

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

Associate Vice President: Michael Broderick

Chairman: Allison Potts

UK Charity Registration No. 1123258

November 2012

FUTURE EVENTS

Thursday 6 December 2012 - Visit to English National Ballet School

Saturday 12 January 2013 - AGM and Party

Monday 21 January 2013 - Lady Deborah MacMillan

The Dining Room, First Floor, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, SW1

For members who have not yet attended a meeting at our new venue the following information may be helpful. Gt Scotland Yard, off Whitehall, is easily reached from Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross main line or underground (Northern and Bakerloo lines) and Embankment (District, Northern and Bakerloo lines), and is not all that far from Leicester Square underground, for those of us wedded to the Piccadilly line. The room we use is the Dining Room on the first floor (there is a lift). There are toilets on the ground and second floors. We are welcome to use the bar on the ground floor which is open until 11 pm.

Visit to English National Ballet School – Thursday 6 December 2012, 1.30 for 2.00 pm
Carlyle Building, Hortensia Road, London, SW10
Payment in advance - £12.50

Our visits to English National Ballet School are always very popular and we are delighted to have received a generous offer for our members to attend a very special open rehearsal which is a little different from past rehearsals. Marketing Manager, Emma Terry, writes:

“We'd be delighted to welcome members of The London Ballet Circle again to the school at Christmas. This year the school is not mounting a 'Christmas Production' as such but a performance which reflects a day in the life of English National Ballet School students, showcasing the work they've been undertaking across all disciplines which we hope will really capture the imaginations of our audiences and 'lift the lid' on what our students learn whilst they are here.

“The performances themselves are on Friday 7th December in the evening and a matinee on Saturday 8th December. We are delighted to offer you an exclusive open rehearsal for your members on Thursday 6th December at 2pm”.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity please send your cheque for £12.50, made payable to The London Ballet Circle, to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP (tel 020 8361 2872, Email audrey.allen035@btinternet.com). Acknowledgements of payments and confirmation of places will be made by Email where applicable, but if you require a written receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. If paying by PayPal please check in advance that places are available.

AGM and Annual Party - Saturday 12 January 2013
Dragon Hall, 17 Stukeley Street, London WC1
Payment in advance - £15

All members of The London Ballet Circle are invited to our 66th AGM (an Agenda is enclosed) which takes place at 5.15 pm, followed by the annual party at approximately 6.30 pm. Attendance at the AGM is, of course, free to members, but if you wish to attend the party please send a cheque for £15, made payable to The London Ballet Circle, enclosing **a stamped addressed envelope** for acknowledgement, to the Honorary Secretary, Diane Dewar, c/o Garden Flat, 41 Maxwell Road, London, SW6 2HT.

Stukeley Street is off the main thoroughfares but is just a very short distance from Holborn station. On leaving the station, turn right and cross High Holborn at the traffic lights (Kingsway to your left, Southampton Row to your right), keep going on the left hand side and go down Smart's Place or Drury Lane until you get to Stukeley Street.

Lady Deborah MacMillan - Monday 21 January 2013 - 7.30 pm
The Dining Room, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, London, SW1
Payment at the door

We are delighted that Lady Deborah MacMillan, who will be interviewed by **Jann Parry**, author of the acclaimed biography of Sir Kenneth MacMillan, '**Distant Drummer**', has agreed to be our guest to start the new year off on a high note and we greatly look forward to a fascinating evening.

Although known to the ballet world principally as the wife of Kenneth MacMillan, and now owner and guardian of his ballets, Deborah MacMillan has had a very interesting life in her own right. She was born in Queensland, Australia, and studied sculpture and painting at the National Art School in Sydney, took a course in teaching English as a foreign language (intending to work in Greece) and worked as a model, a waitress and au pair to finance her travels and life in London. Her marriage to Sir Kenneth, and the birth of their only child, daughter Charlotte, must have provided him with the happiness and support he needed to cope with his role as Artistic Director of The Royal Ballet and – incredible to most of us now – the hostility to his ballets that he sometimes encountered.

Also of interest

From Laura Dodge, LBC member and writer on dance for *Dancingtimes*, among other publications:

“I don't know whether this could be included in the next LBC newsletter? It may be of interest to members. I saw the company's last show and it was excellent.

“The London Ballet Company perform *Jubilation* on 18th and 19th December at the Bridewell Theatre (Bride Lane, Fleet Street, EC4) at 8pm.

“Join The London Ballet Company at Christmas as they inject their own unique brand of quirky humour to review some of the highlights of 2012 - an unforgettable celebration of cultural and sporting excellence through dance. A rousing and uplifting show with music to match, the dancers of The London Ballet Company conspire to surprise and delight all the family”

See stbridefoundation.org or Email info@stbridefoundation.org

Northern Ballet

Member Janet Mayberry thought other members would like to know that Sean Bates is back on stage and dancing very well indeed. She went to see Northern Ballet's *Beauty and the Beast* last week in Aylesbury and was delighted to see Sean.

Rambert

Kathryn Baidon-Smith has drawn our attention to the following:

“As part of our *Rambert Moves* campaign to raise money for our new home we are auctioning a variety of photoboards depicting a wide range of Rambert repertoire. We thought members of the London Ballet Circle might be interested in the prints and I would be very grateful if you would consider passing the information below on to them.

“Thank you so much for passing on the invitation regarding our supper at Sadler’s Wells last month, we had a wonderful response from the London Ballet Circle.

“The full gallery of pictures for sale is available to view online at rambert.org.uk. You can also request a catalogue of the collection by email to Kathryn.baidon-smith@rambert.org.uk or view it on our facebook page. If you would like to see the collection we will be pleased to welcome you on a week day between 10am and 6pm by arrangement. Please note the photoboards are sold as seen and each is a different size. If you would like to know more about individual items including condition please contact Kathryn.baidon-smith@rambert.org.uk

“To submit bids Email Kathryn.baidon-smith@rambert.org.uk with your name, the print number (please see the catalogue or online for print numbers) and your bid amount. The person who places the highest and therefore winning bid will be contacted after 3 December 2012. Unfortunately we are not able to post out the images to the winning bidders so collection will be from our Chiswick home. **The closing date for all bids is 5pm 3 December 2012. All prints have a reserve of £25”.**

Dar Danse Retreat

Former Royal Ballet dancer, Francesca Filpi, Artistic Director of Dar Danse Retreat in Morocco (we had close connections with her in past years when we funded students for her Wells Weekends) has drawn our attention to their next **Ballet Retreat** which will take place from **28th April – 4th May 2013**.

All standards and ages are welcome, from 18 to 80! including beginners, returners, and improvers. Numbers are limited in order that the course can be tailor made to each participant’s particular level. A typical day would start with a healthy but hearty Moroccan breakfast followed by some gentle structured stretching on one of the roof terraces, or on the huge deserted sandy beach at low tide. An inspiring ballet class in the open-air studio, with Francesca, will soon have you flying through the air with grace and elegance - even if it is the first time you have donned your ballet shoes - and will work up a good appetite for a delicious home cooked lunch. The afternoon might bring the chance to try out some of the Royal Ballet’s repertoire...maybe a dip in our ‘butterfly pool’ or a spot of sunbathing on the beach...perhaps a little pampering, or a relaxing massage in our traditional Moroccan Hammam....not forgetting the all-important ritual of Moroccan tea and cakes!

If you are interested contact Francesca at info@dardanse.com or visit www.dardanse.com

Margaret “Andy” Andreazzi

The news of the death of dear “Andy” on 28 September has been received with great sadness by her many close friends and members of The London Ballet Circle. For some time Andy had not been such an active member but contact with her friends was always maintained and she delighted in all news of events and people. Andy was an inspirational member and participated in the full life of The Circle from its earliest days and brought her unique insight and wonderful sense of humour into our lives for many years. She leaves an irreplaceable gap but, more importantly, happy memories of companionship and much laughter.

It will surprise many people to learn that Andy would have celebrated her ninetieth birthday on 15 November.

Although she never served formally on the committee her advice and opinion was sought and appreciated as she was closely in touch with all members young and old. Her cheerfulness ensured her extraordinary popularity and this was not confined to ordinary members but to such great people as Dame Ninette, Sir Fred, Dame Alicia, Sir Peter and Lady Wright, Dame Beryl and Dame Monica to mention only a few historic names so closely linked to LBC. The Royal Danish Ballet was always close to her heart from the time of our first ever trip abroad in the late 1940s. Friendships formed at that time flourished throughout the years and happy reunions occurred during our many returns to the Bournonville Weeks and Festivals in Copenhagen. On one memorable evening at the famous Hotel Opera, opposite the Stage Door (where our group was staying), many luminaries of the ballet from all parts of the world had gathered at a reception, including the legendary mime, Niels Bjorn Larsen. Niels Bjorn did not join the main party but spent the evening happily engaged in conversation with Andy and Rosemary in a small room off the main reception area.

Rosemary Steet was always with Andy and as close and devoted friends they shared and enjoyed life on equal terms. Rosemary took the photographs which recorded events for posterity – Andy was never known to hold a camera but will be remembered always as a very engaging conversationalist.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Rosemary at this time, her loss is greater than ours combined.

Michael Broderick, Associate Vice President

(The London Ballet Circle was represented by several members at Andy’s funeral on 15 October).

On a happier note ...

We congratulate **Brenda Last**, who was a much appreciated guest last year, on the award of an OBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honour List this year, alongside other dance notables, **Michael Nunn** and **Billy Trevitt** (OBEs) and **Alistair Spalding**, CBE.

And unbelievably **Annette Page**, LBC Honorary Member, celebrates her 80th birthday on 18 December. We send her our warmest good wishes for a very happy birthday and many happy returns of the day

Gift Membership

Nobody needs reminding that Christmas and the New Year are fast approaching, often bringing much thought and nail-biting as to what gifts to buy. We have a suggestion to make! Why not give a friend or relative a gift membership to The London Ballet Circle? Enclosed is a design of a certificate that would be sent to the recipient. All you need to do is to send a cheque for a year's membership (currently still £8 only) with details (name, address, Email where appropriate) of the person for whom the gift is intended to our Honorary Membership Secretary, Serena Martin, 144 Clarence Gate Gardens, Glentworth Street, London, NW1 6AN. A personalised certificate will be sent to you, as donor, or to the person for whom the gift is intended, whichever you prefer, so please also send a stamped and appropriately addressed envelope.

EasyFundRaising.org.uk

And while on the subject of present buying, no doubt many of you will be going online to make various purchases, your own household shopping or present buying, so it is a good time to remember **EasyFundRaising.org.uk** Tesco, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury, John Lewis, Boots and Amazon and at least 2,000 other famous stores have teamed up with EasyFund 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.

In these difficult times for student dancers, help us to help more students. Thank you.

Easysearch.org.uk

Easysearch is a search engine which allows you to raise funds for your chosen cause, 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 any other search engine, you should generate over £20 per year for your cause. We've combined the results from several major search engines - Bing, Yahoo and many more to track down the most relevant results from across the web, which means you'll find what you're looking for quickly and easily every time - in one 'easy' search!

Easysearch is completely free to use, so this is a great way to support your cause - just by searching the Web as you do already!

Want a ticket for an LBC special event, tour or visit?

Then 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 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).

Membership Renewals 2012-2013

Our membership year ended on **31 October** and subscriptions were due for renewal on **1 November**. For this year the subscription remains unchanged at **£8** or **£2.50** for anybody under 25.

If you have not already done so please send your cheque, made payable to The London Ballet Circle, with full details, to our Honorary Membership Secretary, Serena Martin, 144 Clarence Gate Gardens, Glentworth Street, London, NW1 6AN.

We are no longer issuing membership cards so there is no need to enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Survey 2012

If you have not yet returned your survey form (sent with the last newsletter) it would be appreciated if you would do so as soon as possible. Please send it to our Honorary Membership Secretary, Serena Martin, at the above address.

...and finally

We wish all our members what they would most wish for themselves at this festive season and hope that this will include memorable dance performances, especially over the Christmas and New Year period.

The 2012 Committee of The London Ballet Circle

Allison Potts - Chairman (0787 011 6302)
Susan Dalgetty Ezra - Vice Chairman/Publicity (020 7224 5594)
Audrey Allen - Newsletter (020 8361 2872)
Esme Chandler - Committee Member/Honorary Auditor (020 8346 1571)
Diane Dewar - Honorary Secretary (020 7736 6269)
Susan Johnson - Honorary Treasurer (07785 373678)
Dr Sandra Kendall - Committee Member
Serena Martin - Honorary Membership Secretary (020 7402 6799)
Tim Rooke - Venues Secretary (020 8352 0492)
Felicity Trew – Committee Member

Paul Rodgers – Website Manager

*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*