



# NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS

ISSUE N<sup>o</sup> 21

DEC 2008

## COMMITTEE

**Chairman:**  
**B Smith**

**Secretary:**  
**Bob James**

**Treasurer:**  
**John Miller**

**Vice Treasurer:**  
**Chris Day**

**Members:**  
**Vicky Lister**

**Sheila Court**

**John Wood**

**Club Caller:**  
**Trevor Day**  
(non-voting member)  
**0161 4373620**

[www.oceanwevers.co.uk](http://www.oceanwevers.co.uk)



### News from the Chairman

A very warm welcome to all dancers, old and new. Looking back at 2008, we had the AGM in October. The members of our Club voted in a new committee - new committee members are listed in the panel on the left. The new committee decided to appoint Chris Day as Vice-Treasurer. It has met twice since the AGM, and the minutes can be read in the blue folders which are available on club nights or they have been sent to members via email. If you have not received them, please let Bob James (our new secretary) know.

We also elected our new Charity to support this year. HOMESTART is a charity that supports young families in the local area. If you would like more information, please contact Grace Baker. Grace is currently looking into activities that we as a club could do in order to raise funds. So watch this space.

In December we held our Christmas parties which were well attended. The year ended with Chris and Trevor's Twixmas in Carlisle. A wonderful time was had by all. It was also great to meet friends from other clubs, which is what square

dancing is all about. This year, there are lots of fantastic opportunities coming up to go to other clubs' dances, and I would like to encourage all graduated dancers to go along and dip your toe into the water (or on the dance floor), if you have not already done so, be it at Grange in February, Suhl/Germany in June or Lytham in August.

2009 is getting off to a flying start with our Dance in Halton on 31st January. It is our chance to mix the Monday and Friday night dancers, and get to know each other better. Following on from this is our Annual Dinner on 27th February at the Headway Hotel. We hope that as many dancers, and their partners/spouses as possible will attend. The Club will support the event with a small reduction in the price for members.

We are a committee run club, and we would like to encourage you to let us know your views on how the club should be run. We can't please everybody all the time, but we would like to please most of you all the time.

*"Happy Dancing in 2009"*

*B Smith, Chairperson*

### Future Newsletters

Would you like to receive your next Newsletter by email?

The committee discussed the possibility of distributing the Newsletter as a PDF by email. Printed copies would be produced only for those who wished

them. Future copies of the Newsletter would be distributed to members by email. If you are unable or unwilling to receive them in this way, please let Bob James know and a printed copy will be produced for you. *Bob James, Secretary*

### 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dance Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 2008

Paul Bristow was our caller to a packed hall for the 13th birthday dance, with excellent workshops in the afternoon.

There was an excellent 'Jacob's Join' supper in the evening and everyone hopes that Paul will come back soon.

*Sheila Horton*



### Caton Halloween Party

31<sup>st</sup> October 2008 (two articles!)

The evening was spooky and full of fun, and everyone appeared to be having a good time. Trevor played some spooky music and lots of members had made a great effort for the fancy dress.

Winners were Jackie Beavan who was the bride of Dracula and Ian Baker who made an excellent Count Dracula (see pics on next page) Congratulations to them and to everyone who took part.

*Joan Fletcher*





**H**alloween was a good excuse for fancy dress again! This Club appears to love dressing up for any occasion and what fun it is for all involved.

There was a fab pot luck supper. As usual people put themselves out and there was plenty of delicious food.

Ladies first prize went to Dracula's bride who looked fab in white lace dripping in blood - well done Jackie (we missed the

split skirt though!). Mens first prize went to Count Dracula who spent 2 hours putting on his makeup and doing his hair - and it took just as long to take it off! A few people didn't recognise Ian as he looked as though he had hair.

Thanks to Trevor & Chris who always put a great deal of work into the Club and to everyone who made this evening such good fun. Looking forward to next year!  
*Grace Baker*

## Brookhouse Halloween Party 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008



## Autumn Walk - 8<sup>th</sup> November 2008

**O**nce again there was a magnificent display of autumn colours at Levens Park, which was the venue for the autumn walk.

Nine Club members took part in the circular walk from the park entrance via Larkrigg Hall Bridge to Sedgwick. The trip ended at the King's Arms, Hale, where we all tucked into a delicious hot meal.

### T'wil it be Fine? - by Joyce Ardis

The day, it must fine be, for dancer's feet to tread  
By different routes we met at Levens Gate.  
A small herd of charcoal deer danced around the trees  
To entertain our wait.

The walk began through parkland  
Where we chanced upon the beaters and shooters of game.  
Standing in a line, cold and shivering, guns pointed low.  
"Keep to the path" shouted one, as we made to traverse behind them.

Next, shots were heard behind and pheasant flew high in fear,  
Some running next the wall, keeping low and out of sight.  
Unwilling to be served up on a dinner plate.

Searching in hedgerows for a green steel stanchion  
To discover it's use was our intention.  
A pulley to cross from bank to bank, but what for? We know not!

Just ahead a suspended bridge for twenty five footpersons only.  
Treading gently across it, all eight, could feel its sway beneath their feet.  
We left behind the mushrooms galore, to die for!  
As no-one wanted a stomach ache.

We came next upon a bridge with stone, dressed well upon its face,  
And then down narrow, leafy pathways beside the Keer.  
Coming at once upon the salmon leap where waters tumbled fast.  
A week gone by they jumped up here the last!

A few steps farther on, in tumbling waters,  
A body washed up and down the flow.  
Released by firemen from its watery grave and taken to its place of rest.  
A murder, unresolved as yet.



Scrambling up a steep slope, beside the dry culvert, once a navigable canal.  
Greeted by the ord HI, formed by planks of wood, we rested.  
Then onward along the banking side where silver birch trees and plants  
Now carpeted the channel once filled with water.

In the next field, a bridge stood, a lone reminder of times gone by  
When barges, horses and ducks passed through  
Loaded with cargo of coal and such.

On we went to Sedgwick Bridge  
Crooked built to traverse the roadway under.  
Here was made gunpowder in times of war, and before.  
Cavaliers and Roundheads were remarked upon as dwelling in the proximity.  
Now the homes of landed gentry, become apartments for the minority.

On along, through cow-trod fields, well manured and steeped in mud.  
Across a sloping bank aside the river bank once more.  
Into the oak-lined avenue  
We came again upon the herd of charcoal deer.

A shot rang out across the divide, and the deer sprang away.  
Taking a rounded run behind trees and down towards the water's side.  
Into the river flow they swam  
To reach a safer shore.

On we walked, through the golden glade of trees, alight in sunshine now.  
Up and over the gated stile  
To end our muddy walk where we began.

And hence to the pub, a hearty meal and homeward.

**T'was fine!**

*Joyce Ardis*

## Dates for your Diary

**17th or 18th January**

Whitabarrow Walk  
(see George)

**Saturday 31st January**

Club Dance at Halton  
Beginners to Plus levels.  
Caller: Trevor, Pot Luck  
supper. 7.30 - 10.45pm  
£3.50 advance £4 on the night

**7th February**

Chain Gang, Harrogate  
Callers: Simon & Trudy Fielding

**20th - 22nd February**

Grange Weekend  
Callers: Alan Trengove &  
Derek Stewart

**Friday 27th February**

Annual Dinner at the Headway

**Saturday 21st March**

Allemanders Dance  
Caller: James Wyatt

**10th and 13th April**

CLUB CLOSED

**Saturday 25th April**

Spring workshop and dance  
at Halton, Mainstream & Plus  
Caller: Neil Whiston

**26th - 28th June**

50th Anniversary Dance in  
Germany - see Trevor or Chris

**Second/Visiting Callers**

**13th & 27th Mar** - TBA

**3rd Apl** - Norman Mitchell

**6th Apl** - Jackie Beavon & John Miller

## Autumn Dance - 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008



The callers were Cliff Anderton and Gene Turner, singing duets. This event was very well attended and the dancers included our very own caller Trevor and his wife Chris.

Cliff has often been a welcome second caller at our club, but it was a special treat to have Gene calling with him. Their voices harmonise beautifully and the sound is mostly country and western style. Jackie Anderton and Sandra Turner accompanied their husbands to the dance and were very helpful as 'man' dancers throughout the evening.



Cliff and Gene have a square dance club called 'Harmony Squares' which meets in Clifford Village Hall, West Yorkshire.

Clifford is situated east of Leeds, not far from the A1. Gene was born in St Louis, Missouri, so his American accent is genuine! While on active duty with the US Air Force in England between 1967 and 1970 he met his wife Sandra. They now live in Knaresborough. Cliff has another square dance club in Harrogate called 'White Rose Squares' - definitely a Yorkshire club with a name like that!

*Vicky & Martin Lister*

## Headway - Brain Injury Charity -23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2008

Our money raising year for Headway started in October 2007. Raffles were organised at our Christmas dances and the Twixmas break had raffles each night and concluded with a Grand Auction for the remaining prizes.

The Annual Charity Hoe-Down in March was again very popular and continued to be our main fund raiser. A Beetle Drive was organised for May and was enjoyed by the 40 members and friends that attended at Halton. After 12 hectic rounds, Geraldine emerged as our winner and became Beetle Champion 2008.

Finally, Brian and Carol donated a bottle full of 5ps to the charity that they had been collecting throughout the year. We used this bottle for our final charity event called "Guess the number of coins in the bottle".



Brenda won a superb prize of dinner for 2 up to the value of £40 presented by Simon at the Greyhound Halton. Brenda donated £20 back to the charity. With raffles at all of our special dances and a number of special donations received during the year, a fantastic total of £1,920 was raised. Sue and I would like to thank everyone that contributed in any way to the Charity. You were all magnificent and we could not have raised such a fine total without your help. The cheque was passed to Brian Clingan, the North West representative for Headway at our dance on 23rd November.

*Derrick Crutchley*

## Christmas Dance - 19<sup>th</sup> December 2008

The Victoria Institute was festively decorated to reflect the Christmas spirit as a good crowd gathered to take part in the Christmas Square Dance.

Caller Trevor and Chris set the theme with their elf costumes, whilst other dancers were bedecked with Christmas hats, tinsel etc - some even with fairy lights! Half way through the evening we enjoyed a substantial Jacob's Join supper with the usual Christmas goodies! After we re-commenced dancing an inflated Father Christmas appeared and started dancing in a square! We all looked quizzically at his ample proportions and well-disguised face wondering who he was. The fact that no-one had seen Roy for a while, including his wife who had been asking us all if we knew where he was, made us decide it must be him, and sure enough, it was! It all added to the fun of the evening which continued with dancing to Christmas tunes and songs sung by Trevor.



We all looked quizzically at his ample proportions and well-disguised face wondering who he was. The fact that no-one had seen Roy for a while, including his wife who had been asking us all if we knew where he was, made us decide it must be him, and sure enough, it was! It all added to the fun of the evening which continued with dancing to Christmas tunes and songs sung by Trevor.

*John Blacow*



## Christmas Party at Brookhouse - 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2008

What I asked, can you dress up as, at Christmas?

Well, dancers rose to the challenge and appeared in Christmas hats of various designs and one person even arrived as a Fairy. Well done all.

Chris provided hot and cold food, which was enjoyed by everyone. We had a good evening's dancing, which set us up for enjoying the coming festivities.

*Sheila Court*



Thanks to all who supplied articles for this newsletter.

A special thanks to Ruth for all the lovely photos - she has an amazing indexing system for retrieving the hundreds of photos she has taken.

Please continue sending me your news - either by hand on a Friday evening, or you can email me at

*lindamills@onetel.com*

If you can let me have them immediately after the event whilst it's still fresh in your mind, that would be wonderful! Joint efforts are welcome.

*Linda Mills*



## Twixmas in Carlisle - 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> December 2008

The Twixmas dance was once again at the Crown & Mitre Hotel in the very centre of Carlisle.

The format was similar to last year, workshops in the morning and afternoon and a mainstream/plus dance in the evenings.

We were joined on the second night by a group of 3 local drunks who made a triangle (not a square) of their own and gave it a go. They were fairly amicable and left when asked to.

On the third night there was well supported fancy dress won by a sexy policewoman (with no skirt and good legs) and a very handsome Mexican man.

Jim (guitar) and Peter gave us renditions of humorous songs and poems during the half time interlude at each evening's dance.

The event was enjoyed by everyone who attended, although due to the working days it fell on, many more people were only able to come for 1 day of workshops and dancing.

The Retail Therapy Help Centre (Carlisle Shops) were

enjoyed by quite a lot of people, especially some ladies (they know who they are). The Pub across the square from the Crown & Mitre also received more business due to the extortionate price of the Hotel Bar.

The weather was good; sunny but very frosty and the mornings were noteworthy for the sound of engines warming up and heavy ice being scraped from car windows by departing guests.

This was probably the last year at Carlisle as the Hotel has increased its charges quite considerably for next Xmas/New Year period. Thanks to Trevor & Chris for organising a great event and Trevor and John Boxall for the calling and workshops.

*Brian Holman*

## 50 years Anniversary Dance 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> June 2009 Germany

The European Callers & Teachers Association are holding an Anniversary Dance at Suhl in Germany. For details of dance programme and cost, contact Trevor or Chris.