



The Reel

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FEBRUARY TO APRIL 2006

A DANCING MASTER REMEMBERED

Jennifer Wilson – A Musical Tribute to Bill Ireland

The Dancing Master, Not I, The Moray Rant, Jennifer's Jig, The Sailor, Balquidder Strathspey, A Set of Birlin Reels (4x32), Two and Two, The Braes of Breadalbane, Haste to the Wedding, The College Hornpipe, Mr Morison, Alltshellach, The Mairrit Man's Favourite, An extra set of 4x32 Reels.



Bill and Jennifer as teacher and pianist worked together over three decades until Bill's untimely death in October 2002. They were much in evidence at Summer School in St Andrews but also travelled to day and weekend schools at home and overseas. They went as far afield as Japan in the early 1990s. Jennifer was persuaded by David Cunningham senior to record this CD of some of Bill's favourite teaching dances.

Jennifer writes:
"The highest compliment I can pay to the late Bill Ireland is to have recorded this CD of the music he loved so much as a fitting tribute and lasting memory of the enthusiasm and passion conveyed in his teaching. It was a privilege to have worked with Bill – a unique partnership which I am sure many dancers will remember with affection."

Jennifer's playing is superb. There is no other word for it. Tempo is just right and so consistent. Eleven of the dances are 8x32 and she changes tune every 32 bars. Jennifer tells me that she wanted to fit in as many tunes as possible and has certainly achieved this with 102 in total. Bob Masson drums unobtrusively in the background.

The front of the inlay card shows a photo of Bill's holiday cottage in Sutherland and inside a delightful one of Jennifer and himself at St Andrews. Bill is in a typical stance leaning on the piano as he invariably did when talking to 'The Director of Music'.

Just reading the names of some of the dances brings back happy memories of Bill's classes. As well as the ubiquitous traditional, Jennifer plays a wide selection of tunes by 20th century musicians. The final track consists of a sample of tunes by Iain MacPhail and one, Randall's Reel, by Graeme Mitchell. Jennifer played these tunes at a London Branch day school in October 1982 and received a very enthusiastic standing ovation. She deserves a few more for this CD. The CD is available through the Branch Bookstall.

John Laurie

A FLOWER BY ANOTHER NAME

Pick up *The Reel* and the thing one always notices first is the motif on the masthead – the thistle. A simple modern representation. Modern in style yet, first introduced in December 1957 as the outcome of a search for *new ideas* through the then Editor, James Anderson. The thistle appears on the cover of the two London Jubilee dance books in 1979 and 1989 respectively and adorns the latest 75th Anniversary brooch **and our new book of Reel dances**. From its humble beginnings the thistle has in short become synonymous with the London Branch of the RSCDS. The colour of the thistle always appeared in *The Reel* in black relief on a white background with three exceptions to this, the most notable being when for Nos. 250 and 254.



Stephen Webb

But why adopt the thistle? Genus *Cirsium* is regarded by most as a weed; yet widespread as a plant around the world it is loved by bees and butterflies alike but generally not people. Most varieties of this plant are well barbed with vicious thorns and each flower head can disperse up to 1200 seeds when ripe. It is no wonder that they are so widespread growing in fields and along hedgerows.

The thistle has long been an emblem of Scotland and today has come to represent its *Scottishness*. Book 37 includes the dance *Wisp of Thistle* written in honour of the late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother who saw dancers perform at a Tattoo in Canada exclaiming that they were like 'wisps of thistle'. Robert Burns mentions the humble thistle in a typically appropriate way in the 'Address To A Haggis':

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

It first officially appeared on base silver groats in 1471 in the reign of James III as a royal emblem and even today it can be seen on the 1984 one pound Scottish coin with the below mentioned motto on the edge. In 1540 James V, nephew of Henry VIII of England, founded The Order of The Thistle, the common badge of the order, worn by the knights, shows a thistle encircled with the motto 'nemo me impune lacessit' which may be translated as "No-one provokes me with impunity". The Black Watch and The Royal Scots Regiments also used this same motto.

So what really is the story behind this? In 1263 the young Alexander III tried to recover parts of north west Scotland which were then part of King Haakon's Norway. To protect his realm, Haakon sent an invasion force which he moored off the west coast of Scotland. One night at Largs during a raiding party, to create the air of surprise, legend has it, the Norsemen removed their footwear but then found themselves walking on thistles! They cried out in pain alerting the sleeping Scots who rose up and saw off the invaders. Alexander cleverly delayed negotiations until storms ravished Haakon's ships. Haakon headed for home but died in Orkney on the way. In 1266 The Treaty of Perth ceded the Isles to Scotland for a money payment. Alexander ruled for a further 21 years and today he is ranked as one of Scotland's greatest kings.

It is believed that it was the Spear Thistle, shown here, which was the variety that caused the pain to the invaders, and so innocently defended Scotland. The idealised thistle, which is now the London Branch emblem, almost misses the point - literally!

Stephen Webb

Issue No 256 will be with UK based members by 13th May 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 8th April. (Issue No 257 will arrive by 2nd September 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.

BRANCH AGM

Friday 16th June 2006

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society 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 begin at 7 p.m. There will be dancing after the meeting. This is the annual opportunity to participate in and contribute to the work of your Branch and Society.

Please make an effort to attend to ensure your views are heard. Any member may propose a motion for consideration at the AGM. These must be signed by the proposer and seconder and be sent to the Branch Secretary (see this page) to reach her by 25th March. Any topic may be raised under 'Any Other Business' but decisions can only be taken on motions. The agenda, including any motions submitted in advance, will appear in the next issue of *The Reel*.

You may like to consider standing for the Committee or nominating someone. Nominations for the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer and eleven ordinary members of the committee must reach the Secretary by 26th March. Nominations must be signed by the proposer and seconder and by the nominee, all of whom must be members of the Branch. If necessary, a postal ballot paper will be sent to Branch members with the May issue of *The Reel*.

The present office holders and Committee members, and the dates on which they joined or last rejoined the Committee are as follows:

Chairman	Rachel Wilton	1993
Vice-Chairman	Jeff Robertson	1999
Secretary	Pamela Ellam	2000
Treasurer	Simon Wales	2003

Margaret Catchick 2003; Malcolm Ferris-Lay 2005; Andrew Kellett 2005; Lindsay Merriman 2003; Wilson Nicol 2005; Lena Robinson 2005; Moira Strutt 2004; Meryl Thomson 2002; Cherry West 2003; Angela Young 2000.

All of the above are eligible for re-election.

If you have any queries about the AGM please contact the secretary, Pamela Ellam.

Committee Affairs

The London Branch Committee next meets on 3rd April and 15th May. The Convenors meet on 6th March. Items for discussion or attention should be sent to the Secretary Pamela Ellam at least two weeks before the meetings to ensure inclusion on the Agenda.

EDITORIAL

Three Wilsons to the Fore!

We continue the theme of dancing masters with two interesting contributions: the London scene 200 years ago as recorded by Thomas Wilson in a fascinating article showing how dancing is an ever changing world; and then a scintillating musical tribute to our more recent London dancing master, Bill Ireland, from one of his favourite pianists, Jennifer Wilson. (And the third Wilson merely does the editing!)

The recurring theme recently has been the encouragement of young people to take up Scottish Country dancing. Andrew Kellett's article shows the great work being done by dedicated teachers in the area to introduce children to the joys of Scottish dancing. We hope that this will provide the incentive for other teachers to get children on the floor with stimulating music.

BRANCH MATTERS

Chairman's Comments

At the Christmas dance we had a treat of music – many thanks to Ian Muir and his 6-piece band. What a splendid evening; just right for the presentation of a Branch Award to Ian Anderson by our President, Mary Stoker. Over the years several members have been elected Vice Presidents in recognition of their work for the Branch, and we are very pleased to be able to recognise the contribution of some others with the presentation of this newly established Award although in 75 years there have been many, many contributors.

The festive seasons of Christmas, New Year and Burns are well and truly over but there is plenty of opportunity for dancing – the classes are halfway through the second term and highland, ladies' step and Sunday technique classes are all on offer. We are looking forward to a busy day on March 25th when the children have their day at St. Columba's: class followed by lunch followed by dance – adults and children welcome to come and join in, dancing to David Hall's band, and then an evening with a programme for the less experienced dancer, but with such music EVERYONE will want to dance. A special dance, Celebrating Musicians, is another date for your diary in May. Musicians from all over the southeast will gather to provide music for the May dance, led by David Cunningham (see Pages 3 and 9). Not enough dancing? Try the events section on the following pages – Day Schools and dances galore – take your pick.

I was privileged to be present at both the service at St. Columba's to commemorate the dedication of the new Church in 1955 and the Ceilidh which celebrated both this event and the 65th anniversary of the St. Columba's Dancers on Monday nights. I hope we shall all be supporting the 50th Anniversary Appeal to raise money to maintain the building that we all enjoy so much.

Thank you to the Committee, the teachers and musicians, the caterers and all others who have worked hard to give the rest of us such marvellous enjoyment so far this year. The AGM will soon be upon us: you may have your say about what the Branch could be doing; you could even put yourself forward for the Committee and help to make sure that things are done.

See you on the dance floor.

Rachel Wilton

WHO TAUGHT YOU TO DANCE?

The RSCDS Teachers' Certificate has been restructured and can now be done in units – are you ready to take this step? A lot of hard work, a lot of fun and friends who will be yours for life. You need a good standard of dancing and a wish to pass on to others the enormous pleasure and satisfaction you have from dancing.

For further information see the Society website or contact Headquarters (see this page) for a copy of the syllabus.

CAR STICKERS

To help publicise the Society and London Branch a car sticker has been included with your Reel. It is hoped that you will display it on a window of your car or in a friend's car making sure that your driving vision is not impaired.

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Patron - H.M. The Queen



HEADQUARTERS:

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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:

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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:

- preserving and furthering the practice of traditional Scottish Country Dances;
- providing or assisting in providing instruction in the dancing of Scottish Country Dances;
- promoting the enjoyment and appreciation of Scottish Country Dancing and Music by any suitable means.

BRANCH DANCES

DANCE

Saturday 25th March 2006
7.00 p.m. - 10.30 p.m.

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1
David Hall and his Band

Good Hearted Glasgow	Knapman
The Reel of the 51st Division	13-10
Monymusk	11-2
Jessie's Hornpipe	8-9
Mairi's Wedding	Cosh
Wind on Loch Fyne	Dunedin
Hamilton House	7-10
Rakes of Glasgow	11-11
The Eightsome Reel	2-12
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	Five for '82-3
The White Cockade	5-11
Sugar Candie	26-9
The Machine Without Horses.....	12-12
The Dashing White Sergeant	3-2
Fair Donald	29-4
Strip the Willow	1-7
The Robertson Rant	39-8
The Duke of Perth	1-8
Admission £7.50 members, £8.50 non members, children £2.00; members' children admitted free.	

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

Duke of Atholl's Reel.....	16-3
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
Wild Geese	24-3
Seann Truibhas Willichan	27-9
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.	

Musicians:

See details of workshop on page 9

Details of Polesden Lacey on 10th June and of
Summer Dancing will be in the next issue.

SHOES FOR BEGINNERS

Thank you very much to those who have responded to a plea for shoes to lend to the beginners to convince them to purchase their own. We are particularly grateful to St. Andrew's Shoemakers Ltd. who have made some shoes available at a very reasonable rate to be used for that purpose - a quick response to our request and a very quick delivery.

DEMONSTRATIONS

The Demonstration Class is continuing to flourish in 2006. In October, members of the Team led children through "A Jig for Pudsey" at the Children's Dance with the assistance of our special guest Pudsey Bear. With the festive season came a lively catalogue of events and at the Branch Christmas Dance, the Team gave a faultless performance of Angela's well choreographed Medley from the New London Book to the accompaniment of Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band. The display was well received by an appreciative audience and it was interesting to note the number of past Dem Class members who had been persuaded to join in the performance.

At the time of going to press we are preparing for a number of Burns Night demonstrations including Phyllis Court at Henley, the Savoy Hotel and Finchley. As a departure this year, we are proposing a weekend trip to Aberdeen in March as an alternative to our regular appearance at the Newcastle Festival in February.

Following the usual flurry of activity around Burns time, future items include performances at the Redbridge Dance Festival and Richmond Caledonian Society in March.

Our sincere thanks as always go to Angela, Joan, James and Sandra for their contribution towards the success of the class. Our thanks also to musicians Neil Esselmont, Sandy Walker and Peter Jenkins.

Publicity material for the class is available on the Branch website and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who has quality recent pictures or video extracts of the team in action.

We are always keen to welcome dancers with a high standard of technique, a wide knowledge of dances and an ability to respond quickly to instructions, so anyone interested in joining the team please get in touch with me on 01903 530750, 020 7730 9633 or email jtr@ctg.co.uk.

Jeff Robertson

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.**

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.

YOUTH SECTION

Spring Fling 2006

31st March -2nd April

A weekend of Scottish Dance for 16-35 year olds
in Newcastle.

- Organised by young people for young people
- Classes for beginners and for experienced dancers
- Optional classes
- Social dancing in the evenings

More details on the website: www.rscds.org or
Contact Andrew Kellett, tel: 020 8301 1403.
Young dancers in the London area may apply to
the Branch for a subsidy to help meet the cost of
the weekend.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

The Branch children's class is steadily growing in numbers. You can read more about it and other children's classes in the area on page 5. We are often contacted by people all over London wanting Scottish Country Dance classes for their children. We know a few but do please tell us about any children's class in your area, so we can put prospective pupils in touch. It is disappointing when we hear about children keen to learn Scottish Dancing but they cannot find a class reasonably near their home. Dates for the Branch class for the rest of the season are:-

Children's Classes

Saturdays 11th March, 1st April, 13th May,
10th June, 8th July 2006
10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

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

Teacher: **Angela Young**
Pianist: **Jean Harrison**

£2.00 per child (including drink).

Adults welcome to stay.

Children's Medal Tests

Saturday 4th March

Arrangements for these tests are now being finalised, but if teachers have candidates they might want to enter on a future occasion, do get in touch and ask for a syllabus.

CHILDREN'S DAY

Saturday 25th March

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

Class 11.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Admission £2.00

Lunch will be available at £1.00

Children's Dance 2.00 - 4.30 p.m.

David Hall and his Band

Nice & Easy.....Life Begins at 40
Leap Year..... Graded Book
A Reel for Jeannie.....Book 40
Prince of Orange.....Book 6
The White Cockade.....Book 5
The Flying Scotsman.....Let's all Dance
Highland Fair.....Graded Book
Round Reel of 8.....Book 27

Cumberland Reel.....Book 1
The Honeymoon.....Graded Book
The Linton Ploughman.....Book 5
The Old Man of Storr.....Children's Book
Highland Fair.....Graded Book
The Dhoo.....Children's Book
The Dashing White Sergeant.....Book 3

Admission £2.50. Special "Day
Ticket" (class, lunch and dance) £5.00.

Everyone is welcome for all or part of the
day. Dances in the afternoon will be talked
through. For more details please contact
Andrew Kellett, tel: 020 8301 1403.

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

Spring term ends in the week beginning 20th March. Summer term starts 26th April. Last class 24th May—5 weeks.
All enquiries about classes to Lena Robinson 020 7584 2476.

HIGHLAND CLASSES

Thursdays 16th March and 27th April, 2006.
7.00 - 9.00 p.m.

Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London WC2.

Teacher: **Malcolm Ferris-Lay**

Musician: **Sandra Smith**

Further details from Malcolm, tel: 01279 425081
or email: Malcolm@williamsonfineteas.com.

WHICH CLASS?

For those wondering which dance to attend, the following guide may help:

Elementary

Suitable for those with little or no experience of Scottish Country Dancing, as basic steps and formations plus simple dances will be taught.

Popular

For those with a confident knowledge of steps and formations such as Allemande, Poussette, Set and Turn Corners, Reels of Three, Rights and Lefts and Double Triangles. Other formations will be introduced and a wide selection of dances taught.

Technique

A reasonable standard of performance and a good knowledge of all formations will be expected. This class will be devoted to improving performance and understanding of all dances.

General

For dancers of all ages and abilities.

Lena Robinson

SUNDAY TECHNIQUE CLASS

For those who cannot manage to attend a weekly class and those who wish to improve their dancing.

Sunday March 12th, 2006
11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Teacher: **Philippe Rousseau**

Musician: **Ian Cutts**

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 afterwards. Make a day of it!
Further details, tel: 020 7584 2476.

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 and will continue the theme of Jenny Greene's ladies' step dances. Joan will welcome anyone who wants to come and try step dancing. Further details from Joan Desborough, telephone: 01442 826629.

SOUTH EAST REGION TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (SERTA)

Interested teachers from the Southeast Branches have met to look at ways of improving communication between teachers and to provide support and continuing development.

The discussions were wide ranging and it was thought worthwhile seeking the views of all teachers of SCD classes in the region as well as RSCDS certificated ones. To this end we would set up a database using lists from HQ as well as the classes list published annually, and send a questionnaire to identify any needs and requirements. If by any chance we miss you, and you would be interested in letting us have your views, then please get in touch with Simon Wales. It was decided that the association, rather than being constituted as a formal body, would remain a loose gathering under the auspices of the Southeast Branches committee with one link person reporting back on progress at their next meeting on 6 February.

In order to promote continuing professional development amongst all teachers, we decided to run Teachers' Workshops around the region, with the first of these being held in Finchampstead at the end of September 2006. This day would include sessions on warm-ups and physiology, teaching with the music (both live and recorded) and a discussion on the many legal and insurance issues involved in teaching.

We also agreed that it would be a good idea to have a panel of teachers who could act as a point of reference on any difficult teaching questions and to communicate changes to instructions of dances.

Further developments could include sessions at the various Branch day schools across the region as well as *ad hoc* meetings when new issues arise.

Teachers are a valuable resource for the Society and SCD clubs, but they are members of these organisations like anyone else! So, if anyone has any comments, please feel free to let Simon Wales have

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

When the Board met on Saturday 26th November at Coates Crescent the new members were made welcome: David Normand-Harris, Lawrence Boyd, Roy Bain, Allana Creighton, Jeff Robertson and Roz Scott-Huxley – and Christina France was welcomed back. It was agreed to leave the vacancy on the Board unfilled.

Following the discussion at the AGM Branch Forum, each Board member has been allocated a range of Branches as a designated point of contact so that all branches, especially overseas, have a direct link to the management process. With regard to maximising joint working and encouraging interest in SCD by young people the Board has established a working group to consider partnership working; the Scottish branches conference in February would also contribute and act as a template for other such events and the website is to be developed to include a notice board for branches. The Board was delighted to announce that £2,942 had been raised so far for Children in Need by UK Branches through "A Jig for Pudsey".

The Floor is Yours – For the Annual Conference it has been agreed to have no recapping at the Ball for which an appropriate programme will be provided, but to recap at the Saturday dance. Cribs would continue to be provided for both. Stewart Adam is investigating the possibility of a video link between a gathering at TAC and one at Summer School. The Board has agreed to ask members as well as branches for suggested topics for The Floor is Yours through a request in the Magazine.

Future Annual Conference Weekends – The Bell's Sports Centre, Perth will be booked for 2007 and potential venues in the Ayr area are to be investigated.

Management Board Working Groups – Membership of working groups has been reviewed to include new Board members as appropriate. Plans for the Scottish Branches conference on 11th February 2006 are progressing well and the members' database is being redesigned and each branch will be sent a list of their members for checking. A programme is being set up to identify achievable targets and key points for each working group linked to the Strategic Plan.

A revised Constitution is being prepared with a view to the motion and documentation being available for the AGM Agenda in June 2006. A further working group will be preparing the explanatory documentation. As changes to the constitution require two-thirds of the delegates present at the AGM, postal votes cannot be used.

Membership Services Committee – Over the next 4 years music for 12 of the Society books will be re-recorded – two being ready for Summer School and one for the AGM each year, as follows:
2006 – Books 14, 27, 35; 2007 – Books 7, 13, 34; 2008 – Books 8, 11, 20; 2009 – Books 9, 17, 30

The formation index and Pocket Edition books 42 - 45 will be available for Winter School. Following the Sunday musicians' discussion session at the Conference Weekend, the Board will be considering proposals regarding payment for playing and teaching at Summer School.

General Purposes & Finance Committee – A more cost effective means of conference calling and the distribution of the Annual Report and Summary Accounts are both under review. It has been agreed to investigate the creation of a Directory of Secretaries on the website which can be readily updated and downloaded.

Affiliated Groups – From 2006, affiliated groups would be provided with a link from the Society website.

Jeff Robertson

LOCAL HEROES

(Well, heroines, actually)

Most of us can point back to an inspirational teacher who, in our early dancing days, fired in us a passion for Scottish Country Dancing. For many it will have been a schoolteacher or children's class teacher who first made us aware of the enjoyment that Scottish Dancing holds. Today in the Southeast we are fortunate to have some very strong children's groups that continue to enthuse young people with the joys of Scottish Country Dancing. The teachers of these groups are true heroes of the Society. They are the people who are passing on the flame of Scottish Dance to future generations and giving the much maligned "youth of today" a healthy hobby, social awareness and self esteem. Many children's class teachers are unpaid and in some cases have been giving several hours a week over many years to promoting Scottish Dancing among young people. I chatted with some of our local heroes to find out why they became involved and what drives them on.

The doyenne of children's teachers in the Southeast is perhaps **Glenday Thomas**, who has been running classes in Harpenden since 1959. Although numbers have gone up and down since then, she generally has 130 - 150 children and teenagers a week in a range of Country and Highland classes. She doesn't put much effort into publicity. New pupils turn up largely through word of mouth and are often the children of former pupils. Glenday's motivations are simple. She is passionate about dancing and she loves children. Her advice to any prospective children's teacher is not to be too strict. Some teams really shine and with them you can strive for perfection. Others just enjoy the freedom of wanting to dance. If you try to make them perfect you will lose them.

At the other end of the spectrum is **Angela Young**, who started the London Branch children's class just over a year ago. She was inspired to teach through helping out at her mum's classes in Aberdeen. When Angela came to London she thought it was important for the Branch to have a class of its own. Her pupils all started together as complete beginners and are very young. Although they meet only once a month Angela is delighted with the progress they are making. She loves working with children, and gets as much satisfaction from seeing them interact socially as from helping them master a new dance.

Milton Keynes Branch also started a children's class quite recently. A number of members with children and grandchildren asked if there was someone prepared to teach a children's class. **Rita Scott** put herself forward. She found the "Dance Scottish" pack published by the RSCDS a great help in getting started. She has plenty of helpers, and mums and dads are happy to join in and make up sets when necessary. She thinks it is important for the children to have something to work towards and look forward to, such as the RSCDS medal tests or the Jig for Pudsey Bear sponsored dance. For Rita the reward of teaching children is that they are so responsive. At the end of a class they will tell you just how much they

enjoyed it and you can see them improve week by week.

Wendy Kellett has been teaching Scottish Country Dancing at a primary school in Bexleyheath for about twenty-five years. She organises lunchtime and after school clubs, one of which is former pupils of the school. She regularly brings her pupils (plus mums, dads, brothers and sisters) to the Branch children's dances, and she enters candidates for the RSCDS tests. Her dancers have occasionally given small displays on behalf of the Branch, for example at the annual open air dancing in Eltham a few years ago. The Scottish Dancing clubs are open to everyone at the school and attract boys and girls and a wide range of abilities. Wendy commented that pupils who had no hope of making the football or netball team, or who were not academically gifted, often thrived in the Scottish Dance class. Here was something that they and their parents could take pride in.



The Upland Dancers, Bexleyheath

Wendy Kellett

Over in Southwest London, **Alison Newbery** runs a children's class in Clapham. She enjoyed Scottish Dancing as a child, but when she wanted to take her own children to a class she found that the nearest one was inconvenient so she opened her own class, initially for her daughters and their friends. Numbers have varied over time. She now has about a dozen 5 - 9 year olds. The older ones tend to leave when they move on to secondary school. Alison finds real pleasure in passing on the fun of Scottish Dancing to young people. "It is wonderfully inclusive", she said.

Marilyn Watson has been teaching children's classes in Bournemouth for over twenty years. She began when a group of adult dancers asked her to run a class for their children, and she now has a series of classes for dancers from five years to their mid twenties. The classes overlap so the older dancers can help with the younger ones. Marilyn is thrilled that four of her pupils have gone on to become fully qualified RSCDS teachers. Marilyn promotes her classes in local schools and is occasionally invited to take a class in school. She hopes to start a Scottish Dance class as an after school club. Marilyn thinks it is important to move with the times. Over the years the dress code at her classes has relaxed. She organises activities for her dancers to keep them together as a group: beach parties, BBQs and little displays at, for example, old people's homes. It doesn't matter if some of the dancers

aren't particularly good. The old folks enjoy it and it gives the children something to strive for. Marilyn expects her dancers to work hard. They do not automatically move up from one class to the next, so when they do it is a real reward.

Under the auspices of the Medway and District Caledonian Association, **Margaret-Anne Robertson** has been running a young people's class for twelve years. When she started she had no previous teaching experience. She now has a class of fourteen teenagers and a colleague takes about twenty younger dancers. She enjoys watching her pupils learn and progress. She enters her dancers for the RSCDS tests, initially through London Branch but she now organises her own examination day. She receives 100% support from the Medway Association, who make children very welcome at their dances. Recently Margaret-Anne's group has done local demonstrations and put on their own dance show.

I was also interested in whether these teachers thought there was more that could be done to encourage young Scottish Dancers. For **Alison Newbery** the key is to get dancing into schools. In school everyone joins in and has fun. Not everyone is able to join an after school club. **Wendy Kellett** agrees, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to find space in the school timetable for Scottish Dancing. In the newly built school there is physically less room, and the pressures of the national curriculum and SATS tests mean that lunchtimes and the hour after school are often taken up with other activities. **Glenday Thomas** wishes there were more suitable dances for her older

pupils to attend. The average age at local dances seems to be about sixty, which is hardly enticing to teenagers. **Angela Young** appreciates that it is difficult for young children to join in at adult dances, but she would like to see more family dances. This would help children to understand how they fit into the wider Scottish Dance community.

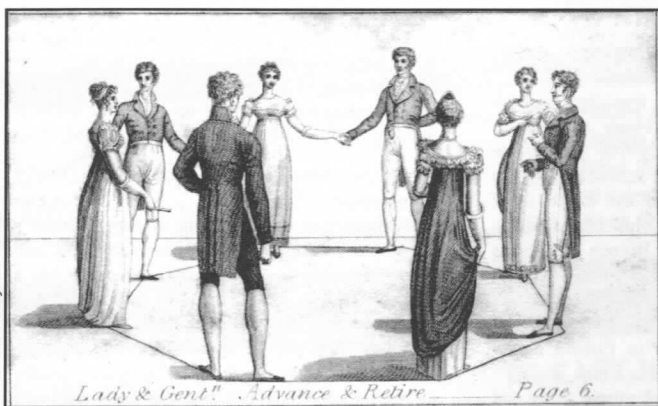
Overwhelmingly, though, the views expressed by all these teachers were very positive. They all derive an immense amount of personal satisfaction from teaching Scottish Country Dancing to young people. For them, supporting the objectives of the RSCDS or preserving the traditions of Scottish Dance seem incidental. Their pleasure is instant: the joy on the faces of their class and watching young personalities develop through social dance. They are not alone. There are other equally successful children's groups around the Southeast, but it is surprising there are not more.

If you or your club is thinking about starting a children's class and would like some advice you can contact Sue Porter, the RSCDS Youth Director at Headquarters (address on page 2) or please get in touch with me, the London Branch Youth Co-ordinator, tel: 020 8301 1403. I can also provide details of the classes mentioned here.

Andrew Kellett

THOMAS WILSON: A DANCING MASTER POISED BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

Picture courtesy of EFDSS



What an active, industrious and opinionated man Thomas Wilson was!

In the period in which he was active (1800 - 1839) he was a dynamic presence in almost every aspect of the London dancing scene. He wrote a stream of books, such as analyses of dancing, and companions to the ballroom, which were full of diagrams and instructions plus advice on correct ballroom manners and etiquette. He ran private dancing schools where he offered a huge range of tuition. We know also that he arranged balls and assemblies for pupils and the general public and that he was ballet master at prestigious London theatres, where some of the top ballet dancers of the time performed.

Our knowledge of Wilson comes solely from his publications but there is plenty of material there. From the pages rise images of a man full of powerful contrasts and bubbling over with feelings. At one moment we hear the purist and lover of beauty, as he talks of the charm of serpentine lines and "the mazy circlets of the dance" and the next he is rounding on uncouth male dancers who grab the lady's hand and take her on an unseemly gallop, or he is thundering against the fake dancing masters who are invading his noble profession. In all of this we sense a huge ambivalence about the dancing scene of his time and we can better understand this if we locate him in the story of European social dance and the consequent changing fortunes of dancing masters.

The dancing master in Europe had, since Renaissance times, been an important and respected figure, first at court and then increasingly in general social life. They were multi-skilled, often combining the roles of choreographer, musician and teacher but eventually also evolving into arbiters of gentility and elegant behaviour. In the 17th and 18th century European courts they reigned supreme, teaching royalty and the aristocracy and choreographing ballets for court masques. Although the French tended to favour balletic footwork compared to the English concentration on general graciousness, they had much in common, believing implicitly in the necessity for high standards and in the idea that exquisite movement was a sine qua non, not just of dancing but of all polite behaviour.

During most of this period two main traditions of dancing co-existed. The favoured dances of the French court were those termed "noble": performance dances where a couple traced elegant patterns, using a repertoire of balletic steps. The pinnacle of these baroque "dances a deux" was the minuet, which retained its fascination from around 1680 till the 1820s.

The English court also embraced French fashions, but these coexisted alongside the utterly different English country dancing which was first

recorded in 1651 and which, in the period 1700-1830, blossomed into the "darling diversion" beloved in England and on the continent. Another arrival, from about 1760 onwards, were the increasingly popular "Scotch reels" with their captivating tunes and displays of capering footwork, which formed part of the flowering of Scottish culture in that period.

During the 18th century organised dancing spread

beyond the court and into the assembly rooms of Bath, Edinburgh, Glasgow and beyond. Dancing masters ruled the roost, organizing and controlling their balls with great formality and insisting on elegance and delightful manners. A typical assembly dance at the turn of the 19th century would start with an elegant minuet or two, followed by the hugely popular country dances in longways sets "for as many as will". These would continue for the entire evening, interspersed with a few "Scotch reels." Thomas Wilson clearly loved his profession, declaring: "In short, Dancing is the most enchanting of all human amusements". Yet life was about to become problematic. The old order was slowly crumbling and, along with it, the position of the dancing masters. The French court and its noble dancing evaporated with the Revolution of 1789, the rising wealth and expectations of the new middle classes were thundering on the assembly rooms' doors and, consequently, the upper classes were tending to retreat to exclusive private drawing rooms. By the 1790s the gracious minuet, mainstay of the now dismembered French court, was slowly dying and English country dancing, for so long the great favourite, was losing popularity due to the repetitive nature of so many of the dances: between 1730 and 1830 27,000 dances were published. Moreover, the assemblies, now flooded by the clumsy middle classes, began to lose their refinement. In one of his publications Thomas Wilson complains of "untutored clowns" and laments that country dancing will be "perverted into a chaos of riot and confusion".

At the same time, excitement and novelty were on their way and these were the complex French quadrille arriving from the 1780s onwards, and the "turning" couple-dances derived from European peasant culture, which would develop into the polka, the mazurka and the polonaise but, above all, the waltz.

The French had developed the quadrille from English country dancing, moving from the classic longways to the square set, which allowed for the display of fine solo dancing. "Petits battements, entrechats, pas de zephyre, glissade"; these were just some of the balletic steps that were displayed as the dancers completed a complex series of dances. This French favourite was then enthusiastically taken up in England, becoming the Ceremonial Court Dance.

The waltz, polished by the Viennese court, burst upon the dancing scene around 1800. The whirling closeness of this couple-dance was shocking yet intoxicating and, despite fervid opposition, it finally gained acceptance when the English Prince Regent included it in his dance of 1816. It immediately became the all the rage.

So Thomas Wilson was operating in a bewildering time. New and old dance forms were

jostling in and out of favour, his clientele had dipped from exclusively aristocratic to decidedly middle class, his dreams of dancing excellence were severely challenged and his profession had been invaded by a flood of deposed aristocrats setting themselves up as dancing masters! In fact, he seems to have grasped the nettle and coped amazingly well with those changing times, showing energy and trying to cover the whole spectrum of dance. Firstly, he ensured that he offered a full range of teaching. Thus, in 1808 he can offer "Minuets, Cotillons, Hornpipes of every description, the most fashionable English, Irish and Scotch steps and every other kind of dancing..." This had been impressive enough but by 1816 his range had ballooned to "Allemandes, Cotillons, Irish, Fandangos, Boleros, Gavottes, Hornpipes, marches, minuets, quadrilles, reels, Scotch tunes, waltzes."!

He also responded to the changing social order, deciding to cater for the growing middle class by promoting pocket size dancing books, which promoted the idea of dancing as a "science" which could be acquired "without a dancing master". These books show more than 300 basic figure descriptions with diagrams and tables showing how to compose dances. Part of their importance lies in their being among the first English books to explain dances via diagrams. These ushered in the period of self-help dancing publications which would mushroom through the 19th century. Similarly influential was his "Companion to the Ballroom" which responded to the middle classes' desire for genteel manners and social acceptability. His reaction towards the "outrageous" waltz shows him open to the new dance, claiming that it could be both chaste and elegant. In 1816 he published his detailed "German and French Waltzing" in which he expatiates on "the beautiful, truly graceful union of attitudes and movements constituting genuine waltzing". Interestingly, his optimistic diagrams show waltzers using a charming allemande-style interlacing of the arms.

However, it was the new French quadrille which was probably closest to his heart, because of its grace, control and balletic steps. His "Quadrille and Cotillon Panorama", published circa 1818, analyses all aspects of this demanding dance and is graced with coloured pull-out diagrams and engravings of elegant couples, all immaculately positioned and ready to perform exquisitely. With all of his publishing Wilson seems to have been quite astute and we see his books being issued in London, Paris, Dublin, Edinburgh and even New York.

All in all, it was a valiant attempt, but we cannot gauge what success he had. Although some books were reissued in 1839 he seems to disappear from sight around 1825, ironically just at the time when the minuet had finally died, quadrilles were beginning to be just walked through, and country dancing in England was almost at an end. He would have fared so much better in Scotland where the dedicated "dancie" would flourish for over a century. But in England the fine attitudes and graciousness he loved to advocate now existed only on the stage and ballrooms were full of the exuberant intimacies of waltzes and all the other couple dances.

Our enduring image of him is of an acerbic yet idealistic supremo, harking back to more elegant times as he attempted to tame those rumbustious crowds thronging his assembly balls.

Rosalind Zuridis

With thanks to the Library staff at Cecil Sharp House.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nacton Hall

Woodbridge, Suffolk

Dear Wilson,

I have been interested to see the definitive version of this dance in the London Branch book just published. Judy Dix devised it during the time she took the class at Nacton Hall, and we have always included it if we have a dance, so it is known, slightly, to dancers in the Suffolk/Norfolk/Essex area.

If Judy were to return to Nacton Village Hall now she would be surprised at its transformation. At the third attempt the village won a Heritage Lottery Grant, so there is now a splendid new floor instead of the splintery surface with a large slab of concrete where the stove used to stand. You no longer have to use the play school loo with its little heater to stop the pipes freezing, as there are new loos and cloakrooms built on at the front. The new kitchen has a bar and sitting out area alongside and there is state of the art music equipment with loudspeakers built into the ceiling. The surroundings have improved: I will not comment on the dancing.

There may still be someone who remembers me as Gill Reid, married to Sandy, dancer and piper in the London Branch many years ago. I took over the Nacton class when Judy left and am told that this will be my twentieth year as teacher..

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Barella

Summer School Memories

Perth

Dear Wilson,

The Article by Alastair MacFadyen in the September issue evoked a lot of memories for me. I first attended Summer School in 1957 and continued an annual pilgrimage to St. Andrews until 2002 with the exception of 1964 when an International Festival in Nice clashed with Summer School and my meagre holidays (and finances) did not stretch to both.

There were many changes over these 45 years none more so than the size of the School. It is now hard to believe that the "Old" dining room where latterly we danced in the evenings once catered for the University Hall and Wardlaw residents for meals. Miss Milligan's table was situated just inside the door and there's no way anyone wanted to be late!

My first two years saw me allocated to the bedroom behind what we then called the ballroom (latterly known as the common room) and it was like trying to sleep on the A9 highway. Folks coming back from parties beat a path in through that room's window. Before Lumsden was built the path between Wardlaw and the Hall was dark and eerie because of the trees and we used to run all the way.

As Alastair said, everyone tramped to the West Sands in the afternoons and Miss Milligan saw to it that none were left out of these beach parties and other social activities, by having married couples in charge of the other residences.

I remember Andrew and Vera Grant were in charge at Hepburn Hall where I was housed for three years, and the Johnstons at Wardlaw. Kinnessburn in Kennedy Gardens was a much smaller residence.

Perth was not linked to St. Andrews by rail but I can remember one year I was needed for a show in Pitlochry Festival Theatre and in order to get there for rehearsals and the performance I

had to have special permission to skip breakfast so that I could get a train to Dundee where I was met and transported to Pitlochry.

My first teacher at Summer School was Miss Catherine Jarvis of Stirling, and then I graduated to Miss Milligan's class where I stayed until she died. Tibby Cramb of Aberdeen took the Ladies Step class but as there was not a beginners class for this it was quite a struggle for me to keep up as I had never even heard of half the terminology.

I can vouch for the rush to get back to the Hall by 10 p.m. after dashing down to Pete's or Joe's for fish and chips.

It was something of an honour to be initiated into the "Cockerel Club". I still have my badge. Are there any other cockerels out there?

Many thanks to Alastair for reminding me of the fun and friendship of St. Andrews Summer School.

Yours sincerely,

Beatrice A. Nairn,

Perth & Perthshire Branch.

Duchess of Atholl

Aberdeen

Dear Wilson

In the September edition of *The Reel* I was delighted to see John Laurie's mention of the wife of the 8th Duke of Atholl who, whilst still the Marchioness of Tullibardine, gave us that most lifting of tunes, *The Scottish Horse*.

She lived rather longer than John suggests and in fact she died in 1960. The life she and her husband shared was a fascinating one and included in 1921 their hosting the Crown Prince of Japan (the young Emperor Hirohito) at Blair Castle. The Crown Prince caught his first salmon on the River Tilt; each evening the Marchioness produced classical music for him on her piano.

No doubt influenced by what she had seen in the Boer War and by her husband's subsequent experiences when he served in Gallipoli, she came to loathe oppression. In the thirties she was renowned for her fearless criticism of Fascism. Her very public opposition to Chamberlain's policy of appeasement cost her her political career at Westminster where, as Scotland's first woman MP, she had from 1923 represented Kinross and West Perthshire (a constituency represented at one time by her husband) and she reached ministerial office.

Her views about Fascism unfairly earned her the title of the Red Duchess but she proved resilient and was delighted to hear in 1940 that her old political ally and friend Churchill had succeeded Chamberlain. Throughout the 1939 War she worked tirelessly for the Red Cross and turned over much of Blair Castle and its lodges to evacuees from Glasgow. She wrote widely about the horrors of events such as the Warsaw Uprising and the fall of Eastern Europe to Communism. Earlier this year she featured in a BBC Radio Scotland programme which drew attention to the debt many in Europe owe her. She is also the subject of a fascinating book written by S J Hetherington and entitled "Against the Tide" (published by Aberdeen University Press ISBN 0 08 036592 2).

As I dance to her tune I think of her as the very epitome of Scottish Country Dancing. It belongs to all the people as did Katharine Atholl.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Drummond,

Aberdeen Branch

Promoting Scottish Country Dancing More Widely

London SE21.

Dear Wilson,

I have set up a Scottish Country dance group in London for gay people and their friends. The new group has two main aims. First, it introduces Scottish country dancing to gay people who would not otherwise try it. Secondly, it enables gay people to meet others in a relaxed, friendly, fun environment. About 25 go to weekly beginners' classes on Thursday evenings in Islington. At our Christmas Ball on 10th December at St. Columba's with about 60 dancers we raised over £400 for charity. Everyone is welcome at these events - for details of dances and classes contact Daniel Capron on 020 8670 6919 or email danlcapron@aol.com.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Capron

Memories

Somerset

Dear Wilson,

Reading the article by Alastair MacFadyen in edition No. 253 of *The Reel* prompted me to put down some of my own memories of Summer School and one thing leads to another...

I too travelled by train the first time I visited St. Andrews, but I was lucky to meet a group of three fellow dancers on the train from Edinburgh. This was in the late fifties and I danced in Nottingham at that time. I also was welcomed by a group of members of London Branch of whom Bill Ireland was a prominent member. Does anyone remember the Cockerel club? This was an 'exclusive secret society' where members were given a cockerel lapel pin to wear. Initiation into the club took place fairly late at night in St Regulus in the dark. It was all rather silly but as Alastair said, it was all innocent fun! Those of us resident in University Hall had to climb through the window of a ground floor bedroom inhabited as I remember by five girls from Aberdeen, two of whom are still very much on the dance scene! I well remember the afternoons on the beach with Bobby Watson playing the bagpipes whilst up to his knees in the sea.

On one occasion at a later date Harold (my husband) and I went to the recording studio in Glasgow for a recording of the Argyle Broadwords for 'The Kilt is my Delight'. The wives were allowed to spectate from the balcony whilst our husbands from Bobby's morning class at Summer School danced repeatedly until the producer was satisfied. Miss Milligan's international team of dancers also performed for the programme. They too danced 'Miss Bennet's Jig' until we were tired of hearing the tune. The final transmission of course was very short and sweet and all in black and white.

I have been returning to Summer School almost every year since my first visit in 1956. Last year I decided to take a break, having sampled the more luxurious accommodation at Winter School! But I found I missed my annual visit so in 2005 I made a return visit. I arrived, convincing myself it was to be for the last time, but from the moment of arrival I had such a good time meeting friends old and new that I now know I just have to keep returning. To those dancers who have never been I heartily recommend a visit, the dancing and music are good too!!

Yours sincerely,

Sheila Barnes

OUR QUADRILLES

The most popular dance of the age

The quadrille is a much maligned dance. It is no exaggeration to say that it was the most popular social dance in Scotland for the greater part of the nineteenth century – more popular than our indigenous reels. But by the time the Scottish Country Dance Society was founded in 1923, Miss Milligan and Mrs Stewart did not see the quadrille as a candidate for inclusion in the Society's books.

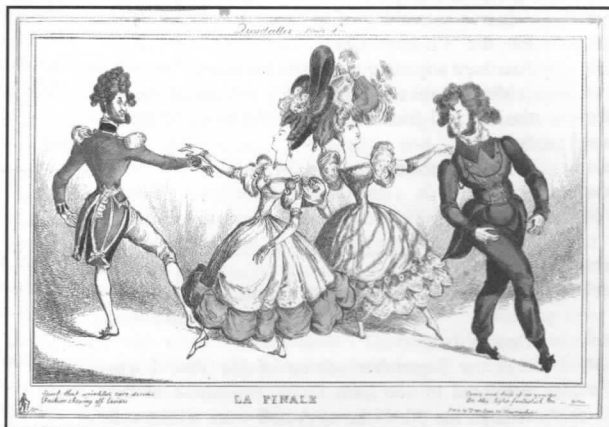
Quadrille origins

The quadrille developed in France during the Napoleonic years and arrived in Scotland not long after the peace of Waterloo in 1815. The quadrille tradition included new dances, new figures and new French steps. We know from dance manuals published in Scotland that Scottish dance teachers brought this new tradition home direct from Paris. A dance for four couples, based on the older cotillion, a quadrille only takes a couple of minutes to dance. Usually grouped into sets of 5 or 6, a whole set of quadrilles might take 12 minutes. With the attendant memory load, it is not surprising that the same set of quadrilles might be danced several times in one evening, but each time to different music – perhaps once to Scottish reels, once to Irish jigs, and once to the tunes from a popular operetta of the day. Later in the century the operas of Gilbert and Sullivan provided the music for very popular sets. Rossini, Mozart, and Bizet's operas were all plundered at one time or another for quadrille dancing. Later in the nineteenth century longer single figure quadrilles became popular, the most obvious example being the *Eightsome Reel*. The *Eightsome* has a classic quadrille structure: there is a chorus figure which appears at the beginning and the end; the middle part consists of 8 repeated figures each preceded by a chorus figure, viz, the seven hands round and back; each lady dances in turn, then the men; there is ample opportunity for dancers to display their solo dancing capabilities during the seven hands round and back. This last was a common feature of quadrilles – particularly for the men to show off their dancing prowess to the ladies.

Anderson's Ball-room Guide

By the end of the nineteenth century, quadrilles were not so much danced as walked with a gentle liting step. At least this was true in polite society, but the quadrille had been taken up enthusiastically by all classes of society. We get a very clear insight into this from David Anderson's *New Enlarged and Complete Ball-room Guide*, published in Dundee in the 1890's. The edition of 1897 in the National Library of Scotland states on the cover that it is the 15th thousandth! It is like an early *Manual*, containing advice on steps, formations, and it includes instructions for all the popular couple, circle, country and quadrille dances of the day. Anderson gives very clear instructions on how to improve your dancing. You should "avoid attending those common dancing assemblies called Dancing Clubs. These are generally distinguished by the ladies being admitted free, and the gentlemen having to pay a small sum each week at the door. In the majority of these the dancing is performed in a very vulgar and unbecoming manner." Of the quadrille, Anderson writes that it is "the most popular of our dances.... not only for its right of seniority, but because it is the leading feature in polished

society, and retains its pre-eminence over all circle and other dances." We know that quadrilles could be riotous affairs. He cautions gentlemen "not to swing their partners round like tops, as is the case in Third Class Dancing Assemblies". One of the main differences between Anderson's guide and our new *Manual* is that we do not have advertising in ours. In Anderson's, there are a couple of adverts from local Dundee dentists advertising complete sets of teeth for a guinea (£1.05p), or 2/6 (c.12p) per tooth – presumably when knocked out during a particularly violent set of the *Lancers Quadrille!*



RSCDS quadrilles

It is interesting that this very important part of our heritage was ignored by Miss Milligan and contemporary publication committees. Or was it? The RSCDS has never published any full sets of quadrilles, despite being committed to preserving the traditional dance heritage of Scotland. But we have published six historical quadrilles of the single figure variety. In 1925 there was the *Eightsome Reel*, followed 36 years later by the *Buchan Eightsome*. David Anderson claims that his 1897 version of the *Eightsome* is "the Society Dance of the Northern Meeting Assemblies". It is significantly different from the one we published in 1925. One difference is the ending – not the repeated chorus figure from the beginning, but the head couples dancing a Scotch Reel or Reel of Tulloch with the couples on their right! The other nineteenth century single figure quadrilles are the *Round Reel of Eight* (1975), *La Russe* (1977), *Clutha* (1983), and most interestingly, the *New Scotia Quadrille* (1986).

The New Scotia problem

The *New Scotia Quadrille*, as we have it, is a twice-through 48-bar reel with a wonderful tune. Its most interesting characteristic, however, is that it is almost never danced! The reason is simple. By the time the Society published the *NSQ* in 1986, the *Eightsome Reel* clockwise numbering system in square sets had been adopted. But David Anderson used the traditional French numbering system for his *NSQ*. In his *Ballroom Guide* he uses two systems, one for the *Eightsome Reel* and one for all other quadrilles. While English dance masters adopted the French system, Dr Alastair MacFadyen has pointed out that this was less established in Scotland with certain dance masters favouring an anti-clockwise sequential system. Traditionally in a French quadrille, couple number 1 are the couple with their backs to the band; couple number 2 are the couple opposite them (our third couple); couple number 3 are the couple to the right of the first couple (our fourth couple); and couple

number 4 are standing opposite couple number 3 (our second couple, i.e. the couple to the left of the first couple. This system set up an order of precedence. 1st lady often dances with her 'opposite person', the second man; then 2nd lady with her opposite, 1st man; then 3rd lady with her opposite, 4th man; and 4th lady with her opposite, 3rd man. The head couples often dance together, similarly the side couples. If the head couples are the 'working' couples, they often dance with the couples to their right. And this is why the *NSQ* is difficult for us. The dance of 1897 used traditional quadrille numbering, but we have published it with our *Eightsome Reel* numbering, clockwise round the set! Because the first quadrille to be published by the Society was the *Eightsome*, numbering round the set became the norm. Anderson, however, numbered his version of the *Eightsome* anti-clockwise round the set! Anderson's *NSQ* was danced four times through, making it a much more worthwhile four-minute dance than the unsatisfactory two-minute one we have at present! His dance was led by the head couples first time, the side couples second time, the head couples third time and the side couples fourth time. The patterns, which can be tricky, become clearer with repetition. I have no doubt that the *NSQ* would become a repertoire dance if we republished it with instructions which made the traditional quadrille precedence clearer, more in keeping with Anderson's version, thus:

- 1 - 8 The head couples dance four hands across and back to original places and face the couples on their right (who turn to face them).
- 9 - 16 1st couple and the couple on their right advance and retire, then dance rights and lefts half-way to change places. At the same time, 3rd couple and the couple on their right dance similarly.
- 17 - 32 The original head couples (now on the sides) dance half a ladies' chain. The side couples repeat. The head couples repeat. The side couples repeat and finish facing the head couples (who turn to face them).
- 33 - 40 Repeat bars 9 - 16 (ie dancing with the same couples) back to original places.
- 41 - 48 All four couples promenade anti-clockwise round to original places.

The dance is then repeated with the side couples leading, then the head couples, then the side couples. Note that the leading couples always dance bars 9 - 16 with the couples on their right and bars 33 - 40 with the same couples.

Note how much shorter the above instructions are compared with those in Book 34 and there is no need for diagrams. The *Round Reel of Eight* is not affected by the RSCDS numbering system as no single couple works alone. Head couples dance together as do the side couples. The main change to *Clutha* if we adopted quadrille numbering is that the head couples would lead twice, then the side couples. One could argue that our modern interpretation is more interesting, but that misses another very social feature of quadrilles, viz, that the head couples would often be more experienced than the side couples. The theory was that if less experienced dancers were in side position, they would be able to watch the dance twice led by the head couples, giving them a chance to learn it.

(continued on next page)

NEW RECORDINGS

RSCDS Book 15 – Neil Barron and his Band (RSCDS CD 053)

Scottish Dances Vol 12 (Highlander Music) – Marian Anderson's Band (HRMCD 512)

The Duke of Atholl's Reel, the Black Dance, The Dance Illustrator, Round Reel of Eight, The New Ashludie Rant, The Queen's Bridge, Baldovan Square, The Rakish Highlandman, Sunlit Square, Pulling Bracken, Lady in Red, Longwise Eightsome Reel, Hogmanay Jig, Staffin Harvest, Father Connelly's Jig, The Mason's Apron.

Neil Barron's latest CD for the Society is, as always, impeccably played by his six-piece band. Pianist is Pam Wilkie who has been at the forefront of the Scottish dance band scene since the 1950s when she played with Ian Powrie. Neil has chosen some fine alternative tunes including three Scott Skinner's for the Camp of Pleasure, and six modern jigs for Waverley.

In the last Reel I mentioned Marian's bouncy style. They bounce along nicely again here. Indeed we have another feast of impeccable playing. I am glad to hear the New Ashludie Rant and Queen's Bridge with good originals by Angus Fitchet and Derek Auld. These dances do not seem to appear on current programmes (at least to my knowledge) so hopefully the correct music

will encourage people to revive them.

Highlander Music began recording CDs in 1996 and during the years since then have released 16 CDs of full length country dances. There are usually about 14 to 16 dances on each one. They have also issued 6 CDs for ceilidh/old time dances.

Many of the dances have not been recorded elsewhere. We are surely grateful to William and Mairi Crawford for encouraging the bands and providing us with so much fine music. Long may they continue. In fact a new recording by Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band will be available very soon.

John Laurie



MUSICIANS DAY

Workshop led by

David Cunningham Jnr
Saturday 13th May, 2006
10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Lady Margaret School, Parsons Green, SW6.

Followed by an Evening Dance
7.00 - 10.30 p.m. at

St Columba's Church, Pont St. SW1.

This workshop is suitable for musicians of all ages, abilities and instruments and will concentrate during the day sessions on sets of Scottish dance music which will be used for playing for the evening dance.

Come and join usall are welcome.

For application form, please contact Rachel Wilton on 020 8858 7729 or email: wiltonrachel@hotmail.com. More details and an application form are also available on our website at www.rscdslondon.org.uk.



(Continued from page 8)

Finally

Finally, I would like to urge everyone to dance our quadrilles more. We have two wonderful *Eightsomes*. *La Russe*, *Clutha*, the *Round Reel of Eight* and the *New Scotia* all have wonderful tunes and deserve to be on programmes more often. The more we see them as a group, the more the quadrille similarities will become apparent. I just wish we had adopted the French numbering system! And maybe one day we might publish a full set of quadrilles using it!

Jimmie Hill, Edinburgh

With grateful thanks to Dr Alastair MacFadyen for reading a draft of this article and making several useful improvements.

BOOK OF LONDON BRANCH DANCES

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the London Branch, a collection of dances which had previously appeared separately in *The Reel* has been published. The book costing £4.50 to members (and £5.00 to non members) is now on sale. Get your copy from the Branch Bookstall, Tel 01420 84599.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE REEL

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

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HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR REEL?

If you ever fail to receive your issue of *The Reel*, please advise our Membership Secretary, Owen Meyer, 50 Bunby Road, Stoke Poges, Bucks SL2 4BP, Tel: 01753 643461, so that the matter can be investigated and rectified. Thanks.

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MEMBERS ABROAD

COUNTRY DANCING HOLIDAYS IN FRANCE



Mike Whiston

Christine Moos and Ken Martlew at 2005 week

Three years in a row, the Grenoble SCD club has organized a week of dancing in the mountains of southeastern France attracting visitors from every continent.

In 2003, it was still an experiment, cheap and cheerful, in youth hostel style accommodation. In 2004, we tried something more comfortable in the Chartreuse mountains just north of Grenoble.

Teaching sessions and evening dances all went off very well. I just can't believe how lucky we were each year to have Malcolm Brown giving light-hearted classes, and Ken Martlew, accompanied by various talented violinists, providing joyful jigs, energizing reels, and tuneful strathspeys non-stop throughout the week – some 500 different tunes! The outings were fairly successful, though turning up at a castle where we had booked a visit and finding the place locked and deserted was a bit frustrating. Extra time wandering around the picturesque lakeside town of Annecy made up for that; it's the sort of place that everyone likes. The visit to Chambéry started badly, too – no sign of the miniature train we had booked to take us around the old town centre! It turned up about half an hour late, by which time, half the narrow streets were blocked by delivery vans, so I'm sure we did not see as much as we had hoped. The visitors still seemed to be in a good mood, and there was much laughing and joking the whole time, so the rest of the day – lunch at Aix and a boat trip across the lake was most enjoyable.

The week ended with an unforeseen wedding party. On our return from the boat ride, we found some strangers at reception, fuming and furious that they could not get into the dance hall to decorate it. We learned there had been a double booking, and they were expecting to have the exclusivity of the hotel on the Saturday night. Things were sorted out though and we were able to enjoy a last evening dancing together. It had been a week fraught with little problems, but all were enchanted with the mountain scenery and cool fresh air and delighted with the music and the company – some were even ready to book again for next year.

With a better hotel and knowing the pitfalls everything went smoothly in 2005 – dancing, outings, food and service were impeccable. Since everyone seemed to be satisfied I have booked the same place, l'Escandille, Autrans, at 1000m above Grenoble again next summer. This time we shall have Ian Barbour teaching, with Ken Martlew and Ian Cutts playing.

Experienced dancers will be welcome to join us 24th June – 1st July 2006.

Martin Sheffield,

80 av Constantine, 38100 Grenoble, France.

Email: mj.sheffield@wanadoo.fr

THE SEASONS ON THE AMERICAN EAST COAST

A Scottish dancer's diary – Chris Ronald

Autumn: It's September, and classes begin again. I remember the first time I heard the word 'classes' it nearly put me off Scottish Country Dancing for good. When my wife and I moved to New York about ten years ago, we hadn't heard of the RSCDS. We had been dancing in New Delhi, in a very small group with no trained teacher and no instruction as such. But we had enjoyed it, and wanted to continue. So after getting to New York we made enquiries and were told something like: "At the RSCDS New York Branch, we don't just dance, we have classes". Well, we weren't sure this would be our cup of tea. But we gave it a try anyway, and we found the kind of warm welcome that (as we now realise) one can find just about anywhere in the world where there is Scottish Country Dancing.

If I have to compare dancing in the new world as compared with the old world, I think perhaps people in the new world take classes more seriously. Even the affiliated and unaffiliated groups in the New York area have weekly 'classes'. There's no group that just does dancing. Whereas, when we visit the UK, it seems more common for groups to just dance. One result seems to be that dancers in the UK learn more dances, and tend to do more difficult dances. For example, I've never seen Nottingham Lace on a Ball programme anywhere I've danced in the US, but it seems to be a standard in the UK. Moreover, UK programmes have less pas de basque. Hooray!

Winter (almost): It's now November, there are still a few golden leaves on the trees, but mostly the season of colourful trees is over. Last week, we had our annual Ball. Our group named the Ball after the teacher who brought Scottish Country Dancing to the US – Jeannie Carmichael. For the last ten years, the Ball has been held at the Thayer Hotel. The hotel sits in a beautiful rural location, overlooking the Hudson River, on the extensive grounds of the US Military Academy at West Point.

West Point, apart from being scenic, is also a strategic location, and played quite an important role in the American Revolutionary wars – that is, in getting independence from Britain. The whole Academy, including the Thayer hotel, is historic by US standards. Inside the hotel is an elegant ballroom, just large enough to accommodate the 130-odd dancers, among whom there are always a few who've travelled several hundred miles for the occasion, sometimes even from the UK or Canada. For this event, we always try to get outstanding musicians: we've had Alasdair Fraser several times, and last year had Muriel Johnstone and Jim Lindsay from Scotland. Most dancers stay overnight in the hotel, and dance again from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. the following day. It makes for a wonderful weekend.

Spring: By early May the trees have begun to lose their bleak winter appearance, and start turning green. Now is the time to learn all the dances on the programme for the Pawling weekend. Usually held on the third weekend in May, this is the time we invite the best teachers we can find, for a weekend of top class instruction. The line-up is usually one teacher from the UK, one from Canada and one from the US. There's always terrific music too, in the form of Bobbie Brown and the Scottish Accent, together with our highly-regarded local pianist, Jim Stevenson-Matthews.

The 'Pawling weekend' is more than great instruction and great music though. Pawling alumni will tell you that the best parties are at Pawling too. This is no doubt thanks to a policy introduced many years ago to discourage private, clique parties, and promote instead one big one, on both Friday and Saturday nights. A more recent, but very successful innovation is the clothing bazaar. Originally started – and still serving – to bring in cash for the scholarship fund, this bazaar has become a hugely popular way to pick up men's and women's Scottish dancing attire at a fraction of its original cost. Pawling is a memorable experience for a Scottish country dancer, and does attract dancers from as far afield as the UK. So please join us!

Summer: If you've ever visited the US in summer, you know it gets hot, with many days in the 90s (or 30s Celsius). You might well wonder how we manage to keep dancing in that weather. But we do, and most of the time we just love it. The reason is partly that the weather rarely stays that hot for too long, and partly you make sure you're somewhere you can take a swim whenever you wish. And that brings me to Pinewoods.

When it comes to summer schools, the UK has St Andrews, and the US and Canada have Pinewoods Camp and the TAC (Teachers' Association of Canada) summer school. I'll begin with Pinewoods, which is located near Boston and is the nearest thing to paradise I know. If you're lucky enough to be accepted, you can spend eight blissful days dancing as much as your limbs can take (and probably more), swimming in the two ponds, enjoying the peace and quiet of the pine forest and the rustic cabins, and in general being disconnected from the outside world. Pinewoods is also special for its music: top-notch musicians play for all classes and of course in the evenings. Somehow, they still find the energy to spend half the night jamming. Musicians love Pinewoods so much they sometimes enrol as campers themselves.

We also enjoy the TAC summer school, usually held in the slightly cooler climes of southern Ontario. This is a one-week event, with excellent teachers for all levels of dancers. Every other year, the school has courses for prospective teachers. Perhaps because it's an organisation run by teachers, I've found it incredibly supportive of dancers who undergo the rigours of the RSCDS exams. It's also a great place to buy CDs and books, thanks to the volunteers who run TACSound and TACBooks (www.tac-rscds.org).

Conclusion

Having danced in the US, Canada, the UK, and a few other places besides, the wonderful thing about our dance style is really not the differences but what we have in common. I don't mean just the standard steps and stirring music, or the core repertoire of dances (though they all help), but perhaps most important of all, the warm welcome one gets everywhere. Long may it continue.

I'm a Londoner myself and most of my family are still in the London area. I started country dancing as a child, and I really loved it, but this was English style. I only got into Scottish in a serious way after getting to New York. For those of you know them, I see Katie Rule and Sheila Wilson at least once a week. And you might be interested to know that I also see Elizabeth MacLaren, at the dancing in Weymouth where my wife and I now stay when we are in the UK.

BRANCH BADGES

As part of the Branch 75th Anniversary celebrations it was decided to create a new Branch Badge.

This new 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

BRANDED GARMENTS UPDATE

The range of garments sporting the Branch anniversary logo is still available.

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These quality garments are modestly priced as follows, postage and packing being charged at cost as appropriate:-

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Polo Shirts	£14	Sweatshirts	£15

The present range is offered in White, Black, Green and Navy and is available in the following sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL (smaller sizes may be available on request).

There are two logo styles, a discreet embroidered logo on the left breast for Sweatshirts and Polo Shirts and a larger version incorporating our website address, for printing on the backs of Tee Shirts and Ladies Tees.

On light garments the logo will be as above, with a gold crown and silver lettering on the darker garments.

Please continue to support your Branch.

Jeff Robertson

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

Helen M. Townley wrote in Reel 57:

I came across the following in the works of the 18th century essayist Addison, and it has amused me so much that I should like to pass it on to other country dancers, as an awful warning:

"... As for country dancing, it must indeed be confessed that the great familiarities between the sexes on this occasion may sometimes produce very dangerous consequences, I have often thought that few ladies' hearts are so obdurate as not to be melted by the charms of music, the force of motion and an handsome young fellow who is continually playing before their eyes and convincing them that he has the perfect use of all his limbs",

So ladies, take your eyes into custody next time you are dancing!

In 1985 John Mitchell in Reel 173 wrote:

"In 1816, Thomas Wilson published his 'Companion to the Ballroom'. An extremely interesting book, which not only contained the music for 300 different Country Dances, but also contained three different sets of instructions for each named tune. The three choices being labelled as suitable for beginners, intermediate or advanced dancers. Apparently in the early nineteenth century each set would decide which variation they would perform; so that when a tune was played different sets could be dancing different figures. As long as the whole set dance the same figures this did not matter."

There has been quite a lot of discussion in other publications about different dances being danced simultaneously at a dance and how some bands are put off by this apparent chaos. Might there be simpler versions of say Muirland Willie, the Irish Rover or The Diamond Jubilee to make our dancing more inclusive? It is an interesting concept.

James B Cosh (Compiler of Mairi's Wedding) wrote in Reel 59:

"There appears to be some difference of opinion concerning the shoulder in 'Mairi's Wedding'. I can only say that there can be only one shoulder and most definitely is the LEFT in any reel of four.

"I cannot agree that there is any more pleasure in passing right shoulder in the centre and I have had many letters supporting this view and deprecating any alteration from the original intention of the dance."

DANCE EVENT

HIGHLAND SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

The Highland Ball

Saturday 22nd April 2006

Starts 7.30 p.m. prompt

Sports Centre, Bught Park, Inverness.

Colin Dewar and his 5-piece

Scottish Country Dance Band

Programme: Gay Gordons, St Bernard's Waltz, Mrs MacLeod, Hooper's Jig, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, The Reel of the 51st Division, White Heather Jig, St Columba's Strathspey, The Piper and the Penguin, The Kelloholm Jig, Butterscotch and Honey, Robbie Over the Waves, The Inverness Highland Ball, The Bees of Maggicknockater, The Duchess Tree, The Sailor, Cadgers in the Canongate, Highland Ladies, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, A Trip to Bavaria, Cherrybank Gardens, The Montgomerie's Rant, Shiftin' Bobbins. *Extra:* Pelorus Jack

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DANCE EVENTS



ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Annual Ball
Saturday 25th March 2006
7.30 p.m. to midnight

The Guildhall, Abingdon, near Oxford
Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

Programme: The Barmkin, Quarries' Jig, Sands of Morar, Polharrow Burn, Castle Varrich, Drumelzier, The Westminster Reel, Joie de Vivre, The Dream Catcher, Friday's Child, The Recumbent Stone, Major Ian Stewart, The Australian Ladies, Foxhill Court, Jennifer's Jig, Festival Fling, Bill Little's Strathspey, The Flight of the Falcon, Swiss Lassie, Cherrybank Gardens, The Piper and the Penguin, The Reel of the Royal Scots.

Tickets: £15, includes supper seated in medieval Rousse Room. Vegetarian meal on request. Licensed Bar. Ample free parking nearby. Contact Anne Barnes, tel: 01235 204155 or ajbarnes@ntlworld.com and visit www.geocities.com/abscdc.

ASHDOWN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Annual Spring Ball
Saturday 1st April 2006
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Beacon Community College, North Beeches
Crowborough, East Sussex

Ian Muir & The Craigellachie Band

Tickets, in advance only, £11.00 (child / spectator £5) including Buffet Supper
Contact Michael Copeman tel 01892 655971.
Email michaelcopeman@aol.com.

**For your diary:
16th September 2006**

Charity Dance with Sandy Nixon & his Band



CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB SPRING BALL

Saturday 18th March 2006
7.30 - 11.45 p.m.
Yateley Manor School, Reading
Road, Yateley,
Camberley, GU46 7UQ.

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme: The Reel of the Royal Scots, Old Nick's Lumber Room, Cherrybank Gardens, Blooms of Bon Accord, Alan J. Smith, Silver Tassie, J. B. Milne, Quarries' Jig, Winding Road, The Sailor, MacLeod's Fancy, The Grand March and Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Cadgers in the Canongate, Neidpath Castle, None So Pretty, Ship in Full Sail, The Gentleman, General Stuart's Reel, White Heather Jig, MacDonald of the Isles, Major Ian Stewart, Mairi's Wedding. *Extras:* Cuckoo Clock, Duke of Perth.

Tickets (including supper) £14.50.
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Camberley Reel Club dances at 8.0 p.m. every Tuesday from September to May at St Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley, Surrey.

Ball dances will be practised during the preceding month. Visit us on the web at www.camberleyreelclub.org.uk.



CHELSEA REEL CLUB

70th Anniversary Ball
Friday 17th March 2006
7.00 for 7.15 - 11 p.m.

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

Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

Piper: Michael McGlashan; MC: Jim Cook
See issue 254 of The Reel for the Programme
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CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Spring Dance
1st April 2006
7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

Pates Grammar School, Assembly Hall,
Hesters Way, Cheltenham

Alan Ross and his Band (Scotland)

Programme: The Montgomeries' Rant, Macleod's Fancy, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Nottingham Lace, The Cooper's Wife, Cherrybank Gardens, Tullyvolan, Campbeltown Loch, Gold in Tassie, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, Memory Lane, The Hazel Tree, St Columba's Strathspey, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Quarries' Jig, Autumn in Appin, The Recumbent Stone, Cape Town Wedding, Broadford Bay, The Irish Rover.
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Contact: Barry Steele, tel: 01242 528220 for tickets or further information.
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GUILDFORD SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Spring Dance
Saturday 6th May 2006
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

(Bucks Fizz Reception from 7.15)
Normandy Village Hall, Surrey
(just off the Hog's Back)

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: (all dances will be recapped)
Pelorus Jack, The Sailor, Cherrybank Gardens, Schiehallion, Quarries' Jig, The Duchess Tree, Festival Fling, The Weathercock, Minister on the Loch, Bratach Bana, Tribute to the Borders, The Garry Strathspey, The Dancing Master, Gang the Same Gate, The Earl of Mansfield, Napier's Index, Alison Rose, Major Ian Stewart, The Bees of Maggiecknockater, Mairi's Wedding. *Extras:* Wind on Loch Fyne, Highland Rambler.

Tickets £9.00 in advance from Peter Skelton,
tel: 01483 577855,
e-mail: peter@pskelton.wanadoo.co.uk
Please bring a plate of food for the buffet.

MILTON KEYNES RSCDS

27th Annual Ball
Saturday 11th March 2006
7.30 to 11.30 p.m.

Lovat Hall, Newport Pagnell

West Telferton Caledonian Band

Tickets £13, including supper, from
Jan Jones 01908 378730, jan@jange.f9.co.uk

RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

Spring Picnic Dance
Saturday 13th May 2006

Corfe Mullen Village Hall, Wareham Road,
Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset.

Caber Feidh

Bring your own Picnic Supper. Tickets £8.
Details: Margaret Robson, Tel: 01202 698138.

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball
Saturday 4th March 2006
7.30 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.

Harpenden Public Hall, Harpenden, Herts.

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Tickets £13 including Supper

Programme: The Reel of the Royal Scots, Jennifer's Jig, Kilkenny Castle, The Rothesay Rant, Polharrow Burn, MacDonald of the Isles, Swiss Lassie, Old Nick's Lumber Room, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, Maxwell's Rant, Meeting of the Waters, The Moray Rant, Pelorus Jack, Johnnie Walker, Goodhind Reel, St. Columba's Strathspey, The Nurseryman, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, James Gray, The Dream Catcher, The Kelpie of Loch Coruisk, The Montgomeries' Rant.

Tickets and enquiries: Val Owens,
tel: 01727 863870,
email: tvowens@beeb.net
Website: www.HSCDC.org.uk



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

Programme: The Highland Rambler, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Plantation Reel, Pelorus Jack, Flower o' the Quern, Bratach Bana, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Twa Bonnie Lassies, The Piper & the Penguin, Waverley/Fugal Fergus, Scott Meikle, Jennifer's Jig, The Dreamcatcher, Johnnie's Welcome Home, Cramond Bridge, The Bonnie Lass o' Bon Accord, The Wild Geese, The Peat Fire Flame, Butterscotch and Honey, Equilibrium, The Irish Rover. *Extras:* The Sailor, Spiffin, John of Bon Accord.

Tickets £13.50/£7.50 non-dancers and 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

RSCDS BATH BRANCH

Annual Ball
Friday 24th February, 2006
Guildhall, Bath

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Tickets £20 from June Hall, Top Floor Flat,
141 Wells Road, Bath, BA2 3AL.

End of Season Informal Dance

Saturday 29th April, 2006
Conygre Hall, Timsbury.

Hugh Ferguson Trio

Tickets from June Hall, Top Floor Flat,
141 Wells Road, Bath, BA2 3AL.

Day School and Evening Dance

Saturday 1st April 2006
Colerne Village Hall (Near Bath)
Classes: 11.00-17.00

Teacher: **Eric Finley**
Musician: **Peter Shand**

Evening Dance 18.30-21.30

Neil Copland Band

Enquiries Peter Harraway 01225 742328 or
rsdcdbath@puffball.demon.co.uk

DANCE EVENTS (continued)

JERSEY SCOTTISH DANCE WEEKEND

Bank Holiday Weekend
Saturday 27th May and Sunday 28th May 2006
Jersey College for Girls Hall, Le Mont Millais,
St.Helier

Sound Company

Jersey Weekend programmes

Saturday 27th May Ball: 7.00 - 11.30 p.m.
Shiftin' Bobbins, Cuillins of Skye, The Diamond Jubilee, Festival Fling, Tom Steele, Open the Door to Three, Summer Wooing, Sugar Candie, The Starry Eyed Lassie, Splat the Tattie, Ailsa Craig, EH3 7AF, Le Moulin Rouge, The Dream Catcher, The Silver Penny Farthing, The Luckenbooth Brooch, Bonnie Gallowa', Rest and Be Thankful, The Flight of the Falcon, Cherrybank Gardens, The Irish Rover.

Sunday 28th May Dance: 7.00 - 11.30 p.m.
The Westminster Reel, The Silver Strathspey, The Happy Meeting, The Earl of Mansfield, Over the Hill, The Blackadder Jig, Hairy Mary, Ettrick Water, The Flying Spur, Whigmaleeries, Double Eighty, Major Ian Stewart, Fisherman's Reel, Johnnie Walker, Lady Sophia Lindsay, Napier's Index, The Wishing Well, The Montgomerie's Rant, The Moffat Weavers, Sands of Morar, John of Bon Accord.

£25.00 for two nights.

It is advisable to book travel and accommodation early. Brochures from Jersey Tourism Tel.01534 500700 or visit their web page. Contacts: Helen McGugan. La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel/Fax 01534 854459 or Alan Nicolle Tel: 01534 484375 or e-mail: alan_nicolle@yahoo.co.uk.

MacLENNAN SCOTTISH GROUP

25th International Dance Festival

27th - 28th May 2006

Saturday 27th May

7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

International Folk Dance

with our international and local guests.

Sunday 28th May

2.00 - 5.30 p.m.

International Dance Festival performances from International and local teams.

Venue for both events: Langley Park Boys' School, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham, Kent (Rail: Eden Park Station from Charing X). Licensed bar, refreshments and stalls. Tickets and programmes for each event: Adults £6, Seniors £5, Children £3. Family £14. £1 discount for weekend ticket for both events From Jennifer Rutherford: 020 8295 1273.

Email: festival@msg.org.uk, www.msg.org.uk.

WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Caledonian Ball

Saturday 25th March 2006

7.30 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.

Parmiter's School, High Elms Lane, Watford, Herts WD25 0UU.

The Karl Sandeman Band

Programme: Mairi's Wedding, The Frisky, Cashmere Shawl, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, My Heather Hills, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Ship in Full Sail, The Jackdaw, Flower of the Quern, Lochalsh Reel, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Grand March, Culla Bay, The Recumbent Stone, McPherson's Jig, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, The Clansman, Follow Me Home, Schiehallion, Trip to Bavaria, Swithland Woods, White Heather Jig, Duke of Perth.

Tickets £14 including supper. Tickets and further details from Dr. John Crowder, 28 Devereux Drive, Watford WD17 3DE, tel. 01923-225522. john@drcrowder.fsnet.co.uk.

*There is another Dance Event
on page 12 and two on page 16*



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 4th March **Musicmakers**

Friday 24th March Practice for 1st April

Saturday 1st April **Stradivarius**

Newcomers Dance

Friday 21st April Spring ceilidh

Saturday 6th May **Karl Sandeman**

St Columba's participants' dance

Saturday 3rd June **Craigellachie**

Summer Ball 7.00 - 11.30 p.m.

All dances talked or walked through on request

For further details contact: Frank Bennett on 020-8715 3564, e-mail fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk, or Roger Waterson on 020-8660 5017. You can also telephone on 020-8763 8096 to hear our "Dial-a-Programme" service 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.

London Highland Club

Summer Ball

Saturday 3rd June 2006

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

7.00 - 11.30 p.m.

Craigellachie

Programme: White Heather Jig; Dance With Mother; Culla Bay; Machine Without Horses; Blooms of Bon Accord; John McAlpin; Airie Bennan; J.B.Milne; Autumn in Appin; Seton's Ceilidh Band; A Trip to Bavaria; Schiehallion; Bratach Bana; Neidpath Castle; Hamilton House; Nottingham Lace; The Duchess Tree; Postie's Jig; Meeting of the Waters; New Scotland Strathspey; Follow Me Home; Wind On Loch Fyne; Plantation Reel; Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder; The Montgomerie's Rant; Angus MacLeod.

Dances will not be walked through at this dance

Tickets: (Including finger buffet refreshments)

LHC Members in advance £ 9.00. Non Members in advance £11.00. All classes on door £12.00.

Highland or evening dress preferred.

All enquiries to Frank Bennett 020-8715 3564,

email: fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk or

Roger Waterson 020-8660 5017.

www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk.

RSCDS CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH

Eastbourne Weekend 2006

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Due to circumstances beyond our control the date

has been changed to the weekend of

21st and 22nd October 2006.

Full details will be available later in the year

ADVERTISING YOUR DANCE?

Send details of forthcoming events to the Editor.

After publication you will be invoiced at £10 per

inch column (fractions *pro rata*),

perhaps the cost of one ticket!



MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB

Highland Ball

Saturday 25th March 2006

7 p.m. until 11 p.m.

Desborough School, Shoppenhangers Road,

Maidenhead SL6 2QB.

Please note change of date and change of time

Frank Reid and his Scottish Dance Band

Programme: The Sailor, Jennifer's Jig, Culla Bay, Recumbent Stone, The Lochalsh Reel, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Major Ian Stewart, The Reverend John MacFarlane, Minister on the Loch, The Immigrant Lass, Polharrow Burn, John of Bon Accord, The Wind on Loch Fyne, Ship in Full Sail, The Piper and the Penguin, Gang the Same Gate, The Flying Spur, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Dundee Whaler, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich, Postie's Jig, The Irish Rover. *Extras:* The Queen's View, West's Hornpipe.

Tickets £14.50 including Supper.

Bring your own wine - soft drinks provided.

Dress Formal. Tickets from:- Alan Pfeiffer, 64

Wavell Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 5AD. Tel/

Fax 01628 633928, Mobile 07956 233 536. An

SAE would be appreciated. Visit our website at:

www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk.



RSCDS BERKS, HANTS, SURREY BORDER BRANCH

Day School and Music School

Saturday 11th March, 2006

Courtmoor School, Fleet.

Teachers:Janet Johnston (Stirling)

.....Eric Finlay (Ayr), Alan Davis (Berks)

Pianists: Robert Mackay and Ken Martlew

Music Workshop: Nicol McLaren

Contacts:

Dancer's Workshop: Diane Hoskins 01628 639 699

Musician's Workshop: May Sloan 01428 604 868

Day School Social

Music provided by Day School Musicians

Tickets in advance only.

Contact: John Douglas, tel: 0118 978 1125.

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 9789181,

or Sheila Jupp, tel: 01344 773371.

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

RSCDS BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Summer Ball

Saturday 20th May 2006

7.30 to 11.30 p.m.

Dame Alice Harpur School, Cardington Rd, Bedford.

Robert Whitehead and Danelaw Band

Programme: Hooper's Jig, Trip to Bavaria, Rose of the North, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Miss Allie Anderson, MacDonald of the Isles, Wild Goose Chase, The Piper and the Penguin, Gang the Same Gate, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Fisherman's Reel, New Scotland Strathspey, Pines of Pitlochry, Celtic Cross, Johnnie Walker, Ship in Full Sail, Bratach Bana, Culla Bay, Flight of the Falcon, The Irish Rover.

Contact, Alex Lawton, Tel: 01234 831036.

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/absdcd or Anne, tel: 01235 204155.
- ADDESTONE & 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 Gundy, 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.
- CHELTHAM BRANCH RSCDS** Advanced class Mondays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. General class Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Bettridge School, Cheltenham. Also a Beginners class. Details: Margaret Winterbourne Tel: 01242 863238.
- CHELTHAM 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, Wiltington, Glos. GL54 4 BN. Tel: 01242890454, e-mail: tmbush@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) Coudson. Other classes in the area: Beginners: Reigate & Seilsdon (Tue), 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: pamjblack@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 UB8 6LT.
- GUILDFORD SCDC** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford most Mondays at 8.15 from September to April. Teacher Paul Plummer, contact on 01483 236946.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept. - June from 8.00 - 10.00 p.m. in Elderkin Hall, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hooford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough 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), Dorkes 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 SDC 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.maidenheadsouthdancing.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 HARBOROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesdays 7.30-10.00 p.m. Details: Mrs Connie Elpich, "Laz'nb'y", 9 Little Lunnon, Dunton Bassett, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 5JR. Tel: 01455 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 Broad Hill Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3LQ. Tel: 01634 716644
- 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, Blethchley, 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, Stotfold. Informal Saturday Dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, 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 Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Classes Mon eves at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details Mrs. P. J. French, 20 Beaumont Road, Petts 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.scottishdancingreading.org.
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00 p.m. from mid September 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/standrewsolondon
- 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 (eves), e-mail smallpipes@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 Draffin 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 875060.
- 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 Boomam, 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 Monteclefe 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 Suns.
- 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 Corvis, 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. Demonstration (alternate) Mon 8 pm, St. Johns Hall. Inter/Adv Tues 7.45 pm, Bengoe School. Beginners Thurs 7.45pm. Mill-mead School. Dances 2nd Friday each month 7.45 - 10.45pm. Sele School. Details: Mrs Maureen Answorth, 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 mid 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.
- THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON** meets 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(eve) 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@btira.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@mumford.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 Gornie, 14 Coleridge Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 6DH. Tel: 01621 854006.

LONDON BRANCH'S CHRISTMAS DANCE



Above: Enlarged Craigellachie Band and MC Rachel Wilton.



Top Right: Ian Anderson receiving his Branch award from President Mary Stoker and Chairman Rachel Wilton

Left: Jimmy McIntosh, a great Pont Street personality and helper to all, in colourful party attire, watches on.



Above: An interval treat from the Branch Demonstration Team.

All pictures by Stephen Webb

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ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Day School
Edgbarrow School,
Sandhurst Road
Crowthorne, RG45 7HZ
Saturday 22nd April 2006

Teachers: **Anne Carter,**
Maureen Haynes, John Sturrock
Musicians: **Robert Mackay,**
Chris Oxtoby, Caroline Sloan

For further details and application forms
contact:

Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, St Johns,
Woking, Surrey GU21 3QB. Tel: 01483 721989

Weekend School

Dillington House, Somerset
29th September - 1st October 2006

Teacher: **Jimmie Hill**
Musician: **Robert Mackay**

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

Email: dillington@somerset.gov.uk
Website: www.dillington.co.uk

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Saturday 18th March 2006

Day School

Walthamstow Hall School, Sevenoaks.

Teachers: **Jimmie Hill,**

Joan Desborough, Helen Russell

Musicians: **Robert Mackay,**

Green Ginger, Robin Ellis

Evening social dance with **Green Ginger**

Contact: Pat Davoll, tel: 01732 866557

email: pdavoll@aol.com.

Saturday 8th April 2006

30th Anniversary Ball

Tonbridge School, Tonbridge.

Scottish Measure

Programme: Joie de Vivre, Anniversary Reel, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Napier's Index, De'il Among the Tailors, St. Columba's Strathspey, Mrs. Stewart's Jig, The Reverend John MacFarlane, The Dream Catcher, The Silver Branch, Red House, Round Reel of Eight, Bonnie Stronshiray, Ray Milbourne, The Cocket Hat, 30 years On, Miss Hadden's Reel, Catch the Wind, Blue Mess Jacket, Phantom Piper, The Reel of the Royal Scots.

Contact: Sandra Ranson, tel: 01892 524022

email: sandraranson@hotmail.com.