



**THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY – RICHMOND BRANCH**  
**NEWSLETTER NUMBER 67**

Dear Members and Friends

After what seemed to be a promising start to Summer, the weather has now deteriorated and we find ourselves, here at Reeth, clearing up after a flash flood. Luckily the house escaped, but the garden has suffered somewhat. However, looking ahead, the Scottish Country Dancing season will soon begin and our first class will take place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September followed on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September by the first social at the Town Hall.

The classes at the Booth Hall, Catterick Village will continue with the same format as last season, which proved successful i.e first part 7.00 – 8.15 pm for beginners supported by class members and the remainder of the class for more experienced dancers. The Committee has decided that the Autumn Term will consist of 15 classes at a Member's fee of £42.00 and the Spring Term will be 17 classes at a Member's fee of £48.00. Payment by class will now be £3.00 for Members and £3.50 for non members. Newcomers will again be offered a discounted price of 6 classes for £10.00. Payment for classes can be made either by cheque payable to RSCDS Richmond Branch or cash to our Treasurer, Jane Gilby, or by bank transfer as follows: sort code 05-04-04 account no 13384531 account name RSCDS Richmond. The RSCDS subscription, which includes RSCDS and Richmond Branch membership, is now due. This remains the same as last year at £24.00 for individuals and £40.00 for couples. Payment can be made either by bank transfer as detailed above or by cheque to the Membership Secretary Liz Spooner. Our teachers will again be Joy Bradshaw and Louise Macdougall, with occasional classes taken by our President Fiona Turnbull. At this time of the year an effort is made to encourage new members to join us. We publicise ourselves widely in the local area and hopefully we will be successful. However, if any of you can encourage prospective "recruits" then please do so.

In addition to our weekly classes, the Branch will be holding two Sunday afternoon classes for more experienced dancers. The first of these will take place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October from 2.00 – 4.30 pm at Cleasby Village Hall. Joy will take the class in the form of a "workshop" of interesting dances, which hopefully should be very enjoyable. The second class will be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 from 2.00 – 4.30 pm, again at Cleasby Village Hall. Jim Healy will be our teacher for an afternoon of "Dances with a Difference". We are very fortunate to have Jim on board as he has a vast experience of Scottish Country Dancing.

The Branch was involved in two displays last year – the White Rose Festival in July and GeorgeFest in August. This year we have already participated with a large team of dancers in the White Rose Festival at Gateways School, Harewood on a lovely sunny afternoon. We had been well tutored by Louise prior to the event and gave a confident and relaxed performance. Some of us stayed on to enjoy the evening dance, still with Marian Anderson and her band in good form. This August the Branch is involved in two special events. Once again, we are participating in GeorgeFest in Richmond on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August from 2.00 – 4.00 pm in the Town Hall. Branch members, the public, former members and friends are invited to come along and enjoy an afternoon with a Georgian flavour of dance. Please do come and support us. Light refreshments will be provided and some audience participation will be included. Something different, though, will take place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August. Countryfile, a BBC programme, is organising a 4 day country show called "Countryfile Live" at Castle Howard. (Details on their website.) Eight members of the Branch will be dancing in support of Leeds Branch at this event. No doubt the programme will be televised featuring some of the activities at the show so watch this space!!

Our monthly Friday socials are to continue at Richmond Town Hall. beginning on September 6<sup>th</sup> when our President, Fiona, will be our MC. The programmes will feature a few easier dances to attract beginners and different MC's will take each social. We sadly lost Dorothy Barker from our MC team when she passed away in January this year. Dorothy and her husband Stanley, also deceased, supported the Branch for many years as members and in particular by printing our tickets for various events. We now have Jim Healy as one of our MC's. The recent outdoor social at Reeth was held on a beautiful afternoon and was well attended and the Branch has received many compliments after the event. The next Reeth social will be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

The Branch held the usual two dances last season – the first in October when the attendance was disappointing and the other in April when we had 80 dancers, including 14 from Penrith Branch. This Branch has a number of novice dancers and our “user friendly” programme attracted them together with the music by Ian Muir. In the new season we will be having two dances at the Clarke Hall, Richmond School – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October dancing to the Alan Ross Duo – tickets will be available from the beginning of term and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020 dancing to Marian Anderson and her Band. Please note these dates in your diary. Jan and I were very honoured and surprised at the April dance when our President, Fiona presented us with a Branch Award in recognition of our services to Richmond Branch and Scottish Country Dancing in general. We are both delighted to have our efforts rewarded in this way. As I have said on many occasions, it is so important that we support dances held by neighbouring groups, none of which can stand alone. Please consider spreading your wings by dancing at other venues and flying the Richmond Branch flag so that others may reciprocate. Jan and I have been invited to MC at Leeds Branch, Leeds Club and the Thistle Club at Askwith (Otley) which we think helps to put Richmond Branch on the map.

Finally, I and the Committee look forward to welcoming you all back to a new season of interesting and varied Scottish Country Dancing.

***Geoff Robinson***

Chairman

August 2019