



The Reel



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Scottish country dancing - for fun, fitness and friendship



Final Centenary Celebrations

Top: A large London contingent attended the RSCDS Centenary AGM in Glasgow

Below: Management Board members Simon Wales, Vice Chair Gary Coull, Lizzy Conder, Chair William Williamson, Evelyn Redmond and Stephen Hartley at the unveiling of the plaque at the Hard Rock Café

Right: Chair William Williamson and Scottish Culture Minister unveil the plaque above right, see p13



In This Issue

Branch Matters (pp2-5)

Chair's report, AGM notice, dances, classes listings

Meet Our New Musicians (p5)

Heather Jeffery and Erica Banks introduce themselves

Music Matters 1 (p6)

CD review

Music Matters 2 (p7)

Continuing the legacy - from Bobby Crowe to Jim Lindsay

Burns and Christmas Dances (pp8-9)

In pictures

The Story behind the Dance (pp10-11)

How the RSCDS changed the original source dances

Branch Burns Night (p12)

Reports and pictures

Club and Society News (p13)

Robert Bateson at 90, Branch Committee Report, Management Board Report

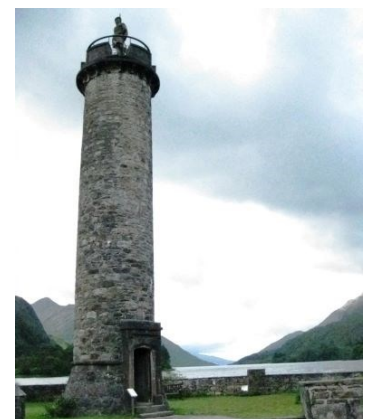
Lives Remembered (p14)

Simone Jones, Helen Davoll and Jennifer Shaw

Clubs and Societies (pp14-16)

Forthcoming events and listings

Where is This? See p13...



Issue 328 should be with UK based members by 25 May 2024 unless delayed in the post.

Contributions for Reel 328 should be sent to arrive by and preferably in advance of 14 April 2024 by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

The opinions expressed by contributors in *The Reel* do not necessarily reflect the official position of the RSCDS, nor of the Branch.

From the Chair: Joanne Lawrence



I am now approaching the end of my third year as Chair of RSCDS London. In those years it has been wonderful to see confidence return to Scottish country dance groups across London as we moved from a tentative post-covid return to enjoying ever increasing numbers on the dance floor. This season, we welcomed many new dancers to the Autumn Wednesday dance, and they added greatly to the vibrant atmosphere, several returning to the Christmas dance where the energy levels reached heights only exceeded by the annual Burns Ceilidh and Supper which attracted 199 dancers.

We are fortunate in London to have a number of mutually supportive Scottish country dance groups, which create a welcoming space for dancers on most nights of the week. Once a year, several of the groups, all regular users of St Columba's, get together to create a joint evening of good dance, great music, and the best company. As this *Reel* goes out to readers, RSCDS London Branch is looking forward to joining friends from St Columba's Dancers, the London Highland Club, the Little Ship Club, the Gay Gordons, and Summer Tuesdays at the annual Combined Societies Dance on Saturday 2 March.

Later in the season we have the Summer Wednesday dance (29 May) and the End of Season dance (8 June) to look forward to. As mentioned in earlier issues of the *Reel*, our New Season dance has resisted the trend to higher dance numbers, and we have given considerable thought to how best to meet dancers' needs at this early stage of the season. Our plan for September 2024 is to try both a new venue and a new time. The 2024 New Season dance will therefore be an afternoon tea dance on Saturday 21 September at Maria Fidelis School, near Euston Station, where many of our classes take place (more details p4).

The move to Maria Fidelis has worked very well so far. We have been looked after wonderfully by the school and the proximity to multiple public transport routes has made it easier for many people to attend - teachers and musicians as well as dancers. Our new Fast Paced Social Dance and Technique classes have attracted good numbers and we have been delighted to see many members of our Autumn Beginners' course stepping up to the Improvers' course which started in January. Meanwhile the Richmond class continues to flourish at the Library Annexe and the Mixed Ability class at St Columba's remains a supportive and fun destination on a Wednesday afternoon. Towards the end of the season, we look forward welcoming three guest teachers, Elaine Lloyd, Jan Collings and Rose Krelloff to take our summer general classes on 5, 12, 19 June. Rose has also kindly agreed to take the first sessions of a new monthly children's class at St Columba's.

Following the Maris Fidelis theme, I am delighted to say that this is now confirmed as the venue for our 2024 Day School and musicians' workshop on Saturday 19 October. Martainn Skene will lead the workshop and teachers include Deb Lees and Graham Donald, supported by Barbara Manning, Heather Jeffrey and Ken Martlew as class musicians.

The season is moving on rapidly and it will soon be time for our Annual General Meeting (8 June). Before that, please read the information about nomination to the RSCDS London committee below, and consider if you could make time to support the Branch through a committee role. Whether you have been dancing for years or have just started, it would be great to have your input. Please do speak to any member of the Branch Management committee or email chair@rscdslondon.org.uk

Branch AGM Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held on Saturday 8 June 2024 at 6.45pm in the Upper Hall at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. It will be followed by our End of Season Dance which will also take place in the Upper Hall. Members and friends of the Branch are invited to attend both events but only members may vote at the AGM. If you cannot get to the meeting, we will still be pleased to see you at the dance.

The meeting usually lasts about 45 minutes. You will learn about the work of the Branch and our plans for the future. The Committee welcomes your comments and opinions, either through a formal motion, which must be received in writing by the Branch Secretary by 31 March 2024, or during general discussion at the meeting. The motion should be signed by the proposer and seconder, both of whom must be members of the Branch. Only motions submitted in advance and appearing on the agenda can be voted upon. An agenda for the meeting and a report covering the Branch's activities will be circulated with the next issue of *The Reel*.

Members are also encouraged to stand for election as an office holder or Committee member. Nominees should provide the Secretary with a written nomination by 31 March 2024 signed by the nominee, a proposer and a seconder, all of whom must be Branch members. There are twelve positions in total on the Committee (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) and eight ordinary members. We hope that members will step forward and join the Committee to contribute to its work and support Scottish country dancing, so please consider nominating yourself. If there are more candidates than places, ballot papers will be issued to all Branch members with the next issue of *The Reel*. It is also possible to help with various aspects of the running of the Branch without necessarily being on the Committee.

Apart from the Chair, all Officers and members of the Committee are eligible for re-election. They are listed below with the date they joined or last re-joined the Committee:

Chair: Joanne Lawrence (2017), Vice Chair: Richard Clarke (2022), Treasurer: Simon Wales (2003), Secretary: Mel Rowland (2019) and Margaret Shaw (2007), Elaine Davies (2009), Thelma-Jane Robb (2011), Margaret Moore (2020), Adam Brady (2022), David Hall (2022), Wendy Morris (2023) and Vacancy (x1).

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE
SOCIETY



Chair: William Williamson

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Margaret Moore, Wendy Morris,

Thelma-Jane Robb

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Membership & Subscribers .. Gaynor Curtis

The Reel Edward Bunting, Simon Wales

The Reel Business Editor.... Jeff Robertson

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RSCDSLONDONBRANCH](https://www.youtube.com/RSCDSLONDONBRANCH)



Objects of London Branch

To advance the education of the public in the London area in traditional Scottish country dancing, in particular by:

- preserving and furthering the practice of traditional Scottish country dances;
- providing or assisting in providing instruction in the dancing of Scottish country dances;
- promoting the enjoyment and appreciation of Scottish country dancing and music by any suitable means.

London Branch Matters

Membership and *The Reel* Subscription

As a member of RSCDS London Branch, you enjoy the following benefits: reduced rates at London Branch classes, dances and events; four issues per year of *The Reel*; 10% discount on items from the RSCDS online shop and two issues per year of the RSCDS magazine *Scottish Country Dancer*. UK Members wishing to pay by direct debit may do so by completing a payment mandate either by clicking on the appropriate link in the table to the right of this text (for electronic *Reel* readers) or by going to rscdslondon.org.uk/join-us Overseas members should use the methods outlined below.

Membership may also be purchased by credit/debit card or by cheque payable to RSCDS London Branch by going to the same page. New members should also complete the membership application form here: rscdslondon.org.uk/join-rscds-london. Membership/subscription enquiries and cheque payments should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989, membership@rscdslondon.org.uk Any reader who receives a paper issue of *The Reel* may send their email address to Gaynor Curtis and receive an electronic copy too at no extra charge. Those receiving an electronic copy are asked not to pass this on, unless it is to someone they feel might like to help support the Branch by becoming a member or subscribing.

The new rates for RSCDS membership through the London Branch are as follows:

Membership category	Junior 12-17 years	Young Adult 18-24 years	Adult 25 years +	Adult Joint (2) 25 years +	2nd Branch	<i>The Reel</i> only (subscription)
Electronic (<i>eReel</i>)	£17	£25	£30	£50	£4	£4
<i>The Reel</i> by post (UK)	£19	£27	£32	£54	£6	£6
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Europe)	£25	£33	£38	£66	£12	£12
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Rest of the World)	£28	£36	£41	£72	£15	£15

Membership may also be purchased by credit/debit card or by cheque payable to RSCDS London Branch by going to the same page. New members should also complete the membership application form here: rscdslondon.org.uk/join-rscds-london. Membership/subscription enquiries and cheque payments should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989, membership@rscdslondon.org.uk Any reader who receives a paper issue of *The Reel* may send their email address to Gaynor Curtis and receive an electronic copy too at no extra charge. Those receiving an electronic copy are asked not to pass this on, unless it is to someone they feel might like to help support the Branch by becoming a member or subscribing.

Combined Societies' Dance

Hosted by RSCDS London Branch

With contributions from:
London Gay Gordons, London Highland Club,
Little Ship Club, Summer Tuesdays and
St Columba's Dancers

Saturday 2 March 2024

7.00 - 10.30pm
Doors open at 6.30pm
St Columba's Church, Pont Street
SW1X 0BD

David Hall, Judith Smith and Angela Young

EH3 7AF 8x32 J
Scott Meikle..... 4x32 R
The Belle of Bon Accord..... 4x32 S
MacLeod's Fancy..... 4x32 J
Polharrow Burn 5x32 R
City of Belfast 3x32 S
John of Bon Accord 8x32 R
Linnea's Strathspey 8x32 S
The White Heather Jig 4x40 J

Seton's Ceilidh Band 4x64 J
Angus MacLeod 2x64 R
The Robertson Rant..... Sq 80 S
Best Set in the Hall 8x32 J
Glastonbury Tor 8x32 R
Margaret Parker's Strathspey..... 8x32 S
The Dancing Master Sq 96 J
Triple Happiness 8x32 S
The Reel of the Royal Scots 8x32 R

Extras:

J B Milne 8x32 R
Sugar Candie..... 8x32 S
Joie de Vivre..... 8x32 J

Admission includes refreshments, £18
full time students (with card) and
spectators £9

Children (under 16) free

Tickets available online and on the door
All dances will be recapped

Crib available at rscdslondon.org.uk

South-east Dance Diary

The diary is continually updated and all societies in the South-east may submit details of their functions via a form on the new website or by email to: diary@rscdslondon.org.uk

Summer Wednesday Dance

Wednesday 29 May 2024

7.00 - 10.00pm
Doors open at 6.30pm
St Columba's Church, Pont Street
SW1X 0BD

Dave Hall

Hooper's Jig 8x32 J
The Fairy Dance 8x32 R
The Braes of Breadalbane..... 8x32 S
Blue Bonnets..... 8x32 J
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan 5x32 R
The Rakes of Glasgow 8x32 S
Diamond Jubilee 4x32 J
Buchan Eightsome Reel..... Sq 400 R

Scotch Circle 6x32 R
Last of the Lairds 8x32 J
The Valentine..... 8x32 S
The Rakish Highlandman 8x32 J
Scott Meikle..... 4x32 R
The Lea Rig 8x32 S
Argyll's Fancy..... 4x48 J
The Reel of the 51st 8x32 R

Extras:

Round Reel of Eight..... Sq 88 R
Balmoral Strathspey 4x32 S
St Andrew's Fair..... 8x32 J

Admission includes light refreshments

RSCDS Members £17, non-members £20
full time students (with card) and
spectators £10

Children (under 16) free

Tickets available online and on the door
All dances will be recapped

Crib available at rscdslondon.org.uk

The Reel Advertising Rates:

Per column centimetre, three columns per page: Black and white, but including colour logo: £6. Full colour: £8.50

All advertisers receive a copy of the *Reel*.
For adverts and enquiries on pricing contact Jeff Robertson:

businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk

Send Forthcoming Events adverts to Willie Lawrence at:

danceads@rscdslondon.org.uk

End of Season Dance

Following the Branch AGM

Saturday 8 June 2024

Doors open at 6.15pm
AGM 6.45 - 7.30pm
7.30 - 10.30pm

Upper Hall, St Columba's Church,
Pont Street SW1X 0BD

Adam Brady

2024 marks the 35th anniversary of the retirement of Bill Ireland from teaching the London Branch RSCDS Demonstration Class for over 35 years. This programme is a celebration of some of the dances associated with him in that period.

The Happy Meeting 8x32 J
General Stuart's Reel 8x32 R
The Duchess Tree 8x32 S
Newton Park 8x32 J
Neidpath Castle 3x32 S
Cramond Bridge 8x32 R
The Dancing Master..... Sq 96 J

Foula Reel 4x48 J
Lauderdale Lads..... 8x32 R
The Ennismore Strathspey 4x32 S
Old Nick's Lumber Room..... 8x32 J
Westminster Reel 8x32 R
The Robertson Rant Sq 80 S
Mairi's Wedding 8x40 R

Extras:

John of Bon Accord 8x32 R
Porchester Hall..... 8x32 S
Jennifer's Jig..... 8x32 J

Admission includes light refreshments
RSCDS Members £17, non-members £20
full time students (with card) and
spectators £10

Children (under 16) free

Tickets available online and on the door
All dances will be recapped

Crib available at rscdslondon.org.uk

Remaining dates for 2023 - 2024

2 March 2024 - Combined Societies' Dance
29 May 2024 - Summer Wednesday Dance
8 June 2024 - AGM and End of Season Dance

London Branch Classes



Set yourself a fun challenge join a Scottish country dance class

We have classes for...

Term Dates

Class Parties

27 March 2024

For our regular Wednesday weekly classes:

General Class, Mixed Ability Dance Group
Beginners and Improvers (Richmond)

Spring Term 2024

Wednesdays 6, 13, 20, 27 March

Summer Term 2024

Wednesdays 24 April, 1, 8, 15, 22 May

Summer Wednesday Dance 29 May

General Class

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,
London NW1 1LY

7.00 - 9.00 pm

**teacher Simon Wales
and live music**

A class to consolidate and build on basic skills and technique whilst developing a deeper knowledge of dances in a social environment

Fee: £8 per class for RSCDS members
£10 per class for non-RSCDS members

Underground: Euston, Euston Square,
King's Cross, Warren Street

Buses: 14, 18, 24, 27, 29, 30, 46, 68, 73, 88, 134,
137, 168, 196, 390, 205, 214, 253

Mixed Ability Dance Group

Upper Hall, St Columba's Church,
Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD

**led by Simon Wales with recorded music
and live music from Barbara Manning
on 27 March and 19 June**

2.30 - 4.30pm

A low impact social activity suitable for dancers with at least some knowledge of basic steps and formations

Visitors welcome

Fee: £10 per class for RSCDS members
£12 per class for non-RSCDS members
£2 non dancers

Underground: Knightsbridge, Sloane Square
Buses: 19, 22, 137, 452, C1

The London Branch runs a large number of classes through the year. Some of these are regular classes during term-time; others are specialist classes in advanced technique and classes for young people.

All classes are now bookable by the term online, and credit cards are taken on the door. Check rscdslondon.org.uk for the most up to date information, or contact classes@rscdslondon.org.uk for details of any of our classes.

Beginners and Improvers

Richmond Library Annexe, Quadrant Road,
Richmond TW9 1DH

**teacher Judith Jones with recorded music
and live music from Dave Hall
on 27 March and 19 June**

Beginners 7.00 - 9.00pm

Improvers 7.30 - 9.30pm

An introduction to basic steps and formations for new dancers while supporting others to develop their technique and general dancing skills

Fee: £7 per class for RSCDS members
£8 per class for non-RSCDS members

Underground/Train: Richmond
Buses: H37, 65, R68, R70, 110, 190, 371

Summer General Class

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,
London NW1 1LY

Wednesdays 5, 12, 19 June

**teachers Elaine Lloyd, Jan Collings and
Rose Krelloff**

**and live music
7.00 - 9.00pm**

Three classes for all, combining technique and the social aspects of Scottish country dancing to round off the season

Fee: £8 per class for RSCDS members
£10 per class for non-RSCDS members

Children's Class



Sunday School Classroom
St Columba's Church
Pont Street, London
SW1X 0BD

Sunday 1.00 - 2.15pm

Proposed monthly

check with contact below for dates

teacher Rose Krelloff

Contact : classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Monthly Classes

Tuesday Social

Upper Hall, St Columba's Church,
Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD

**Tuesdays 27 February, 26 March,
16 April, 21 May, 18 June**

7.00 - 9.30pm

**led by Gill O'Dell
and music from Adam Brady**

The Tuesday Social is aimed at people in their 20s and 30s who cannot commit to a weekly class, but who love to dance, or would like to learn. This monthly session combines live music with some teaching, lots of dancing and a social break to relax and chat with a glass of wine or soft drink

No need to bring a partner, everyone dances with everyone in this friendly, fun and sociable way to dance

Fee: £10 per session for RSCDS members
£12 per session for non-RSCDS members

Fast Paced Social Class

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,
London NW1 1LY

Tuesdays

19 March, 23 April, 21 May, 18 June

7.00 - 9.00pm

with guest teachers and musicians

A lively and sociable class, covering more advanced formations and complex dances. The pace will be quick, assuming advanced knowledge of steps and formations, and aims to make more complicated dances feel comfortable and fun

Fee: £10 per class for RSCDS members
£12 per class for non-RSCDS members

Technique Class

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,
London NW1 1LY

Tuesdays

**5 March, 2 April, 7 May, 4 June
plus Thursday 4 July**

7.00 - 9.00pm

**with teacher Pat Davoll
and live music**

A technique class for dancers who have a good working knowledge of the steps and formations and who are looking to develop their technique, confidence, style and enjoyment of the dance

Fee: £10 per class for RSCDS members
£12 per class for non-RSCDS members

London Branch Classes Welcome New Musicians

Heather Jeffery



Some of you may have already caught me appearing as your musician for recent London Branch classes or you may have met me on the dance floor! I am Heather, a fairly fresh violinist to the Scottish dancing scene, but a prolific dancer in the years before that!

I started playing for the London Branch classes, both Beginners' and General, in October 2023, and will now be regularly playing for the technique class once a month.

And, as the new regular violinist in Ian Robertson's band, I have been lucky to have the opportunity to travel and play for different groups, including my first visit to the Lucy Clark Scottish Country Dancing Club in Wendover for their Christmas Dance and I am looking forward to being back at Summer Tuesdays when the warmer weather arrives. It has been great to meet more of the Scottish dancing community!

Originally, I started off as a classical violinist, with a performance diploma (DipABRSM), while also dabbling every now and again in the piano, viola and cello. The newest addition to my musical instrument collection is an accordion though it is going to take a bit of practice to be able to play reels fast enough on it! There are so many good tunes out there, with *City of Belfast* being one of my favourites and you cannot go wrong with *Deil Amang the Tailors!* I love the contrast of the jigs, reels and strathspeys. Playing for Scottish dancing is still relatively new to me, so I have got a whole expanse of more repertoire to explore and it has been really fun choosing tunes to go well together into sets, though it can be a daunting task to start due to how many tunes you can choose from!

I am a dancer myself and really enjoy being able to partake in both sides. That is where it all started - attending Summer School in St Andrews as a dancer. Meeting other musicians and hearing so much high quality live Scottish dancing music really inspired me to get involved. Now I am happy I can balance my time on and off stage.



Heather Jeffery with Ian Robertson

I have been lucky enough to know a number of incredibly kind and generous people who have played key roles in my musical journey, a few of whom I would like to specifically thank for helping me start playing for Scottish country dancing - Chris Jeffery, Ian Robertson, Sam

Schad, Irvine McLevy, Murrough Landon, Joanne Lawrence, Ewan Galloway and all the teachers who it has been a pleasure to work with plus all the dancers who have encouraged me along the way and travelled to hear dances I have played for. I hope I can continue to play for many more fun evenings of dancing!

RSCDS Dancing Achievement Awards

Following on from the successful course run last year, RSCDS London Branch is planning to run the RSCDS Dancing Achievement Awards (DAA) course again in the near future. There are three levels to the award - Intermediate, Advanced and Very Advanced.

The last course was for the Intermediate level, but depending on numbers, we would run either the Intermediate or Advanced level this time. The location and time will depend on those attending and the cost of the course will be in the region of £80, plus the exam entrance fee of £20 for members over 25 (£25 for non-members) and for the under 25s, £16 and £20 respectively.

For the syllabus see here: rscds.org/learn/dancing-skills-assessments/dancing-achievement-awards

For further details, or to express your interest, please contact: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Erica Banks



I am looking forward to working with RSCDS London Branch with great anticipation. I spent an evening observing classes at the end of last year and was very impressed. Music has always played a big part in my life, and I have been playing violin since the age of seven. I am a Buckie quine, and my first big musical memory was watching my mother in a dress rehearsal for *The Merry Widow* where she played the lead in a local opera society production. I was blown away by the orchestra (and my mum!) and by the violin section in particular. I had lessons with local teacher Steve Merson and played in school and county orchestras, quartets, music festivals and chamber orchestras throughout my school life. I went on to study with Bryan Dargie in Aberdeen and Peter Mountain in Glasgow while doing my BMus degree at Aberdeen University.

When BBC came recruiting in Aberdeen, I bagged myself a secretarial job in London and boarded a train to what turned out to be a twenty year stretch at the Corporation. I got myself into the Music and Arts department and found myself working on classical music performance, Proms, Arena, Bookmark, Rhythms of the World with forays into children's programmes, Whistle Test, Rock Gospel Show. After leaving BBC as a Unit Manager, I have since worked freelance as a documentary Line Producer.

There have been some special films along the way - *Nigel Kennedy*, *Luciano Pavarotti*, *Opera Divas*, *La Traviata*, *West Side Story*, *Shostakovich: Siege of Leningrad*. More recently, with film maker Chris Terrill, I've taken on some military subjects - *Royal Marines Mission Afghanistan* and *The Warship* - a series about HMS Queen Elizabeth. But making music has remained a constant in my life - from west London orchestras when I first arrived in London, to plugging in and going electric to play with a local Americana band, to playing with singer-songwriters in genres from rock to folk. I have also kept up with my Scottish roots and performed at Speyfest a few years ago with my old Buckie fiddler friends Dougie Lawrence and the late James Alexander. Playing continues to give me great joy and playing with others and for others makes it all the more joyful and worthwhile.

When my old school friend Willie Lawrence contacted me to ask if I was interested in playing for some classes I did not hesitate. I met up with him and his wife Joanne in Kensington Gardens at an open-air dancing event and was stunned by the turnout and the enthusiasm. It was great to see so many smiling, happy faces dancing beautifully and having a great time. I hope I can keep up with the pace!



Funding - We Can Help

Thanks to generous bequests and donations in the past, London Branch is in the position to be able to offer financial help to those who would benefit from attending Summer School, either as a dancer or musician. This is in addition to the support available from the Society through the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund.

London Branch has also decided to set aside some funds for bursaries to help defray the costs of attending teacher or musician training courses.

To apply for either grant, please email the Secretary secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk for an application form.

We would encourage applications from those who have not applied before.



CD Review: Jeremy Hill

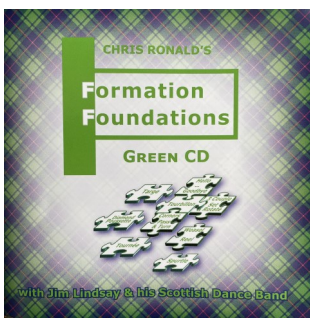


Formation Foundations: Jim Lindsay & His Scottish Dance Band CD (£13.00) and Book (£7.00) or £18.00 for both (all plus £1.50 for delivery) from thesundayclass.org.uk/sales.html

Avignon (6x32R), Sunshine Sally (4x32S), Felicity's Frolic (8x32R), The King of Spain's Daughter (3x32S), Hello Goodbye (8x32R), Dick Whittington (8x32J), Little Star (8x32S), Dusty Bluebells (3x[32S+32R]), London Bridge (6x32S), The Mulberry Bush (4x[32S+32J]), Jack Be Nimble (4x32J), The Broadsword (6x32J), Ding Dong Bell (3x32S), The Wheels on the Bus (3x32S), The Wild Wood (3x32R)

Some will know that *Hello-Goodbye*, published in RSCDS Book 51, was devised by Chris Ronald to allow the introduction of the title move without having to spend time on other tricky formations, an approach he and his wife Sue found valuable when teaching in New York. Chris, whose other dances include *Slytherin House* and *MacDonald of Keppoch*, devised a whole range of such dances for different formations, to support their teaching. Working with Amanda Peart of the Sunday Class in the East Midlands, where they are now living, Chris and Sue have now brought 32 of them together in this collection.

Alongside the dances, the book contains summaries of the main teaching points, common problems and possible skills exercises for each of the formations, making it a very valuable resource, as



Chris puts it, "to complement the descriptions in the RSCDS Manual". Some of the dances may also provide useful additions to dance programmes for variety. This CD is the first of a planned pair by Jim Lindsay and his band to complement the book. Given the book's purpose, it has a wide range of dance lengths and options for teachers, including medleys that allow a dance to be danced in strathspey and then quick time.

Another theme of the book is Chris's choice of dance titles that allude to nursery rhymes, hinting at the elementary nature of the dances - though he admits some are a bit obscure! While these are not 'originals', the concept presented Jim Lindsay with a wide-open opportunity to exhibit his creative arranging skills to bring in relevant tunes, and "he threw himself enthusiastically in the project". For example, *Hello-Goodbye* is presented here as a reel, and Jim leads off with 'So Long, Farewell' from *The Sound of Music*, together with a chance to spot a whole range of other tunes from musicals.

Other stand-out tracks include *The King of Spain's Daughter* (written to introduce the Espagnole, of course), featuring castanets and fanfares for a Spanish feel in a tune Jim has written called *Juana La Loca*. Elsewhere we can hear recorder and clarinet, bells (*Ding Dong Bell* - the Tourbillon) and the sound of a glockenspiel in *Little Star* (for the strathspey pousette) - the list goes on. These are all beautifully integrated into varied sets of traditional and modern tunes, so it is great fun to listen to.

None of which would work if it were not for the consistently high quality playing of Jim and the Band: David Hume (second box), Mary Rutherford and Gillian Ramsay (violins), Graham Berry (piano/bass) and Malcolm Ross (drums). There are some 'straight' tracks, and I particularly enjoyed the set for *Felicity's Frolic* (Half Diagonal Rights and Lefts), including Jay Ungar's *The Wizard's Walk*, a tune guaranteed to give life to the dancing, *Jack Be Nimble* (The Spurtle), led off with Angus Fitchet's jig *Nimble Fingers*, and the final 3x32R track, for *The Wild Wood* (to introduce the lesser spotted Weasel or One-way Reels), finishing with Andrew Gifford's *The Calgary Fiddlers' Welcome to Shetland*.

As with all his recordings, Jim makes the most of the varied sounds and skills available with this band, which makes it a great CD to get you dancing, listening, tune-spotting, to support the teaching of these dances, or just to add variety to an evening's dancing. Alongside the book, it is a winning combination.

PS: Apologies to Mary Rutherford for mistakenly identifying her as Maureen in *The Reel* 326 on the review of the band's tribute to Bobby Crowe. (See also article on p7).

Dancers in the News

Marilyn Watson

Many dancers in the London area will remember Marilyn from dances, day schools, Summer School, Scottish Tattoos in the Royal Albert Hall, Children's Medal Tests and Certificate examinations.

Marilyn has now been the Chairman and teacher at RSCDS Bournemouth for over 35 years, but due to her on-going mobility problems which are now causing her so much pain and discomfort, she very sadly tendered her resignation from both these positions just before Christmas.

It was a very hard decision for her to step away from something which has been her life for well over 50 years and during which time she has tirelessly promoted Scottish country dancing in this area, maintaining a high standard of instruction and giving so much enjoyment to so many people. Along with the Macaulay Dancers, the children's class we ran for 26 years in Broadstone, there are many dancers both within the Branch and in the surrounding area whom she taught to dance. In addition, many dancers have very fond memories of their childhood trips to the Slough Festival and many of us were thrilled to take part in the many Scottish Tattoos she choreographed for the Royal Albert Hall and other venues in the south - Salisbury, Basingstoke, Portsmouth, Southampton and Bournemouth to name a few.

Bournemouth Branch would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Marilyn for her tremendous enthusiasm and encouragement not only in teaching, but in tutoring Certificate Candidates, examining Medal Test children, Dance Proficiency candidates and indeed Certificate Candidates too.

Ken Martlew

Congratulations to Ken for receiving an RSCDS Scroll at the November 2023 AGM.



Ken started Scottish country dancing in 1978 and has been an enthusiastic force for the RSCDS aims and standards in Hertfordshire and beyond. Since he was awarded his full teaching certificate in 1994, he has taught numerous day schools both for RSCDS Branches and for other clubs. Ken is a highly accomplished musician and has played for classes, day schools and dances the world over. Ken supported the formation of RSCDS Herts and Borders in March 2020 and agreed to become the first President.

Ken travelled overseas to teach Branch day schools and workshops for RSCDS Central Germany, RSCDS Lyon and RSCDS Pretoria. Ken tutored a Teachers' Certificate course in 2010 and also the former Dancing Proficiency Award.

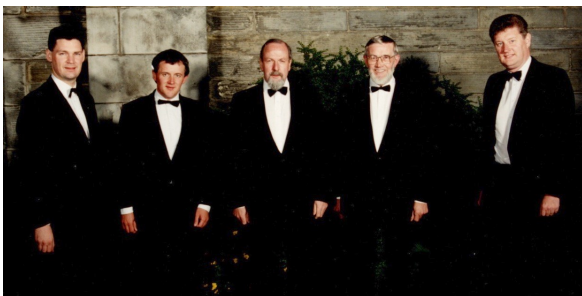
Ken played for the RSCDS Summer School for 20 years and plays regularly for day schools recently at BHS Border Branch, RSCDS Oxfordshire, RSCDS Herts and Borders and RSCDS London. He was the pianist for over fifteen teachers' certificate courses at Summer School, RSCDS BHS Borders and RSCDS Cambridge. His compositions appear in RSCDS Pretoria's anniversary publication *Many Happy Hours* (2007).

Continuing the Legacy - from Bobby Crowe to Jim Lindsay: Jeremy Hill

The two CDs I reviewed in *The Reel* 326 touched on a whole host of musical references, connecting Muriel Johnstone and Jim Lindsay back to Bobby Crowe, the multiple bands he led over the years, and the Olympians, with their distinctive sound based around Bobby on accordion and Dougie Maxwell on trumpet. Muriel and Jim featured on some of the dozen recordings Bobby made for the Society, which have stood the test of time, with ideal dancing tempi, perfectly selected matching tunes (largely traditional and out of copyright), and the wonderful consistency of his and the band's playing, recognised with a Society Scroll in 1997. His was in practice the dance band sound of the Society for many years.

Bobby was a huge influence on Jim Lindsay's playing, and I had the pleasure of catching up with Jim at the time of his 70th birthday in January to hear about his time playing with Bobby, and to bring the story up to date.

By the time Jim won the Jimmy Shand Shield as Scottish Accordion Champion in 1974, Bobby had already asked him to join his band. Jim covered both accordion and piano over the years, and his new ideas, expanding on the harmonic template laid down by Bobby, are much in evidence on those early Society recordings. By the time Bobby created what he considered his 'A Team', that of the early 1990s, Jim was on piano, with Ron Kerr (fiddle), Edward Galley (second accordion), Malcolm Ross (drums) and Dave Barclay (bass), creating a beautifully rounded and full sound, captured on some commercial recordings of the period, including *The Shores of Loch Alvie*.



The A Team - Edward Galley, Malcolm Ross, Ron Kerr, Bobby Crowe and Jim Lindsay

I had the pleasure of dancing to this band all round the country, including at least once in the BHS Border Branch. I remember well the after-party, at which this new CD was being played. It is great to listen to, but we made sure to get up for the dances on the recording, including the *Eightsome Reel*, with band members joining in. When Edward Galley took a tumble, there was much amusement as the dancing continued around him! All that, before the band got back in the van, for the long drive back up to Scotland.

Bobby's sound was also much in evidence at RSCDS Summer School. For thirty years, the Olympians was the 'house band' of the St Andrews Tourist Office summer dances, with Bobby leading alongside Dougie Maxwell. When Dougie Maxwell died at the end of the 1980s, it was natural that Bobby's band would take its place (largely the same players, without the trumpet).

Around this time, Jim got together some of the same players just to have fun with Scottish and other music, which turned into a performance band, putting on concerts, broadcasting on the radio and playing at accordion and fiddle clubs. Their first recording in 1995 was appropriately entitled *Free Hand*, and features a wide range of enjoyable tracks, such as *Rondo Alla Turca* alongside medleys and a free adaptation of *The Baron's Piper*.

Sadly, Bobby suffered a stroke that caused him to retire early in 1994. Ron Kerr and Jim Lindsay took over the band's engagements, with Bobby often still providing a lot of the musical arrangements, and support from the back of the stage. He still carried an accordion case, but nowadays it contained a bar rather than instrument. They remained very busy, with the Scottish

dance calendar, as well as reeling events and other performances, with the performance and dance bands gradually merging.

When he retired from his work with General Accident, Jim was able to devote some more time to playing for country dancing, including travelling more widely, and he also had time to join the staff at Summer School. The band made several recordings, such as Book 8 for the Society (including two beautifully played 8x40 Strathspeys that probably get few airings), *The Black Watch Ball* covering popular reeling dances, and the *Reel of the Puffins*. The inclusion of a Mozart Horn Concerto and *The Mexican Hat Dance* on the latter (for the dance *Marigold*) shows Jim's continued interest in exploring the intersections of other musical styles with the Scottish dance floor, evident in the recording for the *Formation Foundations* book reviewed elsewhere in this issue. His CD of Christmas tunes for Scottish country dancing is still a big seller.



The new A Team - Malcolm Ross, David Ramsay, Gillian Hume, Jim Lindsay, Mary Rutherford and Graham Berry

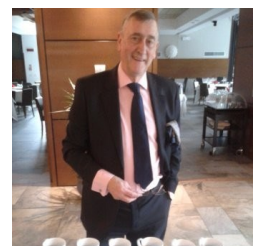
More recently, Jim and his present-day 'A Team' band made exemplary recordings for Society books 49 and 52, where the playing is absolutely top-notch, and he can be heard on several CDs partnering with Muriel Johnstone amongst others. The creativity and innovation that he continues to provide, for example the 'spooky' set for *Slytherin House*, which incorporates John Williams's Harry Potter tune, are first and foremost in service of the dance and the dancers, a principle he learnt early on from Bobby Crowe, and developed in his own style. That need not prevent the band giving dancers plenty to listen to, recognise and smile along with, while they are dancing, and he continues to bring huge pleasure in new recordings and to dance halls all over.

Happy Birthday, Jim!

More details of Bobby's story can be found in the [Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame](#), and on episode 16 of the *Dance Scottish At Home* podcast, still available on [Soundcloud](#), in which Jim Lindsay shared his memories of playing with Bobby.

Malcom Ferris-Lay MBE

Congratulations to Malcolm Ferris-Lay, Trustee of the Tea Trade Benevolent Society and Scottish Tartan Authority for his award of the MBE for charitable service in the 2024 new year's Honours List.

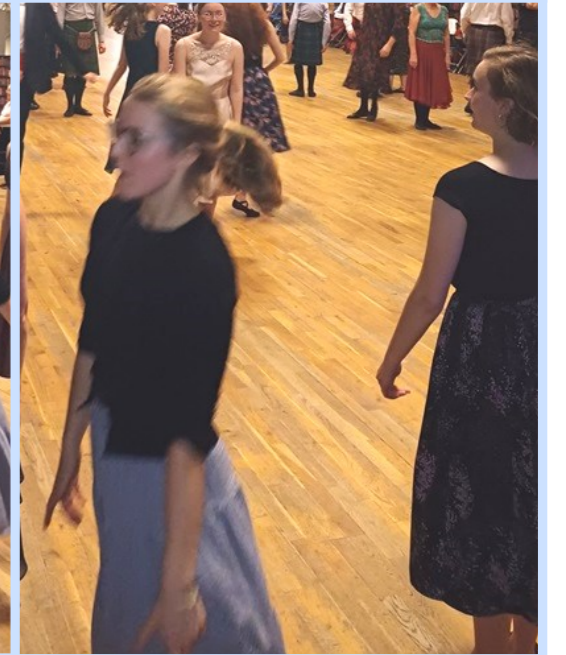


Malcolm is better known in dancing circles as an exceptional country and highland dancer and teacher. He is caller with various bands and was a member of the London Branch demonstration team.

In Malcolm's honour, Ian Robertson has composed a stirring march, and this, and his many other compositions, are available via Ian Robertson Music on Facebook.

Burns Night Ceilidh...

...Christmas Dance



The Story behind the Dance: Meryl Thomson



A series of articles from Meryl Thomson delving behind the history of some of our dances and their music. In this article Meryl looks at how the RSCDS changed some original source dances to 40 bar versions.

Following on from my recent article in *The Reel* discussing why, especially as a musician, I dislike 40 bar dances in the repertoire, I thought it would be interesting to delve deeper into the occurrence of 40 bar dances in RSCDS publications. I have considered RSCDS books and leaflets published since 1924. Just under 10% of dances in the main RSCDS books are 40 bar dances. Of course, some modern compositions have been deliberately written as 40 bar dances, whereas dances from the first 30 books have a more chequered history. I have chosen several dances from these older books to look at more closely - many older RSCDS 40 bar dances do not have a known source which makes it impossible to compare to an original, so I have picked from those for which I have sources.

Red House (Book 7) 48 bar Playford dance becomes a 40 bar reel

This dance appears as early as 1695 in *Playford's Dancing Master 9th edition* and in some of his later works as a 48 bar dance. There has been much written about the evolution of *Red House*. Read some of the threads on the SCDDDB website my.strathspey.org/dd/dance/5497/#extrainfo. The RSCDS chose to halve the first 16 bars by having 1s set and cast and repeat back to place, taking 8 bars

(177)
Red-House. Longways for as many as will.

The 1. cu. meet and set, and call off into the 2. cu. place. Then meet and set again, and call off into their own places. The 1. man call off below the 2. man, and go above the 2. man's place, his wo. following him at the same time. Then the 2. wo. call up above the 1. wo. and go below the 1. man into her own place, the 1. man following her at the same time. Then the 1. cu. and 2. man go die Hey till they come into their own places. Then the 1. cu. and 2. wo. go the Hey on the other side, and fly call off into the 2. cu. place.

instead of 16. This avoids having the 2s do nothing for 16 bars which is understandable for the modern dance repertoire, however what it does is wreck the pattern of the tune which would naturally be AABBC. The RSCDS version uses an ABBC pattern which fits the figures nicely but feels musically unbalanced to me, as if the first eight bars are an introduction to the rest of the tune.

Johnny McGill (Book 11) a 48 bar jig turned into 40 bars

The original tune for this dance is the same in the RSCDS book and their given source, William Boag's *A Collection of Favorite Reels and Strathspeys 1797*. The dance also appears in Broderip and Wilkinson's *Admired Selection of Country Dances, Reels, Waltzes, Strathspeys and Cotillons* from 1806 as a different dance but with the same tune.

	RSCDS Book 2	Boag
1-8	1L followed by partner cast 2 to 2nd place opp side & set	1L cast off in between 2 & 3M followed by partner & set
9-16	1M followed by partner casts up to original place & set	1L and 1M falls back to places
17-24	1s & 2s dance RH across & back	Hands across with 2s and back again
25-32	1s & 2s set and cross, set & cross back	Foot it and change sides, foot it and back again
33-40	1s & 2s dance a Pousette	3rd Cu. promenad
41-48		1s & 2s pousette

The Boag version includes '3rd Couple Promenad' - it is unclear whether he meant a three couple promenad round in eight bars or something else. Other dances in Boag's same collection which include a promenad state, "three Cu. Promenad round". How else could this 3rd Couple Promenad wording be interpreted? Either Boag corrected the terminology for

later dances in the book to clarify or he meant another figure perhaps? The RSCDS version omits this ambiguous figure which reduces the dance from 48 bars to 40. This affects the tune - the original 16 bar tune has repeated A and B sections which would need to be played in an AABBB pattern for the 48 bar dance, whereas the RSCDS chose to have this played as ABABB for their 40 bar version. This popular tune was composed by John McGill of Girvan who was a dancing master and town piper.

The Laird of Dumbiedyke's Favorite (Book12) a 32 bar reel turned into 40 bars and turned back again

This dance was recently republished by the RSCDS in the *Sir Walter Scott, The Heart of Mid-Lothian* book and recorded on the accompanying album as a 32 bar dance. The original Book 12 version is 40 bars.

The Laird o' Dumbiedyke's Favorite. a Reel.

For Book 12, bars 9-16 were interpreted as 1s followed by 2s and 3s cast on own sides and cross below 3rd place and dance up on the opposite side. In bars 17-24 this is repeated back

to places. The most recent publication amends this to match the original with all 3 men chasing clockwise around the set and up on the men's side while all 3 ladies dance anticlockwise round the set, passing the men at the top and bottom of the set. The original from John Sutherland's *The Heart of Midlothian* from 1820 gives the instruction "1st Cu. lead 3 outsides opposite, back again to places". Easy to misconstrue.

Willie With his Tartan Trues (Book14) a 64 bar jig reduced to 40 bars

Who does not like a 64 bar dance danced eight times through? A 64 bar dance would have been more acceptable in the mid 1700s when a triple minor formation gave plenty of opportunity for flirting during the long periods of waiting in line to start dancing. Not so much in the modern ballroom with 4 couple sets.

	RSCDS Book 14	Rutherford
1-8	1s dance reels of 3 on opp side	Hey contrary sides
9-16	1s dance reels of 3 on own sides	Hey on own sides
17-24	1s lead down, cross over below 2s and cast down behind 3s, lead back to top & cast to 2nd place opp sides to face 1st corners	Cross over 2 couples
25-32	1s set & turn corners, set & turn 2nd corners ending in 2nd place opp sides	Lead up to the top, foot it and cast off
33-40	2s, 1s & 3s adv & ret, 1s turn 1.5 times	Foot it corners and turn
41-48		Foot it the other corners & turn
49-64		Lead out Each side & turn your Partner

The dance *Willie with his Tartan Trues* appears in Book 14 as a 40 bar dance using the same music as in the original source, David Rutherford's *Complete Collection Vol. 2 1760*. As can be seen from the table, the dance starts the same in both interpretations but the original takes twice as long to cross over and lead to the top and to set and turn corners. The main

difference is with the instruction 'Lead out each side and turn your partner'. There are many versions of lead outsides (probably enough for a whole article on the subject). Nicholas Dukes, writing in *A Concise & Easy Method of Learning the Figuring Part of Country Dances* in 1750, gives three different Lead out Sides figures. The version he gives for dancing after setting and turning corners is basically this - the 1s, who are in the middle position (and in the centre of the set), turn to face the men's side, dance between the 2nd and 3rd man, lady dances up and round 2nd man while man dances down and round 3rd man, they dance in, join hands and dance out between the 2nd and 3rd lady, lady dancing up and round 2nd lady while man dances down and round 3rd lady, they meet in the middle and turn two hands to end in progressed positions on their own side. Whether this would take 16 bars to dance is debatable unless you spend 8 bars turning your partner or spend longer than 8 bars to dance round before turning your partner. Ending improper on bar 40 in the RSCDS version and adding a different figure of advancing and retiring and turning 1.5 times to place makes for a

Willie with his tartan Trous

199

Hay Contrary sides ♪ Hay on your Own sides ♪
 Crofs over two Couple ♪ Lead up to the Top foot it
 And Cast off ♪ Foot it Corners & turn ♪ Foot it the
 Other Corners, & turn ♪ Lead out Each Tide & turn
 your Partner ♪

more interesting dance. They could have chosen to finish the dance with set and turn corners ending in 2nd position proper and made this 32 bars which would be more pleasing musically but perhaps less interesting as a dance. The music has to be played ABABB to fit the dance in the RSCDS version.

The Bonniest Lass in all the World (Book 14) a 64 bar reel changed to a 40 bar strathspey

The bonniest Lass in all the World.

63

The 1st Cu. Foot it and turn ♪ then Foot it
 sides and turn ♪ then lead down two Cu. cast up
 one and Foot it ♪ and Right hand, and Left at
 Top ♪ the 1st Men hands 3 round with the 3rd Cu.
 and the Wo. hands 3 round with the 2nd Cu. ♪ then
 the Men has 3 round with the 2nd Cu. and the Wo.
 with the 3rd Cu. lead out sides and turn ♪

The original source of this dance comes from Peter Thompson's *Compleat Collection of 200 Country Dances Vol 1* c.1751. The RSCDS dance is very similar to the original but takes less time for several of the formations, aided by changing from reel to strathspey.

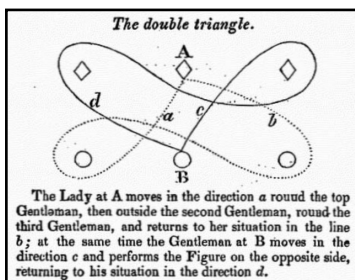
Interestingly, this dance does finish with the same version of lead

outsides as mentioned in the previous dance although it is not called this in RSCDS terminology. The change from reel rhythm to strathspey necessitated a substitution of original tune from a rather insipid tune in a minor key to one called *Miss Cox's Strathspey* by a Mr McIntyre found in *Gow's 5th Collection* c.1809. The substituted tune is annotated 'Slowly' which suggests it perhaps was not intended to be played for dancing. You can hear a 1951 recording by Jack Forsyth and his SCD Band at youtu.be/aP8zknqRis4?si=psxnliACQBj8PIks - note the fast tempo at 146bpm. The song *The Bonniest Lass in a' the World* was published in William Thomson's *Orpheus Caledonius* Volume 2 c.1725 and this would have worked as a slow air strathspey but for some reason was not chosen. Not being a great fan of slow air strathspeys, I am pleased the McIntyre tune was chosen as this gives more of a traditional Scottish feel in the music!

Miss Cox's Strathspey. by Mr McIntyre.

The Rakish Highlandman (Book 19) a 32 bar jig changed to 40 bar This Book 19 dance gives its source as Thomas Wilson's *A Companion to the Ballroom* 1816. Although the dance has figures which have the same names as the original, the RSCDS has different interpretations of these figures. Wilson as usual gives three versions of the dance, two "single figure" versions which are 16 bars long and the "double figure" one chosen by the RSCDS which in the original takes 32 bars.

Each starts with a reel or hey on your own sides followed by lead down the middle and up and allemande. Wilson's lead down and up is danced in 4 bars (1s end in 2nd place), leaving 4 bars for the allemande (couple linking arms and turning in the middle of the set). The RSCDS lead down and up and allemande are each interpreted as 8 bars. There are several RSCDS dances taken from Wilson's collections which have to be adapted to fit the RSCDS method of dancing. The other figure which differs, although it takes the same number of 8 bars, is the Double Triangle.



In his *Complete System of Country Dancing* of 1815 Wilson introduces some of his newly composed figures, including the Double Triangle (see diagram). This figure appears in many of his subsequent dances, several used as sources for RSCDS dances.

including the Double Triangle (see diagram). This figure appears in many of his subsequent dances, several used as sources for RSCDS dances.

Changing to a 40 bar dance means the 16 bar tune (the original is played AABB) has to be played with one of the 8 bar phrases repeated an extra time - the RSCDS chose to play ABABB. This is a pet hate of mine as it makes the tune feel unbalanced.

Bonnie Kate of Aberdeen (Book 17) a 32 bar dance changed to a 40 bar strathspey

Book 17 stands out for having the most 40 bars dances in one book - five of the 12. *Bonnie Kate of Aberdeen* is a dance taken from Peter Thompson's *Compleat Collection Vol 3* 1765-1772. There is an earlier version of the dance found in John Walsh's *24 Country Dances for 1751* and in the *Universal Magazine of Knowledge and Pleasure* also 1751. These have the same tune but different dance instructions. The RSCDS dance matches the Thompson original for the first 24 bars. Then the RSCDS version gives 8 bars for circle round and back and 8 bars for rights and lefts while the historical version expects 4 bars to circle 6 round and cross corners (right and left) in 4 bars, keeping the dance to 32 bars. It is not clear from the original music whether it should be played as a reel or a strathspey. The RSCDS chose not to use

Bonny Kate of Aberdeen.

157

Hey contrary sides ♪ then hey your own sides
 ♪ crofs over two Cut lead up the middle & cast
 off ♪ hands fix round and right and left at top

the original tune, picking a tune by Peter Milne called *Cropie's Strathspey* which appeared in *Middleton's Selection of Strathspeys, Reels etc* from 1870. Interestingly, this tune has mistakenly been attributed to Milne but was actually written by Alexander Given from

Kelso with the title *Mr Douglas of Springwood Park's Strathspey* in the late eighteenth century and published by Gow and Shepherd as a medley following a tune called *Mrs Elliot's (Tiviotbank) Reel*. Springwood Park in Kelso was bought by Admiral Sir James Douglas in 1750 but gradually became ruined and burnt down in the early 20th century. In my opinion the RSCDS made a good decision, as the tune they chose is far superior to the original. The only negative is having to play this as a 40 bar tune in the pattern ABABB.

Lord Hume's Reel (Book 16) 32 bar dance changed to a 40 bar strathspey

LORD HUME'S REEL (Scott)

Allegro

SINGLE FIGURE (1st strain repeated 2nd played straight thro)
 The 1st lady leads down the 2nd gent; the 1st gent; leads down the 2nd lady
 ♪ lead your partner down the middle up again & right & left with top Cu ♪

OR THUS Set & half right & left with 2nd Cu; set & back again ♪ lead
 down the middle up again & set to the top Cu ♪

DOUBLE FIGURE (Tune played twice thro as marked)
 Hands 3 round with 2nd lady hands 3 round with 2nd gent; set ♪ lead
 down the middle up again allemande ♪ set 3 across set 3; in your
 places ♪ lead thro the bottom & chain figure 4 round with top Cu ♪

This dance is another from Wilson's *Companion to the Ballroom*. Again, the difference in bars is due to Wilson's short lead down and back in 4 bars followed by a 4 bar chain figure whereas the RSCDS has 8 bars for the lead down and 8 bars for rights and lefts. In his 1815 *Complete Guide*, Wilson notes of the chain figure "The movement of this Figure is similar to the

Quadrille 'Right and Left' it is generally performed in four bars of the music, while the Quadrille 'Right and Left' is made to require eight bars, this difference arises from the number and manner of applying the steps". He later states "This is the figure that has been erroneously taken for the Country Dance 'Right and Left'". This is another dance which could have been danced as a reel rather than strathspey as it is annotated 'Allegro' which means fast.

The tune may have been written for Alexander Home, 10th Earl of Home (11 November 1769 - 21 October 1841) who was a British politician and representative peer of Scotland between 1807 and 1841. He was one of the first people to import Newfoundland dogs later known as Labrador Retrievers to the UK as gundogs and these are commonly believed to be the ancestors of modern labradors.

We can see that changes to make dances for a modern audience more interesting than the original can create a knock-on effect. Changing the length of figures or removing them necessitates altering the music to fit. When this results in a 40 bar dance it is at the expense of ruining the feel of the tune by forcing it into an uneven number of phrases. As there are very few 40 bar tunes, even entirely replacing the original tune does not help with the problem of 40 bar dances.

Branch Burns Ceilidh 13 January 2024

For many years I've been coming to this ceilidh hosted by the RSCDS London Branch at St Columba's Church Hall in Knightsbridge and without fail, after the last willow has been stripped, I have been left eagerly waiting for the date of the ceilidh the following January. Saturday's event was no exception. Obviously a well oiled machine, always well presented and organised, this particular event is one I have come to rely on to kickstart me and the 20 or so friends that my partner and I bring, into the new year. Last year I perceived quite a surge in numbers at the ceilidh after two years of enforced cancellation thanks to covid so I wondered if the attendance last night would equal that of last year's event or if the numbers might dwindle. Neither turned out to be the case. The attendance last night actually surpassed that of last year with a large age range making up the throng. So full was St Columba's Hall that 'round the room' dances had to be done with an outer and inner circle and sometimes another circle inside that. Our most welcoming host for the evening was James Fairbairn who called the dances expertly and who was always on hand to give the odd bit of extra tuition on the floor to any newcomers finding their stride.



James also addressed the haggis just before dinner ably introduced and played out by his son Fergus Fairbairn on the bagpipes. James' dance selection for the evening was a well-conceived mix of the very familiar, the less familiar and the brand new. This created a very satisfying evening of dance for seasoned ceilidh goers and newcomers alike and was in itself a talking point of the evening. A brand-new ceilidh dance to me and most others was *The Siege of Ennis*. An Irish dance originally, I believe, it started with the less usual formation of four facing four across the room rather than up and down and contained more unusual moves like couples side-stepping to change places on the sides followed by a central star leaving the end couples turning independently. All in all, a satisfying ceilidh dance with a little more involvement giving anyone new a taste of what Scottish dancing might feel like.

Of course, an event like this could not happen without an extraordinary team working tirelessly for the smooth running of the evening and for years now RSCDS London has consistently demonstrated a commitment of this nature to their Burns Ceilidh. The organisation of the ceilidh is truly a team effort with what must be a host of helpers, but we must mention the catering team. Feeding the numbers we saw on Saturday night was no mean feat and this year dinner was served in takeaway style cartons. Traditional and vegetarian haggis was offered as usual along with tea and shortbread. The catering team included Margaret Shaw and her daughter Sarah, sisters Eilidh, Mairi and Treenie Stewart, Lena Robinson, Pam and Tony Ellam, Margaret Catchick and others whose names I did not manage to get, but who were all undoubtedly heroes of the evening. The engine of a ceilidh is its band and who better to fill the evening with the inspiration and energy for dancing than the Caledonian Reelers. Mary Felgate on fiddle, Derek Chappell on accordion and Freddie Felgate on drums played the night away with zest, showing off their range from a sensitive *St Bernard's Waltz* to rounding off the dancing with a particularly energetic *Strip The Willow*. A treat indeed to have live music of this standard.

In conclusion I cannot recommend this event enough. It is an evening of broad grins and laughter, dancing with friends, dancing with strangers, making mistakes... more laughter. It is perfect for complete beginners and experienced dancers, young, old, everyone in between and may RSCDS London branch continue this wonderful Burns Night for years to come.

Roy Bell

Are ye dancin'? Are ye askin'?

I caught my breath, my what a joyous sight 199 folk make in St Columba's mid-ceilidh.



For five of us, it was our first Burns Night with you all. We have just finished the newly designed beginners' course, which I can wholeheartedly recommend. The course transformed my confidence, I now have some sense of what the caller means and there are even dances that I know. I am hopeful the newly designed improvers' course will convince my feet of the same!

You would imagine that the dances committee's triumph, James' calling and dramatic ode to the freshly piped and cooked haggis, excellent Caledonian Reelers or dancing would have made my night. No. Not for me. For me, it was the company. The warm laughter so many of you shared when I missed another pas de basque, your encouragement to come again and make new friends, your understanding when totally breathless that I needed to sit out just one dance so that when asked once more "Are ye dancin'?" I could reply "Are ye askin'?" Sure in my knowledge that I was a step closer to just that.

Gael Dundas



Several of us who recently completed the RSCDS Beginners' course in Euston, London, were fortunate enough to attend the Burns Night Ceilidh and Supper at St Columba's Church in London. This provided us with an opportunity to put our newly acquired dancing skills to the test. Despite the chilly January evening, this year's Burns Night Ceilidh proved to be a delightful experience, and it did not take us long to warm up once we began dancing through the energetic dances. To the extent that I found myself enjoying a few moments outside in the cold in between a couple of dances.

While many of the dances were unfamiliar to us, the beginners' course had introduced us to numerous terms and formations, making it significantly easier to pick up on the new dances. A splendid address to the haggis was delivered by James Fairbairn, and the supper itself was absolutely delicious! My heartfelt thanks go out to everyone involved in organising and hosting this wonderful evening.

Malcolm Davis



Dancers at 90: Stephen Webb

The Dancing Years go by so Quickly

I joined the Berkhamsted Strathspey & Reel Club in 1972 and was impressed that this convenient dancing club, up the road from my home in Potten End village, had been running for as long as 20 years and now over 50 years further on I reflect with amazement and pride actually, that we are still going, but not just going, but going stronger than ever. What an achievement!



Robert Bateson and sister-in-law Allie Bateson

I know that the late George Bateson was so proud as one of the founders that this humble club had grown and grown through the enthusiasm for SCD of its members. George's wife Alison still dancing, a little

more gently these days, as is the other remaining founding brother, Robert Bateson (who celebrated his 90th birthday on 9 January this year).

Berko, as we affectionally call it, is proud of its founders and eternally grateful to them for what they began in 1952!

Bands

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

For Scottish country dances, ceilidhs, weddings and reeling. Any size of band from one to five. Despite moving to Scotland, still interested in gigs in the south, particularly Friday/Saturday combinations. Tel 07860 104653 or reel@frankreid.com

CALEDONIAN REELERS

Well established three-piece SCD band, consisting of accordionist, fiddler and drummer. Caller/piper can also be supplied. Available for RSCDS dances, ceilidhs, weddings, reeling. Anywhere, anytime for your function. Please contact Derek Chappell 01206 764232/ Mary Felgate 07866 757401 for further information or derek_chappell@aol.co.uk

Where is This?

Answer to 'Where is This?' on p1.

Stephen Webb writes:

The Glenfinnan Monument, a 60 foot high stone tower at the head of Loch Shiel, was erected in 1815 to mark the Jacobite uprising led by the young pretender, Charles Edward Stuart. The gathering of the loyal clans took place there in 1745. It can be seen when travelling by train from the Glenfinnan Viaduct. The highlander on top was added in 1835 and was purported to represent Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Also known to dancers through the dance *Glenfinnan Gathering*, a 3x32 reel by Roy Clowes, with dancers arranged in three lines of three. (Ed)

Do you have a dance related photo?
Email: editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

Branch Committee Report: Mel Rowland

Meeting 19 January 2024



Joanne Lawrence, Chair of RSCDS London Branch, welcomed the Committee to the first meeting of 2024. She reported that the season continued to go well with good numbers of people attending classes and dances. The Burns

Night Ceilidh, always a very popular event in the Branch's calendar, had been attended by 199 people.

Following the Executive Officers' reports, the Committee turned its attention to the sub-Committees' work. Margaret Shaw, Convenor of the Dances sub-Committee, is already planning the New Season Dance to be held in September. This year the event will be in the form of a tea dance at Maria Fidelis School. The Committee hopes that by changing the event to an afternoon dance, more dancers may be encouraged to attend and celebrate the start of the 2024-2025 season.

Joanne reported on behalf of the Class sub-Committee members who continue to plan and arrange a variety of classes for dancers to enjoy. She was delighted to report that the Children's Class is going to be re-launched on 4 February. The monthly classes will take place at St Columba's after the Sunday School. The October Day School will take place again this year, but at Maria Fidelis School. Joanne commented on how popular Maria Fidelis School was proving to be as a venue. Due to the excellent transport links, members of groups from around the South-east are able to attend the monthly Technique and Fast Paced Social class on a regular basis. Following the success of the DAA (Intermediate) Course held in Spring / Summer 2023, the Branch will be offering another DAA course later in the year - the level will depend on the demand. (see p5)

An update from the Communications sub-Committee then followed. Committee members agreed that the new website (designed by Chris Collings) is a great asset, with online booking of classes and dances now available. The promoting of Branch events on a range of social media platforms continues to attract younger dancers to events. It is encouraging to see more younger people supporting both classes and dances.

Since Richard Clarke was appointed as Vice-Chair, he has played a lead role on the Committee in overseeing the review of a number of Branch documents and policies, for example *Care and Consideration in Dance* which became available on the website in 2023. The Committee members agreed with Richard's suggestion of finalising a five-year strategic plan for the Branch, which could be presented to Branch members at the AGM in June.

The last agenda item was a reminder that nominations for Committee members will close on 31 March. There are places available on the Committee, so if anyone is interested in standing or would like to find out more about information about the work of the Committee, please email: secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

RSCDS Management Board: Simon Wales



The Management Board (MB) met in Glasgow on 25 November 2023, and here are the highlights:

The Management Board agreed to propose that Lizzy Conder be re-appointed for a second three-year term as Treasurer at the 2024 AGM. As the Treasurer is a

critical role with Governance implications, the board also decided to begin the process of recruiting the next treasurer in 2024.

The MB conducted a thorough review of panels and working groups and agreed a framework for all Board appointed groups. The framework includes term limits for members, clearly defined remits and goals and transparent recruitment processes for group vacancies. Going forward there will be an annual review of groups and panels and they will be formed and dissolved as needed.

The Board reviewed attendance numbers, budgets and format for the recent AGM weekend. This more detailed update on Management Board discussions is a direct result of the Meet the Board session.

Based on feedback from dancers who attended Winter School 2023, there are two main changes to Winter School 2024.

1. No combined class - this was popular in 2022, but feedback from 2023 has been negative.

2. For 2024, we have made arrangements to use a function room at the Fishers Hotel instead of the Sports Hall.

The proposal to raise Unit 1 fee from £25 to £35 was approved by the MB. This is still well below the cost to deliver and is heavily subsidised. To balance this cost increase, Unit 1 Manuals will be a free resource for candidates, in line with the publishing strategy to provide free resources to members. Any current unit 1 candidates who have paid for their manual will be refunded.

Following strong sales at Summer School and bulk orders from branches, Book 53 has sold out. A reprint of the book and re-order of the CDs has been approved. Projects for 2024 were discussed including plans for Book 54, and a new members pack.

The Junior magazine is now available to non-members at £6 from the online shop. The magazine is free for RSCDS junior members. Youth Services confirmed the launch of a new Family Scholarship for Summer School 2024. The Scholarship will cover the cost of one week residential or non-residential. It is available to anyone under 18 and will not be means tested.

The main reason for meeting in Glasgow was to be present for the unveiling of the plaque commemorating the founding of the Society on 26 November 1923, in the Athenaeum Theatre (now Hard Rock Café). Not the most likely of bedfellows, but the Café staff looked after us well and the members of the RSCDS experienced a different side of life and music! We all danced in Buchanan Street afterwards too amongst the Christmas shoppers and street entertainers!

Lives Remembered

A lifelong dancer

from Lee Noble

Simone Jones

3 September 1925 - 2 December 2023



Epping Forest Scottish Association is sad to announce the death of its teacher, Simone Jones, who passed away on 2 December 2023. She was delighted to see the article 'War Time Resistance Lives On' about her long Scottish dance teaching career, spanning more than five decades, which appeared in *The Reel* just before her 98th birthday last September.

Members of many clubs in north and east London will be indebted to her for her dedicated teaching and encouragement over so many years. We trust that memories of her teaching will continue to inspire all who knew and loved her.

A dedicated Scottish dancer

from Pat Davoll

Helen Davoll

1 July 1925 - 4 December 2023



Helen was introduced to Scottish dancing in the 1960s when a fellow member of the school PTA invited her to join the local group in Shepperton. Helen threw herself into it, dancing at the Shepperton and Oatlands clubs and serving as Treasurer for many years. Helen never aspired to perfect technique but she had an excellent memory for dances and was always a supportive dance partner.

In 1991 she and husband John moved to Bookham. Helen joined the Bookham Scottish Dance Club as well as dancing at Shepperton. She served on their committee, took their dance evenings and was MC for their dances. Helen danced until she was 89 and maintained her interest in dancing until the end. She also attended London Branch dances at Polesden Lacey, most memorably when the Branch was celebrating its 75th anniversary. Dancers were invited to dress in fashions of the past 75 years and Helen came in a gym slip and school cap.

Helen was born in London to Russian émigrés. She was proud of her Russian heritage and William Colley, her five times great grandfather, is our only known Scottish ancestor; he was born in south west Scotland and emigrated to St Petersburg in the mid 1700s. She was evacuated to Cornwall in 1939 and then studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge, followed by a PhD in biochemistry. Outside dancing, Helen joined U3A groups in Scrabble, gardening, history and French conversation. John died in 2009, and with help from wonderful carers, she was still living at home, until the last few days.

A thorough teacher

from Penny Lewis

Jennifer Shaw

2 September 1932 - 14 January 2024



Jennifer started Scottish dancing when she was at Cambridge University with the Strathspey and Reel Club, becoming secretary.

After university she returned to Birmingham dancing with the RSDCS and she met her future husband John, who was encouraged to dance by his mother. She also made lifelong friendships with Anna Holden and Jim and Margaret Carter.

She first attended St Andrews in the early 1950s where she was soon spotted by Jean Milligan and invited to join the demonstration team. She often partnered Bobby Watson as they were similar in height. She gained her teacher's certificate in 1961, which was certified by Muriel Hadden.

Jennifer and John moved to Cheltenham in 1968, where she joined the local Branch teaching team and taught for over 30 years with co-teacher Barbara Start. She took great interest in selecting dances for both classes and the demonstration team and also became very interested in costume. She wrote several articles about the wearing of the sash and arisaid. She is survived by son and daughter, Alasdair Shaw and Penny Lewis.

READING ST ANDREW'S
SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

Spring Tea Dance

Sunday 14 April 2024
2.45 - 6.15pm

Swallowfield Parish Hall, Swallowfield,
Berkshire RG7 1QX

Ian Robertson

Tickets (in advance only) £12
and bring a plate of food to share
Hall has sprung floor

See website for programme
Contact: Duncan Barnett, 0118 956 9289 or
sasdco1@gmail.com
scottishdancingreading.org

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Tea Dance

Sunday 19 May 2024
Doors open 2.00pm
Dancing from 2.30-5.30pm

Pembury Village Hall, High Street,
Pembury, near Tunbridge Wells TN2 4PH
Easy access from the A21

Strathallan Band

Programme: will be available on the
website, or contact Daphne Males
Tickets £12 in advance, £14 on the door,
non-dancers £5
Tea with sandwiches and cake will be
provided in the interval

Contact Daphne Males on 07938571882 or
malesfamily@yahoo.co.uk
rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

Forthcoming Events

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB
Centenary season continues ...



Spring Dance



Saturday 13 April 2024
7.00 - 10.30pm

Lower Hall, St Columba's Church, Pont
Street, London SW1X 0BD

Luke Brady's Scottish Dance Band

MC Jim Cook

Programme: The Greenbelt Jig, The Sailor,
Glencoe, Gaelforce Wind, Tempest in a
Teacup, Monymusk, The Compleat Gardener,
The Countess of Dunmore's Reel, The
Glengarry Homestead, Mrs Stewart's Jig, The
Westminster Reel (3cpl), Fugal Fergus, City
of Belfast, Staircase in Styria, The White
Heather Jig, Bonnie Stronshiray, Ray
Milbourne, Sands of Morar, The Hazel Tree,
The Highland Rambler

Tickets £18, LHC Members £15
at the door by card or cash
Price includes buffet supper
For tickets, email

tickets@londonhighlandclub.co.uk
or call Roger Keeling 020 8656 7884

Programme and cribs are on our website
www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

Summer Dance

Saturday 15 June 2024

Nicol McLaren and the Glenraig Scottish
Dance Band

Tickets £18, LHC Members £15
at the door by card or cash
Price includes buffet supper



HARROW & DISTRICT
CALEDONIAN SOCIETY



Spring Dance

Saturday 16 March 2024
7.30 - 10.30pm

St Martin's Church Hall, Eastcote Road,
Ruislip HA4 8DG

Large car park in St Martin's Approach,
opposite, is free from 6pm

Ian Muir (Prestwick) & Bob Parsons

Programme: Maxwell's Rant, Seton's
Ceilidh Band, The Dream Catcher, Toast
to the Mousies, The First Rain of Spring,
Kilkenny Castle, Les Remparts de Séville,
Miss Eleanor, The Glenalmond
Gamekeeper, Jim's Haberdashery, The
Swan and the Tay, Bratach Bana,
Macleod's Fancy, The Orchards of Co.
Armagh, A Trip to Edinburgh, James Gray,
City of Belfast, The Irish Rover

Tickets £16, Juniors and non-dancers £8
Please book in advance
Bring and share supper

Contact Jim Henderson, 07754 133652 or
jwh698@gmail.com
harrowscottish.org.uk

Forthcoming Events

LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCE CLUB



**70th Anniversary Spring
Dance**

Saturday 23 March 2024
7.00 - 11.00pm

Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Road,
Wendover HP22 6HF

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Programme: The Findlays Jig, Trip to Timber Ridge, Sugar Candie, The First Rain of Spring, Miss Lucy Clark, 12 Coates Crescent, Follow Me Home, The Bon Viveur, Shifftin' Bobbins, The Flight of the Falcon, The Water of Leith, The Black Mountain Reel, Miss Hadden's Reel, The Gardeners' Fantasia, The Fireworks Reel, The Silver Grey, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, The Montgomeries' Rant

All dances fully recapped
Tickets £20.00

Welcome glass of fizz and supper included

Order tickets via our website:

lucyclarkscottish.org/events

Alternatively contact Ann Higginbottom on
01494 451374

Further information and cribs available on
our website: lucyclarkscottish.org

RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/
SURREY BORDER BRANCH



Day School & Dance

Saturday 9 March 2024

Weydon School, Farnham GU9 8UG

Teacher: Kate Gentles

Class Musician: Jeremy Hill

Musicians' Day School: Ian Robertson

Evening dance with Day School musicians

Contact Paul Plummer

chairman@rscds-bhs.org.uk

May Ball

Saturday 18 May 2024

7.30 - 11.30pm

NEW VENUE: Edgbarrow School,
Grant Road, Crowthorne RG45 7HZ

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Contact: Fiona Albinson

secretary@rscds-bhs.org.uk

rscds-bhs.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Annual Ball

Saturday 4 May 2024

Wine Reception 6.30pm

Dancing 7.00-11.00pm

William Collyn Community Centre,
Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambs CB3 0GP

Danelaw Band

Programme: Bratach Bana, Yan Tan Tethera, The Cashmere Shawl, The Ullapool Ferry, Quarries' Jig, Miss Eleanor, The Recumbent Stone, Saxtead Mill, Iona Cross, Broadford Bay, Inchmickery, The Earl of Mansfield, The Duchess Tree, Aird of Coigach, Toast to the Mousies, The Belle of Bon Accord, Scott Meikle, Sands of Morar, The Moffat Weavers, The Montgomeries' Rant

Price: £20 (Students £10): Advance
booking only

Shared refreshments

Contact Donald Wilson, 01223 276614
dmaw34@gmail.com

crib on camscotsoc.org.uk

GUILDFORD SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCE CLUB



Spring Dance

Saturday 4 May 2024

7.00 - 11.00pm
Drinks Reception from 6.30pm

Normandy Village Hall, Glaziers Lane
Normandy GU3 2DT

**Nicol McLaren and the Glenraig Scottish
Dance Band**

All dances will be recapped

Please bring a plate of finger food for the
interval buffet

Tickets £21 will be on sale from February
2024

Tickets are limited and must be bought in
advance from

dancer.scottish@gmail.com

Millie 07910 340346

Peter 07747 112720

Practices on 22 and 29 April at 8.00pm

Onslow Village Hall GU2 7QR

RSCDS MILTON KEYNES BRANCH

44th Annual Dance

Saturday 9 March 2024
7.00 - 11.00pm

Wing Village Hall, Leighton Road LU7 0NN
(Additional parking across the road or side
streets)

Strathallan Band

Programme: Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel, The Lochalsh Reel, Annan Gold, The Nurseryman, Summer on the Beach, Cape Town Wedding, Spiffin', City of Stirling Reel, The Water of Leith, Linton Ploughman, Catch the Wind, The Elephant's Stampede, Bridge of Nairn, Staircase In Styria, Chased Lovers, The Paisley Weavers, The Australian Ladies, Saint Columba's Strathspey, The Bees of Maggieknockater, The Reel of the 51st Division

Tickets £17

Bring and share supper - tea and coffee
provided

Contact Jan Jones: 07877 153259
jangeverybusy@gmail.com
rscdsmk.co.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY
AND REEL CLUB



Spring Dance

Saturday 11 May 2024

7.30 - 11.00pm

Chiltern Hills Academy, Chartridge Lane,
Chesham HP5 2RG

The Craiggellachie Band

Programme: Hooper's Jig, The Rutland Reel, The Falkirk Lass, The Flying Spur, The Good Dance, Gang the Same Gate, The Wee Cooper O' Fife, The Black Mountain Reel, Shifftin' Bobbins, Quarries' Jig, The Westminster Reel, The Water of Leith, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Silver Roses, The Reel of the 51st Division, MacDonald of the Isles, Granville Market, The Montgomeries' Rant. Extras: The Galloping Carousel, The Castle of Mey, Seann Triubhas Willichan

Bring and share supper

Tickets £16.00

Simon Cumming, 1 Fullers Close, Chesham,
BUcks HP5 1LU

01494 782695

booking@berkhamstedreelclub.org

berkhamstedreelclub.org

Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

To update your information in Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations contact editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

This is the final issue of the current cycle for *Reel* 324 - 327. Your advert will be carried over into the next cycle (328 - 331) at a cost of £30 unless you contact us. If you wish to cancel, or pay by bank transfer, please contact treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk

If you require your information to also be changed in the SE Classes Listing on our website please contact

Jan Collings seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk or call on 07803 923036

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Dancing most Mondays, 7.45-10.00pm, September - June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, near Oxford. All welcome. Details: secretary@ascdc.org.uk or abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY Meets Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm September-May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Val Clack, 01932 845869 or addlestonscottish.org.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB Meets in Potten End Village Hall, HP4 2QG. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15pm September-May, Saturday: gardens June/July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8.00pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Petula Martlew 01442 261525 or berkhamstedreelclub.org

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS Meets at The Scottish Hall, 80/82 Shelbourne Road, Charminster, Bournemouth BH8 8QZ every Wednesday morning, 10.00am-12 noon. Details: Margaret Robson, 01202 698138 or jl.robson@ntlworld.com

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details: Rod Burrows, 01903 783053 or chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk or rscds-brighton.org.uk

BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets Thursdays 7.45-10.15pm at Moulsecomb Hall, Brighton. Details: Carol Catterall, 01273 564963 or bhscdc.org.uk

Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

Continued from p15

- CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB** Dancing every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Jackie Cresswell, 01252 616289 or info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk
- CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Scottish country dancing and other events. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8.00pm from September-June. Details: Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or camscotsoc.org.uk
- CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS** General class/Club Night Mondays 7.30-9.30pm with a separate Beginners' Section fortnightly at St Luke's Church Hall, St Luke's Place, Cheltenham GL53 7HP. Details: Lesley Taylor, 07712 578622 cheltscdssec@gmail.com
- CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets on Sundays 7.00-9.00pm in the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RG for social dancing. Beginners' courses are offered 6.00-7.00pm, please book in advance to secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk. Details: Iris Ronayne, 07767 842670 chiswickscottish.org.uk
- CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS** Branch class in Coulsdon: General, including Beginners with technique Fridays 7.30-10.00pm Coulsdon Methodist Church, Brighton Road, Coulsdon CR5 2BE. Details: Alison Rains, 07732 746238 or rscds.croydon.chairman@gmail.com or rscdscroydon.org.uk
- EPHING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Club nights: Mondays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at St Barnabas Church, 127 Snakes Lane East, Woodford IG8 7HX; Thursdays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at St John's Parish Hall, High Road, Buckhurst Hill IG9 5RX. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or angelaross87@hotmail.com or efsa.org.uk
- EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** General dancing Mondays, 7.30-10.00pm, Tweddle Hall, St Andrew's URC, Northey Avenue, Cheam SM2 7HF. Teacher: Pauline Cashmore, 020 8686 9362. Details: Dorothy Pearson, 01737 551724
- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, September-end of April at Memorial Hall, Babbs Mead, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7EE. Details: Anne Lester, 01252 782927 or lesteranne@ymail.com or fscdc.co.uk
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** Dance in Fleet URC Hall, 25 Kings Road, Fleet GU51 3AF on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.00pm, September-May. Details: Anne Lester, 01252 782927 or info.fleetscds@gmail.com or fleetscds.co.uk
- GERRARDS CROSS AND CHALFONTS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD on Tuesdays in term time from September-July, 7.30-10.00pm and also in Little Chalfont Methodist Church Hall, Chalfont Avenue, Little Chalfont HP6 6RD on Thursdays from 2.00-4.00pm. Visitors and beginners welcome. Details: Roger Stubbs, 01494 873063
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** Meets at St Thomas the Apostle Church Hall, 182 Boston Road, Hanwell W7 2AD. Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Janet MacPhail, 07787 925022 or janetmcpfail54@gmail.com
- GUILDFORD SCDC** Meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from September-June. Details: 01483 414385 or gscdc.org.uk
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Also a variety of other activities. Details: Sheena Henderson, mail@harrowscottish.org.uk or 07719 985025 or harrowscottish.org.uk
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** Meets regularly at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB** Meets Thursdays at the Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Road, Wendover HP22 6HF. Beginners' class 6.45-8.00pm, Social Dancing 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Liz Mitchell, 07947 000368 or lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com or lucyclarkscottish.org
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** Meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Piran's School, Gringer Hill, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7LZ. Last Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 01628 628372 or maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** Dancing Mondays Bredhurst Village Hall, 1.30-3.45pm; Thursdays Brompton-Westbrook School, Gillingham ME7 5DQ, 8.00-10.00pm. Beginners welcome. Details: Lyn Sutton-Jones, 07831 154038 or medwaycaledonians.co.uk
- MID SUSSEX SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP** Mixed ability group meets every Tuesday in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre BN6 9UY 7.45-10.30pm. Details: Fran Bramham, franmssd@gmail.com
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS** Mixed ability class meets Mondays 8.00-10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 01908 378730 or jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORWICH BRANCH RSCDS** Branch class in Norwich on Mondays from September-May/June. Beginners from 7.00-8.15pm and general dancing 8.20-9.30pm. Details: Sue Petty, 01603 741639 or secretary@rscds-norwich.org.uk
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall, BR5 1LA. Details: Deirdre Wilden, the_wildens@yahoo.co.uk 07879 860463 or orpingtonscottishdancing.com
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Margaret Spiceley, 07985 962781 or secretary.rscdsxfordshire@gmail.com or rscdsxfordshire.org
- READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY** Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading RG1 5BD from September-May, Wednesdays 7.30-10.00pm (general), 1st and 2nd Thursdays of each month 8.00-10.00pm (advanced). Details: Duncan Barnet, 0118 956 9289 duncanbarnet@gmail.com or scottishdancingreading.org
- REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets most Mondays 8.15-10.15pm, September-May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm from mid-September to mid-June. Details: 07802 442435 or richmondcaledonian.co.uk
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD St Columba's Dancers meet most Mondays from October to May, 7.15-10.00pm. Admission free except for Band Nights when a charge will be made. Details: Willie Lawrence, 07798 640551 or stcolumbasdancers@gmail.com or stcolumbasdancers.org
- ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM** Meets every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm September-June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Kate Thomson, 0118 986 0681 sec.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com Also Children's Class Saturdays 9.30-11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Wednesdays from 7.30-10.00pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin, 020 8856 4522
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Dancing Fridays, 7.30-10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808 or graham.easton@btinternet.com or seess.org.uk
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Thursday at 8.00pm from September-June at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: Jane McNicholas, secretary@surbitoncaledonian.co.uk
- TALLY HO & HERTSMERE REEL CLUB** Monthly dances on third Saturday (except August and September) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 020 8440 3236 or margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS** General ability class on Tuesdays from 7.30-9.30pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9AL. Details: Colin Simpson, 01892 832712 or rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Beginners/Improvers Class at Nascot Wood Recital Hall, Nascot Wood Road, Watford WD17 4YS Mondays from 8.00-9.30pm and General/Beginners Class at All Saints' Church Hall, The Green, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3HJ Thursdays from 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Krelloff, 01923 492475 or reel@watfordscottish.org.uk
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Dance Class Mondays 8.00pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex. Details: Mrs Caroline Hamilton, 020 8866 2378 or info@wdsa.co.uk
- WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** Dancing at Radipole and Southill Community Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 9SS. Thursdays, 7.00-10.00pm. Details: Judie Seymour, 01305 833660
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Road North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 01264 363293 or wendy@mumford.com
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. Hatfield Peverel Village Hall, Hatfield Peverel CM3 2HW. Details: Audrey Kennedy, 01376 513567 or amkenedy148@gmail.com

Credits: Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of *The Reel*, including the following for providing photos:

p1: Blue plaque - RSCDS website; London Branch at the AGM - Petar Petkovic (PP); Plaque unveiling - from the RSCDS; MB Members - Linda Williamson; Where is This? - from Stephen Webb (SJW). p2: Joanne Lawrence - from herself. p5: Heather Jeffery - from herself; Erica Banks - from herself. p6: Jeremy Hill - from himself; CD cover - from Jim Lindsay; Ken Martlew - Simon Wales (SDW). p7: Bands - from Jim Lindsay; Malcolm Ferris-Lay - from himself. p8-9: Burns Night Ceilidh - Joanne Lawrence (JL); Christmas Dance - SDW. pp10-11: Meryl Thomson - from herself; all historic book shots from Meryl Thomson. p12: Burns Night Ceilidh - JL. p13: Batesons - SJW; Mel Rowland - from herself; Simon Wales - PP. p14: Simone Jones - from Lee Noble; Helen Davoll - from Pat Davoll; Jennifer Shaw - from Penny Lewis.

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