



DBDC NEWS

Dorchester Ballet
&
Dance Club
Newsletter

**Welcome to the Swan
Centre**

Reception Hours

Mon 4 - 8pm
Tues 4-5:30pm
Wed 2 - 7:30pm
Thurs 5 - 7pm
Fri 2 - 6pm
Sat 8:45am - 12:30pm

Club Phone
07967 893383

**New landline
number
01305 250386**

AGM

We will be setting a date for the AGM very soon and hope that many of you will join us. Please look out for information in the Club and on the web site.

We would like to invite parents/carers to watch the last class of term, come & see how your child is progressing.

NO
Photography please

All classes are now taking place in our new premises.

Use of Emilie's Studio

Some members have made us aware that many incorrect suppositions as to why the Club did not make the planned move to Emilie's studio are circulating. It is probably therefore best that we outline what has happened.

The Club prepared to move Monday, Tuesday and Saturday classes to Emilie's studio, cancelling other bookings and informing students of the move. Over New Year some parents approached the Club with a health and safety concern regarding The Studio which the Committee and Trustees, bound by a Duty Of Care to members were obliged to follow up; the Club duly requested to be shown a certificate to prove that The Studio could give no cause for concern in this area.

Although verbal assurances were given, no certificate had been seen by the day prior to classes starting and the Club therefore requested the information again. Unfortunately Mr Cooper

took exception to this and stated that he was no longer prepared to rent the Studio to the Club. Consequently, the Club was left with less than 24 hours to rebook venues for Saturday, Monday and Tuesday classes for the Spring term. During the immediate period after this occurrence the Club made no immediate announcement that the cancellation of The Studio booking was permanent, this is because at such time we felt that with mediation the situation might be revised more happily. This proved to be incorrect.

Shortly afterwards a promising lead that the Club had been given with regard to a longer term home, the former Curves unit, proved to be very suitable and the committee and trustees expended all their efforts in this direction.

New teacher

We know that you will all be excited about meeting our new teacher, Leanne, next week. Please look in the Swan Centre or

under the teachers' section of the web site for more information about her. Some of you have already enjoyed a hugely successful Street Dance workshop with her in half term. We would like to thank you for being patient with us until she is able to start. Emilie was not prepared to teach classes until Leanne was able to join us, and the Club therefore has had to find replacement teachers to bridge the gap. The Club would like to thank the other dance teachers and dance schools who have rallied round to try and help cover classes - Becky Wells, Lisa Crump and our own Elizabeth Goodchild in particular.



Budding Ballerinas

In celebration of the Club logo and the name of our new home, we will be renaming the pre-school ballet class - they will become The Cygnets!

Swan Centre

After years of searching, it is exciting to finally have a new home for the Club. Although we have been promised premises in the Maltings, we know that they will not be available for several years. In all, trustees, committee members and other volunteers have spent well in excess of 200 hours negotiating the contract, arranging structural works and flooring and of course decorating! A huge thank you to those of you who have been so generous with your time and expertise. We know that the Club will benefit enormously from having a permanent base for all its classes. Mirrors are soon to be fixed to the end wall plus curtains, to eliminate echoes. We are already planning new classes and events for children and adults. Do let us know if there is something you would like us to try to provide. If you would like to become more involved in the running and future of the Club we would welcome new members on to the committee.

The Future

The Club is unique in its goals and management. For over 50 years it has offered a holistic approach to teaching dance to a very high standard and made that experience available to everyone who wants to dance by providing lessons at an affordable price and offering financial assistance to those who need it. As a not for profit organisation it depends heavily on the time and expertise given by volunteers who are committed to protecting the wish of the Club's founder to bring dance to all regardless of age, wealth or ability. Children (& adults) might come to us to learn to dance, but in our teachers' care and nurturing environment also improve their confidence and self esteem. The Club's contribution to the local community has been recognised, hence our promised studio in the new Arts Centre. Detailed plans have now been submitted and fundraising will commence soon. The Club's future is exciting; please help us to get there by giving us your support at this difficult and

Lost Property

A box has been placed in the changing room with all lost property, Items will be kept for one term only and then donated to charity, so please check the box if you leave something behind

Gift Aid

If you have not completed a form please See Nikki

Parents/Carers

We would like to remind you that the club is not responsible for students once their class has ended. Please ensure you arrive promptly and make sure that your child knows they should wait in the building if you are late.

NEW TUESDAY CLASSES

Examinations

Lucy is readying the vast majority of ballet students for RAD examinations in the Summer term. As always there is no obligation whatever to take examinations and the club takes the view that no student should take an examination if they feel unhappy about it, as the confidence and trust of the student should be paramount. Lucy will inform you if you are ready for an examination and at this time please tell us whether you wish to proceed or of any concerns you may have. It should also be remembered that there is an unavoidable cost attached to taking examinations and families should bear this in mind when deciding. Examinations get progressively more involved, so it is best not to skip many graded examinations if it is ultimately important to the student to get exam passes. Most students get huge satisfaction from taking part in exams.

Emilie informed us prior to leaving that she had not entered any students for ISTD Modern and Tap examinations. Since there is a three month booking time for these examinations and students already know the syllabus thoroughly, we propose that classes ready for examinations move on to the next syllabus as soon as Leanne takes over so that students do not get bored. We appreciate that many of you were expecting to take an examination soon and are sorry for your disappointment. Please let us know how you feel about taking Summer examinations in ISTD Modern and Tap; again no student is obliged to take the exams. The current syllabus will be revisited when an examination date approaches to refresh students on the work.

Some thank yous ...

- to **Trevor Stockley**, for his invaluable help and advice during the structural and other alterations to the Swan Centre. He has been extremely generous with his time and managed to schedule the work at very short notice;
- to **our new neighbour**, Alan Rendall Carpets, for kindly supplying carpet for the office at cost;
- to **Mike Herbert** of Blanchards Bailey, for waiving his fee for reviewing the lease;
- to **Dorchester Joinery**, for their advice and excellent work installing our new sprung floor.

Starting 24th March, two new Street Dance classes for 7-10 yrs and 11+ with Leanne Singleton, former teacher and senior dance crew member of Pure Funk