

TARRY AWHILE

MK RSCDS August 2011

Welcome

As an old maths teacher of mine used to say frequently, "Tempus fugit" and it certainly does because here we are in August. What passes for an English summer is nearly gone and a new dancing season is almost upon us, so it is time to dust off your dancing shoes and get ready! I hope you have all had a relaxing summer and are ready to face the challenge of some more new dances.

After a year's probation, so to speak (you can tell I was a teacher!) Sarah has agreed to take two Mondays per month – the first and third and Rita will take the others. The exception to that rule is September when Sarah will take the first two as Rita will be away. We also hope to have Marie back with us, having recovered from her foot injury, so that she can resume her teacher training.

As I am sure you are all aware, classes resume on Monday 5th September and I hope to see as many of you who are not still on holiday then. We shall continue with the tea rota, a copy of which I hope you have all received by now. If not please contact me on 01525 875060 or asharrises@tiscali.co.uk and I will do my best to help. Happy dancing.

Sheila

Summer walk on 13th August – report from Graham

Gloom and doom hung over Castlethorpe Village on the morning of Saturday 13th August-----rain, rain and more rain then about 45 minutes before the walk was due to start the rain stopped then held off for the rest of the day.

Folks started arriving and jostled for parking spaces and many came into No 6 Bullington End Road lugging a bucket of soil as requested (will explain later).

At about 11.15 a gang of 30 or so club members friends and 4 dogs set off on a circular walk aimed at lasting 2 hours. We headed off in a southerly direction towards the railway line; crossed the bridge turned left and followed the cycle track to "the pepper pot" a long disused water tower that supplied water to steam trains as they passed by now the field had stretched out somewhat and the leaders waited for it to catch up. This process happened regularly and extended the walk time somewhat!

We continued along the track until we met the river Ouse, crossed the bridge and followed the river downstream for a while. One dog managed to get stuck below the steep river bank and had to be dragged out--guess whose dog? We then crossed an area at Haversham where a new nature reserve is being created after gravel

extraction of the area – – – we followed the track which was now running parallel to Old Wolverton until we met the Grand Union canal. A long pause till the tail-enders caught up then turned right on to the canal towpath.

We followed the towpath to Cosgrove village where we crossed under the canal by a narrow tunnel which was originally used for crossing the boat horses to the other side. From here we followed The Grafton Way footpath up to the Church where we had a convenience stop and a glass of squash. The more agile took the opportunity to climb the church tower for a fabulous view over the route we had come – – time was pressing and we were worried that the food on the barbecue that was waiting at the end of the walk might get over cooked (mobile phones do have a place at times like this) From the church we doubled back under the tunnel and directly across the fields back to No 6. The barbecue was in full swing with Graham's son in control. By this time – nearly 3 hours after the original proposed start time other non walking members had also turned up for the food, wine and cold beer and a great afternoon was spent with families and friends. Oh yes I nearly forgot the buckets of soil. Many folk asked what should they bring with them (meaning food of which many also supplied) – the soil was for Graham and Lesley's new flower bed. Thanks to all who contributed and enjoyed the day. Whose turn next to organise the next walk or whatever?

Graham and Lesley

Membership Fees The Branch Committee discussed membership fees and benefits in May. We decided that membership cards will be issued to all branch members and there will now be a branch membership fee of £3. Since branch membership requires membership of the RSCDS the Branch + RSCDS membership fee is £18 and for dancers who are already members of the RSCDS the fee is £3.

The Branch membership benefit of a £1 per night discount on the £3.50 class fee will continue and there will be a new a £3 discount on Ball tickets. Thus the financial benefit of branch membership could be more than £30 a year. To facilitate the collection of fees and the registration of members, Graham is to make application forms available before the first class in September.

Terry

Medal Tests for Children On Saturday 16th July eleven children went to London to take their Grade 3 and Grade 5 medal tests, 9 candidates and 2 helpers. The date was not ideal for us as classes ceased at the end of May but the children all did their best, and I look forward to receiving their results.

The assessor Marilyn Watson was very good with the children and commented that they had danced very well. She also urged the older children to continue with their dancing and the enjoyment of the dance.

If you know of any children who would like to join in the fun on a Saturday morning please encourage them to come along. I could do with more children in the 7+ age group.

Starting 17th September to 17th December at Bradwell Memorial Hall, 9am–10am for age 7+ and 10am–10–45am for age 3 to 6. Contact Rita Scott MK631512.

Also starting 16th September, Highland Dancing at Bradwell Memorial Hall, 5–30pm to 6–30pm, contact Mark Francke MK274596.

Rita

NB: The delegates to the RSCDS AGM in Glasgow are Graham and Jan but if anyone else would like to give it a try they are more than happy to step aside.

Jan

Let's Dance

'Let's Dance will celebrate Dance in Milton Keynes. It will provide local people with an opportunity to both observe and take part in a variety of dancing styles.'

For us it will be an opportunity to showcase Scottish Dancing and maybe get new members. It takes place at Madcap Theatre in Wolverton on the afternoon of October 8th. If you are interested in helping and/or taking part in the demonstration please let Sarah know as she is taking the lead on this event.

Forthcoming events:

First Monday class of the season September 5th 2011 until December 19th 2011

September 3rd 2011 Thistle Club Dance & Musicians Workshop with David Cunningham
Wing Village Hall see Jan - jange@verybusy.co.uk.

October 8th 2011 Hitchin Ball (7pm start)

December 31st 2011 Hogmanay Dance

**DANCING
RECOMMENCING
AFTER THE SUMMER
BREAK ON MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 5TH 2011**