



Youth Committee

Newsletter 2

OCTOBER 2001

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Dear Youth Co-ordinator /Teacher,

Welcome to the second annual newsletter from the Youth Committee. I hope you had an exciting year and enjoyed your classes. The new season is now underway and hopefully you have more eager young dancers keen to learn. Teaching children is a challenge but it also brings rewards. To see the smiles when they are dancing and having fun together is very encouraging.

I am always delighted to learn about your experiences teaching children. Your dedication and commitment are really impressive. During the past year I have also shared in the excitement of children's dance festivals whenever I could.

In this newsletter you can read about the Youth Committee's work to support dancing among young people, and how we hope to help you, the teachers and administrators, in future. Highlights include:-

- The "Dance Scottish" resource pack (book, video and CD) for school teachers who do not specialise in Scottish Country Dancing. Do share the information with local schools and help them to get started.
- A proposed system of graded tests for children, which is one way we hope to support experienced children's teachers.
- Planned discussion groups on ways of teaching children.
- Help for student dancers: scholarships to Summer School and a new residential course in April 2002 for and run by young adults.

Please continue to send in your ideas and suggestions so they can be aired in next year's newsletter. You may find some fresh inspiration and others will benefit from your experience.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Fiona Turnbull (Youth Director)

RESOURCE PACK



With the approval and assistance of Learning and Teaching Scotland the RSCDS Youth Committee has produced a resource pack for school teachers. It is aimed primarily at teachers in Scotland and fits into the 5-14 Expressive Arts programme, but teachers everywhere starting up a children's class will find it an invaluable aid.

The pack contains

- A book of 18 popular social dances (country and ceilidh) graded from elementary to the more challenging; plus teaching advice and a glossary of steps and formations.
- A CD containing music for all the dances recorded by popular Scottish Dance bands.
- A video illustrating teaching methods and a selection of dances performed by school pupils.

Schools can purchase the pack from RSCDS Headquarters for £30 (plus £3 postage). Individuals can buy it for £35 (though the usual RSCDS discounts apply).

The pack is being publicised through the educational press, the Scottish Arts Council, school PE advisers and Society events. Branches are being sent flyers advertising the pack. Please take this opportunity to interest some of your local schools in Scottish Dancing. More and more children's events are being organised; it would be a shame for young people in your area to miss out.

