



BRANCH NEWS JANUARY 2019

Registered charity No. 1069188

WISHING A HAPPY & PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR DANCERS

NEW SEASON WELCOME DANCE SWANSEA, 29 SEPTEMBER 2018

Another new dance year kicked off with the "Welcome" dance in Swansea, this year back in Scout HQ, so no need to finish early. I tried to construct a programme that would include old favourites as well as some of the new dances that we'd been doing over the past twelve months.

Recapping duties were in the excellent hands of Alison Jackson and everyone who came seemed to enjoy themselves. Trying to find the right date in September for this dance is always a problem as it seems whatever date we choose there will always be some people who are away on holiday. Maybe we should ask members what Saturday in September are you the least likely to be away?

Tony Harland, Committee member

REMINDER

All functions in South Wales are listed on the Web Site.

www.rscds-southwales.org.uk

Detailed information about each Branch event is also posted as soon as it becomes available. Club event details are also posted if they are sent to me.

If there's anything else you think should be on the site please let me know.

Fran Smith (Web Manager)

RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND, LLANDOVERY, 26-28 OCTOBER 2018

This year's weekend passed too quickly: it was over almost before we had begun. We had an excellent teacher, Alasdair Brown, who taught us some very interesting and enjoyable dances. We aim to have copies of his books in the South Wales Shop.

We also had wonderful music for the class and for the evening dances. George was in great form and kept us all motivated to dance the evening away. The social dances were a successful mix of new and old - something for everyone. They were good programmes - but then you'd expect me to say that, wouldn't you, as I devised them!

In the main the food was delicious and the staff friendly. However one down side was that the hotel had problems with their heating system, and the bedrooms and the ballroom were cold. Heaters were provided for all rooms, and there was a gas stove in the ballroom that struggled valiantly to take the chill off. (I did need to switch it on before breakfast!)



Photo: Jim Proudfoot (or maybe just his camera, as he's in the photo, and I don't think he set it up remotely - or ran round!)

The other item of note from the weekend was the presentation of a Branch Award to Kate Gray for her service to the Branch over the years. Not just supporting Alex when he was Chair of the world-wide Society, but being involved with setting up various events, teaching at the first five or six residential weekends, and setting up the children's class and the Hallowe'en dance. (The latter was superseded by the Residential Weekend itself.)



Photo: Jim Proudfoot

Unfortunately, the children's class eventually ran out of children! However there is a new crop of (mainly) grandchildren reaching an age where we may be able to start it up again. If you're interested, please let us know.

Also for more years than I can quote Kate hosted bands and teachers who were visiting South Wales. I'm sure Alex supported in this, but the lion's share was down to Kate.

An excellent weekend, one that will be repeated in 2019 (25-27 October), when the teacher will be Janet Johnston. Music has to be sorted, but the hotel is booked and hopefully they will have resolved the heating problems.

Conor Farmer, Branch Chairman



South Wales Anniversary Ball Penarth, 27 April 2019

This year's Annual Ball will be a very special occasion: it will commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Branch's formation in 1969. We are fortunate not only to welcome back Marian Anderson and her Band, whose brilliant music we enjoyed this in 2018, but also to be holding the Ball again at the wonderful Paget Rooms, Penarth, near Cardiff, a venue which is second to none. If you haven't danced there before, it's a real treat! There will be a 'fizz' reception and buffet supper with wine.

The programme, consisting of popular dances old and new, will be published very shortly. **Make sure you put the date, 27th April, in your diary.** Some of the dances we have chosen featured on the programme of the very first South Wales Ball, held in Feb 1974. We look forward to seeing you and making the South Wales Ball 2019 an unforgettable event.

This year several dancers from outside the Cardiff area booked accommodation and extended their visit to make an enjoyable weekend. Why not consider making a weekend of it?

Jean Elliott, Committee Member

Bring your own mug

In the interests of making a tiny contribution to protecting our environment from the effects of producing and disposing of single-use cups, especially plastic, we've decided to request that at Branch events dancers bring their own mug for hot drinks.

To my certain knowledge, this is done at a lot of social dances in central Scotland, and I also understand that recently Lyn Wilson, who teaches in the Vale of Glamorgan, has introduced the practice.

We recognise that it may take some time for people to get used to remembering! And we won't penalise anyone who forgets, or who just doesn't want to. We will still have a small supply of alternatives. We've also got a stock of reusable beakers for water and soft drinks. We're intending to try to introduce these ideas at the Walk-Through Dances on 12 and 19 January.

Alison Jackson, Branch Secretary



LISTINGS JANUARY – MARCH 2019 (plus Ball in April)



Sat 5 Jan: Regular first Sat of the month dance in Letterston, Pembs., 7:00 pm
Details Pat Rye 01646 698463
ryedp@hotmail.com

Sat 5 Jan: Cardiff Caledonian Dancers - regular first Sat of the month dance at Scout Hall, Whitchurch, Cardiff, 7:30 pm.
Details Conor Farmer 07812 569744
conorfarmer52@googlemail.com

Sat 12 Jan: Branch Walk-Through Dance for experienced dancers, Whitland Town Hall SA34 0AA, 7:00 – 10:30 pm. Details Alison Jackson 07811 082510,
jacksonaj@talktalk.net

Sat 19 Jan: Branch Walk-Through Dance for experienced dancers, Morganstown Village Hall CF15 8LE, 7:00 – 10:30 pm. (Same programme as on 12 Jan.) Details Alison Jackson 07811 082510,
jacksonaj@talktalk.net

Sat 26 Jan: Burns Night Supper & Dance, Swansea. Details Jim & Jan Proudfoot 01792 299443 jimnjan@ntlworld.com

Sat 2 Feb: Regular first Sat of the month dance in Letterston, Pembs., 7:00 pm
Details Pat Rye 01646 698463
ryedp@hotmail.com

Sat 2 Feb: Cardiff Caledonian Dancers - regular first Sat of the month dance at Scout Hall, Whitchurch, Cardiff, 7:30 pm.
Details Conor Farmer 07812 569744
conorfarmer52@googlemail.com

Sat 2 Feb: Bristol RSCDS Newcomers' Dance, Oatley Hall, St Monica Trust, Bristol BS9 3UN, 7:00 – 10:30 pm. Music Strathallan. Tickets £12 from Helen Watkins, 01275 464239
tickets@rscdsbristol.info

Sat 16 Feb: St Andrew's Club regular third Sat of the month dance at Scout & Guide HQ, Swansea, 7:15 pm. Details Jim & Jan Proudfoot 01792 299443
jimnjan@ntlworld.com

Sat 2 Mar: Regular first Sat of the month dance in Letterston, Pembs, 7:00 pm.
Details Pat Rye 01646 698463
ryedp@hotmail.com

Sat 2 Mar: Cardiff Caledonian Dancers - regular first Sat of the month dance at Scout Hall, Whitchurch, Cardiff, 7:30 pm.
Details Conor Farmer 07812 569744
conorfarmer52@googlemail.com

Sat 9 Mar: Branch Newcomers' Dance, Whitland Town Hall, SA34 0AA. 7:00 pm.
Details Conor Farmer 07812 569744
conorfarmer52@googlemail.com

Sat 16 Mar: St Andrew's Club regular third Sat of the month dance at Scout & Guide HQ, Swansea, 7:15 pm. Details Jim & Jan Proudfoot 01792 299443
jimnjan@ntlworld.com

Sat 30 Mar: Branch Newcomers' Dance, Morganstown Village Hall, CF15 8LE, 7:00 pm. Details Conor Farmer 07812 569744
conorfarmer52@googlemail.com

Sat 27 Apr: Branch 50th Anniversary Ball, Paget Rooms, Penarth, CF64 3EG, 7:15 for 7:30 – 11:00 pm. Music by Marian Anderson. Details Jean Elliott 01994 419505, jean.ell1@btinternet.com

Editor's Note: I would be delighted to hear from any of you who might have comments on the Newsletter, relevant news or photos, items for the listings or suggestions for articles.

Alison Jackson, 07811 082510 or
jacksonaj@talktalk.net

