

The Newport Dancers' Gazette

Newport Vintage Dance Week
Editor: Katy Bishop, The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers

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WELCOME

The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers are delighted to welcome you to the 16th annual Newport Vintage Dance Week. Believe it or not, we're still finding new things to do in the area. One "first" we are especially excited about is our visit to the Blithewolde Mansion, Gardens and Arboretum for a private tour and tea. We also look forward to returning to some of our favorite venues this year, including Astors' Beechwood, Glen Manor and the Rotunda Ballroom & Carousel at Easton's Beach. Whether you are here for the first or 16th time, we hope you have a wonderful week of dancing and take home some very special memories.

Happy Dancing!

Hannah Roberts Artuso
Conference Coordinator and Co-Director of CVD

WHICH CLASSES SHOULD I ATTEND?

Those experiencing vintage dance for the first time, including people with other types of dance experience, are encouraged to take the "beginner" classes, as are those with only a little vintage dance experience. This will help you learn or review the basic vintage dance steps. Dancers familiar with basic vintage dance steps may want to try the more advanced classes. Dancers of any level may attend either specialty class.

VOLUNTEERS

Any questions about Volunteer assignments should be directed to Victoria Wagner. Please check the bulletin board daily for updates on volunteer assignments. The co-ordinators for the various events are also available to answer questions and make further arrangements.



GAZETTE

Two more issues of the Gazette will be published during the Week (on Wednesday and Friday) with advice, news and information about the week's events.

WARM-UPS

Warm-ups will begin at 8:50 each morning in the upper gymnasium. For safety's sake, to help avoid injury, we urge everyone to take the responsibility to be properly warmed up.

MORNING MEETING

Attendance at the daily morning meeting is strongly recommended as it is the forum for important announcements relating to the dance week, especially schedule and location updates. Due to time constraints and the short duration of our meeting, please submit (legibly) written announcements to Hannah before the meeting.

QUADRILLE CLASS

Once again there will be a Quadrille Class after the morning meeting. *The Quadrille* will be danced without calls at the Friday night 1860's Ball. It is advisable that all dancers attend these classes to make *The Quadrille* run smoothly at Friday's ball. Instructions for *The Quadrille* will be printed (almost legibly!) on that evening's dance card, but learning them ahead of time will make things *much* easier.



EXTRACT FROM A SOCIETY NOVEL.

"AS THE FAIR GIRL SPOKE, RODERICK'S FACE FELL, AND SHE, WITH AN IMPERIOUS GESTURE, CAST A SCORNFUL EYE UPON HIM."

SECURITY

We remind you to be security conscious. Please lock your rooms, as the dormitories themselves are not locked. REMEMBER YOUR KEYS!!! Portsmouth Abbey does not have a 24 hour security office. If you do lock yourself out of your room please see the member of CVD who has been designated the “house parent” for your dorm. She or he will have a master key for that building.

SMOKING AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Smoking is not permitted in or near any of the buildings, including dormitory rooms. Please remember that alcohol may not be brought into the dining hall.

PARKING

Please park your car in the hockey rink lot. The parking lots near the dorms are for school staff only; the visitor parking spots are for the admissions office visitors, *not* dance week participants. Some concern has been expressed about people not following this directive in the past — if you must have your car in the lower campus, please contact Hannah first.

AFTERNOON OUTINGS

Please remember that many of our dancers have arrived by aeroplane and are without carriages. If you are planning an off-campus outing and have an extra seat, please consider putting an announcement on the bulletin board in the gym, or get in touch with our rides coordinator (see below). Some suggested outings: Green Animals Topiary Gardens, Corn Maze, Cliff-Walk, Games Day at *The Astors'* or Beach outing.

RIDES

Occasionally help is needed to for those without vehicles get to our off-site events. If you need a ride, or can offer one, for either an outing or to one of the off-campus events, please inform the ride coordinator, (name will be announced Monday evening) or see Voctoria Wagner and she will direct you to the appropriate person.

For Further information on the Dance Week
or vintage dance please contact:
The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers at:
c/o Katy Bishop, P. O. Box 9, Nahant, MA 01908
(781) 662-8344 or e-mail Info@VintageDancers.org
visit us on the web at: www.VintageDancers.org

AFTERNOON TEAS

The afternoon teas are an opportunity for dancers to relax, meet and chat with others, and perhaps play a game of croquet. There is no set era for any of the teas, so Vintage dress of any period is acceptable at any of them as well as modern dress. The afternoon tea themes have been changed somewhat this year.



We are excited about our Tuesday outing to Blithewold Mansion and Gardens, where we will have a exclusive tour and tea while enjoying their lovely grounds.

Wednesday's *Summer Garden Tea* is informal, modern clothing is acceptable, as well as period Summer day wear. You might come straight from class, and relax with a cup of tea while recuperating from a day of classes, compare notes with other dancers, or even take a cup of tea and retreat to your room for a siesta.

The Thursday *Bathing Beauty Tea* is a new event this year, dancers should feel free to wear modern clothing, or perhaps a nautically inspired period outfit, or don period swim-wear if they wish and partake in a bathe (or just look like they will have a bathe) at the Abbey's beach.

You may wish to save your most elegant or elaborate period outfit for the *Formal Tea* on Friday. This event will be the most formal tea of the week (hence its name). Summer day wear of any period is welcome. Hats, parasols, and fans are especially useful for keeping cool while enjoying tea on the lawn. In case of rain, teas will be moved to the Winter Garden — the site of registration.

TUESDAY CLASS SCHEDULE

Remember that there is no Tuesday afternoon class to allow more time for our special outing. The Tuesday afternoon class period will be held on Saturday morning at the time of the usual first class period.

LOBSTER DINNER

Tuesday, Abbey Dining Room

Review your *Lobster Quadrille* figures for the New England Lobster Feast which will be served at dinner-time this year in the Dining Hall. Alternate fare will be available for non-crustacean eaters.



SWAP AND SELL

Tuesday, Auditorium

The Vintage Swap and Sell will be held Tuesday evening (7:30 to 9pm) in the Auditorium. Everyone is welcome to bring items to sell or trade. You might find what you have always wanted to complete that vintage outfit, or something you never knew you needed, to add to the pile of stuff in your room. Really, you *need* it. Please See Patri Pugliese or Katy Bishop if you need table space.

INFORMAL DANCING

Immediately after the Swap and Sell the auditorium will be available for informal dancing to recorded music. Feel free to wear casual modern or period dress.

VINTAGE DRESS SERIES BOOKS

BY KATY BISHOP

Katy Bishop is pleased to offer her books on period fashions again this year. To simplify orders (and minimize the lugging of heavy boxes of books), she will be taking orders throughout the week to be delivered at the end of the week (or at a mutually convenient time). Order forms will be available several times during the week. 2004 Costume Calendars are also available, the theme this year is: *The Wedding Dress*.



EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE TOUR AND TEA

Tuesday, *Blithewold Mansion, Gardens and Arboretum*
101 Ferry Road (Rt.114), Bristol.

Instead of the usual optional mansion tour, this year we will be having an exclusive private party Tuesday afternoon at Blithewold Mansion with a tour and private formal tea. There will be no additional charge for this event. The event starts at 2pm, with the tour taking place promptly at 2:30pm. The estate is about 15 minutes from Campus (See directions below).



A Brief History of the Blithewold Estate

Blithewold is a 33 acre estate just north of Portsmouth Abbey, in Bristol, Rhode Island — a spectacular property with lawns and gardens sweeping down to Narragansett Bay. It was established in the 1890's by Augustus and Bessie VanWickle as their summer retreat. The 45-room mansion is built in an English Country Manor style, and most of the furniture dates back to the original house. The house is long and narrow so that all the main rooms look out onto Narragansett Bay. Blithewold is world-renowned for its gardens and arboretum, largely designed by John deWolf. Visitors can linger in the rose garden, visit the water and rock gardens or stroll across the Great Lawn to view the Giant Sequoia or the Bamboo Grove with its 30 ft. tall bamboo. The mansion will be closed to the public so we will have a private tour at 2:30pm, to be followed by tea and lawn games. This promises to be a relaxing outing amid the estate's trees, lawns, flowers, and the sea. For more information on the estate visit www.blithewold.org

DIRECTIONS FROM PORTSMOUTH ABBEY: turn left at the end of Corey's Lane. Take Rte 24 North to exit 2 (the first exit), go left at end of ramp; in ½ mile is Mount Hope Bridge; take bridge into Bristol. Roger Williams Univ. is on the right in ½ mile. Take left at fork where 114 goes right (at Blithewolde sign), Blithewolde is 1/8 mile ahead on the left..



ASK MRS. ASTORBILT

Dear Mrs. Astorbilt,

I have arrived at Newport with four nice outfits, but my roommate is busily unpacking twenty-five historically correct dresses. Am I grossly unprepared for this dance week?

Aghast

Dear Aghast,

While Newport Vintage Dance Week has about a dozen opportunities to dance, dine and socialize in a historical setting, the clothing for these activities pretty much falls into five categories: mid-nineteenth century evening wear, late nineteenth century evening wear, early twentieth century evening wear, daytime “whites”, and a costume for the “Voyage to the Orient” ball. In fact, many people arrive at Newport planning to put together a fancy dress costume during the week, while others wear ordinary evening dress to that ball. Some people have been involved in this activity for many years and have accumulated huge wardrobes (two new outfits a year for ten years is . . .), but they all remember what it was like starting out. Mrs. Astorbilt is confident that your four outfits will be quite suitable, though you may end up wearing your daytime outfit several times. A cheerful spirit and a fair attempt (whatever your closet permits) at dress in keeping with the occasion will see you through. By the way, what is your roommate going to do with her other thirteen outfits, and how do you compare in size?

Mrs. Astorbilt



Dear Mrs. Astorbilt,

I brought twenty-five different outfits to Newport this year. My roommate has gone off to the opening party to have fun, while I am still unpacking. Did I overdo it?

Acknowledged Clotheshorse

Dear Clotheshorse,

Probably.

Mrs. Astorbilt

Dear Mrs. Astorbilt,

How do you eat a lobster in Nineteenth Century style?

Curious Gourmand

Dear Curious,

According to period cookbooks, lobster meat was pried from the shell in the kitchen, before serving. I doubt that any member of “The Four-Hundred” was confronted with a naked dead lobster on a plate. Indeed, only in the last several decades has a satisfying dining experience been equated with one that leaves the diner covered with melted butter and lobster broth.

Mrs. Astorbilt



LA PREMIERE JEUNESSE.

Sweet seventeen! with eyes downcast,
Of modesty's roses rich thy store;
Fair *débutante*, they will fade full fast,
Wait till your first few seasons have past:
What will life be at twenty-four?

Society waits you, all untried:
Yes, you have beauty and youth galore:
Changes enough are sure to betide:
Will you be maid, or widow, or bride,
When you have come to twenty-four?

Gayly you'll tread the dance to-night,
Gayly you'll dream when ball is o'er;
The world as it opens promises bright,
Girlhood's heart is happy and light,
Will it be so at twenty-four?

Votaries many soft words and sweet
Into those pink sea-shell ears will pour;
All the world will seem at your feet,
Looks of worship your eyes will greet;
What will you think at twenty-four?

Sweet seventeen! when those years are sped,
Broken vows may you none deplore;
Idle visions and bright hopes fled,
Ne'er may these rise round your weary head
When you have come to twenty-four!