

# 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

**Patron:** Sir Peter Wright CBE

**President:** Dame Monica Mason DBE

**Vice Presidents:** Dame Beryl Grey DBE, Dame Merle Park DBE,  
Wayne Eagling, David Nixon OBE, Darius James, David Bintley CBE

**Associate Vice President:** Michael Broderick

**Chairman:** Susan Dalgetty Ezra

**UK Charity Registration No 1123258**

February 2015

## Future Events

**Sunday 8 March 2015 - rehearsal of Chelmsford Ballet Company**

**Monday 13 April 2015 - Sir Peter Wright in conversation with Michael Broderick**

**Wednesday 29 April 2015 - Joint Visit with Ballet Association to The Royal Ballet Upper School**

**Monday 11 May 2015 - David Bintley**

**Tuesday 19 May 2015 - Visit to Central School of Ballet**

**Monday 20 July 2015 - Ernst Meisner**

**Saturday 18 July to Friday 31 July - Yorkshire Ballet Summer School**

**Monday 3 August 2015 - Li Cunxin**

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**Visit to rehearsal of The Chelmsford Ballet Company's Pineapple Poll and Carnival of the Animals**

**Sunday 8th March 2015, 10.15 am to 12.30 pm**

**CYGAMS HQ Recreation Ground, Meteor Way, Chelmsford CM1 2RL**

<http://www.thechelmsfordballetcompany.co.uk/>

Marion Pettet, Chairman of The Chelmsford Ballet Company (and LBC member), invites you to attend the final rehearsal of her Company's production of *'Pineapple Poll'* and *'Carnival of the Animals'* - two very family friendly and humorous ballets. The Chelmsford Ballet Company is an amateur company with professional standards. Doreen Wells and Christopher Marney are the Patrons of the Company. Stephen Quildan, from Walthamstow, and Jasmine Wallis, from Ongar, lead the casts. Stephen graduated from the Rambert School and is an associate with Ballet Black. Jasmine Wallis is currently studying at Central School of Ballet. Marion herself is dancing Mrs Dimple in 'Poll' and the Snooty Mother in 'Carnival'. To add further interest, LBC members, April Goulding and Jessica Wilson, are also dancing in the production.

As members may recall, *'Pineapple Poll'*, a comedy ballet of sailors and their sweethearts, is full of fun and originally choreographed in 1951 by John Cranko. Chris Marney's *'Carnival of the Animals'* is set in a 1930s theatre. The young stagehand falls for a dancer in the corps de ballet of a touring company: humour and romance ensue.

LBC members are invited to watch the rehearsal in a purpose built studio. It has a ramp, disabled toilet, and there is no need for a lift. There is parking directly outside the building **for Blue Badge holders only**. Otherwise there is a public car park (free on Sundays) about 50 yards away on an incline-free road. Although not far from Chelmsford station (Chelmsford trains depart from Liverpool Street) it has just been announced that, due to engineering works, there are no trains at weekends between Shenfield and Chelmsford until the end of March but if you are feeling adventurous, there is a replacement bus service for your enjoyment! The studio can accommodate 24 people to watch rehearsals.

Marion would like to know how many members to expect and especially is there are any visitors requiring 'Blue Badge' parking as spaces are limited. Please send your name to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP (tel: 020 8361 2872, Email: [audrey8allen@gmail.com](mailto:audrey8allen@gmail.com))

**Sir Peter Wright CBE with Michael Broderick, Monday 13 April 2015, 7.30 pm**  
**The Dining Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, SW1**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

We are delighted to be able to announce that Sir Peter Wright, our much-loved Patron, will be sharing his memories of a distinguished life and career in dance in conversation with Michael Broderick. This will be the third of such evenings and we look forward to another fascinating occasion. No introduction is necessary: Sir Peter is undisputedly one of ballet's "greats" and all with a passion for ballet will have been affected by his influence in some aspect of the art, as dancer, teacher, choreographer, director. Anybody who has been privileged to watch him conduct a masterclass gains a fresh and unforgettable perspective into even the most familiar work.

We are making this evening our New Members' Evening when we invite new members to meet each other and the committee for a welcome drink, and an invitation will be sent to you in due course.. This evening is sure to be very popular so you are advised to arrive in good time.

**Joint Visit, with Ballet Association, to Royal Ballet Upper School - Wednesday 29 April 2015, (time tbc)**  
**Floral Street, WC2**  
**Payment in advance, members £12.50, guests £20**

Timings are provisional. We expect the day to start at 9.00 a.m., with the second session starting at either 10.30 or 10.45. Following a short break for lunch, there will be a third session which will finish at approximately 2.45 p.m. If a 9.00 start is a little early for you, then you are free to join us in time for the second class. Please arrive by 8.45am (or 10.15 or 10.30am if you would prefer to miss the first class). Exact timings will be confirmed (in the April newsletter for Ballet Association members) and/or when you are notified that your application for tickets has been successful.

The cost of the visit is £12.50 for members and £20 for guests. If you would like to attend, please send your name, address and contact details (preferably an Email address) to the Chairman of BA, David Bain, at 23 Capstan Square, Stewart Street, London E14 3EU. Please enclose a cheque made payable to The Ballet Association. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. All monies collected will be donated to The Royal Ballet School to provide additional funds for students. We will not be issuing tickets. Your name will be placed on a list which will be held at the door. We will contact you nearer the time to confirm timings for the day and whether you have been allocated a place. Please note: applications will not be processed until 15 March.

**Please note:** For this, and for all visits to ballet schools, we have prepared a 'Guidelines for Schools visits' document which is included with this newsletter. We would ask that you read this and refer to it.

**David Bintley CBE - Monday 11 May 2015, 7.30 pm**  
**The Dining Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, SW1**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

It gives us great pleasure to welcome David Bintley, one of our distinguished Vice Presidents and Artistic Director of Birmingham Royal Ballet since 1995, as our guest. 2015 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BRB's establishment in Birmingham and David's 20<sup>th</sup> year as Artistic Director of the Company.

Another renowned dancer from Yorkshire (born in Huddersfield), after training at The Royal Ballet School he joined Sadler's Wells Ballet in 1976 where he was celebrated as an outstanding character dancer, notably as the Widow Simone in *Fille* and in the stepsister role created by Ashton in *Cinderella*. He began choreographing in 1978, becoming Company choreographer in 1985 before moving to Covent Garden as resident choreographer in 1985, a major triumph coming in 1988 with *Still Life at the Penguin Café* and *Hobson's Choice* in 1985 for Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet. He worked as a freelance choreographer from

1993 with such eminent companies as Stuttgart (*Job*) and San Francisco (*Edward II*) before his move to Birmingham as Artistic Director in 1995 where he created *Carmina Burana* that same year. Other eclectic works have followed, using every genre of music and composers such as Duke Ellington, Dave Clark, Britten, Tavener, to name but a few. Under his direction, following in the footsteps of Sir Peter Wright, BRB has become one of the most exciting and well-loved companies in the United Kingdom, touring both at home and abroad, presenting varied and keenly anticipated performances. David stepped down as Artistic Director of the National Ballet of Japan in May 2014 after 4 years in charge (at the same time as being Director of BRB), having been an adviser to them since 2008, a most successful collaboration that has been beneficial to both companies. In June he oversaw the re-staging of his *Prince of the Pagodas* which he had created for the company in 2011.

**Visit to Central School of Ballet - Tuesday 19 May 2015, 1.45 pm for 2.00 pm (tbc)**  
**10 Herbal Hill, Clerkenwell Road, EC1**  
**Donations in advance, members only**

We are gratified to have received another invitation from Central School of Ballet to watch students from their graduate company, Ballet Central, rehearse in preparation for their annual tour which begins in Tonbridge, Kent, on 21 March (a list of the full tour follows). This is a visit that we have been privileged to enjoy over a number of years and is one of the highlights of our year, not only because of the warm welcome we receive from all members of staff but also because of the high standard of the students who never fail to impress by the quality of their dancing and the variety of the choreography they tackle.

The suggested donation for this visit is £12.50 and if you would like to participate please send your cheque, made payable to The London Ballet Circle, to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP (tel: 020 8361 2872, Email: [audrey8allen@gmail.com](mailto:audrey8allen@gmail.com)). Receipt of cheques and confirmation of places will be given by Email where appropriate but if you require a written receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. We are restricting the visit to members only at the moment but in the event of there being any spare places you are welcome to register an interest and will be contacted nearer the time

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.

Exact time will be confirmed but is likely to be similar as in previous years. As waiting space is very limited you are requested not to arrive too early.

**Ballet Central Tour Dates**

- **Tonbridge** - E M Forster Theatre, Saturday 21 March [tonbridgearts.com](http://tonbridgearts.com)
- **Cambridge** - ADC Theatre, Friday 10 April and Saturday 11 April [adctheatre.com](http://adctheatre.com)
- **Chelmsford** - Civic Theatre, Wednesday 15 April [chelmsford.gov.uk/theatres](http://chelmsford.gov.uk/theatres)
- **Bridport** - Bridport Arts Centre, Friday 24 April [bridport-arts.com](http://bridport-arts.com)
- **Leeds** - Stanley & Audrey Burton Theatre, Northern Ballet, Saturday 2 May [theatreleeds.com](http://theatreleeds.com)
- **Margate** - Theatre Royal, Friday 8 May [theatreroyal margate.com](http://theatreroyal margate.com)
- **Newbury** - Corn Exchange, Thursday 14 May [newburyspringfestival.org.uk](http://newburyspringfestival.org.uk)
- **Frome** - Merlin Theatre, Saturday 23 May [merlintheatre.co.uk](http://merlintheatre.co.uk)
- **London** - Linbury Studio Theatre, Royal Opera House, Monday 1 June [roh.org.uk](http://roh.org.uk)
- **Chipping Norton** - The Theatre, Saturday 13 June [chippingnortontheatre.com](http://chippingnortontheatre.com)
- **Crawley** - The Hawth, Monday 15 June [hawth.co.uk](http://hawth.co.uk)
- **Grantham** - Guildhall Arts Centre, Thursday 25 June [guildhallartscentre.com](http://guildhallartscentre.com)
- **Salford Quays** - The Lowry, Monday 29 June [thelowry.com/dance](http://thelowry.com/dance)
- **London** - St James Theatre, Friday 17 July and Saturday 18 July [stjamestheatre.co.uk](http://stjamestheatre.co.uk)

**Ernst Meisner - Monday 20 July 2015, 7.30 pm**  
**The Dining Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, SW1**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

After winning the Eurovision competition (no, not the song contest!) Ernst gained a place at The Royal Ballet Upper School then joined the company in 2000. After 10 happy years with The Royal Ballet dancing soloist roles Ernst put together a gala show for Kent County Council in Dartford, an experience he much enjoyed. He later got the chance to participate in the Rural Retreat for future leaders and got the opportunity to shadow Ted Brandsen, artistic director of Dutch National Ballet. Ernst left Covent Garden in 2010 and danced several seasons with Dutch National Ballet and when the company decided, two years ago, to set up a Junior Company, Ernst was appointed its Artistic Co-ordinator. He now choreographs works not just for the Junior Company but also for the main company.

Ernst, who also teaches at the Amsterdam International Summer School, has been inspired by LBC's work with student dancers and has very generously given us a two week scholarship to the Amsterdam International Summer School to award to a talented young dancer. We record our gratitude to Ernst and his colleagues for their kindness and greatly look forward to our evening with him and to hearing more about his work and life in dance.

**Yorkshire Ballet Summer School – Saturday 18 July to Friday 31 July 2015**  
**Usual LBC participation Wednesday to Wednesday 22 to 29 July 2015**  
**Askham Bryan College, Askham Fields Lane, York**

Regular attenders at the Yorkshire Ballet Summer School and supporters will be aware that the venue was changed last year, and that the Charity (registration 1107179) has introduced a Friends and Patrons scheme which is becoming increasingly important as costs rise.

As a charity YBSS depends upon the generosity of its Patrons and Friends as they receive no government funding and would not be able to give as many scholarships and bursaries to deserving students who would not have the opportunity to attend their prestigious summer school without assistance.

We are currently clarifying the position with regard to our members' attendance and whether they will have the same flexible access to all classes as in the past (we hope and assume so) and as soon as we have definite information we will be able to let you know. In the meantime you may like to note the date.

**Li Cunxin - Monday 3 August 2015, 7.30 pm**  
**The Dining Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, SW1**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

Very advanced notice of this exciting visit by Li Cunxin, Artistic Director of Queensland Ballet (established in 1960), who is bringing the company to The London Coliseum from 4 to 8 August 2015 with *La Sylphide*.

He is well known for his remarkable biography *Mao's Last Dancer* which, along with Jung Chang's *Wild Swans*, perhaps provides the most readable and enlightening revelation of life in Mao's China during the twentieth century. Trained at the Beijing Dance Academy he was invited by Ben Stevenson to join Houston Ballet where he had an outstanding career for 16 years, guesting with major companies throughout the world to great acclaim. He joined Australian Ballet in 1995 as Principal Artist, somehow managing to study finance at the same time, before retiring as a dancer in 1999 and becoming a successful stockbroker. Fortunately for the dance world he maintained his links with ballet, hence his appointment as the 5<sup>th</sup> Artistic Director of Queensland Ballet in 2012. He was named Queensland Australian of the Year in 2014.

We look forward to a very interesting evening.

### Also of interest

**Chelmsford Ballet Company, Chelmsford Civic Theatre**

**Wednesday 18 to Saturday 21 March 2015, 7.30 pm, matinee on Saturday 21 March at 3.00 pm**

*Pineapple Poll* and *Carnival of the Animals*

*Pineapple Poll* needs no introduction while *Carnival of the Animals* has been reworked for Chelmsford by Chris Marney who produced the work for the London Studio Centre's graduation year of 2010.

**Tickets on sale: 01244 606505, [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/theatres](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/theatres), and for more information visit: [www.thechelmsfordballetcompany.co.uk](http://www.thechelmsfordballetcompany.co.uk)**

**Ballet Theatre UK**

**Lilian Baylis Studio Theatre, Sadler's Wells**

*Aladdin*

**6 and 7 May 2015, tickets will be on sale at Sadler's Wells Theatre in due course**

Ballet Theatre UK is touring the length and breadth of the country with its acclaimed production of *Aladdin*. David Brewer, who trained at Tring and was one of our students at YBSS, and Julia Davis, who trained at Central and was also known to many of our members at YBSS, both appear.

Full details of their tour can be found on [www.ballettheatreuk.com](http://www.ballettheatreuk.com) and there are other venues in the Greater London, such as Camberley and Newbury, that are easily accessible as well as in other major cities.

### AGM and party

Our AGM and party on 10 January was a very successful and enjoyable occasion. We were very grateful to all who contributed such attractive prizes for the raffle and owe a special vote of thanks once again to *Dancing Times* for its generous donation of three annual subscriptions to the magazine and also to *Dance Europe* for its much appreciated gift of a year's subscription: very popular prizes. The raffle raised £147, so many thanks to all who bought tickets.

### Grants and scholarships

Susan Johnson our Treasurer in presenting the accounts for the year ended 31 October reported that:

The Circle has made four visits to various ballet schools for both rehearsals and performances, and also the annual visit to the Yorkshire Ballet Summer School, a visit to the ROH workshop at Purfleet and one to Ballet Rambert. It has made donations to the schools for general purposes and has also provided scholarships for two students to attend The Yorkshire Ballet Summer School and one to attend the Ballet Cymru Summer School. The Circle also continues to award the De Valois and Broderick Prizes to students of The Royal Ballet School. This year was the first year the Sir Peter Wright Prize was awarded to a student at Elmhurst School.

The total of all the above mentioned was £6155.00, scholarships amounting to £2930.00 and donations, following members' visits, to £3225.00 (English National Ballet School, Rambert, Central School of Ballet, Yorkshire Ballet Summer School, Ballet Cymru, Dance Teachers' Benevolent Fund following the visit to the ROH workshop at Purfleet).

## Venues survey

Chairman Susan Dalgetty-Ezra reported at the AGM on the results of our venues survey and for those who were unable to be at the AGM this is her summary:

“We've been using the facilities at the Civil Service Club for a couple of years now. Over the past few months, I have heard from a few members indicating their dissatisfaction with the space. The committee takes your comments seriously so we decided to survey the membership to find out just how many of you share this dissatisfaction. Allison Potts and Istvan Lengyel conducted the survey and compiled the data. The questions were simple - are you satisfied with CSC and if not, would you be willing to pay an increased membership fee to cover the cost of another venue? The results of the survey are as follows -

Of the 46 completed surveys received, 33 said they were satisfied, 13 said they were dissatisfied. Of the 46 completed surveys received, 13 said they would be willing to pay a higher subscription fee, 2 said no and 31 did not answer the question.

In the light of these results, we will continue to use the CSC but we are keenly aware that things can change (as they did at Waterstone's) and so we are searching for other venues suitable for LBC. This means we need to consider the seating capacity, easy access for members who may not be as spry as they once were, location and proximity to transportation and most of all, affordability. There are lots of venues available in Central London but only if we are prepared to pay several hundred pounds per night. Remember that LBC's goal is to raise as much money as possible for the students. Every penny spent on the venue is a penny that doesn't go to the students.

If any of you know of a venue that would meet LBC's criteria, please let any of the committee members, or myself, know”.

Thank you!  
Susan

## New Year Honours 2015

We were delighted to hear the news that two well loved and respected members of the ballet world received honours for services to dance in the New Year Honours List. **Marguerite Porter** was awarded the MBE and **Jeanetta Laurence** the OBE.

Chairman Susan Dalgetty-Ezra sent warmest congratulations on behalf of LBC and received the following replies:

“Thank you so much for your lovely note. It has been so very touching to receive so many kind messages. Please thank all at LBC for their good wishes.

Kind regards, Marguerite”

“Thank you and The London Ballet Circle for your very kind words. It has been the most wonderful privilege to work for such a superlative organisation all these years, and to receive an honour for doing so is truly the icing on a very special cake.

I wish everyone at The London Ballet Circle all the very best for 2015 and beyond, Jeanetta”

We are very grateful to Jane Pritchard, Curator of Dance at the V&A and LBC member, for the following tribute to Nesta Macdonald:

**Ernestine ‘Nesta’ Macdonald**  
**Born 6 June 1914, Died 27 December 2014**

Nesta Macdonald, a long term, active member of the London Ballet Circle died two days after Christmas. A few of her friends had celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with her last June.

Nesta was an extraordinary and infuriating woman, a perfectionist whose determination to get every fact right prevented the publication of important books she wrote but who could be generous in her support of other scholars. A good author and meticulous researcher she was an editor’s nightmare as she always wanted things done her way. Nevertheless with *Diaghilev Observed by Critics in England and the United States 1911–1929*, which was jointly published in New York and London by Dance Horizons and Dance Books in 1975 and associated articles, she challenged many details the history of the Ballets Russes as she studied primary sources rather than accepting often-repeated anecdotes. Many LBC members will remember that she was a friend of Tamara Karsavina and gave several presentations about Karsavina to the Circle.

Nesta trained at Chelsea College of Physical Education and became a teacher of gymnastics. During the War she married Doctor Donald George Macdonald who was in the RAMC but this did not last long and they divorced in 1948. In the 1950s she began to travel, took up buying and selling antiques and developed a love of photography. Photographs by Nesta are included in the collections of the National Portrait Gallery. In addition to her own publications, articles for *Dancing Times*, *Dance and Dancers*, *Ballet Review* and other periodicals she published a booklet on the Pheasantry in King’s Road (the façade of which she helped to save from demolition) and mounted the exhibition Diaghilev in Chelsea at Chelsea Town Hall 1979. On 6 January 1990 *Lawrence among the swells*, concerning DH Lawrence’s relationship with Grace Lovat Fraser and Harriet Cohen was compiled and presented on BBC Radio by Nesta MacDonald. Highlights of the 1990s were receiving a Nijinsky Medal from the Polish Artists Agency and travelling to Perm in Russia (the former home of the Diaghilev family in 1996). She had been in the Alan Morkil House for the past 7 years. Nesta donated collections of papers to the Leeds Russian Archive in Leeds University Library and the Kensington and Chelsea Library. Remaining material will be located in the Theatre & Performance Collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

### **Volunteers**

We are always looking for enthusiastic people who would like to become more involved with LBC. If you have aspirations to write, why not hone your skills writing reports of our talks. These reports are greatly appreciated by those who are unable to attend the events. They are widely read by the thousands who visit our website: [www.tlbc.org.uk](http://www.tlbc.org.uk) and form an important part of LBC’s legacy to the future.

Interested? Or do you have other talents that might be put to good use in the interest of LBC? Please contact me or any member of the committee and we can chat about it!

Thank you,

Susan

(A list of contact details for all committee members is found at the end of each newsletter)

### **Enquiries**

If you have any problems or enquiries relating to your membership please contact Serena Martin, membership secretary on the telephone number given or Email: [serenamartin@btinternet.com](mailto:serenamartin@btinternet.com)

## **Email**

There are times when we receive last minute information and invitations, and as the newsletter does not have set dates for sending out Email is the only way to send this out as quickly and efficiently as possible. We are always conscious of our members who do not have Email access and if you are one of those we do encourage you to make sure that you know at least one person who has the facility and who can pass on items of possible interest promptly. It would also be appreciated if you would remember to add newsletter editor Audrey Allen's Email to your list when advising your contacts of any change to your details.

## **PayPal**

When making payments or donations to LBC why not save yourself the 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 the newsletter and follow the instructions on the acknowledgement page which will appear once payment has been completed. This does not apply to our 'pay at the door' talks.

## **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](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
2. selecting 'Register as a user'
3. clicking London Ballet Circle as the charity you wish to support, then each time you shop online log on to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://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 easily in one search. Easysearch is completely free to use so this is a great way to support your cause.

## **The 2015 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)  
Susan Johnson - Honorary Treasurer (07725 149482)  
Dr Sandra Kendall - Committee Member  
Istvan Lengyel - Website (07505 406331)  
Serena Martin - Honorary Membership Secretary (020 7402 6799)  
Allison Potts - Talks Host (07870 116302)  
Tim Rooke - Venues Secretary (020 8352 0492)

*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](http://www.tlbc.org.uk)*

## **Guidance for London Ballet Circle Members regarding school visits**

The ballet schools we visit and their students benefit from the support and generosity of our members. The schools welcome the interest shown by our members and are very willing to provide a number of opportunities for our members to watch students in performance or in class and to meet them informally during the visit within the boundaries set by Safeguarding and Child Protection legislation and requirements.

For these positive reasons we have felt it important to devise guidelines for members regarding visits to schools and members' communication with students and would ask that the following are adhered to at all times:

1. Please only engage in conversation with students in the public meeting areas. Between classes students will be rushing from one class to another and so we ask that members refrain from stopping students in corridors or on the stairs.
2. No photography or filming should take place during the visit. We also ask that you refrain from comment during and after the visit on social media sites such as Twitter or Facebook.
3. To protect members from any accusations of inappropriate behaviour as well as to safeguard students we suggest that:
  - a. There be no direct personal communication with students by any means (including text, social media, phone, letter or email), instead this should be made through the schools' development office or equivalent. Members should not give their personal contact details to students.
  - b. Members do not send gifts to students, however if a member wishes to send a student a card following a performance this should again be sent to the schools' development office or equivalent and not to the student directly.
  - c. Members should not arrange to entertain students outside the school.
4. If at any time a member has any concern about the welfare of a student, they should advise the school immediately.

We thank you for your co-operation.