

The London Ballet Circle

Founding President and First Patron: Dame Ninette de Valois, OM, CH, DBE
President and Patron 1981 to 2004: Dame Alicia Markova DBE
Founded in 1946 by Stanley Hawkins

President: Sir Peter Wright CBE

Vice Presidents: Dame Beryl Grey DBE, Dame Merle Park DBE,
Dame Monica Mason DBE, Wayne Eagling, David Nixon OBE,
Darius James

Associate Vice President: Michael Broderick

Chairman: Susan Dalgetty Ezra
UK Charity Registration No 1123258

February 2013

FUTURE EVENTS

Monday 11 March - Wayne Eagling with Gerald Dowling

Monday 15 April 2013 - Karen Kain

Wednesday 24 April 2013 - Joint Visit (with Ballet Association) to Royal Ballet Upper School

Monday 29 April 2013 - Mara Galeazzi

Tuesday 21 May 2013 - Visit to Central School of Ballet

Monday 17 June 2013 - Kevin O'Hare

20 July to 2 August 2013 - Yorkshire Ballet Summer School

(normal LBC participation Wednesday 24 to Wednesday 31 July 2013)

We know that our members will be very disappointed that **Gillian Lynne**, who was to have spoken to us on **4 March**, has had to cancel her visit because of pressure of work.

Monday 11 March 2013, 7.30 - Wayne Eagling with Gerald Dowling
The Dining Room, First Floor, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, SW1
Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8

We are delighted to welcome Wayne Eagling as our guest this evening, together with Gerald Dowling, the well-known writer on dance for *Dancingtimes* and other publications, who will be in conversation with him.

Wayne was born in Montreal and spent his early life in California where he started his dance training at the Patricia Ramsey School of Dance Arts, subsequently studying at The Royal Ballet School, joining the Company in 1969, becoming Soloist in 1972 and Principal in 1975. He partnered Margot Fonteyn as well as all the leading female dancers in The Royal Ballet and performed in the major classical ballets in the repertoire but was particularly feted for the roles he created in many MacMillan ballets including *Triad*, *Elite Syncopations*, *Gloria* and *Different Drummer*. He left The Royal Ballet in 1991 to become Artistic Director of Dutch National Ballet for whom he commissioned many new works by choreographers such as Ashley Page and David Dawson. He has choreographed works for major ballet companies throughout the world, including The Royal Ballet, La Scala Ballet, Ballet of Naples, Hong Kong Ballet. From 2005 to 2012 he was Artistic Director of English National Ballet, choreographing among other works for the Company a new *Nutcracker* as well as the intriguing *Men Y Men* which he created especially for the men in the company as a curtain-raiser to the female dominated *Giselle*.

Wayne last came to speak to us in September 2010 and since leaving ENB (as a flourishing and successful company of talented dancers) he has travelled extensively mounting ballets and lending his expertise to foreign companies. We therefore look forward to hearing of his plans for the future.

Monday 15 April 2013, 8.00 - Karen Kain (Please note later start)
The Dining Room, First Floor, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, SW1
Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8

A long overdue visit by the National Ballet of Canada to Sadler's Wells Theatre in April (after 26 years!) with the UK premiere of Alexei Ratmansky's *Romeo and Juliet*, choreographed in 2011 to celebrate the Company's 60th birthday, is an exciting dance event so we are particularly happy to welcome the Company's prestigious Artistic Director, Karen Kain, as our guest. Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Karen trained at the National Ballet School from 1962, joined the Company in 1969 and danced the Swan Queen in *Swan Lake* in 1971, being made Principal in the same year. She formed a partnership with Frank Augustyn and the special interest of Rudolf Nureyev (with whom she also danced) accelerated the rise of "the gold dust twins" to prominence. She was noted for her strong technique, musicality and dramatic skill in both classical and contemporary roles.

Although in great demand as a guest artist worldwide her allegiance has always been to the National Ballet of Canada and she is a household name in her native country. Karen has received numerous prizes, honours and honorary degrees both at home and abroad, perhaps the most impressive being named Officer of the Order of Canada in 1976, promoted to Companion of the Order in 1991 and receiving the Distinguished Artist Award from the International Society for the Performing Arts in 2011. The Karen Kain School of the Arts was opened in 2005 to celebrate her career and contribution to the arts. She is involved in a variety of charitable enterprises, including The Kidney Foundation, Toronto Humane Society and the Foster Parents Plan Canada. She founded the Dancers Transition Resources Centre which assists dancers to plan their transfer from performing to new careers. We look forward to a very interesting evening.

Wednesday 24 April 2013 - Joint Visit (with Ballet Association) to Royal Ballet Upper School
Payment in advance, £12.50 members of LBC and BA, £15 guests

Please note: payment for this visit should be made to **David Bain**, Chairman of the Ballet Association, 23 Capstan Square, Stewart Street, London, E14, tel 020 7515 1254, Email: baindavid23@talktalk.net or baindavid@rocketmail.com Please arrive at 9.15 for the 9.30 class or at 11.00 for the second class at 11.15. Cheques should be made payable to the Ballet Association and sent to David, with your name, address and contact details (preferably an Email address). If you are not a member of Ballet Association (many of us belong to both LBC and BA) just mention that you are an LBC member. Tickets will not be issued but your name and address will be placed on a list which will be held at the door at RBUS. You will be contacted nearer the time to inform you of your number on the list.

Monday 29 April 2013, 7.30 - Mara Galeazzi
The Dining Room, First Floor, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, SW1
Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8

We enjoyed a memorable evening in Mara's company, with Irek Mukhamedov, in October 2009, and are delighted that she is to be our guest on this occasion. She was born in Brescia and trained at La Scala, Milan. She joined The Royal Ballet in 1992, became a First Artist in 1995, Soloist in 1998 and Principal in 2003. She has made frequent guest appearances with leading dancers and has performed with Irek Mukhamedov, Carlos Acosta and Tetsuya Kumakawa among others. With The Royal Ballet she has danced in all the established classics in both principal and supporting roles, as well as in Ashton, MacMillan and modern works. She is noted for her acting ability which was unforgettably demonstrated when she took the part of Anna Anderson in the 2004 revival of *Anastasia*. Among the many honours she has received she was recognised in her native Italy in 2005 by being given the medal Cavaliere del Lavoro (Italy's equivalent of being knighted or created a Dame).

Like so many of her admirers we were sad to learn that she is to leave The Royal Ballet at the end of the current season (her last performance at the ROH will be as Mary Vestera in *Mayerling* on 13 June),

although the time is obviously right for her. She is moving to Oman to be with her husband and spend more time with her baby daughter, and is looking forward to being able to focus on teaching and working for her charity, '**Dancing for the Children**' which raises money for sick children in Africa and which many of our members have supported. We look forward to welcoming her and wish her and her family great happiness in their new life.

**Tuesday 21 May 2013, 2.00* - Visit to Central School of Ballet
10 Herbal Hill, Clerkenwell Road, London, EC1**

Please note: as you know all money raised for visits to ballet schools is paid as a grant to the organisations concerned and is often rounded up. We therefore get the pleasure of watching students train and develop into professional dancers while making a useful contribution to benefit their work. To date we have raised the funds by requesting a payment of £12.50. Unfortunately we are not able to claim gift aid on this as we require payment in order to attend the event. The committee has decided to see if it is possible to raise more funds by not insisting on payment but rather asking for a donation on which gift aid can then be claimed. This may increase the amount we are able to give by 25%.

Those who wish to attend are asked to let Audrey Allen (8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP, tel 020 8361 2872, Email audrey.allen035@btinternet.com) know in advance with any donation (suggestion £12.50). As in the past acknowledgements of your donations and confirmation of places will be made by Email where applicable but should you require a written receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. If using PayPal please check in advance that places are still available.

We are delighted to have another opportunity of a visit to Central School of Ballet to see their graduate year, formed into the Company, Ballet Central, rehearse part of the programme they will be performing for their end of year show and at venues they tour throughout the UK. We greatly appreciate the warm welcome we are given by everyone at Central, as well as the skill of the students and the expertise of those who teach and support them to produce their first class shows.

*Because of limited waiting space we are requested not to arrive before 1.45 pm.

The nearest underground station is Farringdon (Circle and Metropolitan lines and overhead), turn right on leaving the station into Farringdon Road, cross at the traffic lights and turn right until you reach Clerkenwell Road, turn left and Herbal Hill is the first side turning you reach.

**Monday 17 June 2013, 7.30 - Kevin O'Hare
The Dining Room, First Floor, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, SW1
Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

Kevin last came to speak to us in April 2009 when he had just replaced Anthony Russell-Roberts as Administrative Director of The Royal Ballet and now, when he is in his first season as Artistic Director, following Dame Monica Mason, seems a very good time to welcome him back. Born in Kingston-upon-Hull, Kevin attended the Vera Skelton School of Dancing and was also taught by Louise Brown, both very well known names in dance education in Yorkshire, before finishing his training at The Royal Ballet School. He joined Sadler's Wells Ballet in 1984, became a Principal in 1990, dancing in all the Company's repertoire to great acclaim, remaining with what went on to become Birmingham Royal Ballet until he retired from dancing in 2000. He studied Company Management and worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company, then returned to Birmingham as Company Manager in 2001 and moved to The Royal Ballet Company at Covent Garden as Company Manager in 2004, becoming Administrative Director in 2009. In June 2011 it was announced that he would be appointed Artistic Director on Dame Monica Mason's retirement in July 2012. We greatly look forward to hearing how his first months in his new role have been and what are his hopes and plans for the future of the Company.

20 July to 2 August 2013 Yorkshire Ballet Summer School
(normal LBC participation Wednesday 24 to Wednesday 31 July 2013)
York St John University, Lord Mayor's Walk, York

Teachers at this year's Yorkshire Ballet Summer School include Kevin Haigen, Jay Jolley, Paul Lewis, Patricia Linton, Laurent Novis, David Pickering, Marguerite Porter and Christopher Tudor. Sir Anthony Dowell will be one of the special guests.

Accommodation at York St John University has not increased in price (apart from a small increase on Saturday and Sunday covering breakfast service). One day bed and breakfast amounts to £28.80 (£24 plus 20% VAT) with an increase on Saturday and Sunday of £1.20 per day (£1 plus 20% VAT). The total for the usual Wednesday to Wednesday stay for LBC members amounts to £204 but as in the past a shorter or longer stay is possible. The contribution to London Ballet Circle, covering our donation to enable members to watch classes, and to cover our annual bursary for a student to attend YBSS, also remains the same, namely £45.

If you wish to attend please send your cheques, one made payable to York St John University, covering the cost of your stay, and one made payable to The London Ballet Circle for £45. Please send any special requests, such as on which floor you would like to be, which friend you would like to be near, with your cheques and a stamped addressed envelope for acknowledgement (unless you are on Email) to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP.

If anybody has not previously attended YBSS but would like to know more please do not hesitate to ask for information. It has a very relaxed, interesting and friendly atmosphere, the classes are fascinating, both the inspirational teachers and the remarkably talented students, and it makes for a most enjoyable and reasonable holiday. York itself, of course, has much to offer, whether for a first or return visit.

Also of interest

London Jewish Cultural Centre, Ivy House, 94-96 North End Road, London, NW11 7SX
Tel 020 8457 5000
Email admin@ljcc.org.uk www.ljcc.org.uk

Thursday 7 March 2013, 8 pm - £16

Victor Hochauser with Norman Lebrecht. Norman Lebrecht is the author of the enthralling Book, 'Covent Garden: The Untold Story, Dispatches from the English Cultural War 1945-2000' published in 2000

Sunday 28 April 2013, 3.30 pm - £20

Steven McRae with Kevin O'Hare

Victoria & Albert Museum
Blyth House, 23 Blyth Road, Olympia, London, W14 0QX
<http://www.vam.ac.uk/whatson/event/2309/rite-of-spring-study-sessions-3591/>

Monday 18 March to Wednesday 20 March, 11am or 2 pm, sessions runs for 1 hour 30 minutes each day

Jane Pritchard, Curator of Dance at the V&A, is running a course on *The Rite of Spring*, choreographed by Nijinsky, celebrating the centenary of its original and controversial production by Diaghilev's Ballets Russes. Blyth House is the Museum's archive storehouse for its theatre and performance collection and is described as having "a treasure trove of fascinating artefacts" and the V&A has a rich collection of material relating to the ballet. Full details on what promises to be a fascinating study can be found on the above website.

Linbury Studio Theatre, ROH
Friday 17 May, Young Creatives programme

Richard Chappell, the young dancer, choreographer and founder of Horizons Dance Theatre, has been chosen by Youth Dance England to take part in their Young Creatives programme. He is working with Sarah Dowling as his professional mentor to create a 7 minute ballet for dancers from his company (although he and they will not be dancing as HDT but under their own names) and the piece will eventually go into their company repertoire. Preliminary ideas for the ballet are looking at the development of angels through 16th Century and Renaissance art, comparing them to that of fallen angels in John Milton's 'Paradise Lost'.

It is a great opportunity for Richard and the other young choreographers in the programme to be selected. Nothing is yet available on the website with regard to the time of the performance and ticket sales, but this should be in the dancing press in due course and will be of interest to those of us interested in the development of choreography and the encouragement of young talent.

AGM and Party

Our party, following the AGM, was a happy and successful occasion. We were delighted to see **Sir Peter Wright**, our President, and **Dame Monica Mason**, one of our Vice Presidents and a Trustee, as well as other distinguished guests from the world of dance and so many of our members. We hope that Sir Peter is very much better after his recent accidents.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed prizes for the raffle and especially thank **Dancingtimes** for the generous annual subscriptions they donated - these were eagerly snapped up by the winners of the numbers drawn first.

At the AGM there were overwhelming votes in favour of the proposals (following our survey) to raise payment for talks to £5 (£8 for guests) and the annual membership subscription from £8 to £12, with effect from 1 November 2013.

Allison Potts, having completed 3 years as Chairman, stood down and has been succeeded by **Susan Dalgetty Ezra**, previously Vice Chairman. We are delighted that Susan has agreed to take on the Chairmanship.

Susan has written the following:

You will all be aware that Allison Potts stepped down from the Chairmanship of London Ballet Circle at the AGM on Saturday 12 January. During her three years in the role, Allison ensured that LBC continued to provide a thoughtful, educational and thoroughly enjoyable programme of talks, visits and events in order that LBC could carry on raising much needed funds to support dance students through donations and bursaries. Allison will be greatly missed as Chairman but, fortunately, will continue as a member of the committee and we appreciate knowing she is still with us, providing advice and guidance.

As the saying goes, Allison will be a hard act to follow. I'm very honoured and excited to have been elected to carry on as Chairman and promise to do my very best for LBC and its members. Please feel free to contact me. Email is best - susandalgetty1@gmail.com - or by telephone 020 7224 5594. If you have any trouble reaching me and do not have access to Email, please contact one of the other members of the committee and they will pass your message along.

I look forward to seeing everyone at an LBC event very soon.

Darius James

The London Ballet Circle is pleased to announce that Darius James has accepted its invitation to join the organisation as a Vice President. Following a dancing career with companies including Northern Ballet Theatre, Darius returned to his Welsh roots and set up Ballet Cymru in 1986 where he is the Artistic Director and choreographer. Touring extensively, Darius and Ballet Cymru have successfully cultivated ballet audiences in England and Wales and promoted Welsh culture through works such as *Under Milkwood* and *Tir*. Following the death of its Welsh founder, Stanley Hawkins, LBC created a memorial bursary which allows a talented student to attend Ballet Cymru's summer course. London Ballet Circle is very proud to welcome Darius James.

Membership renewals 2012-2013

As our membership year ended on 31 October 2012, this will be the last newsletter sent to any member who has not renewed his or her subscription. If you have forgotten to do this and wish to remain a member, as we very hope you will, please send your cheque for £8 (£2.50 for anybody under 25), made payable to The London Ballet Circle, to our Honorary Membership Secretary, Serena Martin, 144 Clarence Gate Gardens, Glentworth Street, London, NW1 6AN. A stamped addressed envelope is not necessary as we are no longer issuing membership cards. If you have mislaid the renewal form please remember to send Serena your details (name, address, telephone number and Email address where applicable).

We were very sorry to learn that **Frances Cowen** has had an accident, sustaining a broken hip. Frances is a longstanding member of LBC, much admired for her indefatigable energy, her kindness and outgoing personality. She has had successful surgery and is currently receiving rehabilitation services at St Pancras Hospital. We send her our love and best wishes for a successful outcome to her treatment.

Error

There was an error in the last newsletter when the title of Jann Parry's biography of Kenneth MacMillan was wrongly named as 'A Distant Drummer' instead of 'Different Drummer'. The title of Jann's book was especially relevant as it came from a quotation (Thoreau) suggested by Lady Deborah MacMillan for the ballet: "If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer" and is surely descriptive of Sir Kenneth. I cannot understand how I came to make such a mistake as I bought, read and enjoyed the book as soon as it was published, so please accept my apologies. (AA)

Emails

Almost every time a newsletter or other communication is sent out to members one or more gets "bounced back" for one reason or another. It would be greatly appreciated if you could add Audrey Allen's Email address (audrey.allen035@btinternet.com) to your list when you are informing other contacts of a change to your details and this will be passed on to other committee members who need them. Thank you.

So that you do not miss out on any information, those of you who are not on Email are encouraged to ask your 'Email friends' in LBC to pass on any urgent news. This was relevant recently when my computer crashed with a virus and although I managed to get an Email out to advise members of dates for future events some of you will have missed Zdenek Konvalina and Ksenia Ovsyanick on 11 February.

Those of you who managed to hear Zdenek and Ksenia will remember they discussed the exhibition of photographs they put together for ENB's recent engagement at the Coliseum. Two of the featured photographers were Zdenek and Daria Klimentova. The photos can be seen at www.24sevenART.com

Do you shop online?

If so, did you know that you can help LBC raise funds to support more student dancers while you shop online? Tesco, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury, John Lewis, Boots and Amazon are among over 2000 stores that have teamed up with **EasyFundRaising.org.uk** so that every time you shop online the stores donate money to your favourite charity – and it costs you nothing! Register quickly and free of charge by:

1. Clicking on www.easyfundraising.org.uk
2. Selecting 'Register as a user'
3. Clicking London Ballet Circle as the charity you wish to support
4. Then each time you shop online log on to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and go from there in the usual way and up to 15% of what is spent will be donated by the retailer to The London Ballet Circle

Easysearch.org.uk

Using Easysearch is another way to raise funds for your chosen charity, simply by surfing the web. When you search you'll raise funds for your cause and by making just 10 searches a day with Easysearch instead of Google or other search engine, you should generate £20 a year. Easysearch has combined the results from several major search engines - Bing, Yahoo and others - to track down the most relevant results from across the web which means that you'll find what you are looking for quickly and easily in one search. Easysearch is completely free to use so this is a great way to support your cause.

PayPal

When making payments or donations to London Ballet Circle why not save yourself the (increased!) price of a stamp by paying online via PayPal. Go to <http://www.tlbc.org.uk/events.htm> and click on the 'Apply now' button, insert the appropriate amount as shown in our newsletter and follow the instructions on the acknowledgement page which will appear once payment has been completed. Please note that this facility does not apply to our regular talks where payment on the door is necessary.

The 2013 Committee of The London Ballet Circle

Susan Dalgetty Ezra - Chairman (020 7224 5594)
Audrey Allen - Newsletter (020 8361 2872)
Esme Chandler - Honorary Auditor (020 8348 1571)
Diane Dewar - Honorary Secretary (020 7736 6269)
Laura Dodge - Marketing
Susan Johnson - Honorary Treasurer (07725 149482)
Dr Sandra Kendall - Committee Member
Istvan Lengyel - Co-opted Member (07505 406331)
Serena Martin - Honorary Membership Secretary (020 7402 6799)
Allison Potts - Talks Host (07870 116302)
Tim Rooke - Venues Secretary (020 8352 0492)
Felicity Trew - Committee Member

Paul Rodgers - Website Manager (but not a committee member)

*The London Ballet Circle was formed, with Dame Ninette de Valois as Founding President, to promote interest in dance and kindred arts.
The Circle is registered in the UK as a Charity, Registration No. 1123258
Website: www.tlbc.org.uk*

