

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
YORK AND NORTH HUMBERSIDE BRANCH

# *BROUDIN'S REEL*

September 2022

A NEWSLETTER

No. 170

## Editorial

A crowded grand ballroom. A slight, upright woman dressed in a ballgown with a red tartan sash, smiling, relaxed and clearly very happy. This was a two second clip in the montage put together by the BBC and shown on the evening of Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September, the day that our Queen died.

I have now seen a few more short videos of our Patron, Queen Elizabeth II, dancing, usually at the Ghillies' Ball at Balmoral; the Eightsome Reel is almost universally featured. One video clip on YouTube shows the Ghillies' Ball, filmed about 1990, with almost the whole Royal Family dancing the Eightsome: the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen Mother and Princess Anne. The atmosphere is relaxed and celebratory.



Thanks to Elizabeth Hunter for sharing the link – here it is if you wish to see it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyVZCiPGeYQ>

The Queen danced yearly herself at Balmoral and as girls she and Princess Margaret danced regularly. I think someone once told me that the young Margaret was the better dancer of the two! Their enthusiasm for dancing, the RSCDS believes, was “inherited no doubt from their mother”. Certainly, the Queen’s interest was genuine, and lifelong, and clearly made her very happy. Her association with Scottish Country Dancing was “life-long and committed” – the RSCDS again. She attended many functions connected with the RSCDS, including just a few years ago when a team of young dancers, including Abigail Brown (Malcolm and Helen’s granddaughter) danced for her.

In the video of the Ghillies’ Ball, we also see Princess Anne dancing. When she married Tim Lawrence in 1992, in Crathie Kirk, they danced “Reel of the 51<sup>st</sup>” at the reception, and at least one reporter was amazed at how perfectly she danced such a complicated dance! I like to think that the Queen would be very happy to see the tradition of the Royal connection with Scottish Country Dancing continue.

The Queen became the Patron of the Society in 1947, a role in which she continued until her death. To mark her patronage of the Society, the RSCDS published five dances written for her Golden Jubilee in Book 43, and also a collection of dances in honour of her Diamond Jubilee, including Philip Whitley’s dance “The Royal Patron”. The Society should be very proud that this sterling woman has been associated with it for so many years and shown such a genuine interest and pleasure in our dance tradition. At the end of the Ghillies’ Ball video, speaking about life, she said: “I have a feeling that in the end training is probably the answer to a great many things. You can do a lot if you’re properly trained. And I hope I have been.” Your Majesty, you were properly trained, and you did so much, and meant so much to us. Thank you.

Joyce Cochrane

## TAKE YOUR DANCE SHOES ON HOLIDAY!

I always take my dance shoes when I go to Scotland. We stay at Plockton in the Highlands and a few years ago I found a lovely group of dancers who meet at Dornie or Breakish on Skye. They only meet when they can get eight dancers, and their teacher drives over from near Inverness, a journey of two hours.



Back in May we were on holiday when Clive and Lesley were also on holiday in Shieldaig. We met up, joined the Breakish class and had a great evening.

We were so pleased that we took our dance shoes!

Lynne Brooks,  
Cottingham



## Y & NH SUMMER WALK, 22ND JUNE

We arrived at the classic country pub (the Plough Inn, Allertorpe) on a bright and warm Wednesday morning, and awaited the other participants coming from various locations. Suitably booted up and with adequate sun protection, Ken the organiser, having previously surveyed the area, suggested we walk the route so as to be under cover later on the walk for shading, which proved to be a good idea under the circumstances. Having been introduced, we set off on a steady pace to allow discussion and chat to take place and get to know one another. The walk was very pleasant with a good turnout, we all enjoyed a mix of open farmland and wooded areas, at a distance of four miles probably about right for the lovely warm conditions. The route was circular, arriving back at the pub where we were joined by others for a very pleasant lunch sitting outside to further enjoy the day. There was a good selection of food ordered in



advance which was very tasty with liquid refreshment of course.

Thanks to Ken Wallace for a nice day out.

Kathryn &  
Richard Nock,  
Pickering

## **THE PICKERING NEWBIES**

It all started following a suggestion from Pam, who Kathryn at the time worked with as a volunteer at the local library. We discussed the idea, not knowing a thing about this Scottish Country Dancing experience, or the popularity. On the thoughts of nothing ventured nothing gained, and a nice thing to do as a couple, we decided to give it a go. We arrived at the first Wednesday session a bit nervous as to what we were letting ourselves in for. We must say, the people who attend made us feel welcome and it was nice to meet, talk and have a laugh with the raw recruits, managed by the three musketeers; Jennifer, Sheila and Anne. We practised and were taught the basics over a period of weeks with the idea of joining the more professional group eventually to gain more experience and techniques. I did and still do, have confusion over my lefts and rights: must be a male thing? As time has gone on, we have improved to a degree, but understand that it obviously takes a number of years to gain confidence to be fully flowing with the dancing; there are a lot of dances to learn. One thing for sure is if you arrive at the session with niggling things on your mind, they disappear as you absorb and practice the moves. We believe it's a great experience for mind, body and soul and would recommend getting involved.

Kathryn & Richard Nock, Pickering

## **SUMMER DANCING, COTTINGHAM**

Back in 2021 as lockdown finished, Joyce and I had missed dancing so much, we had a chat about starting classes straight away to run through July and August. After drafting a risk assessment and stocking up on sanitiser, Joyce guided us through dancing whilst socially distanced, practising steps and figures, using chairs and beanbags!

This year, as our regular class finished at the end of June, we decided to repeat summer dancing but with a difference. Joyce held 4 ceilidh classes which were great fun. As our aim was to bring in new dancers, I planned 4 dances based around beginners, giving me an opportunity to explain steps and formations in more detail. Despite posters around the village, we only

got 2 beginners so the lessons were adapted, but it was a learning process preparing for them. Our regulars were keen and attendance ranged from 7 to mostly around 16 through the summer.

Too hot to dance in summer? We managed on the very hot Monday by dancing slow strathspeys with long breaks in between. Dancing through the summer would depend on the teacher's availability and holiday plans - they need a break! Yet, if music and equipment is made available it's an opportunity for other experienced dancers to step in, to plan, call or teach some dances.

We had many laughs learning ceilidh dances, and helping our 2 new dancers and I don't believe I'm as stiff and slow starting the new term!

Lynne Brooks, Cottingham

## **RSCDS LEEDS 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY BALL, 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

Normally in November Leeds RSCDS and York & N. Humberside RSCDS hold a Joint Ball. This year, however, is a very special anniversary for Leeds, who are hosting their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball at the Riley-Smith Hall in Tadcaster, with music from the Ian Muir Scottish Bance Band.

Prices: Dancer's ticket: £30.00; Spectator ticket: £15.00

### **The order for the evening**

7.00 pm Wine reception

7.30 pm Dinner

8.15 pm Dance begins

9.30 pm Interval serving tea coffee and dessert

10.00 pm Dance resumes

11. 15 pm Carriages

You will find more information and an application form at:

[60th Anniversary Ball \(rscdsleeds.org.uk\)](http://rscdsleeds.org.uk)

**HARROGATE WEEKEND 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Places are still available. Please contact Joyce for application forms. Deposit of £40 needed to secure your place.**

**BRANCH HALF DAY SCHOOL & DANCE, 1<sup>st</sup> October**

Our Half-Day School and Evening Dance will be held at its usual venue, Stockton on Forest Village Hall, on Saturday 1st October.

The Half-Day School will be taught by Diane Rooney from Liverpool, a teacher of considerable experience with a great reputation. Gillian Stewart from Newcastle is now an old friend of the branch and will accompany her on the keyboard. The Half-Day School will begin at 2.00 and end at 5.15, and will include a short refreshment break. High Tea will be available at the end of the Class, and is included in the price if you have applied for the full day.

The evening dance will begin at 7.30 pm. and end at around 11 pm. The music comes from the excellent Ewan Galloway and his band. Ewan has even written one of the dances! During the interval, a light supper will be provided.

Prices are as follows:

Class only: RSCDS member £12 / Non-member £15

High Tea £6

DANCE Only: RSCDS member £20 / Non-member £25

All Day (+ High tea): RSCDS member £30 / Non-member £40

Please apply by 25<sup>th</sup> September if possible. This is particularly important if you would like the High Tea – we need the numbers for catering – but there is no problem if you want to make a last-minute decision and just turn up to the afternoon class or the dance. If you need an application form for the Half-Day School and/or the Evening Dance, either email me [jcochrane@jcochrane.karoo.co.uk](mailto:jcochrane@jcochrane.karoo.co.uk) or telephone 01482 871790.

The programme for the Evening Dance has been chosen by Helen Russell and is as follows:

Uncle Bill's Jig	J	8x32 Goldring/Graded & Social 3
Swiss Lassie	R	8x32 RSCDS Book 9
Sands of Morar	S	8x32 RSCDS Book 45
Teacher's Choice	J	
The Kissing Bridge	R	8x32 RSCDS Book 47
Gang the Same Gate	S	8x32 RSCDS Book 36
Get Knotted	J	3x32 Galloway/Ship Ahoy! **
Glasgow Lassies	S	6x32 RSCDS Book 34
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	R	5x32 Goldring 14/2000

*Interval*

It's Nae Bother	J	8x32 Haynes/Carnforth 4
Thomas Glover's Reel	R	8x32 Drewry/Cherry Blossom Bk
Teacher's Choice	S	
Bill Clement MBE	J	8x32 RSCDS Book 47
The Countess of Dunmore's Reel	J	8x32 RSCDS Book 49
Triple Happiness	S	3x32 RSCDS Book 52
Gloria's Wee Jig	J	8x32 McMurtry/Devil's
Quandary		
Minister on the Loch	S	3x32 RSCDS 4/2008 (Goldring)
Reel of the 51st	R	8x32 RSCDS Book 13

Extras:

Scott Meikle R 4x32 (Bk 46)

Anna Holden's Strathspey S 6x32 (Bk 42)

**\*\* GET KNOTTED 3x32 bar Jig** Ewan Galloway: Ship Ahoy!

1-8 1c+2c+3c six hands round and back in a circle

9-16 1c+2c double figure of 8 (1c cross down to begin)

17-20 1c set, cast off one place (2c step up)

21-24 1c dance Back to Back

25-32 1c+3c Knot



## **BRANCH DANCE, COTTINGHAM, SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

Our December dance takes place on the first Sunday in December, Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, to the music of Ian Slater. This year the dance will be held at the Darby and Joan Hall, Finkle Street, Cottingham (HU16 4AZ). Remember – this is a **Sunday afternoon** dance and will begin at **2.00 pm**. Refreshments (mince pies, Christmas cake and shortbread) will be provided; you don't need to bring any contributions. The dance will cost £15 for RSCDS members, and £18 for non-members; the increase in price is because we need to price more realistically than in the past. 24 people are needed to break even – if we get more people, it'll be an even better dance!

The programme has been chosen by Ken Wallace and is as follows:

New Year Jig	J	8x32	RSCDS Book 51
Orpington Caledonians	R	8x32	RSCDS Book 49
Kilkenny Castle	S	8x32	Forbes
Roaring Jelly	J	8x32	Foss
John of Bon Accord	R	8x32	RSCDS Book 33
The Chequered Court	J	8x32	RSCDS Book 42
The Orchards of Co. Armagh	S	3x32	Belfast Platinum Anniv. Book
Seton's Ceilidh Band	J	4x64	Fordyce/Morrison Bush C. (NZ)
Bauldy Bain's Fiddle	R	8x32	Bowie-Dickson /Lothian

### *Interval*

The Tattie Bogle	J	8x32	Haynes/Carnforth 1
The Dandelion Picker	R	8x32	Barbour
Minister on the Loch	S	3x32	RSCDS 4/2008
Links with St Petersburg	J	8x32	RSCDS Book 46
Polharrow Burn	R	5x32	RSCDS 3/2007
MacDonald of Keppoch	Medley		RSCDS Book 49
Glastonbury Tor	R	8x32	RSCDS Book 47
Mairi's Wedding	R	8x40	Cosh

### Extras:

Swiss Lassie	Reel		RSCDS Book 39
Rodney's Rant	Jig		RSCDS QEII DJ Coll
Wind on Loch Fyne	Strathspey		Bowie Dickson/Dunedin 1

## ARCHIVE CORNER



Barry Robins passed this picture on to me, from the Cober Hill weekend in 1997. The photo was taken by Alick McTurk. I've printed it sideways-on for print copy readers of Broun's Reel.

How many faces can you put a name to? A real blast from the past!

I thought then that these dancers were quite elderly. I'm sure that now I'm older than they were then. So they weren't elderly at all...

## **OBITUARY: YVONNE MORTIER**

It was very sad to hear of the death this summer of Yvonne Mortier, one of the Branch's stalwart supporters in the 70s, 80s and 90s. Many thanks to her brother Roy for all the help he has given me to write this.

Yvonne was born in Bridlington on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1938, and lived there all her life. After attending Moorfield and then Bridlington High Schools, she trained as a primary teacher at Wentworth Castle Training College and went on to teach in Hull and Beverley before joining the staff at Nafferton School in 1971, where she became deputy head. She took early retirement in 1996 to look after her parents, 50 years after she had been delegated to look after her "little brother" especially during the summer when their mum took in holiday visitors.

Yvonne had great love for children and, as a teacher, wanted to do the very best for them. She thought that all her pupils were essentially good and the only criticism Roy heard her express was that a particular pupil could be "a little bit naughty". Roy adds, "Yvonne wasn't married but she had hundreds of children".

In addition to her teaching duties, Yvonne worked very hard to enthuse the children with her love of Scottish Country dancing. I remember her bringing a group of girls from Nafferton School to dance for us – Helen Brown remembers them dancing at Stockton on Forest. And very good they were too. Not only was Yvonne a very good dancer, she was also very successful trainer!

Yvonne wrote an article for *Broun's Reel* in the 80s on teaching Scottish Country Dancing to schoolchildren. In July 1987, Helen Brown went to see Yvonne's girls at Nafferton and tested 12 girls for their Children's Certificates at Stage 1, and 8 at Stage 2. "It was obvious that a lot of hard work had been done by both teacher and pupils", she wrote, "The whole group was successful – in fact, very impressive." On another occasion, she brought three girls to a dance with her. They loved it, and chattered excitedly about it all the way home!

Yvonne was an important, active member of the branch committee, doing three stints, from 1977-1980, 1987-1990 and 1993-1995. Taking care of her mother meant that she could no longer come often to dances, and then she needed a hip operation in 2005 and it was a few years before she could return to normal activities. She wrote the dance “The White Rose of Scotland” for the branch Competition Dances book in 1989, and this dance was demonstrated at the White Rose Festival in York. The original music, was written by Pat Clark and was played as the exit music at her funeral.

**The White Rose of York** Strathspey  
3x32

Tune: Miss Yvonne Mortier

P. Clark. Novem. Dec. 1979.

Yvonne’s love of travel began with a teacher exchange to Australia; New Zealand, the USA, Australia again, and many visits to Europe followed. She enjoyed knitting and sewing, including knitting bespoke Ganseys to order. Always having had an interest in dogs, Yvonne provided a home for 2 rescue dogs in later years. Friends were very important to Yvonne too, as was the church; she was baptised in the Methodist Church in 2009 in Sewerby.

Yvonne was diagnosed with vascular dementia in 2020, and had two years of happiness and contentment at Mallard Court Care Home, before contracting Covid. She died on 18<sup>th</sup> May, aged 83. Our sincere condolences to Roy and his family.

## **OBITUARY: MARGARET SMITH**

It was also sad to hear of the recent death of Margaret Smith. Margaret was a lovely and well-liked figure in the south of our area, half of the popular pair of “Fred & Margaret” or “Margaret and Fred”. I am indebted to Fred for much of the information in this obituary.

Margaret was a real Hull girl, born there on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022. Her first contact with Scottish Country Dancing came at Tranby School, where the gym mistress taught them SCD on bad weather days. In 1950, she joined George Thomson’s Scottish Dance class, and was invited to join the Wenlock Reel Club about 1956.

Margaret and Fred met on a walking holiday at Kinfauns Castle, where in the evenings they would take part in Scottish dancing. Fred says that they were really brought together by their love of SCD, as Fred lived in Newcastle and Margaret in Hull. They had “Kinfauns Castle” by Derek Haynes at the dance to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They were married at St. John’s Newland in Hull in 1960.

They then moved to Bristol in late 1960, where they continued Scottish country dancing. They returned to Yorkshire in 1966, living at Millington and dancing with York Scottish Country Dance Club. After the children had grown up and “flown the nest”, Margaret and Fred moved to Leconfield in the East Riding, where they took up English Country Dance. Some years later, John Simpson persuaded them to come back to Scottish Country Dancing. Margaret hadn’t realised that this was the same club where she had first begun Scottish dancing back in 1950!

They became regular members at the Thursday class in Willerby, attending all the dances in the south of our area. I first came across them in person at North Ferriby and Swanland, though I’d heard of them by name for a long while before then! Margaret was very competent and always helpful to the less confident. Insofar I knew her, she was smiling and cheerful, quiet in nature but very sociable.

Others who knew her better might not agree with the quietness! It was just a few weeks before the pandemic began that they decided to come to my class in Cottingham, and I was very glad to have this experienced, competent and very pleasant pair join us. I would have welcomed the chance to know them both a lot better, but then Covid began to rage, and I lost the chance to know Margaret better.

Margaret was diagnosed with cancer of the liver in February this year, and though she knew her time was limited, she was determined to live that time as best she could. This determination Fred thinks was one of her defining characteristics. Just a week before she died, the whole family had had a large cottage booked in the Dales, and Margaret was absolutely determined that they should all go, and that she would be there. So they all went on the Friday, but on the Sunday Margaret began to fail. Her son-in-law made great efforts to find a private ambulance and drove her to hospital. On the Thursday, Margaret came home to die there on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

Margaret was 88 years old, but danced as if she were at least ten years younger. Montgomeries' Rant was the one dance which Fred and Margaret always danced together, and was played as entry and exit music at her funeral. She will be much missed. Our deepest condolences to Fred and their family.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

- October      1    Y&NH Branch Afternoon School & Evening Dance,  
Stockton on the Forest: Di Rooney, Gillian Stewart, Ewan  
Galloway  
8    Richmond RSCDS Branch dance – Ian Slater  
15   Leeds RSCDS Branch Dance, St. Chad’s – Phill Jones  
29   York SCDC Autumn Dance, Stockton on the Forest:  
Sandy Nixon
- November 19   Leeds RSCDS 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball, Riley-Smith Hall,  
Tadcaster – Ian Muir Trio  
26   Great Ayton SCDC Dance, Parochial Hall, Great Ayton –  
Leonard Brown  
26   Harrogate Saltire Winter Rant
- December 2-4   Leeds RSCDS Malhamdale Weekend – George Meikle  
4    Y&NH Branch Afternoon Dance, Darby and Joan Hall,  
Cottingham – Ian Slater  
17   Leeds RSCDS Branch Dance, St Chad’s – George Meikle  
28   Harrogate Saltire Burns night Ceilidh  
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

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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!

{Editor: Joyce Cochrane, 22 Newton Drive, Beverley,  
 {Secretary HU17 8NX. (01482 - 871790)  
 e-mail: [jcochrane@jcochrane.karoo.co.uk](mailto:jcochrane@jcochrane.karoo.co.uk)

Membership Secretary: Jennifer Robinson  
 e-mail: [jar.doha@gmail.com](mailto:jar.doha@gmail.com)

York & North Humberside branch website: [www.rscdsyork.org](http://www.rscdsyork.org)

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