

Carlisle & Border Branch 70th Anniversary Ball

Some of the dances on the Ball programme were chosen for their association with past members and friends of the branch here are the reasons we chose them:

MARGARET PARKER'S STRATHSPEY (S8x32) 3C (4C set) John Drewry RSCDS Book 31

We chose this dance to fondly remember Peggy, our very own Margaret Parker, this dance wasn't written for her, but we like to pretend it was. It is particularly lovely Strathspey. Our Peggy served on our committee for over 50 years and was our President when she died at the age of 93 in 2016.

We also chose this dance because it was devised by John Drewry, who is famous for devising 100s of dances, one of his many dances was subtitled the "D" dance – D being the Roman numeral for 500. Many people don't know that John started his dancing in Carlisle and danced all around Cumbria before he moved to Aberdeen to be a professor of Mathematics at the University – which fits with his devising skills. One of his earliest dances, published in 1967, was called Carlisle Castle.

TRIBUTE TO THE BORDERS (J8x32) 3C (4C set) Roy Goldring RSCDS Leaflet Dances 31

Tribute to the Borders was devised by Roy Goldring and dedicated to Joe and Alice Murphy and the members of the Carlisle and Border Branch. Joe and Alice joined the branch in the 1970s and contributed vastly to dancing in the area and around the world. Both served on the committee for over 30 years and Alice taught several of us here tonight to teach and consequently changed many of our lives, not just theirs, for the better.

THE SOLWAY REEL (R4x48) 4C set Joseph Killeen Carlisle Anniversary Book

The Solway Reel was devised by Joe Killeen and is one of our favourite local dances. Joe taught our popular Wednesday classes from mid 1970s for nearly 20 years before emigrating with his wife Louie to Spain in the early 1990s. He set up a local group in Torre Vieja, Spain and continued to teach and eventually went on to arrange a few of the Iberian Peninsula Weekends and by coincidence David Oswald our Band tonight was the very first band to go out and play for one of these weekends arranged by Joe in 1999 in Alicante and remembers Solway Reel well.

The tune was written by a local musician and composer Donald Ridley from Brampton not far from here in Carlisle – several musicians have comments on how fabulous his tunes are. Donald played with David Bell and others in the Lyne Valley Band.

THE TRYSTING PLACE (S8x32) 2C (4C set) Iain Boyd RSCDS Book 35

The Trysting Place was devised by Ian Boyd from New Zealand, but we chose it because of the Highland Schottische Poussette – a formation invented by Jackie Johnstone from Dumfries. When the branch first formed Jackie Johnstone taught the Carlisle general and advanced classes for many years with weekly classes of up to 100 dancers. One of our class members recalls being taught by him when she was 4.

CAERLEOL CROSS (R8x32) 3C (4C set) Evelyn Ramwell Kirkbrae Collection 1

Caerleol Cross is one of many dances devised by Evelyn Ramwell who, with her husband Joe, served on the committee in Carlisle for many years and not only taught classes Carlisle but also taught the Cockermouth Class for many years. She and Joe ran a spring dance for many years in Longtown that was famed for the delicious buffet particularly the fabulous puddings. Joe and Evelyn were a very close couple, and both died within weeks of each other in 2018. Caerleol is an old spelling of Carlisle.

The music for this dance was written by none other than our very own Nancy Dickson who was a fabulous pianist who played at branch classes, our weekend schools, summer school in St Andrews and around the world. She wrote some fabulous tunes.

THE HIGHLAND RAMBLER (R8x40) 3C (4C set) Roy Goldring Leeds Silver Jubilee 1987

The Highland Rambler is a dance devised by Roy Goldring of Leeds for John Illingworth. We really like Roy Goldring dances in Carlisle area and our Branch often use them to teach new formations to dancers because he had a wonderful skill of devising interesting and lovely dances with just the formation of interest for the lesson.

CITY OF BELFAST (S3x32) 3C set Lucy Mulholland Belfast Diamond Jubilee Book and RSCDS Book 48

City of Belfast contains formation the Espagnole which like the Rondel and Set & Rotate is another popular formation created John Drewry.