



the reel

Issued by the LONDON BRANCH of THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
Editorial Address: 6 King's Grove, S.E.15. Price 4d. (Free to members of the Branch)

No. 73

JUNE—JULY, 1963

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (London Branch) will be held at Rutherford School, Penfold Street, Marylebone, N.W.1, on Saturday, 22nd June, 1963, at 4.30 p.m. The meeting will be followed by tea at about 6.0 p.m., and an informal dance at 7.0 p.m. Only those attending

the meeting will be admitted to the dance.

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 1962.
3. Business arising from the Minutes.
4. To receive the Hon. Secretary's report on the year 1962-63.
5. To receive the Hon. Treasurer's report and accounts for the year 1961-62.
6. To elect an Hon. President and Hon. Vice-Presidents for 1963-64.
7. Election of Executive Committee for 1963-64.
8. To elect auditors for 1963-64.
9. To consider resolutions proposed by members.
10. Any other business.

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Patron—H.M. The Queen

OBJECTS:

To preserve and further the practice of traditional Scottish country dances.

To promote and encourage the formation of branches.

To provide, or assist in providing, special education or instruction in the practice of Scottish country dances.

To publish, or cause to be published, descriptions of Scottish country dances, with music and diagrams, in simple form and at a moderate price.

To collect books, manuscripts and illustrations relating to Scottish country dances.

Generally to do such things as are considered by the Society to be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects above stated or any of them.

OPEN AIR DANCING

With the co-operation of the L.C.C. this year we are holding open air dancing in Holland Park on the five Wednesdays of July, 7.30-9.30 p.m., Bob Duncan's Band and Pipe Major Peter Quinn providing the music. Admission free.

The general public will be invited to join in and for this reason the dances will be fairly elementary.

It is hoped that as many members as possible will come along bringing their uninitiated friends with them to join in and help make this new venture a success.

HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHLAND GAMES SOCIETY

Highland Games
at
Rothamstead Park
Harpenden
on
Saturday, 15th June, 1963

commencing 10.30 a.m.
Official opening 2 p.m.

EVENTS INCLUDE —
Highland Dancing
Scottish Country Dancing
Pipe Band Contest
Field Events (including Tug-of-War)

Details from I. C. Cameron, Esq., 30
Holloways Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield.
Tel.: Hatfield 2728.

THE REEL

If you are not a member of London Branch, order your copy now from: Miss M. Jamieson, 12 Howitt Close, Howitt Road, N.W.3, 7d. post free or 3/6d. for six issues.

Limited quantities of back numbers may be obtained at 4d. per copy, plus 3d. for postage.

Terms for advertising in "The Reel" may be obtained from Miss M. Jamieson. The circulation is about 1,500 and this bulletin is believed to be the only publication (apart from the R.S.C.D.S. Annual Bulletin) through which advertisers can focus on Scottish country dancers. Please mention "The Reel" when replying to advertisers.

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

Your subscription for 1963-64 is due on 1st July. Please do not forget to renew, otherwise the next issue of the REEL will be your last!

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1963/64 are due on 1st July, 1963 and should be sent to Mr. H. E. Shank, 541 Upper Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex. Receipts will not be issued unless specially requested.

The 1963/64 Subscription issue will be Book 22, comprising twelve newly composed dances based on traditional lines, and will be sent to paid up members. Where there is more than one member in a family an alternative choice will be allowed, subject to availability.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION ... 5/-
LIFE MEMBERSHIP £3/3/0

ANGLO-SCOTTISH DANCE

An Anglo-Scottish Dance is being held at the headquarters of the English Folk Dance and Song Society, Cecil Sharp House, 2, Regents Park Road, N.W.1, on Friday, 19th July, from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Tickets, price 5/- double, or 3/6 single, may be obtained from the Secretary of the E.F.D.S.S. at the above address, or may be bought at the door.

A buffet will be available.

McBAIN'S BAND
M.C. John Armstrong

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ROLL BACK THE CARPET

3. More new reels

As I have shown, reels of four can revolve and any reels can intersect. Now I will show reels of three going at half speed, taking on ballast, and travelling crabwise. I shall not advocate a reel in a vertical plane, with dancers going alternatively over and under, as this would require more elevation than is seemly in Scottish country dancing.

Reels can be for any number of dancers starting in a straight line and facing alternately in opposite directions. In a reel of four the four dancers, passing or 'looping' on each bar, take 8 bars to get back to their starting places. A reel of eight would take 16 bars. By this reckoning a reel of three would take 6 bars: on each bar two dancers would be passing shoulder to shoulder and the third looping.

The reel could be done at half speed if the dancers took hands — and 2 bars — to pass, and set on the loop. Here is a very simple figure: half a reel of three in 6 bars. 1st, 2nd and 3rd couples are in their starting places. 1st and 2nd man change places giving right hands, 1st and 2nd women do so giving left hands, while 3rd couple set to each other (2 bars). 1st and 3rd change places, men giving left hands and women right, while 2nd couple set (2 bars). 2nd and 3rd change, men giving right hands and women left, while 1st couple set (2 bars — total: 6 bars).

When a reel of three is danced in 8 bars instead of 6 it would be possible to keep the pattern of two dancers passing while the third looped if each pass or loop took a bar and a third. If this strict phrasing were kept in the reels across the dance in The Montgomeries' Rant 2nd man would get to the centre bar and a third before 3rd man. As it looks better for 2nd and 3rd men (and women) to cover with each other, each reel of three really becomes a figure of eight for two plus one. 2nd couple dance a figure of eight, much as in Corn Rigs. Neither of them goes through the dead centre of the eight: they pass shoulder to shoulder just each side of it at the end of bar 2 (by doing the same, 3rd couple keep the covering). Meanwhile 1st woman dances a figure of eight more or less independently, with no-one to balance her in the way 2nd couple balance each other. Why shouldn't she be balanced? Two plus one equals four minus one. Why not a figure of eight for four?

Start with 1st and 2nd couples in their original places. 1st couple dance a figure of eight, as in Corn Rigs (to begin they cross to 2nd couple's places), but 2nd couple don't stand still. They also dance a figure of eight, beginning by casting up. For courtesy, and to avoid confusion, women have the precedence, as in Corn Rigs: each woman goes below her partner as they cross. All end where they started.

A reel of three cannot be made to revolve about its centre because, when looping, the dancers face in the same direction. But it can be made to move crabwise if the dancers loop a little wider than usual and, when passing, veer slightly in the direction desired. Here is a suggestion, "Crab Reels", for the ending of a 32-bar dance. The positions at bar 17 are: 1st couple in 2nd place, 2nd at top, 3rd in 3rd, all on the 'wrong' sides. The

three on each side dance two reels of three in succession, each of 8 bars. To begin the reels, 1st and 2nd women pass right shoulder, so do 1st and 3rd men. At some point, bar 20 I should guess, the reels start moving crabwise across the dance to their own sides. At the end of bar 24 they pass through each other. I think all the dancers pass their partners left shoulder. Or do 1st couple pass right shoulder? Roll back the carpet and try.

HUGH FOSS

Next article: 4. Grafting.

MORE NEW TEACHERS

The Branch was again honoured by the presence of Miss Jean Milligan at Bolt Court on Monday and Tuesday, 8th and 9th April, when she adjudicated at the examination of a record number of candidates which included two from Canada, one from Australia and one from New Zealand.

The Committee takes this opportunity of thanking all those who helped during the examination and congratulate the following on gaining the Society's full teaching certificate:—

Miss Shirley Baulch
Mrs. Pamela Brown
Miss Valma Calvert
Miss Elizabeth McLennan
Mrs. Nancy Owen

and to the following who gained the Society's preliminary certificate:—

Miss Deborah Alcock
Miss Roo Blomfield
Mr. Laurie Leavatt-Brown
Mr. Peter Day
Mr. Rae Ferguson
Miss Janet Hammond
Mrs. Marian Meads
Mr. Arthur Packman
Mrs. Marie Rayner
Mr. Wm. A. Southon
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PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS

PETRONELLA

When the late Mr. Skinner's band was at a dance, and he began to play the first bars of Petronella on his violin, everyone, that could, was immediately on the floor. If a pianist wants to achieve the same result, it can be done, but to assist it is better to amend the published music by placing a dot after all quavers, where they are the first note in any beat. This reduces the value of a semiquaver to one fifth of a beat, a quaver to two fifths, and a crotchet to four fifths, instead of their original value of one quarter, one half, and a whole beat respectively. The second beat in bars 18, 20, 22 and 23 should then be adjusted by making the first semiquaver into a quaver in each case.

The first beat in the last bar of both phrases is shown as a crotchet in Book 1. Kerr shows it as a quaver followed by a rest, and Marr & Co. show both versions. The ear, when music is written, and played, in this idiom, resents hearing a beat in the melody with only one note, although it will accept one note in the bass accompaniment. It seems best to complete the beat by using a semiquaver, but there may be a difficulty with a piano having a sluggish action, as the key may not recover, to be struck again for the second beat. This first beat is largely an echo of the first beat in the second bar, but an octave higher. If the piano key is sluggish then a dotted quaver followed by a quaver can be played.

Many dancers will recognise this rhythm, when played, as it is nothing new. It is interesting to realise that it reproduces the rhythm of that childish amusement played with another person, using only the hands, when keeping time, and rhythm, with the gibberish which began "peter dick, peter dick — — —".

If the beats in the bass with only one note are to be rewritten to show their full value, and not left with a value of four fifths, a new symbol will have to be invented.

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ENGAGEMENTS DIARY

JUNE

29th Saturday

WOOD GREEN GROUP. Two performances of the North London Gala Folk Dance Festival. 2.45 p.m. at Forty Hall, North Enfield and 6.45 p.m. at Woodside Park, High Road, Wood Green, N.22. Displays by Romford Scottish Association, Phoenix Club, Chingford Morris Men and others. Louis Davidson's Band. If wet, evening performance will be held at White Hart Lane (New) School, adjoining park. Admission free.

29th Saturday

EAST SURREY WEST KENT BRANCH are holding a non-competitive Scottish Country Dancing Festival in Croydon. Adjudicator Mrs. M. C. Gudge. Classes for children and adults. Dancing in evening to Stan Watts Band. Details from Hon. Secretary, 20, Godstone Mount, Downs Court Road, Purley, Surrey. (Phone: Bywood 2638).

The ENGAGEMENTS DIARY provides Hon. Secretaries of Scottish Country Dance Organisations with means of informing their members of their own and other fixtures with no trouble and little expense. The cost is 2/6 per insertion. We should like to make it as complete as possible and hope that Hon. Secretaries will send details of their arrangements, preferably set out in the manner shown above, to Miss M. Jamieson, 12, Howitt Close, Howitt Road, N.W.3.

K.A.S.S. COLUMN

This spring has been a very full one for the member Societies of the Kent Association of Scottish Societies. Starting at the beginning of February, there have only been four weekends without at least one society having a major function, up till the end of April. It is one of the unfortunate happenings every year that the dances of two societies are arranged for the same night, and this is one of the things which greater liaison between societies through K.A.S.S. could eliminate.

Since the last issue there have been dances in all parts of the County including Tunbridge Wells, Dover, North Kent, Medway Towns, Lee, Deal and Walmer. To try to improve the general standard of Country Dancing in the county, the Chairman of the Association, Mrs. Stephenson, and her husband Mr. Colin Stephenson, organise a One Day School of Scottish Country Dancing. This is generally held in May and this year for the first time it is necessary to have four instructors from R.S.C.D.S., three of them from the London Branch. These days are very popular, not only with member groups, but also with our neighbours in other counties. After the instructional period which finishes at 5 pm. there is an evening of social dancing to Bob Duncan's S.C.D. Band. This year is the fifth there has been a School and each one has been more popular than the preceding one.

Many Societies stop their dancing classes during the summer but this year there is the Kent International Festival of Dance and Song which is being held over the Whit. weekend at Maidstone. Several of the members are entering teams in the competitive dancing which is being held on the Saturday evening, as well as in the demonstration (non-competitive) dancing which is taking place in the afternoon at South Park, Maidstone. The other two days are devoted to sightseeing with a farewell Ball on the Monday evening.

Several of the Societies will be joining others from different areas at the Highland Gathering and other functions which are being organised by the Scots in and around London for the Festival of Scotland. Some of the K.A.S.S. members would like to be able to take a more active part in these functions but distance is the biggest difficulty to overcome.

BANDS

MIKE MacNEIL AND HIS HIGHLAND DANCE BAND—69 Mount View Road, N.4 (MOU 1348).

LOUIS DAVIDSON'S SCOTTISH DANCE BAND—Scottish Country Dances a speciality. Various combinations available for all types of functions. Enquiries: 54 Ambler Road, N.4 (HOW 3303).

REG. FLOWER'S ORCHESTRAS supplied for all functions. Scottish country dances a speciality. Any number or combination as required. 315 Church Lane, N.W.9 (COL 5518).

THE CRUSADERS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE BAND—David L. Thomas, Berryhill, Taplow, Bucks.

BOB DUNCAN AND HIS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE BAND. Enquiries: 41 Carton Close, Rochester, Kent (Tel. Chatham 45354).

STAN WATTS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE BAND. Enquiries: 27 Field View Road, Potters Bar, Middx.

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OTHER ORGANISATIONS

THE ALLAN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS, SOUTHEAST-ON-SEA (Affil. to the R.S.C.D.S.)—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. K. Judkins, 62 Avenue Road, Westcliffe-on-Sea, meet on Tuesdays at St. George's Presbyterian Church Hall, Park Terrace, 8-10 p.m.

BARNES SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP—Westfields Primary School off White Hart Lane, S.W.13. Tuesday evenings 8-10 p.m. Sept. to May. Visitors welcome. Details: apply Hon. Secretary, Miss Clare Williams, 73 Rosslin Avenue, Barnes, S.W.13.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.—Chairman: Mr. C. McGregor, 35 Wellington Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, 20. Secretary: Peter J. Smith, 34 Vroaxall Road, Solihull, Warwicks. (SOL 4118).

BOSTALL PARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING GROUP (Affil. to R.S.C.D.S.)—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. J. H. Desmond, 31 Winchester Avenue, Bexleyheath, Kent. Group meets Thursdays 8-10.30 p.m. in The Annexe (adjacent St. Thomas More's R.C. Church), Long Lane, Bexleyheath. (For details ring Erith 36080 or Bex 0986).

BOURNEMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB—Meets every Friday, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Hon. Sec.: Miss P. Smea, 4 Cecil Road, Parkstone, Dorset. (Parkstone 3262).

BRIGHTON AND HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB—Meets every Tuesday, 7.30 p.m. Arnold House Hotel, Brighton. Hon. Sec.: Mr. Laurie Kemp, 24, Kingston Close, West Way, Hove, 4.

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB—Dancing every Tuesday, 8 p.m., from 11th September, 1962, at Hawley Hotel, Blackwater, beginners welcome. Joint Secretaries: Mr. & Mrs. I. M. Hunter, Park View, Hawley, nr. Camberley (Camberley 1667).

CHELtenham SCOTTISH SOCIETY—Scottish country dancing on Friday evenings at 7.30, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall. Enquiries on this and other activities to Mrs. L. B. Weaver, 28, St. Stephen's Road, Cheltenham.

EAST SURREY, WEST KENT BRANCH R.S.C.D.S. Hon. Sec.: Miss J. M. Harmer, 20 Godstone Mount, Downs Court Road, Purley, Surrey (Tel. Bywood 2638). Hon. Asst. Sec.: Miss N. Lambert, 12 Old Palace Road, Croydon, Surrey (Tel. Croydon 9136). Classes in Croydon, Beckenham, New Malden, Norwood, Reigate, Sanderstead and West Wickham.

EASTBOURNE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. B. M. Harbott, 2 Electricity Cottages, Churchdale Road, Eastbourne, Sussex. Dancing on Wednesdays, 7.30—10. Dickens Hall, Upperton Road.

ELIZABETHAN REEL CLUB—Scottish dancing every Tuesday afternoon 2—4. Mothers with small children welcome. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. J. A. Fuller, 65 Clonmel Road, Teddington, Middx.

ELSTREE AND BOREHAM WOOD REEL CLUB—Particulars from Mrs. Ruth Clarke, 25 Furzehill Road, Boreham Wood, Herts.

EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION (Affiliated to the R.S.C.D.S.)—Classes in Scottish country dancing on Mondays and Wednesdays. Many other activities including informal Saturday dancing. Hon. Sec.: D. Sparks, Inverleith, 107 Higher Drive, Banstead (Ewell 1387).

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB—Meets at The Bourne Club, Frensham Road, every Thursday 8—10.30 from third Thursday in September to last Thursday in May, classes and dances on alternate weeks. Sec.: C. Lowson, 78 Lynch Road, Farnham, Surrey (Tel. 6520).

HAMPSTEAD AND DISTRICT SCOTS ASSOCIATION—Dancing every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at St. Alban's Hall, West Heath Drive, Golders Green, N.W.11. Tuition first and third Tuesdays of the month. New members welcome.

HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHLAND GAMES SOCIETY—Chairman: Dr. C. Gillies, 43 Valley Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. (WN5 3343).

ILFORD SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION REEL AND SOCIAL CLUB—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. M. Taylor, 147 Mortlake Road, Ilford, Essex. Weekly Reel Club on Fridays at St. Alban's Church Hall, Albert Road, Ilford, 7.30—10 p.m.

INTER-VARSITY CLUB—Dances every Tuesday from 7.30—10.30 p.m. at Queen Alexandra's House, S.W.7 (next to Royal Albert Hall). Entrance at back in Jay Mews. Instruction given for each dance. Admission 3/-. Details from Scottish Country Dancing Organiser, 49 Hugh Street, S.W.1.

LONDON GALLOWAY ASSOCIATION—Hon. Gen. Sec.: W. K. Donnan, B.Sc., 11 Dysart Avenue, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey (Kingston 9710).

LONDON PERTSHIRE ASSOCIATION—Hon. Gen. Sec.: Capt. J. Russell Hamilton, c/o Hamilton and Tyer, Leadenhall Buildings, 1 Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.3. Tel.: MINcing Lane 1371/Ruislip 3007.

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY—Hon. Sec.: Miss J. R. Anderson, 3 Melvin Court, High Park Avenue, Kew Gardens (PROspect 6030). Dancing at Presbyterian Church Hall, Quadrant Road, Richmond, alternate Mondays at 8 p.m., commencing September 17th, 1962.

ROMFORD SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION—Hon. Sec.: A. Gibson, 312 Main Road, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex. Club meets every Tuesday from 18th September at 7.30 p.m. at Heath Park Secondary School, Heath Park Road, Romford, Essex.

SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB—Hon. Sec.: Miss D. Day, Sevenoaks School, Sevenoaks, Classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, October to May.

ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON)—Convenor: Mrs. E. Stewart, 27 Keswick Avenue, Merton Park, S.W.19 (LIB 2091). Dancing every Tuesday commencing September 25th, at 8 p.m., at Community Centre, St. George's Road, Wimbledon. Instruction class alternate Tuesdays.

SWINDON, WILTSHIRE—Scottish country dance classes held alternate Mondays, 7.30 p.m. Clarence Street Schools. Enquiries to Collins, Auld Reekie, Wedmore Avenue, Chippenham (Phone: 3079).

TEDDINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY—Hon. Sec.: H. G. Rae, O.B.E., B.L., 11 Preston Close, Strawberry Hill, Middx. Dancing on Thursday, 8—10.30 p.m., and other social activities at Clarence Hotel, Teddington, Middx.

WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. E. B. Buchanan, 101 Cassiobury Park Avenue, Watford, Herts. Tel.: Watford 29696. Scottish country dancing classes every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at St. Michael's Church Hall, Durban Road, West Watford. Admission 2/-.

WEST LONDON SCOTS at Hammersmith, meeting every Tuesday evening 7.30 to 10.00 p.m. approx. Those interested in Scottish Country dancing, and with a sincere interest in Scottish affairs generally, are invited to write for further particulars to Hon. Sec.: Mrs. D. Donnelly, 48 Heber Road, Cricklewood, London, N.W.2. (Gladstone 0754).

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CLASSES—SESSION 1963/64

A syllabus of the 1963/64 classes will be printed in Reel No. 74 which should appear early in August. In the meantime here is some information about the classes it is hoped to run next session.

Central London Institute

Monday — Beginners
Certificate
Tuesday — Intermediate
Wednesday — Elementary
Thursday — Advanced

Chelsea/Westminster Institute

Monday — Advanced
Wednesday — Beginners
Thursday — Senior

Marylebone Institute

Monday — Elementary
Intermediate
Tuesday — Beginners
Demonstration
Advanced

Enrolment parties will be held during September and details will be published in Reel No. 74.

EASTER WEEKEND AT PULBOROUGH

"A weekend school of Scottish Country Dancing will be held at Lodge Hill, Pulborough at Easter . . .". This announcement in the Reel has a magic ring to my friends and myself who live too far away from London to be able to attend branch classes, as it means our chance of some real instruction by first class teachers. Accordingly at the first opportunity a letter of application is sent and then we wait as patiently as possible to see if we've "got in". This Easter we were lucky in being accepted once more so on the 11th April off we set to Pulborough.

This year as at other times the school more than lived up to our expectations, and although the weather could have been sunnier (no dancing on the lawn possible) it certainly didn't dampen anyone's spirits. Right from the start everything went with a swing and I am sure the enthusiasm of the organisers, teachers and pianists is infectious and makes for the enjoyment of everyone. The new dances we learnt will soon be tried out at our clubs at home and I know they will enjoy dancing them as much as we did this Easter.

What shall I remember most about this particular weekend? Duncan MacLeod's emphasis on "social" dancing, Moyna Gilbertson in technique class stressing the importance of "head over hips over heels", or who can forget the tireless efforts of the two pianists, Phyllis Draper and Jimmy Cooper? I must admit that the setting steps must have slightly hypnotised me as at odd times I can even now be heard muttering "hop, brush, beat, brush, brush, beat, beat". No doubt quite often altering the sequence of beats and brushes! It's really no wonder that steps had to be perfected in the bedrooms to the consternation of the unfortunate occupants in the room below.

During the afternoons with time off from dancing the area around Pulborough was explored. The Roman Villa at Bignor attracted the attention of many of us and was well worth the visit. An unexpected film show late one evening was much enjoyed and gave me my first glimpse of a bull fight.

A big thank you to all who make these weekends possible — I wish there was going to be a school at Whitsun.