

RSCDS Ribble Valley Newsletter

October 2025
Issue 80



From the Chair.....

I can't believe we're into cold dark nights already. The Autumn Dance with Marian Anderson was another great night of music and dance, although for me especially, not as colourful as the Halloween outfit I had on last year.

We now have a new newsletter editorial team – David and Cathy Queen, who took pity on me and volunteered to take on the production and editorial responsibility for the Newsletter. They have lots of ideas and will carry on developing the Newsletter from what Tracey started. If you have any articles you want publishing, please send them to rvrscdsnewsletter@gmail.com.

We've been busy trying to invigorate Wednesday dancing and I've been sending out a regular email entitled 'What's On' to let people know in advance, who is taking each session. I hope you have been reading them. For those without an email, I've printed it out for you. There is also now a regular members choice night where you can choose your favourite dance(s) and recap them if you wish. There's been some misunderstanding around this so please read on, there's more later in the newsletter.

Sunday and Monday classes started again in September with a few new beginners coming to the Sunday class and a couple returning to the Monday class. We are currently trialling a different approach to advertising through to the end of December, using different posters and different messages such as the health benefits of Scottish Dancing to fun and friendship, as well as different ways to get the message out there using posters, social media and adverts. I don't think there is one single solution but we'll at least know that we've tried.

The committee are also looking at our 'Core Dance' list which has over 60 core dances, 20 of each tempo, yes that's a total of over 60 dances when you include some of Ribble Valley's own dances too! Is this too much, should we reduce it, increase it, what's it for anyway and who knows about it. These are all questions we will be asking ourselves at the next meeting. If you have any views, we would be happy to hear them.

As always – Happy Dancing!
Sandra



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Special points of interest

- Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/people/RSCDS-Ribble-Valley-Branch-Preston/100084280723762/>
- Website:
www.rscdsribblevalley.org.uk
- Newsletter email:
rvrscdsnewsletter@gmail.com
- Digital 30 Anniversary Book:
<https://www.photobox.co.uk/vi-ew-online-photo-book?widgetId=fce22b14-cafe-44a0-bfd0-e9ec74fc11b5&securityId=0775d2ed-85d3-431e-a678-f61d48b276b9>

Members Nights – What's it all about?

There appears to be some confusion about members nights with regards to who does what, so it was suggested I write a small article for the newsletter just to clarify.

It may help if I first explain the list. This list is for you to select your dance and put a name against it as the person who will do the recap. If you do not want to do the recap, then you will need to ask someone to do it for you, usually a teacher or even a friend who is keen to learn how to do it (not me!).

I wanted to bring back members nights as a regular informal, enjoyable and fun evening where we share our favourite dances and give our teachers a bit of a night off. I know I am not particularly good at doing recaps, but then again I am not a teacher, but as you only learn by doing, hopefully I am getting better.

For some it is just too inconceivable to stand in front of a hall of dancers and recap a dance, even one you know well, so if this is you, please ask someone to do it for you.

I don't want to put people off requesting a favourite dance just because they don't want to recap it. The purpose of the evening is to enjoy dancing our favourite dances and having a laugh - making people feel uncomfortable is not what it's all about.

I hope this is helpful.

Sandra Lloyd

Erratum

In the Member's Spotlight in the last Newsletter, there was an incorrect spelling in the article.

The 3rd to last Para read

Mrs Cadogan's description of ceilidh dancing with the "great leepings about and gnashings of teeth" as written by Somerville and Ross was a close match to scd/ceilidhs experienced in those 40 weeks of the 1980s and 1990s.

It should have read

Mrs Cadogan's description of ceilidh dancing with the "great leppings about and gnashings of teeth" as written by Somerville and Ross was a close match to scd/ceilidhs experienced in those 40 weeks of the 1980s and 1990s.

This being correct in the Irish speech - Sorry Kath!

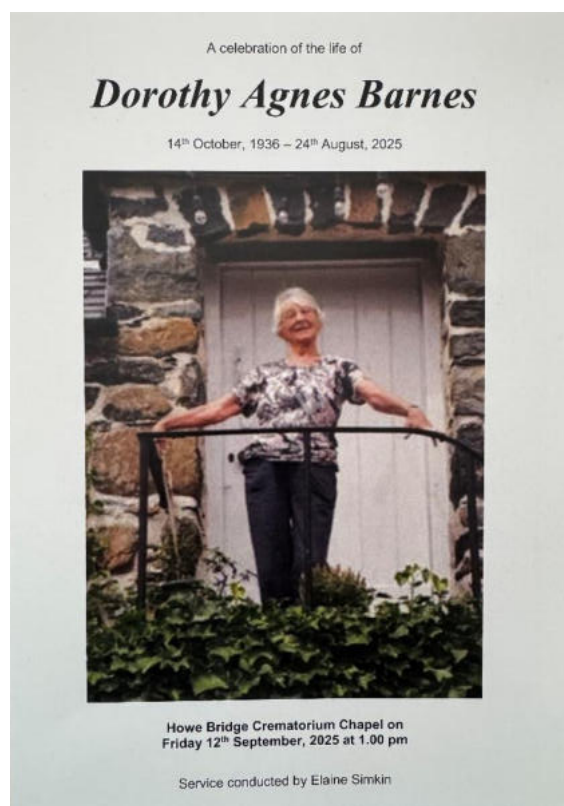


If you've not seen the real thing yet you can view the book on-line by holding down the Ctrl button on your computer and clicking the link below.....it will open another tab at the top of the page 'photobox'. Or cut and paste into google or your browser.

<https://www.photobox.co.uk/view-online-photo-book?widgetId=fce22b14-cafe-44a0-bfd0-e9ec74fc11b5&securityId=0775d2ed-85d3-431e-a678-f61d48b276b9>

In Memory of Dee Barnes

Several branch members attended the funeral recently of Dee Barnes at Westhoughton Crematorium. Dorothy Agnes Barnes (Dee) started Scottish Country Dancing in Southport in the 1950's and she was taught to dance by my father Alex Queen at his group "The Victoria Scottish Dancers". In 1956 Dee and Don got married in Southport and she was given away by my father Alex.



Don and Dee danced with Wigan Thistle in the 1980s and beyond and danced in their demonstration team. This included competing at several of the North West Federation of Scottish Associations music festivals and they also travelled to Anger in France on a dancing trip. I first met Don and Dee at Wigan Thistle when I used to teach their children's highland class in the 80's and 90's. They also maintained their connections with Southport and other groups, attending dances across the North West. They were keen caravaners and made regular trips to St Andrews Summer School staying at a local caravan site.

Dee was a long-term member of Ribble Valley branch along with husband Don, who passed away 8 years ago. Don and Dee took an active role in the 2000's with Don as secretary and Dee on the committee for several years. They will be fondly remembered for their support and encouragement, particularly for newer dancers.

Latterly Dee retired from dancing, spending more time with her family, including her grandchildren. Family holidays to a favourite cottage in Wales were a particular highlight for many years.

Dee was a much loved friend of many at Ribble Valley and beyond and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

David Queen

Dee's family asked us to include these two images which have special meaning for them. The order of service shows Dee in her happy place, the Welsh holiday cottage. The second image is a family favourite.



Argyll Kilt Jacket looking for a new home

Dee had kept Don's kilt jacket and her family would like it to find a new home where it would be appreciated and used.

The black dress jacket is made by Geoffrey Taylor of Edinburgh and is in good condition. Size 38 Small.

There is no charge, however donations to The Alzheimer's Society are welcome. www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-involved/donate

Please contact the editors if interested.

MY DANCING LIFE!

I was seven when I started to dance,
though to be sure it was more of a prance.
Taught by gym teacher Mr Laird,
of whom we were all incredibly scared.
He used a gym shoe to leather the bum
of a naughty boy – it was not fun.
G's wart covered hands were clammy and wet,
we always hoped he was not in our set.
For a favourite dance at that jolly time,
we did Strip the Willow and it was quite fine.
I went to an all girl's secondary school,
so being the man I was not a fool.
I wore beautiful red highland dancing shoes,
for a favourite dance, What would I choose?
But at social parties in teenage years,
stilettoes were worn but we had no fears.
We could scoot round an eightsome reel at speed
if our feet were painful, we did not heed.
University dancing was the best of fun,
and here I met my 'number one'.
One day In the window of a furniture shop,
we danced for 9 hours but did not drop.
We then went out to a dance that night,
we were not tired it was quite all right.
We came to Lancashire in '72
found Tom Smith and John Haddow too
I'd no idea just what had begun,
over 70 years of so much fun....

THANK YOU everyone!

Sarah Horne



Autumn Dance 2025

Special thanks to Marian Anderson and the band for some wonderful uplifting music, there were as many people on the floor for the last dance as there were for the first dance!

It is worth mentioning the sheer professionalism of Marian considering that she learned of her dear mum's passing as they were setting up on stage. We would all like to send Marian our heartfelt condolences at this time and flowers have been sent on behalf of the Branch members.

Thanks again to Judy and Rose for their hard work in the kitchen, to everyone who contributed and to all those who helped out after with the tidying up!

Most of all thank you to everyone who came, a great time was had by all!





Caption Competition



What are they saying? Please submit your answers by email to rverscdsnewsletter@gmail.com and we will publish the answers in the next edition.

Newsletter Contributions

There have been some great contributions and articles to previous newsletters over the years. We would like to encourage more members to contribute something for future editions, even if it is just an idea for us to expand on eg. articles, poems, jokes etc.

We are thinking about a puzzle page with different content depending on what contributors send in, what do you think?

If you have a photo that would be suitable for the caption competition, please send it to us.

If anyone has any suggestions for any future content then please email us at rverscdsnewsletter@gmail.com

Thank you
Cathy & David

Future events:

Hogmanay, Wed 31st December 2025, 8pm at Samlesbury Village Hall, recorded music.

Nice & Easy Dance, Sat 28th February 2026, 7.30pm at Broughton Club music by Susan MacFadyen

30th Scottish Trip, 19 – 23 March 2026, Nethy Bridge, Inverness-shire.

Spring Dance, Sat 25th April 2026, 7pm at Broughton Club music by Marian Anderson.

Summer Dance, Sat 8th August 2026, 7pm at Broughton Club music by Martainn Skene

Autumn Dance, Sat 17th October 2026, 7pm at Broughton Club music by Nicol McLaren.

Classes Information:

Sunday class The beginners' class, runs on Sundays at Euxton Community Centre, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Classes run weekly until Easter, then social dancing once a month through the summer period.

Monday Scottish Dancing class

Beginners & All-abilities class runs most Mondays at Christ Church Hall, Fulwood, at 7.30 p.m., except Bank Holidays.

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

RIBBLE VALLEY RSCDS **OUR EXTRA, EXTRA SPECIAL TRIP** **Celebrating our 30th annual trip to Scotland!!!**

****5 days, 4 nights** 19th to 23rd March 2026**

Nethybridge, Inverness-shire

Coach travel with the usual on-board entertainment and refreshments.

Four nights, dinner, bed and breakfast staying at the **3* Nethybridge Hotel**.

Departing Thursday morning and returning Monday evening.

Friday dance hosted by The Inverness RSCDS dancing to Scott Band.

Various trips arranged but not confirmed yet.

This year's committee

Chairman : Sandra Lloyd, tel. 07989 139355

Hon. Secretary: Michael John, tel. 01772 713018. (Address 42 Marina Drive, Fulwood, PR2 9SB)

Hon. Treasurer: Stephen Brown, tel. 01772 748034

Committee:

Jill Burrows, tel. 01253 890046

Judy Grimsey (Membership Secretary), tel. 01772 716301

Rose John, tel. 01772 713018

David and Margaret Stoney, tel. 01257 241585

Catherine Walsh, tel. 07837 654222

Mark and Joan Youlton, tel. 07944 344360

David and Cathy Queen (Newsletter Editors) tel. 07718 903609 E: rvrscdsnewsletter@gmail.com