

Ball of the Year Ilkley



Friday leaders

Keith & Kath Jackson with Elizabeth

for the Saturday Ball of the Year with a programme of traditional Old Time Dances plus a few Classical. We are very grateful they could fit

The Ball of the Year this year was held at the Craiglands Hotel, Ilkley this was the first time the Society had held an event in this Hotel but it will not be the last. The Hotel is located just a short drive from Ilkley Moor and also convenient for the town. The rooms were all comfortable, the food was very good and the staff were very friendly and helpful. The Ballroom was magnificent with ample room for seating at tables around the floor. Keith and Kath Jackson our leaders for the Friday night got the weekend off to a swing, literally as the first dance was the Sindy Swing. Their programme included a few dances we do not see very often, including the Gay Paree One Step and Dolly Weaver, as well as some old favourites Rialto Two Step, Tango Las Vegas and Bambi Blues they finished with the Society's own Vesta Waltz. On Saturday we were privileged to have John and Ann Rainey as our leaders



Saturday leaders

John & Ann Rainey



Sunday leaders

Grahame & Bernice Baldwin

us into their very busy schedule and John had to be back in Blackpool for the Blackpool Dance Festival on the Sunday morning. At the start of the Sunday Night dance Grahame and Bernice Baldwin were presented with a bouquet, to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary by the Chairman Paul Harding. Their anniversary was going to be on the Thursday after the event but we could not let the occasion pass without marking their special day. Grahame and Bernice brought the weekend to a close with another great programme of Old Time Dances including the Zuider Zee Waltz, we cannot find out how old it is the only information we have is that a member can remember dancing it in 1946! They then surprised the members by sharing a huge anniversary cake. Elizabeth Harrison was our musician for the three nights and she played some wonderful music that everyone enjoyed, the Leaders were all grateful for the extra work she put in finding and researching original music and working with the leaders to produce the best music to fit the dances. Elizabeth paid the Society a great compliment on our Facebook page and I have included it here for those of you who do not use Facebook. *"Thoroughly enjoyable weekend, it wasn't just the weather, the great venue or the food; there are not many places these days where you see such wonderful dance etiquette. I was watching the dancers (whilst playing) from the stage and everyone has such respect for each other, a truly wonderful Society to work for. I was delighted to have the opportunity to play some rare dance music it was a real treat."*

As well as three nights of dancing the members took the chance to visit the countryside around with many visiting the famous Cow and Calf

rocks. Many made the trip into town just down the hill and enjoyed the shops and cafes or walked along by the river. Although many walked down very few walked up taking advantage of the taxis situated at the bottom of the hill providing a shuttle service. The weather was glorious and the hotel's terrace provided the perfect spot to meet up and enjoy a coffee or something a little stronger. It ticked all our boxes for a dancing hotel so we look forward to going there again in March 2028.

Hazel Harding, Press/Social Media Officer