



# Youth Committee

## Newsletter

OCTOBER 2000

Recognised as a Scottish Charity No. SC016085

## Dear Youth Co-ordinator /Teacher,

Welcome to the first newsletter from the newly created Youth Committee.

The Society recognised the importance of encouraging young people to dance when the AGM in Edinburgh in November 1999 agreed to appoint a Youth Director and a Committee.

Much excellent work had been done in this field by the Young Scottish Dancers Association (YSDA) Among its successes were the production of teaching packs and the "Dance Scottish" events that encouraged thousands of children from all over the world to dance on specific dates.

Since our first meeting in January this year, the committee has been extremely busy. We sent out questionnaires to all Branches and Affiliated Groups regarding children's dancing in their area. It is from these replies that we have your name.

Other activities have included the circulation of a model Code of Conduct covering children's activities within the Society, a meeting with student dancers, advice about starting classes for children and discussions with Learning and Teaching Scotland on providing resource material for schools.

You can read more about what we are doing in this newsletter but we would welcome any ideas and suggestions you may have. I look forward to hearing from you

*Fiona Turnbull* (Youth Director)

## MILLENNIUM BADGES



Have you purchased the Millennium Badges for your class? These special pin badges are available in packs of 20 for the bargain price of £3. Children love to wear a badge. Make sure that all your dancers can show their pride in Scottish Country Dancing and publicise your class by displaying a badge.

## RESOURCE PACK

In conjunction with Learning and Teaching Scotland the RSCDS is preparing a resource pack for school teachers that guides them through the basics of teaching Scottish Dancing to children. The pack comprises a book, a video and CD, including instructions for some popular Scottish Country and Ceilidh dances. It is hoped the pack will encourage more schools to teach Scottish Dancing to their pupils. The pack is to be launched in May 2001. For Branches, particularly in Scotland, the launch provides an ideal opportunity to forge links with local schools, to offer help with teaching and, perhaps, to run an end of term dance for local children.

## CALLING ALL STUDENTS

**If you have never been to Summer School in St Andrews, now is your chance.**

The Youth Committee, with the agreement of the General Purposes Committee, is offering two scholarships to full time university students wishing to attend Summer School for the first time. Apply to the Youth Director c/o RSCDS Headquarters (Address below)

## MORE FOR STUDENTS

In September the Youth Committee hosted an informal meeting of students involved in Scottish Dancing to hear their views on the RSCDS and Scottish Country Dancing in general. It was a lively and thought provoking session. They all gave accounts of how they or their friends had been "put off" the Society by occasional ill-considered remarks about their dress sense or their style of dancing, but their enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing was undiminished. We intend to co-opt a couple of these younger dancers on to the Youth Committee so that they can take forward some of their ideas, including proposals to run an Easter School in 2002 for dancers aged sixteen to twentysomething.

## CODE OF PRACTICE

Sadly we often see and hear reports of children who have been abused. We must not be complacent and think it could not happen in the Scottish Dancing world. The Government believes that all organisations involved with caring for children should have codes of conduct to protect against abuse. The Society's Executive Council (EC) has approved a model code for Branches to adopt. This has now been issued to Branch secretaries. It sets out simple, practical measures that Branches can take to protect children in their care and also the adults who help at children's events. While the EC considers that the model is proportionate to the risks likely to be encountered through Scottish Dancing, Branches may wish to adopt more stringent codes of conduct.

### Colgrain Primary School

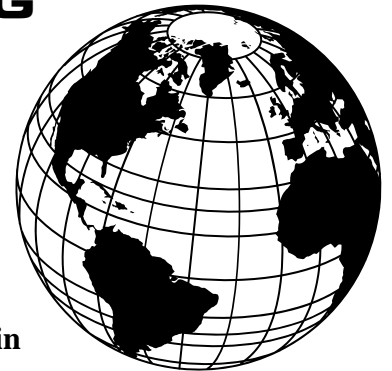
A poem from Kelly Leach

*All over the world people come to see  
All the children dancing with faces full of glee  
If you're feeling bored or if you're feeling down  
Do a bit of dancing. Do not be a clown.*

## TESTS

Most activities for children, Brownies, Cubs, sport, music, ballet, recognises achievement by awarding badges and certificates. Teachers who enter children for Scottish Dancing tests run by other organisations find they act as an incentive and encourage children to remain in dancing well into their teens. The Youth Committee is therefore studying proposals for the Society to adopt a graded test syllabus of its own which young dancers world-wide can enter if they wish.

## DANCING ROUND THE WORLD



There are lots of exciting things happening already for young dancers in many corners of the world.

Junior festivals in Scotland attract thousands of school children. 90% of all the primary children on Arran attend a festival and the Fife festival is spread over a week because so many schools are involved. Elsewhere in Britain there are many special events for children.

One of the most efficient and successful groups is the New Zealand JAM (Junior Associate Members). You can read about them in this year's Bulletin.

Australia, produces a newsletter for their Junior members and hold children's classes at their Winter School.

In California there are popular themed balls for their young dancers.

What more can be done to encourage young dancers? Please let the Youth Committee know what is going on in your area. We aim to publicise forthcoming events on the web site and in future newsletters. Tell us what you think the Youth Committee should be doing.

**We would welcome your suggestions**

**Youth Committee: Director Fiona Turnbull Members for 1999/2000 Lorna Ogilvie, Andrew Kellett, Marilyn Watson**