

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

November 2014

Future Events

Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 December 2014 - Visit to Birmingham and Elmhurst School for Dance

Friday 5 December 2014 - Visit to English National Ballet School

Saturday 10 January 2015 - Annual General Meeting and Party

Wednesday 14 January 2015 - Ivan Vasiliev

Monday 9 February 2015 - Laurette Summerscales

Monday 2 March 2015 - Patricia Linton and Kathryn Wade with Gerald Dowler

Date to be confirmed - Ernst Meisner

Monday 3 August 2015 - Li Cunxin

Visit to Birmingham and Elmhurst School for Dance – Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 December 2014

When accepting Robert Parker's invitation to LBC members to visit Elmhurst on 3 December we had hoped to be able to watch BRB Company Class on Tuesday 2 December and possibly have the opportunity of another event with the Company, but the extensive refurbishment being carried out at the Thorp Street premises has made this impossible. However, when our Chairman, Susan Dalgetty-Ezra, saw Sir Peter Wright recently and mentioned how disappointed we were not to be able to link up with the Company while we were in Birmingham, he very kindly offered to meet us for a talk and is free just after 3 pm on Tuesday 2 December. Knowing how busy Sir Peter always is, and he will be very occupied with mounting his *Nutcracker* at that time and teaching it to newer members of BRB, this is a very generous proposal that we feel will be much appreciated.

The German market should be up and running by then and an added attraction to Birmingham is at the Museum Art Gallery where the Staffordshire Hoard of gold artefacts has just gone on permanent display in a new gallery and is well worth a visit, and this could be fitted into the day.

The visit to Elmhurst will allow us to see the School and watch two classes, the first at 10.50 am, following which we will meet up with Robert Parker. There will be a further class at 1.30 pm and the afternoon should finish at about 3.30 pm.

Tickets for *The Nutcracker* are selling very well so you are strongly advised to book yours as soon as possible if you wish to see a performance while you are in Birmingham. Prices for the evening performance range from £18 to £38, and Friends of BRB get a discount off the top two prices, matinee performance tickets range from £29.50 to £43. Ticket Sales: 0844 338 5000 or www.birminghamhippodrome.com. You need no reminder that Sir Peter Wright's *Nutcracker* is widely held to be the definitive one to see and, while his version for The Royal Ballet in London is magical, in the opinion of many aficionados the BRB production is thought to have the edge this.

Trains: London Midland and Virgin both run trains from Euston to New Street, with trains every 20 minutes (for example Virgin 9.03 am, arr 10.22, 9.23, arr 10.45, £15 or £9.90 with railcard, return Wednesday, 18.50

arr 19.10, then every half hour, £7.50 or £4.96 with railcard. Chiltern Railways also run services from Marylebone Station into Moor Street, but the journeys are longer.

Hotels: The Ibis (21 Ladywell Walk not to be confused with other Ibis hotels in Birmingham) is just across the road from The Hippodrome. There are no single rooms, so it is best to pair up with a friend for a twin or double room (£62). Telephone: 0120 619 9000. The Holiday Inn where LBC members have stayed before now has only twin or double rooms at £64 (£74 with breakfast). There is a Travelodge further on, towards the Bullring, single £41 b&b, twin or double £54.

A reminder that if you are booking hotel reservations or train tickets online you can raise money for LBC or any other charity by using **Easyfundraising.org.uk**

It would be helpful to have a rough idea of how many people would like to participate in this visit, so perhaps you would be good enough to confirm (audrey8allen@gmail.com)

Visit to English National Ballet School - Friday 5 December 2014, 1.30 for 2 pm
Carlyle Building, Hortensia Road, SW10
Donation in advance - £12.50

Once again we are delighted to have received an invitation to visit English National Ballet School to watch an Open Rehearsal of their Christmas show in the main studio. This is a very popular visit with the many members who have enjoyed the privilege of seeing these talented students in action in the past and we hope that some more recently joined members will also want to take advantage of a much appreciated opportunity – we are assured of warm welcome.

If you would like to participate the suggested donation is £12.50. 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). Your cheque and confirmation of place will be acknowledged by Email where applicable but if you require a written receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. On this occasion members may apply to bring one guest.

Because of limited waiting space we are requested not to arrive earlier than 1.30 pm when refreshments will be available in the Study Room. The rehearsal lasts from approximately 2 pm to 3.30 pm. Unfortunately the building does not have disabled access (there are stairs) and there is no onsite parking.

Annual General Meeting and Party - Saturday 10 January 2015
Dragon Hall, 17 Stukeley Street, WC2, 5.00 pm for 5.15 pm
Payment in advance, members £15, guests £20
On this occasion please remember to bring your membership card

Our 68th AGM, to which all paid up members of The London Ballet Circle are invited, takes place at 5.15 pm (doors open at 5.00 pm) and is followed by our annual party at approximately 6.00 - 6.15 pm. A copy of the Agenda is enclosed with this newsletter. Attendance at the AGM is, of course, free, and open to members only, 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 if required, to the Honorary Secretary, Diane Dewar, c/o Garden Flat, 41 Maxwell Road, London, SW6 2HT. Guests may be invited to the party from 6.30 pm and payment of £20 should be made for each guest (details as for members).

For new members and those who find this venue difficult to find, Dragon Hall in Stukeley Street is off the main thoroughfares but is a very short distance from Holborn station. On leaving the station turn right and cross High Holborn at the traffic lights (Holborn Kingsway to your left, Southampton Row to your right), keep going on the left hand side and go down Smart's Place, or the next turning, Drury Lane, until you get to Stukeley Street.

Ivan Vasiliev - Wednesday 14 January, 7.30pm
Lloyd George Room, The National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place, SW1
Payment in advance, members only, £5

The Committee is delighted that Ivan Vasiliev has agreed to come and speak to us during his time in London when he is a guest artist of English National Ballet performing Prince Siegfried with Alina Cojocaru. Born in 1989 in Vladivostok, he won the Grand Prix of the Varna International Ballet Competition in 2006 and joined the Bolshoi Ballet the same year. Promoted to Principal in 2010 he left to join the Mikhailovsky Theatre a year later and since 2012 has appeared with ABT.

We anticipate that this event will be very popular with our members and therefore it will be *admission by pre-paid ticket only. Applications should be made to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP, enclosing your cheque for £5, made payable to The London Ballet Circle, and a stamped addressed envelope for your ticket. Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and applications will be dealt with in order of receipt. We regret that if no envelope is enclosed the application cannot be accepted. If there are still tickets available on 15 December we will open the event to non-members at £8 per ticket.

* We are waiting for the tickets to be printed and it is possible that they may not be to hand when you first apply, but rest assured that all correspondence will be dealt with strictly in order of receipt and tickets posted out as soon as possible. Members on Email will be advised that their cheques have been received.

Esme Chandler who is on the Committee of LBC, is a member of the National Liberal Club and it is because of her connection that we are able to use this prestigious venue. We have arranged for a cash bar (which will have alcoholic and soft drinks) to be available to members from 6.30 pm in the Lloyd George Room until shortly before the interview with Ivan begins. If members would like to stay for a drink after the talk Esme can take them to the Club bar but in order to go there members will have to respect the Club's dress code - jacket and tie for men and no jeans or trainers for either men or women.

Laurette Summerscales - Monday 9 February 2015, 7.30pm
The Dining Room, 1st Floor, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, SW1
Payment at the door, members £5, guests 8

Laurette Summerscales is a First Soloist at English National Ballet. She trained at her mother's dance school in Woking from the age of 2, before joining English National Ballet School at 16. After two years, she was invited to join the company, and she was promoted to First Soloist in 2013.

Laurette has danced many leading roles including Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*, Clara in *The Nutcracker*, Queen of the Wilis in *Giselle*, and Swanilda in *Coppelia*.

In 2013, Laurette won not only the ENB People's Choice Award, but also was awarded a gold medal at the Beijing International Ballet Competition.

At our talk with Tamara Rojo in March, Tamara described Laurette as embodying "the makings of a great dancer – strong ethics, dedication and the ability to find the core essence of a character". Laurette will no doubt provide a fascinating evening.

Patricia Linton and Kathryn Wade with Gerald Dowler - Monday 2 March 2015, 7.30 pm
The Dining Room, 1st Floor, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, SW1
Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8

We are confident that our members will look forward to this special evening with teachers of the outstanding calibre of Patricia Linton and Kathryn Wade, hosted by well-known writer and critic Gerald Dowler. Regular balletgoers and enthusiasts, while admiring the hard work and dedication of ballet students, sometimes express disquiet about the style of young dancers, with its emphasis on athleticism, which obviously has its connotation with teaching methods. Patricia touched on some of this when she was our guest last January and both she and Kathryn, as distinguished soloists with The Royal Ballet under the direction of Dame Ninette de Valois and contemporaries of many of the greats of British ballet history, and now as influential teachers, will no doubt have valuable insights to offer on this and other matters of interest from their careers and present activities. Both have been international guest teachers and adjudicators and are involved in dance education and careers, as well as dance related charities.

Ernst Meisner - date to be confirmed

We made a preliminary announcement in September that Ernst had agreed to be our guest on 23 March but he is now in the process of changing this in order to avoid a clash with English National Ballet's Emerging Dancer evening. Members will understand that for somebody with Ernst's responsibilities and busy schedule this is not a simple undertaking. We had hoped to be able to give the revised date in this newsletter but this has been possible, and will give you this information as soon as possible, and certainly in the next newsletter.

Li Cunxin - Monday 3 August 2015
The Dining Room, 1st Floor, 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, 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 second half of the twentieth century. Trained at the Beijing Dance Academy he was invited by Ben Stevenson to join Houston Ballet where he had a celebrated career before becoming a successful stockbroker.

Other items of news and interest

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

A reminder of the annual appearance of Ballet Cymru at the Lilian Baylis Studio at Sadler's Wells which attracts an enthusiastic and increasing following every year, and on:

Friday 5 December 2014, 7 pm

Unit 1a, Wern Industrial Estate, Rogerstone, Newport

Charity studio performance of *Tir* and *Celtic Concerto*

Tickets (only 20 available) **£50** for this exclusive event, from Patricia Vallis, patriciavallis@welshballet.co.uk
tel 016083 892927

This is a charity fundraising event to help Ballet Cymru complete the refurbishing of their new premises. Following the performance refreshments, including a glass of bubbly, will be served and there will be opportunities to meet all the members of the Company.

Wednesday 10 December 2014, 7 - 8.30 pm
Irina Baronova and the Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo
Royal Academy of Dance
36 Battersea Square, SW11

Tickets, with discount for LBC members, £12

The London launch of *Irina Baronova and the Ballet Russes de Monte Carlo* by Victoria Tennant, actress daughter of the celebrated ballerina, will be given in conversation by Victoria with Jane Pritchard and featuring a short piece of previously unseen film footage. This will be followed by a Q & A session and book signing.

Melanie Murphy, Director of Communications at the RAD, has very kindly arranged a discount for LBC members who when booking on the enclosed form should tick that they are non-members of the RAD and quote the code "LBC 12" in order to benefit from the discount.

Thursday 15 December 2014, 7.15 – 8.45 pm
'In Conversation with Matthew Bourne'
Danceworks, 128 Balderton Street, W1

Tickets: £15, £12 members (include glass of wine or soft drink)
<http://www.danceworks.net>

Lesley Osman, LBC member and General Manager of Danceworks, has drawn our attention to this exciting evening with Matthew Bourne. Places are limited so you are advised to book as soon as possible.

Matthew is also teaching a full day workshop for advanced and intermediate dancers on 9 December. See website for full details and how to book.

Richard Chappell Dance

Members will be interested and delighted to hear that RCD has achieved Arts Council Funding and Richard has been breathtakingly occupied this year choreographing and travelling. He completed his formal training at Rambert in July with the creation of *Sum of Four*, a compilation in homage to his time as a student there of previous pieces he had made during his training, appeared at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, then shadowed choreographer, Robert Cohan, from whom he learned a great deal. In September he was commissioned to create '*Wayward Kinship*' with the fascinating theme of the complex relationship between Thomas Becket and Henry II.

There is so much to mention in between, including a forthcoming visit to Singapore in December, and in January 2015 he is making a piece for English National Ballet for its Outreach Department and this will be performed at the Barbican Theatre in March. On 28 February the Company is performing at Chisenhale Dance Space, London, E3 and for further information on the achievements and news of this 19 year old choreographer and artistic director of his own company visit www.richardchappelldance.co.uk

Membership renewal

Our membership year ended on **31 October** and subscriptions were 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.

While this reminder is fresh in your mind it might be practical to renew straight away as you will be unable to attend the AGM or the special Vasiliev evening unless you are a member.

Denis Lishman

We were very sad to hear of the death on 30 September of long-standing member, Denis Lishman, at the age of 91. Until the last two or three years, when he began to suffer from ill health and became increasingly frail, he was an enthusiastic and appreciative attendee at LBC events and a regular member of the audience at The Royal Opera House. A relative said “you could say that Denis lived his life for the ballet” and it is no doubt comforting to his family and friends to recall how much he enjoyed his life with its enduring passion for everything and everyone related to dance. Denis was unfailingly courteous, a gentleman in every sense of the word. He will be missed by his many friends in LBC, particularly Jennifer Howard, Lucile Powell, June Scully and Patricia Wainman who were particularly supportive to him with visits and phone calls when he was unable to pursue his normal activities.

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.

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

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 - Co-opted Member/Website (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

*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*