

RSCDS Ribble Valley

Newsletter

October 2023
Issue 72



From the Chair

Hello everyone and welcome to the new format for our newsletter Stephen has happily hung up his editor's hat and Tracey has taken over responsibility of keeping us all in touch with what's going on.....and reminding me that it's time for more Chairman's comments.....

Thank-you Stephen for all you've done over the years, keeping everyone in touch with messages, information and photographs from our trips and dances. I'm sure our members will agree that your contribution has been very much appreciated.

We have had another successful Autumn Dance, a big thank you to all the committee members for their joint efforts in making it run so smoothly and to everyone for making it so enjoyable.....this dance was the first where we had some of our 'novice' dancers and new members attend. We hope you enjoyed yourselves and weren't too overwhelmed.



Dance etiquette is a topical subject for the RSCDS and Tracey has included a section in this newsletter, however, for new dancers, I thought you might like to read an extract from another RSCDS Branch's website I found when doing my website research '**Dance Survival Tips**'. I hope it is useful. (See page 4 for details)

Happy Dancing
Sandra

Thank you Stephen

As Stephen steps down from producing the newsletter, we would like to say a very big thank you to him for publishing interesting publications for our branch. Each issue has always been filled with relevant information of the recent events the branch has experienced: from dances, to trips, subscriptions to classes. All of this news has been expertly edited to appeal to all of our branch members. Stephen continues to be of great assistance to the branch as he is still our branch treasurer.

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Special points of interest

- Facebook page: RSCDS Ribble Valley Branch, Preston
- Website: www.rscdsribblevalley.org.uk

New Website Launch

Our new RSCDS Ribble Valley website has recently been launched showcasing our branch.

After a lot of hard work setting it up, with multiple meetings with the website designer, the website went live in September. The date of this launch was to coincide with the start of our dancing season.

Features to look out for are:

One click links to all crib sheets for any of our dances; links to our core dance list; link to our Facebook page; link to our new YouTube channel which features (or will do soon!) snippets of our seasonal dances; details of classes, photos, contact numbers, newsletters and

much, much more.

Special thanks goes to Neil from the Leicester branch whose time and experience were invaluable to us.

Check it out here:

www.rscdsribblevalley.org.uk

Peter Holmes



Our Ribble Valley Teachers—This edition's Spotlight—Michael John

Tracey has become the newsletter editor and one of her first actions was to ask me to write a short article on how I became a SCD Teacher: Well, I passed the exams, although I think she may want more than just that!

Rose and I started dancing in December 2001. Rose loved Scottish music and had seen a notice on Booths' notice board advertising the beginners' class at Christ Church Hall. Following a phone call to Lavinia, one of the founders of Ribble Valley Branch, she decided to go to the class, I had never heard of SCD but decided to go along as well, just to see what it was all about. Much to Rose's amazement. I found it very enjoyable, everyone was so friendly and welcoming and the music, steps and formations came quite easily to me, despite me thinking I had two left feet! After the first class I knew 8-10 people by name which had never happened before.

One early memory I have was getting a stress fracture doing The Chequered Court!

In 2010, Ribble Valley were looking for likely candidates to train as teachers, I was told that Maureen Haynes, from NW Craven Branch, was going to be running a teachers' course and was asked if I would be interested, so I thought I might as well give it a try. The course was over 2 winters. The first year was Units 1,2 and 3. Unit 1 was an exam on chapters 1-6 of the RSCDS Manual; unit 2 was a practical dance exam and Unit 3 was teaching a step and a 16 bar phrase. The second year was Units 4 and 5. Unit 4 was teaching a number of dances in class and keeping a record of my progress, with the assistance of a mentor. Unit 5, the final exam, was to teach a full dance in detail. The dance I had to teach was Lord Rosslyn's Fancy from Book 15. It has a lot of Pas de Basque in it. I have never taught this dance again!

It is unlikely that I would have tried to become a teacher if I had to do it in two, two week courses at St Andrew's, the only other alternative, mainly because, for me, being more spread out was a lot less pressurised.



Raffle Prizes - Hogmanay

As Hogmanay is rapidly approaching, plans are well and truly underway. With this in mind, if anyone has a raffle prize that they would like to donate, please pass to a member of the committee or bring on the night (please let a committee member know if this is what you intend to do). As usual, all proceeds from the raffle will be donated to Derian House.

For photographs—see gallery section on the website

Autumn Dance held at Broughton Club. Music by Nicol McLaren and his band.

A fantastic evening of dancing was enjoyed by all at our autumn dance. The music was really uplifting and ensured everybody had a really good time. At this dance, a wide selection of dances had been included which catered for all abilities—this was a trial as the dances had been assigned 1, 2 or 3 stars meaning that a 1 star was for anybody, a 2 star was intended that if you were new to dancing you would need an knowledgeable partner. Finally, a three star dance was for confident, experienced dancers. This proved successful as newcomers to the seasonal dances knew exactly what to expect.

Thank you to all those who made the light refreshments: who can resist a piece of cake on a dancing night!

The photos show that great fun was had by all! More photographs and also videos will be included on the branch's Facebook page and website.

Future events:

[Hogmanay Dance](#), 31st December 2023, 8 p.m., at Samlesbury Memorial Hall, recorded music.

[Nice & Easy Dance](#), Friday 1st March 2024, 7.30 p.m., at Broughton Club, music by Nicky McMichan and Martainn Skene.

[Annual Trip](#)

[Oban](#), Friday 12th April– Monday 15th April 2024

[Spring Dance](#), Sat. 27th April 2024, 7 p.m., at Broughton Club, music by Robert Whitehead.

[Summer Dance](#), Sat. 10th August 2024, 7 p.m., at Broughton Club, music by Sandy Nixon.

[Committee](#)

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Editor: Tracey Holmes

If you have any articles that you would like to be included in future newsletters, please either pass them to me in a class or email holmestracey37@gmail.com

[Classes Information](#)

Monday classes The beginners & all-abilities class runs every Monday at Christ Church Hall, Fulwood, at 7.30 p.m., except Bank Holidays. This class has a break during the summer (approximately 8 weeks)

Wednesday classes The Intermediate and Social class runs every Wednesday at Christ Church Hall, Fulwood, at 7.30 p.m. (*This class doesn't break for Summer*)

Sunday classes The beginners' class, runs on Sundays at Euxton Community Centre, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. This class breaks at Easter until around the third week in September. There may be a few summer classes for social dancing and refreshing memories.

Return of the Classes

Monday Class

The 18th of September saw the return of the Monday class. David Queen was delighted to see that most of the people who had danced just before the summer break, returned to continue their dancing. David's focus for this year is to move the class on from where they left off in July; hoping eventually to progress some of them to the Wednesday class. Dave, and Barbara, who are regular attendees to the Monday class were delighted of the return of the dancing classes, "It's like coming home—everyone is so friendly, and the dancing is great fun but also challenging!"

Sunday Class

Sunday the 24th of September was when Joan welcomed back dancers to her beginners class. The class was busy with lots of people who wanted to remind themselves of the basic steps and formations. New members are always welcome to the class at any point in the year, but starting in September will be of more benefit as Joan goes back to basics—it's never a bad thing to be reminded on how to do steps correctly! A returnee from last year, Sara, commented, "This class is uplifting and fun. You meet again with old friends but also make new ones. The exercise is very good too!"