

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

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Wayne Eagling, David Nixon OBE, Darius James, David Bintley CBE

Associate Vice President: Michael Broderick

Chairman: Susan Dalgetty Ezra

UK Charity Registration No 1123258

September 2014

FUTURE EVENTS

Monday 22 September 2014 - Alex Beard CBE

Tuesday 7 October 2014 - Doreen Wells

Thursday 6 November 2014 - Visit to Ballet Cymru, Newport

Monday 17 November 2014 - Clement Crisp with Gerald Dowler

Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 December 2014 - Visit to Birmingham

Saturday 10 January 2015 - Annual General Meeting and Party

Alex Beard CBE - Monday 22 September 2014, 7.30 pm
The Dining Room, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, SW1
Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8

As previously advised, it is with very great pleasure that we announce that the recently appointed Chief Executive of The Royal Opera House, Alex Beard, has agreed to be our guest on this occasion. After graduating from King's College London he worked for a year at KPMG before joining the Arts Council of Great Britain, moving in 1995 to the Tate as Director of Finance and Administration, Director of Business in 1999 and Deputy Director in 2002. With Director, Nicholas Serota, he was closely involved with the development of Tate Modern, Tate Britain and Tate St Ives. In 2012 he was awarded the CBE for his services to the arts. He has an enduring love of opera and, more recently, a keen interest in ballet; other interests include cycling, cricket and cooking.

Pundits in the arts world found his appointment surprising initially, but all are united in judging that his contribution to the creation of Tate Modern cannot be overestimated, nor his importance in the growth and success of the Tate enterprise as a whole. His business and financial credentials speak for themselves and these are going to be important in the need to oversee the forthcoming redevelopment of the Royal Opera House's public areas, in order to open up the organization more fully to the public, and the continuing requirement for the House to raise funds and diversify its income. Those who know and have worked with him are confident that his unquestionable ability as an administrator will bring to the Opera House the skills to support and complement the work of the Artistic Directors.

Please note: Allison Potts will be interviewing Alex and, because of the scope of his work and remit which are of great importance to us as patrons of the ROH, thought that our members might like to suggest particular areas of interest that they would like to be discussed.

We have to date received one question and additional thoughts would be welcome. If you have any ideas please contact Allison on: allison.potts@clara.net, or pass them on to any member of the committee.

Doreen Wells Masterclass – Tuesday 7 October 2014, 7.30 pm
Gresham Centre, Gresham Street, EC2
Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8

We are delighted to announce a very special evening when Doreen Wells, a longstanding friend of LBC who has captivated us in the past with reminiscences of her varied and impressive career, will be teaching a Masterclass. Doreen was born in London and studied at the Bush-Davies School and Sadler's Wells Ballet School before joining the Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet Company in 1955 where she rose rapidly to become a soloist in what had then become The Royal Ballet. Between 1960 and 1974 she danced with the touring Royal Ballet Company as Principal, as well as continuing to dance with the main Company, in all the leading roles in the repertoire. Although an acclaimed classical dancer she is unquestionably non-elitist, with wide interests in all forms of dance and theatre to which she brings her own joie de vivre, ranging from pantomime at the age of 14 to musicals (most notably as Vera Baronova in *On Your Toes* and Maggie Jones in *42nd Street*) and appearing as Anna Neagle in a Royal Variety Show, a BBC Christmas Extravaganza and making guest appearances with London City Ballet. More recently in 2009 she came out of retirement from dancing to appear in Christopher Marney's *Hotel Follies*. She is an active Patron of The Chelmsford Ballet Company and maintains a practical and dynamic interest in teaching and coaching both students and professional dancers. We look forward to a very enjoyable evening.

Please note: change of day and venue.

The nearest underground station to Gresham Street is St Paul's (Central Line), cross Cheapside, walk along Foster Lane, which leads into Gresham Street where you will see the Piccolo Café and the Centre is next door. There are other stations and buses very near and convenient, so check online or in your 'A to Z'.

Visit to Ballet Cymru, Newport - Thursday 6 November 2014
Booking in advance, members and guests

We are excited to be able to pass on to members a warm invitation from Ballet Cymru to visit them in their new home for what promises to be a really interesting day. Ballet Cymru has the advantage of being a small company which makes for an informal and friendly atmosphere. We value the link to our Founder, Stanley Hawkins, and we are delighted to have this opportunity to strengthen our relationship with the Company.

The plan for the day is to arrive just after 12 o'clock, be driven by minibus to the premises to watch some rehearsal, following which we would be driven to the Riverfront Theatre to watch more rehearsal on stage until approximately 4.30 pm when we will be taken back to Newport station. Depending on numbers we can get lunch at the Riverfront Theatre or have sandwiches before driving there.

The suggested donation for the 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, Email: audrey8allen@gmail.com, tel: 020 8361 2872. 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.

Travelling: there is a train from Paddington (platform 4 but obviously check on the day) which gets to Newport at 12.04 and from Newport at 17.09, platform 3, which arrives in Paddington at 19.02. By booking in advance you can obtain 2 single fares, outward and return, for £34. If you book your tickets online you can donate to LBC, at no extra cost to yourself, by using Easyfundraising; see our regular feature '**Do you shop online?**' at the end of the newsletter.

Our members will be familiar with Senior Railcards. From November 2012 a 60+ London Oyster photocard was introduced for those who do not yet qualify for the Freedom Pass giving unlimited free travel on the underground, DLR, London buses and London Tramlink, with some time restrictions for travel on National Rail services. Please visit the 60+ London website for full details.

Clement Crisp with Gerald Dowler - Monday 17 November 2014
The Dining Room, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, SW1
Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8

We are very happy to welcome Clement Crisp as our guest this evening and are particularly pleased that Gerald Dowler has agreed to conduct the interview.

Clement was educated at Oxford and Bordeaux universities. As one of the most celebrated dance critics since his appointment to the *'Spectator'* in 1966, and subsequently to the *'Financial Times'* in 1970, his is a household name to all ballet lovers and his reviews are read enthusiastically and with considerable enjoyment even when, perhaps especially when, they are controversial. He was librarian and archivist of The Royal Academy of Dance between 1963 and 1985 and has collaborated with Mary Clarke on a number of books. He continues as dance critic for the *Financial Times* and contributes to *Dancing Times*, the September issue of which has a tribute by him of Dame Alicia Markova. In 1992 he received the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award, Royal Academy of Dance, and in the same year became a Knight of the Order of Dannebrog, Denmark. We look forward to a lively and entertaining evening.

Visit to Birmingham Royal Ballet and Elmhurst School for Dance
Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 December 2014

We are in the process of finalising arrangements for a visit to Birmingham and will be sending details as soon as possible, but meanwhile you may like to make a note of the proposed date in your diaries.

Annual General Meeting and Party - Saturday 10 January 2015
Dragon Hall, 17 Stukeley Street, WC2

To assist members in organising their busy diaries we felt you would want to have this early notice of our 68th AGM and party. Full details will be sent to you later.

Other items of news and interest

British Friends of Ballet Nacional de Cuba

Celeste

Film Show and interview with choreographer Annabelle López Ochoa

Thursday 25 September 2014, 7 pm

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EP

The British Friends of Ballet Nacional de Cuba are delighted to announce that **Annabelle López Ochoa**, choreographer of *Celeste* for Ballet Nacional de Cuba, will be in London on Thursday 25 September to talk about her career and the work which the British Friends commissioned. As well as interviewing Annabelle, a short documentary about the making of the ballet, which includes some rehearsal footage, and then a film of the first night performance will be shown.

Members may have seen her *Streetcar Named Desire* for Scottish Ballet, for which she won the Best Classical Choreography Award sponsored by the Association at the 2012 National Dance Awards.

Entrance to this meeting is free. However, a collection will be held during the evening to cover the costs of the event and a contribution towards their next choreographic project. They suggest a minimum donation of £10 each. It is anticipated that the evening will end around 9pm.

Please note: If any of our members reads *Dance Europe* magazine they may have seen a notice about the above in the August/September issue, which wrongly gives the address for the event as the Civil Service Club. Do check with any of your friends who might be interested to save them a wasted journey: staff at CSC have been alerted and will re-direct anybody who arrives there to the proper venue.

In Step with Sir Fred

Olympic Studios Centre, Church Road, SW13

Monday 6 October 2014, 2.30pm and 6 pm

This very special event, organised by **Gail Monahan**, former Royal Ballet dancer and a present governor of The Royal Ballet, comprises two cinema screenings of works by Sir Frederick Ashton, including BBC recordings of *Les Rendezvous* and *A Month in the Country*, an interview with Sir Frederick and other surprise items.

An impressive list of Royal Ballet dancers appear in these films, including **Lynn Seymour** with **Anthony Dowell** in *A Month in the Country* recorded live at the ROH in 1978. Gail was inspired to arrange this event to show students, teachers and others how the “Ashton Style” was danced during his lifetime, which she feels is demonstrated so well in these screenings that they become a masterclass of the style.

Each showing lasts for 3 hours and thanks to the generosity of anonymous donors entrance is free. As this means there are no tickets please reserve a place by contacting Gail Monahan by Email at: instepwithfred@gmail.com This unique occasion is certain to be very popular with the ballet world so early contact with Gail is advised, especially as it has been featured in the September issue of *Dancing Times*.

Stop press: we have been advised that all places for the evening showing have gone so you will need to make enquiries as soon as possible regarding the matinee.

Markova 2014

London Jewish Cultural Centre

Ivy House, 94-86 North End Road, NW11 7SX

Sunday 26 October 2014, 3.30pm

In acknowledgement of the tenth anniversary of the death of Britain’s first universally acclaimed great ballerina, Dame Alicia Markova, Ivy House Music and Dance has assembled a distinguished array of special guests, being chaired by **Gerald Dowler**, including **Dame Beryl Grey**, **Clement Crisp**, **Jane Pritchard**, **Katherine Wade**, **Alain Dubreuil** and **John Auld**. There will also be archive footage of some of Markova’s performances, and in tribute **Lauretta Summerscales** (ENB) will dance the polka from *Façade*, **Alison McWhinney** (ENB) will dance an excerpt from *Les Sylphides* and **Laura Morera** (RB) the Sugar Plum Fairy from *The Nutcracker*. As Dame Alicia was President and Patron of LBC from 1981 to 2004 this event will be of particular interest to our members.

Tickets £28

To book online please visit www.ljcc or telephone 020 8457 5000, or Email admin@ljcc.org.uk

Ballet Cymru

Lilian Baylis Studio, Sadler's Wells Theatre

Friday 28 and Saturday 29 November 2014, 7.45 pm

Beauty and the Beast

Tickets bookable at Sadler's Wells in person or by telephone 0844 412 4300, online: www.sadlerswells.com

The annual appearance of Ballet Cymru at the Lilian Baylis Studio at Sadler's Wells attracts an enthusiastic and increasing following every year. Full details of their tour to London and other venues in the South East have not yet been published but it was felt our members would like advanced notice.

Fairfield Halls, Croydon

020 8688 9291

www.fairfield.co.uk

One of our members has pointed out the number of items of interest to ballet and music lovers which take place at Fairfield Hall, approximately 5 minutes walk from East Croydon station, and a 15 minute journey from Victoria station (with frequent trains).

For example, from **Sunday 23 to Monday 24 November 2014**, Moscow City Ballet is performing ***Swan Lake*** (first two days) and ***Romeo and Juliet***. Tickets are very reasonable and there are even concessions for seniors!

On **Saturday 16 April 2015** Ballet Theatre UK will be performing ***Aladdin*** – further information will be given nearer the time but LBC has an interest in this young touring company through **David Brewer** and **Julia Davies** whom many members know from the Yorkshire Ballet Summer School.

Richard Chappell Dance

We are delighted to pass on the following letter received from Richard Chappell, Artistic Director of Richard Chappell Dance. Some of our members will remember him bringing along a few of his dancers last November to demonstrate creating work on them (he had started his own company some two years previously). He had – still at the age of 18 – earlier in the year presented six pieces of original choreography in a Gala Performance at the Arts Depot, Finchley (September), for which we made him a grant to pay for a Ballet Mistress, and taken part in the Young Creatives programme in the Linbury Studio Theatre (May). This year Richard and some of his dancers appeared at the Edinburgh Festival where a critic wrote of him as “a choreographer to watch”. LBC can be justifiably proud in recognising his early potential and he appreciates our interest.

“I am thrilled to announce that RCD has received Linbury Trust funding for our new Autumn 2014 - 2015 creation. This means that the company can now pay all its dancers and collaborators a fair wage on which they can make a living, as well help with costume and design costs for the piece, which will make the overall look of the work much more professional.

I will now move onto the last part of funding I would like which will mean we can pay the dancers and collaborators at Equity's standard rates of pay for soloist dancers in a contemporary company, as well as for things to bring the company longer term stability and professionalism.

It's a massive step up and one I am incredibly excited about for the future. The Linbury Trust has and still does support some large companies through their first stages which are now very successful (such as Ballet Black and New English Ballet Theatre and Rambert Dance Company), so I am very excited to continue to push our professional development and see what the future holds. Thank you again for your support and enthusiasm and I look forward to giving you more information as it comes”.

Scholarships and Awards

Our annual awards, presented at The Royal Ballet School's Prize-Giving in July to two graduate students went to **Mica Bradbury** (Dame Ninette de Valois Bursary) and **Fiona McGee** (Michael Broderick Prize). Both students have contracts with the Royal Ballet of Flanders and we wish them both every success and happiness in their lives as professional dancers. Fiona, out of extra interest, was one of the dancers brought by Richard Chappell when he came to us last November.

Chairman, Susan Dalgetty-Ezra, has passed on the following letter, addressed to her, Sir Peter Wright and Michael Broderick and her, from Rachel Hollings, Executive Administrator of The Royal Ballet School:

“It was lovely to see you all at our recent Graduation ceremony. Thank you, Peter and Michael, for presenting the awards to our lovely British girls, Fiona McGee (Michael Broderick Prize) and to Mica Bradbury (Dame Ninette Bursary). They have worked so hard and are both now going to the Royal Ballet of Flanders where I hope they will flourish. I have fond memories of them both as White Lodgers performing Bintley's *En Bateau* and I do hope they get the opportunity to perhaps return to this country to dance at some stage.

Susan, thank you for extending our grateful thanks to all your members for their ongoing generous support and for the recognition and encouragement these awards provide”.

Warm wishes, Rachel”.

The recipient of our **Stanley Hawkins Bursary**, enabling a student to attend **Ballet Cymru's Riverfront Summer Dance** this year, was **Corinne Cox**, a student at Elmhurst School for Dance.

Ann Wall, from English National Ballet School, and **Brogan McKelvey** from The Royal Ballet School were awarded scholarships to attend the **Yorkshire Ballet Summer School**.

Both Corinne and Ann have expressed their appreciation of our awards and written diaries of their experiences. These are enclosed as a supplement to the main newsletter as we feel sure all our members will value the time and effort that has gone into writing these. They make fascinating reading as, although many of us have enjoyed being at YBSS and watching class whenever we have the opportunity, these first hand accounts from students add a significant dimension to our own understanding of what it feels like to be a student.

From LBC member, Raphaela Jewell

My experience of dancing with London Children's Ballet

My London Children's Ballet experience was absolutely amazing - definitely an unforgettable one. It all started with the audition, the three auditions that is, which depended on whether or not we would get into the company to dance in the production of *Nanny MacPhee* at the Peacock Theatre. I was so happy I got into the cast, as I love performing on stage and being part of a professional company.

Next came finding out which part we would get. We were sorted into our age groups, and we all danced a number of different roles to see which would suit us best. We found out in an Email a few weeks afterwards. I was 'Behind the Green Baize Door', the kitchen staff. In my first rehearsal I learned half of the scenes which I have to say was quite hard in timing because the piece of music was actually very fast. I kept hoping I would remember the timing and steps!

Rehearsals were very tense, but fun. My group was in four scenes, and my favourite scenes were scene four, the kitchen scene when Nanny Macphee appears to everyone in the house, and scene twelve, the wedding scene. In the scene in which we were at work, my costume was a brown dress, an apron and a bonnet. In the

wedding scene we just had the brown dress with a flower pinned on to celebrate the wedding. I enjoyed wearing my brown dress.

The premiere night was so magical, and Emma Thompson gave a speech to everyone on stage after the show! Many principal dancers, presenters and other celebrities congratulated us afterwards and shook our hands. We even managed to get a 'selfie' photograph with Lauren Cuthbertson! All the shows went down so well, and every show was sold out! We all got on very well in the dressing rooms too --we were always playing games and helping each other with our makeup in the corridor.

It was so sad to say goodbye to the LCB shows, as they had been so much fun, and we had all got used to doing the performances. After the last show, Lucille Briance, the Artistic Director of the company, gave a talk thanking us all for doing such a great job and for all the support we had given. We were even given a beautiful bouquet of flowers. I managed to get the whole company to sign my programme, so now I will have such memories...

Fast footwork for the future

LBC member, Angela Cooper, thought our members would be interested in an article written by her husband, Phillip, concerning the dance academy run on behalf of Hampshire County Council for young people from troubled backgrounds in Winchester:

“Troubled adolescents are literally dancing their way to a brighter, more settled future, thanks to an initiative run by Hampshire County Council’s Children’s Services in partnership with the county’s Youth Offending Team.

The Wessex Dance Academy, based in Winchester, is an innovative project that aims to transform the life chances of young people, aged 14 to 18, who are offenders, deemed to be at risk of offending, have been excluded from mainstream education, or are ‘looked after’ children.

‘The initiative builds self-esteem and self-confidence in those taking part. We have been persuaded by the evidence. The disciplines involved are very hard. They involve levels of self awareness and control that are alien to young people whose self-esteem is rock-bottom. It is, in every respect, deeply moving and we have seen improved levels of personal achievement in those taking part’ says John Coughlan, Director of Children’s Services.

The results are indeed impressive. The Academy, run with professional company Dance United, started originally as a pilot in 2009 and became a fully fledged operation in early 2012. Research has shown an 89% reduction in the number and seriousness of offences committed by the young people involved, property offences are down 41%, violent offences down 66%, and drug offences completely eliminated. Home Office statistics compiled during the pilot phase showed that for every £1 invested in the project there was a return of £11.93 to society, the County Council, the Police and other agencies”.

Email

There are times when we receive last minute information and invitations, or events are advised, and as the newsletter does not have set dates for sending out (depending as it does on the very busy professionals who make our programmes possible) Email is the only way to send this out as quickly and efficiently as possible and to give reminders of our programme. 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 as every issue of the newsletter seems to have at least one “bounced back” mailing because an Email address has been changed and trying to find out why means your newsletter is delayed.

An important notice from our Chairman:

LBC NEEDS YOU!

Those of us who are able to attend the LBC talks are fortunate to hear our guests share their stories. Unfortunately not all LBC members are as lucky. For them, the reports that are written and posted on our website, www.tlbc.org.uk, are very welcome. LBC's website is visited by several thousand people each month by accident and by design. Through the reports and the notices regarding upcoming events, many of these visitors have attended a meeting and, subsequently, become members. By increasing the membership and bringing larger audiences to LBC talks, we are able to raise more money to continue helping student dancers.

If you have a pen and notepad, you could be the next great British journalist! Why not hone your skills by writing reports for LBC? I am putting together a "Reporters' Roster" and would love to add your name to the list. Take a look at the reports on the website and you'll see that all that's needed is a summary of our guest's remarks. I would be happy to chat and answer any questions you may have. Please speak to me at an upcoming event, contact me at susandalgetty1@gmail.com or on 020-7224-5594.

Thank you.

Susan

Membership renewal

Yes, it is early, but as September often feels like the beginning of the year, when everything starts up again, it might be practical for you to deal with this small piece of business and get it out of the way.

Our membership year end on **31 October** and subscriptions are due for renewal on **1 November**. The subscription is £12 (still £2.50 for anybody under 25). The subscription for new members joining after 1 July runs until 31 October of the following year.

Membership cards will be issued as at times it may be necessary to show them, such as at the AGM and other special events, so please send a stamped addressed envelope with your cheque and renewal for to Serena Martin, Hon. Membership Secretary, 144 Clarence Gate Gardens, Glentworth Street. London, NW1 6AN. Cards will not be issued without a stamped addressed envelope but unmailed cards will be available for collection at the AGM.

We very much hope that you will wish to continue your membership but if you have not renewed by **31 January 2015** we shall regretfully assume that you no longer wish to remain a member, but there will be reminders before that date.

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
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 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 2014 Committee of The London Ballet Circle

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