

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
YORK AND NORTH HUMBERSIDE BRANCH

# *BROWN'S REEL*

December 2022

A NEWSLETTER

No. 171

## Editorial

We have almost made it to the end of another year – another strange year, but for many different reasons. When I wrote in December 2020, we had had a year which seemed entirely composed of lockdowns or severe restrictions under Covid regulations. We hadn't danced for months, or even seen each other for the most part, there was little immediate prospect of dancing, and I used *Brown's Reel* as a medium for exchange greetings with dancing friends.

By December 2021, some of us had got back to dancing, though many of us had not. We had had our first dances for some 18 months, and in order to encourage people back to dancing, the committee had decided to keep prices for dances low and support foreseen losses. And it was wonderful to be back dancing to live music, even though numbers were substantially down in comparison with dances pre-pandemic. This time last year, I enthused about the wonderful music we'd had from Robert Whitehead & Alan Brown, The Braes of Wansbeck, and Màrtainn Skene. Ahead (at the time of writing) was a whole programme of exciting dancing.

Yet the ink was scarcely dry, so to speak, when a new Coronavirus variant raised its ugly head. Highly contagious, but with the severity of infection unknown, Omicron made the coming months look rather uncertain, even bleak. Who would come to dances with this new, unknown threat? Could we go ahead with our plans? *Should* we go ahead with them? We had only days in which to decide what to do, and the New Year's Eve and January dances, and the Harrogate weekend, were sadly all cancelled.

Looking back at 2022, yes, Covid-19 has had an impact still. There has been disruption to some classes; some dancers in other classes have either stopped dancing altogether or are only now returning. Uncertainty lies ahead again, not so much due to the virus this time, but in the rapidly accelerating cost of living. Can we afford to come to dances? Can we afford to run dances? We look at the world around us with real apprehension, and maybe even with despair.

In many ways, though, **this is the right time to come dancing!** We can huddle in our warmest clothes alone in front of the television, or we can go Scottish Country Dancing at our local class, or to a proper dance, whether to recorded or live music. Scottish Dancing is a brilliant activity for taking your mind off other things! Thinking of the geography of a dance and how to dance relatively new or even rare figures means an escape from worrying about your own troubles, or even the troubles of the nation or the whole world.

And then it's surely much better to be interacting with other people than sitting home alone: humans are social creatures and are not really designed to be hermits. When these winter days are dark and dreary, we can enjoy the light and music, and usually laughter too, inside a hall where other people are also enjoying themselves. And not only does SCD improve mental health and stimulate the little grey cells, it does so much good physically as well! if you haven't yet returned to dancing, and you have the mobility, then please come back! You need us, and we need you!

Enforced isolation during lock-downs cost so many people some degree of mobility. To those who can no longer dance for whatever reason, remember the glory days, and take comfort in that yes, you did it, and it was great.

Let's look forward with hope. Dancing together can make us happy people. Happy people really can make other people around them happy; is happiness contagious? So yes, dancing can help us make 2023 a better year. Let's do it.

Joyce Cochrane

## WHO IS ANGIE FRANCKSEN?



After seeing a post from Angie on Facebook, someone asked: “But who is Angie Francksen?” This article answers that question, and is the first in a series presenting our Branch committee members to you.

Angie is a Scot, born in Bathgate, “dragged kicking and screaming” by parents to Morayshire, and then “exported to England by a 6’3” Englishman” who now enjoys

SCD as well. She has danced since she was 3 years old, when she began Highland Dancing, and then went on to Scottish Country Dancing with the Young Farmers and at Army Balls. At one she claims she wore steel toe-capped boots to defend her feet, and the other involved ball-gowns and alcohol – you can decide which was which!

Angie returned to Scottish dancing aged 40 to find a way to get fit, and started to dance in York. It’s no longer just a way to keep fit, it’s a passion, and she and Kevin are well-known in the York area. She is currently Chairman of York Scottish Country Dance Club and a member of York and North Humberside RSCDS committee.

In her “spare time”, she has her own sales and marketing agency, and employs the talent and skills needed in her work to look after the Y&NH RSCDS and York SCDC social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram. She is responsible for the much-improved posters you will have seen! If you would like to contact her with ideas or possible contributions for the Facebook and Instagram pages, you can do this via [afancksen@hotmail.com](mailto:afancksen@hotmail.com) or on 07793 367296.

## PICKERING BEGINNERS' CLASS

It is really good to hear of the success of a beginner's class in our area. Sheila Barnes runs the class and talked to me about the class's progress.

The Pickering beginners' class (6 x 1-hour sessions) ran earlier this autumn and has now begun a second block of 6 sessions. The initial class had 13 participants, 12 of whom have stayed for this new course. All are very enthusiastic, and it has been good to see some younger dancers. Sheila believes that the key to the success of the class has been the informal and encouraging atmosphere; people have laughed and had a lot of fun.

Classes in the first course lasted for an hour, from 6.30 – 7.30, immediately before the main class which ran from 7.30 – 9.30. The class cost £15 for 6 weeks, paid in advance, and everyone attended every week. The current course still lasts an hour, from 7.00 until 8.00, thereby overlapping with the main class: both groups have danced together for half an hour, followed by a break when the beginners usually stop for refreshments and a chat with the more experienced class. Last week it was great to see a full hall, with both groups mixing well. Jennifer and Ken had helped with the beginners' group, and all had made them welcome.

During the beginners' classes, Sheila tries to teach a couple of basic formations each time, and then includes some dances which include these, even inventing some dances. The importance of listening to the music, and identifying 8-bar phrase, was crucial! She also had realised that how much of the terminology we take for granted is not always immediately understood by newcomers to SCD!

Classes were heavily publicized, with flyers “**everywhere**” – libraries, dental and doctors' surgeries, local public village noticeboards, you name it. Only the local golf club had yielded little success. Word of mouth had been the best means of communication.

Well done, and long may your success continue!

## **NEW WEBSITE**

Rita has been unable to look after the Y&NH Branch website for the last few months due to severe problems with her vision, and I'd like to thank her again for the tremendous amount of work she has put in basically ever since there was a world-wide web.

In the meantime, work has been going on to find and develop a new website, with Malcolm Brown, Angie Francksen and Carol Hazell in particular putting in a lot of work. Malcolm has developed a new website now, and has been training Ken Wallace in how to maintain it (*I think* that's the correct technical term...) With luck and a following wind it should be up and running in January. Particular thanks for Malcolm and Ken for their valuable time and effort.

Angie is also working on a Y&NH Branch distinctive logo/ banner (again I am not sure of the correct terminology) which will be used on all communications including tickets, posters and Broun's Reel.

## **YORKSHIRE DIARY**

Since the pandemic began, there has not been a Yorkshire Diary, which formerly existed in paper form only. Helen Russell and Carol Hazell, with others, have been working on a new version, primarily online, and Carol hopes to have this up and running in early 2023. There was a suggestion that it might also exist in a paper format, but I am not sure whether current planning still has this in sight.

Some events seem to have already coincided with others in the wider area, and I believe others have been discovered which are planned but which will coincide with another local event. I feel that all local groups and branches badly need the Yorkshire Diary so that we can co-ordinate events on different dates as far as is possible.

Most groups and branches cannot sustain dances, especially those with live bands, from solely their own people, and need support from surrounding areas to keep us all viable. The Diary will help in this.

**A LITTLE DANCE-TIME STORY – and Competition!**

Maureen and Paddy Chevens send greetings to you all from the Republic of Ireland, wishing you all a good Christmas. Maureen has also written this “little dance-time story” for you, which is in two parts. But to make life harder for you, and to entertain you during those long winter nights, she has left some of the words out. All the missing words are titles of dances (more or less); she has given some clues at the end!

To spur you on, Maureen has made this into a competition and will provide 3 prizes (at least! she says). Please send your answers to me [Joyce] by post or email – contact details as usual. Maureen has sent me some paper copies; I can pass them on, and I will also have them available at Harrogate. There is a sequel too if you get the bug!

**A LITTLE DANCE-TIME STORY**

A long time ago, - but not as far back as \_ \_ \_ , maybe, a lovely young girl at a Scottish dance in \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , chanced to meet a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ /, who straightaway said to her, \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ . She liked him at once, not just \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , but also because \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ /, and proved to be as kind as he looked.

Her name was Caitriona , but she was also known as “ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ” ( her home ), or “ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ”, because she was so liked and loved by everyone. To her elderly parents, Mary and \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , she was \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ /, and soon became so to Angus, too. He was \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ /, the son of \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ . They both

knew that theirs had been a very \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/ and over the year, with many \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/ to that same hall and visits to both their homes and elsewhere, well of course they fell in love and wanted to marry. Angus felt that Cairtriona's parents might say \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/ or berate him for a \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_/, but all was well, both sides gave their blessings, and all arrangements were made.

The wedding, on \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ and conducted by \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_, was a lovely occasion. The groom gave his bride a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_, and his best man, \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_/ gave her parents \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ which they treasure greatly. \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ delighted the eye, and oh, how very \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ in particular. \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_; everyone said \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_, to everyone else, and all agreed that of all the \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_, there was \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ as the bonny young bride.

#### CLUES TO THE DANCES IN "A LITTLE DANCETIME STORY"

- A) The word "The" has been omitted from some titles, to make sense of the sentence, and a bit of "poetic licence" has been taken at times!
- B) The devisers and books used are listed below; some few dances will be found in more than one source.

Devisers : D.Brown, E. Craig, L. Davison, J. Drewry, J.B. Dickson, C. Godwin, R. Goldring, H. Rhodes. ( and I thank them all for their wonderful work and for the very great pleasure their dances give us.)  
 Books : RSCDS 4, 14, 15, 17, 19, 22, 29, 37, 40, Border, Leaflet, Misc 2 and MacNab Vol 1. Also : 99 More, Leeds Golden.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE, DUNNINGTON – 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

Our New Year's Eve Dance takes place at its usual venue, the Dunnington Reading Rooms, beginning at 8.00 pm. The programme was originally devised by Malcolm Brown last year; it includes music from the online Allsorts programme he did as we were emerging from the last lockdown of the pandemic. Tickets are £10 per person.

Please bring your contributions to a Faith Supper. As usual there will be wine and mince pies at midnight.

Malcolm's programme, danced to recorded music, is as follows:

Hooper's Jig	J	8x32	RSCDS MMM2
Mrs Macpherson of Inveran	R	8x32	Drewry/Bon Accord
Braes of Breadalbane	S	8x32	RSCDS Book 21
Links with St Petersburg	J	8x32	RSCDS Book 46
Da Rain Dancin'	R	8x32	30 Popular 2
Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord	S	8+56	Drewry/Bon Accord
The Chequered Court	J	8x32	RSCDS Book 42
Royal Wedding	S	8x32	RSCDS 5/82
Saltire Society Reel	R	8x32	RSCDS Leaflet

### *Interval*

Shiftin' Bobbins	R	8x32	30 Popular 2
St Andrews Fair	J	8x32	RSCDS 5 for 82
The Birks of Invermay	S	8x32	RSCDS Book 16
Postie's Jig	J	4x32	30 Popular 2
The Sailor	R	8x32	RSCDS Book 24
Culla Bay	S	4x32	30 Popular 2
Machine Without Horses	J	8x32	RSCDS Book 12
The Lea Rig	S	6x32	RSCDS Book 21
Reel of the Royal Scots	R	8x32	RSCDS Leaflet

### *All Lang Syne*

Ladies' Fancy	J	8x32	RSCDS Book 13
Miss Catherine Anne	S	3x32	Queen Collection
Deil Amang the Tailors	R	8x32	RSCDS Book 14



## **BRANCH DANCE, COTTINGHAM, 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

The last of our afternoon dances for the season, our dance in February takes place on Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Darby and Joan Hall in Finkle Street, Cottingham, beginning at 2.00 pm. As in previous years this is our “afternoon tea” dance, which will be provided. Tickets cost £10.

The programme (to recorded music) has been devised by Angie Francksen, and has a really good mix of dances: there’s something for everyone. The programme will be danced to recorded music and is as follows:

The Captain’s House	Reel	RSCDS Graded 3
Tribute to the Borders	Jig	RSCDS Leaflets
The Cashmere Shawl	Strathspey	Boyd/Strathray
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	Reel	Goldring 14/2000
Pelorus Jack	Jig	RSCDS Book 41
Deer Friends	Strathspey	Anderson/St. Martin’s Coll.
Sueno’s Stone	Reel	RSCDS 4/2008
The Zoologist	Jig	RSCDS Book 46
Napier’s Index	Jig	RSCDS Book 45
Glengarry Homestead	Strathspey	Kangaroo Paw Bk
Glastonbury Tor	Reel	RSCDS Book 47
The Morison Rant	Jig	Henderson
Cherrybank Gardens	Strathspey	Drewry/Bankhead 1
A Capital Jig	Jig	RSCDS 5/2009
Muse Cottage	Strathspey	Goldring/Let’s All Dance Too
Reel of the Royal Scots	Reel	RSCDS Leaflets.

## **HARROGATE WEEKEND, 3-5 February 2023**

There are still a few twin rooms available for single or double occupancy for our dance weekend at the Cairn Hotel in Harrogate. Contact: 01482 871790 or [jcochrane@jcochrane.karoo.co.uk](mailto:jcochrane@jcochrane.karoo.co.uk).

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

- December 17 Leeds RSCDS Branch Dance, St Chad's – George Meikle  
28 Harrogate Saltire Burns night Ceilidh  
29 Brighouse SCDC End of Year dance – recorded  
31 Y&NH Branch Hogmanay Dance, Reading Rooms,  
Dunnington – recorded – *TICKET ONLY*
- 2023:
- January 7 Great Ayton SCDC Dance, Parochial Hall, Great Ayton –  
Marian Anderson  
18 Great Ayton SCDC Burns Supper – Robert Whitehead  
21 Leeds RSCDS Branch Dance, St. Chad's – Ewan  
Galloway
- February 3-5 Y&NH Harrogate Weekend School, Cairn Hotel – Rachel  
Shankland/Alan Ross/Scott Band  
18 Leeds RSCDS Branch Dance, St. Chad's – Alan Ross  
25 Afternoon Tea Dance, Darby and Joan Hall, Cottingham  
– recorded
- March 11 Great Ayton SCDC Dance, Parochial Hall, Great Ayton –  
George Meikle  
18 Leeds RSCDS Branch Dance, St. Chad's – Phill Jones  
25 Y&NH Branch Annual Dance, Stockton on the Forest –  
Scott Band
- April 15 Y&NH Branch AGM & Dance, Market Weighton -  
recorded
- May 13 Y&NH Branch Dance, Memorial Hall, Pickering –  
Leonard Brown  
20 Leeds RSCDS Branch Dance, St. Chad's – Robert  
Whitehead (duo)
- June 17 Leeds RSCDS Dance, St. Chad's – Leonard Brown

July 8 Leeds White Rose Festival & Evening Dance – Gateways School, Harewood – Susan MacFadyen

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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York & North Humberside branch website: [www.rscdsyork.org](http://www.rscdsyork.org) – **note new website in progress**

Copy date for next issue: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

