



## BRANCH NEWS SEPTEMBER 2022

Registered charity No. 106918

**We have added to our Branch website the following message: It is with great sadness that we learned the news of the death of our Royal Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on Thursday 8th September 2022.**

The main purpose of this Newsletter is to welcome you all back to dancing for the new season. I trust you had a good summer and are again raring to go.

I would also like to thank you all for such a prompt and helpful response to my request for membership renewals. We are now virtually complete, and almost ready for our Treasurer to send off our subs to HQ.

We currently have 38 annual members, five life members, and two secondary members. Three previous members have decided not to re-join on the basis that they are no longer able to dance (or in one case, finding that events are not being held on dates or at venues that are convenient). However we are delighted that we have recruited one new member (Sandra), who started dancing shortly before Covid and over the past few years has become just as addicted as the rest of us to Scottish Country Dancing. We welcome her. We would love to have more new members, and would ask you all to encourage others to join.

The minutes of our Branch AGM on 18 June are ready for circulation, and I intend to send these out soon. I also plan to circulate an update on the outcomes of an extended Committee meeting scheduled to take place on Sunday 18 September.

There are a number of important issues to be discussed by the Committee on that date, several of which were flagged up at the AGM. Not least of these are the following:

- **The question of succession to the office-bearer posts over the next two years;**
- **A review of our finances in relation to significant events such as the Annual Ball;**
- **A discussion of the timing of our financial year and the AGM;**
- **Planning the calendar;**
- **How to attract new dancers, particularly through improving our communications, including better use of social media.**

**If any of you wish to put forward ideas about any of those topics, or indeed any other relevant issues, please get in touch with me or any other members of the Branch Committee as soon as possible.**

## RECENT LOSSES

Sadly, a number of former S Wales dancers passed away this summer. In addition to the loss of Enid Agnew (see below), we have also been told of the death of Hilary Lewis, who – with her husband Richard – used to dance in Newport. Jan Proudfoot has done a sterling job of unearthing information, and it seems that Hilary and Richard were also Branch members (c1976–1980), including Hilary being on the committee for a couple of years.

And we have also learned that John McLean died on 19 August. He and his wife Sylvia were staunch supporters of the St Andrew's Club in Swansea, also attending Bridgend dances, Port Talbot (St Andrew's Night suppers) and Swansea social dancing. Sylvia still lives in Swansea. Our condolences go to her and to respective family and friends of both Hilary and John.

## REMEMBERING ENID

During the summer we heard the sad news that Enid Agnew (Port Talbot) had died on 19 July. Her funeral took place in Margam on 3 August. Along with her husband Pat, Enid was a stalwart of the Branch, serving for many years on the Committee and offering unstinting support on the occasion of Branch events. Enid also taught the Port Talbot class for many years. She was a much-loved teacher. Her traditions are now carried on by Ann Morgan and Tony Harland.

As a South Wales dancer I personally remember both Pat and Enid with great fondness. Their warm smiles remain a vivid picture in my mind. As a new and somewhat diffident dancer in the early 1990s I particularly appreciated their welcoming kindness and non-judgemental encouragement! Somewhat later, I succeeded Enid on the Branch Committee, taking over from her the role of Membership Secretary. Her records (written of course in long-hand) were immaculate!

I am indebted to Alan and Irene Williams (who knew Enid and Pat well during their involvement with Bridgend) for their reminiscences. Apologising (unnecessarily!) for the haziness of their memories, they write:

*We know that Pat & Enid met through SCD at the Port Talbot class run by Tom & Iris Pett, and they married in 1971 (the same year as us).*

*We got involved in SCD in 1973, but really did not know Pat & Enid until about 1977 when we joined the Bridgend demonstration team. We understand at that time, they were attending the Port Talbot Class (Part of Bridgend) and the Swansea socials at the time. We do not know when they joined the dem. Team. The Bridgend dem. team ran for quite a number of years, and folded some time before Tom Pett died. Enid also organised the Xmas dinner for the dem. team*

*Enid & Pat were also attending the Bridgend Socials and continued to do so until about 2009, when they were unable to do so any more. They, with Irene and I, were the ones running the Bridgend Socials after Iris died (in early 2000) up to 2009. Enid also took over the running of the Port Talbot class after Iris's time. The Bridgend club eventually folded in 2010. Enid spent much of her time in the kitchen and was famous for her strong tea!*

*They both achieved their Gold medals in SCD – we were doing our Silver at the same time. Regrettably I cannot recall when this was – the nearest we can give is late Seventies.*

**Alan and Irene Williams**

## DETAILS OF LOCAL GROUPS

### WEST WALES

**Pat Rye's class:**  
Village Hall in Houghton every Monday in term-time at 7:00 pm.  
Contact: Pat Rye [ryedp@hotmail.com](mailto:ryedp@hotmail.com)

**Heather Davies's class:**  
Wednesday evenings (starting 21 September) 7-9pm at Pembrokeshire College (note change of venue) for a

beginners/intermediate class. LFT advised. Social dancing some Fridays.  
Contact [Heather8.davies@gmail.com](mailto:Heather8.davies@gmail.com) or 07970772684

**Jean Elliott's class:**  
Meets weekly in Narberth on Thursdays from 7:30 – 10:00 pm.  
Contact: Jean Elliott  
[jean.ell1@btinternet.com](mailto:jean.ell1@btinternet.com)

### SOUTH CENTRAL AND MID-WALES

**SWANSEA**  
St Andrew's Club on Wednesdays 7:30-10:15 pm, Rhyddings Scout Hut, Swansea  
Contact: Jim & Jan Proudfoot  
[jimnjan@ntlworld.com](mailto:jimnjan@ntlworld.com)

**PORT TALBOT**  
This group meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 pm in the Carmel Welsh Presbyterian Church Hall, Port Talbot SA13 1PQ  
Contact Ann Morgan  
[a\\_e\\_morgan@lineone.net](mailto:a_e_morgan@lineone.net) or Tony Harland  
[anthony.harland@anthonyh102.plus.com](mailto:anthony.harland@anthonyh102.plus.com)

**BRECON**  
The Brecon group meets on Wednesdays from 7:30-9:30 pm at the Subud Centre,

Watton Villas, Brecon. New members welcome.  
Contact: Peter Brock  
[pbrock14@yahoo.com](mailto:pbrock14@yahoo.com)

#### CELTIC LINKS – COMBINED GROUP

Gwenda Dinsdale has set up a group for dancers who wish to be challenged and who are willing to travel (about every 4-6 weeks, usually in the Community Hall in Hirwaun, on a Sunday between 12:00 and 2:30.  
Contact: Gwenda Dinsdale  
01874676277 or (for texts only) 07837320372  
[gwendadinsdale@talktalk.net](mailto:gwendadinsdale@talktalk.net)

### SOUTH-EAST WALES

**VALE OF GLAMORGAN:**  
Since October 2021 Lyn Wilson has organised monthly dance sessions on a Saturday (usually 11:00 – 2:00) at the Community Hall in Wenvoe.  
Further dates are: 17 Sept, 8 Oct, 12 Nov, 10 Dec 2022  
Contact Lyn Wilson:  
[lynpennant@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lynpennant@yahoo.co.uk)

**CARDIFF CALEDONIAN SOCIETY:**  
Monday evenings, 8:00 – 10:00 pm at the Scout Hall in Whitchurch. Risk assessment in place, LFT still recommended if possible.

Contact Conor Farmer for further details  
07812 569744,  
[conorfarmer52@googlemail.com](mailto:conorfarmer52@googlemail.com)

**CARDIFF – WHITCHURCH TUESDAY CLASS:**  
Mixed ability class every Tuesday, 7:45 – 9:45 pm in the Scout Hall in Whitchurch. All welcome. LFT still recommended if possible.  
Contact Alison Jackson 07811 082510  
[jacksonaj@talktalk.net](mailto:jacksonaj@talktalk.net)

## BRANCH COMMITTEE

The Committee elected on 18 June 2022 was as follows:

**Chairman:** Conor Farmer

**Secretary:** Alison Jackson

**Treasurer:** Pat Rye

**Committee members:** Christine Davies; Jean Elliott; Tony Harland; Ann Morgan; Liz Mozdiak; Fran Smith; Carol Walton

**Ron Hewinson is our President, Alex Gray our Vice-President.**



**Note from Editor:** I would like to encourage everyone to send me news, articles, ideas and – particularly – photographs of dance events. In the case of this issue, where material is not otherwise attributed, the “I” and “me” referred to are indeed “me” (i.e. your Secretary Alison Jackson). And any errors are definitely my fault!

Having said that, the details of classes on page 3 are only as accurate and up-to-date as the information that teachers and group representatives send me. Please keep me informed of any changes.

I hope to produce the next issue in late September/early October.



## BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS

**Chair:** Conor Farmer, tel 07812 569744 [conorfarmer52@googlemail.com](mailto:conorfarmer52@googlemail.com)

**Secretary:** Alison Jackson, tel. 07811 082510 [jacksonaj@talktalk.net](mailto:jacksonaj@talktalk.net)

**Treasurer:** Pat Rye, tel. 01646 698463 [ryedp@hotmail.com](mailto:ryedp@hotmail.com)

**Website Manager:** Fran Smith  
[fran@rscds-southwales.org.uk](mailto:fran@rscds-southwales.org.uk); [www.rscds-southwales.org](http://www.rscds-southwales.org)

