



The Reel **rscds** London Branch

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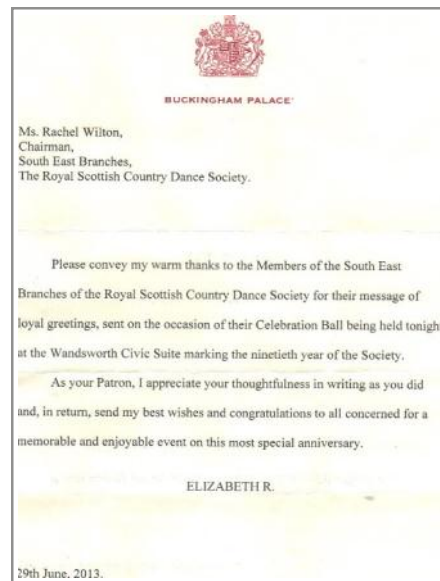
SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2013

Scottish Country Dancing –
For fun, fitness and
friendship

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY 90th ANNIVERSARY BALL



The movers and shakers, L to R: Pat Davoll, George Ferrier, Duncan Barnet, Rachel Wilton, Margaret Catchick (South East Branches Committee), John Wilkinson (RSCDS Chairman), Ruby Wilkinson, Band leader Ian Muir, Andrew Kellett (London Branch Chairman) and Wendy Kellett



This long awaited Scottish country dancing extravaganza, hosted by the Branches of the Society based in South East England, took place on 29 June in the impressive Wandsworth Town Hall Civic Suite, close by the banks of Old Father Thames in South London. More than 200 dancers were greeted on arrival with a welcoming drink and sound of both the great highland bagpipes and Scottish smallpipes. Many friends met up from far and near and it was a particular pleasure to welcome the Chairman of the RSCDS, John Wilkinson, together with his wife, Ruby. The tone had been set for a very enjoyable evening.

After the reception, dancing commenced to the toe-tapping music of the ever popular Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band. The dances on the programme had been well thought out, ranging from easy for the less experienced to more challenging, and also incorporating some old favourites. Most importantly, no matter which category they fell in, all the dances seemed to have been chosen because they were particularly enjoyable, which was most fitting for this celebratory occasion.

There was a break for a delicious buffet supper, following which we were honoured to receive a message of congratulation from the Society's Patron, Her Majesty The Queen (see above), read by London Branch President, Rachel Wilton, who then proposed a toast to The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

It was obvious from the atmosphere that everybody had a wonderful time and too soon the last dance was danced. Could it really be midnight – where had the time gone? Reluctantly, it was time to go home. The South East Branches who hosted the event were BHS Borders, Bournemouth, Brighton, Cambridge, Croydon, London, Milton Keynes, Norwich, Oxfordshire, Tunbridge Wells and Winchester. The committee members, who worked so hard in organising the event, and others who contributed throughout the evening, must be congratulated for the very successful evening which had run seamlessly.

Meg Harman



Crossing in The Silver Tassie, dancers enjoy the impressive setting of the Wandsworth Town Hall Civic

Welcome Visitors

Dear Jeremy,

The Paris Branch of the RSCDS was well represented at the 90th Anniversary Ball hosted by the South East Branches in London on 29 June. More than ten people from the Paris Branch attended the event, mingling with other members of the multinational group to celebrate the history of this Society which means so much to all of us. We were delighted with the programme, the beautiful spacious hall, the music (of course!), and the chance to dance and converse with friends and with new acquaintances as well. The circle keeps widening, and that's one of the most satisfying aspects of Scottish country dancing! Thanks to the South East Branches for a wonderful time!

Yours sincerely

Danièle Landrieau, Marie-Solange Pollard
and Julia Griffin

EDITORIAL

The summer is a period in which dancing comes to a halt in most clubs, though summer dancing can be found in a number of places: the RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews remains the pinnacle of the year's dancing for many and teachers, dancers and players from the South-East are among those from all over the world who make the pilgrimage.

For the first time for 25 years, for various reasons, we did not attend the school this year, allowing us to join others at some of the Summer Tuesdays dancing at Pont Street. As many as 120 dancers are attracted each week by the mix of lively music and dancing, and a great social atmosphere. Bands from Scotland enliven the scene – one evening I was there Nicol McLaren and Graham Berry had come down in the afternoon to play for the evening and return the next morning. The season carries on until 17 September.

London Branch has also organised Open Air Dancing in London parks for many years, and as I write we hope this season's four weeks from 17 August to 7 September in Kensington Gardens will have good weather to attract keen dancers and passers-by to give it a try. Recent letters in *The Reel* have also pointed out further opportunities at Sidmouth Festival and in Herefordshire, so there is plenty for the keen dancer.

This issue of *The Reel* showcases a full range of dancing options with the Branch and around the South-East for the new season. Why not try something different – attend the day school or a new class, or find a dance that you haven't been to before? There's something for everyone!

Jeremy Hill



CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

I am pleased and honoured to be chairing the Branch Committee once again. Thank you to Angela for her leadership over the last two years, to Margaret for stepping into my previous role as Secretary and to all the members of the Committee and other volunteers who continue to work hard on behalf of the Branch.

These are, of course, challenging times for London Branch and for Scottish country dancing in general. Huge social and economic changes in the last 20 – 30 years have meant that our style of Scottish dancing, especially in central London, does not have the appeal it once did. And yet, writing with the memory of that wonderful South East Branches Ball to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the RSCDS fresh in my mind, it is obvious that SCD's virtues of fun, friendship and fitness are as relevant today as they were in the prime of Miss Jean Milligan.

It's not our fault that attendances are in decline (though I do think that the Society's tendency to over-complicate things and our apparent belief at one time that salvation lay in ceilidh dancing have not helped), but it is the responsibility of the Chairman, the Committee and all our members and supporters to do something about it. Over the coming months I want the Committee to chart a way ahead for the Branch. We must get ourselves organised (the Committee has been under-strength for a long time). We must decide what matters most to us as a branch of the RSCDS, and agree what we should do and what, for the time being at least, we cannot manage. Then we must do it, and that will entail doing some things differently.

I will use this column in *The Reel* to keep you informed of what we decide and why. In the meantime I urge you all to get involved: share your thoughts and ideas; offer practical help; support our dances and classes; and, if central London seems too far away, support your local affiliated group. We know what Scottish country dancing has to offer, and together we can ensure that it flourishes.

Andrew Kellett



ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

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H.M. The Queen



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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.

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Scottish Country Dancing at London Universities

London Branch is keen to attract more young people to Scottish country dancing. We are hopeful of starting up a class in conjunction with one London university, and we are looking for other opportunities to take SCD into universities and colleges; not necessarily a class in the first instance but perhaps a ceilidh dance or workshop, and we would be willing to collaborate with other clubs and dance groups within a university.

Can you help us, please?

Are you connected to a London university or college or do you know a student or member of staff who might be able to point us in the direction of a likely venue or potentially useful contact? Even if we cannot get something off the ground immediately, this information would be useful for helping us to plan ahead.

The Branch needs new blood to keep London dancing well into the 21st century, so please get in touch with a Committee member if you have any ideas on how to turn our ambition into reality or if you are able to help in some way. We would appreciate any assistance you could give.

For further details please contact Elaine Davies at laneypops83@yahoo.co.uk

RSCDS SPRING FLING 2014: LYON

18 – 20 April 2014 (Easter weekend)

For dancers aged 12 – 35

For the first time ever, the RSCDS is organising a weekend school for young people outside the UK!

The Spring Fling classes will be at four levels, ranging from beginners to very advanced. There will also be optional highland dance and musicians' classes.

**Teachers: Patrick Chamoin,
Antoine Rousseau, Avril Quarrie and
Raphaëlle Orgeret**

**Musicians: Kevin Williams, Lindsey Ibbotson,
Adam Brady and Martainn Skene**

Make sure you book early, numbers are limited!
For more details visit www.rscdsspringfling.fr

Lyon Branch are also organizing a weekend school in parallel, open to everyone, with teaching from David Quarrie (further details from raphorgeret82@yahoo.fr)



RSCDS SPRING FLING 2015: LONDON

We are delighted to report that the 2015 Spring Fling will be held in the London area.
Further details will follow.



The London Branch Facebook page has recently been updated, and contains up to date information and news. It can be found at www.facebook.com/pages/RSCDS-London-Branch/207567162643075 or via the QR code shown. Please do visit the site and add your comments and photos!



London Branch AGM 2013

Taking the chair for the last time, Angela Berry thanked the members present for attending our AGM on Friday 14 June 2013. She summarised the Branch Report for 2012/13 (which had been sent to London Branch members with *The Reel* 284), and then Simon Wales presented the accounts. It had been a good year, with outgoings exceeding income by only £54. Simon gives a more detailed explanation of the accounts on page 9.

On behalf of the Committee, Angela put forward a motion proposing two changes to the Branch Constitution: first, the creation of a new position, President Emeritus, and, secondly, limiting the Honorary President's term of office to a maximum of five years. A vigorous debate ensued; the first part of the motion was withdrawn, but the restriction on the President's term of office was carried. The next motion on the order paper, proposing Mary Stoker as President Emeritus, was also carried, because the meeting was happy to appoint Mary uniquely to the new role of President Emeritus, but did not want to establish the position in the Constitution. John Laurie then proposed Rachel Wilton for the vacant position of President, because she is now "The best ambassador we've got." This was carried unanimously. Jerry Reinstein proposed the re-appointment of Mary Barker, Jenny Greene, John Laurie, Owen Meyer and Rosemary Tilden as Vice-Presidents and added a new name to the list, Wilson Nicol, because of his outstanding and lengthy service to the Branch.

On the Committee for 2013-14, Andrew Kellett was elected Chairman to replace Angela Berry, who had moved permanently from London, and Bar Martlew had stood down for personal reasons. Margaret Catchick offered to be co-opted into the vacant position of Branch Secretary. The meeting appointed Branch delegates to the Society AGM, and Robert Elliot was thanked for his work as our Independent Examiner (auditor). A final motion proposing an increase in the London Branch fee for members living outside the UK in line with postage costs was carried. Under Any Other Business there was discussion about the merits of email communication, clashes of dates with other branches, Spring Fling 2015, which would be held in London, and a request from the Editor of *The Reel* for more articles and photographs about London Branch events. A straw poll showed a majority in favour of holding our next AGM on a Saturday immediately prior to a Branch dance.

Finally, Simon Wales proposed a vote of thanks to Angela, not just for her Chairmanship but for all her devoted work as musician, demonstration dancer, teacher and Committee member over the last twenty years. Marjory Reid handed her a gift from the Committee and on behalf of the entire London Branch John Laurie presented her with a Branch Award.

Andrew Kellett

Angela Berry: Citation for Branch Award

For over twenty years Angela has served London Branch, first as musician, and then as teacher, demonstration dancer, Committee member and Chairman. She worked tirelessly in support of Scottish country dancing in London and she used her many talents in the interests of the Branch. All this was in addition to her involvement with the Society throughout the world, including on the staff of Summer School.

She first played for Branch classes in 1991 and was the regular pianist for the Advanced Class until 2002 when she began teaching the class. She joined the Demonstration Team, which she also taught from 2004 to 2011, and continued to play occasionally for classes and displays. Her musicianship is renowned internationally, and the Branch is very grateful that she would step in to play at a moment's notice. Angela has also developed into an outstanding teacher and choreographer, organising displays at numerous venues around London, including Trafalgar Square and the Royal Albert Hall, as well as leading the London team at the Newcastle and Leeds Festivals. She also choreographed performances by the combined South East Branches.

Angela is always keen to encourage young people to dance. She founded and taught a regular Branch children's class for ten years, entering candidates for the RSCDS Medal Tests and facilitating numerous Family Days. She also ran RSCDS Youth Workshops in London.

In 2000 Angela joined the Branch Committee, becoming Vice Chairman in 2008 and Chairman in 2011. She was at the heart of the Branch during that period and she co-ordinated the Branch's 80th Anniversary celebrations. She always seeks to promote high standards of dancing and musicianship, and she places great importance on the social side of Scottish country dancing. She is valued within the Branch as a generous friend as well as an exceptionally gifted servant of the Society.



Outgoing Chairman Angela Berry is presented with her Branch Award and Good Luck card by Branch Vice-President John Laurie, Vice-Chairman Marjory Reid and Treasurer Simon Wales

AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

Saturday 14 September 2013
7.00 – 10.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD
Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Joie de Vivre	39/2
Westminster Reel	45/1
Porchester Hall	London 89/2
Bill Clement MBE	47/1
Red House	7/2
Culla Bay	41/2
Mrs Stewart's Jig	35/1
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	Leaflet 19
Cramond Bridge	London 79/4

Airyhall Delight	40/8
None So Pretty (London Pride)	19/1
Mist o'er the Loch	Diamond Jubilee 3
The Dancing Master	London 75th/13
All for Mary	London 75th/1
Anna Holden's Strathspey	42/2
Muirland Willie	21/9
The Gardeners' Fantasia	46/2
Duke of Perth	1/8

RSCDS members £10.00, non-members £12.00
Children £3.00 (members' children free)

A discount of £5.00 is available to members on production of the voucher on the address sheet of this edition of *The Reel*

All tickets to be purchased on the door
All dances will be recapped

FOCUS ON YOUTH

Children's Class

The Branch children's monthly class continues on Saturday mornings.

Venue: Upper Hall, St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD
(unless advised otherwise)

Teacher: James Fairbairn

2013 & 2014 Dates:

14 September, 19 October, 23 November (see below), 14 December (to be confirmed), 18 January, 15 February, 29 March, 26 April, 17 May and 14 June

Time: 10.15 – 11.30am

Class Price: £3.00

Newcomers are always welcome!

For further information please contact either James Fairbairn at st48@btinternet.com or 07930 949599 or youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

Family Day

Saturday 23 November 2013

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

Children's Class 11.30am – 1.00pm
Followed by lunch for all dancers

Dance to the music of Frank Reid 2.00 – 4.30pm

Dances will be chosen from: The Barmkin, Charlestown Chaser, Cumberland Reel, The Dashing White Sergeant, The Dhoon, Domino Five, Easy Peasy, Espie McNabb, The Flying Scotsman, It's all right, The Loch Ness Monster, Le Papillon, Round Reel of Eight

Special Day Ticket (includes class, lunch & dance): £7.00
Dance Admission only: £3.50

Everyone is welcome for all or part of the day, and the dances in the afternoon will be talked through. For more details please contact youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

LONDON FESTIVE FLING

Saturday 14 December 2013
6.45 for 7.00 – 10.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD
Ian Muir of Prestwick Scottish Dance Band

The Machine without Horses	12/12
Miss Ogilvie's Fancy	20/8
Red House	7/2
Pelorus Jack	41/1
The Robertson Rant	39/8
Flowers of Edinburgh	1/6
Old Nick's Lumber Room	26/6
Argyll Strathspey	35/3
The Buchan Eightsome Reel	21/8

Scottish Reform	3/1
The Braes of Mellinish	25/12
Lady Susan Stewart's Reel	5/9
The New Rigged Ship	9/7
The Dundee Whaler	Ormskirk 1/4
The Triumph	1/2
The Duchess Tree	Brodie/11
Argyll's Fancy	Graded 1/23
The Montgomerie's Rant	10/1

RSCDS members £18.00, non-members £20.00
Children £10.00 (members' children free)

All tickets to be purchased on the door
All dances will be recapped
Those with highland/evening dress are encouraged to wear it

South East Region Teachers' Association

The South East Region Teachers' Association (SERTA) organises workshops generally for Scottish dance teachers. The next workshop is on Sunday 29 September 2013 in Wallington. The morning session, 'The role of the MC', will be led by Andrew Kellett, a highly experienced MC as well as Chairman of the London Branch. In the afternoon session, Ian Muir, leader of the Craiggellachie Band, will be exploring all aspects of 'Preparing a dance programme for dancers and musicians'. As both of these topics are likely to be of interest to many club organisers as well as teachers, we would welcome anyone who wants to attend. Further details and application forms are available from me (contact details below).

The following meeting will be in Finchampstead on Sunday 16 March 2014, with more details in the next issue of *The Reel*.

SERTA is open to anyone who leads a SCD group, whether qualified or not, those with a dance teaching qualification and those taking teaching courses or interested in doing so. If you wish to join the mailing list or have any queries, please contact me at mikejohnson@waitrose.com, at 4 Gatehampton Cottages, Gatehampton Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9LX or on 01491 873 026.

Mike Johnson

Branch Dates 2013 – 14

7 September: **Open Air Dancing** 2.00 – 4.00pm
Kensington Gardens

14 September: **New Season Dance** (as above)

12 October: **Day School and Evening Ceilidh**
Paddington Academy
(details on page 6)

23 November: **Family Day** 2.00 – 4.30pm
(see box left) [Please Note: No evening dance]

14 December: **Festive Fling** (as above)

11 January: **Burns' Supper & Ceilidh** (as above)

February: **Winter Wednesday Dance**
(to be confirmed)

29 March: **Family Day**

29 March: **Spring Dance**

17 May: **Musicians' Day & Dance**

14 June: **AGM & June Jig** with Green Ginger

All events take place at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, and from 7.00 – 10.30pm, unless otherwise noted

BURNS' SUPPER & CEILIDH DANCE

Saturday 11 January 2014
6.45 – 10.45pm

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

Strathallan

Come and enjoy a traditional Burns' Supper with haggis (including a splash of whisky), neeps and tatties, piped in and addressed

This is a great chance to share with your friends and family the fun of Scottish music and dancing. Dances will include: Gay Gordons, Britannia Two Step, Circle Waltz, The Dashing White Sergeant, Canadian Barn Dance, The Eightsome Reel, Swedish Masquerade, Cumberland Reel, St Bernard's Waltz, Virginia Reel, Boston Two Step, Strip the Willow and many others

RSCDS members £13.00, non-members £17.00
Children £7.00 (members' children free)
All tickets to be purchased on the door
All dances will be recapped

Membership

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch provides a variety of benefits, including discounted ticket prices and four issues per annum of *The Reel*. New members paying their subscription by 31 October 2013 can receive a £5.00 discount on current membership prices. See p18 for full details.

BOOKSTALL

For any enquiries relating to the bookstall, please contact Ian Rutherford, 0208 295 1273 or ianrutherford@ntlworld.com

Book 49 – call for dances

The Society is planning to publish another book of dances, Book 49 in 2015, with submissions from branches rather than individual members. London Branch is therefore inviting Branch members to submit dances for consideration. They must satisfy the following criteria:

- The dance must not have been submitted for consideration for Books 47 and 48;
- The dance must never have been published either in paper or electronic form;
- The dance instructions should make every attempt to follow RSCDS Standard Terminology;
- If music is submitted or suggested with the dance the Branch must have the permission of the composer. The music must also not be associated with another dance;
- The deviser of the dance must be willing to re-assign the copyright to the RSCDS.

Members of the Branch are invited to send potential dances **by 30 September 2013** to Margaret Shaw at classes@rscdslondon.org.uk for consideration.

Set yourself a fun challenge Join a Scottish Country Dancing Class

We have
classes for...

CHILDREN monthly class in central London.
Email James Fairbairn: st48@btinternet.com for details.

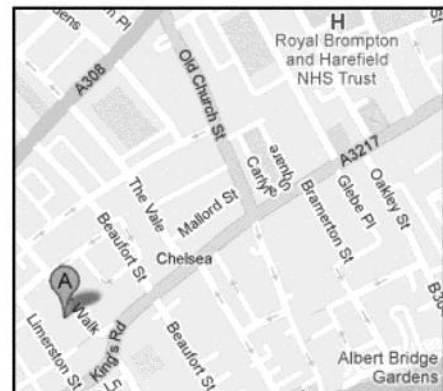
ADULTS every **Wednesday evening** during term time, 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm
at Park Walk School, Park Walk, King's Road, Chelsea, SW10 0AY.
RSCDS members £75 per term or £9 per night, non-members £85 per term or £10 per night.

Lower Hall for steps, formations and easy dances with
Jane Rose and musicians **Ian Cutts & Jane Ng**.
Term dates as for Upper Hall Classes

Upper Hall for more experienced dancers wishing to improve
their technique with

Pat Davoll (25th Sept. - 23rd Oct.)
Maureen Campbell (6th Nov. - 4th Dec)
Paul Plummer (15th Jan. - 12th Feb.)
Elaine Wilde (26th Feb. - 26th Mar)
Lindsey Jane Rousseau (30th Apr. - 21st May)
Musician **Sandra Smith**

The School is served by buses 11, 22, 19 and 319,
Beaufort Street stop.
Parking available at the School.



Wednesday afternoons, 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm at
St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street,
London SW1X 0BD. £5 per class.

Suitable for dancers with some knowledge of basic steps and formations.
Email Jeni Rutherford: jrutherford@freeuk.com
Nearest Underground Stations: Knightsbridge, South Kensington and Sloane Square.

DEMONSTRATION CLASS for experienced dancers with a high personal standard.
Email Elaine Wilde: demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk for more information.

SUNDAY CLASSES

are held at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, TW9 2RT (minutes from Richmond Station).
11.00 am – 1.00 pm RSCDS members £10, non-members £11 per class

Technique with Philippe Rousseau
13th October, 15th December, 19th January, 16th February and 23rd March.

Highland Dancing with Kathleen Gilbert
24th November, 12th January and 30th March.

BASIC TEACHING SKILLS – UNIT '0'
Sunday 17th November, 10.00 am to 4.30 pm.

- This is a one day course for those who are already leading/teaching or considering taking a group.
 - Elements covered will include lesson planning, class management, teaching points, use of voice, how to re-cap dances, music, etc.
- Attendance on the course will result in a "Record of completion of a course in basic SCD skills"

Tutor: Mervyn Short.

Fee £20, payable on arrival. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea/coffee & glass of wine will be provided.

To register for this class and for details of other classes, please email either
Margaret or Lena at classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

Saturday 12 October 2013

Paddington Academy, Marylands Road, London, W9 2DR

Classes this year are for Very Advanced, Advanced, Mixed Ability and Newcomers & Improvers levels.

Morning: 10.30am – 12.30pm

Very Advanced: (*applicants must be very good dancers with a sound knowledge of all steps and formations to a very high standard of dancing*)

Teacher: **Margo Priestley**

Musician: **Barbara Manning**

Advanced: (*applicants must be very good dancers with a sound knowledge of all steps and formations*)

Teacher: **Angela Young**

Musician: **Ian Muir**

Mixed Ability: (*suitable for those with a good standard of dancing, and a sound knowledge of steps and formations*)

Teacher: **Grace Hill**

Musician: **Graham Berry**

Newcomers & Improvers: (*suitable for those with some knowledge of basic steps and formations*)

Teacher: **Mervyn Short**

Musician: **Judith Muir**

Lunch: 12.30 – 2.00pm

A baked potato and dessert lunch may be purchased. Alternatively there are facilities for lunches, pubs and cafés in the local area.

Afternoon 2.00 – 4.00pm

Very Advanced:

Teacher: **Angela Young**

Musician: **Ian Muir**

Advanced:

Teacher: **Margo Priestley**

Musician: **Barbara Manning**

Mixed Ability:

Teacher: **Mervyn Short**

Musician: **Judith Muir**

Newcomers & Improvers:

Teacher: **Grace Hill**

Musician: **Graham Berry**

Tea will be served from 4.00 to 4.30pm

Optional Extras: 4.30 – 5.30pm

There will be four options to choose from, as follows:

Dances from Book 47 (the New Book):

Teachers: **Margo Priestley**

Musician: **Judith Muir**

Highland:

Teacher: **Mervyn Short**

Musician: **Barbara Manning**

Step:

Teacher: **Angela Young**

Musician: **Graham Berry**

Musical Discussion – ‘A view from the floor & the stage’: (*suitable for dancers and musicians*)

Led by: **Frank Thomson**

If you do not wish to do anything too active you may prefer to enjoy some free time before the evening ceilidh. The choice is yours.

Musicians' Workshop

Led by accordionist and band leader **Frank Thomson**, this will take place in both the morning and afternoon. This year the course will concentrate on playing for dancing, both classes and dance events. A wide area of topics will be explored and debated, with guidance being given on the importance of tempos; the making up of sets of tunes which are compatible with the original lead tune; forming a relationship of empathy with dancers on the floor; playing as a group and the making up of a lively choice of music necessary for an enjoyable evening of dance. Although there will not be an opportunity to play for the evening dancing, everyone is welcome to stay and contribute a ceilidh item.

Evening Ceilidh: 6.00 – 9.00pm

This will follow the Day School and once again we anticipate much fun and entertainment. Dancing will be to **Ian and Judith Muir**. Tickets are available in advance from Margaret Catchick or on the door.

For an application form containing further details for both the Day School and the Musicians' Workshop, please contact Margaret Catchick, 251 Botley Road, Ley Hill, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1YD, enclosing a SAE, 01494 772305, or margaretcatchick@hotmail.com. Application forms are also obtainable on the London Branch website, at any Branch dance, or from your class teacher.

CLASSES TO SUIT EVERYONE – DON'T MISS IT!

Demonstration team update

Paul Plummer has been the dem class teacher for the last two years. Throughout this time he has been an excellent teacher and choreographer, but unfortunately has decided not to continue in this role after the summer. Thankfully, the Branch will not be losing Paul's expertise entirely as he will be taking the technique class for five weeks in the New Year. Thank you, Paul, for sharing your wealth of experience in such a lovely fun way: your sense of humour helped so much when our muscles ached and perspiration flowed!

As I write this report I am also just finalising the dems for our four open air dances in Kensington Gardens this August and beginning of September. Even though this is usually our quiet time for dancing, a member of the team recently covered a Scottish country dance workshop and showcase for Acton High school, which was very well received, especially by the boys!

The Branch Committee has decided to undertake a review of how the demonstration group operates. During this review James Fairbairn has kindly agreed to act as the interim teacher for the dem group until half term. This is a time of change for the demonstration team due to members, especially the men, having to leave due to work, moving away from London, family and other commitments; this term alone we say goodbye to excellent team members Margret Plummer, Alex Harvey, Dave Massie and Ian McKenzie. Thank you so much for your company, time and commitment.

If you think that you have the time, skill base and stamina and would like to join us please feel free to contact me on 07779 202529 or demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk

Elaine Wilde

Teachers' Exam Success

Following a course run by Mervyn Short, with Judith Muir providing the music, the RSCDS Berks/Hants/Surrey Border Branch ran a Teachers' Examination Weekend on 27 and 28 April 2013. The weekend was held at Finchampstead Memorial Hall and the examiners were Marilyn Watson and Pat Houghton.

The successful candidates were:

Units 2 & 3

Judith Jones	London
Sarah Jones	Cheltenham
Jenny Kendrick	London
Annette Owen	BHS Border

Unit 5

John Fletcher	BHS Border
Jennie Hawdon	Cheltenham
Marie Montague	Milton Keynes
Jette Rossen	International
Marian Speakman	Winchester

Congratulations to all involved!

See photo p10

CREDITS

Archive photos for identification

Iris Anderson, the Branch Archivist, has a number of photos from the archives where she does not have full information on the date, place and participants. Can you identify them?

See page 11 for the first two in the series, and please email any information you can add to archives@rscdslondon.org.uk

Many thanks to the following for providing the photos in this edition:

Stephen Webb: p1 (Movers & Shakers), p2 (AK) p10 (4), p11 (7), p13, p15
Pete Williamson: p1 (Hall), p11 (6), p20
Chris Twinn: p3
Andrew Patterson: p7 (in New Zealand)
Caroline Hamilton: p7 (in Crieff)
Judith Muir (p8)

Deborah Draffin: p10 (1)
Tony Ellam: p10 (2)
Marjory Reid: p10 (3),
John Dudley: p10 (5)
Ian Cumming: p11 (8)
Iris Anderson: p11 (9 and 10)
Jane Bisby: p14
Thanks also to Stephen Webb for additional reporting and co-ordination around the clubs.

Dancing in New Zealand

It has now been over a year since Jeanette and I left the UK and, sad as we were to say goodbye to everyone, you will not be surprised to learn that Scottish country dancing soon provided us with a wide circle of new friends. We immediately transferred our RSCDS membership to New Zealand which, as many of you will know, is represented by a single branch divided into a number of regions. Our home club in Rotorua belongs to the Waikato/Bay of Plenty region and, although it is over twice the size of London and the South-East, there is a strong bond between the fifteen Scottish dancing clubs in the region which all support each other's events and participate in the running of the RSCDS at a regional level.

Of course, it does mean that we now have to travel a bit further than we were used to in the UK and it is not unusual to drive for one and a half hours or more when going to a dance. When travelling further afield, to Auckland for example, we usually stay overnight and this gives us the opportunity to see a bit more of the country. Fortunately, our local club in Rotorua is only ten minutes away and Jeanette was warmly received on her return to the club where she first learned to dance. So much so that after only a few months she was appointed Secretary! In common with many clubs, we are struggling for numbers and are lucky if we manage to get two sets at our weekly class. We have recently had limited success in attracting new members, so the class tends to be geared towards our beginners, but there are other clubs in the region that cater for dancers who are looking for more of a challenge. There are no advanced technique classes, as such, but Jeanette and I make the eighty mile round trip to a class for more experienced dancers once a month.

As for the evening dances, there are generally just one or two a month in our region and a combined calendar ensures that none of the dances coincide. In fact, attendance is fairly predictable (typically, about eighty dancers) and I have yet to attend a dance where tickets were sold in advance. It is probably due to the travelling times that dances generally start about 6pm with some light refreshments (such as soup and a roll) and end by 10.30pm with tea and biscuits before the long drive home. Yes, we do have an interval supper as well – the usual finger food, but invariably including a selection of pavlovas, jelly and ice cream!

Of course, there are a few other differences and it was a pleasant surprise to find that the practice of booking partners at a dance is virtually unknown here! I was also thankful to discover that the habit of encores dances throughout the evening does not appear to have reached NZ yet (occasionally one encore, or two at the most), leaving more time for general socialising between dances. Personally, when dancing in the UK, I rarely enjoyed the encore as much as the first performance of a dance. Another difference is the greater reliance on recorded music than in the UK, where we were fortunate to have several exceptional bands in the area. On the other hand, as well as the established bands in Auckland and Wellington, we are lucky to have several talented musicians in the region who sometimes get together to play for us. On a slightly more critical note, I do rather miss the more formal atmosphere of dances in the UK (Summer Tuesdays, apart!) as the dress code here (at least for the men) certainly veers towards the casual and the distinction between a 'dance' and a 'ball' is not as clear as it is in the UK, while shorts are commonly worn at classes – possibly because they are such an everyday garb in NZ.

As always, programmes continue to be an area of debate, and here in NZ they are generally less varied and challenging than we were accustomed to in the UK. On the plus side, there is a strong emphasis on RSCDS dances which, at a rough count, constitute over eighty percent of a programme and are chosen with the express intention of ensuring that the evening can be enjoyed by dancers of all levels of ability. One innovative approach that has been adopted by our region is the selection of nine 'core' dances at the start of the year, at least three of which must be included in every dance programme within the region and can therefore be taught at classes in the certain knowledge that our beginners will encounter them during the course of the year.



Dancing Holiday in Crieff

June is usually the month that the dancing world starts to wind down for the summer recess, but for Caroline and me it marks the start of our busiest time of the year. First, we have to prepare for Summer Tuesdays and, for the last couple of years, it is when we head off to Scotland to host the Furlongs Travel dancing holiday at the award-winning Crieff Hydro Hotel in the heart of the beautiful Perthshire countryside.

Richard and Dawn Furlong have organised Scottish Dancing Holidays around the world since 1986 and have built a reputation for impeccable planning, great attention to detail and a focus on enjoyment and relaxation. Now in its 17th year, Crieff is the only holiday that offers a dance to a different top band each night on a lovely sprung wooden floor in the hotel ballroom – widely accepted as one of the best in the country. As hosts, we are very aware of the daunting task of maintaining the standards set over the years by Richard and Dawn. We need to be very organised, prepare carefully in advance for all the routine and planned activities but also be ready to respond to any unexpected issues that might arise.

The routine involves ensuring the restaurant is ready for our breakfast and evening meals, organising the ballroom for the morning dance classes, meeting and greeting the guests as they arrive and depart, running a half-hour practice session for a couple of newer dances that we put on the evening programme, preparing the ballroom and Winter Gardens (where we all gather) for the evening dances and running a complimentary excursion and gala night on the Tuesday. Throughout the week we are greatly assisted by the highly professional hotel staff who are quick to help resolve any issue that might arise. Whatever we need, they are always there to help and we can rely on them to do everything they can to make our jobs easier and thus the stay of every guest as pleasurable as possible.

The main reason for being there though is, of course, the dancing. One of the delights of the holiday is to be able to compare and contrast the styles of each of the bands. This year, every band was superb and although everyone will have had their



Dancing in the Crieff Hydro Hotel Ballroom

particular favourites, the quality of the music was fantastic every night.

On the first night we heard Ian Muir of Prestwick, whose precise and smooth swinging style was the perfect way to start the week. The next night, Saturday, was Sandy Nixon, who was on top form and had us buzzing with his energetic, driving sound. On Sunday, there was another complete change in style as George Meikle and the Lothian Scottish Dance Band played with their usual elegance and subtlety, which kept everyone enthralled and the energy levels high all evening. Monday night was a new experience for us, as we haven't had the pleasure of dancing to James Coutts before, and what a barnstorming performance he and his band gave. Quite brilliant!

Tuesday was a night off from the hectic pace of the dancing, when we were able to relax and enjoy a gala night with a drinks reception, followed by a four course banquet and live after-dinner entertainment. It was back to the dancing on Wednesday with Marian Anderson and her Scottish Dance Band. Their line-up of two accordions and drums contrasted beautifully with the more usual accordion, piano and drums trio. I have always loved the sound of two boxes playing together and they provided a really memorable evening. Our final band was led by Jim Lindsay whose exquisite playing provided the perfect climax to an amazing week.

What a fantastic experience this year's trip has been. Richard is already planning 2014 and from what we hear, it promises to be another unmissable week.

Graham and Caroline Hamilton

Dancers wishing to develop their skills have many opportunities at the day and weekend schools held within the region and further afield. A particularly important occasion is the New Zealand Summer School, the location of which alternates between the North and South islands. Jeanette and I had a great time at the 2012-13 School in Christchurch and will definitely be attending the 2013-14 School, which commences on 28 December and will be held in Cambridge (North Island). Cambridge is in the Waikato/Bay of Plenty region and, as the responsibility for running a Summer School is devolved to the RSCDS region in which it is held, we and other club members will no doubt be assigned tasks such as picking up visitors from the nearby airport. Will you be one of them? Find out more at <http://www.rscdsnz.org.nz/summerschools.php>

Andrew Patterson

◁ *Jeanette at a garden dance held at "Athenree", an old New Zealand homestead*

Alan Breck Robertson 16 April 1938 – 26 April 2013

Alan who...? When I was first asked if I would write an article about Dad for *The Reel*, my initial response was that most of the readership would say exactly that: "Alan who?" However, the more I thought about it, the more I realised that he and Mum are the reason my brother Ian Robertson and I have had, and continue to benefit from, the enormous musical opportunities that we have been given. So, who was he?

Alan Robertson was born in Aylesbury, Bucks, in 1938, the middle of three children, whose mother was herself an accomplished pianist. Although his father's family hailed



originally from Scotland (his grandmother having accompanied Scott Skinner at the turn of the 20th century, as well as being a pianist for the silent movies), his enthusiasm was for music of all types, particularly traditional music. He led his own very successful English country dance band, The Chiltern Ramblers, for 25 years. During the early days of the band his enthusiasm was further fired up by a trip to a music festival at Alnwick Castle, Northumberland, in 1959. At this festival he also met Dave Swarbrick and as a result, years later, Alan played on a number of Dave's recordings and at concerts with him at home and abroad. Many have fond memories of Alan's music, and Ian and I both regard him as the source of our love of music and the best teacher, by example, we could have had.

By the time The Chiltern Ramblers had run its course, Ian and I wanted more from our music than the routine exams. Dad provided us with that opportunity when we played as a family band, for fun named "JAMI" being all our initials – Judith, Alan, Mavis, Ian – and of course we were Robertsons, so jam was in the name! This was typical of his sense of humour and endless playing with words.

Alan had taught himself the accordion, and felt very strongly (though we didn't) that he was holding us back, and soon encouraged us to go and find our own music. Part of the 'holding back' was that his precise daily engineering work was gruelling on the hands and did not mix with the need for supple and agile fingers for playing! To help us on our journey, he took us to the Cambridge RSCDS Day School where we attended the first musicians' day school to be held in the south of England, run by Ian Muir. Ian (brother) was encouraged by Dad to contact the local band leaders and, as a result, occasionally played fiddle with Frank Reid and we both were invited by Ian Muir to play with his band and the rest, as they say, is history.

Some of you may also remember the annual Aylesbury Fiddle Rally which, following its move to the Wycombe Swan in High Wycombe, later became the Chiltern Fiddle Rally. Alan started the rally in 1987 at the Village Hall in Weston Turville. However, due to its popularity and success, in no small part due to his enthusiasm for the music, it soon outgrew this venue and after a few years it moved to the Civic Centre in Aylesbury. Two of the young fiddlers who took part in the rallies in more recent years, Micah Thompson and Will Rose, had their first taste of Scottish music through the rallies, and are now regular fiddlers with the Craiggellachie Band.

By trade, Alan was a precision engineer. After an engineering apprenticeship and short employment with several local companies, he took the plunge to become self-employed. In the early days, he built a reputation as someone who would help anyone in trouble and that characteristic stayed with him for the rest of his life. The work of which he was probably most proud was the design and development of a lathe to make contact lenses, which at the time was in its infancy.

So, who was Alan Robertson? He was a bright and intelligent person, having many abilities and attributes, and, above all else, was a family man. He always believed that if a person did their best, nobody could ever ask more of them. He, and Mum, were unstinting in their encouragement of Ian and me, despite the blood, sweat and tears we undoubtedly must have caused! Thanks, Dad, your legacy will live on through your children and grandchildren for very many years!

Judith Muir (née Robertson)

Sheena Dallas

2 February 1944 – 1 July 2013

Sadly, Sheena passed away on 1 July, and Hampstead & District Scots' Association lost a long-standing member. Sheena joined HDSA in the late 1960's and was President from 1992 to 1996.

Sheena was a qualified SCD teacher and held weekly children's classes. She was an enthusiastic dancer and a regular at Pont Street. HDSA's Burns' Nicht celebrations were not complete without Sheena. She also represented Hampstead at a number of other societies' dances. During the last few years, however, Sheena had a number of health problems, which curtailed her dancing, and we did not see much of her.

Hampstead's sincere condolences go to Sheena's family for their sad loss.

Joan D Burgess

Index to Scottish Country Dances

Updated versions of the *Index to Scottish Country Dances* are now available free of charge to all RSCDS members as downloadable and printable PDF files. A version including every RSCDS dance up to, and including, Book 47 was due out in August 2013. It is the intention to update the Index whenever a new collection of RSCDS dances is published.

It can be found in the members' section of the RSCDS website at <http://www.rscds.org/about-us/useful-documents/index-to-dances.html>. As it is member-only, you need to be signed in to the website to access this document (log-in details may be obtained from membership@rscdslondon.org.uk).

RSCDS Youth Workshops

Two workshops for dancers aged 16 – 35 are being organised by the RSCDS, as follows:

Saturday 19 October 2013
In conjunction with
RSCDS Glasgow Branch

Saturday 18 January 2014
Cambridge
10.30am – 4.30pm

**Teachers: Mervyn Short, Kate Gentles
Musicians: Muriel Johnstone, Keith Smith
Evening Dance with Keith Smith & Muriel
Johnstone**

In conjunction with RSCDS Cambridge & District Branch and Cambridge University Strathspey & Reel Club
Cost: £10 for Workshop, Buffet Lunch and Evening Dance (to be confirmed)

Full details of these and other youth events may be found at
<http://www.rscds.org/about-us/young-dancers>

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

84th Annual General Meeting & Conference Weekend 2013

Friday to Sunday, 1 – 3 November 2013
Location: Bell's Sport Centre, Hay Street,
Perth PH1 5HS

Friday

- Dance – music by Susan MacFadyen and her Scottish Dance Band

Saturday

- Class – led by Maureen Haynes, with musician Susan MacFadyen
- Final of 'Dance Music for the Future' competition
- Annual General Meeting
- Civic Reception and Ball – music by Alastair Wood and his Scottish Dance Band

Sunday

- Youth Forum
- General Class – led by Janet Johnstone, with musician George Meikle

Full details and online application, are available via www.rscds.org

THE REEL

The Reel is published four times a year by the London Branch. It is posted free to all Branch members (membership enquiries to Gaynor Curtis, see advert p18).

Non-members may subscribe to be on the mailing list, and Clubs can negotiate bulk copies for their members. Enquiries to Wilson Nicol, see advert on p9.

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 or
businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH ACCOUNTS 2012 – 2013

As promised at the recent AGM, here are my comments on the accounts, with apologies once again that the tight timescales and Reel publication dates make it impossible to circulate these to all members before the AGM. I emailed a set of accounts to three members who requested them in advance. The accounts show a net outgoing resource figure of £54, but £1,506 was planned expenditure from designated funds, leaving on the operating profit of £1,452 from the general fund, proving that the measures we announced at the last AGM have by and large worked. The previous year's small unrealised loss of £529 in our investments has turned into an unrealised gain of £4,336 this year.

The accounts are constructed in such a way as to make it easier to work out how each area of Branch activity has performed: classes, youth activities, dances, publicity, bookstall and demonstration team. You just have to subtract the costs from the income.

Classes: Fees, less hire of halls, less teachers and musicians expenses: £13,122 - £6,953 - £7,411 = £1,242 deficit. This is nearly £1,000 better than last year, and £600 within budget, showing that the remedial financial steps we have been taking are working. Class fees were increased from September 2012 and the number of teachers and musicians has been rationalised. The Day School made a healthy profit of £425.

Youth activities: Income less expenditure: £734 - £1,059 = £325 deficit, with the children's class subsidised by £425 from the Telfer donation. The costs reflect the support from the Branch for the two dances and the classes. The Telfer funds will last three more years at this level of expenditure, but the Anniversary Fund for youth outreach remains unspent. Ideas would be welcome!

Dances: Income less expenditure: £7,338 - £6,831 = £507 surplus. This is against a budget of £1,200 surplus. This is still an area of concern, as attendance was down on the Christmas and Burns' Night dances, usually our two best supported events. The dances held on the half-term Wednesday evening have proved popular and are covering their cost.

Publicity and The Reel: The net cost of publicity this year was £1,606. However, the Westwood fund contributed the £1,100 cost of the Open Air Dancing. The Westwood legacy can fund about six more sessions of this activity before it is exhausted. We have four sessions planned for this year. *The Reel* made a profit of £186 after the apportionment of the first year of the Life Members' appeal. It is proposed to increase the membership rates for those in Europe and overseas so that we do not continue to subsidise their postage costs.

Bookstall and other trading: This generated a small surplus of £116 before the write off of the remaining Anniversary books. This has been a difficult year with the sad passing of Ian Anderson.

Demonstration team: This appears as "fundraising activities" i.e. £3,272 - £3,799 = £527 deficit, a vast improvement on last year as a result of the decision to re-introduce class fees for those attending. This was another of the remedial measures taken by the Committee due to the extent of decline in numbers of paid demonstrations undertaken on behalf of the Branch.

Administration costs: The only other figure to comment on is the admin costs (£377) – down on last year, made up of membership expenses (£130), insurance (£99), postage and secretarial (£100) and archives (£48). No subsidy was paid to delegates attending the RSCDS AGM this year and we ceased our membership of EFDSS, though we continue with a fraternal exchange of newsletters. Thanks to the hospitality of Peter Knight and Margaret Shaw, there were minimal costs for Branch committee meetings this year and the bulk of the £192 reflects the cost of hall hire and printing for the AGM.

We are very fortunate to have various bequests that enable us to tackle projects in the knowledge that we have sufficient funds to back them up. Open air dancing in Kensington Gardens and the youth class continue to be the main beneficiaries of these funds, but there was no request for funding this year from the Bill Ireland fund. The Life Members' Appeal to cover the costs of *The Reel* despatch, raised £1,900 and will be spread over five years. The first £400 was apportioned this year. Other donations remained at last year's level if the anniversary appeal donations are excluded.

Membership income was up slightly on last year, thanks to the decision to increase membership rates. Investment income and bank interest was slightly up, and contributed a total of £1,599.

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow officers and co-ordinators, who are always on top of their paperwork and enable me to keep the accounts on the straight and narrow. Also to Lena Robinson who acts as classes cashier and is most conscientious in her banking. As ever, the biggest thanks are due to Robert Elliott, the independent examiner, who does so much to pull these accounts together.

Simon Wales (Hon. Treasurer)

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Unfortunately the increased cost of postage has led to increased overseas subscription prices. The annual cost for individual subscribers is now £6.00 if resident in the UK, £12.00 for other European residents and £15.00 if resident elsewhere. There are special rates for bulk orders. Remittances in sterling please, payable to RSCDS (London Branch).

Scottish Tartan Outfit

Black velvet jacket with Hugh MacPherson Scotland (Edinburgh) label inside, suitable for about a nine-year-old. The outfit comprises a MacDonald kilt and plaid, brooch, leather sporan, black belt with silver buckle. If you have a child looking for highland dress for dancing I would be happy to donate it. Please contact me at gwbowler@hotmail.com if this is of interest.

Grant Bowler

BANDS

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THE DANCING WORLD



1

1. RSCDS Teaching Examination at Finchampstead Memorial Hall, 27 & 28 April

From L to R: Sarah Jones, Mervyn Short (tutor), Jennie Hawdon, Jette Rossen, Annette Owen, John Fletcher, Marie Montague, Jenny Kendrick, Judith Jones, Marian Speakman and Judith Muir (musician) (see report on p6).

2. Branch Musicians' Day School and Dance at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont St, London, 17 May

Graham Berry (tutor) on the left with musicians ready for the evening dance.

3. Branch Summer Wednesdays Dance at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont St, London, 29 May

Musicians Sandra Smith and Christina Hood.

4. RSCDS BHS Border Branch Ball, 18 May

Mervyn Short dancing his new strathspey *Mist o'er the Loch*.

5. Horsham Scottish Country Dance Club Informal Dance at the Forest School, Horsham, 4 May

From L to R: Band leader Marian Anderson, drummer Max Ketchin, MCs Lee Pratt, Chris Pratt, Tricia Bell, and pianist Isobelle Hodgson (see report on p14).



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

Summer Ball hosted by South East Branches to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the RSCDS at Civic Suite, Wandsworth Town Hall, 29 June

6. Sin See and Fiona McLaren dance up in *The Silver Tassie*

7. Interval announcement from Duncan Barnet with 2nd first half MC, Dennis Tucker behind (see report on p1 and further photos on p20)

8. Harpenden Highland Games, Rothamsted Park, Harpenden, 14 July

Alongside highland dancing competition, piping, Scottish heavy events, stalls and many other attractions, these young dancers were among 120 representatives of the Hiel 'n' Toe Club of Harpenden who provided a display at the Highland Games.

9. and 10. Archives: can you identify the people and the occasion? (see request on p6)



9



10

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Recaps and Summer Tuesdays

Dear Jeremy,

I read with dismay Daniel Capron's comments in *The Reel* 284 regarding novices at Summer Tuesdays and would like to make it clear that Daniel's comments are in no way representative of our policy towards beginners at Summer Tuesdays. Everyone, regardless of experience, is welcome to come and enjoy an informal evening of dancing to great music with great company.

I always encourage beginners to get up and dance as often as they feel comfortable – you can't learn dancing sitting in a chair. To blame beginners for "wrecking" dances is completely the wrong attitude as it gives the message that "you are not good enough to dance in my set", and will only drive them away from dancing altogether. It should also be pointed out that everyone, regardless of their level of experience, is capable of getting a dance wrong, and yet we don't expect others to suggest we "get the message" and go away and learn the dances!

If you get upset by a less experienced dancer "wrecking" your set, then I suggest that the problem is your attitude and not the existence of the beginner – why not try to help and encourage them instead? It's much more rewarding for everyone concerned. In my experience beginners get the most out of a season such as Summer Tuesdays and I know of many people who have come on leaps and bounds through a season – not just from "learning dances" but from having the confidence to get up and have a go.

So, why no recaps at Summer Tuesdays? Well, I think that dancing is so much more than just knowing what comes next. It's interacting with the rest of the set – watching what is going on and where everyone is going – helping anyone who needs it and accepting help when you're not sure what's going on, enjoying the music and the shared experience of dancing in a group. Recaps tend to shift the emphasis onto the individual, to tell them where they should be at any particular time – to make perfect execution the priority, rather than the shared experience and enjoyment of the dance. I was delighted to read, next to Daniel's letter, of the experiences of Kay Sutherland from Vancouver who joined us at one of our nights last year. She describes dancing without briefing or walking through as "exhilarating". If this is the reaction of a clearly experienced dancer, how much more exhilarating must it be for a person who is new to dancing and experiencing it all for the first time? I'm not saying that not having recaps is the way to go for every club or occasion; just that the formula works at Tuesdays and I wouldn't want to change that.

Another part of the Summer Tuesdays formula is the large number of encores we do. Again, not everyone agrees with this but my rationale is that it gives anyone who has not got the dance right the first time another crack at it – and for those that get it perfectly the first time, there is the added bonus of some extra music to enjoy.

Unfortunately, this letter will not be published until almost the end of our season and I sincerely hope that Daniel's words did not put anyone off coming this year. If they did then I am really sorry and would urge them to please come next season and give us a chance to show that together we can have a lot of fun! Summer Tuesdays exists for everyone to relax and enjoy this fabulous sport of ours. Let's not spoil them with attitudes that are divisive and will ultimately drive people away.

Yours sincerely
Graham Hamilton

Safety, SCD and Shoes

Dear Jeremy,

Stephen Webb raised some interesting points in his letter in *The Reel* 284. The average age of dancers is increasing, and falls can have serious consequences in older people. Fracture of the neck of the femur (broken hip) is a frequent result, and although nowadays such a fracture can be pinned it may not be easy to return to dancing afterwards. Some years ago I saw an elderly lady fall heavily during a dance. She was taken to hospital and diagnosed with a broken pelvis. Slippery floors are an undeniable hazard that cannot be ignored. Even though anti-slip powder works and is often the lesser of two evils, it needs to be used in small quantities. Stephen says that there is a possibility that it may be harmful if inhaled. This tallies with my own experience, as it makes me sneeze. Who knows what it could do to an asthmatic? And, even if it does not affect you, do you really want to dance in a dust-filled hall?

A few years ago many clubs had serious dust problems due to caretakers using cheap floor polish that broke up when danced on. This no longer seems to happen very often, indicating that requests from hall users are taken into account. Therefore, the first thing to do in the event of problems is to bring them to the attention of the hall owner. However, we may also be able to help ourselves by reconsidering our choice of dance footwear. At my first SCD class the teacher advised us to wear the standard type of soft, thin-soled shoes so that we could point our toes. These can slip, although the kind with non-slip soles, mentioned by Stephen, are an improvement. Pointed toes are important for dance demonstrations. Are they really essential for social dancing? Thin pumps can also become very hard on the feet as one ages, even though some nowadays do have padded insoles.

Dancing shoes do not need to be absolutely flat and very flat shoes do not suit all feet. However, it is essential that they are light and low heeled to prevent accidents such as the one that happened at a local Burns' Night dance. A lady sustained a bad cut to her leg from another dancer's shoe, seriously disrupting the evening. Dance footwear also needs to be flexible and securely fastened. There are many types of shoes that fit these criteria – Grecian sandals, jazz shoes and dance trainers are all possibilities. There are also sometimes shoes in general ranges that may be suitable, especially from firms specialising in comfort footwear, and these are often non-slip. Therefore keep looking for something that suits you and do not restrict your choice to specialist dance shoes. What matters is that your shoes suit your feet and help your dancing, not that they are an officially recognised style.

Yours sincerely
Elizabeth Bennett

SOUTH EAST DANCE DIARY

The diary is available through the Branch website at 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 a 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 or by post to the above address.

Harassment and Dance Etiquette

Dear Jeremy,

We are concerned that Scottish country dancing may have a problem with harassment. Some people (mostly men) can behave in ways which make other people (mostly women) uncomfortable. This behaviour can take various forms: inappropriate or lingering touching at a dance or during a dance, language or conversation which causes discomfort, dancing almost exclusively with young women – anything which causes someone at dancing to feel uncomfortable or unwelcome. We have seen this at several dance societies with which we've been involved, and at their dances, balls, etc. Women may be warned of particular men for whom they'd be advised to watch out, and may feel they have to lie to avoid dancing with a particular man. This kind of behaviour seems to be tolerated.

We would suggest that, rather than accepting such behaviour, dance societies should confront people who behave inappropriately and ask them to alter their behaviour. We would further suggest that men in Scottish dance societies develop a greater awareness of what's going on, so that it is no longer left to the women at dancing to warn each other about certain men.

We have written guidelines for our society on harassment and etiquette, codifying ways to behave at dancing which are appropriate and do not make people feel uncomfortable. They also codify what a society should do if someone says that someone else's behaviour is making them feel uncomfortable, explaining to whom they should go and what action should be taken.

It is far better to make people aware of their behaviour is making others uncomfortable so that they can alter it, than to evade the issue and let the behaviour continue. If any of us were unintentionally making someone feel uncomfortable with our behaviour we would want to know so that we could change. Other societies might put into place guidelines of the sort mentioned, to help all Scottish dancers. More than guidelines, though, the culture of Scottish dancing needs to change.

Yours sincerely
Simone Webb
Graeme Wallace
Sarah Hopkin
Ewan Miller
Alex Grafen
Taylor Carpenter
Tiffany Harte

Editor's note: This, like other letters in The Reel, represents the views of its authors. London Branch takes seriously the issues that it raises, and the Committee would take action if this type of inappropriate behaviour at a Branch event was reported to it.

Pour encourager les autres

Dear Jeremy,

While visiting, our granddaughter, 13, and grandson, 11, asked us to show them some Scottish dances. We demonstrated *Gay Gordons* and *The Dashing White Sergeant*. They both thought it was "cool" and decided they wanted to do it as well. After teaching them, this led to a request from the class social co-ordinator for the parents and children of the year for an end of term ceilidh. In addition to the two dances mentioned, we taught *Circassian Circle*, *Canadian Barn Dance*, *Virginia Reel*, *Dunnet Head* and a waltz. Those attending, even some 13-year-old boys, enjoyed it very much after a shy start. Could other schools, parents, children and grandchildren be tempted this way?

Jerry Reinstein

Birling – Your Turn to have Fun!

Turning up for a dance holds many surprises in store when it comes to turning! What makes one dance fun and another less so? The answer to this question can obviously vary from dancer to dancer and we will all have our own view, but many dancers will say that they like a good birl to a lively tune, and a turn by the right or left hand in the choreography affords this opportunity. The dance *The White Heather Jig* written by James Cosh in 1963 and published by RSCDS in the former Collins book offers several opportunities to birl: bars 4-8 can be converted from a once and half turn to a twice and half turn; similarly, bars 36-40; the more ambitious birling dancers will even convert the two bar left turn once and a quarter at bar 19 into a twice and a quarter birl and/or simply end the dance by birling the last eight bars down the middle to fourth place! Similar adaptation of another popular dance is often seen in bars 9-16 of John Drewry's 1968 reel, *Mrs MacPherson of Inveran* (also published through Collins by RSCDS) – the half figure of eight is omitted when up to ten turns has been recorded during this eight bar phrase as entry momentum can be utilised from the previous figure; such is the speed that can be generated! Birling is generally to reel or jig time but not to strathspey or waltz tempo.

According to the thesaurus, to birl is “to rotate a log rapidly in the water”. In May 2001 Cathy Jamieson, MSP, even referred in the Scottish Parliament to Charles Rennie Mackintosh, as “birling in his grave” in response to an absurd architectural interpretation of good design, but for dancers it has become synonymous with rotating fast on the dance floor.

To birl well requires competence from both dancers below waist as well as above and a natural synergy will enhance this. The movement of the legs in time with the music is found by many to be a natural one whilst the various grips and holds available for the birling connoisseur are considerable.



Jeremy and Caroline use the crossed forearm embrace hold

The Official Textbook of The Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing describes the distinction between a pivot turn, for a single dancer, and a propelled pivot turn for two dancers. The *RSCDS Manual*, dated May 2013, under Chapter 6 (“Use of hands and arms in specific dances”), also gives details of how to dance a Tulloch turn for ladies and using the elbow grip to dance the propelled pivot turn for men or with partners. These turns however, are seen infrequently on the dance floor but would be used in *The Reel of Tulloch (Hullachan)* from Book 3/12 or SOBHD and *Sixteensome* (or *Double Eightsome*) Reel from Book 6/12.

The light-hearted reelers’ manual *The Swinging Sporrán* by Andrew Campbell and Roddy Martine published in 1973 gives much

more guidance on other holds (they call grips) in which the term ‘swing’ is used rather than birl and where seven different types of hold are described. They are the crossed forearm hold (shown); right (left) arms linked hold; right (left) forearms linked hold ie the elbow grip (shown); crossed wrists hold; policeman’s halt hold where the right (left) forearms are held vertically; McColl’s (open waist) hold and the reverse arms hold. This last hold is in fact a Tulloch turn. And, in bars 25-28 of the dance *Spiffin’* the kilt grip, much favoured by Miss Milligan in *Won’t You Join the Dance*, described as splendidly helpful, is included when dancing the Tulloch turn. There are also two embrace holds – both forearms embrace and crossed forearm embrace (shown). Also, the long arm shoulder with crossed arms under hold and the right (left) crossed arms under with left (right) on right (left) elbow hold. There are some others, less well-known, too. Although the ballroom hold is frequently used it seems that the crossed forearm hold is preferred by most dancers.



Lindsay and Andrew use the crossed forearm hold

As to the propulsion part, dancers should be close (in general, the closer the hold the faster the birl) and dance around a central position with knees slightly relaxed. The grip should never be too tight (to avoid bruising, the thumb must also not encircle the partner’s upper arm) as each dancer should be balanced at all times with the grip simply being a ‘tie’ to stop the dancers falling away! A right hand birl will rotate about this centre with the dancers’ weight down on their adjacent right feet to begin on the first beat of the bar. The outer foot acts as the propelling force to push away with continual weight transfer from the ball of the inner foot to the pads of the first two or three toes of the outer foot (alternately for left) and so on. Music is used to keep in rhythm down/up and using two beats each time – even beats are best. It is often taught to beginners as if one is propelling a push scooter. Birling is also suited to a march tempo but not a polka or hop-step rhythm nor should the inappropriate and awkward slip step be used, despite it often being attempted.

On one occasion at a dance in the Younger Hall in St Andrews, in the days when Miss Milligan with others regularly sat on the stage to one side of the band watching and enjoying the dancing, she saw “rowdy” dancing. *The Eightsome Reel* had not long begun, it was said, when Miss Milligan, seeing this unruly behaviour on the dance floor as the birling “got out of control”, stood up, stopped the band playing and berated the hapless dancers that were treating their partners “like a sack of potatoes”. The dance was started again but this time decorum prevailed! The clue is in the word; dancers should always dance with control even when birling!



Dave and Catriona use left forearms linked hold

Dancers wishing to spin, birl, swing, whatever the term, should do so they are not taken by surprise, first agreeing with their partners that they are happy to do this (some dancers can be susceptible to feeling dizzy) – a quick double hand clap from the man is often used (not to my liking) to indicate his intention. Also, they should agree on the hold to be used and whether a reverse turn (back flip) or a straightforward flow out to the next position is planned, despite this, circumstances may mean serendipity takes over! Unwinding a turn by retaining right hand can be exciting as a finale but the woman must not have her left hand on her partner’s shoulder at this point as it could get caught! Some dancers find birling to the left unnatural and even impossible so how to flow out to the next movement to compensate should be considered in good time for this predicament.

The time for birling should be chosen when there is a suitable moment in the dance, when other dancers dancing are unaffected ie a couple’s solo or at the end, preferably confined to the first couple. A solo birl in the middle of a circle is sometimes seen but this is generally considered as a bit showy. Encores can also provide a good opportunity to birl.



Bruised upper arm from thumb pressure

Conventional turning should be used for the first time through, to be sure of the phrasing but more importantly so as not to disconcert other dancers looking on who are less familiar with the dance choreography. Timing the birl to flow naturally into the next figure is the most satisfying; slowing slightly to get a good transition can help to achieve this. Remembering to arrive on time and not late as uncertainty or even accidents could result from this and do avoid ending almost on top of the next dancer by leaving sufficient space between. If dancers are ‘standing out’ at the ends they should be sure that any birling will not result in the path of the main dancers being blocked, as could happen!

So when it is your turn to have fun remember you can choose to birl as an expression of that fun but always aim to dance with courtesy, control and confidence.

Stephen Webb

NEWS FROM CLUBS

FRANK – 100 NOT OUT!

For a good few years the Fleet SCD Society has held its Summer Garden Party Dance at Tregolls, in Frank Bisby's lovely garden in Farnborough, and this year on 8 June, I wanted it to be a bit special. The lead up to the event was not without its difficulties: Michael Ferguson, the Society's secretary and joint chairman with me, could not attend owing to a very recent eye operation; his wife, Shirley, the chairman of the BHS Borders Branch of the RSCDS, was also unavoidably absent as she was recovering from a broken hip and wrist due to a fall; some of the Committee had pressing commitments elsewhere; and the cold inclement spring weather made it a struggle for me in helping to get the garden nice in time.

However, luck was on our side. The weather was warm and sunny, if a bit breezy, the rest of the committee and some extra helpers came early to get everything set up and we were ready to go. There were 24 dancers in all to enjoy the afternoon. We always have a break halfway through for a rest and usually some *Irn Bru*, but this time it was white wine cup and cake to celebrate Frank's 100th year (his birthday was on 30 July). Frank had started SCD at the age of 60 and continued for a further 30 years despite having a new hip joint and two new knees.



Then, on with the rest of the dancing, which went very well, members and friends mixing nicely together, with the more experienced helping any dancers who were not too sure of themselves. All too soon it was time for tea, the usual excellent spread, with everyone bringing a plate of food to share. It amazes me how this form of catering always works out so well.

People were so good in helping to clear up afterwards that, apart from a flattened area of grass and a contented feeling of satisfaction and achievement, it was hard to tell that there had been a party. It may be the last time we can hold this event at Tregolls (though, hopefully not – keep going Frank); but this year's dance party was a good one!

Eithne Noakes

HORSHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

On Saturday 4 May, the main hall in The Forest School, Horsham, echoed to the sounds of Marian Anderson and her band, who had been invited to come down from Edinburgh to play for Horsham's annual informal dance. Over 90 dancers from Sussex and the surrounding area gathered for the dance. This was double the number who normally attend, attracted by the live music from this band.

See photo p10

MacLennan Scottish Group International Folk Dance Festival

This year's 32nd Festival, on Sunday 26 May, had been relocated from Bromley to Orpington, which meant ample opportunity to admire the plethora of cones and unattended plant associated with major road improvement work on the drive round the M25. A glimpse of tartan, the distant drum beat and the drone of pipes being tuned heralded our arrival at The Priory School, Orpington. It was nice to be welcomed by familiar (old) faces who directed us towards the new venue where the home team were busy preparing the various stands. First impressions were favourable and we had arrived in good time to secure coveted front row seats.

The bar was not yet open, but we were offered a drink while we were waiting! Proceeding to the cake, tombola, MSG and raffle stands we bought tickets in abundance as witness our bulging bags. Unfortunately, there was no plant stall this year, which was probably a blessing as we are so weak.

The MC, Andrew Kellett, announced the start of proceedings and the Epping Forest Pipe Band marched into the hall ahead of the assembled company, who lined up in serried ranks: stirring stuff indeed! The 32nd MacLennan Scottish Group Festival was duly opened in style by Doug Patterson, Chief Executive of Bromley Council, and a kilt-wearing Scot.

After a magnificent performance by the Epping Forest Pipe Band we were entertained by the Austrian folk dance group VTG Hermagor, to the accompaniment of the Styrian harmonica (an accordion, to the musically challenged). The group, founded in 1985, has established a reputation for preserving traditional Austrian and Carinthian dancing and costumes. The next group was Hopsani from Märjamaa, a small country town in the Baltic State of Estonia. Although started in 1951, it has only been dancing under the name of Hopsani since 1991. Their repertoire includes lively folk dances and contemporary stage dances.

The Upland Junior Dancers have been represented continuously at the Festival since its inception, and this year was no exception. The team included dancers from five years old and were a joy to watch. Excellent performances by their beginners, intermediate and senior dancers brought the first half to a fitting close. The interval was upon us, and it was all hands on deck to man the various stalls; bar and tea sales earned a well-earned boost whilst those still to perform honed their skills in readiness.

In the second half, sparkling repeat performances by the Epping Forest Pipe Band, Hopsani and Hermagor were followed by the formal presentations to the groups and exchange of memorabilia. MSG Chairman Sarah Marston acknowledged the many who ensured the success of the event.

The apparently effortless MSG performance to the pipes and drums of the Epping Forest Pipe Band was spectacular and provided an appropriate finale to another splendid festival. All that remained was the traditional close with *Auld Lang Syne* for all, a hearty three cheers and piping off the top table dignitaries.

In the post-performance euphoria it was time to catch up and renew acquaintances, with an opportunity for last minute shopping while preparations were put in hand for the evening party. After a year in the making, the 32nd Festival was over in a trice. Knowing what is involved; our sincere thanks to all those who worked so hard.

Jeff and Mary Robertson

Guildford Scottish Country Dance Club Spring Dance

Guildford Scottish Country Dance Club's traditional early May bank holiday weekend dance swung into action again on Saturday 4 May. Normandy Village Hall, just outside Guildford, is a bright airy hall which accommodates 96 dancers on an excellent sprung floor. Add to that ample parking and a beautiful situation in the Surrey countryside (a positive pleasure to drive to on a fine May evening), and it's not hard to see why this is a favourite location.

Alasdair MacLeod's Scottish Country Dance Band travelled down from Scotland for the event. Alasdair brought with him Findlay Robertson (drums) and Iain Anderson (keyboard). Stuart Forbes, who also supplied the sound equipment, joined them on fiddle to make up a lively foursome and gave the dancers an excellent and much appreciated evening. The well balanced programme devised by GSCDC Chairman, Robert Bateson, mixed plenty of familiar dances with some less frequently included on regular programmes which included a tribute to the late John Mitchell with *The Dundee City Police Jig* and *The Iona Cross*. Guildford also followed its tradition of sharing the evening between four MCs – Colin Duncan, Peter Loveland, Margret Plummer and Peter Stogden: good variety for the dancers and much less work for each MC!

Alasdair and the band continued a well-established tradition by travelling on to Brockenhurst the following afternoon to play for the New Forest Scottish Country Dancers' Spring Tea Dance.

Fiona Yeomans

Scottish Dancing Tribute to Andy Murray a Hit

Tributes to Andy Murray come in all shapes and sizes – cakes, flowers, and now a dance. Nearly 400 dancers filled Linlithgow Palace courtyard on 17 July to premiere *The Pride of Dunblane*, written to celebrate Andy Murray's achievements in becoming Britain's first Wimbledon men's singles champion for 77 years.

The dance was the idea of John Carswell, organiser of the annual Linlithgow Scotch Hop, and devised by Ian Brockbank from Edinburgh, with Andy's mum Judy showing her support by retweeting Ian's tweet about the dance. The dance, a straightforward round the room dance, represents the different stages of Andy's Wimbledon journey, including the opening and closing of the Centre Court roof, the ever-present towel, and his incredible drop-shot retrieval in the final. There is also plenty of scope for fist-pumping and shouts of "come on!"

John commented: "I was watching Murray in the semis and just got the feeling that he would go on to win it, so I thought that something should be done to honour this. I mentioned it to Ian and we both agreed that it was a crazy idea, but that we could do something with it. It's a bit of fun and a simple dance that everyone can join in with. Dunblane is only up the road and what Murray has done should be celebrated."

Ian said: "I tried to create a simple dance which everyone could enjoy so that Andy's achievements could be celebrated at ceilidhs up and down the country. It was great to see the Linlithgow Palace courtyard full of people laughing and dancing it."

The instructions for the dance are available for free download from www.scottishdance.net

John Laurie at 80 and St Columba's Monday Evening Socials

John Laurie was 80 on the 20 May 2013, a Monday, and so we had a really jolly Monday Evening Social Dance with him as MC, back on the platform he graced for so many years, flanked by three balloons all proclaiming his age, accompanied by cake and wine. It seems fitting to mark the occasion linking the story of John with that of the Social dancing at St Columba's, which started in 1941, when John was eight years old.

The Socials were started on Saturday afternoons, by the Reverend Robert Scott, who wanted to help young Scots transferred to London to find a place which was familiar and meet like people. The Social quickly moved to Tuesday evenings and then, in 1952, when St Columba's rebuilding was complete following war damage, to Monday evenings in the Lower Hall. Dancing, singing, table tennis, whist drives and charades were all likely to feature on the programme, because they were intended for everyone to have a chance to socialise. These evenings were strongly supported by the clergy at St Columba's Church and among other things there was always a New Year Party. During wartime restrictions, an allocation of tea and sugar was obtained from the Ministry of Food (a record of cups of tea served had to be forwarded to them weekly).

By November 1941 it had become obvious that a weekly programme should be produced, to avoid wasting time, and there was always a pianist. Other local organisations would visit,

such as the Crown Court Church Rambling and Social Club, St George's Hospital Reel Society, Peshurst Place, St Andrew's Church, Ealing, North Fulham Girl Guides, to name but a few.

McBain's Band played at the first Band Night in 1948, and in the same year the Moderator also first addressed the Youth of St Columba's at a Church Social. In 1951 it was proposed to teach some new dances, such as *The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh*, which was agreed, on the understanding that every programme would still begin and end with *The Eightsome Reel*. The committee also agreed to the purchase of three books of Scottish country dances.

All through, the committee have wrestled with the same questions: the integration of new people, the amount of teaching, the make-up of the programme, the price of a cup of tea, and how many band nights to have in the year.

In 1957 John Laurie came to London and quickly made his presence felt on the dancing scene. By this time the Social had shed many of its other activities and was emerging as a Scottish country dance Social, and was in the process of changing from having a pianist to using gramophone records. Thirteen records, some of which only had one dance on them, provided the music for all the dances they knew.



Rachel Wilton gives John Laurie a birthday card signed by all the St Columba's Dancers and invites him to 'blow out' the candles on his cake as *Happy Birthday* is sung to him.

RSCDS Medal Test Results

In July young dancers in the London area were successful in the RSCDS Medal Tests. Mervyn Short assessed candidates from The Upland Dancers in Bexleyheath and from Milton Keynes Branch. Congratulations to the dancers and their teachers.

The Upland Dancers

Introductory Grade

Yasemin Ahmed	P
Rose Allix	D
Flora Bean	D
Hacer Bozaci	P
Rebecca Broughton	C
Rosabella Camm	D
Daisy Kerr	C
Molly McGuire	D
James Orchard	C
Iona Saunders	C
Sophie Spicknell	D
Lora Stancheva	P

Grade 1

Olivia Camm	C
Rosabella Camm	D
Isabel Howat	D
Rebekah Orchard	D
Niamh O'Toole-Mackridge	D
Erida Rexhepi	D
Emily Saunders	D
Emily Stockbridge	C

P = Pass; C = Credit; D = Distinction

Grade 2

Olivia Harker	D
Victoria Humphrey	C
Holly McGillicuddy	D
Bethany Orchard	D

Grade 3

Emily Furze	C
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Grade 4

Elena Anderson	C
Holly Bolan	D
Abbie Edwards	D
Megan Stockbridge	D

Grade 5

Charley Griffin	D
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RSCDS Milton Keynes Branch

Grade 1

Libby Edsall	P
Keira Scott	P

Grade 4

Jessica Scott	C
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Grade 5

Hannah-Marie Culley	C
Robyn Smith	P

John undertook to care for the record collection, and advise on additions. John joined the committee in 1960 and was secretary from 1962 – 64, after which he had to stand down for two years, according to the constitution. He continued looking after the music and playing equipment, including

bringing in many of his own records. Table tennis was finally abandoned in 1963. Hilary Rendle took over teaching the beginners' class in 1965. First reports of a slippery floor came in 1967, one of the solutions being to dust the floor with Persil – no other detergent, only Persil!

John took over as MC in 1968 "from the indefatigable Mr MacFarlane", and in 1973 the Revd W B Ferguson is recorded as saying that "John Laurie really runs the whole thing." In 1981 the Revd Andrew Reid wanted to revert to the original formula, but John told him that the Social had now emerged as a Scottish country dance evening, and should stay that way. John also tried to retire that year, but was persuaded to carry on, for another 20 plus years. Having overseen the change from a pianist to gramophone records, he went on to oversee the change to tapes and then the change to the CDs which we use at the moment.

Technically, he may now be retired, but that does not keep him away from Monday evenings. Long may he continue.

Denise Haugh

Historical references are taken from the *Minute Books of the Monday evening Socials*

The Pat Batt Legacy

The Reel first featured a poem by Pat Batt in issue 177, in August 1986, and each of the last seven issues has included a different Pat Batt poem, not previously published by London Branch. Whilst the poem below, appropriately entitled *Tempus Fugit*, from Volume 5, is the last *The Reel* will be publishing in this series, the process of publishing a different poem each month on the Branch website will continue until her full collection of 44 poems on SCD is released, with the last due to be added in August 2014. These cover the five volumes of poems for which she will be especially remembered, as well as a further 11 ditties discovered by her daughter, Jo Chima, to whom we are particularly indebted. For dancers who can recall attending an Argyll Weekend or a Derek Haynes Workshop in Grasmere and seeing Pat Batt recite her 'latest' but relevant poem, this will ring a note of recollection or be of special significance.

Stephen Webb

Tempus Fugit

My mirror says I'm growing old
My inside says it's wrong.
My outside voice is quavering,
But inside there's a song.

The wrinkles multiply, I know,
And yet inside my mind
A nice young thing of seventeen
Is there for me to find.

The teeth – well, we won't mention them,
The glasses we'll forget.
The hair is grey – so what, I say,
For I'm not beaten yet.

I don't feel old, except perhaps
When twinges are annoying
There's lovely things to see and do,
And life is for enjoying.

I hope to keep my memories,
They're much too good to lose.
They'll dance inside my head when I
Hang up my dancing shoes.

Pat Batt (29 January 1921 – 22 April 2006)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Formal Dance
Saturday 16 November 2013
7.30 – 11.00pm

Reigate School, Pendleton Road, Woodhatch,
Reigate, Surrey RH2 7NT
Dewhurst Band

Catch the Wind, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, The Belle of Bon Accord, The Music Makars, Tartan Bows, The Daffodil, Swiss Lassie, Neidpath Castle, Follow Me Home, The Rose of the North, Inchmickery, Lady Sophia Lindsay, A Capital Jig, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, Reel of the Gordon Highlanders, Pelorus Jack, St. Columba's Strathspey, The Montgomerie's Rant

Tickets: £15.00 including buffet
Contact Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or
wmitton517@btinternet.com
www.reigatescottish.org.uk

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball
Saturday 1 March 2014
Harpden Public Hall, Harpenden,
Herts AL5 1PL

Craigellachie

Programme and other details in the next issue
Enquiries to Val Owens 01727 863870
www.HSCDC.org.uk

AFTERNOON CHARITY TEA DANCE

Sunday 13 October 2013
2.00 – 5.00pm

Music by **Ian Robertson, Ian and Judith Muir, and Tom Robertson**

Anthony Hall, Aston Clinton, Bucks HP22 5HG
Tickets £6.00 in advance
Contact Ian Robertson on 01296 630682
or ibrobertson@btinternet.com

ST. JOHN'S SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball
23 November 2013
7.30 – 11.45pm

Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP
Ian Muir & Craigellachie
Scottish Dance Band

Programme: The Reel of the Royal Scots, The Zoologist, The Reverend John MacFarlane, The Duchess of Atholl's Slipper, The Shortfield Jig, Sleepy Maggie, S-Locomotion, Fraser's Favourite, The Ship in Full Sail, Culla Bay, The Glenalmond Gamekeeper, The Reel of Dunans, Lord Rosslyn's Fancy, St. John's Ruby Anniversary Strathspey, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloch, James Gray, The Blackwater Reel, The Braes of Breadalbane, The Starry Eyed Lassie, Cobham Trees, The Dancing Man, The Montgomerie's Rant. Extras: Anniversary Reel, Macleod's Fancy

Welcome drink 7.00 for 7.30pm start
No Bar, but soft drinks will be provided as well as wine with supper

Tickets: £20.00

Contact Sue Davis, 01344 774344 or
alan.suedavis@gmail.com or SAE to 2
Larkwood Dr., Crowthorne, Berks RG45 6RL

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Valentine Ball
Saturday 15 February 2014
7.00 – 11.00pm

Hampton School, Hanworth
Road, Hampton, Middx TW12 3HD
Craigievar

Tickets £25.00 to include buffet supper
For further information and programme please
see our website
www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk
Contact 0208 977 5237 / 0208 943 3773



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY

BORDER BRANCH
Autumn Social

Saturday 12 October 2013
7.45 – 10.45pm

St Paul's Parish Rooms, Wokingham RG41 1EH
Dancing to recorded music
Bring and share refreshments
Contact Mervyn Short, 01903 782413



Christmas Social

Saturday 28 December 2013
7.45 – 10.45pm

St Paul's Parish Rooms, Wokingham RG41 1EH
Dancing to recorded music
Bring and share refreshments
Contact Mervyn Short, 01903 782413

Day School

Saturday 8 March 2014

Dancers contact Ann Dix, 01344 429521
Musicians contact Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

Visit our website on www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Autumn Dance

Saturday 19 October 2013
7.00 – 11.00pm

St Andrews URC Hall, Eastcote, Middx HA5 2SH

Silver Cross Band

Tickets: £12 from Lorraine Robertson,
020 8427 7694 or
muffinrobertson@btinternet.com

Annual Ball

Friday 3 January 2014
7.30 – 11.30pm

Allum Hall, Elstree, Middx WD6 3PJ
The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band
Programme in the next issue
www.harrowscottish.org.uk

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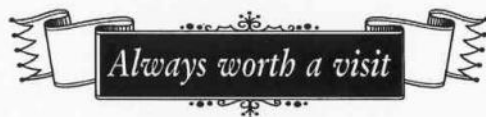


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LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming attractions 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 7 September: **Kafoozalum**

90th Anniversary Ball

Saturday 5 October 2013
7.00 – 11.00pm

Nicol McLaren and the Glenraig Scottish Dance Band

Programme: The Irish Rover, The Winding Road, The Luckenbooth Brooch, Clutha, Monymusk, Bonnie Anne, Duke of Perth, The Flower o' the Quern, Spiffin', The Buchan Eightsome Reel, The White Heather Jig, The Black Mountain Reel, Neidpath Castle, The Machine without Horses, Angus MacLeod, The Duchess Tree, MacLeod's Fancy, The Sailor, Autumn in Appin, Mairi's Wedding

* Advance booking price is only available on orders received by midnight 2 October

Ball Tickets:

(Including finger buffet refreshments)

* LHC Members in advance £14.00

* Non-members in advance £16.00

All classes on the door £18.00

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

Cribs are now available on our website:
www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

For further details contact: Frank Bennett on 020 8715 3564 or fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk, or Roger Waterson on 020 8660 5017. Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening.

RSCDS BATH BRANCH

66th Annual Ball

Saturday 15 February 2014

The Guildhall, High St, Bath BA1 5AW

Hugh Ferguson and the Dalriada Scottish Country Dance Band

Programme: The Machine without Horses, The Peat Fire Flame, St Columba's Strathspey, Tribute to the Borders, The Sailor, The Dancing Master, Sugar Candie, Baldovan Reel, Equilibrium, The Irish Rover, Shiftin' Bobbins, The Hazel Tree, Polharrow Burn, The Rose of the North, Blooms of Bon Accord, Joie de Vivre, Nottingham Lace, The Singing Sands, Pelorus Jack, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran

Tickets £25.00

Contact June Hall, 01225 318906,
jandjhall@btinternet.com or
rscdsbath.btcc.co.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB

Day School

Saturday 21 September 2013

9.30am – 5.30pm

Hemel Hempstead

Teachers: David Queen, Alice Stainer and Marjory Beaumont

Musicians: Ken Martlew, Barbara Manning and Ian Cutts

Classes for all levels of dancers
Contact Janet Aylward 01442 832061 or
dayschool@berkhamstedreelclub.org
www.berkhamstedreelclub.org



HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION MIDDLESEX

ANNUAL BALL

Saturday 9 November 2013

7.30 – 11.30pm

Brentside High School, Greenford Avenue, Greenford, Middx W7 1JJ

George Meikle and the Lothian Scottish Dance Band

Programme: A Trip to Bavaria, Olive MacNeil of Hayes, The Flower o' the Quern, The Black Mountain Reel, The Cranberry Tart, The Gentleman, Nottingham Lace, Best Set in the Hall, City of Belfast, The Plantation Reel, The Flying Spur, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, The Earl of Mansfield, Torridon Lassies, The Duchess Tree, The Piper and the Penguin, Father Connelly's Jig, The Dream Catcher, Bratach Bana, James Gray.

Tickets £18.00 including Buffet

Contact Margaret Wallace, 020 8560 6160 or
margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk

Cribs available on www.hayesscottish.org.uk

MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB

Highland Ball

Saturday 11 January 2014

6.30 – 10.30pm

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

Craigievar Band

*Programme (*recapped):* Hooper's Jig, The Earl of Mansfield, Blue Mess Jacket, The Bees of Maggieknockater, The Recumbent Stone*, Mist o'er the Loch*, Jennifer's Jig, Flight to Melbourne*, The Singing Sands, Tribute to the Borders, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Thomas Glover's Reel, James Gray, Kilkenny Castle, The Reel of the 51st Division, James Senior of St. Andrews, Angus Macleod*, Mrs. Stewart's Jig, The Byron Strathspey, The Montgomerie's Rant, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterader. Extras: Scott Meikle, The Starry Eyed Lassie

Tickets: £19.00 before 21 December

£21.00 after 21 December

Price includes supper and a welcome drink.

Bring your own wine

Dress Formal

Contact Jane Leach, 01753 869557,
16 Brudenell, Windsor SL4 4UR. Please send a SAE with cheque for delivery to home address, otherwise tickets for collection on arrival.
www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk

THE ADDLESTONE AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY

80th Anniversary Dance

Saturday 16 November 2013

7.30 – 11.30pm

Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2NJ

George Meikle and the Lothian Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Miss Allie Anderson, The Saltire Society Reel, City of Belfast, James Gray, J.B. Milne, The Addlestonian Strathspey, Best Set in the Hall, Bratach Bana, Butterscotch and Honey, None So Pretty, Pelorus Jack, The Ladies of Dunse, The Dream Catcher, Napier's Index, Swiss Lassie, Cherrybank Gardens, Follow Me Home, Scott Meikle, The Minister on the Loch, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran. Extras: The Montgomerie's Rant, The Deil among the Tailors.

Tickets £20.00 including supper

bring your own drink

Contact Keith Goodwin, 01932 228224 or
goodwin@walton-on-thames.demon.co.uk



SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS

Annual Ball

Saturday 16 November 2013

7.30 – 11.30pm

Presdales School, Hoe Lane, Ware, SG12 9NX

Robert Whitehead and The Danelaw Band

Programme: EH3 7AF, The Flower o' the Quern, The Roselath Cross, The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, The Singing Sands, The Immigrant Lass, The Falls of Rogie, Gang the Same Gate, The White Heather Jig, The Montgomerie's Rant, Inchmickery, S- Locomotion, The Piper and the Penguin, Mrs Stewart's Jig, The Cashmere Shawl, Baldovan Reel, Jennifer's Jig, City of Belfast, The Reel of the 51st Division.

Tickets £18.00 (£10.00 non dancers) including supper, bring your own drink

Contact Peter Dixon, 01920 462213 or
www.sehscottishdancing.org

CROYDON & DISTRICT RSCDS

Annual Weekend School

Friday 8 – 10 November 2013

The Cumberland Hotel, Eastbourne BN21 3YT

Teacher: Angela Campbell

Application forms available from Mary Courtney

020 86510704

www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 29 October 2013

Headington School, Oxford OX3 7TD

Ample free parking & on the London to Oxford bus route. Bus stops right outside the school.

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: The Findlays' Jig, The Sailor, Sands of Morar, Inchmickery, John of Bon Accord, The Silver Tassie, The Argyll Square, The Ladies of Dunse, The Flower of Glasgow, Mrs MacLeod, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Culla Bay, Summer Wooing, James Gray, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich, EH3 7AF, Neidpath Castle, Follow Me Home, The Reel of The Royal Scots

Tickets £18.00 spectators £9.00 including supper

Contact Trisha Rawlings, 01869 340830 or
trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com

Burns' Night Supper & Dance

Saturday 18 January 2014

The Parish Hall, Sunnyside,

Benson, OX10 6LZ

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

THE ZURICH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Weekend course and

St Andrew's Night Ball

Saturday 30 November –

Sunday 1 December 2013

Teacher: David Queen

Musicians: Ian Robertson and

Muriel Johnstone

Programmes and application forms are available at www.zscdc.ch/november13

Contact secretary@zscdc.ch



RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Autumn Dance

Saturday 19 October 2013

7.00 – 11.00pm

Mascalls School, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge TN12 6LT

Dancing to recorded music

Tickets £5.00 plus a plate

Contact Colin Simpson, 01892 532712 eves/weekends,

socsecretary@rscdstunbridgewells.co.uk or
www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP

Membership rates for the RSCDS and London Branch (effective 1 July 2013) are £22.00 per annum for UK based members (£28.00 for Europe; £31.00 elsewhere). There are discounts of £8.00 for members aged 12 – 17, £3.00 aged 18 – 25 and £3.00 for each of two members living at the same address. Members of other Branches can join London Branch for £6.00 per annum if they live in the UK (£12.00 in Europe and £15.00 elsewhere). London Branch membership brings benefits including reduced rates at Branch events and receiving *The Reel*, while Society membership includes the bi-annual dance publication, *Scottish Country Dancer*.

Membership forms can be downloaded from the Branch website. Membership applications and enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989 or membership@rscdslondon.org.uk

SPECIAL OFFER: through the generosity of Wilson Nicol, all new members paying for their full subscription by 31 October 2013 will receive a £5.00 cash back. Please contact Gaynor for details.

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 25 years) 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 give support to any event promoting Scottish country dancing among young people.

Don't be shy about asking for assistance. We are a charity and we 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 any member of the Branch Committee, or you could start with our Secretary, Margaret Catchick, via secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB. Dancing most Mondays, 8–10.15pm, Sept to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details: Morag Liddell, 38 The Holt, Abingdon OX14 2DR moragian@sky.com or www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

ADDESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15–10.15pm September to May at St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Monica Johnson, 01276 472756 or www.addlestonscottish.org.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB meets in Potten End Village Hall. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15pm September to May, Sat. gardens June/July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Judy Roythorne, 1 Pine Close, North Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3BZ, 01442 875496 or www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS. Technique Class, alternate Mondays, starting on Monday 9 September 2013, 8–10pm Finchampstead Memorial Hall RG40 4JU. Details: Shirley Ferguson, 01276 501952. General Class, every Wednesday, starting on Wednesday 12 September 2012, 8–10pm, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church Hall, Frimley GU16 7AA. Teacher: Mervyn Short. Details: May Sloan, 01428 604868

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth 7.30–10pm. Technique class by invitation. Details: Camilla Beatty, Flat 4, 85 Alumhurst Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH4 8HR, 01202 540120

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

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

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 8pm at St. Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Janette Walton, 32 Moulsham Lane, Yateley, Hants GU46 7QY, 01252 875511

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

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY Scottish country dancing and other events. Dance

Circle meets every Thursday 8pm from Sept to June. Details: Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or www.camscotsoc.org.uk

CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS Advanced class Mondays 7.30–9.30pm. General class Thursdays 7.30–9.30pm. 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 mbsteele45@aol.com

CHELMSFORD: SANDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets on Monday evenings 8–10pm at Springfield Park Baptist Church, Springfield Park Road, Chelmsford CM2 6EB. Beginners welcome. Details: Esther Wilkinson, 01206 240132 or ewilkin@gmail.com or www.sandonscotdance.org.uk

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meet on Sundays 6 – 9.15, September to 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 for beginners and experienced dancers' start times and all activities. Contact Heather Nolan, 01784 256549 or secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk

CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets Thursdays 8–10pm September to June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details: Mrs Pip Graham, 57 Milton Mount Ave, Pound Hill, Crawley, W. Sussex RH10 3DP, 01293 882173

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH. Branch classes in Coulsdon: General, incl Beginners with technique (Fri); Advanced & Improvers (Wed). Details: Sue Hassanein, 01737 358401 or suehassanein@tiscali.co.uk or www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Club night Mondays (all year) 8–10 pm at Woodford Green Prep School, Glengall Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0BZ. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or angelaross87@hotmail.com or www.efsa.org.uk

EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION holds weekly adult dance classes for beginners and intermediate/advanced levels (September to March), including informal dances. Details: Dorothy Pearson, 366 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon CR5 3BF, 01737 551724 or pearson2902@tiscali.co.uk

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8pm, September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details: Mrs Annette Owen, 19 Park Prewett Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 9RG, 01256 959097 or www.fscdc.co.uk or annetteowen@hotmail.co.uk

FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Tuesdays 8pm, September to mid-July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Details: Ann or Paul Brown, 01784 462456 or 07801 160643, or p@ulfbrown.co.uk

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30–10.30pm, September to May. Details: Michael Ferguson, 01276 501952

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays from September to June. Beginners 7.30pm, General 8.15pm. Details: Celia Stuart-Lee, 01753 884217 or info@gxscottish.org.uk or www.gxscottish.org.uk

GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8–10.30 p.m. Details: Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Walford, Herts WD19 5HF, 0203 078 0018

GUILDFORD SCDC meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8pm from September to June. Details: 01483 456091 or www.gsdc.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

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS (continued from previous page)

- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8–10pm, September to 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. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield EN2 8LN, 020 8367 4201
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** meet Wednesdays September to 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, Jersey JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or chanjoy@jerseymail.co.uk; Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@googlemail.com; or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Details: adverts in *The Reel*, Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG, 020 8715 3564 or www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096
- 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. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. 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
- 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
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB** meets every Monday evening from September – June at 8.15–10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details: Mrs Jane Whittington, 5 Coldharbour Rd., Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AE, 01474 359018
- 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
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays during school term, 8.15–10.15pm from September to 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. Details: Hadyn Davies, 0208 658 9188 or 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 from 8–10pm, September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Sara Ribbins, 157 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7JR, 0118 947 3207 or sara@ribbins.co.uk or www.scottishdancingreading.org
- REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets most Mondays 8.15–10.15pm, September to May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8pm from mid Sept. to end of May. Details: 020 8943 3773 or 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.co
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Pont Street. 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 or www.stcolumbasdancers.org
- ST JOHN'S SDC WOKINGHAM** meet every Thurs 8–10.15pm Sept to 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. Also Children's Class Sats 9.30–11am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS,** Luton, meet every Wednesday, September to June 8–10pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road, Luton, Beds. Details: Sarah Kelsall-Patel, 01296 681968 or Ted Andrews, 01582 508580 or www.saintniniansluton.org.uk
- 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 OBD. Details: Maggie Westley, 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157, or westley.maggie14@rmh.nhs.uk
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8–10pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Philip Howey, 53 Asher Reeds, Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0AR, 01892 862094 or philip.howey3@virginmedia.com
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from September to May, 8.15–10.15 pm, in Barnes. Details: Fiona Jack, 07780 671021 or jack_fiona@hotmail.com
- 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, 7.30–10.30pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30–9pm. Details: Janice Rose, 01702 585473
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS.** Classes in Hertford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Hollybush School, Hertford; Beginners Thurs 8pm, Guide Hut, West Street, Hertford; Demonstration 2nd Mons 8pm, St. John's Hall, Hertford. Details: Diana Ross, 01920 870189
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8–10.15pm at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W Sussex. Details: Julie Howell, 63 Mile Oak Rd, Portslade, Brighton, East Sussex BN41 2PJ, 01273 415778 or Julie@howell.name
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday at 8pm from September to 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
- 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
- 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 Krelloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Wednesdays 8–10 pm September to June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dance Class Mondays 8pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford WD19 5HF, 020 3078 0018
- WIMBLEDON.** St Andrew Society (London): Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8pm at Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1SB. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3JB, 020 8540 1755 or araffan@googlemail.com or www.standrewsoclondon.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
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8–10pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Beryl Munro, 01621 850838 or beryl.munro@btinternet.com

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The South-East Branches ball, 29 June: Iain Farrell greeted the dancers to Wandsworth (above) Elaine Davies and Andrew Nolan lead the promenade in Miss Allie Anderson (left)



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