



The Reel



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MARCH TO MAY 2021

RSCDS London Branch Annual General Meeting Saturday 12 June 2021 at 5pm

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will take place via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85318488597> on Saturday 12 June 2021 from 5pm. As last year, our 2021 AGM will be followed by a virtual End of Season Social. Members and friends of the Branch are invited to attend both events but only members may vote at the AGM.

We expect the meeting to last around 30 minutes and look forward to sharing with you not only the work of the Branch throughout this most unusual of years, (this will include findings from our members' survey) as well as some thoughts for the future. Ahead of the meeting, the committee welcomes your comments and opinions, through a formal motion, which must be received in writing by the Branch Secretary by 31 March 2021. 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 2021 signed by the nominee, a proposer and a seconder, all of whom must be Branch members. Under the current circumstances emails will be acceptable.

There are twelve positions in total on the committee: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and eight ordinary members. We hope that Branch 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.

All current 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: Jim Cook (2019)
Vice Chair: Joanne Lawrence (2017)
Secretary: Melanie Rowland (2019)
Treasurer: Simon Wales (2003)

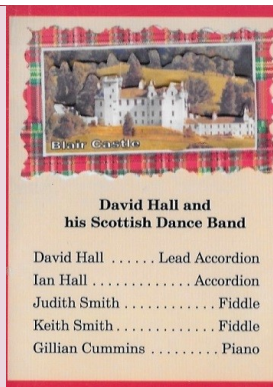
Committee members:

Margaret Shaw (2007)
Elaine Davies (2009)
George Potts (2009)
Thelma-Jane Robb (2011)
Jenny Kendrick (2015)
Margaret Moore (2020)



David Hall and his Scottish Dance Band (left) who played for the Ball at RSCDS Winter School in 2003 - the programme (right) was recorded live

See p8 for more on Winter School



1. The Wild Geese 4.41
2. Sugar Candie 8.21
3. The Reel of the Royal Scots 4.47
4. Tribute to the Borders 4.38
5. Up in the Air 8.25
6. The De'il Amang the Tailors (encore) 2.26
7. The Duke of Atholl's Reel 4.41
8. Gang the Same Gate 8.28
9. Maxwell's Rant 4.40
10. The Nurseryman 4.43
11. Monymusk 8.32
12. Major Ian Stewart 4.40
13. The Montgomeries' Rant 4.45

Where is this?



Answer on p8 ...

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Members' Survey

Joanne Lawrence gives some early feedback (see p2)

Branch Events

Dates for your diary for when we can get dancing again! (see p3)

Fancy a new CD?

Latest review from Jeremy Hill (see p4)

Burns Night 2021

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Second degree Burns

Centrefold spread celebrating Burns ceilidhs of the past (see p6-7)

Winter School revisited

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How I started dancing

Articles by Rachel Wilton and Beth Fairbairn (see p9)

Committee report

Mel Rowland reports on the 8 January 2021 committee meeting (see p9)

Lives Remembered

We remember Duncan McNiven, Muriel Agnew and Henry Nolan (see p10)

Issue 316 should be with UK based members by 29 May 2021 unless delayed in the post. However, due to the current situation with COVID-19 there may need to be a last minute change to the schedule. Please check the latest situation on the London Branch [website](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk).

Contributions for *Reel* 316 should be sent to arrive by and preferably in advance of **Sunday 18 April 2021** 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, or of the Branch.

From the Chair: Jim Cook



A new year has started with the COVID-19 problems of 2020 continuing into 2021. I do trust that all is well with you. But where do we go from here?

Over the past months, several London Branch plans for a resumption of dancing have been and gone, as clues from the government have ebbed and flowed. At the time of writing, the new strain of COVID-19 is sadly concentrating minds. But, on a positive note, the vaccination programme is now under way. However, normality will clearly not return at the click of the fingers. So, the committee has currently made the judgement that we hope and plan to resume dancing with a big bang new season dance on Saturday 18 September 2021.

Saturday 3 July was meant to be the date for the 90th Anniversary Garden Dance, and if we cannot dance, (as seems likely) we are planning still to meet (responsibly) to socialise at a distance. The band will play, the sun will shine, and we will be able at least to see each other, and enjoy the picnics we have brought. This will be free, paid for by the Branch. If your diary is as empty as mine it will be a novelty to actually write some dates therein! So do please do so now and we shall hope for the best. Watch this space.

Thank you to those who wrote to thank the Branch for organising the Zoom Christmas event on Saturday 19 December 2020. By the time you read this, a Zoom Burns event will also have taken place on Sunday 24 January 2021. At the time of writing, I know a lot of work is going on behind the scenes to prepare for this occasion of music and dance interspersed with traditional Burns activities.

Looking further ahead, we plan to rely on Zoom again to hold our Branch AGM on Saturday 12 June 2021 at 5pm, accompanied by more entertainment. Another date for the diaries. Do you have ideas about the post COVID-19 dancing world? As there are vacancies on the committee, do please consider standing. Please contact Mel, our secretary, by email by 31 March 2021, with emails from your proposer and seconder.

We trust that these Zoom events, the continuance of *The Reel*, let alone the Branch website, are successfully keeping you all in touch with what is afoot. Also, Joanne and Mel prepare and distribute regular eUpdates in between times. With all this activity in mind, do please make sure that Branch members renew their annual subscriptions to keep the Branch alive as we look forward to happier days. We may not be dancing currently, but I thank the members of the committee who are doing so much currently to keep the wheels oiled in readiness for a rosy future.

Jim Cook.

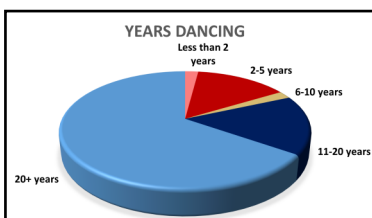
London Branch Survey: Joanne Lawrence



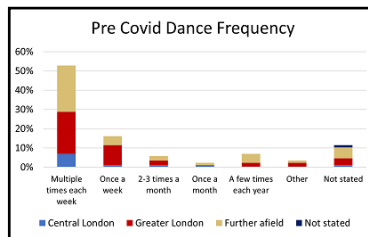
The London Branch members' survey was published in *Reel 314* and via the Branch website. Initial analysis has so far only scratched the surface of the wealth of history, suggestions and comment contained therein. We will report more on the findings and proposed actions in future communications. For now, we report some initial findings and send sincere thanks to everyone who took the time and trouble to participate.

54% of those who replied live in central or Greater London. Those based further afield live as close to London as the home counties and as distant as the Isle of Wight, Dublin, Paris, Ottawa and beyond.

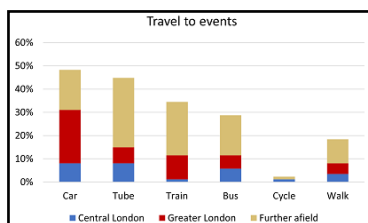
We received constructive input from members, who had been dancing for over 20 years (68% of respondents) and responses from an equally enthusiastic but more recent cohort (12%), who had begun dancing only in the last five years. (below)



Wherever they are based, Scottish country dancing is clearly a key part of their lives with 69% dancing once a week or more pre COVID-19. (see chart in next column)



Although over 40% of members drive to Branch events, proximity to public transport is critical, particularly given the negative impact of the congestion charge and the new ULEZ charge. (below)



Responses suggested that more daytime events might be popular, mentioning the much enjoyed 90th Anniversary Tea Dance. Online events such as the virtual AGM and Christmas party prompted some respondents to hope that these might continue, post pandemic, to allow members unable to attend in person to maintain links with the Branch. Members cited live music, interesting dance programmes, good MCs, accessible classes and good communications as important factors in a post COVID-19 dancing world. Based on your input and with your support, London Branch will work to build on the successes of the past to develop a Scottish country dancing environment fit for the challenges of an ever changing world.

ROYAL
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Chairman: Lorna Ogilvie

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Dances..... Margaret Shaw
Communications..... Joanne Lawrence
..... /Mel Rowland
Demonstration Team Elaine Davies
Other roles George Potts
..... Thelma-Jane Robb

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Day School..... Margaret Catchick
Family Marjory Reid
90th Anniversary Margaret Catchick
Membership & Subscribers .. Gaynor Curtis
The Reel Edward Bunting, Simon Wales
The Reel Business Editor.... Jeff Robertson
Webmaster Meryl Thomson

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Associated London Branch videos can be activated by clicking photos with the symbol in the electronic *Reel*.

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*. Members wishing to pay by direct debit may now 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 www.rscdslondon.org.uk/membership-page

Membership may also be purchased by Credit/Debit Card or PayPal or by cheque payable to RSCDS London Branch by going to the same page. See full details on website. New members should also complete the membership application form on the London Branch website.

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 current 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>)	£14	£20	£24	£40	£4	£4
<i>The Reel</i> by post (UK)	£16	£22	£26	£44	£6	£6
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Europe)	£22	£28	£32	£56	£12	£12
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Rest of the World)	£25	£31	£35	£62	£15	£15

London Branch Dances and Classes



COVID-19 Forecast



With the ever-changing situation regarding events being postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19, the status of London Branch events, including dances and classes, might change from those stated in *The Reel*. We therefore ask readers to check the Branch website www.rscdslondon.org.uk and the Branch's eUpdates for up to date information on all Branch classes and dances.

New Season Dance

Saturday 18 September 2021
St Columba's Church, Pont Street
SW1X 0BD

David Hall and his Scottish Dance Band
Programme in *Reel* 316

Day School 2021

Our Day School will take place this year on **30 October 2021** at St Helen's School, Eastbury Road, Northwood HA6 3AS. This is easily accessible by public transport.

Further details will be appearing in due course but in the meantime we are pleased to advise that Fiona Mackie, David Queen, Mervyn Short and Alice Stainer have all confirmed their availability, as have musicians Adam Brady, Jeremy Hill, Barbara Manning and Ian and Meryl Thomson.

We are also pleased that Jim Lindsay has agreed to lead the musicians' workshop.



Electronic communications

In the current circumstances we might not always be able to provide a paper *Reel* and would only be able to communicate electronically. It would therefore be helpful to have current member and subscriber email addresses.

If you think we do not have your current email address, please contact Gaynor Curtis membership@rscdslondon.org.uk

Sign up to our Branch eUpdate

For our regular eUpdates with links to videos and dance related pieces, sign up on the front page of our website www.rscdslondon.org.uk



Garden Celebration

If safe to do so, we plan to hold our rearranged Garden Dance, as a Garden Celebration on **Saturday 3 July 2021** at 2pm at St Helen's School, Eastbury Road, Northwood HA6 3AS with music from Strathallan

As we are unlikely to be able to dance, if guidelines permit, we will have a free garden event, paid for by the Branch, for you to socialise once again with dancing friends at a responsible distance. Bring your own refreshments.



Grand Autumn Ball

Saturday 16 October 2021

Allum Manor Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree, Hertfordshire WD6 3PJ

Dancing to
Ian Muir and The Craiggellachie Band

Welcome Reception 6.30pm
Carriages 11.30pm

Come and join everyone attired in their finery and help London Branch celebrate its landmark anniversary in this spacious venue with its superb dance floor.

Tickets, including a two course buffet supper:
RSCDS members £40 non-members £45

Further information including Ball programme plus application forms are available to download from www.rscdslondon.org.uk or can be obtained by sending an email to 90anniversary@rscdslondon.org.uk

Classes update for season 2020–2021: Jenny Kendrick

I know many of you will be disappointed to learn that it is looking increasingly unlikely that classes will resume before September, whilst others have been in touch to say you are waiting for the vaccine before taking up activities again. Still others have already received the vaccine, so perhaps there is light at the end of this rather bleak non-dancing tunnel!

Please be assured that the Branch is making provisional plans for next season, as we have made constantly changing plans for this season. We will be keeping up with government guidance on sports and recreation, working up risk assessments, and liaising with the teachers, musicians, administrators and volunteers who work together to support your classes.

Of course, we will be thinking about dancers too, and looking forward to welcoming you back.

Stay well, and keep an eye on *The Reel*, the eUpdate or the Branch website for more information about classes restarting.

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.



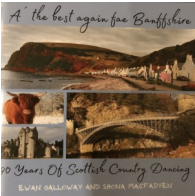
CD Reviews: Jeremy Hill

A' the best again fae Banffshire (90 Years of Scottish Country Dancing): Ewan Galloway and Shona MacFadyen. CD (£6) and book (£12) available (plus P&P) from www.rscdsbanffshire.co.uk/90th-year.htm

Joana's Jig (6x32J - a round the room dance), John McLean's Reel (4x32R), The Speyside Way (3x32S), A Fond Farewell (4x32J), The Millbank Reel (8x32R), Portsoy Links (3x32S), Behind the Scenes (8x32J), The Moray Rambler (8x32R), The Banffshire Centenarian (5x32S), The Haudagen Roundabout (4x32J), A Bouquet of Flowers (8x48R), The Ladies of Banffshire (3x32 and 4x32S versions recorded)

SYZYGY: Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas. CD (\$15 plus P&P) and various digital download options available culburnie.com/alasdairandnatalie.html

Two recent recordings have come my way featuring two instrumentalists, recorded against the difficult backdrop of the pandemic; both are excellent, but in very different ways.



Ewan and Shona's disc accompanies a book for dances to celebrate 90 years of the Banffshire Branch of the RSCDS, following 15 years after a previous book,

A' the best fae Banffshire, with a CD by Colin Dewar and his band. For this recording, Ewan has multi tracked each instrument, with Shona on fiddle and then re-laid the main tracks. It works remarkably well in simulating the sound of a full band - two accordions, fiddle, piano/bass and drums - and you would be hard-pushed to spot the difference.

Chosen tunes for the dances combine traditional, in some cases familiar tracks (including for all the strathspeys) with modern compositions. Of particular note are two tunes by local fiddler James Alexander, founder of the Fochabers Fiddlers and the renowned festival Speyfest, who was appointed MBE in 2011 for his great contributions to traditional music. Here and throughout the CD, Ewan and Shona have come up with excellent matching tunes.

When you do get the chance to use the CD, to try out what looks like a good and interesting variety of dances, you will find that tempo seems just right for dancing; I enjoyed the drive to the strathspeys, particularly the set for The Banffshire Centenarian (written for Mrs Jean Mair, a founder of the Branch), which leads off with Lady Ann Hope.

One note: The Ladies of Banffshire is described as a dance for three couples in a four couple set, but first couple finish in third place, to step down, so it can also be danced as a three couple set; hence the two versions presented.

Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas have been reviving and re-inventing the combination of fiddle and cello for over twenty years now, and the intriguingly named SYZYGY is their sixth recording as a duo. Here, they present 15 tracks of original compositions, split between them. There are no dance tracks in the sense of formal SCD structures, but the whole disc is built on dance rhythms, and you will find yourself tapping your toes throughout. The duo has refined their dynamic sound and style over years of touring and performing, and the variety and skill offered by the two instruments is remarkable, as they exchange tunes, building off each other in a wonderfully creative way that covers 'melody, rhythm, harmony, 'horn' parts, counterpoint, improvisation and more', to quote notes for one of their workshops.

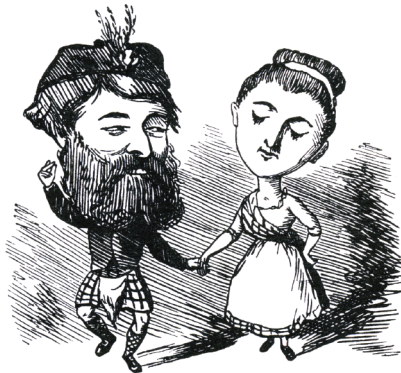
As well as freshly composed tunes, there is a freshness in the way that the music draws on so many styles from all over the world to supplement and enhance the Scottish core of the music. The second track, for example, Sweglish/Modally challenged, comprising two tunes by Natalie is described as 'a 3/2 hornpipe/polska hybrid followed by a reel that can't quite decide what mode it's in'; La Llegada de Los Trovadores (or



The Arrival of the Troubadors, one of Alasdair's) has the feel of a tango. There are dedications throughout to musical friends and memories; this one is for the Crisol de Cuerda fiddlecamp in Spain.

Some tracks take a more traditional Scottish form, such as Iain of Hundalee/Rocco & Ruadh, an air and a reel, written for Fraser family members. One of Alasdair's other contributions is a tune Antisyzygy, where we learn that Caledonian antisyzygy is an expression 'coined by G Gregory Smith in 1919 to describe the 'dueling polarities within one entity' and 'zigzag of contradictions', which is prevalent in Scottish literature and the Scottish psyche'. This is what Alasdair and Natalie play with throughout the CD.

As for the CD name, SYZYGY, Alasdair and Natalie say 'the word kept calling to us as a way to describe what we strive for'. Just one of many definitions is 'the joining of any two entities without losing the individual characteristics of either one', and nothing could be more apt to describe this marvellous duo.



Jennifer's Dances

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Presented in a booklet, a DVD, and two CDs (Social & Performance Dances)

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Tel 07860 104653 or reel@frankreid.com

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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

Many of us would have been attending Burns Night functions across the London area (and beyond) which have sadly been cancelled. Below and on the following pages is a little flavour of a Burns Night and some pictures of happier times. We hope that next year we can report on an actual Burns Night! First - for those who have witnessed an address to the haggis and wondered, "What on earth is that all about?"

To a Haggis

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the puddin'-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak' your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye worthy o' a grace
As lang's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,
Your hurdies like a distant hill,
Your pin wad help to mend a mill
In time o' need,
While thro' your pores the dews distil
Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic Labour dight,
An' cut you up wi' ready sleight,
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,
Like onie ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm-reekin', rich!

Then, horn for horn, they stretch an' strive:
Deil tak' the hindmost! on they drive,
Till a' their weel-swallow'd kytes belyve
Are bent like drums;
The auld Guidman, maist like to rive,
Bethankit hums.

Is there that owre his French ragout,
Or olio that wad staw a sow,
Or fricassee wad mak her spew
Wi' perfect scunner,
Looks down wi' sneering, scornfu' view
On sic a dinner?

Poor devil! see him owre his trash,
As feckless as a wither'd rash,
His spindle shank a guid whip-lash,
His nieve a nit;
Thro' bloody flood or field to dash,
O how unfit!

But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed,
The trembling earth resounds his tread!
Clap in his walie nieve a blade,
He'll make it whistle;
An' legs an' arms, an' heads will sned,
Like taps o' thrissle.

Ye Pow'rs, wha mak' mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill o' fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware
That jaups in luggies:
But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer,
Gie her a Haggis!

To a Haggis (translation)

Good luck your honest, plump face,
Great chieftain of the sausage race!
Above them all you take your place,
Stomach, tripe, or intestines:
Well are you worthy of a grace
As long as my arm.

The groaning trencher there you fill,
Your buttocks like a distant hill,
Your pin would help to mend a mill
In time of need,
While through your pores the dews distil
Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic Labour wipe,
And cut you up with ready slight,
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,
Like any ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm steaming, rich!

Then spoon for spoon, they stretch and strive:
Devil take the hindmost, on they drive,
Till all their well swollen bellies by-and-by
Are bent like drums;
Then old head of the table, most like to burst,
Hums the grace.

Is there that over his French ragout,
Or olio that would sicken a sow,
Or fricassee would make her vomit
With perfect disgust,
Looks down with sneering, scornful view
On such a dinner?

Poor devil! see him over his trash,
As feeble as a withered rush,
His thin legs a good whip-lash,
His fist a nut;
Through bloody flood or field to dash,
O how unfit!

But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed,
The trembling earth resounds his tread,
Clap in his ample fist a blade,
He'll make it whistle;
And legs and arms and heads will cut off
Like the heads of thistles.

You powers, who make mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill of fare,
Old Scotland wants no watery stuff,
That splashes in small wooden dishes;
But if you wish her grateful prayer,
Give her [Scotland] a Haggis!

Burns the Dancer



Robert Burns started dancing lessons in Tarbolton in Ayrshire in about 1777 when he was 18, despite paternal disapproval. The Burns family were newly-arrived at the farm of Lochlea.

Burns' days were long and physical, driving the plough and labouring in the fields, and then he walked the three miles to and fro to attend with his hard-earned fee for the dancing master. Dancing, including the presence of no-doubt heavily-chaperoned young ladies, must have been a delightful distraction from the reality of life as a cotter. Another aim of those lessons was as he said "to give my manners a brush".

Burns' creed was:

*The social, friendly, honest man,
Whate'er he be,
Tis he fulfils great Nature's plan
And none but he!*

And what can be more social than the dance? Just think of *Tam O'Shanter* approaching *Alloway's auld haunted Kirk* and keeking in through the lighted window:

*And, wow! Tam saw an unco sight
Warlocks and witches in a dance;
Nae cotillion brent new frae France
But hornpipes, jigs, strathspeys and reels
Put life and mettle in their heels*

Note how he describes four separate dance forms, including the hornpipe which was seen as separate from a reel, though nowadays there is no great distinction, except in the music, here provided by the bagpipes played by *Auld Nick*, the Deil himself:

*He screw'd the pipes and gart them skirl
Till roof an' rafters a' did dirl.
The mirth and fun grew fast and furious:
The piper loud and louder blew;
The dancers quick and quicker flew;
They reel'd, they set, they cross'd, they cleekit,
Till ilka carlin swat and reekit
And coast her duddies tae the work
And linket at it in her sark!*

Uncannily like a typical Sunday technique class.

Burns spent 12 months in Edinburgh from 1786 to 1787. The fees Burns had paid to the *dancie* in Tarbolton finally proved a sound investment. A favourite venue was the old Assembly Rooms in Buccleuch Place. Burns danced with and was befriended by Jane Maxwell Alexander, the Duchess of Gordon, 'queen of Edinburgh society', through whom Burns met many people of influence.

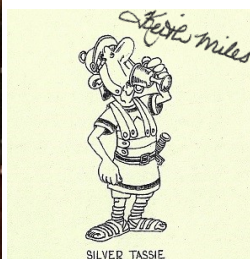
Moral: Young men, if you want to get on - learn to dance properly.

As Professor Robert Crawford puts it, to Burns, 'Dancing was like poetry itself: physical - felt on the pulse and in the voice, as music and movement.'

I imagine Robert must have been a graceful dancer. How satisfying that Scotland's bard should be a proponent and exemplar of our favourite pastime. Think of that when you next raise a glass to his memory. (see p10 for some translations)



Left: Ian Rutherford, accompanied by piper Ryan Ellsworth, addresses the haggis at our Burns Ceilidh in 2019



Right: thanks to James Fairbairn for his immortal memory of Robbie Burns



Archive pictures reliving happier times at Burns ceilidh dances in January 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020

Follow the link below for this year's virtual Burns Night:
[//www.youtube.com/channel/UC--uUJITd3ptR-EJt-zA8hA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC--uUJITd3ptR-EJt-zA8hA)

Below and left: St Columba's Church hall full of happy dancers, especially after a dram or two dispensed by Peter Knight



Rachel Wilton receiving the traditional bill of fare of haggis, neeps and tatties from Lindsey Rousseau and Joanne Lawrence





Winter School may be a recent innovation, compared to Summer School, but it has become a firm favourite in the dancing calendar. Sadly both have had to be cancelled this year, but *The Reel* has asked some roving reporters for their impressions to whet the appetite for Winter School 2022.

The answer to 'Where is this?' on p1: The Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry, home of Winter School.



At this time of year a trip to Pitlochry for Winter School is firmly on the calendar. With COVID-19 this year we will have to rely on our memories of that special week of dancing, music, friends and fun.

Memories start by waiting with excited anticipation for the platforming of the 12 noon train from Kings Cross to Pitlochry, knowing that six hours later we will be in the heart of the highlands, not one year later! The snow was deep and the snow plough train had derailed so we had to be coached to our destination from Perth.



February snowdrops in Pitlochry

The warm log fires and welcome of the Atholl Palace Hotel are a joy, and welcome sight, as we trudge up the driveway; a walk is good after sitting for so long.

Classes in scattered venues across the town as well as in the hotel, beware the town hall, thermals are a necessity but the hot coffee and biscuits in the break provided by local dancers are very welcome. The excellent teaching lives long in the memory. To dance with so many enthusiastic dancers is wonderful.

The memory of private visits to Scone Palace, the Cranog Centre, live long and have been true highlights. But the *pièce de résistance* has to be the Ball at Blair Castle, in full evening dress watched over by stags and Niel Gow. It is a fitting conclusion to a week full of times to treasure.

Anna Crawford



For several years after retirement, the highlight of our dancing year was a five-day winter break in February staying at the Atholl Palace Hotel in Pitlochry. The hotel was comfortable, the food was delicious, the scenery and walking were excellent and the atmosphere was that of a luxury house party. Since this was Winter School, there was also dancing, with first-class teachers and wonderful musicians.

I have the fondest memories of Winter School: walks through the woods in hotel grounds to a waterfall, the Black Spout;

extending the walk along a quiet road to the hamlet of Moulin with the local mountain, Ben-y-Vrackie, behind it; a walk across a metal suspension bridge and along the side of Loch Faskally to visit the salmon ladder - installed when the river was dammed to provide a hydro-electric scheme.

I remember the evenings after social dancing when we all repaired to the comfortable lounge area to socialise or enjoy some informal singing or music. I remember with amazement one of the teachers dancing *Sean Truibhs* while accompanying himself on his fiddle. (Ed: [this could well have been Dave Queen!](#))

On the final evening there was a ball in the baronial hall of Blair Castle, the walls decorated with stags' antlers and clan portraits. The castle is a magnificent white building, complete with turrets and towers, approached by a long tree-lined avenue. Sometimes it snowed as we drove to the castle and snowflakes falling against the backdrop of dark trees gave the castle a fairy-tale appearance. Unforgettable.

Myra Chapman



Together with Betty Bott, a friend from Summer School, we attended our first RSCDS Winter School at picturesque Pitlochry in February 2020. We were delighted with it. Participants were accommodated in the gracious Atholl Palace Hotel, where we ate and mostly danced together, with a happy conviviality accompanying our four days of dancing. All this made for a strong inclusiveness in which teaching and dancing were taken seriously, but less experienced dancers were encouraged and given a helping hand. We all improved, but also had an opportunity to make friends and see the glorious historic countryside around.

For the finale, we attended a Grand Ball at Blair Castle, a spectacular historic location, amid antlers and trophies. With the surrounding hills powdered with snow, it was Scottish romance and hospitality at its best. And a sustaining memory during the difficult months since. We look forward to rejoining Winter School in 2022.

John and Judith Macgregor



Judith and John Macgregor with Betty Bott in the baronial hall amid the antlers and trophies

Winter School. What is not to like? Five nights in a grand hotel, surrounded by hills and beautiful countryside. We have most of the hotel to ourselves and outside only the birds and wildlife for company.

Every morning after a breakfast of your choice, it is a short walk into the town for lessons - unless you are new to Scottish dancing, where you can enjoy the comfort of dancing in the Bow Lounge in the hotel. Classes are from 9.30am till 12.30pm with a break midway, where we are taught by world class teachers, not only from the UK but worldwide, and accompanied by outstanding musicians.

You can stay in town to have lunch at one of the many cafés or restaurants or head back to the Atholl Palace to have a bite there. The afternoon is for you to enjoy with lots of things on offer or simply put your feet up and relax, depending how you feel. There are plenty of interesting shops in the town including Macnaughtons the tartan outfitters, and Robertsons the whisky shop, to name but two, for you to investigate.

Usually, two organised excursions are available during the week and along with other activities in the hotel during the afternoon. You do not even need to go to the shops because they come to you! The RSCDS for CDs and books, a dance pump manufacturer and dressmaker are also available.

In the evenings, you can put into practice what you learned that morning with social dances from Sunday to Tuesday evening, and a ceilidh on the Wednesday evening. Then the icing on the cake, with posh frocks and kilts for the Ball at Blair Castle on the last evening, Thursday, dancing in the most wonderful hall with walls bedecked with antlers and the place alive with wonderful music and happy dancers.

Ireen Goulding



The tradition of Winter School is to rotate the Director on an annual (or more recently biannual) basis; this has enabled the event to keep re-inventing itself with a wide range of teachers and musicians, and each year having a slightly different feel. The enduring strengths have been the marvellous Ball at Blair Castle, the wonderful informal evening sessions in the hotel foyer/bar akin to a ceilidh each evening and the cosy, family feel of the whole time. This year was to have been led by William Williamson, and I have worked under a range of great Directors in my half dozen or so visits over 20 years including the founder and inspiration behind it all, Linda Gaul. My routine includes a muddy walk through the fields just outside the town to the very atmospheric inn at Moulin, where the afternoon disappears as friends chat over haggis and whisky. I would strongly recommend it when we resume dancing and, all being well, Winter School will be back in 2022.

David Hall

In *Reel 316*, there will be a feature on Summer School, so please send your reflections and pictures to: editor@rscdslondon.org.uk for inclusion.

How I Started Dancing...Then and Now

Rachel Wilton, the Branch President, and Beth Fairbairn, a more recent recruit to the Branch, share their experiences of starting dancing and what keeps them going.

First, Rachel Wilton, known to all for her warm welcome to Branch events, easy to follow recaps when MC, and also as a former Chair of the Branch.

Rachel Wilton



Age 40, life ticking along, children becoming more independent...

Was I getting old having achieved nothing?

I was completing a Diploma in Early Childhood Education at Goldsmiths College, New Cross, SE London and glancing idly at the noticeboard, I saw that there was a Scottish country dancing class on Friday evenings as part of Adult Learning. I had done a little Scottish country dancing at the Royal Naval College in Greenwich with the sole purpose of being invited to the Naval College Ball but having met a very pleasant young man and obtained my invitation, that was the end of Scottish country dancing. That was 1961. This was 1981 but I went with some trepidation on Friday night and have never looked back. John Cameron was such a friendly and inclusive teacher and the class, taking their lead from John, were so welcoming, and then at the end of the evening - "we're going to the pub, would you like to come?" Friday nights became the high point of my week - the music, the dancing and the company.



Rachel and other members of John Cameron's Goldsmiths College class at Polesden Lacey 1985

There followed a class trip to the London Branch outdoor dance at Polesden Lacey - despite our inexperience, we enjoyed ourselves so much - then a trip to the London Branch Day School - by 4pm we thought we were going to die, having been taught by Bill Ireland, Derek Haynes and then Johan Maclean, but the band for the evening dance was Frank Reid and off we went again! Then came Summer School. I had never really heard of the RSCDS but my brother, his girlfriend and I decided to go to St Andrews Summer School and to do so we had to become members. We had the most glorious week, dancing morning, noon and night, making new friends from all over the world and discovering how much more there is to Scottish country dancing.

Back in London, once a week was not enough, so three of us went every Wednesday to Iain Brown in Sidcup: a small class learning mainly technique which culminated in eight of us working towards, and then taking, our Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance medals - bronze, silver, gold and gold star. What fun we had. During this time I was invited to join the MacLennan Scottish Group who danced in European festivals and with them I was introduced to highland and step dances as well as demonstration dancing - I had an old wardrobe mirror and some rather inadequate tapes and practised for hours, trying to get the steps accurate and in time with the music.

After several years of classes, day schools, weekend schools and annual RSCDS Summer School I heard that RSCDS Berks, Hants, Surrey Border Branch were running a Teacher's Preliminary Certificate class, taught by Bruce Frazer, four hours on Sunday afternoons - hard work and nerve racking - Anna Holden was one of my examiners and when she gave me my assignment my hand was shaking so much I couldn't write! Two years later, after gaining experience teaching short sessions in other people's classes I did my Full Certificate, this time with London Branch, taught by Susan Nedderman.

Since then I have been invited to teach in various places in the UK and even abroad; I have also danced in the London Branch demonstration team, alternately great fun and nerve racking; I have served on the London Branch committee and the RSCDS Executive Council and then Management Board.

As the icing to this wonderful cake I have met HM the Queen, danced in a performance in the Royal Albert Hall, and appeared on television's *Hogmanay Live* in Edinburgh Castle; who could be so lucky to find such a wonderful activity, giving so much pleasure for so long - thank you Scotland!

Beth Fairbairn, is much newer to dancing, but never misses an opportunity to dance and is a stalwart of Summer School.

Beth Fairbairn



I started dancing before I was born. My mum was dancing up to the week before I arrived, including attending Summer School (a month before I was due), to the alarm of some of her partners. I went to my first dance when I was ten days old, and my first London Day School when I was about six weeks old (I particularly liked the tune to John of Bon Accord). I went to 52 dances in my first year: my Scottish dancing aunts played pass the baby while my parents (James and Sam) got to dance. At first, I was carried; then I toddled along behind, and when I was three and a half, I announced that I was going to dance opposite my mum as her partner.

Since then, I have not looked back. I went to the London Branch children's class

throughout my childhood and attended Summer School evening dances every year while my parents were on the course. I attended the first Junior Summer School in 2016, I attended Youth Week for the first time in 2017 and was invited to dance in the videos for the latest book. I had a brief affair with the musicians' course in 2018 but Summer School 2019 was the best week of my life. I was in the youth class, I stayed in halls for the first time and I was lucky that I was on a corridor with my friends. I went into the first youth class knowing quite a few of the dancers, but by the end of the first day, I had made loads of new friends and we had fun all week.

My favourite day of the year is the Newcastle Festival (more than my birthday or Christmas!). I have been in the International Team since I was six (in the display). The next year we entered a children's team for the first time and to our amazement won the trophy, although most of us were quite little. Through the team and Summer School I have loads of friends all over the world and we have kept in touch all through this weird year through WhatsApp, with Zoom quizzes and chat. Another thing I love about dancing is the excuse to dress up and I have a wardrobe full of sparkly dresses (thank you, Grandma and Davinia)!



Beth and the gang at Summer School 2019

Branch Committee: Branch Secretary, Mel Rowland

London Branch committee has continued to meet regularly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Each committee meeting follows an established pattern, beginning with a review of the last meeting's minutes then reports from the Branch Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary before attention moves to the sub-committees reports and other agenda items. At the 8 January 2021 meeting, the committee concluded that, as resumption of dancing before September seemed unlikely, Jenny Kendrick (Classes Convenor) should begin to plan dates, teachers and musicians for the 2021-2022 classes. Similarly, Margaret Shaw (Dances Convenor) was actioned to plan programmes, venues and bands for the new dancing season beginning with a 'big bang' event in September. Plans for some 2021 events including the Day School and 90+1 Anniversary events are already in place with venues and musicians booked. Meanwhile, we have kept in touch with members through the virtual AGM and ceilidh, Christmas party and our first London Burns Night at Home.

Branch communications and the recent members' survey were the main agenda items. A brief initial survey report is provided elsewhere in this edition (see p2) and more information and actions will be shared as analysis progresses.

A Proud Scot

from Ralph McNiven,
Morag Wilshere and Stuart Kreloff

Duncan McNiven

1946 - 15 November 2020



Duncan and Zena joined Watford and West Herts Scottish Society in 2010 - they were students in Bar Martlew's beginners' class and never looked back! He joined the committee and served as President for four years: 2013-2016

and 2019-2020.

Born in Glasgow in 1946, Duncan attended Knightswood Secondary followed by Glasgow University where he studied Economic History. He and Zena married in 1968 and subsequently moved to England settling in Croxley Green. Duncan's employment included lecturer in history at West Herts College and Watford Grammar School for Girls.

Duncan was catering manager for many WWHSS events - the spreads were always praised and his planning spreadsheets were used for the West MACS Ball as well. Zena and Duncan hosted many wonderful Society barbecues in their beautiful garden. They also supported the Monday night beginners' class - he was a firm favourite there, occasionally taking the class and the welcoming relaxed atmosphere that he created helped to ensure the success of those classes. Duncan also was on the teaching rota at the Thursday general class; his nights were when we laughed the most!

Duncan spearheaded the digitisation of the music collection and completed the first hundred years of the President's chain by sewing the final ten bars to its ribbon.

Duncan did not approve of the overly formal pattern of the Burns supper but he was keen to give the immortal memory, address the haggis, and lead the social dancing during the evenings.

During the 2020 lockdowns, Duncan and Zena participated in Zoom meetings and he was always upbeat even though he was also having chemotherapy at Mount Vernon. But the fondest memories of Duncan will be of dancing with Zena and him at Watford's and other societies' balls and socials.



Duncan and the 2017 Watford and West Herts Scottish Society beginners' class

A Lifelong Dancer

from Elizabeth Kitson

Muriel E Agnew

1931 - 29 August 2020



Muriel spent the war years in the Scottish Borders where she attended primary and then secondary school and where she started her Scottish country dancing. After the war, she and the family returned to the south and they settled in Beaconsfield where she continued her dancing and joined the training college class, becoming part of the demonstration team there.

In 1954, the family moved to Whiteleaf outside Princes Risborough and Muriel joined the Lucy Clark Scottish Country Dance Club class at Amersham. She then attended Mary Stoker's class and undertook the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing medal tests and followed this by taking her Associate Teacher's certificate.

She attended RSCDS Summer School where she did the Society's Preliminary Certificate. She ran her own country dancing class and one of her pupils is still enjoying dancing in her eighties. During all this time Muriel enjoyed dancing in competitions, demonstrations, and going to dances and balls.

After that, Muriel attended the RSCDS Advanced Class in London which Bill Ireland took in Marlborough School in Sloane Avenue, for many years. At the same time she and her sister Daphne attended the class at Gerrards Cross.

Over the years my husband John and I attended many, many dances and formal balls with Muriel and her sister: it was such a happy time together. We danced at Amersham, Stoke Mandeville, Aston Clinton, Gerrards Cross and London, often spending the afternoon having tea and supper with them before the dance or latterly, after we had moved to Scotland, spending the weekend in their home and visiting places of interest and enjoying the pub fare in the area.

A nasty break of her leg followed by a hip replacement sadly put an end to Muriel's dancing a few years ago. Further falls made it impossible for Muriel to remain in her own home and she moved into Abbeyfields in the town. However, her greatest wish was to move to Scotland and she finally decided on Hall House at Fenwick in Ayrshire and moved there shortly before lockdown.

We were unable to visit her or take her out and the only contact we could have with her was by phone. As restrictions eased, John was able to go and stand in the grounds while Muriel was in the conservatory, but she did not like this arrangement.

On 29 August 2020 she was up and dressed ready to go to breakfast when she suddenly had a heart attack and died.

Any queries relating to the dance competition should be directed to: newdance90@rscdslondon.org.uk

A True Gentleman

from Simon Wales

Henry Nolan

21 January 1956 - 17 January 2021

We are deeply saddened to report the sudden death of Henry Nolan who was well loved and much respected by all who knew him across the dancing world. (a full obituary will appear in *Reel* 316).

New Home Wanted

Kilt - Jacobite Tartan, drop 59 cm (23 in), waist 104 cm (40-42 in). Kilt - Cameron of Erracht tartan, drop 59 cm, waist 96 cm (38in). Prince Charlie Jacket, size 44 small (112 cm chest). Tweed jacket, sleeveless summer jacket similar size. 2 pairs of dress kilt brogues, one size 7 and one size 8. Sporrans, sgian dubh, kilt hose.

Free to a good home, however a donation to St Raphael's Hospice would be appreciated. Contact Elizabeth Bennett on

07580 314431

lizbennett@blueyonder.co.uk

Continued from p5 - some translations...

unco - rare/strange

brent - brought

gart - made

dirl - reverberated

cleekit - turned using elbow grip

ilka carlin - each old wife

swat and reekit - sweated and steamed

coost her duddies - cast off her rags

linket at it - danced / skipped

sark - petticoat



Dance Competition Update

Since the previous update given on p4 *Reel* 313, Stephen Webb, co-ordinator of the competition, has now contacted each entrant thanking them for entering and advising them whether they have been shortlisted to the last twelve dances (in the event of an anniversary book of dances being published). Some entrants made modifications as recommended by the judges to improve them. No trialling can, though, be carried out on any dances until we are all properly dancing again. Clearly this will not be at best until later this year, well past the date of the Branch's postponed 90th Anniversary Ball when the winner should have been announced!

Cutting a long story short, the competition cannot go ahead as originally planned. Future flexibility is needed to allow the remaining aspects of the judging to be managed, and the winner announced at a suitable occasion.

Let us hope for some semblance of normality which will facilitate completion sooner rather than later!

We thank Stephen for all his hard work to date and for his flexibility in the future.

Any queries relating to the dance competition should be directed to: newdance90@rscdslondon.org.uk

Forthcoming Events

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Annual Ball
 Saturday 23 October 2021
 7.30 - 11.30pm
 Headington School, Headington Road,
 Oxford OX3 7TD
 Ample free parking and on the London-
 Oxford bus route with stop near to the school
Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band
We are being very optimistic!
 Full details in *Reel* 317 or on our website
 Contact Helen Houghton-Carr, 07531 469213
 or events.rscdsxfordshire@gmail.com



Letters to *The Reel*

Sadly, no letters were received for publication in this *Reel* but please do feel free to write with opinions and views to: editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER BRANCH Musicians and Dancers Day School Online

Saturday 13 March 2021
Teachers: see website
Musicians Workshop: Ian Muir
 A Celebration of Music and Dance
 Led by Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band
www.rscds-bhs.org.uk



ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP Dancers' and Musicians' Weekend School

Friday 1 - Sunday 3 October 2021
 Dillington House, Ilminster,
 Somerset TA19 9DT
Teacher: Andrew Nolan
Musician: Robert Mackay
Musicians' course: Ian Muir
 For further information please contact Gaynor
 Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB,
 01483 721989
gaynorcourtis@clara.co.uk



This course is not considered suitable for beginners

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Dances up to the end of April 2021 have been cancelled.
 Our normal pattern is eight or nine monthly Saturday dances from September to June, including a Haggis Supper in January and Balls in February and June.



These events are held at St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD in the Lower Hall starting at 7pm.

We hope to start holding dances again when safe, legal and sensible to do so. We have provisional plans for 8 May 2021 with Ian Muir (Prestwick) and 5 June 2021 with Sandy Nixon, both events subject to decisions nearer the time.

Programmes, cribs and latest status are on our website:

www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

For further details contact: Karen Barter on 01689 853645. Everyone is welcome at our events.

The Reel Advertising Rates

See *Reel* 312 for details and rates. Send Forthcoming Events adverts to Willie Lawrence at danceads@rscdslondon.org.uk Other adverts and enquiries on pricing to the Business Editor, Jeff Robertson, at businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk

South East Dance Diary

The diary on the Branch website is regularly updated, and all societies in the South East may submit details of their functions.

Email diary@rscdslondon.org.uk or by post to Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW.

Munro Competition Shoes

for Scottish Country
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01444 401113

info@bobbymunrodanceshoes.com
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Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

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

This is the last issue of this cycle. Your advert will roll forward to issues 316-319 at a cost of £30. If you wish to cancel, or pay by bank transfer, please contact treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk

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

ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY Meets Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm Sept-May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Val Clack, 01932 845869 or www.addlestonscottish.org.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB Meets in Potten End Village Hall, HP4 2QG. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15pm Sept-May, Sat. gardens June/July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8.00pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Dawn Dorman, Hill End Farm, Gorbambury, St Albans, Herts AL3 6AR, 07710 460623 or www.berkhamstedreelclub.org.uk

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS General Class Wednesdays Sept-May, 8.00-10.00pm St Mary's Church Hall, Park Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2SR Teacher: Mervyn Short. Monday Advanced class: Fourteen Mondays Sept-April, 8.15-10.15pm at St Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham Without RG40 3BA. Details: Alex Duncan, 01932 241615 or www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS Meets every Friday at Kinson Community Centre, Pelham's Park, Millhams Rd., Kinson, Bournemouth, BH10 7LH 7.30-9.30pm. Alternate Wednesday Technique class, by invitation. Details: Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Road, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX, 01202 698138 or margaret.brscds@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 www.rscds-brighton.org.uk

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

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 Sept-June. Details: Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or www.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

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY Dancing Friday nights 7.30-10.00pm at St Andrew's UR Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP. Details: John Marshall, duracellbunney@tiscali.co.uk www.cheltenhamscottishsociety.btck.co.uk www.jockjigging.btck.co.uk

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets on Sundays 6.00-9.15pm, Sept-June, in the Upper Hall at St Michael & All Angels Church, corner of Woodstock Road and Priory Avenue, London W4 1TX (turn right out of Turnham Green tube station, 70 yards). Details: www.chiswickscottish.org.uk or Evelyn Norman, 020 8641 5877 or secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH Branch class in Coulsdon: General, incl. Beginners with technique Fridays 7.30 -10.00pm Coulsdon Methodist Church, Brighton Road, Coulsdon CR5 2BE. Details: Mary Courtney, 020 8651 0704 or www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

EPHING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Club nights: Mondays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at Christchurch Parish Hall, Wanstead Place, Wanstead E11 7SW; 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 www.efsa.org.uk

Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

...Continued from p11

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, Sept-end of April at Memorial Hall, Babbs Mead, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7EE. Details: Anne Lester 01252 782927 or lesteranne@gmail.com or www.fscdc.co.uk

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY Dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.00pm, Sept-May. Details: Shirley Ferguson 01276 501952 or fergusonshirley7@gmail.com or fleet.rscds-bhs.org.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 Sept-June, 7.30-10.00pm and also in Little Chalfont Methodist Church Hall, Chalfont Avenue, Little Chalfont HP6 6RD on Thursdays from 2.15-4.15pm. Visitors and beginners welcome. Details: Roger Stubbs 01494 873063. Website under development.

GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. Meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Janet MacPhail 020 8560 7670 or enquiries@greenfordcaledonian.net

GUILDFORD SCDC Meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from Sept-June. Details: 01420 362530 or www.gscdc.org.uk

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB Meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Details: Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts AL3 5RE, 01727 863870 or HSCDC.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 www.harrowscottish.org.uk

HERTSMERE REEL CLUB Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 0208 440 3236 or margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk

JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinity JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or jjcanjanoy97@gmail.com
Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@gmail.com or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB Meets regularly at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB Meets Thursdays at the Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Road, Wendover HP22 6HF. Beginners class 7.00-8.00pm, Social dancing 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Liz Mitchell, 07947 000368 or info@lucyclark.org.uk or www.lucyclark.org.uk

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, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372 or maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk

MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP Meets every Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details: Dick Barford, 55 Northumberland Road, Maidstone ME25 7JG, 01622 685984

MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION Dancing Mondays Bredhurst Village Hall, 1.30-3.45pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays St Mary's Island Community Centre, 8.00-10.00pm. Beginners welcome at all. Details: Lyn Sutton-Jones, 07831 154038 or www.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: franbramham@hotmail.com

MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00-10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5LP, 01908 378730 or jange@verybusy.co.uk

NORWICH RSCDS Dancing on Mondays from Sept-May/June at the Dance & Drama Studio, Sewell Park College, Constitution Hill, Norwich NR3 4BX. Beginners from 7.00-8.15pm and general dancing 8.20-9.30pm. Details: Sue Petty on 01603 741639 or secretary@rscds-norwich.org.uk

ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners'/Improvers' Class every Monday 8.00-10.15pm at St Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or hadyndavies@gmail.com or www.orpingtonscottishdancing.com

OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Christine Jeffery 01844 278242 or christinej201@hotmail.com or www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading RG1 5BD from 8.00-10.00pm, Sept-May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st & 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Duncan Barnet, Flat 4, 8 Western Elms Avenue, Reading RG30 2AN 0118 956 9289 dbarnet@waitrose.com or www.scottishdancingreading.org

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets most Mondays 8.15-10.15pm, Sept-May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com or www.reigatecscottish.org.uk

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm from mid-Sept. to mid-June. Details: 07802 442435 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk

SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP Dancing Tues 8.00pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, South Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD
St Columba's Dancers meet most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10.00pm. Admission free except for Band Nights when a charge will be made. Details: Valerie Strachan, 020 8693 5355 or valeriestrachan@btinternet.com or www.stcolumbasdancers.org

ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM Meet every Thurs 8.00-10.15pm Sept-June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Kate Thomson, 0118 9860681 sec.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com
Also Children's Class Sats 9.30-11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831

SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin, 48 Eastbrook Road, Blackheath SE3 8BT, 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 www.seess.org.uk

SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS Classes for all standards, in Hertford, Tuesdays in term time. Monthly dances Sept-June, in Ware, usually second Friday. Sunday afternoon Family Dances once a term. Details: Douglas Hedley, 07980 405152 or sehscds@hotmail.com or www.sehscottishdance.org/news

SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Dancing every Thursday at 8.00pm from Sept-June at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsley Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY or www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8.00-10.00pm and advanced classes Thurs 8.00-10.00pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Rd, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9AL. Details: George Daly, 1 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells TN2 5UE, 01892 534512 or www.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 Krelhoff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or reel@watfordscottish.org.uk

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm Sept-June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net or www.sehscottishdance.org/Welwyn

WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Dance Class Mondays 8.00pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW, 0208 866 2378 or info@wdsa.co.uk

WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS (Formerly South Dorset Caledonian Society) Dancing at St Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset Wednesday, 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177

WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS Classes Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Road North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover SP10 3NQ, 01264 363293 or wendy@mumford.com

WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. 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: David Hall Scottish Dance Band - from David Hall; Atholl Palace Hotel - by permission. p2: Jim Cook - Stephen Webb (SJW); Joanne Lawrence - from herself. p4: album covers - Ewan Galloway and Alasdair Fraser. p5: Ian Rutherford - from Branch archives; cartoon - permission Joan Miles; Burns' portrait - painted by Sir James Arbuthnott. *Centrefold*: from Branch archives and SJW. p8: Snowdrops - Anna Crawford; Macgregors - from Judith Macgregor. p9: Rachel Wilton - Joan Spencer; Polesden Lacey - from Rachel Wilton; Beth Fairbairn - from herself; Beth and the gang - from herself. p10: Duncan McNiven - both Stuart Krelhoff; Muriel Agnew - from John and Elizabeth Kitson.

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