



NEWSLETTER NO 73

Dear Members and Friends

I do hope that you have had a good Summer and that you are refreshed and ready for the new season of Scottish Country Dancing, which will resume in September.

Our Branch classes last year benefitted because ten new starters joined us, most of whom have remained as regular class members throughout the season, and we are hopeful that they will return and that some will become members of the Branch and the Society. Much of the enthusiasm expressed by our newcomers has been due to the friendly atmosphere created by our existing members, but in particular due to the sympathetic approach of our two teachers, Joy and Louise. It has been very pleasing to me to have been told by some of our newcomers how much they enjoy our classes and the friendly social atmosphere.

Our Branch currently has 24 members, but we do know that it will increase during the next season. We are very fortunate to be able to welcome Shona and John Wilkes, both of whom have been Scottish Country dancers in the north east of England for a number of years, and having moved into our area recently, they have been able to join Richmond Branch. Shona, who is a qualified SCD teacher, is joining the teaching team with Joy and Louise.

Looking back at the past year we have been involved in a number of events to celebrate the Centenary of the RSCDS and I, in particular, would like to acknowledge the contribution that Joy Bradshaw has made in taking a leading role in organising these. Firstly, in September, Joy officiated at a social event at Richmond Town Hall entitled "Dancing through the Decades" with a set programme devised by HQ for all participants around the Society world. The following day an event entitled "Dance Around the World" was held at Cleasby Village Hall, which was a family event supported by a few of our dancers. Finally, to jointly celebrate the Centenaries of the Flying Scotsman engine and the Society, Joy arranged for our dancers to perform the actual dance "The Flying Scotsman" in front the engine itself, at the Locomotion Museum at Shildon, on a chilly day in January. The normal attire for dancing was abandoned for hats, coats, boots etc! In recognition of Joy's dedication to the Branch, for almost 40 years, the Committee decided that it was high time that this should be recognised in the form of a Branch Award. The Society produced the Award and it was duly signed by the Society and Branch Chairmen and presented to her at our AGM in May this year.

The Branch organised a full season of Friday monthly socials in Richmond Town Hall and the usual Autumn and Spring dances in Richmond School. At the first dance in October we enjoyed great music from Leonard Brown on his first visit to Richmond and then in April Marian Anderson and her Band treated us to some wonderful tunes. Happily, these musicians will be returning to play for us again in the future.

Once again, the Branch took part in Mayfest in Richmond on the Bank Holiday weekend in early May. This time we had a rather depleted team, but nevertheless our single display slot was well received with some audience participation. The other highlight of our Summer was taking a team of dancers to the White Rose Festival at Harewood in July, including three of our new dancers. Sadly, the weather was inclement so the dancing was indoors, but it was a successful and enjoyable afternoon. A few stayed on and enjoyed an evening of dancing to Ewan Galloway and his band, who had played all afternoon.

Sadly, our other outdoor event, the Reeth social, was also the victim of bad weather, but more importantly we had insufficient dancers to make the event viable so we had to cancel. In order to avoid a repeat in 2025, it is

intended to circulate all the regular supporters and ascertain whether they will be able to join us in July next year.

This year has seen the passing of two of our long standing, but retired members. Margaret White, who died in January, had been a loyal member and had served as Treasurer of the Branch for a number of years. Ruth Brown, who died in May, had also been a regular supporter of the Branch until poor health intervened.

It is now that time of year when I remind you that the RSCDS and Branch membership subscriptions are now due. Once again, the RSCDS subscription has risen slightly to £28.00 single and £45.00 double, but the Branch sub remains the same at £6.00 each. Consequently, the combined subscription for a single member is now £34.00 and for a couple is now £57.00. Payment can either be made by bank transfer (preferred) using the following details: sort code 05-04-04 account no 13384531 account name "RSCDS Richmond". If you pay by this method please advise Clare Pinchin, our Membership Secretary, either in person, by phone 07768439941 or email clarepinchin@yahoo.co.uk Alternatively, payment can be made by cheque payable to "RSCDS Richmond Branch". Reminders, with all the details, will be sent to all Members by email or post.

Dates for your Diary Classes will re start on Wednesday 4th September and the fees for the Autumn term of 15 classes will be £56.00 for members. £4.00 per week for members £4.50 per week for non members
Spring Term of 17 classes will be £64.00 for members. £4.00 per week for members £4.50 per week for non members.

There is an option for paying for two extra classes in May either per week or as a term fee of £72.00
A beginner's package of 6 classes is available for £15.00.

Our first Friday social will be held on 6th September in the Town Hall, Richmond from 7.30-10.00 pm with Jane and Clare our joint MC's

Our Autumn Dance will be held on Saturday 12th October in the Clark Hall, Richmond School dancing to the music of Phill Jones.

Two special events this Autumn will both be held in Cleasby Village Hall. The first on Saturday 21st September will be an afternoon of Scottish Country dancing with a programme suitable for less experienced dancers, children and families, supported by our regular dancers. This event will be on a donation basis and run from 2.00 – 4.30 pm. The other event, on Saturday 23rd November, will be an RSCDS Centenary plus one year social called "Dance Around the World" with a programme devised by HQ. This event will be from 2.00 – 5.00 pm and will be at a cost of £4.00/person.

Both events will be danced to recorded music.

I hope you all feel that our plans for the new season will enable all of us and our supporters to enjoy Scottish Country Dancing together.



Joy being presented with her Branch Award by the Chairman Geoff Robinson at the Branch AGM in May 2024.

Joy teaching a class at the Booth Hall, Catterick Village

Geoff Robinson
Chairman

August 2024