



The Reel

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
www.rscdslondon.org.uk
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No 256

MAY TO AUGUST 2006

Loyal Greetings to our Royal Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, on her 80th birthday



Her Majesty The Queen at the Ghillies Ball in 1971
Notice the Queen's sash – see article on page 8.

CELEBRATING MUSICIANS DANCE

Saturday 13th May 2006
7.00 p.m. - 10.30 p.m.

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1
David Cunningham and the Musicians

The Duke of Atholl's Reel.....	16-3
The Braes of Breadalbane.....	21-7
Flowers of Edinburgh.....	1-6
Major Ian Stewart.....	35-4
Sugar Candie.....	26-9
John of Bon Accord.....	33-5
The Wild Geese.....	24-3
Seann Truibhas Willichan.....	27-9
The College Hornpipe.....	20-12
Mrs Macleod.....	6-11
The Birks of Invermay.....	16-2
Old Nick's Lumber Room.....	26-6
The Music Makars.....	33-1
The Dream Catcher.....	45-9
Quarries' Jig.....	36-3
Catch the Wind.....	45-5
Neidpath Castle.....	22-9
The Duke of Perth.....	1-8
Admission £7.50 members, £8.50 non members, Children £2.00; members' children admitted free.	

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society London Branch will be held at St Columba's Church (Upper Hall), Pont Street, London, SW1 on **Friday 16th June 2006**. Tea will be served at 6 p.m. and the meeting will commence at 7 p.m. There will be dancing after the meeting.

Agenda

1. Apologies.
2. Approval of minutes of the 2005 AGM.
3. Business arising from the minutes.
4. Report on year's working of the Branch.
5. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts.
6. Appointment of Honorary President and Honorary Vice-Presidents.
7. Appointment of Officers and Committee of Management.
8. Appointment of Auditors.
9. Any other business.

Note: Nominations for the appointments at 6 and 8 above will be taken from the floor at the meeting.

OPEN AIR DANCING

Saturday afternoons 2nd and 9th September 2006
2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Kensington Gardens

(by the bandstand, near the Round Pond).

Nearest underground stations: Queensway and High Street Kensington

Dancing to the music of **Kafoozalum**

Each afternoon we will have live music and an MC to guide us through a programme of popular dances and easier dances for beginners and children. Everyone welcome. Bring your friends and have a picnic. Entrance is free.

BIG DANCE 2006

15th - 23rd July

The Mayor of London's office has launched the Big Dance campaign, an 8-day celebration of dance events across London. We want Scottish Dancing to be part of this multi-cultural extravaganza, but at the time of going to press we do not have any precise information about dates and venues. These will be advertised in the media and details of any Scottish Dancing associated with the Big Dance will be available at Branch events and sent to Scottish Dance clubs in the London area.

GARDEN DANCE

at Polesden Lacey

Great Bookham, Surrey
from 2.00 - 6.00 p.m.

Saturday 10th June 2006

The Craigellachie SCD Band.



Programme: Joie de Vivre, The Cumberland Reel, The Birks of Invermay, The Wild Geese, The Highland Rambler, Sugar Candie, Ladies' Fancy, The Robertson Rant, The Dashing White Sergeant, Good Hearted Glasgow, Cramond Bridge, Polesden Lacey, The Reel of the 51st Division, The Virginia Reel, The Starry Eyed Lassie, The Montgomeries Rant, Gang the Same Gate, Mairi's Wedding.

Note: These dances are comparatively simple – specially chosen to encourage the less experienced dancers or new people who might be in the crowd.

Admission to the dancing: £5 (£4 in advance). Dancing children £1. Young children free. Tickets (and map if requested) in advance from Jeff Robertson, 57 Beaumont Road, Broadwater, Worthing, W Sussex, BN14 8HE. Please enclose a 6" x 4" s.a.e. Cheques payable to RSCDS (London Branch).

Admission to the grounds extra, payable at the gate: adults £5, children £2.50, family £12.50. Free to National Trust and NTS members.

If wet, meet in Howard of Effingham School Sports Hall, Lower Road, Effingham, for a **2.30 p.m. start**. Please note: no outdoor shoes may be taken into the sports hall.

If the weather is doubtful on the day, phone Rachel Wilton after 10.30 on 020 8858 7729.

Anyone requiring transport from Leatherhead station to Polesden Lacey or Howard of Effingham School, or who can offer a lift, should contact Moira Strutt, tel: 020 8748 6711 by 28th May.



Issue No 257 will be with UK based members by 2nd September 2006 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent to the Editor, Wilson Nicol, 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS or preferably by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk, to arrive by **22nd July**. (Issue No 258 will arrive by 2nd December 2006).

The opinions expressed in *The Reel* are the opinions of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the RSCDS, nor of the Branch.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Dancers have been in many places during the last three months, braving wintry weather, which seemed to continue for a long time, to enjoy their favourite pastime. Our March dance, with a programme to suit less experienced dancers, some of whom were dancing at St. Columba's for the first time, attracted dancers of all abilities and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, with excellent music from David Hall and his band. On the day your *Reel* arrives, David Cunningham and his musicians will be preparing for the evening dance at St. Columba's so make sure you do not miss our very final 75th Anniversary event – Celebrating Musicians! It will then be time to start planning your Dancing Picnic at Polesden Lacey, and looking forward to the President and Vice-Presidents' tea before our Annual General Meeting on June 16th. Three Committee members are standing down; we are very grateful to Pam Ellam for all her work as secretary, and also to Lindsay Merriman and Cherry West for all their contributions. All members are welcome to attend the meeting and have a say.

For those who like to dance throughout the summer our Summer Classes start as soon as classes finish; all are welcome to dance with a different teacher and musician each night. St. Columba's Dancers complete their winter season and Summer Tuesdays will start, and there are many outdoor events taking place in the South East – look on the back pages. Some will be heading for Summer School at St. Andrews, others will be dancing in other parts of the world – how fortunate we all are to be involved in this sociable, physical, mentally stimulating, enjoyable activity!

The new dancing season will start with a continuation of our French links – come and celebrate the NEW Alliance in September.

I hope to see many people at the AGM and also on the dance floor/grass – happy dancing everyone!

Rachel Wilton



EDITORIAL

The Society and the Branch needs a continuous injection of new members and dancers. As I mentioned last issue, the Branch devotes a great deal of

energy encouraging young people to join our ranks.

But that is only one source of new blood: there are many adults who would benefit in enjoyment and health from Scottish country dancing given help from the established members. I for one have had a lifetime of enjoyment from dancing, and I know many others in the same boat. The Branch dance in March was one of those consolidating occasions where a large number of 'beginners' swelled the ranks participating in a programme of well chosen dances. It was in fact one of the best 'beginners' dances the Branch has held. The Spring Fling in Newcastle and the Inter Varsity Festival in Cambridge were occasions where many newcomers were initiated into the pleasures of Scottish country dancing. We need more of these events. With the lengthening evenings, get your friends round and introduce them to some good simple dances to stirring music and I'm sure we could swell our ranks appreciably. It's not just the Committee who can help – everyone has a role to play in casting a Terpsichorean spell.

HEADQUARTERS NEWS

Band Noise Levels at Social Functions The Management Board of the RSCDS is aware that occasional complaints have been made by dancers with hearing impairment about excessive noise levels generated by some bands. The current guidance, recommended by the Board, is that if a complaint is made, the MC should request the band moderates its output so that people with impaired hearing can continue to participate comfortably. This guidance may require to be changed in future should we receive more information on regulations about noise level at social events.

Applications are invited for the post of Youth Director. This appointment is for a period of three years and effectively is to promote and coordinate youth activities within the Society. Job description is on the web and application forms obtainable from headquarters in Edinburgh.

The CD for Book 27 will be available at the AGM 2006 in Aberdeen.

There will be another Family Weekend in Troon 6th – 8th October. Last year's was very successful as a family event and can be recommended – See the glowing report on page 13 in Reel 254. Check the Society website www.rscds.org for details of the course.

Proposed changes to the Society Constitution have been circulated to Branches for consultation, and are available on the website. The London Branch Committee have considered these in detail and will make a response before the deadline of 25th May. The changes are technical and should not affect the rights of members. However, any member who would like to know more and can comprehend the nature of constitutions should contact Wilson Nicol as soon as possible. The Board Working Group will collate responses and present these to the Board at the 10th June meeting for finalising proposals in good time for the AGM.

We are delighted that our magazine **The Scottish Dancer** has attracted positive feedback.

The Conference Weekend/AGM application forms have been available since mid-April.

Options for employing a "Marketing Officer" are under consideration for review at the September Board meeting.

The Report of the Scottish Branches conference in February has been circulated to all branches and is also available on the website.

Arrangements to develop the Society website are progressing with a view to the new site being in place by the end of September.

Priority is being given to the production of the **Handbook of Standard Terminology** (formerly known as the Glossary) and this is now progressing.

Although a mammoth project, **the Formations Index**, listing every formation, and dance in which it appears (and vice versa) should be available in time for Summer School.

At a previous meeting, the Board had discussed allocating **Board members to Branches**, to act as a point of contact/liason. This has now been finalised and allocations have been made and guidelines both for Branches and Board members drawn up. Details have been circulated to Branches.

Jeff Robertson

COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

The London Branch Committee next meets on 15th May, on 29th June after the Branch AGM, and in the first week of September. Items for discussion should be sent to the secretary, Pamela Ellam at least two weeks before the meetings to ensure inclusion on the Agenda.

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Patron - H.M. The Queen



HEADQUARTERS:

12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7AF.
Tel: 0131 225 3854; Fax: 0131 225 7783,
e-mail: info@rscds.org,
www.rscds.org.

LONDON BRANCH

Hon. President

Mary Stoker

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

Mary Barker, Stella Booth, Ellen Garvie,
Jenny Greene, Marie Jamieson,
John Laurie, Owen Meyer, Rosemary Tilden.

Chairman:

Rachel Wilton,
31 Kensing Road, London SE10 0LL.
Tel: 020 8858 7729.
e-mail: wiltonrachel@hotmail.com

Vice-Chairman

Jeff Robertson,
57 Beaumont Road, Broadwater, Worthing,
W Sussex, BN 14 8HE.
Tel: 01903 530750.
e-mail: jtr@ctg.co.uk

Hon. Secretary:

Pamela Ellam,
10 The Drive, Acton, London W3 6AA.
Tel: 020 8992 8178.
e-mail: lonsec@yahoo.co.uk

Hon. Treasurer:

Simon Wales,
Flat 6, 86 Worcester Rd, Sutton,
Surrey SM2 6QQ. Tel: 020 8643 0952.
e-mail: simon_wales@talk21.com

SUB-COMMITTEES

Youth: Andrew Kellett, Malcolm Ferris-Lay,
Angela Young

Classes: Lena Robinson,
Malcolm Ferris Lay, Moira Strutt,
Day School: Margaret Catchick,

Dances: Rachel Wilton, Margaret Catchick,
Lindsay Merriman, Moira Strutt, Cherry West

Demonstrations:... Jeff Robertson, Angela Young,
Joan Desborough*, James Fairbairn

Publicity: Jeff Robertson, Rita Marlow*,
Lindsay Merriman, Wilson Nicol,
Moira Strutt, Meryl Thomson

Open-air Dances:.. Simon Wales, Jeff Robertson.

Membership: Owen Meyer*

Bookstall: Ian Anderson*

Central Council of Physical Recreation:
Marie Jamieson*, Simon Wales

Hon. Archivist: Iris Anderson*

S E Branches: Andrew Kellett, Simon Wales

Combined Societies: Rachel Wilton

Branch Website Meryl and Ian* Thomson

*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

Website

www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Objects of London Branch

To advance the education of the public in the London area in traditional Scottish Country Dancing, in particular by:

a) preserving and furthering the practice of traditional Scottish Country Dances;

b) providing or assisting in providing instruction in the dancing of Scottish Country Dances;

c) promoting the enjoyment and appreciation of Scottish Country Dancing and Music by any suitable means.

FANTASY DANCE PROGRAMME

If you could pick any dance partner in the world who would it be? What if you could be Doctor Who, travel back or forward in time, who would be your dance partner of choice? What dance would you choose? Where would you choose to dance it? And who would be your musician of choice?

Well this is your chance to imagine all of that and put together the most imaginative "Fantasy Dance Programme".

You could win two tickets to the Christmas Dance and the chance to have your favourite dance featured in one of the London Branch dance programmes by sending in your programme, with your choice of partners and ideal dance locations. We'll also be featuring some of the best entries in *The Reel*.

From dancing "Come O'er the Water, Charlie" with Bonnie Prince Charlie in Benbecula before he set sail for Skye danced to the music of the new young fiddler Niel Gow - to dancing Westminster Reel in a pod on the London Eye - anything is possible in the Fantasy Dance Programme!

All programmes should be sent to the Editor by 20th July adding 'Fantasy Dance' in the top left hand corner of the envelope.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch costs £14.00 per annum for UK based members (£14.50 for Europe; £16.50 elsewhere). Current members of other Branches can join London Branch for £4.00 per annum if they live in the UK (£4.50 in Europe and £6.50 elsewhere).

London Branch membership brings benefits including *The Reel*, while Society membership includes the annual dance publication, *The Scottish Country Dancer*.

Membership applications and enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Owen Meyer, 50 Bunby Road, Stoke Poges, Bucks SL2 4BP. Tel: 01753 643461.

BRANCH BOOKSTALL

At your service

Books and CDs for Scottish Dancers

Mail order from Ian Anderson,

104 Whitedown Lane, Alton,

Hants GU34 1QR.

Tel: 01420 84599

e-mail: bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk.

10% reduction on RSCDS publications and recordings bought by members.

Please state your Branch when ordering.

N.B.: The Bookstall Stocklist is available on the Branch Website.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE REEL

If you are not a member of the London Branch order your copy of *The Reel* from

Rita Marlow, 17 West Farm Close, Ashtead,

Surrey KT21 2LH,

tel: 01372 812821,

e-mail: rusmar.ashtead@virgin.net.

The annual cost for individual subscribers is £4.50 if resident in the UK, £5.00 for other European residents and £7.00 if resident elsewhere. There are special rates for bulk orders. Remittances in sterling please, payable to RSCDS (London Branch).

DANCE

Saturday, 23rd September, 2006

7.00 - 10.30 pm

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St., SW1

Green Ginger

Come and celebrate the New Alliance

The Jubilee Jig.....	Leaflet 19
Flowers of Edinburgh	1.6
Culla Bay	41-2
C'est L' Amour.....	34-1
The Sailor	24-4
The Silver Tassie.....	Leaflet 1
Vive La Danse.....	Dix
Lord Elgin's Reel.....	26-5
The Earl of Mansfield	Leaflet 5
Joie de Vivre.....	39.2
The Triumph.....	1.2
Montparnasse.....	Dix
The Starry Eyed Lassie.....	23-11
La Tempete.....	2-1
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	Leaflet 20
Follow Me Home	38-3
Adieu Mon Ami	24-11
The Reel of the Royal Scots.....	Leaflet 27

DANCERS FROM FRANCE ARE PARTICULARLY WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR THIS DANCE

Admission £7.50 members, £8.50 non-members, £2 children, but member's children free.

BILL IRELAND MEMORIAL FUND YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

The Branch has received a number of generous contributions to the fund set up in memory of Bill Ireland, for which we are extremely grateful. If anyone else should wish to contribute, it is not too late - please send donations to the Branch Treasurer.

This money has been set aside specifically to fund scholarships to young dancers attending summer, winter or youth schools or taking their teaching certificates.

Anyone who wishes to make an application for funding should contact the Branch Secretary in the first instance.

SOCIETY AGM 2006

The AGM of the Society will be held in Aberdeen 4th November 2006 during the Conference weekend.

The London Branch will elect its delegates at the Branch AGM on 16th June. Please advise the Secretary, Pamela Ellam, if you would be willing to be present at the Society AGM as a Branch delegate. Delegates are required to vote as directed by the Branch Committee. There will be a small contribution towards the travel expenses but all other arrangements are the responsibility of the delegate. Application forms for function tickets during the Conference weekend 3rd - 5th November will be available in due course from Pamela or from the Society website. This is a great opportunity to meet a lot of dancers from all over the country/world, attend two lovely dances and see the Society at work.

BRANCH BADGES

The Branch Badge is based on the rectangular *Reel* masthead logo and is available in a smart enamel and polished finish. These are modestly priced at £3.50 and are available from Jeff Robertson on 01903 530750, 020 7730 9633 or jtr@ctg.co.uk or from Ian Anderson at the Branch Bookstall on 01420 84599 or bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk.

Please continue to support your Branch.

Jeff Robertson

DAY SCHOOL

Advance Notice

Saturday, 21st October 2006

Lady Margaret School, Parsons Green, SW6.

Teachers: **Elma McCausland** (Bangor)
Mervyn Short (BHS Borders),
Owen Meyer (London)

Musicians: **Robert Mackay** (Edinburgh)
Judith Smith (Edinburgh & London),
Jean Harrison (London)

Plus a choice of optional classes at the end of the afternoon.

Musicians Workshop led by **David Hall** (Brussels & London)

See separate notice on page 7 for further details.

Evening Ceilidh

David Hall and Judith Smith

Classes to suit everyone. DON'T MISS IT!!

Full details in the next Reel.

SOUTH EAST DANCE DIARY 2006 - 2007

Diary season! How would Scottish Dancing in the South East function without the annual Diary? So let's have the information for 2006/7 please. The content, format and timing will be as usual:

Day; Date (dd-mm-yy); Venue (town - and hall as well if this is somewhere special); Band, recorded or type of event (e.g. a day school); Contact name and telephone number, plus email and website addresses if available.

Please would you reconfirm any of the coming season's dances that are already on the Branch website: <http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk>

We use a code to indicate certain features of some events. Please therefore say if it is - in the afternoon, a ball, children's dance, suitable for the less experienced, in the open air, a special supper (e.g. Burns Night), tickets need to be booked in advance, or a special anniversary celebration.

Please send details for the Diary to Anne King at the address given below; or send them by email to diary@rscdslondon.org.uk; email messages will be acknowledged once received.

The Diary is provided by the London Branch free of charge. It will be distributed with the September copy of *The Reel* to all London Branch members and subscribers in the UK. Others can get a copy by contacting the Editor.

Input by the end of June, please.

John and Anne King. April 2006

Griffins, Flaunden Lane, Belsize, Sarratt,

Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 4NS.

Tel: 01923 264552.

ADVANCE NOTICES

Branch Dances 2006 - 2007

At St. Columba's unless otherwise stated

21st October **David Hall**
Ceilidh at Parsons Green following Day School

18th November..... **Kafoozalum**
(programme for new/less experienced dancers)
Children/family dance afternoon

9th December **Ian Muir (Prestwick)**

13th January **Frank Reid**
Burns' Supper/Ceilidh Dance

24th March **Invercauld**
Children/family dance afternoon.

12th May..... T.B.A.

9th June..... **Craigellachie**
Outdoor dance

CLASSES

Join a class, make new friends, meet old friends, improve your dancing and enjoy yourself.

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher / Musician
ELEMENTARY	Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3	Rachel Wilton / Jean Harrison
POPULAR S.C. DANCES	Wednesday	8.00 - 9.30	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3	Lindsey Rousseau / Ian Cutts
TECHNIQUE	Wednesday	7.15 - 9.15	St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1	Gaynor Curtis / Ken Martlew
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	7.15 - 9.15	For details contact Jeff Robertson, 01903 530750	Angela Young / Sandra Smith
GENERAL (Central)	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30	St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1	Jeni Rutherford

Term ends week beginning 22nd May 2006. Classes will start again week beginning 18th September 2006.

Enquiries about classes: 020 8858 7729, or email classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

SOUTH-EAST REGIONAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (SERTA)

A very successful meeting of interested teachers was held at the beginning of January, where it was decided to:

- create a database of all those teaching classes in the region, whether qualified or not
- circulate those on the list with a questionnaire to establish interest
- hold teachers' workshops – the first of which would be in September 2006
- develop support structures for new teachers
- act as a point of reference for all those teaching in the region
- maintain a loose structure under the auspices of the South-East Branches

If you teach in the area and have not yet been contacted concerning the database then please contact Simon Wales (simon_wales@talk21.com).

SERTA WORKSHOP

Sunday 17th September 2006
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Finchampstead Memorial Hall The Village,
Finchampstead, RG40 4JU.
(M3 Junction 4)

Topics will include: Warm-Ups. Teaching with Live and Recorded Music. Legal and Insurance Issues Involved in Teaching.

Open to ANYONE who teaches a class or leads a group. This is the first day organised by SERTA and time will be set aside for a general discussion on the way forward for the group.

Please come and make your contribution, or send it to Mervyn Short.

Further Details from: Mervyn Short, tel: 01903 715068. nyvrems2@onetel.com
6 Redwood Ct, St Flora's Rd, Littlehampton
BN17 6BB.

STEP DANCING

Joan Desborough is continuing Step Dancing Classes in The Scout Hut, Kings Langley into 2006 to live fiddle music by Wendy Desborough. The remaining date is Sunday 4th June. Classes will be 10.30-12.30 and 1.45-3.45. Joan will welcome anyone who wants to come and try step dancing. Further details from Joan Desborough, telephone: 01442 826629.

TEACHER'S SUCCESSES

In Bournemouth in April Robert and Maggie Morgan of Brockenhurst gained their Full Certificate, and Barbara Martlew of Hemel Hempstead passed units 2 and 3 of the new Teacher's Examination system. We congratulate their success.

GENERAL CLASSES

Five Wednesdays 31st May to 28th June,
7.15 - 9.15 p.m.

Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3.
£5.00 per evening.

Everyone welcome: different teachers and different musicians each week, so there's lots of variety. Classes will be taken by Maureen Campbell, Irene Edgar, James Fairbairn, Grace Hill and Owen Meyer with music by Green Ginger, Jeremy Hill, Peter Jenkins, Sandra Smith, and Angela Young but not in that order!

Enquiries: Moira Strutt, tel: 020 8748 6711.

SUNDAY TECHNIQUE CLASSES

Sundays 14th May and 25th June 2006
11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Teacher:..... Philippe Rousseau
Musicians:Peter Jenkins,
Barbara Manning

Band Hall, Coram's Fields, 93, Guilford St.
London WC1.

Nearest underground: Russell Square,
on street parking available.

Cost £ 6.00, Local establishments available
for lunch Further details 020 8858 7729

email: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk
Watch this space for autumn classes!

DEMONSTRATION CLASS AUDITIONS

The London Branch Demonstration Team will be holding Open Auditions on Tuesdays evenings 9th, 16th and 23rd May at the usual class venue of Worrington College.

The Auditions are open to any advanced dancer with a good level of technique.

One of the team requisites is commitment and regular attendance at class, in order to practise the routines and repertoire for the number of demonstrations that the class undertakes, representing the Branch. Therefore auditionees must be able to attend all three audition classes.

The auditions won't be like "Strictly Dance Fever" – no one will have to perform a dance on their own. However there will be an audition panel of senior Branch teachers who will be taking technique, team work and attitude into consideration.

All those who are successful at the auditions, who are not already Branch members, will be expected to become members of London Branch.

Interested dancers contact Angela Young, email aady@mac.com, or tel: 07976 353 608.

TEACHING CERTIFICATE COURSE

London Branch is proposing to run a course during the next dancing year. The next date for the written paper, Unit 1, is 21st October 2006, and this has to be passed before candidates may proceed to Units 2 and 3, dancing and teaching, of the Teaching Certificate Part 1. The course will also include Teaching Certificate Part 2, Units 4 and 5 which you may do if you have a Preliminary Certificate, or a Teaching Certificate Part 1. The course will take place in West London every 2 or 3 weeks on a Sunday afternoon.

More information 020 8858 7729
email: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk.

Headquarters has arranged an 'RSCDS Examinations Helpline' should you have any queries about the arrangements for the new examination system and the transition from the earlier system. For those with email please send your queries to examhelp@rscds.org.uk or contact the Examinations Administrator at HQ who will be pleased to help.

SOUTHEAST CLASSES LIST

London Branch will again be publishing free of charge, the list of classes on offer in the southeast. Please send or confirm details of your class, venue, day, time, standard and contact name and telephone number to: Simon Wales, Flat 6, 86 Worcester Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 6QQ or email: simon_wales@talk21.com.

This list is distributed in the same way as the Dance Diary, and the information is also posted on the Branch website, so please make sure the information we have on your class is up to date.

FOR SALE

Sgian Dubh, recently valued at £25. Can be viewed at Branch May dance or Polesden Lacey dance. Offers and enquiries to the Editor.

FOR SALE

Man's kilt, Hunting Stewart, by Kiltmakers (Inverness) Ltd, length 24", slim-medium fit, 2 pins, 3 ties and 2 pair flashes, £75. Brown day sporran with chain strap, £15. Contact Jeff Robertson, Tel: 01903 530750.

WANTED

BELT:- has any reader a kilt belt they no longer require, and wish to sell? Please contact Ian in Canterbury, Tel: 01227 762547.

THE RSCDS YOUTH DIRECTOR RESPONDS TO LOCAL HEROES IN *THE REEL* 255

A comment often heard is that there is a lack of young people doing Scottish Country dancing these days. Certainly not true in the London and surrounding areas. It was refreshing to read about the variety of classes for young dancers of both primary school age and teenagers in *The Reel*.

I am delighted to accept Andrew Kellett's invitation to give some tips for those dancers wondering if they could start a group for children/teenagers. There are several issues to be considered and below are just few brief areas.
FUN ~ classes must be enjoyable or dancers won't come back

CREATING INTEREST

~ decide on the age group classes are for.
~ look at the best time to hold the class so as not to compete with other activities.
~ advertise in halls where future dancers already go, e.g.: Brownies, youth clubs.
~ contact schools.
~ advertise on local radio, in newspapers.
~ family night / come and try.

AIMS AND EXPECTATIONS

~ decide on these for the class. Keep it challenging but be prepared to review your expectations depending on the individual dancers.

~ remember that taking part in competitive festivals or working for Medal Tests is worthwhile, but so are non competitive festivals, days of dance where ALL can take part regardless of their ability. S.C. dancing is first and foremost a social form of dancing.

~ too wide an age range within a class can cause difficulties. If possible split the class either by age and/or experience. If this is not possible use the experienced dancers to help the others, but allow them also some time to dance at their own level.

TEACHER

~ endless patience and a good sense of humour
~ always have another adult with you
~ initially boys may respond better to a male teacher.

BEHAVIOUR

~ from day one, insist on acceptable behaviour required for dancing in class as children respond to knowing where you draw the line. A good teacher will control their class by tone of voice or look.

WHO RUNS THE CLASS?

~ RSCDS Branch class: then insurance issues and PPL licence (required if using recorded music) are in place. Non RSCDS class: even if the teacher holds RSCDS Certificate, will need to arrange their own insurance and PPL licence. It is worth discussing whether the premises being used have a licence that covers all events on those premises.

PREMISES

~ SAFE ACCESS
~ good transport links without a car.
~ caretaker or will you be a keyholder.
~ any other users of the premises at the same time.

MUSIC

~ musician: ~ consider their needs.
~ recorded.
~ power points.

Have fun and enjoy your teaching and the dancers will enjoy their classes. Happy dancing to all young dancers and their teachers in the South East area.

Sue Porter

RSCDS Youth Director

There is help and advice on setting up children's classes available locally. In the last issue of The Reel we announced the formation of SERTA, the South East Region Teachers' Association. Deborah Draffin (Borders Branch) is the SERTA co-ordinator for children's teachers and she is very willing to talk with teachers or prospective teachers of children's classes. Deborah can be contacted on 01344 776831. In the London area, the Branch Youth Co-ordinator, Andrew Kellett, is available on 020 8301 1403.

ANY OLD PUMPS?!

Have you any old dancing shoes that are still in good condition? Maybe you have some that your children have grown out of? If you have please don't throw them out.

The London Branch Children's Class often has new children attending who have never danced before, they haven't dancing shoes and before Mum or Dad buys shoes, it's good to find out if they enjoy it - so having a resource of little shoes at the class is really useful. They don't have to be that small - sometimes 10 year olds have size 3 or 4 feet. And it really doesn't matter about the colour!

Bring them to any Branch Dance, or Branch Class and there will somebody there who knows how to get them to me.

Thanks,

Angela

Young Persons Column

Congratulations to all the children who took the RSCDS Medal Tests in London in March. The results are below.

The children's day, also in March, catered for much younger dancers (and their parents). Everyone who came had a really good time having been encouraged on to the dance floor by the enthusiastic teaching of Angela Young and the delightful music of David Hall and His Band.

The Branch children's class continues during the summer term. Here are the details:

Children's Classes

Saturdays 13th May, 10th June,
8th July 2006

10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street,
London SW1

Teacher: **Angela Young**

Musician: **Jan Harrison**

£2.00 per child (including drink)

Adults welcome to stay.

Date for your Diary

There will be more children's classes in the autumn and a special event for children on Saturday 18th November 2006. Details in the next issue of *The Reel*.

Spring Fling

The Spring Fling weekend 2006 in Newcastle was a great success with 57 young dancers from Russia, Germany, Switzerland and Aberdeen to Devon having a ball. They were joined by local dancers in the evenings at a ceilidh dance on Friday and a Scottish Country dance on Saturday.

The next Spring Fling takes place in Oxford over the weekend 30th March - 1st April 2007. This is a Scottish dance weekend organised by and for 16 - 35 year olds. It will be a marvellous opportunity for young dancers from the southeast to get together with others from around the world to enjoy Scottish Dancing at its best. The Branch wants to encourage as many as possible from the London area to attend and some financial support will be available. Look out for more information in forthcoming issues of *The Reel*.

MEDAL TEST RESULTS

Congratulations to all the children who took part in the RSCDS Medal Tests at St. Columba's on 4th March. Everyone passed. Some did really well in achieving a credit (*) and some even gained a distinction (#). Thanks to the teachers who prepared their pupils so well for the tests; to the assessors, Bruce Frazer and Marilyn Watson, who had to work almost as hard as the dancers; and to the members of the London Branch Committee who kept everyone supplied with drinks. There will be another chance for children to take the Medal Tests next year.

St Johns Scottish Country Dancing Children's Class

Grade 1
Emma Acornley*
Fiona Thomson
Molly Wilson

Grade 2
Philip Cresswell
Rebecca Hall
Katie Jones #
Hannah Nutsford

Grade 3
Maddie Burrows
Amelia Draffin #
Becky Hall #

RSCDS Milton Keynes Branch Children's Class

Introductory
George Cowan *
Thomas Cowan
Ryan Evans*
Bethany Heron *
Jonathan Heron #
Ebryl Nicholls*
Anna Tholen #

Grade 1
George Cowan
Thomas Cowan
Ryan Evans
Bethany Heron
Ebryl Nicholls
Anna Tholen*

Cambridge Children's Scottish Country Dance Class

Grade 1
Amelia Cant
Alice Grosser*
Emily Kidd
Agnes Taylor*
Madeleine Taylor
Ellie Thompson*
Samuel Woolston*

Grade 3
Oliver Bates
Astrid Burden
Hester Cant
Lydia Farrer
Polly Ray

Rachel Taylor
Emma Vallis-Booth
Elliot Walker
Rebecca Walsh*

The Upland Dancers, Bexleyheath

Grade 1
Steven Dawson #
Katie King*
Florence Moore*
Amy Moughton*
Danielle Reynolds #

Grade 3
Annie Clements*
Nancy Moore*
Ayobami Olojo-Oluwo*

MEMBERS ABROAD

Jim Cook En-training

Thanks to "Celtic Circle" (www.celtic-circle.de), I knew that the annual Freiburg (S.W. Germany) Midwinter Ball was taking place on Saturday 18th February 2006. Furthermore, the Paris Branch of the RSCDS were holding one of their monthly dances on the following Friday. Here were the makings of a little dancing trip but what should I do during the intervening five days?

Where was there dancing on a Monday? Celtic Circle told me that the Greifswald Scottish Dancers danced on a Monday. The railway timetable index revealed this to be a town in the far north-east of Germany, near to the Baltic Sea and the Polish Border, a mere 1,095 rail kilometres from Freiburg. Furthermore, I saw that "The Spinning Teapots" in Lübeck dance on a Wednesday and the Scottish Country Dancers of Hamburg dance on a Thursday. Thus, once I got to Greifswald, a straight line of dancing in the general direction of Paris (albeit Paris is 1,014 rail kilometres further on from Hamburg) emerged. These groups were contacted and the plan put into action.

In Freiburg the dancing started with a day school featuring the more unusual or challenging dances on the evening Ball programme. This was run by Karin Schnabl, who teaches the Rechberg Scottish Dancers in Schwäbisch Gmünd, and who is secretary for the renowned International Rechberg Weekend for advanced dancers at the end of each October. Many of us knew Karin when she danced with us in London for several years. "Whigmaleeries" was the theme of the Ball which took place just outside Freiburg in the Kurhaus of the town of Kirchzarten on the edge of the Black Forest. A capacity crowd of 132 dancers from six countries – England, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy and Switzerland – danced to the best of recorded music.

The next day after nine hours of travelling, I arrived in Greifswald punctually at 18.54 on my connecting Inter-City train from Berlin. Travelling in my kilt made identification easy as the club's secretary and teacher Yvonne Kaschube greeted me from the footbridge. She had warned me about wearing my kilt as temperatures had recently been down to -20°C but I had thrown caution to the winds. It couldn't have been colder than -19°C when I arrived.

Monday morning found me exploring the town of Greifswald whose University is the second oldest in Northern Europe (after Rostock). After lunch, an icy riverside walk brought me to the nearby picturesque village of Wieck and the Eldena Abbey ruins. Yvonne had invited me in advance to teach a couple of dances. In particular would I teach the rondel? And so I taught "Silver Tassie" and, as I come from London, "The Westminster Reel" from Book 45. But why is there dancing in Greifswald at all? After a holiday in Scotland, Kerstin Maass founded the group within the University circa 1998. Yvonne began dancing there around about 2000. Circa 2002, Kerstin finished her work at the University and moved away. In the absence of a volunteer, as someone had to take on the role of teacher if the group was to survive, Yvonne currently teaches the class.

On Tuesday, I hopped on a train to visit the historic Hanseatic League city of Stralsund, the gateway to the island of Rügen, my next objective. There I visited the Baltic resort of Binz where a February stroll along the strand can only be described as bracing. My walk continued inland to the famous (locally) Jagdschloss Granitz, a historic hunting castle. Then, slithering down an icy footpath to a local halt, I

took the narrow gauge steam train "The Rasende Roland" (The Racing Roland) which casually puffed its way to the even more bracing resort of Göhren before returning to Putbus, a 19th century purpose built royal seat and bathing resort. This "white town" is known as the "Pearl of Rügen". As the sun set, there was time for the ubiquitous Kaffee und Kuchen before my return train to Greifswald.

The next day I took a morning train to the capital of the Hanseatic League, and home of the "Spinning Teapots", Lübeck. I headed for the home of Klaus Kegebein who was to be my host for the evening. After leaving my luggage, I spent the afternoon exploring the Gänge (narrow alleys), churches and the Rathaus (Town Hall) of this historic city. And yes, I partook of my usual Kaffee und Kuchen!

The 'Spinning Teapots' is the name of the Lübeck dancing group who are now celebrating their tenth anniversary. Time ran out before I could dance complete teapots with the group. I had to settle for "half tea pots" in dancing "The Irish Rover".

On Thursday I took the train for the ¾ hour ride to Hamburg where I quickly left my stuff at a hotel by the station as I was keen to visit 'Miniatur Wunderland' in the dockland area which boasts the most impressive miniature railway one can imagine. The statistics are staggering – 9,000 metres of track in an area of 900 square metres, with 700 trains controlled by 33 computers. Eventually the full size, "U" and "S Bahn" took me to the suburb of Poppenbüttel to meet Valerie Puschmann, the Hamburg Dancers' secretary. It is believed that the Club started circa 1949 when some members of the Caledonian Society wanted to branch out and dance. There are recollections of the Club dancing in the basement of the British Consulate at one time, and of the Club effectively being the dancing section of the Caledonian Society of Hamburg at one stage. Nowadays the Club, which is affiliated to the RSCDS, boasts 32 members, the teaching being undertaken by Dodi and Dieter Lange. They had asked me in advance to take the whole evening's class which I was happy to do: the first half was dedicated to straightforward dances featuring basic steps and formations which I consolidated. The second half had the theme of "The International Flavour of SCD" and featured dances from/about the USA, The Antarctica and New Zealand until time ran out.

A Friday morning train covered the 1,014 kilometres from Hamburg to Paris in eight hours, arriving spot on time. Eight hours in which to learn that evening's RSCDS Paris Branch dance programme in between snoozes. After checking-in at my hotel, I walked through Paris via the Opera, the Madeleine and the Place de la Concorde crossing the Seine to the vicinity of the American Church on the Quai d'Orsay where the dance was to take place. Numbers were not as high as usual due to the RSCDS Winter School in Pitlochry and the fact that such dances are usually held on a Saturday. Danièle Landrieau talked us through the dances usually in French. I certainly understood such words as "pas de basque" and "poussette" for example. And so the dance ended, as did my little dance tour.

The Eurostar got me home in time for lunch on Saturday. Do you want to do the same? All you need is Celtic Circle and a railway timetable!

Jim Cook, London

WIDENING THE APPEAL OF SCD?

Sensational Jimi Shandrix Experience

Inter-Varsity Folk Dance Festival is an annual wild weekend of workshops and ceilidhs, organised by university dance groups but open to anyone. The past couple of years the attendance at the Scottish country dance workshops and especially for the RSCDS sponsored Saturday night dance has been depressingly low. There is a different venue each year and I am happy to report that Cambridge this February was a triumph.

I went up with four others from Brighton and Georgina reported that the beginner class had 4 sets and two extra men left over! The intermediate and special conversion class for English ceilidh dancers were equally well attended, people attracted by the welcoming and accessible workshop descriptions and teaching. This was despite being in the lower school, so you had a 10-minute trek round the playing fields to get there.

In the evening, more than 16 sets took to the floor to the *Sensational Jimi Shandrix Experience*. As MC, Andrew Kellett walked each dance and then called it the first few times through. The dancers included local Cambridge branch stalwarts, advanced SCD university club dancers and assorted newcomers.

Some sets broke down entirely; my first did, when the level of inexperience was too great, but many sets got through, which for some counted as success in itself. The programme was much easier than previous years although the second half was more challenging. I wimped out on attempting the Duchess Tree without a proper lesson.

After shouting at one set to get them through, (I stopped and moved away after that) I chatted to one couple and they had not even been to the beginners' class but thought it great they'd had the opportunity to come along and have a go. I think many felt the same, somehow the mystique had been taken away, so although there were people out there who stood stock still in panic, many more joined in, enjoyed themselves and hopefully will be back.

Of course there were those who objected, one experienced dancer told me to stop trying to get people through, 'stuff them' was his attitude but then Carol said he wouldn't even help his partner. I think the attitudes of experienced dancers is critical to engaging more people in SCD. IVFDF has a ready supply of good dancers, used to following complex ceilidh instructions, however it is a competitive environment, there are other workshops and dances running simultaneously. This year the walk-through and calling at the dance really worked, it got lots of people to come along and try Scottish dancing and then the band and energy kept them there, the place was packed.

Could this technique be used elsewhere? I know the bitter arguments that arise when recaps are proposed for Branch Balls. I can't imagine what would happen if I suggested calling dances. Yet the technical gulf between attending a beginner class or ceilidh and attending a Scottish country dance is so immense. Calling a dance reduces the fear factor for all but the most experienced and allows a more inclusive social event, with the opportunity to show why it's worth going to weekly classes. Would our enjoyment really be diminished if some dances were called?

Susanna Hawkins, Brighton

Andrew Kellett adds that the IVFDF Scottish Dance this year was again sponsored by the RSCDS along with a donation in memory of Susan Nedderman.

NEW RECORDINGS

Scottish Dances Vol 13 – Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band (HRMCD 513)

Red House, The Linton Ploughman, The Sleeping Warrior, Dundee Reel, La Russe, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Lord Maclay's Reel, Holyrood House, The Byron Strathspey, The Haunt of the Gnomes, John of Bon Accord, The Earl of Errol's Reel, Craigellachie Bridge, Maureen's Jig, A Toast to St Andrews.

The Danelaw Band led by Robert Whitehead with his son Graeme on second accordion, Roddy Matthews on fiddle, Ann Rutherford on keyboard and David Ashbridge on drums bring us yet another excellent recording on the Highlander Music label. While trying to find a word or two to describe it I thought of 'mind-blowing' so looked it up in the Oxford dictionary and found it defined as 'overwhelmingly impressive'. This sums it up. There are several dances here recorded on CD for the first time. The Dundee Reel has gone out of fashion because people do not like the six hands across movement but maybe this fine music will encourage dancers to try it again.

Now for some 'rip-roaring' (defined by the Oxford as 'full of energy and vigour') music. **Over the Waves to Shetland by Da Fustra (HRMCD 012)** is aimed at the ceilidh dance market. A number of the fine tunes have been composed in the Northern Isles. There are twenty tracks most of which can be used for more than one dance. New to me is The Shetland Eightsome Reel which is a bit of a marathon – 560 bars: 48 + (8x64).

Neil Copland and Maureen Rutherford (accordion and keyboard) have recorded a very well played CD for the **RSCDS Medal Test Dances (CD050)**. It includes all 37 dances from Introductory to Grade 5. The 4-couple dances are once through 32 bars and the others twice. 74 chords on one CD. Is this a record? (No, it's a CD!)

If pipe marches played by a dance band are to

your liking try **Hector McFadyen's** latest CD which has ten of them. Add a few waltzes, reels and jigs to the mixture and you have a fine CD for the old time dances we all loved before ceilidh dances were invented.

John Laurie

MUSICIANS' WORKSHOP ADVANCE NOTICE

The Musicians' Workshop at the Day School on 21st October 2006 will be led by **David Hall**. David has been playing Scottish dance music for most of his life and is well known and well respected as an accordionist, band leader and dance teacher. His band, formed in 1983, has played in the UK and abroad; the band has released several CDs including one for the RSCDS. He has a wide repertoire of melodies available and shows a lively interest in harmony and bass-lines. Perhaps more unique among Scottish dance bandleaders is his in-depth knowledge of the dances themselves and his ability to perform and teach them, so all in all he is very well equipped to offer help, advice and inspiration on all aspects of playing for Scottish dancing.

The workshop will run from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to stay for the evening ceilidh, and contribute a ceilidh item, but there will be no opportunity to play for the evening dancing.

Further details and application forms from Rachel Wilton.

HAPPY HOGMANAY but not quite RSCDS

The annual Anglo Scottish dance run by Winchmore Folk Dance Club was held on 2nd January this year which gave dancers who were out on the tiles on 31st December time in which to recover and enjoy the music of the resident musicians, the Forest Band, one of the few bands that can alternate readily between these two styles of dance.

It was an occasion to show that Scottish dancing is not all jumping over crossed swords and that there is far more to English dancing than sticks, bells and hankies. It was good to see a strong contingent of Scottish dancers joining in the fun.

Our two MCs called two dances in turn which enabled them to enjoy dancing too. Andrew Kellett looked splendid and immaculate as ever in the Kilt and Chris Turner sporting a bright patchwork outfit, right down to the multi-colour shoes, is well known and a likeable character on the English dance circuit. Not to be outdone, many dancers donned kilts, tartan skirts and sashes, gillies and pumps.

Most English Country Dances have a walk through and a call, but Andrew has this down to a fine art for the Scottish Country Dances, and took the trouble to demonstrate an Allemande progression. The programme contained a variety of set dances, many people dislike the traditional Scottish set of three couples dancing in a four couple set, although I always think it gives number four a chance to follow the moves before having to embark upon them.

Andrew guided us through some interesting Scottish country dances including Celtic Cross, Westminster Reel – for the Anglos – two couples dancing in a four couple set, Butterscotch and Honey a four-couple strathspey, Tribute to the Borders returned us to Scotland and a lively Mairi's Wedding, always a favourite, was the last set dance of the evening. It was good to see that some dancers had energy left for the polka dance-out.

Marian Mitchell



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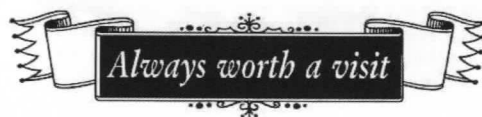
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THE SASH – IS IT HERE TO STAY?



Go to any SCD Ball (*The Reel 250*) and you will hardly see a tartan sash being worn. When I began dancing in 1970 a sash was always worn at balls. In fact in those days the ladies frequently wore white too. Over the intervening years a change has taken place. Ladies rarely, these days, wear a sash to a ball and when they do it is generally with a patterned or coloured ball dress. I wonder why this is? After all men have continued

to wear the kilt (although tartan trews are also occasionally worn). So whilst the fashion for white dresses with sashes at balls has changed, country dancing demonstration teams have consistently worn white with a sash. It would seem that the public and judges alike have come to expect this combination!



however, wear it over the right shoulder, not on their right shoulder as many other dancers do with this latter style being, as was advised by the Lord Lyon King of Arms for Country Dancing (*The Reel 254*) or where a lady wishes to keep the front of her dress clear for say, other decorations; but attend The Royal Caledonian Ball and a lady has a choice of four-styles, set down, to suit her allegiance. Also in *The Reel 250*, a reprint from *The Reel* of 50 years ago, it stated that it is a Scottish tradition that *women should not wear tartan below the waist!* Personally, I always feel that wherever a lady wears the tartan it looks good and is correct somehow, at a Scottish function. Although there are customs taken from old paintings and manuscripts governing how sashes are to be worn it would seem today that adapting the adage, what looks right, generally feels right.

So here are some ideas for the reader. At our 75th Anniversary Ball, Karen Stoerckel (right) chose to wear tartan in a most unusual and attractive manner – as a bustle! In St. Andrews, Maguy Paillet (top left) also had an appealing style of her own. And a few years ago, at The Essex Caledonian Ball, Maureen Bedford (centre) wearing the sash on her left shoulder showed it off in an equally interesting and attractive way – as a rosette.

Maureen has kindly sent me the instructions to publish, so other ladies looking for something a little different could create The Sash Rosette. This was originally published in, *So You're Going To Wear The Kilt!* by J. Charles Thompson (now deceased).

Stephen Webb



Recently, at St. Andrews Summer School, a shortage of white dresses prompted a black and white ladies step demonstration, which proved very successful. In London the introduction of the new style black demonstration dress with their discretely patterned bodice and darts with tartan in the skirt (*The Reel 251*) also heralds a new, novel and attractive alternative.



The lack of interest in wearing a sash may be because ladies are unsure as to which shoulder to attach the sash and actually securing it isn't always that easy, especially if the dress is strapless! Another reason may be that it can hamper dancing. Especially, say, if two couples are turning side by side when kilt pins can engage with the free flowing sashes with serious results.

In 1968 Jean Milligan wrote, '*The RSCDS prefers and would ask their members to wear it on the left shoulder*' this is believed to be a reference to The Queen granting this privilege to our ladies. In the 1973 RSCDS Jubilee Book, The Queen, pictured on our front page, wears the sash on her left shoulder with great effect. Our demonstration team (*The Reel 252*)

The Sash Rosette

One of the more elegant ways for ladies to wear the tartan sash is in the form of a rosette. Although the rosette may appear rather complicated, with instructions and a little practice it is not difficult to make.

To start, the sash must be folded double, but not necessarily in half. The longer end must be underneath, labeled B in illustration a). The folded end is then folded back on itself as in illustration a). The size of the folded portion will determine the size of the finished rosette, but if it is too large the rosette will not lie flat. A general rule is that the folded portion A should not be more than two-thirds of the width of the sash. The center line of the folded portion must be one of the turning points of the sett, or pattern, of the tartan, so that each side is a mirror image of the other. A simple way to check is to move your fingers equal distances on each side of the stripe you have chosen for the center line. If you started on a turning point, the stripes under each finger should be identical. Likewise, the folds on each side should be on matching stripes. The final appearance of the rosette will vary greatly depending on which stripe is used for the center line, so experiment a little. Finding the best stripe to use for the center line and the best amount to fold back may take several attempts, but will result in a more attractive rosette. If you have a non-reversing tartan (no turning points), such as Buchanan, the center line should come between two of the lightest stripes.

The next step is to finger-pleat or gather the sash along the center line of the folded section, and fasten with a rubber band or elastic hair band, see illustration b). If the brooch to be worn is small or has an open design, it's best to use a band that is similar in color to the sash. The pleating may seem difficult because of the layers of material, but it does not have to be perfect and can be adjusted somewhat after the band is in place. It is important for the band to be exactly on the center line.

The last step is to bring the corners of the folded back portion to the center to complete the rosette, illustration c). The stripes should match at the edges to form rings of color. The edges may be pinned together from the back, or whip-stitched for a more finished appearance. The brooch is fastened over the band in the center of the rosette, and a large safety pin is used underneath to fasten it to the shoulder of the dress. There is always debate over which shoulder to use; RSCDS says country dancers should wear their sashes on the left, while others say only the wives of chieftains should wear sashes on the left. The ends of the sash may hang loosely down the back, but if you're going to be dancing you may want to pin them in one or two places so they don't fly too much.

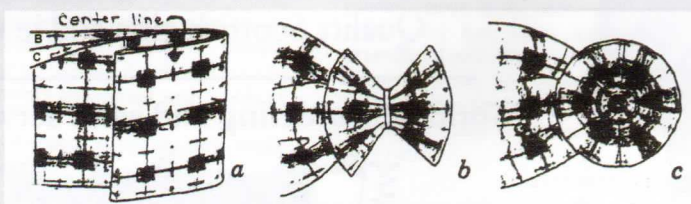


Figure 25. a) The doubled end of the sash folded back.
b) The rosette pleated and fastened with a rubber band.
c) The corners brought together to complete the rosette.

RSCDS WINTER SCHOOL 2006 PITLOCHRY

For our first Winter School, having heard of one time when it was snowed in, we loaded our snow boots into our luggage, expecting the worst in Pitlochry. We were pleasantly surprised to be greeted by sunny (if chilly) weather on arrival. The beautiful Victorian Atholl Palace Hotel was an excellent venue for what turned out to be a superb 5-day school. Five top teachers, Eric Finley, Andrew McConnell, Helen Russell, Graeme Donald and Linda Gaul were supported with delightful music by George Meikle, Peter Shand, Keith Smith and Robert Mackay who was also the Director of Winter School this year.

The long-weekend school was up to and perhaps even surpassed the standard we had remembered from Robert Mackay's Edinburgh weekends some years ago. The standard of the classes was very high – imagine seeing pas de basque with *all* the heads going up at the same time!

The evening dances were composed mostly of old favourites so we didn't have to scramble with cribs – and in any case they were all recapped. After the dancing there was impromptu music, singing, stories and some surprises. Muriel Johnstone and Bill Zobel arrived from Canada to the delight of Robert Mackay and immediately joined in the festivities. With fewer than 150 dancers at the School it was more like a club affair with everyone getting to see old friends and meeting many new ones.

One afternoon Janet Washington treated us to a fashion show where our own Sue and Marjorie were two of the models (see below). A highlight of the Winter School was the Ball in Blair Castle to Neil Copland's Band. And just for atmosphere, during the Ball a light covering of snow fell outside, just enough to add to the scenery, but not enough to hinder traffic.

Make a note: applications for the next Winter School will be on the RSCDS website on 3rd June for next year's Winter School.

Jerry Reinstein



Jerry Reinstein

OUR PRESIDENT, MARY STOKER REMINISCES WITH ANDREW COCKETT A FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE BRANCH.

Andrew Cockett: Presumably, in your long teaching experience there have been the occasions when even the best made plans "gang aft agley". Did you ever have to improvise in your classes?

Mary Stoker: Yes, occasionally I had to. If people arrived late, I had to decide whether to go back, or find some other means of getting them up to speed. I always felt that success in teaching was to be well-prepared. And that held for any event, I've always told people that I've been teaching how to teach, to be prepared. There are some times you've got to do something off the top of your head, yes, but underneath that you've got to have this preparation. I think it's only fair to a class; if you go unprepared it's an insult to the class. They want to feel that you know what you're doing.

When you had your Tuesday advanced classes in St. Johns Wood, one of the pupils was the present Chairman of the Society, Stewart Adam.

He has a lovely sense of humour and I don't think he'll mind me saying it, that I knew him as my 'tin man' from the Wizard of Oz, because he was all arms and legs, but he was a delight in a class because I always got the right reaction from him.

In London we've always tried to secure musicians to accompany our teachers. I can recall many musicians with whom you've worked. Do you have any favourites?

Yes, we have been very lucky. Stan Watts was one of my pianists – his band played for many Branch events too. I have a very affectionate feeling for Stan because on one occasion I had a lady who had an epileptic fit in my class. Stan stepped in and managed the situation so caringly for me. Then there was Gert Stewart from up north in Angus, who was quite a riot; Gert just puffed away at a cigarette most of the time. I don't know how she would have managed nowadays. She brought her ashtray with her and set it on the piano so that she could puff, puff, puff whenever she could. She always talked about 'himself' or 'herself' and I had no idea who 'himself' was. Then I had Sam Mason, who was quite wonderful. He was blind and was the complete musician. Given notice in good time, he had the most wonderful music for me and he would comment on the class. 'They're doing well tonight Mary', and then, 'how's Blue Blood?' This was his name for a woman who was always talking about wanting to go to the big formal balls. He thought this was terribly funny. I used to meet him off the bus to accompany him to the class and then Bill (Ireland) and I would take him back to the bus stop after the class. We were very careful not to use the verb 'to see'. However, when the bus came he would say, "See you next week", Then he jumped on and fled up the stairs to the top deck. Then there was Ivy Hayes, who was the concert pianist complete and absolute, and would wear a hat sometimes, which, on occasion, when she got excited, got tilted a little, rather like Mrs Bouquet. Ultimately I had Phyllis Draper when she came down from Inverness to live locally. She came to play for my class in London and I asked her if she'd be able to play in Pinner. She was the only pianist who could play for three hours at a stretch because I had two classes one after the other. We developed a great team then, and it lasted for years and years and years. She actually knew what I was going to say, or what I wanted, and came in almost before I said it. When we got to a certain age and we were

getting free passes on London transport, we had to go very carefully to ensure that we didn't let any

of the class see what our age was! In those days we were all very formal; 'Thank you, Mrs Draper'. That came from Miss Milligan, and that was my training. Even when I went abroad to teach, I used to say 'Thank you, Mrs Draper' as if I didn't know her!

You were good friends with both the Drapers:

Harry was Secretary when I joined the Branch.

We went to the same church actually. On Sundays, they'd be giving us a lift home and we very often finished at their place for drinks: Harry's tales then were amusing, but it was worth getting him into a temper, because he lit up: Phyllis was a calming influence, but she had quite a difficult job. I went with him very often in the car and Harry would always go the longest way round to wherever it was. One time going to a function we could hear the Scottish country dance music and saw the building, but Harry went round and round for ages before we found the entrance. It was so typical of Harry.

He was very dapper wasn't he and very precise?

Yes, he was, probably because he was a civil servant

Many people outside the Branch would have heard of Hugh Foss, who published dances which are still included in programmes today.

He was a very brilliant man and I first met him on my first trip to St Andrews Summer School to take my SCD teacher's certificate while I was still at Dunfermline College. When I arrived at University Hall I saw this vision approach in the corridor – a tall, tall, thin, man, gangling I would say, with a straggly beard and a shepherd's tartan kilt which was uneven at the hem. I really thought he was Don Quixote. He was amazing, an unforgettable sight in spite of him being such a very clever man, I'm afraid we were rather giggly about him. Hugh was a perfect gentleman when I came down to London: He invited Imrie and me to go to dinner at the Hyde Park Hotel, and he never once mentioned the fact that he'd seen me as a giggly girl at St Andrews. My husband had a great regard for him because they both were on the committee at the same time and Hugh's brain was wonderful.

So why was he down in London?

He was involved at Bletchley decoding Japanese naval codes during the war. When he retired he went to live in Dalry in south-west Scotland, hence many of his dances are named after local places there.

Was he a good dancer?

Oh no, no, not really, it was all in the head. Very often it happens that way, doesn't it? When we think of some of the devisers of dances that we have now. They're actually marvellous at conjuring up pictures. I feel that Hugh's dances are a bit too mathematical, but on the other hand I've always said that they were good for teachers to have to work them out. He felt that the music should come first and not be tagged on once you've compiled the dance. So in that he was correct.

(to be continued)



Stephen Webb

JOSEPH LOWE(1796 - 1866): A ROYAL DANCING MASTER



Joe Lowe at Coates Crescent examining his great-grandfather's ballroom guide and music collections
1st June 1994

A new, most excellent master

On Monday, 20th September 1852 Queen Victoria wrote in her journal "took a few minutes lesson in reel dancing with Mr.Lowe, a new, most excellent master". This journal entry records the recent arrival at Balmoral Castle of Joseph Lowe from Edinburgh to commence his duties as teacher of dancing to the royal family. He had secured the position with the recommendation of Ewen Macpherson of Cluny, the 20th Chief of Clan Macpherson, who had been a friend and adviser of the Queen and Prince Albert in Scotland since their first visit to the Highlands in 1847. A new appointment was necessary because the previous tutor, Andrew Thomson of Glasgow (also recommended by Cluny), had died in June 1852 at the early age of 29. I wonder, were the Queen and her advisers aware even then of the advisability of distributing royal favours equitably between Scotland's two rival cities?

A dancing dynasty

As Cluny Macpherson would have known, Joseph Lowe was well qualified for his royal appointment. Born in Brechin, Angus, on 18th December 1796, he was the son of John Low (the 'e' was added by the next generation), who combined his trade of shoe-making with the teaching of dancing. Following in the long-established tradition of dancing masters, he was also a musician and composer, his best known composition being the reel, *Rachel Rae*. He was the founder of a dancing dynasty, five generations of which maintained the family tradition of professional dance teaching. Their impact on social dancing, widespread in Scotland throughout the 19th century, extended to the north of England and to Australia and New Zealand. The last of John Low's descendants (not to be confused with the Lowes of Arbroath, 20th century teachers) to teach in Scotland was Miss Eva Lowe (Mrs William Pearson) who had a dancing school in Edinburgh for many years. It was at her school that several of the Society's past and present members had their first introduction to dancing.

Glasgow

In view of the precarious nature of a full-time career in dance teaching, it was quite usual for the teachers of the 19th century, the majority of

whom were male, to have an additional means of making a living. Joseph Lowe was a sadler. However, in 1817, apparently intent on pursuing his dancing apprenticeship, he came to Glasgow to join his older brother, Robert, who already had a successful dancing academy in the city's Assembly Rooms in Ingram Street. The Glasgow Herald of 21st September 1821 announced the re-opening of the "Messrs Lowes' Dancing Academy" for the winter season and reported that Mr Joseph Lowe had just returned from London and Paris where he had spent the summer acquainting himself with the "best approved style of performing the most fashionable dances". Instructions for these fashionable dances – quadrilles, waltzes, reels and country dances – were provided by the brothers in their *Lowes' Ball-Conductor and Assembly Guide*, published in Glasgow in 1822. Like other similar publications, it also gave advice about ballroom etiquette and dancing style. It recommended "elegance without affectation" and cautioned against the feet being

accompanied the dancing at the Inverness assemblies of the Northern Meeting and his three published collections of dance music have been an invaluable legacy for generations of musicians. The jig, *Mrs Macpherson of Cluny*, selected by the RSCDS for *The Wild Geese* (Bk.24), was his tribute to the wife of his Macpherson patron.

LOWE'S ROOMS, 52 FREDERICK STREET.
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CALISTHENICS, AND DEPARTMENT.

MR and the MISSES LOWE beg leave to announce that they will RE-OPEN their ACADEMY on MONDAY the 4th October.

The Classes will be conducted as formerly. Cards of Terms and Hours of Attendance to be had at the Academy.

Boarding Schools and Private Families attended.
Balmoral Castle, Sept. 18, 1852.

The Scotsman, Saturday 25th September 1852

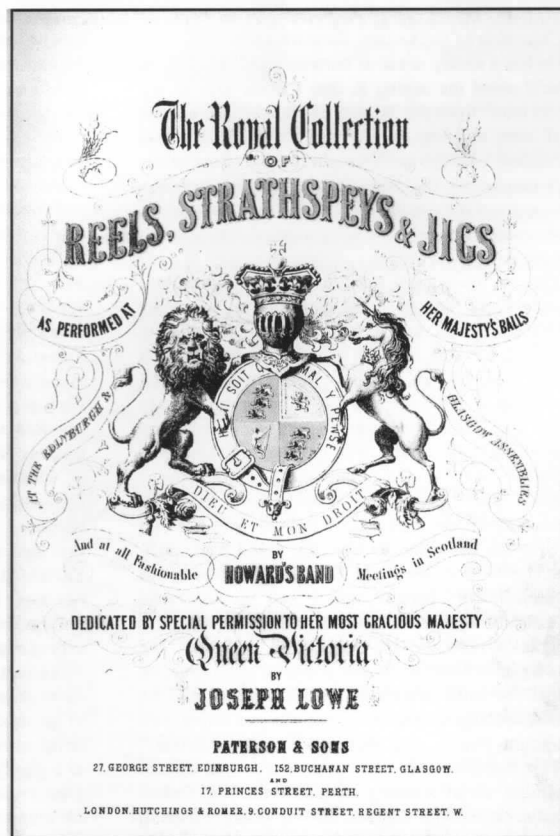
New Zealand

During one of my several memorable visits to New Zealand on behalf of the RSCDS, I had the opportunity to meet the great-grandson of Joseph Lowe, also Joseph (Joe) Lowe of Lower Hutt.

For some years, Joe had been the custodian of family documents, inherited from his Lowe forebears in Australia and New Zealand. Recognising the value of the collection, he had decided to donate it to the National Library of New Zealand in Wellington. Included in the collection is Joseph Lowe's journal of his Balmoral and Windsor visits. I was fortunate to be able to read the journal and to give some assistance, from the Scottish perspective, to the Editor of its printed version.* A UK visit made by Joe Lowe in 1994 enabled me to invite him to Coates Crescent to view his great-grandfather's ballroom guide and music collections, all of which are now preserved in the RSCDS archive as a lasting reminder of a "most excellent master".

*Ed. Allan Thomas, *A New Most Excellent Dancing Master*, Pendragon Press, 1992

Alastair MacFadyen



Joseph Lowe's Royal Collection 1862

"tossed violently about or lifted high from the ground". Many of the country dances described, "English" as well as "Scotch", now have a familiar place in our dancing repertoire.

Edinburgh

With the intention of setting up his own dancing school, Joseph Lowe settled in Edinburgh in 1824 and once established there, his career flourished. His New Town residence from 1839, 52 North Frederick Street, is an indication of the extent of his success. An addition to the rear of the building accommodated the teaching rooms. Teaching commitments to the royal family (until 1860), to his pupils in Edinburgh and Inverness, where he had an annual season of teaching, kept him well occupied. In addition there were his musical activities. For many years his orchestra

PENINSULAR DESPATCH

Salamanca, the venue for the XIIth Iberian Scottish Country Dancing Weekend, boasts two cathedrals and one of Europe's ancient universities. Nearby, the village of Arapiles was the scene of a notable Wellington victory, and one can surmise that not since 1812 have so many kilted figures foregathered in these parts, this time with peaceful intentions.

Some 150 participants filled a 4 star hotel and partook of a daily menu of morning classes, afternoon walk-throughs and talked-through evening dances; all on a polished marble floor, during a March heat wave, at 2,500 feet above sea-level - the height of a Corbett!

The cities provide the unretired locals, while from the Costas come the retired ex-pats. Perhaps the highlight of the dancing (with intervals around 11.30 p.m.) was the faultless presentation of *Le Moulin Rouge* by those groups with an experienced quorum, testimony to diligent rehearsal and fine-tuning by Jessie Stuart from Dufftown, our teacher for the weekend.

Duncan Black's band played and a piper piped. Congratulations to the Madrid group for organising and managing a splendid event.

Peter Fyfe

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Quadrilles

Reading

Dear Wilson

I found Jimmie Hill's article in the Reel 255 on the Quadrilles very interesting and would like to make a few comments.

First it must be realised that only with the formation of the (R)SCDS did any measure of conformity come into Scottish Country Dancing. Prior to 1923 dances were announced by the tune to be played and the formations depended on the district and the teacher. This was still somewhat the case when I started in Liverpool in the late '40s, especially with the Poussette. The form of Poussette danced depended upon which group in Liverpool you happened to be with that night. A few groups still Waltzed round as described in Book 1 while the 4 quarter turn Poussette as described in the 1930 edition of Book 4 was a bit more common, and the bulk of groups used the modern 1932 version. At large dances you had to ascertain which version was being used in your set.

Just as there were variations in the poussette, I would have expected differences in the numbering of Square sets. And this was the case, and continued with the arrival of the McNab dances where some of the square sets are numbered anticlockwise (i.e. *The Duke of Gordon*) and some clockwise (i.e. *The Black Mill*). Forbes MacDonal's anticlockwise numbered *Grosvenor House* was not published until 1965 by Rae Macintosh.

Back to the Quadrilles, when I started dancing there were only 179 widely available dances (13 (RSCDS Books and the Border Book) and the Quadrilles, Lancers and Waltz Cotillion were frequently found on programmes of Scottish Country Dances. Prior to McNab the Quadrille type were considered to be the thinking dancers' dances because of their complexity. (Of the 179 widely available dances 10 (9 (RSCDS and 1 BB) were only 16 bars long, 17 were only 24 bars long and 3 others were round the room).

In my instructions from the late 40s for the Lancers and Quadrilles (I do not have instructions for the Waltz Cotillion of those days.) the 3rd couple are obviously opposite the 1st couple but there is no clear indication as to whether the numbering is clockwise in either. However in the *La Poule* figure in the Quadrilles it is stated that 'The figure is repeated for each opposite pair, each clockwise Lady going in turn'. That indicates to me that the numbering in Liverpool was then clockwise.

Unfortunately this is not the end of the discussion as in 'Allan's Reference Guide to the Ballroom' (Note not entitled as a W. E. Allan guide) published in my estimation after 1844 and before 1870 the numbering of the Quadrilles is described on page 15 as "The top couple is the leading or first couple. The couple on their right the second. The couple *vis-a-vis* with the first couple, the third. The couple on their right the fourth." It is interesting that in spite of the numbering system Allen's order for the ladies dancing in his 3rd figure (virtually the same as my *La Poule* figure) is 1, 3, 2, 4. So just let us accept that in Scottish Country Dancing anything goes.

Moving on to The New Scotia Quadrille' I agree that Jimmie's instructions are very much clearer but that owes nothing to the numbering system. I am also concerned over the implication that the less experienced dancers would often be in the side positions. To maintain the social aspect of Scottish Country Dancing experienced

dancers should attempt to distribute themselves randomly throughout the sets. I also believe that we learn quickest when getting our hands dirty by doing. If the less experienced dancers were on the sides then, with a progressively circular numbering system, they would watch once, have a go, see where they went wrong and then do it correctly.

One last point is the comment about the Scotch Reel or Reel of Tulloch being used at the end of the Eightsome. In the 40s it was common, at the start of what should be the reel, for the 1st Man to turn his partner with the left hand and go back to the 3rd Lady to turn her with the right hand while at the same time his partner was turning the 4th Man right hand. The 1st man again turns his partner with the left hand while the 3rd Lady and 4th Man turns their partners with the left hand etc. The 1st Man remaining in the centre after the 2nd right turn with the 3rd Lady or slotting into the gap left in the circle in his original place.

Yours in dancing

Douglas Dean,
Bracknell Reel Club

The Quadrilles

Hove.

Dear Wilson,

Many thanks for the latest copy of *The Reel* which arrived today. Hopefully you will not object to my mentioning a few points from more than one item in this issue in the same letter.

Echoes from the Past

The instructions for *Mairi's Divorce* were published in "Tactalk" (the bulletin of the RSCDS Teachers' Association of Canada). It is identical to *Mairi's Wedding* except that the dancing couples pass by the right in the centre during the reels. This appears to be logical: hearts are on the left side of the body - they should be close when marrying but not when divorcing.

In view of your Editorial comment in this article, possibly future programmes could indicate *Mairi's Wedding* or *Mairi's Divorce*. In many dance programmes you find *Fergus Mciver* or *Fugal Fergus*, *Schiehallion* or 1314, or more recently *The Wee Cooper of Fife* or *The Cooper's Wife*. You suggest that an alternative be found for *Muirland Willie* - easy *Highland Fair* is danced to the same tune.

Our Quadrilles

I read Jimmie Hill's article with some interest. There are Scottish Dance Band Recordings of both *The Quadrilles* (Paynes first set to music from "Patience") and *The Lancers*. I have taught both dances to Scottish Country Dance Classes and *The Lancers* in particular has always been well received. The last figure of *The Lancers*, without the Grand Chain (chorus) is very similar to *Corstorphine Fair*. The first figure of Paynes first set Quadrilles is very similar to the Scottish *Circassian Circle* and the sixth figure is very similar to the English *Circassian Circle Part 2* (or *The Galop*). However, as indicated by G. W. Lockhart (Highland Balls And Village Halls - A Look At The Scot And His Dancing [1985]) there are many local variations in the figures as danced in different parts of Scotland; some of which I have collected.

Square set dances originated in England in the seventeenth century and along with other Country Dances were taken to France. Referring to my copy of the first edition of Playford

(1651), in which the majority of dances are in longwise sets for three or four couples, there are a number of rounds for as many as will, rounds for three couples and rounds for four couples. The four couple rounds described as *Round for eight* included are: *Mage on a Cree*, *If all the World were Paper*, *The fine Companion*, *Newcastle*, and *Kettle Drum*. Dances described as *A Square Dance for eight* (the original square sets or quadrilles) included are: *Faine I would*, *Dull Sir John*, & *Hide Park*. There was a clear distinction between round dances for four couples and square dances. Nowadays we refer to them all as square dances for convenience, although *The Rothesay Rant* for example, might be more correctly described as a *Round for eight*.

The French court did not like the lack of formal steps in country dancing and developed their system of dancing quadrilles based on the original English model, using the French expression "Quadrille" as a translation of the English "Square Dance".

A "Cottillon" was a lady's white petticoat. In some of the more rapid Quadrille movements there was an occasional display of lingerie, which led to the use of the expression "Cotillon" to describe such dances. In Britain the expression was later anglicised to "Cotillion".

Amongst the examples quoted as a nineteenth dance Jimmy included the *Eightsome Reel* The earliest version of this dance was being performed at the end of the eighteenth century as follows:

Bars

- 1 - 8 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
- 9 - 12 Ladies take their partners by the left hand and give right hands across in a grand star.
- 13 - 16 Men retain their partners hand and give left hands across in a grand star.
- 17 - 18 First lady in the centre of the set, sets to her partner.
- 19 - 20 First couple turn with the right hand.
- 21 - 22 First lady in the centre of the set, sets to the opposite gentleman.
- 23 - 24 First lady turns the opposite gentleman with the right hand.
- 25 - 32 First lady passes her partner by the left to dance a reel of three with her partner and the opposite gentleman.
- 33 - 128 Repeat three times with the second, third and fourth ladies leading.
- 129 - 256 Repeat four times with each of the gentlemen leading.

Three different versions were published in the Blantyre Manuscript (1805). The first separation into separate opening, core and closing movements was published by Mozart Allan in 1870, which is the date given by the RSCDS for this dance. However, the instructions given by the RSCDS for this dance were first published by Donald R. Mackenzie (The National Dances of Scotland [1910 - reprinted in 1930]).

Some years ago there was an attempt to resurrect another old Scottish eightsome, which we performed in 1964, in a Branch Advanced Class. It is rather interesting as it is a strathspey and reel, which is unusual as the only strathspey published during the nineteenth century appears to have been *The Glasgow Highlanders*. It is probable that the "poussette" was danced in a ballroom hold as a two-step or polka round the set. This dance had the following instructions:

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Bars Strathspey

1 - 8 Grand Chain.

9 - 16 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

17 - 24 First couple with second lady and fourth man dance four hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right; third couple likewise with the second man and fourth lady.

25 - 32 First couple with second lady and fourth man dance right hands across in a wheel and back with the left hands; third couple likewise with the second man and fourth lady. Finish in two lines across the set, a U facing up and down.

Bars Reel

1 - 4 All cross with the person opposite giving right hands..

5 - 8 All cross back giving right hands.

9 - 16 Parallel reels of four across the set

17 - 24 All join two hands with partner and poussette all round the set.

25 - 32 All Promenade once round the set.

Bars Strathspey

1 - 8 Grand Chain.

9 - 16 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

17 - 24 Second couple with third lady and first man dance four hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right; fourth couple likewise with the third man and first lady.

25 - 32 Second couple with third lady and first man dance right hands across in a wheel and back with the left hands; fourth couple likewise with the third man and first lady. Finish in two lines up and down the set the set, all facing across.

Bars Reel

1 - 4 All cross with the person opposite giving right hands.

5 - 8 All cross back giving right hands.

9 - 16 Parallel reels of four up and down the set.

17 - 24 All join two hands with partner and poussette all round the set.

25 - 32 All Promenade once round the set.

Apparently Miss Jean Milligan did not like the dance in this form and rearranged the figures for a longwise set, which the RSCDS published as *The Longwise Eightsome*.

Hopefully the RSCDS will at some time publish *The Skye Eightsome*. I understand that this is still danced regularly in Edinburgh. From the instructions in my collection it appears fairly easy.

All best wishes, Yours sincerely,

John Mitchell

Super Branch Dance Programme 25 March

Chiswick, London

Dear Wilson

It was a delight to dance at Pont Street on Saturday 25th March, not only to superb music by David Hall and his band but also to a programme designed to put dancers at ease and just enjoy the dancing. This was the case for experienced as well as less experienced dancers. I can tell you that the dozen or so members of the Chiswick Club present were delighted with it.

Congratulations to the devisers of that programme. This was the sort of programme that encourages new dancers to participate and enjoy and gives them confidence to continue to improve. I hope the Branch will carry on devising programmes that allow this kind of relaxed atmosphere with dances that are well known and can be enjoyed by all.

Yours sincerely

Jerry Reinstein

Chair, Chiswick Scottish Dance Club

OBITUARY

Audrey Elliot-Taylor (Borrie)



Audrey always loved dancing: it began at the age of two when her mother took her to a children's dancing class close to her home, and her keenness continued throughout her life until she could no longer dance. Her interest in Scottish dancing started early in the war. Her father moved his office from London to Llandudno in North Wales so the family went to live there. There was a local social group in the town which she and I joined; each Wednesday night we danced - one week Scottish and the other week English. More knowledgeable members were very patient and taught us various formations. We made some very strange interpretations which were put right in the fullness of time!

When Audrey returned to her home in Croydon, she joined a Scottish dancing class at Purley Oaks taken by Marjorie Sandison - known to all of us as 'Sandy'. After two or three years she asked Sandy if she might join her London class. 'Yes,' said Sandy, 'but you will have to work hard!' In those days it was not easy to get into an advanced class, most classes and dances being over-subscribed. While still attending the class at Purley Oaks, she was a founder member when the East Surrey West Kent (later to be named Croydon) Branch of the Society was formed. She also went to Jack McConachie's Highland Class. She met Robert while Scottish country dancing and they married in 1956, settling in Epsom where they became keen members of the Epsom Caledonian Society.

During the war Audrey was a Land Girl and she felt that working in the cold and damp induced the arthritis from which she suffered later in life. Eventually she could only manage to walk through the dances but she persevered until she could hardly walk and reluctantly had to give up.

She maintained her life long friendships with all her dancing friends, many of whom went to see her in her final years when she was house-bound. She had a great enthusiasm for all she did, and she will be missed.

Stella Booth

Betty Grant, Toronto

The Toronto Branch and the Society at large suffered a sad blow last December on the death of Betty Grant. She was known around the world and particularly with her husband as regular attenders of the Summer School in St Andrews.

She had several dances to her name, notably Bedrule named after the village in the Borders whence her forbears emigrated to Canada. Betty Grant and her husband David have long been avid readers of *The Reel*. We send our condolences to David and the family.

Mrs Patricia Batt is unwell at present and therefore unable to produce any further copies of her books of poems. She thanks you all for your support in the past.

Ed: Our thanks to Pat for her lovely poems and her support for charity.

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Fax: 0870 365 7529
admin@musiciansinsurance.co.uk

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DANCE EVENTS

**HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION
50th Anniversary**
Annual Ball

Saturday 4th November 2006
Craigellachie Band
Programme and details in the next issue.
Enquiries: Margaret Wallace, tel 020 8560 6160,
email: margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk



**RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/
SURREY BORDER
BRANCH**

Saturday 20th May 2006
May Ball

**Ian Muir and the
Craigellachie Band**

At Emmbrook School, Wokingham.
Programme on website.

Contact: John Douglas, tel: 0118 978 1125.

Saturday 17th June 2006

Summer Open Air Dance
South Hill Park, Bracknell

Contacts: Fiona Albison, tel: 0118 978 9181,
or Sheila Jupp, tel: 01344 773371.

Saturday 7th October 2006

Autumn Social, Carnation Hall, Winkfield

Dancing to recorded music

Bring a plate to share

Contact May Sloan, tel: 01428 604868.

Thursday 28th December 2006

Christmas Social

7.45-11.45 pm,

Finchampstead Memorial Hall.

Bring and share refreshments

Dancing to recorded music

Contact Jan Douglas, tel: 0118 978 1125.

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

DANCETOURE IN RUSSIA

1st - 10th September 2006

Kuban Scottish dancers invite you to a dancing holiday on the Kuban steppe, in the Caucasus mountains and by the Black Sea.

Teachers:..... **Helen Russell,**

Ian Russell, Seonaid Anderson

Musicians:..... **Phill Jones,**

Sue Jennings, David Anderson

Band: **Ceol na h'Alba**

Details from Fiona Grant, 7 Maurice Rd,
St Andrews Park, Bristol, BS6 5BZ.

Email: fiona@dancetour.co.uk



**BERKHAMSTED
STRATHSPEY AND REEL
CLUB**

Spring Dance
Saturday 20th May 2006
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Boxmore Playhouse, St John's Road, Boxmoor,
Hemel Hempstead.

The Silver Cross Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Good Hearted Glasgow, J.B.Milne, Alison Rose, The Nurseryman, Preston Mill, Cherrybank Gardens, The Bees of Maggie-knockater, Peat Fire Flame, Rakes of Glasgow, Mairi's Wedding, The Highland Fair, Mrs Stuart Linnell, The Wind on Loch Fyne, Napier's Index, The Plantation Reel, Silver Tassie, The Old Man of Storr, Kilkenny Castle, Follow Me Home, Duke of Perth. *Extras:* The Reel of the 51st Division, Hamilton House.

Admission by Programme £7.00, 'Bring & Share' supper. Licensed Bar. Details and tickets from: Mrs Linda Godbold: Alize, Shooterway Lane, Berkhurst HP4 3NP. Tel: 01442 866651, email: lindagodbold@hotmail.com. For full details and cribs see our website: www.berkhurstreelclub.org.

RSCDS BRIGHTON BRANCH

2006 Summer Ball
Saturday 17th June
Reception 6.30 p.m. and Dinner 7.00 p.m.
Dancing until 11.15 p.m.
Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, BN3 4AH.

Ian Muir & the Craigellachie Band

Programme: The Kellohmo Jig, The Rev. John MacFarlane, Foxhill Court, The Starry Eyed Lassie, The Recumbent Stone, Our Lady of the Snows, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Eileen Watt's Reel, The Dream Catcher, The Glenalmond Gamekeeper, Singing Sands, Napier's Index, Ray Milbourne, Argyll Strathspey, Mrs Macleod, Dancing in the Street, Land of the Heather Hills, Catch the Wind, Spiffin, Mrs Stuart Linnell. *Extras:* The Dundee City Police, West's Hornpipe, Neidpath Castle.

All dances recapped. Highland Dress preferred.

Tickets £18 (including supper and wine) from

Bill Power, 84 Holmes Avenue, Hove,

BN3 7LD. Tel: 01273 731927

email secretary@rscds-brighton.org.uk.

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Open Air Summer Dance

Saturday 26th August 2006

2.30 - 6.30 p.m.

Wolfson College Lawn (indoors if wet)

Tickets £3 including tea and biscuits

Contact: Trisha Rawlings, tel. 01869 340830

Annual Ball

Saturday 28th October

Headington School, Oxford

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

SE HERTS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Dance 2nd Friday each month at Sele School

Garden Dance

Saturday 15th July 2006

Lower Farm, Cottered

6.00 - 9.00 p.m.

Village Hall if wet, 6.00 - 10.00 p.m.

Sunday 3rd September 2006

Beating the Retreat

2.00 - 5.00 p.m. free!

Hertford Castle Grounds

Saturday 18th November 2006

Annual Ball

8.00 p.m. - midnight

David Cunningham's Band

Castle Hall Hertford

**Demonstration team available for functions/
joining in!**

Contact: Maureen Ainsworth 01279 434342

www.sehscds.netfirms.com

email: sehscds@hotmail.com.



**HESTON & DISTRICT
SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION**

Annual Ball

Saturday 13th May 2006

7.00 - 11.00 p.m.

Heston Community

Association Hall

George Meikle & The Lothian SCD Band

For Programme see Issue 255 of *The Reel*
Tickets £13.50/£7.50 non-dancers & juniors
purchased by 6th May (£14.50/£8.50 on door
numbers permitting) including refreshments.
Licensed Bar. Highland/Evening dress preferred.

Contact: Denise Smith, tel: 0208 715 9521.

Further details on our website

www.hestonscottish.co.uk.

TARTAN JIGSAW

Summer Ball

Saturday 15th July 2006

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Trinity School, Croydon

Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band

MC: Peter Forrow

Programme: Grand March, Clutha, Haste to the Wedding, The Silver Tassie, Polharrow Burn, How Does It Go?, Butterscotch and Honey, Fugal Fergus, Neidpath Castle, Shiftin' Bobbins, Macdonald of the Isles, The Scotch Circle, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Daisy Chain, Pelorus Jack, The Reel of the 51st Division, The Duchess Tree, The Last of the Lairds, The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh. *Extras:* Trinity Tensome, The Balmoral Strathspey, The Wild Geese.

Tickets: £18 in advance (£20 on the door),
including cold supper.

Dress: formal

David Faulkner, tel: 01372 722651

Faulkners66@tiscali.co.uk

Elaine Wilde, tel: 0208 660 5167

e.b.a.wilde@btinternet.com.



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming attractions to be held

at St. Columba's Church Hall,

Pont Street, London SW1.

Fridays:

Upper Hall 7.30 - 10.30 p.m.

Saturdays:

Lower Hall 7.00 - 10.30 p.m.

unless otherwise stated

Saturday 3rd June.....**Craigellachie**

Summer Ball 7.00 - 11.30 p.m.

Full details in *The Reel* No 255 and on website

Saturday 2nd September.....**Craigievar**

President's night 7.00 - 11.00 p.m.

including Jacket Potato Supper

Saturday 7th October.....**David Hall**

**All dances will be talked or walked through on
request**

For further details contact: Frank Bennett on 0208 715 3564, e-mail fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk, or Roger Waterson on 0208 660 5017. You can also telephone our "Dial-a-Programme" service on 0208 8763 8096 to hear our programme, or leave a message. Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening.

Please visit our website at

www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk for the latest
news and programmes of our dances.

**CHISWICK SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCE CLUB**

Midsummer Magic

An open air dance at Chiswick House, London

W4 on Sunday 9th July 2006.

Bring your own picnic at 17:30;

dancing from 19:00 'till dusk

Music by **Ian Robertson**

Programme: The Montgomerie's Rant, Pelorus Jack, The Sailor, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Good Hearted Glasgow, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Wind on Loch Fyne, The Piper and the Penguin, Machine Without Horses, Rakes of Glasgow, Napier's Index, Rothesay Rant, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, The Reel of the Royal Scots, Mairi's Wedding. *Extras:* John of Bon Accord, Tribute to the Borders, Culla Bay.

Programmes with cribs and directions £3 in advance (sae and cheques to Chiswick SCDC) from: Jerry Reinstein, Flat 15, Sydney House, Woodstock Road, London W4 1DP,
jar@reinsteinassociates.com, tel: 020 8994 2890
or Kay Senior at Pont St and other dances,
tel: 020 8743 9385.

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Dancing most Mondays, 8.00 p.m. to 10.15 p.m., Sept to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details/ map: www.geocities.com/absdc or Anne, tel: 01235 204155.

ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15 - 10.15 p.m. September to May at Abraham Cowley Unit Hall, St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey. Details from Jane Warner, Tel: 01483 763606.

ALDRINGTON (HOVE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday 8.15 p.m. to 10.30 p.m., September to June. Details from John Steer, 57 Hangleton Rd, Hove, E. Sussex BN3 7GH. Tel: 01273 416893.

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB meets Tuesday evenings, September to May. Garden dances June and July. Contact: Linda Godbold, Alize, Shootersway Lane, Berkhamsted HP4 3NP. Tel: 01442 866651. www.berkhamstedreelclub.org.

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH R.S.C.D.S. meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth. Newcomers and Beginners 7.15 to 8.45 p.m. Improvers/Advanced 9.00 to 10.30 p.m. Weekly children's classes. Technique class by invitation - alternate Wednesdays. Details from Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Rd, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX. Tel: 01202 698138.

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details from Ray on 01273 684417 or Bill on 01273 731927. Website: www.rscds-brighton.org.uk

BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Thursdays 7.30 - 10 p.m. at Balfour Junior School, Balfour Road, Brighton. Details from Carol Catterall, tel: 01273 564963.

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details from Rhoda Finch, 20 Redcrest Gardens, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2DU. Tel: 01276 681820.

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH R.S.C.D.S. Classes for all grades. Details from Alison Gundry, 92, Devonshire Mews, Devonshire Road, Cambridge, CB1 2BB; tel: 01223 303603.

CHELSEA REEL CLUB meets twice a month from October to March in St. Columba's Church (Upper Hall), Pont Street, SW1. Beginners welcome. Instruction given. Dancing to live music. Details from Ruth Hewlett, Tel: 020 8749 5471.

CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS Advanced class Mondays 7.30 - 9.30 pm. General class Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30 pm. Bettridge School, Cheltenham. Also a Beginners class. Details: Margaret Winterbourne Tel: 01242 863238.

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. from October to end May, at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN. Tel: 01242 528220. e-mail mbsteele45@aol.com.

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING in the Upper Hall at St Michael & All Angels Church corner of The Avenue and Bath Rd. W4 (nr Turnham Green tube), Sundays 7.30-9.30 p.m. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details Tel: 020 8743 9385 (afternoons).

Cirencester Scottish Country Dance Club meets most Wednesdays 8:00pm to 10:00pm September to end June at the Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester. Details Mr A.E.L. Bush, Lake View House, Withington, Glos. GL54 4 BN. Tel: 01242890454, e-mail: tbush@btopenworld.com

CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. 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. tel: 01293 882173.

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH. Branch classes - general, incl. beginners, with technique: Purley (Fri). Advanced/very advanced (Wed) Cousins. Other classes in the area: Beginners: Reigate & Selsdon (Tues), Gen: Reigate (Mon), Purley (Alt. Tues), West Wickham (Fri), Advanced: Reigate (Thurs). Further details: Tel: 01737 551724.

EALING SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Thurs. 8 - 10 p.m. September to May at St Andrew's Church Centre, Mount Park Road, Ealing, W5. Details from Rena Stewart, 56 Meadvale Road, Ealing, W5 1NR, tel: 020 8998 6419.

EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets every Wednesday, 8.00 pm at Warren Hall, Wanstead, London E11, from September to May. Details from John Tanner, Tel: 020 8504 1632. www.efsa.org.uk, e-mail: john@efsa.org.uk

EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dance classes, including beginners, (September to March). Many other activities including frequent informal dances. Details from Brian Burgess, 72 Seymour Avenue, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 2RR. Tel: 020 8786 7452.

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00 p.m., September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham. Surrey. Details from Mrs Annette Owen, 47 Beauclerk Green, Winchfield, Hook, Hants RG27 8BF. Tel: 01252 845187.

FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. September to mid July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Instruction by Mrs Margaret Henderson. Details from Pam Black, Tel: 0208 894 9399. e-mail: pamblack@aol.com

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY dance on alternate Saturdays at various venues in the Fleet, Hampshire area, from 7.30 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. September to May. Full details from Julia Anderson, 54 Little Green Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8TB. Tel: 01252 726138.

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays 8-10 pm end of September to May. Details: Mrs B MacKenzie Ross, Blythe Muse, Misbourne Ave, Chalfont St Peter SL9 0PD. Tel: 01494 874604.

GREAT MISSENDEN: THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Thursdays 8.00 p.m. Oldhams Hall, Church Road, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231.

GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs N. Merrick, 2 Hillbeck Way, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8LT.

GUILDFORD SCDC meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford most Mondays at 8.15 from September to April. Teacher Paul Flimmer, contact on 01483 236946.

HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOT'S ASSOCIATION Dancing on Tuesdays Sept. - June from 8.00 - 10.00 p.m. in Elderkin Hall, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Roderboroug Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF. Tel: 020 8870 6131.

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday at 8.00 p.m. at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00 p.m. Details from Phil Bray, 25 St. Olams Close, Luton, Beds LU3 2LD. Tel: 01582 617734.

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Classes Wednesdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., Orley Farm School, South Hill Ave, Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Sheena Henderson, 92a Kenton Road, Kenton HA3 8AE. Tel: 020 8907 6581.

HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Fridays 8-10 p.m., September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.

HERTSMERE REEL CLUB. Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30 to 11.00 p.m. Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.

HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to July, tuition followed by social dancing. Also monthly Saturday dances and ceilidhs. All at Heston Methodist Church Hall. Details from Mrs Rosemary Mitchell, Tel: 01784 254401.

JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP. Contacts: Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel/Fax 01534 854459; Alan Nicolle Tel: 01534 484375 or e-mail alan.nicolle@yahoo.co.uk; or Mrs. Brenda Gale Tel: 01534 862357.

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 7.00 to 8.00 p.m. General 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. Tel: 01843 869284.

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Some major functions held at other London venues. Details: adverts in *The Reel* or contact Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG. Tel: 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096. Website: www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday 8.00 p.m. 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, tel: 01628 628372. www.maidenheadscotshdancing.org.uk

MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday 7.30 to 10 p.m. at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details from Jane Masters, 251 Robin Hood Lane, Blue Bell Hill, Chatham, Kent ME5 9QU. Tel: 01634 864007.

MARKET HARBOUROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY. Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesday 7.30-10.00 p.m. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, "Lazonyb", 9 Little Lunnon, Dunton Bassett, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 5JR. Tel: 0455 209446.

MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing Thursdays 8.00 to 10.15 p.m. at St. Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Miss Kate Penny, 133 Broom Hill Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3LQ. Tel: 01634 716644

MEOPHAM SCD CLUB meets every Monday evening from September - June at 8.15 - 10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details from Mrs Jane Whittington. 5 Coldharbour Rd. Northfleet. Kent. DA11 8AE, tel: 01474 359018.

MID SUSSEX CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Events throughout the year at various venues. Members of SASS. Classes held before St. Andrews/Burns. Contact David Anderson, 8 Tindal Close, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 0LB. Tel: 01444 244854, email: madaanderson@hotmail.com

MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS. Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details from Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bleckley, Milton Keynes. MK3 5LP. Tel: 01908 378730, e-mail: jan@jange.f9.co.uk

NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB. Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. from September to May at Roecroft School, Stotford. Informal Saturday Dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Sheffield, Beds. SG17 5AL. Tel: 01462 812691.

NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dancing 7.45 - 10.00 p.m. most Wednesdays at Methodist Church Hall, Crayford. Beginners welcome. Details: Bill MacFarlane, 26 Lewis Road, Istead Rise, Northfleet, Kent DA13 9JD. Tel: 01474 832801.

ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday 7.45-10.15 p.m. at Pettis Wood Memorial Hall. Classes Mon eys at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details Mrs P. J. French, 20 Beaumont Road, Pettis Wood, Orpington, Kent, BR5 1JN. Tel: 01689 873511.

OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS. Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Gordon Lloyd, 47 Begbroke Cresc., Begbroke, Oxford OX5 1RW. Tel: 01865 375799.

READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY. Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Rita Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Tel: 0118 975 7507. www.scotshdancingreading.org.

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00 p.m. from mid Sept. to end of May. All welcome. For information contact 020 8977 4304.

SANDERSTEAD SCOTTISH DANCERS. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, tel: 01883 627797 or gwood@iee.org.

ST. ALBANS & MID HERTS CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing most Fridays from October to March. Group meets at HomeWood Road U.R. Church Hall, Sandpit Lane, St. Albans at 8.00 p.m. Details from Mrs I. Smallwood, 26 Gresford Ct, St. Albans, AL4 0UB. Tel: 01727 760878.

ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON), The Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB. Tel: 020 8540 1755. Website: www.geocities.com/standrewsoclondon

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Sept to May, 7.15 to 10 p.m. Admission free except for six 'Band Nights' when tickets cost £6 inc. supper. Beginners welcome and there is step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details from Bob Harman, tel: 020 7630 1639 (day) or 020 8642 7192 (evgs), e-mail smallpips@aol.com.

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. Tel: Sue Davis 01344 774344, 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne. Also Childrens' Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, tel: Deborah Driffin 01344 776831.

ST. NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS, Luton meet every Wednesday, September to July 8.00 - 10.00 pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road, Luton, Beds. Contact: Pat Hamilton, tel. 01462 671156 or Sheila Harris, tel. 01525 875606.

SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Penelope Fisk, Sunnybank Cottages, 15 Maidstone Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3BY. Tel: 01732 457327.

SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday from September to May 8.00 to 10.00 pm, at the Sheen Lane Centre, SW14. Details: Donald Miller, 39 Lauderdale Drive, Richmond, TW10 7BS. Tel: 020 8940 8573.

SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00 to 10.15 p.m. throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details from Terry Boorman, 15 Old Farm Road West, Sidcup, DA15 8AG. Tel: 020 8302 2974.

SOMERSET BRANCH RSCDS Beginners and General Class at Keinton Mandeville School Mon. 7.30-9.30 pm. Experienced Thurs. at Montecleafe School, Somerton 7.45-9.45 pm Children's Class Charlton Mackrell Reading Room 2.30-4.00 pm Sats. Highland class Kingsdon Village Hall 2.00-4.00 pm Sats.

SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ. Tel: 01305 265177.

SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Fridays, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near the hospital). Tuition 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Anne Chandler, Tel: 01702 294645.

SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS. Classes in Hertford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv Tues 7.45 p.m., Sacred Heart School, Ware; Beginners Thurs 7.30 p.m., Millmead School, Hertford. Demonstration Alt. Mons 8.0 p.m. St. John's Hall, Hertford. Details: Mrs Maureen Ainsworth, tel: 01279 434342.

SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB meets Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15 p.m. at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details from Brenda Hinton, Tel: 01273 595017.

SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday at 8 p.m. September to June at St. Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details from David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY. Tel: 01932 784866. www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk

THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON meet at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1, every Tuesday from October to end of May for Scottish Country Dancing, 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Tom Symington. Tel: 020 7834 7151 or 020 7828 6792.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS. Beginners, General and Advanced classes on Mon, Tues, Thurs, 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., at St. Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details from Colin Simpson, 21 Culverden Avenue, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9RE. Tel: 01892 532712(ve) 01732 377407(work).

WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION hold weekly adult Classes for, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs Maggie Westley, 56 Mount Park, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4PS. Tel/Fax: 020 8647 9899, e-mail: mwestley@bibra.co.uk.

WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Class at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1BJ. Thursdays from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., Details from Stuart Kreloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford, Herts WD17 4GE. Tel: 01923 492475, email skreloff@alum.mit.edu.

WAVERLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Winchester, every Thursday from September to the end of June, 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details: Mrs Pat Mumford, tel: 02380 252570.

WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Mondays 8.00 p.m. Dance Class. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details from Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, WD19 5HF. Tel: 020 8421 0470.

WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS Classes Tuesdays 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., Club night (all abilities) Wednesday 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., Both evenings take place at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details from Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ. Tel: 01264 363293, e-mail wendy@munford.com.

WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Wednesday 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from Mrs Rita Gorie, 14 Coleridge Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 6DH. Tel: 01621 854006.

THE DEMONSTRATION TEAM'S ARCTIC ADVENTURE

Throughout Friday 4th March, 17 members of the London Demonstration Team landed in what everyone assumed was the Arctic but was in fact Aberdeen, to take part in the annual Scottish Dancing Festival. After learning that the Brownie House that we were to be staying in, was snowed in, a quick reshuffle of arrangements saw that we were all to be laying our heads down at the local Holiday Inn.

Some of the early arrivals were already sussing out the competition in the children's section on the Friday evening. Notwithstanding the fact that



Angela Young

everyone in the room had heard a *Reel for Jeannie* or *Cumberland Reel* 128 times through, the judge picked a fair winner. The competition started in earnest on the Saturday morning, when all 17 dancers (and multiple costumes) trekked to the Aberdeen Music Hall where the weekend's competition was being held. London entered two teams in the 'fun' section, competing for the Butchart trophy, however we were more successful in the Ladies uncertificated, scooping first with some help from two of the Airyhall ladies, and in the mixed uncertificated (also taking first place).

The ladies and mixed certificated also did well in their categories. All of the teams had good entrances and the last eight bars of all the dances were particularly well done. All that was left was the Foursome, as in Book 3 No 11. London again entered two teams, a proper team and one (as they were the last of the competitors) to see the competition out with a flourish -- dancing a Double Crossed Foursome. The first team gave an excellent, dynamic and well polished performance gaining 89 marks overall.

Outside the snow was falling heavily, and after the team had bolted down their prizewinning Ashvale fish and chips they joined the masses at the festival dance, where all who competed over the weekend, young and old could join in the dancing.

Back at the hotel, the food that was going to keep us going at the Brownie House needed to go somewhere. An impromptu party was, of course, the answer and all 17 of us descended on room 429 where we ate croissants and drank wine until the wee sma' hours, then someone had the clever idea of visiting the 24-hour bakery opposite for butteries, chicken pies and yumyums.

On the Sunday, those who weren't early flyers back to London, went on a brisk walk around the city. The sky looked blue and the sun shone, until a blizzard saw the team's inner child escape and bouts of snowball fighting started. A field of untouched snow was the perfect opportunity to play about and on the way back a quick dance of honour round the snowman.

Eventually, after a few coffees, we all made it back to London, despite the weather. I'd like to thank Angela Young who chose and pulled us all up

to standard in all the dances and making sure we all had a place to lay our heads and food to fill our stomachs throughout the weekend. Also I'd like to thank the team for making the weekend so enjoyable.

PS. Has anyone dug out the Brownie House yet?

Andrew Nolan

THE CHISWICK GROUP



John Davis

The Chiswick group has just had its fourth birthday, and has applied for affiliation to the RSCDS. A lot has happened to us over the past year. It was decided that we had to address the age old problem of newcomers who turn up for a taster, and are so overwhelmed by the experience of being flung in at the deep end, that they never appear again. We were lucky enough to find a second hall and have split the group into Newcomers and Improvers, who dance at Bob's Place (the new hall) while the more experienced dancers continue to dance at St. Michael's. The experiment has been a resounding success. The new group 'bonded' from the start and have become a really supportive and cohesive group, which has grown weekly in numbers and confidence. The secret of our success due, in no small part to the dedicated team of teachers we have been lucky enough to recruit and because the dancers in this new group feel that they are 'all in the same boat' and so willingly help one another. Proof of their amazing progress could be seen when last week a large number of them went to Oxford for the day school, holding their own in the intermediate class, and cutting a dash on the dance floor in the evening. The more experienced dancers have also benefited from the division and have been able to forge ahead with a more demanding programme of dances each week. To avoid the groups losing touch with one another, every first Sunday in the month both groups come together for a club night, with wine and food, and a programme of dances we all know. On these nights we are often joined by people from other groups. The evenings are great fun, why not come and join us too?

Our Kilts and Posh Frocks, just before Christmas, was a small affair this year, with just members and our regular 'friends' being invited. A great time was had by all and the food, as always was outstanding. We danced to David Hall and his music, with MCs James Fairbairn and Davinia Miln. This year's Kilts and Posh Frocks will, as in 2004, again be on a grand scale and is to be held in Chiswick Town Hall on Sunday 10th December. An advert for this will appear in *The Reel* nearer the time, but our last big 'do' was a sell out, so please book early, as they say, to avoid disappointment!

Another event is our annual open air dance on the lawns at the back of Chiswick House (see advert on page 14). Last year this was a magical evening. We picnicked together first, then danced the evening away to the music of Peter Jenkins and his accordion against the background of this most elegant of buildings, with the sun setting slowly and casting long shadows across the grass. An experience not to be missed! See you there!

Kay Senior
Chiswick Group

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