We can cope and if things get in a mess it's something to laugh at. Come along to Collingahm Memorial Hall on any 4th Friday in the month(not always the last Friday), introduce yourself and have a taster session to see if you enjoy it.

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December 2016

We had our Christmas 'jolly actually in December this year. About 30 of us danced a selection of appropriately named dances such as The Winter Carousel, Drops of Brandy, Balance the Star etc. Then we had a break for mulled wine and a spread of delectable nibbles before a second half of dancing.

Next Year we are going to start off in January by learning an advanced dance called Levi Jackson Rag which will be new to everybody. It's one of my favourite dances because it is so unusual in formation and has such a toe- tapping tune. Next session is January 27th, Collingham Memorial Hall, gather at 9.30am for getting set up and payment of subs(£2.00) and then dancing until somewhere between 11.45am and 12.00ish. Please feel free just to turn up, all welcome, no partner needed.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Next Meeting October 28th 2016

We were a bit short of numbers for our September Meeting which meant that we are not covering our room costs. We will therefore pay £2.00 per session as from this month until we see how many people dance on a regular basis. I did make any enquiry as to whether those on our register wanted to continue and found a distressing number of people afflicted by illness or accident. I don't mind how often you can make it to dance as long as you let me know if you are going to be absent. I always email a reminder before every session. Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Folk Dancing

Folk Dancing will resume on Friday 23rd September 2016.

The format will be the same as usual - gather about 9.30ish to pay subs and get ready then half an hour or so of practising or learning steps and moves, followed by dancing set dances. All welcome.

At this session Jilly Rose will have tickets for a ceilidh in aid of charity-they are always good fun- see below.

The Children's Society are organising a
Ceilidh at
Collingham Memorial Hall on

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Saturday 15th October 2016
Doors open 7.00p.m. for 7.30pm
Adults £8 Children £5
Includes buffet supper, bring your own drinks
Tickets from Jill Rose on 01937 586640
Or I **will bring tickets to the next Folk Dancing session on 23rd September**

August 3rd 2016 - at the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Showcase at Askham Bryan our group did a demonstration of three of our repertoire to show dances from the 1700s to the present day, namely Childgrove, The American Spanish Waltz (that one was an example of a dance that had been transported to America with settlers and then returned and adapted here, and Blaydon Races. After the last one we invited the audience to join in a repeat and our dancers split up to assist them and we had a tremendous response. I was very proud of them all and very grateful for the time they gave to do it.

There will not be an August session as the Memorial Hall is used for the Horticultural Show.

Next Meeting September 23rd Collingham Memorial Hall doors open 9.30ish for setting up, chat and paying dues and then dancing from about 9.45am, starting with half an hour of tuition and revision of various steps and figures.

There WILL be a session on May 27th owing to the vagaries of the NHS who have cancelled at short notice and put my op back to June 17th which is highly inconvenient but about which there is little to be done.
New members will be very welcome as there will be small numbers and so help will be very forthcoming.

Unfortunately there will no meeting on May 27th as there will be no-one available to take the calling whilst I am away having my knee replacement.
Look forward to June 24th when we will be re-learning the dances we are going to do for the YAHR Summer Showcase at Askham Bryan.

March - there will be no meeting as this falls on Good Friday. Our next

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meeting will be April 22nd. Usual time 9.30ish for registration, changing shoes etc, ready to start with the practice at 9.45am.
February was also very good - we did some dances with reels and some with figure of eight, and we will do these again soon, as there were quite a lot of people missing.
The party in January was fun if the dancing and the calling both showed that we hadn't met since November. Alcohol made no difference at all! However, the second January meeting on the usual fourth Friday was just the opposite and we accomplished some quite complicated dances - which all goes to show the value of the practice half and hour that we do to start.

Caroline Green did us proud in the Wetherby News in September with her roving report. In October we were a bit reduced in numbers because of illness and holidays but we still managed to do some tricky stuff as well as simpler dances.
November date is 27th and there will be no dancing in December.
Instead there will be a 'Seasonal Jolly' with drinks and nibbles on Friday January 8th and the usual date in January on 22nd .

June 26th was a splendid occasion when two members of the group celebrated momentous birthdays with fizz and cake and a buffet of nibbles.
July we were visited by our 'Roving Reporter ' Caroline Green who will include us in a write up, probably for the September issue of the Wetherby News. She enjoyed her dancing so much she may join us - if she can find the time.
Future dates for 2015- always the 4th Friday in the month which may not be the last one.

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August 28th
September 25th
October 23rd (one of the months with 5 Fridays)
November 27th
There is no meeting in December but there will be the winter party early in January - date still to be arranged.

Dates for 2015
January 23rd start 9.30amish for paying of subs/ setting up etc then 9.45am start with a tuition/refresher half and hour before embarking on set dances. This is the general pattern for each session
Feb 27th
March 27th
April 24th
May 22nd
June 26th
I'll post the next half year dates later.
Nov 2014
We are so far ahead of ourselves with finances there will be no fees this month or for the Post- Christmas jolly. A big thank you to Jilly Rose for keeping the books.
We will be dancing at the December 16th Showcase at Wetherby Methodist Church - a little something to show what we can do and then a join in dance to try if we can find the room.

We are going to have our Christmas get together on January 2nd 2015 instead of our December meeting which falls too close to Christmas. We will dance then have a break for goodies and a glass of mulled wine or Buck's Fizz and then dance again. If you want to come and join us on a trial basis just turn up at the Collingham Memorial hall at 9.45am bearing a small contribution to the goodies.

Dates for the rest of the 2014 year
Aug 22nd

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Sept 26th
Oct 24th
Nov 28th
There will be no meeting in Dec but a party date in January will be set.

July 25th 2014
Pimms with scones, strawberries and cream at our Summer Jolly . The morning was very hot but despite that we had a very fun, somewhat confused session of dances - especially in the second half of the morning after the Pimms- and a good time was had by all.
The next session is August 22nd - the usual 4th Friday in the month - early because there are 5 Fridays. Feel free to come along. We start soon after set-up at 9.30am with about half an hour of learning new moves and refreshing those already learned before going on to general dancing. Just introduce yourself to me and bring your membership card with you. Collingham Memorial Hall is on the main road and there is parking on site, or across the road at the shops, or down Church Lane. The bus stop for the Leeds bus from Wetherby is almost opposite.

May 14th 2014
Over the last few months the warm-up/ learning session has proved really useful. It helps new members, or those who only come occasionally, to learn the various moves quickly and allows those who are more experienced to help and to achieve more 'automatic pilot' themselves.
We have four callers who regularly help and anyone who would like to try is welcome to do so.
New members are always welcome and we shall be having a summer 'Jolly' in July with drinks and nibbles as we enjoyed our Christmas one so much.

October 2013
We will be dancing as usual on Friday October 25th starting with the warm up learning session at 9.45am I should like to give advance warning of a change of date. As the December Meeting falls only 2 days after Christmas we will be moving that session to Jan 3rd starting at 10.00am for a morning of seasonal dances and drinks and nibbles. The normal January session on Jan 24th will still take place and will start at the usual time of 9.45am

September 2013

We were just embarked on demonstrating how well everyone had grasped the 'reel of 3' manoeuvre which was this month's learning project when all ground to an abrupt halt with a power cut affecting Collingham, Bardsey East Keswick.
However,we made the best of it by taking the next 40 mins to refresh all the other folk dancing figures already done and working on improving technique and moving in time to the beat, After that I think everyone was worn out with concentrating and tired of hearing me 'diddly-diddly-

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diddly -deeing' and we packed up early. We will try again on Friday 25th October. We will start dancing with a refresher of the reel of 3 at 9.45am but if anyone wants to help put chairs out etc at 9.30am that would be great.
If anyone wishes to join us please just turn up and introduce yourself to me, Lesley, and bring your membership card with you.Don't worry if you don't know much - the learning session always includes a general refresher and we are a friendly bunch.. .

July 2013

Our group continues to grow in numbers and in dancing abilities which is wonderful and makes some really lively and varied programmes possible. Three other callers, Gillian McDowall, Rosemary Cheshire and Peter Biglin, contribute to the sessions which gives me a chance to dance.

Because some members are now more experienced than others we are going to extend the sessions, beginning on July 25th,so that we can start with some tuition of steps and dance patterns to help members new to the group and to dancing get to grips with the terminology and patterns of dances. Then we'll have a general dance session and perhaps try one or two trickier numbers which beginners can watch – even people who supposedly know what they are doing can get it wrong – very reassuring.

So, new times: Start 9.30am-ish , General Dancing 10.15-ish, and Finish 12.15pm, Collingham Memorial Hall 4th Friday in the month.

2012
We continue to have fun working our way through the figures of our English country dancing heritage : dances with entertaining names such as 'Johnny Fetch Your Wife Back', 'La Russe',- yes that is English, 'Waves of Tory', and 'Thady You Gander '(any ideas what that may mean?). Come and join us - laughter guaranteed. Wear peelable layers to cope with warming up and bring some soft shoes(not trainers) to change into as the floor gets dirty with outside shoes.

In the New Year we moved to Collingham Memorial Hall which has several advantages. It is half the price, it has parking but is also on the main bus route from Wetherby.

It is warm and lighter than Clifford Village Hall.
See you there!

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Below is the picture of our Christmas party - our last dance at Clifford, when everyone came in festive mood and we had a lovely selection of food contributions helped down

If you would like to join this group Click Here and use the group's application form

with mulled wine, Buck's fizz or Kir Royale (or, for the lightweights , fruit juice or lemonade). We danced Winter Carousel, The Snowball, Balance the Star, Bottoms Up, Drops of Brandy, Swedish Masquerade and only got a little tangled in The Holly Wreath.

Maybe because of the success of the Christmas party we had a bumper crop of new people in January(all that Buck's Fizz and Mulled wine lulled visitors into a sense of false security). It was lovely to have a room full of people dancing and to be able to have four square sets on the go.Everyone managed remarkably well despite being introduced to new figures and formations. Long may that last.

We have continued to dance with about 24 - 30 dancers which helps to try a wide variety of dances. There are now four of us who do some calling which is lovely as it means I (Lesley Newnham) dance regularly. Funny how one's knees and balance don't quite seem to be the same as in one's 20's and 30's.P Callers are Rosemary Cheshire, Gill McDowall , Peter Biglin - who has been doing some of the dances from the Jane Austen period- and myself. Come and have a taster session - see if you like it.