



# The Reel

**rscds**  
London Branch

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
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DECEMBER 2015 TO FEBRUARY 2016

Scottish Country Dancing –  
For fun, fitness and  
friendship

*We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

## BRANCH'S 85TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED IN 1930s STYLE



A full house attended the Branch's 85th Anniversary Dance on Saturday 31 October 2015 at St Columba's, Pont St. Many people, including members of the Craigellachie Band (above), followed the request to dress in 1930s style. The six-piece band provided its customary superb music, and a great atmosphere was enjoyed by all the dancers, many of whom had travelled from afar for the occasion. See also pp 8-9 and 16.

### BURNS' NIGHT CEILIDH

Saturday 16 January 2016

6.45 for 7.00 – 10.45pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

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

**Ian Robertson & the Musicians**

*Programme from:*

Gay Gordons, Dunnet Head, St Bernard's Waltz, Jig to the Music (Gr 2/7), A London Celebration (*The Reel* 280), Canadian Barn Dance, My Love She's but a Lassie yet (9/4), Rósza (Potts), The Dashing White Sergeant (3/2), Boston Two Step, The Eightsome Reel (2/12), Valeta, Virginia Reel, Lambeth Walk, Britannia Two Step, Bluebell Polka, A Highland Welcome, Strip the Willow (Orcadian Style)

Extras: Kelvingrove Two Step, Pride of Erin Waltz  
All dances from *A Guide to SCD (Collins)*  
except where noted

Admission includes Haggis Supper with  
a glass of wine

RSCDS members £15.00, Non-members £19.00

Students (with student card) & spectators £7.50

All children (under 16) free

All tickets to be purchased (cash only) on the door

All dances will be walked through

### MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS

**from just £4.00 per annum**

The annual cost of RSCDS membership through the London Branch starts at £22.00 per annum, including copies of *The Reel* quarterly (see p12 for details of membership options). Non-members of the Branch can join as second branch members or subscribe to *The Reel* for £4.00 for four issues. Electronic subscribers receive four pdf editions of *The Reel* each year, in full colour throughout.

Rates to receive four hard copies, by post, are £6.00 if resident in the UK, £12.00 for other European residents and £15.00 if resident elsewhere. There are special rates on request for bulk orders. Remittances in sterling please, payable to RSCDS (London Branch), or you can pay by PayPal via [www.rscdslondon.org.uk/shop](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk/shop) (see p2).

All subscription requests or enquiries should be sent to Maggie Westley, 30 Stanley Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4LF or [reelsubscriptions@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:reelsubscriptions@rscdslondon.org.uk)

### COMBINED SOCIETIES' DANCE

Saturday 19 March 2016

7.00 – 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

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

**Ian Muir of Prestwick**

Hooper's Jig ..... MMM/34  
Shifftin' Bobbins ..... Ormskirk 6/2  
Margaret Parker's Strathspey ..... 31/3  
Napier's Index ..... 45/8  
Scott Meikle ..... 46/3  
The Belle of Bon Accord ..... Deeside 2/18  
Flora's Fancy ..... 49/8  
Mairi's Wedding ..... 22 SCD/4  
Postie's Jig ..... Ormskirk 5/1

The Machine without Horses ..... 12/12  
Round Reel of Eight ..... 27/7  
The Gardeners' Fantasia ..... 46/2  
Jennifer's Jig ..... Silver City/4  
The Sailor ..... 24/4  
Butterscotch and Honey .... Alexander Leaflet 24  
Baldovan Reel ..... Baldovan/2  
The Kelloholm Jig ..... Leaflet/12  
The Montgomerie's Rant ..... 10/1

Admission includes light refreshments  
RSCDS members £12.00, Non-members £14.00 Students  
(with student card) & spectators £6.00

All children (under 16) free

All tickets to be purchased (cash only) on the door

All dances will be recapped

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

We celebrated our 85th Anniversary in fine style on 31 October at our Dance with a Difference. All the tickets had been sold well in advance, St Columba's lower hall really did look different, our caterers did us proud and of course we were treated to excellent music from The Craigellachie Band. Thank you to everyone who made it such a special evening, especially Rachel, Marjory, Jerry and Anna. I hope to see the hall just as full throughout 2016. Regular dancers will notice a slight increase in ticket prices for our dances. This is to offset, in part, the sharp rise in the cost of hiring St Columba's, which is affecting all the clubs that use the hall. Even so, an evening at one of our dances still represents exceptionally good value. Do come along and join the fun; the more the merrier.

And why not come to one of our classes, too? We provide tuition for all levels with a variety of teachers. There is sure to be something and someone you like. You don't have to commit to a whole term, come when you can. The more you know, the more (justifiably) confident you are on the dance floor, the more you enjoy dancing, and the more your partner and the rest of your set will enjoy dancing with you. This season you will have seen some new names among our teachers and musicians, as we try to encourage young talent. Please give them and all our teachers and musicians a boost by showing them your enthusiasm to learn. If you really do live too far from London to get to one of our classes, then your local branch or affiliated group will run classes nearer to you.

I have written elsewhere about the debate at the Society AGM. I believe passionately that branches are the bedrock of the RSCDS. Yes, it is great to travel the globe making new friends in the wonderful world of Scottish country dancing, and attending high profile international events such as Summer School can be the highlight of our year, but the basic business of teaching people to dance, recruiting new members and keeping SCD alive through regular dancing happens at a local level. Whatever else we do in our dancing lives, I think it is through supporting our local branch that we are most likely to guarantee the Society's continued success. In our 85th year it is important for me to say thank you to all our members for what you have done for London Branch. Please carry on playing your part.

I wish you all a happy Christmas, a good New Year and terrific dancing in 2016.

Andrew Kellett



ROYAL  
SCOTTISH  
COUNTRY  
DANCE  
SOCIETY



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@LondonRSCDS



**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.

## EDITORIAL

What sort of dance event are you looking for? Do you want to travel to a splendid, formal ball, with a great band and no recaps, or a local, relaxed event with friends, tackling a fiendish programme of newly devised dances? Or are you keen to travel with Scottish dancing and explore the world? All these options and more are available in the range of advertisements for events that feature towards the back of the magazine. But have we got the right mix?

Not surprisingly, the majority of these events are targeted at converted, enthusiastic dancers. However, there seem to be fewer events aimed at encouraging new or less experienced dancers to enjoy all the elements we know are available in Scottish dancing.

There is a general public awareness of Hogmanay, and Burns' Night in particular, that offers the perfect opportunity to introduce friends to SCD. Why not organise a party and bring them along to the Branch's Burns Ceilidh Dance (see p1)? Who knows, maybe they will be the ones travelling to St Andrews Summer School (see p4) or further afield next time?

Jeremy Hill



## PayPal and Direct Debit options now available



London Branch members, and subscribers to *The Reel*, can now pay for their renewals and subscriptions through PayPal and Direct Debit. Those members who wish to continue to use cheques will be able to do so, but cheques are being used less and less and being replaced by internet transactions, which most people who are on the internet find greatly simplifies payments. These payment options are available via [www.rscdslondon.org.uk/shop](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk/shop)

Using PayPal, payment can be made simply by entering card details at the time of payment, or through setting up a PayPal account. Account set up requires just an email address and password, or mobile number and PIN, in which case there is no need to re-enter your card details every time you pay. In order to cover costs, a small charge of 50p will be levied for payment by PayPal. For example, when you pay London Branch membership by PayPal, the cost will be £22.50, if you choose to receive *The Reel* in electronic format only, or £24.50 if you choose to continue to receive *The Reel* in the post in the UK. Electronic subscription will cost £4.50. If you have any questions, please email [paypal@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:paypal@rscdslondon.org.uk)

Jerry Reinstein

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## Dancing Achievement Award

Last summer our candidates achieved a 100% success rate in the RSCDS Dancing Achievement Award at the intermediate level. In 2016 we will be offering dancers another chance to take the intermediate assessment, plus – for those wanting an extra challenge – a course leading to the advanced assessment. Full details of the DAA can be found on the RSCDS website (see [www.rscds.org/article/dancing-achievement-award-daa](http://www.rscds.org/article/dancing-achievement-award-daa)). Our courses will begin on Wednesday 27 April leading to an assessment on 25 May. There will be more information in the next issue of *The Reel*.

### Hold the date!

#### Saturday 11 June 2016

On Sunday 12 June The Mall will be transformed for a massive street party to celebrate The Queen's patronage of over 600 charities and organisations (including the RSCDS). We are holding our own celebration the day before, on Saturday 11 June, when you are all invited to a 'street party' in the lower hall at St Columba's with entertainment, reminiscences, music and dancing. You will also be welcome at our AGM the same day. There will be more details in the next issue, but for the moment, hold the date!

### Winter Wednesday Dance

Wednesday 17 February 2016  
7.00 – 10.00pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD  
**Sandra Smith & Barbara Manning**

Good Hearted Glasgow .....	Garden Festival Lft
Festival Interceltique .....	4 for 2008/1
The Valentine .....	5 for 2009/4
The Barmkin .....	Gr2/6
The Laird of Milton's Daughter .....	22/10
Neidpath Castle .....	22/9
The Sailor .....	24/4
Joie de Vivre .....	39/2
Miss Gibson's Strathspey .....	Leaflet 13
Corn Rigs .....	11/2
The Chequered Court .....	42/3
The Craven Twelvesome .....	Carnforth 5/4
The Wind on Loch Fyne .....	Dunedin 1986/5
The Reel of The Royal Scots .....	Leaflet 21

Extras: Inchmickery (14 Social/7), Domino 5 (Gr 2/11)

Admission, including light refreshments:  
RSCDS members £10.00, Non-members £12.00  
Students (with student card) and spectators £5.00  
All children (under 16) free  
All tickets to be purchased (cash only) on the door  
All dances will be recapped

## RSCDS LONDON BRANCH EVENTS 2015 – 2016

Events take place at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD 7.00 – 10.30pm (doors open at 6.30pm) except where noted.

Saturday 16 April: Spring Dance

**Ian Robertson and his Band**

Wednesday 1 June: Summer Wednesday Dance

**Chris Oxtoby**

Saturday 11 June: Afternoon and evening dancing and entertainment (see above) plus AGM (6.45pm) and End of Season Dance (7.30pm). **Barbara Manning and Calum Mitchell** (to be confirmed)

The 2016-17 Season will open on 10 September with music from **Strathallan**.

For further details see future editions of *The Reel* and [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

## London Branch Day School

### Dancer's Report

A "hushed October morning mild", as Robert Frost has it, brought us once again to the London Branch Day School. Paddington Academy is feeling like 'home' now, and familiar faces at registration and behind the tea urns welcomed us again. Thank you, all you London Branch volunteers!

It was a pleasure once again to be taught by excellent teachers, accompanied by fine musicians. Antoine Rousseau's morning technique class started the day in energetic style: his instruction to conserve energy with low impact walk-throughs, alternating with high impact springs and step practice with elevation, as he prepared dancers to dance *The Menzies' Rant* from Book 7. Perhaps it was not exactly a theme, but the selection of mostly early dances challenged dancers to think about technique as they tackled less familiar transitions, formations and progressions. Still with a focus on low impact step practice, Antoine looked for good posture and reach in strathspey time, with accurate foot positions, for the rather stately *Duke of Hamilton's Reel* from Book 5. The musician for this class was Andrew Nolan, on the piano, and it was a delight to hear his light and dancing style as he accompanied *The Glens of Angus* from Book 23. The class ended with the unfamiliar again, as Antoine took us through *The Princess Royal* – a 28 bar reel from Book 2, with a recognisably 18th century tune.

In the afternoon, the class was taken by Deb Lees, sympathetically accompanied by Barbara Manning on the fiddle. A warm-up dance with a complex clapping rhythm proved rather challenging, but Deb's request for attack and flight in skip change met with more success. Taking the class through *The Argyll Square*, a Roy Goldring jig from Book 43, Deb worked on the distinctive interlocking reel of four, in which each dancer starts from the middle of the reel, before putting the dance together and reminding us of the flight needed. Moving into strathspey time, Deb reminded us of our posture, and the need to keep heads up to avoid strain on the back. Deb broke down some formations for the next dance, *The Argyll Ludging* from Book 36, demonstrating and making sure dancers knew where they should finish. The last dance of the afternoon was a MacNab dance often used in demonstration: *The Earl of Errol's Reel*. Again, Deb demonstrated each section to make sure dancers were secure, before it was danced through, for the most part successfully.

After tea, I went along to Joan Desborough's session entitled 'A Tribute to Ann Dix'. Joan was a great friend of Ann's, and took dancers through some of Ann's interesting and unusual formations (typical of Ann, we learned, was to introduce 'quirky bits' that nevertheless flowed well), interspersed with anecdotes and memories. Joan began with *The First of September*, and coached it as Ann might have done – looking for good phrasing and covering. The musician was Judith Muir on accordion, who played an inspiring set of tunes. Other dances reflected Ann's friendships and family, including the last dance she devised, the strathspey *Miss Eleanor*, written for her granddaughter, and published in Book 49.

The day ended with a dance to excellent music from the musicians' class, and incorporating some ceilidh items. Altogether a delightful day – thank you to Margaret Catchick and her team for another excellent day school.

**Jenny Kendrick**  
See photos p9

### Musicians' workshop with Nicol McLaren

Saturday 17 October saw Paddington Academy once again filled with dancers, musicians and cake. I don't know how many of these days I have been to over the years – I have lost count – but they never fail to fill me with happiness and persuade me it is worth getting up early on a Saturday morning. When I and my fiddling buddy Jo arrived, the music room was already filled with a great selection of accordions, concertinas, keyboards, fiddles and some drums, and of course their owners – some of whom are now old friends as well as some new faces. We were under the command of the lovely Nicol McLaren who had come all the way from Scotland that very morning. He was upbeat, funny and friendly and soon got us all playing together as a band, enjoying his excellently put-together sets full of perky and enjoyable tunes, and explained to us how he went about preparing them. The music was relatively challenging and kept us all on our toes, with a few crazy pieces thrown in to see what we were really made of. Initially, sets like *The Castle of Mey* and *The Montgomeries' Rant* struck fear into the hearts of all but the bravest souls, but after picking it apart with Nicol we were able to produce pretty respectable versions. There were also some nice harmony lines, hand crafted especially for the fiddles, which I particularly enjoyed.

This year was the first time the musicians had played for the full evening dance and it was a definite improvement. Apart from the fact that it seems a shame not to share what we had been practising all day, it was a relief this year not to have to inflict my dancing on anybody. And anyway, it's a joy to play for dances. For me, as a musician, one of the most wonderful things about playing Scottish dance music, ever since the very first time I came to one of the RSCDS days about ten years ago, is the response we get from the dancers. It is so incredibly rewarding to get positive feedback from them – to see heads bobbing up and down enthusiastically over the top of my music stand, feet moving even when it isn't their turn to dance, to get smiles and claps and encouraging cheers and have to replay some of the sets is just lovely. So, thank you, RSCDS London, for giving us the opportunity to take part in both the day and the evening, to all the other musicians for being one of the best bands we have ever had, and to Nicol for a fantastic, useful and hugely entertaining day.

**Alison Ashburner**

See p6 for details of the Branch's forthcoming Musicians' Ceilidh day, with Ian Robertson, and p9 for a photo of the workshop.

## CREDITS

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

Elaine Davies: p1, p9 (7-9)  
Jerry Reinstein: p4, p7 (1-4), p16 (top left)  
Stephen Webb: p2 (AK), p6, p8 (5 & 6), p16 (JC)  
From Jeremy Hill: p2 (JH)  
Johan Persson/Royal Opera House: p7  
Brian Rose: p9 (10)  
Pat Davoll: p10  
Stuart Kreloff: p16 (top right)

Thanks also to Stephen Webb for additional reporting and co-ordination.

## RSCDS Qualifications Teachers' Training Unit 1 Examination

Congratulations to the following candidates, all of whom were successful in their Unit 1 exam (a two hour written paper, covering knowledge of the RSCDS and dancing theory), which they sat on Saturday 10 October 2015. The examination was organised by the SE Branches:

Hilary Maidstone	Norwich branch
Maggie Kirkup	Bristol Branch
Lizzy Conder	London Branch
James Walker	London Branch
Andrew Runnalls	London Branch

## RSCDS SUMMER SCHOOL

17 July – 14 August 2016  
University Hall, St Andrews

Director: **Jim Stott**

- Attend as resident or non-resident, for any one or two weeks of the four
- Morning classes at all levels, and optional afternoon classes/sessions
- Social dancing every evening, with a ceilidh one evening each week
- Week 1 will feature classes and examination of Teachers' Training Unit 2, along with Dancing Achievement Award (Advanced)
- Classes and examination for Unit 3 and the DAA (Very Advanced) will take place in week 2
- Week 3 will include the Musicians' Course, and classes and examination of the DAA (Intermediate)
- Week 3 will also include the Young Dancers'

## South East Region Teachers' Association

Paul Plummer led the latest SERTA workshop entitled 'Putting on a Display', held on 27 September at Finchampstead. Having been a demonstration dancer since childhood, and the teacher of the London demonstration class for many years, he was able to bring first-hand experience to the subject. Peter Jenkins had worked with Paul as the demonstration class musician and provided excellent music throughout.

Displays can be semi-professional corporate events, a display with participation such as Burns' Suppers, or entertainment at an old folks' home. Whatever the type of display, the audience is likely to be looking mainly from the waist up. An entertaining display needs smiles, eye contact and engagement between the dancers, good posture and good covering, with dancers in the right place at the right time. Paul's warm-up included emphasis on many of these requirements, making sure that we looked up and at each other, smiled and maintained an upright relaxed posture throughout. It sounds simple, but it was surprising how different it felt.

The teacher should consider the abilities of the dancers and what looks good to an audience when devising a display. Good footwork is needed, but not necessarily high impact dancing. A display programme may be quite demanding for a small team if they are all required to dance most of the time. Whilst a strathspey may fill more time, it can get dull for an audience expecting more lively dances. Paul also taught us a few simple highland steps and a simple Broadsword, which increase variety for the audience.

Good display dances may not be the dancers' favourites. The complexity of Schiehallion reels may be fun for the dancers, but the simple patterns in *Round Reel of Eight* are more easily understood by the audience. It is also a great dance for covering, eye contact and engagement.

## Representing the Branch

The Branch runs a monthly class on Tuesday for advanced dancers, taught by Jeremy Hill, with music provided by Sandra Smith, for the purpose of creating a pool of dancers with a repertoire of dances that can be used for public displays. Classes are held from 7.00 – 9.00pm in the Upper Hall at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD.

If you have a sense of fun and the ability to reflect the joy of Scottish country dancing to the general public, do come along and give us a try. Anyone interested in joining is asked to have a good grasp of Scottish dance steps and formations. For further information please contact Elaine Davies at [demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk)

Week, when 12-15 year olds may attend, with a chaperone, and join in the regular classes and activities

- Teachers' Training Unit 5 will be covered in weeks 3 and 4
- A range of prices is available including £570 for a resident and £270 for a non-resident member
- Discounts are available for 12-15 year olds (week 3) and 16-25 year olds
- Other resident, and non-resident options are available

All classes and courses are subject to demand. Further information and, for the first time, online booking are available at [www.rscds.org/article/summer-school-2016](http://www.rscds.org/article/summer-school-2016)

See also "We can help you afford it" below.



## Children's Class 2015-2016

Teachers: **James Fairbairn and Jenny Kendrick**

The Branch Children's Class will take place in from 10.15 – 11.30am on 9, 16 & 30 January, 13 February, 5 March, 19 March (Family Day – further information in *The Reel* 295), 16 & 30 April, 14 & 21 May, 4 June

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

Class Fee: £5.00 per child per class

**Newcomers are always welcome!**

## Family Day

Saturday 19 March 2016

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

11.30am – 1.00pm Children's Class

Followed by lunch for all children

2.00 – 4.30pm **Dance to the music of Ian Muir of Prestwick**

**Programme:** Circassian (big) Circle (Trad/Fairbairn), Charleston Chaser (Gr2/2), Gay Gordons (Pocket Reference Guide), MC's Choice, The Waratah Weaver (Gr2/4), A Reel for Jeannie (40/1), The Dhoon (Ch1/1), Loch Ness Monster (Imperial 2/9), Granville Market (Gr2/18), MC's Choice, Espie McNabb (MMM 23), The Barmkin (Gr2/6), Canadian Barn Dance (Pocket Reference Guide), The Dashing White Sergeant (3/2). *Extras:* Scotch Mixer, Round Reel of Eight (27/2), Witches' Reel.

Special Day Ticket (includes class, lunch & dance): £7.00 per child

Dance Admission only: £3.50 per person

All young dancers, their families, friends and teachers are welcome. The dances in the afternoon will be talked and walked through.

For further information please contact either James Fairbairn on 07930 949599,

[childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk) or [youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT

The RSCDS and the London Branch continue to see the importance of supporting the teachers, musicians and dancers of the future. As such, funds are earmarked for scholarships, for young people (up to the age of 25) to attend RSCDS residential schools as a dancer or as a musician; and for any member attending Summer School with a view to taking the RSCDS Teaching Certificate. London Branch also has funds available to support any event promoting Scottish country dancing among young people. We are a charity and are here to help you improve your skills and enjoyment of Scottish country dancing, and to support you in passing on your enthusiasm and knowledge to the next generation. If you think you might benefit from a scholarship pick up the phone or drop an email to our Secretary, Margaret Catchick, via [secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk)



# Set yourself a fun challenge Join a Scottish Country Dance Class

We have  
classes for...

## **CHILDREN** in central London.

Email James Fairbairn: [childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk) for details

## **ADULTS - New term starts on Wednesday 13 January**

St. Thomas' CE Primary School, Appleford Road,  
London W10 5EF

13 Jan – 23 March (half term 17 Feb) 7.00 – 9.00pm

### **Basic Skills & Improvers**

Teacher **Jane Rose**

**Intermediate** for dancers with at least a year's experience of Scottish country dancing who want to improve their technique and develop their repertoire.

Teachers **Pat Davoll** (up to half term)

**Gillian Frew** (after half term)

**Technique** for good dancers who want to develop their personal technique, improve their team-working skills and gain even more enjoyment from Scottish country dancing.

Teachers **Maureen Campbell** (up to half term)

**Lindsey Jane Rousseau** (after half term)

Class Fees: £75 per term or £9 per night for RSCDS members,  
£85 per term or £10 per night for non-members

All classes will dance to music from one of our musicians: **Sandra Smith, Ian Cutts, Hwei Lien The, Sabina Virtosu, Fernando Martin - Peñasco and Raymond Yiu**



**Beginners** Wednesdays 8.00 – 10.00pm 13 Jan – 23 March (half term 17 Feb)

Teacher **Judith Jones** Fee £6 per class. Recorded music

Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RT

**Mixed Ability Class (Starting a week earlier)** suitable for dancers with with at least some knowledge of basic steps and formations.

Wednesdays 2.30 – 4.30pm

6 Jan – 16 March (half term 10 Feb)

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

Fee £6 per class. Recorded music

Teacher **Jeni Rutherford**: [jrutherford@freeuk.com](mailto:jrutherford@freeuk.com)

**University of London & UCLU Folk Society** for students and staff of UCL and University of London. Thursdays 5.30 – 7.00pm UCL Rehearsal Room in the Bloomsbury Theatre

Term time. Fees £2 per class Live music

Teacher **Lindsey Jane Rousseau** with **Lizzy Conder**

**For experienced dancers interested in giving demonstrations**

Email Elaine Davies at [demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk)

**Contacts for all classes either Andrew or Lena at [classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk)**

# RSCDS NEWS

## Society AGM

There was a different feel to the AGM this year: we met in the familiar surroundings of a sports complex in Perth and several RSCDS worthies were presented with the Society Scroll, including our own Jim Cook (see p16), but no longer were delegates clutching coloured cards to register their votes. Instead we experimented with an electronic voting system, and some delegates or their proxies were representing several branches, which resulted in at least one delegate voting for and against the same motion and another casting votes on behalf of ten branches. London was entitled to send eleven delegates and eleven of us duly turned up to confirm our commitment to one man or woman one vote.

We heard about the wide range of RSCDS



London (and Paris) Branch member Jerry Reinstein, stewarding at the AGM in Perth, complete with the latest in line counters' fashion accessories.

activities over the year, the hard work of HQ staff and the Society's financial performance. There were no elections for the Management Board and Committees because there were fewer nominations than vacancies, but it was good to see our neighbours in Borders Branch stepping up to the mark, with Paul Plummer joining the Management Board, and Pat Houghton and Mervyn Short joining the Education and Training Committee.

Only one motion required us to press our electronic key-pads. The Management Board proposal that the full RSCDS subscription should increase by £2 from 1 July 2016 was carried, despite London and many other branches speaking and voting against. We will of course be implementing this change, so if anyone reading this is not already a member I recommend that you join now before the higher rate takes effect, and if you are a member you can avoid the pain of the increase next year by saying 'no' to one cup of coffee.

Andrew Kellett

### "An Annual General Meeting? How boring!"

That was my response when it was first suggested to me that I should go. "The meeting is only a small part of the weekend", was the reply. I went, and have been going ever since to enjoy a whole weekend of dancing, meeting old friends and new, talking, exploring, there can even be time to go shopping!

This year it was held in Perth; on Friday evening Luke Brady with a line up of six musicians began the weekend in fine form playing for a programme contributed by San Francisco Branch. Saturday morning offered an Open Forum for those who wished to talk about the Society's new Strategic Objectives and what the Branches would like Headquarters to do for them; for those with lively feet there was a class taught by Angela Young with music provided by Frank Thompson. A quick lunch break and it was time for the meeting (see comments left).

The Ball began with a glass of wine and a welcome from the Provost of Perth and Kinross. David Cunningham's Band gave us some superb music to dance the programme contributed by Perth and Perthshire Branch, and people found they were dancing much more than they had intended.

This was not the end of the weekend. On Sunday morning the Youth Branch had a 'drop in' session, the Headquarters Committees all met together, and for those who still had some energy, and there were a lot of them, there was a class taught by Jimmie Hill with Mo Rutherford providing the music.

Thank you to all the organisers of such a splendid event, now everyone goes home for a rest, looking forward to next year when the meeting will again be held in the fair City of Perth on 4 – 6 November 2016.

Rachel Wilton

## Two new faces at Headquarters

The AGM was an opportunity for the members who were present to meet the new Executive Officer, Gillian Wilson. Gillian comes from a background of international social justice and development and most recently worked for Network of International Development Organisations in Scotland. She grew up in India where she did her first Scottish country dancing. She has a Glaswegian father and families with a Scottish heritage met to enjoy 'Caledonian nights' with, of course, Scottish country dancing. Gillian is looking forward to bringing her skills and experience of managing, partnership building and working with people to her work with the Society to help strengthen what it is already doing and help it grow and diversify. She is very approachable and delighted to meet as many dancers as possible.

Another new face is that of Bill Cant, the Society's new treasurer. Although brought up in Scotland he started Scottish country dancing at the London Branch class taught by Owen Meyer, who Bill remembers, as many other dancers do, as a superb and patient teacher. It was there that Bill met his wife and now they can be met dancing in many different parts of the NE of Scotland.

RW

## And Two Past Presidents

### The Earl of Mansfield

The Earl of Mansfield, who passed away in October, was Honorary President of the Society for almost 30 years. Members will recall Lord Mansfield chairing many memorable Annual General Meetings, presenting the Scrolls, his character and personality shining through, making the weekend special for so many. What a relief it was for many Chairmen, and members, when they knew Lord Mansfield would be in charge of what might be a difficult meeting; because of his legal skills he was able to answer quickly and would brook no opposition.

A busy man, he was always interested in the Society and enjoyed an invitation to dinner and the ceilidh at Summer School.

As dancers we have an enduring memory of Lord Mansfield in the dance that John Drewry wrote for him in 1980 – *The Earl of Mansfield*.

Readers may also be interested in Simon Wales' interview with Lord Mansfield in *The Reel* 218, which is also available at [www.rscdslondon.org.uk/lord-mansfield-interview/](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk/lord-mansfield-interview/)

## Dr Alastair MacFadyen

The Earl of Mansfield's death follows closely on that of Dr Alastair MacFadyen, as reported in *The Reel* 293. A Tribute and Dance in Memory of Dr Alastair MacFadyen will be held on Friday 4 March 2016 at Carmichael Hall, Giffnock G46 6UG with Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig Band. There will be a Wine Reception and Tribute at 7.00pm, a light supper at 8.15pm, dancing from 8.45 – 10.30pm. For more details please visit [www.rscds glasgow.org](http://www.rscds glasgow.org)

RW

## New RSCDS Book for Young Dancers

Members of the RSCDS are invited to submit dances to be considered for a new book, to be published in 2017. Dances should be "Imaginative, Creative and Progressively Challenging".

The book will be aimed at young dancers (5 to 16 years) for use in children's festivals, teaching younger dancers and social dance programmes for less experienced dancers of all ages.

These dances can have been previously published outwith the RSCDS, or can be newly devised or unpublished, but should be based on RSCDS formations. The principal requirement is that the dances are suitable for children's festivals. All dances should consist of 32 bars and be danced progressively either four times through for four couples in a longwise or a square set, or eight times through for two or three couples in a four couple longwise set.

No more than one dance per deviser will be selected for inclusion in the final book, but a maximum of two dances per deviser can be submitted for selection.

The closing date is Friday 25 March 2016. Full details are available at [www.rscds.org/news/submissions-for-new-childrens-book](http://www.rscds.org/news/submissions-for-new-childrens-book)

Jeremy Hill

## MUSICIANS' CEILIDH DAY

16 January 2016

### Led by Ian Robertson

The Branch will be holding a Musicians' Day on Saturday 16 January 2016 at St Columba's Church hall. The programme for the day is as follows:

10.30 – 11.00am	Enrolment and Coffee
11.00am – 1.00pm	Workshop
1.00 – 2.30pm	Lunch (included)
2.30 – 4.30pm	Workshop
7.00 – 10.45pm	Branch Ceilidh Dance

This workshop is for all musicians who want to learn more about playing for Ceilidh Dancing with the opportunity to play for the Branch Ceilidh Dance that evening.

The workshop will be led by Ian Robertson. Ian is an accomplished musician, equally at home on the fiddle and accordion. He plays regularly for Scottish country dances, ceilidhs and concerts throughout the UK as well as regular overseas engagements. Ian has taught musicians' day schools for many years and believes passionately that the best dance musicians combine style and technical ability.

All musicians are welcome to come along to join in.

RSCDS Members: £24.00, non-members £27.00 (Lunch & refreshments included in price).

For further information please contact: Ireen Goulding [ireen.goulding@gmail.com](mailto:ireen.goulding@gmail.com) or 07939 201857

Application forms are available to download from [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)



# A Prima Ballerina's perspective on Scottish Country Dancing

Seeing an individual bounding like a gazelle up to the top floor flat in her house in Maida Vale, Rosalind Zuridis realized it was none other than recently retired prima ballerina Leanne Benjamin, OBE. As a lifelong dance fan, she couldn't resist finding out more about Leanne's perspective on dance in general, and exploring what she would make of Scottish country dancing.

I sat opposite Leanne Benjamin in a restaurant and watched her sinuous hands curling, unfolding and spreading through a multitude of tiny movements. She was explaining to me how, before dancing, she would start to loosen up her body, starting with her hands. It was meticulous, powerful and beautiful, and I immediately began to comprehend how such a dancer attends to the preparation of her body. I had invited Leanne to talk about her ballet career and then to give me her views on Scottish country dancing: I realized that the occasion would be full of valuable insights.

Leanne grew up in Queensland, Australia. She started dancing at the age of four, and came to England, to train with the Royal Ballet School, at the tender age of 16. She worked with the Sadler's Wells, the English National and the Deutsche Oper ballets before joining the Royal Ballet. She was accepted into the Royal Ballet in 1992, becoming a first soloist that same year and a principal in 1993. She danced with the company for the next 21 years before retiring in 2013. Renowned for her roles such as Stravinsky's *Firebird* and *Odette/Odile* in *Swan Lake*, she has been the recipient of many dancing awards and was awarded the OBE in 2005. Her dancing has been praised, amongst much else, for its musicality, emotional expressiveness and dramatic partnering.

Leanne had done Scottish dancing as a child, but during her ballet career had only been reintroduced to it via the 1985 ballet, "*The Flowers of the Forest*," choreographed by David Bintley. This ballet, full of whirling kilted dancers, commemorates the Battle of Flodden Field of 1513, where thousands of Scottish nobles perished in a battle against the English. Apart from this, Leanne has not been much acquainted with our passion. Consequently, I gave her an overview of the modern origins of SCD, starting with its revitalization by Miss Milligan and Mrs Stewart in the 1920s, through to its worldwide presence and influence. She was impressed by our great treasury of dances and was also interested to see the notation SCD has evolved such as in RSCDS books and Pilling.

With the excellent help of YouTube, Leanne and I watched a variety of Scottish country dancing, ranging from some top demonstration dancers through to footage taken at dances and balls up and down the country.

First, we watched the demonstration team 'Paris and Friends' dance the strathspey *My Friend Joe* (Newcastle 2015). Leanne was very impressed by their elegance and control, by their ability to link the formations into a seamless whole, and by their superb posture. In her opinion, the secret of good posture is to develop a strong core, via the abdomen and back muscles and to concentrate on the power of the legs, so as to enable the upper body – the neck, head, shoulders and arms – to move freely and with grace.

We then watched a performance of *The Shepherd's Crook*, which was danced outside, with the white dresses, bright sashes and kilts looking stunning against green lawns. (Birmingham RSCDS, Leeds 2011). Leanne commented on the communal drama of the whole dance and the intricacy of the Highland steps: she was clearly drawn to the more complex choreography where at some points one of the trio is dancing solo whilst the other two turn together.

We then watched a couple of five-couple dances, in particular Hugh Foss' wonderful *Polharrow Burn*. Leanne was attracted by the speed and vivacity of this dance, its loosened-up structure and its choreographic brilliance. She felt that complex dances such as these were really worth watching from above,

and compared this visual richness to the patterns created by the corps de ballet in dances such as *Swan Lake*.

As we talked, I could see that my interviewee was impressed by SCD's major characteristics: the skills of dancing in a group, the emphasis on elegance, good posture and complex footwork, our wide repertoire of dances and the great satisfaction we all gain from the communal experience of moving to music.



Leanne Benjamin, OBE, in *Emeralds*, at the Royal Ballet.

Nevertheless, Leanne is a soloist and a superb athlete and so her reactions to our style of dancing were sure to be illuminating. Leanne stood up at this point in our discussion:

"I would really like to see more height brought into the experience," she said. "Why are the men the only ones to project their body upwards? The ladies should use their arms more." Here she demonstrated, extending her arms, wrists and fingers upwards with great fluidity. "When you dance your whole body needs to be part of the movement."

Similarly, she advocated increasing the range of setting steps into more dances, incorporating those such as in *The Shepherd's Crook*. She felt that this would enrich the dances.

Finally, she clearly found that the basic choreography of most dances (first couple/ interacting with the couples below) rather restricting. "Why not a trio? Or a solo?"

I therefore asked her how she would feel if she were part of a SCD set. She smiled: "I think that after a while I would just want to fly off on my own!"

The conversation did then turn to those things that ballet and Scottish country dancing have in common. Leanne spoke of the fundamental importance of dancers maximizing the way they move and the shapes they form. "When I assess a dancer the first quality I look for is how they move through space." Perfectly shaped reels and the graceful linking of formations come to mind!

Leanne also stressed the importance of really connecting with your partner. She feels that eye contact is very important in maintaining the synergy between dancers and this, I feel, will ring a bell for Scottish country dancers! For ballerinas, she said, a great male partner is one whose strength and involvement enables and facilitates the ballerina's dancing.

Leanne also emphasized other elements that we all know, such as thinking ahead and remaining aware of the others moving around you. I retained the vivid impression of her always being alert to everything happening in the dance.

Finally, we came to the dancer and music and at this point Leanne surprised me. For her, the one great link with the music and the timing is the conductor: the dancer can almost always see their movements and this relationship helps the rhythm and drive of the performance. When we talked about the effect of music on dancers, she told me that almost as soon as the music starts she knows whether she will enjoy the dancing.

"If I have great music I get really inspired." I think we can all agree with that!

Rosalind Zuridis

## Second hand items for sale

### John Laurie's Jackets and Kilts

Two jackets and two kilts belonging to the late, great John Laurie are now for sale.

- Prince Charlie jacket and waistcoat: Chest 42-44" – £90
- Lovat Blue Oban tweed jacket: 42-44" – £130
- Kilt: Dark green MacMillan Modern Hunting. Heavy weight 7yd – 23 pleats. Hand sewn. Waist 36" approx. Length 24.5 inches – £160
- Kilt: Lighter green MacMillan Ancient Hunting. Medium weight 7yd – 23 pleats. Hand sewn. Worn in the sporran area and around the waist. Measurements as above – £50

All proceeds go towards purchasing an item in John's memory. Please contact Susan Pym, 0208 969 3774.

### Kilt, Jacket and Sporran

- Mackenzie green/blue kilt, length 22", waist 34" made by Geoffrey (Tailors) Edinburgh – £75

- Black day jacket with silver buttons, size M – 40" chest made by either Geoffrey (Tailors) or MacNaughtons of Pitlochry – £25

- Black leather sporran minus belt – £10
- Please contact Ann Milne, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, 01444 241373.

### Ladies' Kilts

- Ladies' Bruce kilt, lined, made by J. Wade. Size 14/16, drop 26 1/2 inches – £110
- Ladies' Bruce kilted skirt made by R. S., MacDonald size 14, drop 24" – £60
- Ladies' kilted skirts made by Mosbrook, MacBeth size 16, drop 32 1/2" and Red Frazer size 18, drop 27 1/2", both never used – £60 each
- MacDuff size 16 drop 28", never used – £50
- Douglas size 16, drop 33 1/2", never used – £70

For further details please contact Joy Barratt on 01444 232475.



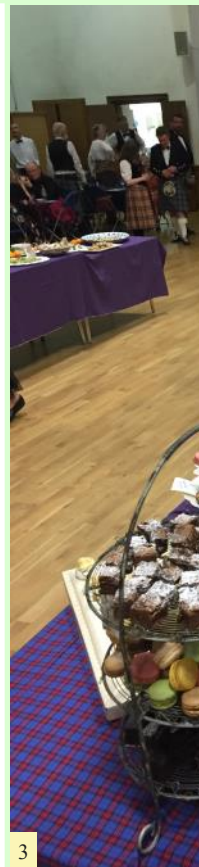
# THE DANCING WORLD



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1. **London Branch dance**, 12 September 2015: dancing *Kelly's Kaper*. Money was raised for the charity which Lorraine Kelly danced a 24-hour marathon of ceilidhs up and down Scotland living in poverty (see also *The Reel 293*).

**London Branch 85th Anniversary Dance**, 31 October 2015

2. Elegant ladies Elaine Wilde and Ruth Beattie, dressed in keeping with the 1930s

3. A wonderful spread of desserts served up as part of an excellent meal.

4. From left: Julia Griffin, Duncan Campbell, Danielle Reinstein and Meg Campbell

5. **Bill Dell**, photographed at the London Branch 75th Anniversary tea in 2005, was a regular at Porchester Hall for many years.

6. **Marhamchurch Scottish Country Dancers 20th Annual Residential Course** in Cornwall, 2-4 October: London Branch dancers, were among the 123 treated to a weekend organised by London Branch member Dawn Burden, and her husband

supported by helpers. Shown are John and Sue McLaren and Eric Finley, who, along with Sandy Nixon and his Band played for the Friday and Saturday night dances, with John and Sue McLaren and the Glencraig Band playing on Saturday night too.

**London Branch Day ;School, Padstow**, 19 October 2015 (see p3)

7. Musicians under the watchful eye of John McLaren

8. The Very Advanced class being put through their paces.

9. From left, Lindsey Ibbotsen, Jamie Rose and Paul Plummer demonstrating the promenade.

10. **Berkhamsted Strathspey & Reel** following the tradition of the Club, presented by Robert Baker-Glenn is presented to the president's shield by past-president John Webb, who also made it. Such shields are awarded to some Club events. For further information on those interested in making their own shields, please contact Stephen through the Editor.





...s raised as part of STV's Children's Appeal, during ...land, raising a total of £2,913,083 for children in

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...who passed away recently. Bill and his wife Agnes



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & CLUB NEWS

## Where is London's Pride?

Dear Jeremy,

What have the dance titles *Just as I was in the Morning* and *Red House* in common with the dance *None so Pretty*? Nothing at present, but they should have! *Just as I was...* and *Red House* can also be called respectively, by their alternative titles *The Deuk's dang ow're my Daddie* and *Where would bonnie Annie lie?* London Branch members will of course recognise *London Pride* as the alternative name for *None So Pretty*.

On 14 May 1974 Miss Jean Milligan wrote in reply to Dr Ellen Garvie: "I will certainly see that in any reprint of that book [the 1957 publication Book 19] the two names go in and also get in to the habit of referring to it as *None so Pretty* or *London Pride*." And this was then reported in *The Reel* 129: "Dr Garvie drew attention (at the 1974 Branch AGM) to an agreement by Miss Milligan to the re-naming of the dance *None so Pretty* to *London Pride* as the alternative title. The change will be incorporated into the relative book on reprint."

Following the euphoria in 1974 of this commitment, the then next two branch dances announced that we would be dancing the dance *London Pride*. Sadly, this feeling faded as nothing happened in reprints of Book 19, and London Branch returned to referring to the dance as *None so Pretty*. This was the state for the following 24 years, when this then popular dance appeared with great regularity on dance programmes sometimes even occurring several times a year. However, since then it has rarely appeared yet, on two of these occasions the alternative name *London Pride* was used. And at our 85th Anniversary dance held on 31 October, Branch chairman, Andrew Kellett reminded us again of this agreement made some 40 years earlier (yet never honoured by HQ). An A5 version of Book 19 was reprinted in 2012, but with no such revision.

Wilson Nicol (in his well-researched article in *The Reel* 282) says that Ellen Garvie raised this situation in 2002 with HQ but to no avail. Shouldn't this state of affairs be at last remedied?

Best wishes,  
**Stephen Webb**

PS I am delighted to report that at the Society AGM weekend this year, when I raised this matter with the convenor of the Membership Services Committee, he told me he would address this issue at the next reprint of Book 19.

## A Sense of Direction

Dear Jeremy,

I think that the RSCDS has lost its sense of direction. It was set up to preserve traditional Scottish dancing, and it did not publish recently composed dances until after WW2. The first to be included was *The Reel of the 51st Division*, which was devised by highland officers in a prisoner of war camp in Germany. The division had formed the rearguard at Dunkirk and it had not been possible to include it in the evacuation. The dance was No 10 in Book 13, the Victory Book, and it was a worthy exception.

Nowadays, the Society churns out book after book of newly composed dances. There is no reason why it should not publish contemporary dances – publication of descriptions of dances is Object (c) of its Constitution, and it does not specify that they should only be those found in old documents. Unfortunately, the pendulum has swung heavily to the other extreme. I have been through Books 42 to 45 and can find no dances from historical sources.

Books of new dances have always been written and published. In the 18th century they seemed to come out almost every year, and it is natural for people to wish to commemorate special events. Nevertheless, the RSCDS was not set up to produce these books. Recent ones have not even been given to members as a subscription issue, which is why my research stopped at Book 45. Classes at St Andrews Summer School are now largely given over to learning the dances in the latest book. When I started dancing regularly, 40 years ago, I went to classes to learn the technique of dancing and, after a while, began going to dances. It was possible to learn a great deal on the dance floor because there were far fewer dances in those days and by that time I was familiar with the basic figures. Nowadays there is a tendency to throw beginners in at the deep end. On one occasion a lady came to my local club. She had little experience of dancing and the first dance that someone asked her for was *The Blackwater Reel*. This is fairly complicated and at that time had only just been published, so nobody at the club knew it very well. The result was chaos, and the lady never came back.

The RSCDS needs to get back to basics. It should leave publication of modern dances to others, except for those few that commemorate events and personalities connected with the Society, and concentrate on teaching the skills that will allow newcomers to enjoy dancing the huge repertoire available today.

**Elizabeth Bennett**

## 50 Years of Bournemouth Branch

This year has been a proud year for the RSCDS Bournemouth Branch, celebrating 50 years from 6 August 1965, the date that Bournemouth Reel Club was officially granted RSCDS status. The move was instigated by Ron Watson and Iain Cameron, another member. Ron had gained his certificates some years earlier and had been teaching in Eastleigh, before moving to Bournemouth. He then encouraged Joan Horrocks, another member of the group, to attend St Andrews to take her teaching certificates, in order to fulfil the criteria of having two qualified RSCDS teachers to form a Branch.

As with all groups, over the years we have seen many ups and downs, but nevertheless we have kept going. At the time of being accepted as an RSCDS branch, the Club had four thriving classes each week: beginner/improvers and intermediate/advanced, each of which had 60 to 80 members; a demonstration class of 16 top notch dancers (entry by invitation only); and a large children's class. Each year the Branch held day schools, always attended by at least 100 dancers with classes for all levels, including highland, which Bobby Munro taught for many years.

Sadly, as the years have rolled by, age has claimed so many members, but we struggle on trying to gain more by moving areas and delivering 6,000 leaflets door to door (this did not get the expected result). We are very proud to have achieved 50 years of amazing happiness with thanks for during this time, to teachers and committee members who have enabled us to keep going.

We extend a very warm welcome to all to attend our Anniversary Ball (see advertisement opposite), held after our anniversary year due to all prior dates being fully booked. Please come and swell the numbers dancing to Marian Anderson and Her SCD Band.

**Marilyn Watson, Branch Chairman/Teacher**

## THE REEL

*The Reel* is published four times a year by the London Branch and posted free to all Branch members. Non-members may subscribe to be on the mailing list, and clubs can negotiate bulk copies for their members. Enquiries to Maggie Westley, see advert on p1.

Articles and advertisements for *The Reel* should be sent to the Editor, address at the foot of the front page. **Advertising rates are £13.00 per column inch in black and white, £19.50 per column inch in colour.** Enquiries to the Business Editor: Jeff Robertson at [businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk)



From left: Eileen Orr, with Tony and Barbara Morris on the occasion of their Branch awards in 2005

## Antony Morris: 24 October 1923 – 13 August 2015

Tony Morris was a member of Tunbridge Wells Branch from its formation in 1976. He trained as a civil engineer and his career spanned post war reconstruction in Britain, overseas postings in Bahrain, Malaysia and Tanzania followed by other overseas projects and three years working in the UK before retirement. Tony and his wife Barbara married in 1949 and in 1962 they bought the house in Pembury near Tunbridge Wells where they still lived 53 years later.

Once settled in the UK, Tony became Branch Chairman for eight years followed by many years as the Branch President. Meanwhile, Barbara served as Branch Secretary for 15 years and is now the Branch President. Tony very often attended the beginners' classes, as he liked to welcome them to the Branch and assist them in their dancing. They attended many dances throughout the South East as well as taking many dance holidays in the UK and the continent. Tony and Barbara's commitment to the Branch has been unstinting throughout all these years and they were presented with Branch awards in 2005.

Tony celebrated his 90th birthday at the Branch dance in 2013 and was still dancing in April this year aged 91. Tony's other love was sailing which he did round the world, as well as owning yachts in the UK. Other interests included the UK Bahrain Society, Finchcocks Musical Museum, gardening and golf.

**Pat Davoll**



# NEW RECORDINGS

**'Off the Beaten Track'**: Tom Orr Band. Download from iTunes, amazon.co.uk and other sites from £7.99. CD at £12.50 (plus £1.50 for UK P&P) from [www.tomorrmusic.co.uk](http://www.tomorrmusic.co.uk). Tracks include music suitable for a Canadian Barn Dance, a 4x32 jig, Scottish Waltz, Marches (2/4 into 6/8), Eva Three-step and an 8x32 reel.

Timing has conspired against us on this occasion, with new releases from Luke Brady's Band and D.u.K (a Society recording of 12 dances from *Miss Milligan's Miscellany*, plus four band tracks) not arriving in time for review in this issue.

For a Christmas suggestion, therefore, we head 'off the beaten track', with the Tom Orr Band, who reflect what might be called the modern ceilidh style of playing, heard from Alasdair MacCuish and others, bringing flavours of jazz and other genres to Scottish music. This was evident previously on his tracks for the recording, made in conjunction with the RSCDS, for the Commonwealth Ceilidh (see *The Reel* 289). In an interview on *Take the Floor* during the summer, Tom reflected on his influences, including Alasdair MacCuish and Iain MacPhail. One common feature between these two is evident here: the orchestration of music, so that each member of the traditional line-up six-piece band has a clearly defined role, combining to deliver a superbly integrated sound supporting and complementing the melody throughout. Iain MacPhail's band was introduced on some occasions as an 'orchestra' for this very reason.

On this occasion the recording is not geared to the Scottish country dancer, so it is more a case of sitting back, though those relaxing may be rudely awakened by the thunderous opening piano chord that leads into a high octane rendition of Gordon Duncan's *Thunderstruck* on the opening track. It is followed by up-tempo sets of jigs and reels, beautiful slow airs, including *Lochanside*, giving a great mix of traditional (such as *The Irish Washerwoman*) and modern tunes (Robert Black and Phil Cunningham among the composers), well-balanced to showcase the full band, including Marie Fielding (fiddle), Fraser MacInnes (drums) and Brian Cruickshank (bass). It will certainly get your toes tapping, and perhaps rolling back the carpet for a quick ceilidh dance in front of the Christmas tree.

Jeremy Hill



## BANDS

### THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

Broadcasting band for Scottish country dances, Reeling, Ceilidhs and Weddings. Any size of band from one to seven with PA to match from 100 to 2000 watts. Particularly interested in any ideas for expansion of ceilidh market. The Granary, Park Lane, Finchampstead, Wokingham RG40 4QL, Tel/Fax: 0118 932 8983 or [reel@frankreid.com](mailto: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](mailto:derek_chappell@aol.co.uk)

### THE RED RIVER BAND

We are now taking bookings for Scottish country dancing. Having played at informal ceilidhs, weddings, birthdays and Burns' Suppers for decades, we've started to take on dance programmes for local Scottish dance groups. We're happy as a three- or four-piece band. Please contact Edward Bunting on [edward.bunting@btinternet.com](mailto:edward.bunting@btinternet.com), 020 8883 1703 or 07748 942768.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

#### Tea Dance

Sunday 17 January 2016

2.15 – 6.00pm

Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre, East Common, SL9 7AD

#### Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

*Programme:* Kingussie Promenade, Fidget, Alison Rose, Inchmickery, The College Hornpipe, Linnea's Strathspey, The Kelloholm Jig, Glastonbury Tor, The Compleat Gardener, Cherrybank Gardens, Ray Milbourne, The Happy Weasel, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Clutha, The Montgomeries' Rant

Tickets £8.50 Bring and Share Refreshments - tea, coffee and squash provided

Suitable for less experienced dancers

#### Practice

Saturday 16 January 2016

9.45am – 12.45pm

Garden Room, Memorial Centre, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD

Cost £5.00

Contact Celia, [celiastuartlee@gmail.com](mailto:celiastuartlee@gmail.com) or Rose, 07880 842370, [rkreloff@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rkreloff@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.gxscottish.org](http://www.gxscottish.org)

### RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH

#### Branch Day School

Saturday 12 March 2016

Court Moor School, Fleet

GU52 7RY

Teacher: **Les Lambert**

Class Musician: **Andrew Nolan**

Musicians' Day School: **David Hall**

Contact Paul Plummer, 01252 404639



#### Branch Ball

Saturday 21 May 2016

Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP

**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

Contact Gordon Anderson, 01420 362530

Visit our website on [www.rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://www.rscds-bhs.org.uk)

### RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

#### New Year Afternoon Picnic Dance

Sunday 3 January 2016

2.30 – 6.30pm

Corfe Mullen Village Hall, BH21 3UA

Dancing to recorded music

Tickets £7.00 plus picnic tea

#### 50th Anniversary Ball

Saturday 23 April 2016

Minstead Village Hall, SO43 7FX

**Marian Anderson and her**

**Scottish Dance Band**

Tickets £20.00 before 28 February

£25.00 thereafter

Wine Reception & Supper included

Contact Margaret Robson, 01202 698138 or [margaret.brs cds@ntlworld.com](mailto:margaret.brs cds@ntlworld.com)

### RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

#### Annual Ball

Saturday 20 February 2016

7.30 – 11.30 pm

RACC (Richmond Adult Community College), Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RE

#### The Frank Thomson Duo

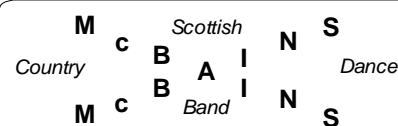
*Programme:* Liquid Assets, Blooms of Bon Accord, Cape Town Wedding, Midnight Oil, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, Autumn in Appin, Muirland Willie, Midsummer Common, Angus MacLeod, Ramadan-ce, Scott Meikle, 1314, Best Set in the Hall, Mrs Stuart Linnell, St Columba's Strathspey, Light and Airy, Australian Ladies, MacDonald of the Isles, Torridon Lassies, The Falls of Rogie

Tickets £22.00 including supper  
£15.00 non-dancers

Contact Frances Campbell Colquhoun, 020 8943 3773 or [frances18ed@gmail.com](mailto:frances18ed@gmail.com)  
[www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk](http://www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk)

### KAFOOZALUM COUNTRY DANCE BAND

Music for Scottish country dancing anywhere, anytime. For further details and availability, please telephone Peter Jenkins on 020 8581 0359, [peter@kafoozalum.co.uk](mailto:peter@kafoozalum.co.uk) or our Ceilidh website at [www.kafoozalum.co.uk](http://www.kafoozalum.co.uk)



Contact: Mike McGuinness Tel: 020 8398 6799 or Tel/Fax: 020 8546 0075 (business hours)

### Soloist: PETER JENKINS

Solo accordion for workshops, classes, day schools and 'smaller functions'. 020 8581 0359 or [peter@kafoozalum.co.uk](mailto:peter@kafoozalum.co.uk)

### BOOKSTALL

The bookstall has been doing good business recently. In particular, copies of the new book, Book 49, and other recent RSCDS publications have been selling well. Current stock is listed on the Branch website, [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk). Look out for the Bookstall at Branch events, such as the Christmas Dance.

#### Pilling

I have had enquiries about *Scottish Country Dances in Diagrams*, commonly known as 'Pilling', the small green book which many dancers have found very useful as an aide-memoire since it was first published by Mr F L Pilling in 1955. The latest edition, the 8th, came out in 2004, and a supplement with corrections and additional dances in 2009. The committee which now publishes Pilling have decided to produce a 9th edition, but I am told publication is "certainly not imminent". When it comes out, I will let readers of *The Reel* know and stock it in the bookstall.

Daniel Capron, [bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk)  
74B Thurlow Park Road, London SE21 8HY, or 020 8670 6918.



### DANCING IN SLOVENIA

Friday 19 – Sunday 21 August 2016

Dance Course and Evening Dances  
in Ljubljana, Slovenia

Accommodation for two nights in 4–star hotels  
with full board

Teacher: **Pat Houghton**

Musicians: **Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith**

Early prices from: 325 EUR, paid up to 31  
January 2016

### Optional Holiday in Slovenia and Venice/Italy

Sunday 21 – Tuesday 30 August 2016

Accommodation for six + three nights in 4–star  
hotels, nearly full board and lots of programmes  
including

4 UNESCO World Heritage sites  
in LJUBLJANA, IDRJA, SKOCJAN and  
VENICE

Underground canyons, amazing caves and cave  
castles, Alpine lakes, salt pan spa,  
beaches at the warm Adriatic Sea and  
the lagoons and canals of Venice

Early prices from: 750 + 650 EUR, paid up to 31  
January 2016

Contact Katalin Konya,

[kkonyakatalin@gmail.com](mailto:kkonyakatalin@gmail.com)

### DANCING IN JAPAN

at cherry blossom time!

Friday 15 – Sunday 17 April 2016

Dance Course and Evening Dances  
in Nikko, JAPAN

at 4–star Hotel Nikko Kirifuri

Two nights' accommodation with full board

Teachers: **Pat Houghton and Yoshiki Oyama**

Musicians: **James Gray and Kana Otake**

Prices from: 44.000 JPY (235 GBP)

### Optional Holiday in Japan

Sunday 3 to Friday 15, and

Sunday 17 to Saturday 23 April 2016

Accommodation for 18 nights in 3 and 4–star  
hotels (one night at a Buddhist monastery)

Nearly full board and lots of programmes  
including:

7 UNESCO World Heritage sites  
in NIKKO, KYOTO, NARA, HIROSHIMA,  
MIYAJIMA, MOUNT FUJI, MOUNT KOYA,  
Sightseeing in TOKYO and on the southern  
island of KYUSHU, tea ceremony, sushi making,  
kabuki theatre performance, visits to sake  
brewery, robot hotel, flower park, Japanese  
garden, optional visit to a sumo stable  
trying on kimonos, trying Japanese character  
writing, etc...

Prices from: 504.000 JPY (2.670 GBP)

For more details, please contact: Katalin Konya,  
[kkonyakatalin@gmail.com](mailto:kkonyakatalin@gmail.com)

### RSCDS BATH

#### Anniversary Dance

Saturday 13 February 2016

7.00 – 10.30pm

St Margarets Hall, Bradford on Avon  
BA15 1DE

#### Skae Brae

Tickets £11.00 Shared supper

Spend a delightful weekend in the pretty market  
town and dance with us

Contact Anne Jarrett, 01225 722309

### WEMBLEY AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

#### Annual Ball

Saturday 27 February 2016

7.30 – 11.30pm

Preston Manor School, Carlton Avenue East,  
Wembley HA9 8NA

**Ian Muir (Prestwick) and his**

**Scottish Dance Band**

**MC: Caroline Hamilton**

*Programme:* Hooper's Jig, Bratach Bana, The  
Belle of Bon Accord, Neil M Grant, Anniversary  
Reel, The Cashmere Shawl, Torridon Lassies,  
The Bonnie Lass O' Bon Accord, The Bees of  
Maggielockater, Queen's View, Glastonbury  
Tor, The Gentleman, Bill Clement MBE, The  
Plantation Reel, S-Locomotion, The Cranberry  
Tart, John of Bon Accord, Jean Martin of  
Aberdeen, MacLeod's Fancy, The Irish Rover

Tickets £17.00

Contact Brenda Manbauhar, 020 8933 9169 or

[info@wdsa.co.uk](mailto:info@wdsa.co.uk)

[www.wdsa.co.uk](http://www.wdsa.co.uk)

### RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH

#### Day School

Saturday 19 March 2016

Mascalls School, Paddock Wood TN12 6LT  
(easy access to A21 and mainline station from

London and the east coast)

Teachers: **Paul Plummer, Joan Desborough,**

**Lindsey Ibbotson**

Application form contact Pat Davoll, 01732

866557 or [patdavoll2@gmail.com](mailto:patdavoll2@gmail.com)

Note for your diary

#### 40th Anniversary Ball

Saturday 16 April 2016

Mascalls School, Paddock Wood TN12 6LT

Ticket includes a wine reception at 6.30pm,  
buffet meal

#### Strathallan Scottish Dance Band

For further details visit our website:

[www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk](http://www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk)

### SOUTH EAST DANCE DIARY

The diary is available through the Branch  
website at [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)  
and is regularly updated. If you don't have internet  
access and would like a hard copy of the latest  
version please send an SAE to Caroline  
Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Pinner,  
Middlesex HA5 1PW.

All societies in the South East are invited  
to submit their functions for inclusion in the  
diary by emailing Caroline Hamilton at  
[diary@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:diary@rscdslondon.org.uk) or by post to the  
above address.

### MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB

#### Highland Ball

Saturday 9 January 2016

6.30 – 10.30pm

Manor Green School,  
Elizabeth Hawkes Way,  
Maidenhead SL6 3HF

**Ian Muir (Prestwick) and  
his Scottish Dance Band**

*Programme:* EH3 7AF, John

of Bon Accord, Glengarry Homestead\*, Neil M.  
Grant, Swiss Lassie, The Robertson Rant, Best  
Set in the Hall, Whistlin' in the Kitchen, Gang  
the Same Gate, The Deil among the Tailors,  
Follow Me Home, The Black Mountain Reel,  
The Rose of the North, Purple Heather Jig\*,  
Queen's View, Foxhill Court, Nottingham Lace,  
The Kelloholm Jig, Miss Eleanor, Mairi's  
Wedding

\*These two dances will be recapped

Tickets £20.00 before Saturday 19 December  
£22.00 thereafter

Includes supper and a welcome drink.

Bring your own wine

Dress Formal

Contact Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate,  
Maidenhead SL6 6SG, 01628 628372 or

[sj.courtier@gmail.com](mailto:sj.courtier@gmail.com)

Payment available by cash, cheque or online  
bank transfer

If ticket delivery to home address is required  
please send an SAE, otherwise tickets for  
collection on arrival

[www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk](http://www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk)

### WEST MACS

#### Charity Ball in aid of Scotland's Charity

##### Air Ambulance

Saturday 9 April 2016

7.30 – 11.30pm

Preston Manor School, Carlton Avenue East,  
Wembley HA9 8NA

**Nicol McLaren and the Glenraig Band**

**M.C: Mrs Caroline Hamilton**

*Programme:* Maxwell's Rant, A Capital Jig, The  
Moray Rant, Ramadan-ce, The Bees of  
Maggielockater, The Gentleman, Polharrow  
Burn, Best Set in the Hall, Alison Rose, Mairi's  
Wedding, The Bonnie Lass O' Bon Accord,  
J B Milne, Torridon Lassies, The Duchess Tree,  
Scott Meikle, The Dancing Master, Shifin'  
Bobbins, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Inchmickery,  
The Falls of Rogie

Tickets £18.00 if paid by 2 April 2016 £19.00  
thereafter including supper

Contact Margaret Wallace, 46 Boston Gardens,

Brentford TW8 9LW, 02085 606160 or

[margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk)

### London Branch Membership

The annual cost of RSCDS membership through the London Branch is:

- £22.00 (£18.00 RSCDS subscription plus £4.00 Branch fee) for members who choose to receive *The Reel* in electronic format only, **irrespective of where they live**,
- £24.00 (£18.00 RSCDS sub + £6.00 Branch fee) for UK-based members who receive *The Reel* through the post,
- £30.00 (£18.00 RSCDS sub + £12.00 Branch fee) for European-based members who receive *The Reel* through the post, and
- £33.00 (£18.00 RSCDS sub + £15.00 Branch fee) for members in the rest of the world who receive *The Reel* through the post.

Discounts apply of £9.00 for members aged 12-17, £4.00 aged 18-25 and £3.50 for each of two members living at the same address. Members of other branches can become 'second members' of the London Branch by paying the appropriate Branch fee.

London Branch membership benefits include reduced rates at Branch events and receiving *The Reel*, while RSCDS membership includes the biannual publication, *Scottish Country Dancer*, and 10% discounts on items from the RSCDS shop.

Membership can be purchased on the Branch website at [www.rscdslondon.org.uk/shop](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk/shop). Membership enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989 or [membership@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:membership@rscdslondon.org.uk)



## ISLE OF WIGHT

### Weekend School

19 – 21 February 2016  
Shanklin, Isle of Wight

Teachers: **Anne Smyth, Antoine Rousseau**  
Class Musicians: **Robert Mackay,**  
**Ian and Judith Muir**

Band: **The Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band**  
Contact Catherine Packwood-Bluett,  
01980 621322 or [catherinepb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:catherinepb@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.craigellachie-band.co.uk/](http://www.craigellachie-band.co.uk/)  
[isle\\_of\\_wight.html](http://isle_of_wight.html)



## CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB and BRACKNELL REEL CLUB

### Joint Spring Dance

Saturday 9 April 2016

Carnation Hall, Winkfield Row, Bracknell,  
Berks RG42 7PA

### Strathallan Scottish Dance Band

Programme and details in *Reel 295*  
Contact Maria Gunston, 01276 34609 or  
[tickets@camberleyreelclub.org.uk](mailto:tickets@camberleyreelclub.org.uk)

## READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

### Annual Ball

Saturday 6 February 2016  
7.30 – 11.00pm

Abbey School, 17 Kendrick Road, Reading,  
Berks RG1 5DZ

### Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

*Programme:* Pelorus Jack, Swiss Lassie, Peggy's Strathspey, A Capital Jig, Scott Meikle, The Belle of Bon Accord, Napier's Index, John of Bon Accord, A Summer Meeting, Mrs Macpherson of Inveran, Jennifer's Jig, All for Mary, Sugar Candie, James Gray, The Castle of Mey, Culla Bay, The Zoologist, The Morrison Measure, The Minister on the Loch, The Montgomerie's Rant. *Extras:* The Reverend John MacFarlane, West's Hornpipe

Tickets £20.00 including welcome drink and supper with a glass of wine

Contact Rita Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley,  
Reading RG6 5PT, 0118 975 7507 or  
[Sascdol@gmail.com](mailto:Sascdol@gmail.com)  
[www.scottishdancingreading.org](http://www.scottishdancingreading.org)

## MILTON KEYNES RSCDS

### Annual Ball

Saturday 12 March 2016  
7.30 – 11.30pm

Lovat Hall, Newport Pagnell, MK16 0EJ  
**Stuart Anderson and his Band**

*Programme:* The Lochalsh Reel, Mrs Stewart's Jig, The Flower o' the Quern, Mideltone Silver, The Rutland Reel, Gang the Same Gate, James Gray, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Polharrow Burn, The Irish Rover, Bratach Bana, The Dream Catcher, The Chequered Court, Rye Twist, Sands of Morar, Blooms of Bon Accord, Gothenburg's Welcome, The Paisley Weavers, Scott Meikle, Good Hearted Glasgow

Tickets £18.00 including supper  
Contact Jan Jones, 07877 153259 or  
[jange@verybusy.co.uk](mailto:jange@verybusy.co.uk)  
[www.rscdsmk.co.uk](http://www.rscdsmk.co.uk)

## RSCDS CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH

### Annual Dance

Saturday 19 March 2016  
7.30 – 11.30pm

Impington Village College, Impington  
CB24 9LX

### StrathCam

Contact Jacqui Broucker, 07916 892611 or  
[jacqui\\_broucker@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jacqui_broucker@yahoo.com.au)  
[www.rscds-cambridge.org](http://www.rscds-cambridge.org)

## LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming dances to be held at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD,  
Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 – 10.30pm  
unless otherwise stated

Saturday 9 January:

### New Year Dance

7.00 – 11.00pm **Craigievar**

Saturday 6 February:

### Annual Ball

(see below)

Saturday 5 March:

### Frank Thomson duo

(to be held at St Saviours, Pimlico)



### Annual Ball

Saturday 6 February 2016  
7.00 – 11.00pm

### Ian Muir (Prestwick) and his Scottish Dance Band

*Programme:* Airdrie Lassies, The Gates of Edinburgh, City of Belfast, A Capital Jig, Scott Meikle, The Valentine, The Diamond Jubilee, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Flower o' the Quern, Father Connelly's Jig, Anniversary Reel, The Snowball, The Bonnie Lass O' Bon Accord, Duke of Perth, Postie's Jig, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Baldovan Reel, Tribute to the Borders, 12 Coates Crescent, The Reel of the 51st Division

### Ball Tickets:

Including finger buffet refreshments

LHC Members in advance £20.00\*

Non Members in advance £23.00\*

All classes on the door £25.00

\* Advance booking price is only available on orders received by midnight 3 February

For tickets contact: Frank Bennett on  
020 8715 3564 or [fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk)

If you have highland dress, you are invited to wear it

Programmes and cribs are on our website

[www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk)

For further details, contact Catriona Bennett on  
020 8286 8424 or [cm84scd@gmail.com](mailto:cm84scd@gmail.com)

Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening.

## RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH

### Annual Ball

Saturday 9 January 2016

Pittville School, Albert Road, Cheltenham,  
GL52 3JD

### Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Tickets £18.00 including light refreshments  
Programme and flyer on our website:

[www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk)

### Day School

Saturday 23 April 2016

Reddings Community Centre, Cheltenham,  
GL51 6RF

Advanced, General and Beginners classes, and Evening Social

Teacher: **Helen Russell**

Musician: **Keith Anderson**

More details on our website:

[www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk)

### Summer Dance

Saturday 21 May 2016

Churchdown Community Centre, Parton Road,  
Churchdown, GL3 2JH

### Luke Brady's Scottish Dance Band

More details on our website:

[www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk)

## RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

### Burns' Night Supper & Dance

Saturday 30 January 2016  
7.30 – 11.30pm

Benson Parish Hall OX10 6LZ

### Ian Muir and The Craigellachie Band

*Programme:* Maxwell's Rant, EH3 7AF, The Gentleman, The Rutland Reel, Rockside, Miss Eleanor, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, City of Belfast, The Plantation Reel, Les Noces d'Or, James Gray, Linnea's Strathspey, Napier's Index, The Dream Catcher, Scott Meikle, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Pelorus Jack, The Reel of The Royal Scots

Tickets £15.00

Contact Trisha Rawlings, 29 Frances Road,  
Middle Barton, Oxon OX7 7ET, 01869 340830  
or [trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com](mailto:trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com)

### Day School and Dance

Saturday 20 February 2016

Headington School, Oxford, OX3 7TD

Teachers: **Pat Houghton, Eric Finley**  
**and Dennis Tucker**

Musicians: **Jeremy Hill, Barbara Manning**  
**and Ken Martlew**

Tickets Whole day £26.00

Morning or afternoon classes £9.00 each session

Evening dance £14.00

Evening dance 7.00 – 10.30pm

### Strathallan Scottish Dance Band

*Programme:* Granville Market, The Burn by the Hillock, The Birks of Invermay, Mrs Stewart's Jig, The Black Mountain Reel, Radcliffe Square, Links with St Petersburg, Bill Little's Strathspey, The Sailor, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, The Reverend John MacFarlane, The Duchess Tree, The Immigrant Lass, Swiss Lassie, Neidpath Castle, The Chequered Court, The Reel of The 51st Division

Applications (available from

[www.rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk))

Contact Trisha Rawlings, 29 Frances Road,  
Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon,  
OX7 7ET, 01869 340830 or  
[trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com](mailto:trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com)

## ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

### Day School

Saturday 23 April 2016

Edgbarrow School, Crowthorne,  
Berkshire

Teachers: **Maureen Haynes**  
**and Tom Ibbotson**

Musicians: **Robert Mackay**  
**and Chris Oxtoby**

For further details and application forms contact:  
Gaynor Curtis 60 Bishops Wood, St Johns,  
Woking Surrey, GU21 3QB, 01483 721989

### Argyll Weekend at Dillington House, Somerset Dancers' Weekend School

7 – 9 October 2016

Teachers: **Diane Rooney and Mervyn Short**  
Musicians: **Robert Mackay and**  
**Barbara Manning**

For booking contact: Dillington House,  
Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 9DT, 01460 258613

For further information and brochure:

[dillington@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:dillington@somerset.gov.uk) or

[www.dillington.co.uk](http://www.dillington.co.uk) or see

[www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk](http://www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk)



## CAN YOU HELP?

The Editor is very grateful for the support of various people in editing, preparation and reviewing to create the issue you see, but could always use more assistance. Some technological interest would be useful. If you think you might be able to help in some small way, please contact [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB

### 64th Highland Ball

Saturday 13 February 2016  
7.30pm – Midnight  
Ashlyns School, Berkhamsted  
HP4 3AH

### Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band

*Programme:* See website

Tickets £24.00 including dinner and welcome drink

Contact Dawn Dorman, 01727 853908 or [events@berkhamstedreelclub.org](mailto:events@berkhamstedreelclub.org)

Tickets also available via website and PayPal

### Highland Ball Practice

Saturday 6 February 2016  
11.00am – 5.00pm

Potten End Village Hall,  
Berkhamsted, HP4 2QG  
£5 on the door

Bring a packed lunch, morning and afternoon coffee & tea provided

[www.berkhamstedreelclub.org](http://www.berkhamstedreelclub.org)



## RECHBERG SCOTTISH DANCERS

### Autumn in Gamundia

An international gathering,  
workshop & ball

Level: experienced  
Friday 28 – Sunday 30  
October 2016

Schwäbisch Gmünd,  
Germany

Teacher: **Antoine Rousseau**

Musicians: **Andrew Nolan, Ian & Judith Muir and Judith Smith**

Full details and application form available  
January 2016

[www.rechbergscottishdancers.de](http://www.rechbergscottishdancers.de)  
[ute.pitzal@rechbergscottishdancers.de](mailto:ute.pitzal@rechbergscottishdancers.de)



## Jan & Rita's Hogmanay Dance

31 December 2015

8.00pm – 12.30am

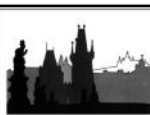
Great Brickhill Village Hall, MK17 9BA

*Programme:* Chased Lovers, Duke of Perth, Montparnasse, Sleepwalking, Rothesay Rant, Da Rain Dancin', St Bernard's Waltz, The Dundee City Police Jig, Ramadan-ce, City of Belfast, Scott Meikle, Maxwell's Rant, The Barmkin, Gothenburg's Welcome, Virginia Reel, The Minister on the Loch, The Dashing White Sergeant, The Morrison Measure, Father Connelly's Jig, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Shiftin' Bobbins, Gay Gordons, Postie's Jig, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets £5.00, Shared Refreshments

Contact Jan 07877 53259

or [jange@verybusy.co.uk](http://jange@verybusy.co.uk)



June 24 - 30

Dance workshop

June 30 - July 3

Sight-seeing tour

## Prague Scottish Dance Week Czech Republic

Dear dancing friends,

Again in 2016, you are cordially invited to our Scottish Dance Week. For more than 20 years, we have been organizing regular summer dance courses. The participants will surely be thrilled to learn that the teacher will be again **Ron Wallace**, with **Muriel Zobel** (Johnstone) on the piano. They can hardly wish for any better tandem. We dance on the wooden floor!

Afterwards you will have a chance to extend your visit and stay with your friends for several more days while joining us for a sight-seeing tour to the southern Bohemia.

All the details and registration:

<http://www.dvorana.cz/>

## WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Caledonian Ball

Saturday 19 March 2016

7.30 – 11.30 pm

Allum Hall, Allum Lane,  
Elstree, WD6 3PJ

### Sandy Nixon and his Scottish Dance Band

*Programme:* The Shetland Shepherdess, Quarries' Jig, Linnea's Strathspey, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Compleat Gardener, Autumn in Appin, Glastonbury Tor, The Minister on the Loch, The Triumph, Ramadan-ce, The Piper and The Penguin, Tribute to the Borders, Dagmar's Fancy, Mrs Stuart Linnell, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, 12 Coates Crescent, Bill Clement MBE, The Moray Rant, General Stuart's Reel, The Montgomerie's Rant

Tickets £20.00 include Buffet Supper and wine reception

### Ball practice

Sunday 13 March 2016

2.00 – 5.00pm

Recital Hall Nascot Wood Junior School,  
Nascot Wood Road, Watford WD17 4YS

Please contact us if you wish to attend

All welcome at our

### Christmas Dance

17 December 2015

Bushey Centre WD23 1TT

Contact Rose Krelloff,

07880 842370, [rkrelloff@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rkrelloff@hotmail.co.uk) or  
[tickets/watfordscottish.org.uk](http://tickets/watfordscottish.org.uk)



## OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB. Dancing most Mondays, 8–10.15pm, Sept–June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details: Morag Liddell, 38 The Holt, Abingdon, OX14 2DR, [moragian@sky.com](mailto:moragian@sky.com) or [www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com](http://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](http://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 8pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Dawn Dorman, Hill End Farm, Gorbambury, St Albans, Herts AL3 6AR, 01727 853908 or [www.berkhamstedreelclub.org](http://www.berkhamstedreelclub.org)

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS. Technique Class, alternate Mondays, Sept–April, 8–10pm Finchampstead Memorial Hall, RG40 4JU. General Class, every Wednesday, Sept–May, 8–10pm, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church Hall, Frimley, GU16 7AA. Teacher: Mervyn Short. Details: Paul Plummer, 01252 404639 or [www.rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://www.rscds-bhs.org.uk)

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at Kinson Community Centre, Pelham's Park, Millhams Rd., Kinson, Bournemouth, BH10 7LH 7–10pm. Alternate Wednesday Technique class, by invitation. Details: Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Road, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX, 01202 698138 or [margaret.brscls@ntlworld.com](mailto:margaret.brscls@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](mailto:chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk) or [www.rscds-brighton.org.uk](http://www.rscds-brighton.org.uk)

BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Thursdays 7.30–10pm at Balfour Junior School, Balfour Road, Brighton. Details: Carol Catterall, 01273 564963

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 8pm at St Paul's Church Hill, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Jackie Cresswell, 01252 616289 or [info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk](mailto:info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk)

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for all grades. Details: Lindsey Ibbotson, 07977905291 or [lindsey.ibbotson@gmail.com](mailto:lindsey.ibbotson@gmail.com)

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY Scottish country dancing and other events. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8pm from Sept–June. Details: Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or [www.camscotoc.org.uk](http://www.camscotoc.org.uk)

CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS Advanced class Mondays 7.30–9.30pm Christ Church Infants School. General class Thursdays 7.15–9.15pm. Bettridge School, Cheltenham. Also a Beginners' class. Details: Margaret Winterbourne, 01242 863238

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30–10pm from October to end May, at St Andrew's URC, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN, 01242 528220 or [mbsteele1945@gmail.com](mailto:mbsteele1945@gmail.com)

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meet on Sundays 6–9.15pm, Sept–June, in the Upper Hall at St Michaels & All Angels Church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Road, London W4 1TX (turn right out of Turnham Green tube station, 70 yards). Check [www.chiswickscottish.org.uk](http://www.chiswickscottish.org.uk) for beginners and experienced dancers' start times and all activities. Details: Heather Nolan, 01784 256549 or [secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk](mailto:secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk)

CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets Thursdays 8–10pm Sept–June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details: Mrs Lee Pratt 01403 269439 or [chrisp@fastnet.co.uk](mailto:chrisp@fastnet.co.uk) or [www.crawleyscdc.btck.co.uk](http://www.crawleyscdc.btck.co.uk)

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH. Branch classes in Coulsdon: General, incl Beginners with technique (Fri); Advanced & Improvers (Wed) 8 – 10pm St Andrew's Church, Woodcote Grove Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2AJ. Details: Ian Tucker, 01306 741690 or [ian.tucker.at.home@gmail.com](mailto:ian.tucker.at.home@gmail.com) or [www.rscdscroydon.org.uk](http://www.rscdscroydon.org.uk)

EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Club night Mondays (all year) 8–10pm at Christchurch Parish Hall, Wanstead Place, Wanstead, E11 2SW. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or [angelaross87@hotmail.com](mailto:angelaross87@hotmail.com) or [www.efsa.org.uk](http://www.efsa.org.uk)

EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION General dancing Mondays, 7.30 – 10pm, Tweddle Hall, St Andrew's URC, Northey Avenue, Cheam, SM2 7HF. Teacher: Pauline Cashmore, 020 8686 9362. Details: Dorothy Pearson, 01737 551724 or [pearson2902@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pearson2902@tiscali.co.uk)

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8pm, Sept–end of April at Weydon School, Weydon Lane, Farnham, GU9 8UG. Details: Pippa Peatman 01256 703909 or [p\\_peatman@yahoo.com](mailto:p_peatman@yahoo.com) or [www.fscdc.co.uk](http://www.fscdc.co.uk)

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30–10pm, Sept–May. Details: Morna Partridge, 01252 711992 or [morna.partridge@btinternet.com](mailto:morna.partridge@btinternet.com) or [fleet.rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://fleet.rscds-bhs.org.uk)



## OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays from Sept–June. Beginners 7.30pm, General 8.15pm. Details: Celia Stuart-Lee, 01753 884217 or [info@gxscottish.org.uk](mailto:info@gxscottish.org.uk) or [www.gxscottish.org.uk](http://www.gxscottish.org.uk)
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8–10.30pm. Details: Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF, 0203 078 0018
- GUILDFORD SCDC meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford, GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8pm from Sept–June. Details: 01483 456091 or [www.gscdc.org.uk](http://www.gscdc.org.uk)
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Tuesdays Sept–June from 8–10pm in The Parlour, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF, 020 8870 6131
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday at 8pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8pm. Details: Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts AL3 5RE, 01727 863870
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Classes Wednesdays 8.15–10.15pm, St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details: Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner, HA5 3QR, 020 8428 6055 or [www.harrowscottish.org.uk](http://www.harrowscottish.org.uk)
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Fridays 8–10pm, Sept–July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, 020 8560 6160
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB. Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30–11pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 0208 440 3236 or [margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk)
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS meet Wednesdays Sept–June at Holy Trinity & St John's C. of E. Primary School, St John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7–8pm. General 8–10pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent, 01843 869284
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP. Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinity, ;;;; JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or [icchanjoy@gmail.com](mailto:icchanjoy@gmail.com) Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or [alan.nicolle88@gmail.com](mailto:alan.nicolle88@gmail.com) or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or [scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com](http://scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com)
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB meets regularly at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: adverts in *The Reel*, Catriona Bennett, 33 Pains Close, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1BY, [cmb84scd@gmail.com](mailto:cmb84scd@gmail.com) or 020 8286 8424 or [www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk)
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB meets Thursdays 8pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL, 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday 8pm at St Piran's School, Gringer Hill, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7LZ. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372 or [maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk](http://maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk)
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP meets every Wednesday 7.30–10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details: Dick Barford, 55 Northumberland Road, Maidstone ME25 7JG, 01622 685984
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing Thursdays 8–10.15pm at St Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent DA12 3HL, 01474 822919
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS. Mixed ability class Mondays 8–10pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5LP, 01908 378730 or [jange@verybusy.co.uk](mailto:jange@verybusy.co.uk)
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB. Dancing most Wednesdays during school term, 8.15–10.15pm from Sept–May at St Thomas' Church Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, SG6 4DZ. Informal Saturday dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds SG17 5AL or 01462 812691
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dancing 7.45–10pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 9JN, 01634 254451
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday 8–10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners'/Improvers' Class every Monday 8–10.15pm at St Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. 'Young at Heart' class on Mondays 2–4 pm at St Johns Church Hall, Lynwood Grove, Orpington BR6 0B Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or [hadyndavies@gmail.com](mailto:hadyndavies@gmail.com)
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS. Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET, 01869 340830
- READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY. Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading, RG1 5BD from 8–10pm, Sept–May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st & 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Carole Menzies 0118 942 3717 or [sascdo1@gmail.com](mailto:sascdo1@gmail.com) or [www.scottishdancingreading.org](http://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](mailto:wmitton517@btinternet.com)
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8pm from mid Sept. to end of May. Details: 020 8943 3773 or [www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk](http://www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk)
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP. Dancing Tues 8pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or [gwood@gna.cc](http://gwood@gna.cc)
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Scottish country dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15–10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns' Nights when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Details: Denise Haugh, 020 8392 2920 or [dhaugh200@btinternet.com](mailto:dhaugh200@btinternet.com) or [www.stcolumbasdancers.org](http://www.stcolumbasdancers.org)
- ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM meet every Thurs 8–10.15pm Sept–June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Sue Davis 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne, 01344 774344 or [alan.suedavis@gmail.com](mailto:alan.suedavis@gmail.com) Also Children's Class Sats 9.30–11am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT hold weekly classes for all levels of dancers on Monday evenings from 7.30–9.30pm at Collingwood School, Springfield Road, Wallington, SM6 0BD. Details: Maggie Westley, 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157, or [westley.maggie14@gmail.com](mailto:westley.maggie14@gmail.com)
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB meets every Tuesday from Sept–May, 8–10pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Mrs Josephine Ellis, 26 Byng Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8EJ or [josephine@ellismp.plus.com](mailto:josephine@ellismp.plus.com)
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday from Sept–May, 8.15–10.15pm, in Barnes. Details: Sheena Clarke, 07954 350899
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Wednesdays from 8–10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin, 48 Eastbrook Road, Blackheath SE3 8BT, 020 8856 4522
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing at St Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30–10pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Fridays, 7.30–10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30–9pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808 or [grahameaston@btinternet.com](mailto:grahameaston@btinternet.com) or [www.seess.org.uk](http://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. Details: Ian, 07842 034890 or [sehscds@hotmail.com](mailto:sehscds@hotmail.com) or [www.sehscottishdance.org/news](http://www.sehscottishdance.org/news). For Demonstration class contact Anne Nutt 01992 550923
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday at 8pm from Sept–June at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY or [www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk](http://www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk)
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS. Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8–10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8–10pm 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](http://www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk)
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY. General and Beginners'/Improvers' Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey, WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8–10pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford, WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or [reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk](mailto:reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk)
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Wednesdays 8–10pm Sept–June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or [welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net](http://welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net)
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dance Class Mondays 8pm. 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](mailto:info@wdsa.co.uk)
- WIMBLEDON. St Andrew Society (London): Wimbleton and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8pm at Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, Wimbleton SW19 1SB. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3JB, 020 8540 1755 or [araffan@googlemail.com](mailto:araffan@googlemail.com) or [www.standrewscoLondon.net/ne.net](http://www.standrewscoLondon.net/ne.net)
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS. Classes Tuesdays 8–10pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8–10pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ, 01264 363293 or [wendy@mumford.com](mailto:wendy@mumford.com)
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Wednesday 8–10pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Alex Daniel, 01621 855548 or [alexsdaniel@aol.com](mailto:alexsdaniel@aol.com)





**Above left:** a full dance floor at the 85th Anniversary Dance, 31 October 2015

**Above right:** on the box – Nicol McLaren, with appropriate socks, at the Hayes Annual Ball, 14 November 2015

**Below:** London Branch member and former Editor of *The Reel* Jim Cook (pictured at the Branch's January 2015 Burns' Dance) was among those honoured at the Society AGM with the Society's Scroll (see p6), reflecting his enormous energy and enthusiasm in introducing and promoting Scottish country dancing to many parts of Europe and beyond. He was not there in person, due to fronting a dance weekend in Turin.

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