



The Reel

rscds
London Branch

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No 290

DECEMBER 2014 to FEBRUARY 2015

Scottish Country Dancing –
For fun, fitness and
friendship

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



Spring Fling – London 17 – 19 April 2015



A weekend of dancing for all

Spring Fling for 12-35 year olds
- Great teaching and music with
beginners/improvers, advanced and
very advanced classes
- Optional highland, ladies' step or
birling classes in the afternoon

Spring Fringe for the 35+ age
group
- Workshop on the Saturday with
Mervyn Short and
Barbara Manning
- Join in the evening dances

Two fantastic evening dances, open to all dancers
Friday 17 April – Nice & Easy dance with Chiswick Scottish in Isleworth &
Syon School, dancing to the Borderline Band
Saturday 18 April – Dance to the Musicians with RSCDS London at Pont St
dancing to the musicians' workshop musicians.

See p5 inside for more details



EDITORIAL

It is with great sadness that this edition of *The Reel* reports the death of John Laurie (left), Branch Vice-President, former Chairman and editor of *The Reel*, stalwart of St Columba's, irrepressible dance and music enthusiast and friend to many. You will find an obituary and tributes on pp 8 and 9, alongside tributes to band-leader Bobby Crowe and other departed friends.

Happier news, from the AGM, concerned the Scroll awarded to London Branch Committee member and co-founder of the Paris Branch Jerry Reinstein, pictured top left receiving his scroll from outgoing Society Chairman, John Wilkinson. It is a tribute to the great contribution Jerry has made to the

Society and Scottish country dancing, not just in these two places, but wherever he has danced.

Looking ahead, we are very excited by the imminent arrival in London of the Spring Fling, and its sister Spring Fringe activities, further details of which may be found on p5 inside. We hope to welcome dancers, young and old, to the events planned for that weekend.

In the meantime the full range of activities of the Branch and other groups in South-East England (and further afield) are reflected in a packed edition.

Jeremy Hill

Dancing Cheek to Cheek An Intimate History of Dance

London Branch members joined Len Goodman and Lucy Worsley for a BBC4 series on the History of Dance – see p20

Issue no 291 will be with UK based members by 28 February 2015 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent to arrive by **25 January 2015**, preferably by email, to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk or Jeremy Hill, 6 Gilpin Green, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 5NR. The opinions expressed by contributors in *The Reel* do not necessarily reflect the official position of the RSCDS, nor of the Branch.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Thanks to the hard work of our committee, teachers and musicians, I hope you have enjoyed some great evenings (or anytime of the day) Scottish country dancing this season. We have plenty more lined up for you in the next few months, including classes to suit all abilities, dances to some top bands and the chance to get involved in ceilidh and Highland dancing. I never cease to be impressed by the variety of Scottish dance experiences that we offer. If we are to continue doing that, we need your support. I look forward to welcoming you at some of our events.

In our quest to attract new dancers, I am pleased to say that we have seen some new faces at our beginners' classes in London, and I urge you to encourage your dancing friends to join the RSCDS, not just to support what we do, but also to take advantage of the money-saving offers that are available.

It's down to you and me to ensure that the RSCDS thrives in London and the Southeast. While we are doing that, we can also have fun. See you on the dance floor.



Andrew Kellett

RSCDS AGM 8 November 2014, Perth

We were warned it was going to be a long meeting, and it was, but a significant step was taken when the AGM agreed to change the Society's legal status from an unincorporated association of members to a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). This has been under discussion for over four years, and a vote was needed before it was passed on this occasion. A CLG provides greater protection for our Trustees from personal financial liability, but should not impact on how branches are run, though the role of the Branch delegates will change slightly.

The Management Board proposed a number of Constitutional amendments. Some of these passed without debate: a reduction in the number of Trustees, a change to the reporting line for the Society Archivist, and making it optional for the Society to have a President (we don't have a Society President at the moment, though of course London does have a Branch President).

Two further amendments were rejected by the meeting, with London to the fore in opposing both: the Management Board wanted to change the remit of the Membership Services Committee from all matters concerning public relations, publications, marketing and services to members and branches to publications only. London Branch argued successfully that such a move was the wrong strategic direction for the Society to take at this time. We do not need new books and more dances; what we do want are new dancers and more members. The Board also proposed that it should have the power to amend the Society's Rules and Procedures without approval from the AGM, only reporting to the AGM after the event. This affront to democracy was rejected.

We were told that the Society is in a strong financial position, thanks in part to some generous donations, and the decline in membership may have slowed because numbers are increasing in continental Europe.

Most candidates for positions on the Management Committee were successful without the need for an election, but there was a vote for Chairman Elect, which Helen Russell won. She will succeed to the Chairmanship in two years' time. Congratulations to her, and to Jim Healy, who took over as Chairman from John Wilkinson. They have many challenges to face, and London Branch will do our best to support them.

Andrew Kellett

ROYAL
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SOCIETY



Patron H.M. The Queen
Chairman – Jim Healy

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@LondonRSCDS



Objects of London Branch

To advance the education of the public in the London area in traditional Scottish country dancing, in particular by:

- preserving and furthering the practice of traditional Scottish country dances;
- providing or assisting in providing instruction in the dancing of Scottish country dances;
- promoting the enjoyment and appreciation of Scottish country dancing and music by any suitable means.

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Maintaining Contact – email addresses

The Branch continues to use various means to keep in touch with members, on the website, Facebook, Twitter, through *The Reel* (also available electronically – see p14) and regular email.

If you are not receiving emails from the Branch Committee on a regular basis with information on forthcoming Branch events, we may not have your current email address. If you wish to receive information by email (not more than once a month), please send your email address to Jerry Reinstein jar@reinsteinassociates.com and we will add you to the list. Note: the list is not used for any other purpose and not shared with any other organisation.

BURNS' CEILIDH DANCE & SUPPER

Saturday 10 January 2015, 7.00 – 10.45pm (Doors open at 6.30pm)

Caledonian Reelers

MC: Andrew Kellett

Admission includes haggis supper, with vegetarian option available

RSCDS members £13.00, non-members £17.00, students (with student card) and spectators £6.00, all Children (under 16) free. All tickets to be purchased on the door

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

This is a great opportunity to enjoy with your friends & family a traditional Burns' Supper along with the fun of Scottish music & ceilidh dancing. There will be haggis (including a splash of whisky), neeps & tatties, piped in & addressed in the immortal way. The programme will include the *Gay Gordons*, *The Dashing White Sergeant*, *The Eightsome Reel*, and *Strip the Willow* along with many other favourite ceilidh dances.

**No experience necessary – all dances will be called and walked through.
No need to bring a partner.**

Winter Wednesday Dance

Wednesday 18 February 2015, 7.00 – 10.00pm (Doors open at 6.30pm)

Christina Hood & Sandra Smith

MC: Pat Davoll

Admission includes light refreshments

RSCDS members £9.00, non-members £11.00, students (with student card) and Spectators £5.00, all Children (under 16) free. All tickets to be purchased on the door.

All dances will be recapped

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

Programme: The Merry Uplanders (London 75th/2), Corn Rigs (4/12), Miss Gibson's Strathspey (Leaflet 10), Kendall's Hornpipe (Graded 1/22), Flight to Melbourne (47/3), The Wind on Loch Fyne (Dunedin 1986/5), Postie's Jig (Ormskirk 5/1), Good Hearted Glasgow (Garden Festival Leaflet), The Craven Twelvesome (Carnforth 5/4), Seann Truibhas Willichan (27/9), Inchmickery (14 Social for 2000/7), The Byron Strathspey (Deeside 2/7), The Wild Geese (24/3), The Deil among the Tailors (14/7), *Extras:* The Machine without Horses (12/12), The Fisherman's Reel (Dunblane Holiday Booklet), Monymusk (11/2)

Spring Dance

Saturday 21 March 2015, 7.00 – 10.30pm (Doors open at 6.30pm)

Kafoozalum

MCs: Simon Wales and Elaine Wilde

Admission includes light refreshments

RSCDS members £10.00, non-members £12.00, students (with student card) and Spectators £5.00, all Children (under 16) free. All tickets to be purchased on the door

All dances will be recapped

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

Programme: The Happy Meeting (29/9), Maxwell's Rant (18/10), Dalkeith's Strathspey (9/6), Miss Hadden's Reel (23/5), Cherrybank Gardens (Bankhead 1/7), The Sailor (24/4), The Bees of Maggicknockater (Canadian/2), Miss McLean of Inverness (London 75th/7), Round Reel of Eight (27/7), The Machine Without Horses (12/12), Flowers of Edinburgh (1/6), The Birks of Invermay (16/2), The Kelloholm Jig (Leaflet 12), The Belle of Bon Accord (Deeside 2/10), The Cumbræ Reel (28/8), Mrs Stewart's Jig (35/1), The Robertson Rant (39/8), The Montgomeries' Rant (10/1)

DANCE SEASON 2014 – 2015

What has happened so far:

Roger Keeling: Our season started on a warm Saturday evening, 13 September, with a lively dance at Pont Street. A mixture of newcomers and established dancers performed a programme of familiar and more challenging dances to the spirited playing of Strathallan and ably guided by MCs Lindsey Rousseau and Iain Farrell. The dances included the square medley *1314* to mark, though not, as it turned out, to forecast the Scottish Referendum. We left looking forward to the next occasion.

Chris Hood: Best Ever Wednesday Dance (29 October):

In spite of...traffic jams, police rushing about, an incident on the Piccadilly line, dreich weather, you name it, 65 people battled through all that to attend, with ages ranging from 10 to 84. They included kids on their half-term break, beginners, autumn visitors and Branch regulars. Easy dances, a good friendly atmosphere, superb music from Christina Hood and Sandra Smith that made everyone want to dance and an MC (Jim Cook) who kept all the sets together. If you weren't there, you should have been!

At time of writing we look forward to our "Festive Fling" on Saturday 6 December, to the music of regular favourites, Craigellachie, heralding the festive season. The programme for the evening was devised by the late John Laurie, who asked if he could devise the programme when he discovered that Craigellachie was playing for the dance. I readily accepted his offer. He also asked if I could invite Rachel Wilton and James Fairbairn to MC the programme and was very pleased when I informed him that both Rachel and James would be delighted to do so. The demonstration team will also dance a medley of dances in John's memory, including his own *Fraser's Favourite*.

And what is coming up:

We are delighted to give a warm Branch welcome to the Caledonian Reelers who will be playing for the first time at our Burns' Supper & Ceilidh Dance on 10 January 2015. Please bring along family and friends to enjoy a traditional Burns' Supper along with the fun of Scottish music and ceilidh dancing.

Other future events in addition to those shown above:

- Friday 17 – Sunday 19 April: **Spring Fling, Musicians' Day and Evening Dance** – see p4 and 5
- Saturday 25 April: **Combined Societies' Dance**, dedicated to the memory of John Laurie, with Strathallan
- Saturday 13 June: **Family Day Dance** (2.00 – 4.30pm); Musicians TBC
- Saturday 13 June: **AGM & End of Season Dance** (6.45pm AGM and 7.30pm dance), with **Barbara Manning & Callum Mitchell**

We look forward to welcoming all dancers to the Branch dances during the coming months. Dance cribs are available on the Branch website. Finally, please note in your diaries our 85th Anniversary Dance, on 31 October 2015. Look out for further details on this and everything else coming up in 2015 in *The Reel* and on the website! Enjoy your dancing!

Marjory Reid, Dances Co-ordinator



Dance with a difference 85 years on Celebrating 85 years of London Branch

Saturday 31 October 2015

6.30 – 11.00pm

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

Dancing to The Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band

*Join in the fun of the evening by wearing 1930s fashions,
accessories, kilts & cravats (optional)*
*Further information in future editions of The Reel and on
the branch website*
www.rscdslondon.org.uk



RSCDS SUMMER SCHOOL

26 July –23 August 2015

Note: later dates are due to the Open Golf Championship in St Andrews in 2015

University Hall, St Andrews

Director: Ruby Wilkinson

- Attend as resident or non-resident, for any one or two weeks of the four
- Morning classes at all levels, and optional afternoon classes/sessions
- Social dancing every evening, with a ceilidh one evening each week
- Courses for Unit 2 will take place in week 1, Unit 3 in week 2 and Unit 5 in weeks 3 and 4
- Classes leading to the RSCDS Dancing Achievement Award are offered in weeks 1 (Advanced), 2 (Intermediate) and 3 (Very Advanced)
- Musicians' course in week 2
- Family Week – in week 2, 12-15 year olds may attend, with a chaperone, and join in the regular classes and activities
- Tutoring Skills Course in week 3
- A range of prices is available including £540 for a resident and £255 for a non-resident member
- Discounts are available for 12-15 year olds (week 2) and 16-25 year olds
- Other resident, and non-resident options are available

All classes and courses are subject to demand. Further information and, for the first time, online booking are available at www.rscds.org/article/summer-school-2015

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

WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT

The RSCDS and the London Branch continue to see the importance of supporting the teachers, musicians and dancers of the future. As such, funds are earmarked for scholarships, for young people (up to the age of 25) to attend RSCDS Residential Schools as a dancer or as a musician; and for any member attending Summer School with a view to taking the RSCDS Teaching Certificate. London Branch also has funds available to give support to any event promoting Scottish country dancing among young people.

Don't be shy about asking for assistance. We are a charity and we are here to help you improve your skills and enjoyment of Scottish country dancing, and to support you in passing on your enthusiasm and knowledge to the next generation. If you think you might benefit from a scholarship pick up the phone or drop an email to any member of the Branch Committee, or you could start with our Secretary, Margaret Catchick, via secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

Although we have been in St Andrews for Summer School almost every year since I was born, this year was my first opportunity to be on the course, aged 12. My brother Josh, who is 15, was also there and we decided to put ourselves down for the same class. We were a bit embarrassed to be called to the front for everyone to see at the welcome party, but pleased to see quite a few younger dancers, including Lorna, another twelve-year-old, who we had met before!

In classes each morning our teachers Heather Cowan and Anne Robertson were really nice and friendly and helped us a lot. We were a mix of adults and children, but all about the same standard. In fact several of the adults had done less

Children's Class 2014 – 2015

Teacher: James Fairbairn assisted by Jenny Kendrick

The Branch Children's Class will take place as follows:

10 & 24 January, 7 & 28* February, 14 March, 21 March (Family Day – see below), 18* April, 2 & 16 May, 6 June, 13 June (Family Day – further information in *The Reel* 291)

Dates marked * will be held at The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR, from 10.45am – 12.00pm

All other dates will be held in the Upper Hall, St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD, from 10.15 – 11.30am

Class Fee: £5.00 per child per class

Newcomers are always welcome!

Family Day

Saturday 21 March 2015

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

11.30am – 1.00pm: Children's Class

Followed by lunch for all children

2.00 – 4.30pm:

Dance to the music of Kafoozalum

Dances will be chosen from: *The Barmkin, The Charlestown Chaser, Cumberland Reel, The Dashing White Sergeant, The Dhooon, Domino 5, Easy Peasy, Espie McNabb, The Flying Scotsman, It's All Right, The Loch Ness Monster, Le Papillon, Round Reel of Eight* – as well as your usual favourites!

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

Dance Admission only: £3.50 per person

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

For further information please contact either

James Fairbairn on

07930 949599,

childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk or

youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

London University Class

London Branch's university class at University College London (UCL) continues to engage younger dancers and also to give our own young teachers a chance to teach a regular class. It is run in conjunction with the UCL Folk Society, which provides students with access to folk music and dance in the London area. They have also formed a ceilidh band, which played at the Folk Society's first ceilidh in December.

The class is held on a Monday evening at UCL, Gower Street (opposite Euston Square underground station). The teaching team consists of Charlotte Sandifer, Judith Jones and Gillian Frew, with Lindsey Jane Rousseau co-ordinating, and Ian Cutts playing for the class.

If you know any students who might be interested, or for more information, please contact Elaine Davies at laneypops83@yahoo.co.uk

My 'First' St Andrews

dancing than us children! It went at a good pace, though we had to stop sometimes to allow people to catch up. Break always came at the right time with a biscuit, though we preferred going to Burns' sweet shop for tablet!

The music from Bill Ewan was great, though we laughed when someone changed the settings and the piano came out as an organ! As I play the violin I preferred the fiddle playing of Grant Crawford.

I learnt a lot in the class, including the even rhythm, to avoid a two beat Pas de Basque, and the difference between reels and jigs.

We were able to relax in the afternoons, when we went to the beaches and the swimming pool. In

MUSICIANS' DAY

18 April 2015

Led by Jim Lindsay

The Branch will be holding a Musicians' Day on Saturday 18 April 2015 at St Columba's Church Hall. The programme for the day is as follows:

10.30 – 11.00am: Enrolment & Coffee

11.00am – 1.00pm: Workshop

1.00 – 2.30pm: Lunch (included)

2.30 – 4.30pm: Workshop

7.00 – 10.30pm: Branch Dance in conjunction with Spring Fling 2015

The Workshop is for all musicians who want to learn more about playing for Scottish country dancing with the opportunity to play for the Branch Dance in the evening.

The Workshop will be led by Jim Lindsay, who, over the past 40+ years, has consistently been one of the most respected and 'in demand' musicians on the Scottish music scene. Becoming Scottish Accordion Champion in the early 1970s

established him as

a top band

musician, working

with most of the

legendary names

from the golden

era of Scottish

dance music and

you will find him

on the credits for

countless dance

recordings [see p9

and also p12 for

his part in Bobby Crowe's Band].

Jim formed his own band in the 1980s which quickly became renowned for his innovative arrangements and concert performances. Their popular brand of listening music is regularly featured on the BBC and their critically acclaimed *Free Hand* CD inspired a generation of young Scottish musicians.

In recent years Jim has brought the two strands of his music career together, playing and recording for dancing under his own name. His band is firmly established as one of the most popular for Scottish country dances in the UK, and he has performed across Europe, North America, New Zealand and China. His *Christmas Dance Party* CD brought a smile to faces all around the world and recent recordings include a CD with Muriel Johnstone [see p13] and *The Black Watch Ball* and *Reel of the Puffins* CDs with his own band.

All musicians are welcome to come along to join in. RSCDS Members: £24.00, non-members: £27.00 (Lunch & refreshments included in price)

For further information please contact

Marjory Reid

dances@rscdslondon.org.uk or 07762 069364

Application forms are available to download from www.rscdslondon.org.uk



the swimming pool four of us tried to do a two couple dance in the water!

The evening dances were great. I most enjoyed the town dance and the Younger Hall dance where my other friends who weren't on the course were able to join us. I danced *The White Heather Jig* for the first time and found what an awesomely spinny dance it is! The ceilidh was very variable, or should I say varied. We enjoyed singing as a family quartet.

Thank you to London Branch for supporting my application to go in 2014. If anyone else is thinking about going, I would definitely recommend it – it was great fun!

Zoe Hill

Spring Fling - London

17-19 April 2015



Whether you are between 12 and 35 years old, whether you know someone in that age range, or whether being 35 is a distant memory, there will be something for everyone at the Spring Fling London 2015 weekend on 17-19 April next year. This page details all you will need to know about the weekend.

London and the huge amount of SCD going on there make it an ideal venue

Spring Fling is an RSCDS residential course for young dancers organised by young dancers with the help and support of HQ and local dancers. Unlike Summer and Winter school, the venue of Spring Fling (SF) changes each year and last year moved abroad for the first time to Lyon. Venues tend to concentrate on areas where there are already groups of young dancers, but never before has the weekend been held in the capital. With the huge amount of SCD going on, London is an ideal venue for the weekend.

Lead organiser and London Branch member, Elaine Davies is responsible for the preparation and smooth running of the weekend. "I was keen to stay true to the roots of SF and give young and youthful teachers a springboard for their talents", she said, commenting on her choice of teachers and musicians, "I'm really pleased with the line up and am sure it will bring in dancers from the UK and abroad".

Who is teaching and playing?



Teachers

Angela Young,
Andrew Nolan,
Heather Cowan,
Gillian Frew and
Rachel
Shankland



Musicians

Graham Berry,
Angela Young,
Martainn
Skene and
Andrew Nolan



Our website has biographies of all the teachers and musicians - check it out for all the details.

What's the timetable?

Friday 17 April:

4.00 - 6.00pm: Registration at Hounslow Travelodge, TW3 1JG



7.30 - 10.30pm: 'Nice & Easy' Dance, co-hosted by Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club. Dancing to the Borderline Band at Isleworth & Syon School, TW7 5LJ. Tickets £10 including light refreshments, open to all.

Saturday 18 April:

9.30am - 1.00pm: Morning classes in Isleworth & Syon School or St Mary's Church Hall, Isleworth (teachers in brackets)

- Beginners/Improvers (Heather then Rachel)
- Advanced (Rachel then Andrew)
- Very Advanced (Angela then Heather)

2.45 - 4.00pm: Optional afternoon classes (highland, ladies' step or birling)

7.00 - 10.30pm: "Dance to the Musicians" co-hosted by RSCDS London Branch. Dancing to the musicians from the musicians' workshop led by Jim Lindsay at St Columba's, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD. Tickets £10/12 (RSCDS Members/Non-members), £5 students, includes light refreshments, open to all dancers.



Sunday 19 April:

10.00am - 12.30pm: Judging entries for the new dance "Spring Fling" at Heston Community School, TW5 0QR, followed by buffet lunch provided by RSCDS London Branch.

How do I sign up?

Apply online: www.rscds.org/forms/events/view.aspx?id=2

Spring Flingers aged 12-15 can attend on a non-residential basis, and must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Those age 16+ are eligible to attend on a residential or non-residential basis.

Prices for the weekend (inc. dances):

Resident member (2 bed room) - £130
Resident member (3 bed room) - £115
Resident non-member (2 bed room) - £145
Resident non-member (3 bed room) - £130
Non-resident member - £70
Non-resident non-member - £85

Scholarships are available from the RSCDS (see front page of Spring Fling website) - the deadline is 17 January so apply soon. Money may also be available to support London Branch members, apply via the Secretary (secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk) or see "We can help you afford it" on p4.

I'm over 35, what about me?

The organisers are really keen to include as many dancers as possible in the weekend of dancing, and, following success in Lyon, a workshop on Saturday 18 April will be available for those dancers who no longer fall into the Spring Fling age range. Along with the two evening dances, which are open to all, it is hoped that the workshop will encourage families, dancers from London as well as further afield to come for the weekend.

Saturday 18 April:

10.15am - 12.45pm: Workshop led by Mervyn Short with music from Barbara Manning at Montague Hall, TW3 1LD. Tickets: £9 available on the door, includes tea and coffee. Please let the organisers know in advance if you plan on attending as it will help considerably with the planning (rscdsspringfling2015@yahoo.co.uk).

Also on the Saturday is the RSCDS London Branch musicians' workshop, led by Jim Lindsay, at St Columba's, Pont Street. See details on p4.

Spring Fringe - encouraging wider participation in SF2015

The programme of events open to all dancers, regardless of age, has been termed 'Spring Fringe', "it's a great way of encouraging wider participation in the SF London weekend", said Elaine Davies, "it doesn't matter if you're a regular London dancer, a visitor, or are coming for the main SF classes, you're sure of a warm welcome among dancers of all ages - after all, one of the best things about SCD is that it's accessible to everyone".

How can I find out more?

✉ rscdsspringfling2015@yahoo.co.uk

🌐 www.rscdsspringfling.wix.com/springfling

📘 www.facebook.com/rscdsspringfling2015

Thank you

The whole SF organising team (Elaine Davies, Katy Sweetman, Edward Davies, Gillian Frew and Catriona Bennett) would like to thank:

- ♦ Chiswick Scottish and RSCDS London Branch for co-hosting the Friday and Saturday night dances
- ♦ Jennie Metcalfe for the logo design
- ♦ Moira Thomson and the Youth Services Committee at HQ

See all the details and more information at www.rscdsspringfling.wix.com/springfling

Set yourself a fun challenge Join a Scottish Country Dance Class

We have
classes for...

CHILDREN in central London.

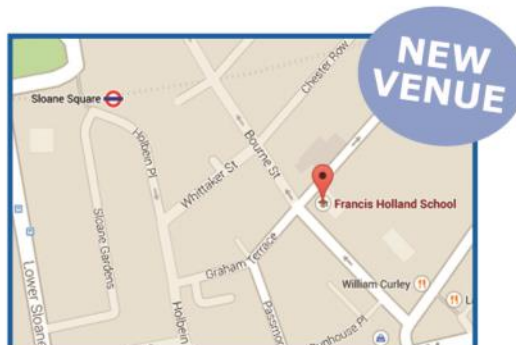
Email James Fairbairn: childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk for details

Basic Skills & Improvers 7.00 - 9.00pm

with **Jane Rose** and musicians

Ian Cutts and **Jane Ng**

at Francis Holland School, 39 Graham Terrace,
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Experienced dancers wishing to improve their technique 7.00 - 9.00pm,

venue Francis Holland School as above, with

Paul Plummer (14 January – 11 February)

Lindsey Rousseau (25 February – 25 March)

Debbie McLachlan (29 April – 20 May)

Musicians **Sandra Smith, Ian Cutts** and **Jane Ng**

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

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

7 January – 25 March (half-term 11 February) Fee £5 per class

Suitable for dancers with some knowledge of basic steps and formations.

Teacher, **Jeni Rutherford**: jrutherford@freeuk.com

For experienced dancers interested in demonstrations

Email Anna Twinn at demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk

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on 14 December, 18 January and 15 February

Highland Dancing with **Kathleen Gilbert**

on 11 January and 29 March

Contacts for all classes either Margaret or Lena at
classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

BRANCH NEWS

Dropping in for the Day School

When we saw the advertisement in *The Reel*, we decided this was a good opportunity to consider a week of holiday to visit family and attend the day school (the journey time from Cincinnati to London is only 10 hours!). We were fortunate in having an experienced London guide (one of the Branch's Vice-Presidents) who was attending the music course at the school, to navigate us to the Paddington Academy, from Purley. The secure and easy parking on site was reassuring and the two Margarets (Catchick and Shaw) welcomed us warmly as we arrived at the door.

Our first class of the day was started promptly by Graham Donald, who remained in good control throughout the morning in his own delightful manner. We started with a couple of fun and easy progressive ceilidh dances to get our legs warmed, and to meet the others in the class. After some worthwhile stretches, Graham engaged our brains in more challenging dances. We enjoyed the overall high standard of the class, dancing on the wooden floor in the spacious hall, while Sandra Smith played effortlessly giving us uplifting and delightful tunes to encourage our dancing.

The centrally located cafeteria provided a great meeting place first thing before the morning class and then for socializing over lunch and afternoon tea. Having been out of dancing in London for many years, we took the opportunity to catch up with some familiar faces and friends.

Our afternoon class was with Pat Houghton in the sports hall, complete with the artistically placed bucket sculpture in the middle of the floor. We were very pleased when Pat refrained from giving us the exercise "Down the middle and jump"! After a very filling and tasty lunch, some of us were not perhaps as energetic as in the morning, but Pat did a wonderful job of motivating and coaxing us back to dancing with finesse and precision. We were challenged by a couple of dances from the newly re-published Imperial dance book, and Micah Thompson on the fiddle gave us a different style of music from that of the piano in the morning, but still helped us get lift off the harder sports hall floor, while playing enjoyable tunes.

Following afternoon tea, Graham took a class in highland steps for the *Foursome Reel* and *Reel of Tulloch*. Although the allotted time for the session was limited, Graham managed to teach and have the very mixed class achieve sufficient steps to complete the dance.

The ceilidh in the evening brought in some extra dancers to participate and enjoy the balanced mix of ceilidh dances, country dances and items. The day school music course students, led by Ian Muir, played a rousing selection of tunes, competently and professionally, for the first four dances of the evening. We were also treated to items including: songs by Alice Stainer, a classical duet on fiddles, Ian and Judith Muir showing their versatility on accordions and a magnificent display of footwork and agility by three of the younger dancers, demonstrating the *Seann Truibhas*.

A successful day like this, which flowed smoothly and effortlessly for the dancers, only happened because Margaret and her committee had worked hard at all the details. We departed from the school tired but having enjoyed a great day of classes, socialising and dancing.

Andy and Lesley Nicol

See photos p11

"Swing the Quavers" Musicians' Day School

This year the Musicians' Workshop at the London Branch Day School on 18 October was led by Ian Muir of the ever popular Craigellachie Band. Four violins, three button accordions, three keyboards and a drummer attended and Ian explained that the music he had provided was all in different styles and arrangements, including ceilidh music to encourage the youngsters into dancing, and also for which we would be playing that evening. As Ian said, we were all on a musical journey, and always learning, and so it was to be throughout the day.

We started playing the traditional single reel *Kingussie Flower*, with accordions required to be crisp, and violins using the top end of the bow. After listening and appreciating the phrasing within the tune, we were beginning to sound quite a coherent group. The double reel (more notes to get our fingers round) set of music was next, and we gradually improved, especially when Ian got us to accent a particular note or "swing the quaver", as one violinist said. One of the tunes, *Laxaburn*, was tricky, but the notes were "only a guide", and we were shown how to pick out the important ones that made up the tune.

The music for the ceilidh dances was rehearsed: Ian had cleverly orchestrated the *Gay Gordons* into three parts, and, in part of the *St Bernard's Waltz*, the strings took the lead with the accordions playing just single reeds. Strathspeys and pipe marches were also covered and, perhaps surprisingly, discussions on how body movement helps in our playing.

We played for the first four dances for the evening ceilidh, but sneaked in the *Leasks of Lerwick* as a warm up as well. So, many thanks to Ian Muir for his guidance, and London Branch for running the workshop – we'd love to play for the whole evening next year!

Brian Pierson

Moving to London

When moving half way around the world, one of the greatest benefits of Scottish country dancing is that it is a global activity. Everyone has been very welcoming, and I've enjoyed attending various events such as the RSCDS London Branch new season dance, London Day School and the Oxford Ball.

However, coming from New Zealand there are some notable differences. All events in NZ, no matter how large or small, are recapped by the MC. However, while we were making up sets for the first dance at the Oxford Ball, I quickly learned this wasn't the case in the UK. I was just getting ready to listen to the recap of the first dance when the band began playing. Everyone around me worked out I was expecting recaps from the sheer panic on my face. But, after a quick study session, I managed to dance the night away with great music and programme.

One aspect I am really enjoying is how sociable Scottish dancing is over here. On the UK scene there is the usual practice of heading off to the pub after a class. It's a nice way of winding down and catching up with everyone. As NZ doesn't have a large pub culture, it's a definite win for the UK!

All in all I'm finding the adjustment to dancing in the UK very easy and I've met a great bunch of people thus far.

Liz Douglas

See photo p11

South East Region Teachers' Association

The latest SERTA workshop on 'Getting the best out of your dancers' was held in Hemel Hempstead on 28 September. It was led by Sue Porter from Oban, Convenor of the Education and Training Committee, and Barbara Manning was our musician. Using discussion and practical dancing, Sue covered a lot of ground, from welcoming new dancers to low impact adjustments for less mobile dancers. During the day, Sue used dances from the new Graded Book 3. This includes many more strathspeys, and dances to introduce more complex formations in otherwise simple dances. The book and accompanying CD are now available and recommended!

Good class preparation, a positive manner, enthusiasm and humour, and appropriate dress were covered. Lesson planning should consider the music, the venue and the class make up. Consult the musician, and give them ample time to prepare, or if using CDs, select them in advance. The class size, standard(s), expectations and fitness should be taken into account. And personal good practice matters, in classes and at social functions.

Sue used round the room exercises to mix partners and sets. She also showed how to build a dance by progressively introducing the next eight bars for each new couple. Good coaching identifies who does what, just in advance of the phrase. Step practice in groups is more welcoming for newcomers.

The afternoon began by looking at high and low impact dancing, and how teachers can adjust steps and formations to accommodate dancers at all levels. But Sue did remind us that this is not to be the norm for all dancers! We tried high and low impact dance styles and I certainly appreciated the difference in effort required.

Sue then discussed helping new dancers prepare for their first dance, covering dress code for various types of dances and etiquette of the dance. Recaps should be succinct and it is helpful to finish with a quick reminder of the first eight bars.

Many dancers are encouraged by participating in the various SCD courses and tests, and Sue brought us up to date on recent changes to course requirements.

It was an informative and enjoyable day. We all want to get the best from our classes, and Sue and Barbara certainly got the most from us. With discussions, a good choice of dances and practical dancing, I'm sure we all went home with ideas for classes at every level.

Our thanks to Sue, and to Barbara, who provided excellent music. Thanks also to the Berkhamsted group for arranging the hall and providing tea, coffee and excellent cakes.

The next workshop is on 22 March in Wallington, led by Jimmie Hill. He will be exploring the history of Scottish country dancing.

Pat Davoll

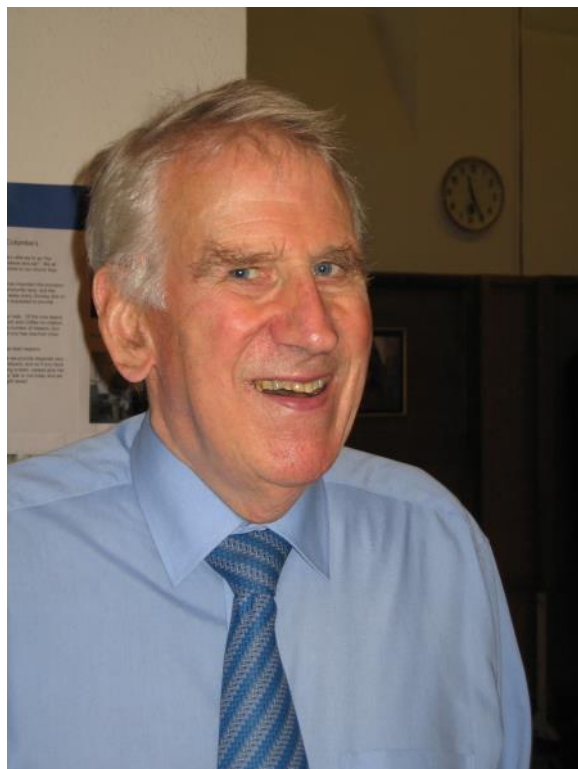
See photo p10

SERTA is open to anyone who leads a SCD group, whether qualified or not, those with a dance teaching qualification and those taking teaching courses or interested in doing so. If you wish to join the mailing list or have any queries, please contact Mike Johnson at mikejohnson@waitrose.com 4 Gatehampton Cottages, Gatehampton Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9LX or on 01491 873026.

LIVES REMEMBERED

John Laurie

20 May 1933 – 19 September 2014



John at the London Branch dance on 23 September 2006

It was with great sadness that the news was received in September that Branch Vice-President John Laurie had died suddenly whilst on holiday in Scotland. For 60 years he had been synonymous with Scottish country dancing at St Columba's, Pont Street, London. Over the same period he was also central to the running and atmosphere of St Columba's Church, where he acted as beadle and was an Elder, much involved with the senior church figures. This included attending on the Moderators on their annual visits, and as senior Elder he was presented to the Queen on her visit in 1983. In both St Columba's guises, he was typically the first person to greet newcomers and old friends alike, creating a wonderfully warm welcome for everyone.

John was born and educated in Perthshire, attending Locheamhead Primary School and then McLaren High School in Callander. There he developed his love of Gilbert and Sullivan, and first recited at Burns' suppers, something he would continue to do to great acclaim for the rest of his life.

After national service with the RAF, John moved to London in 1954 to work for the Civil Service, in the personnel department with the Stationery Office. He immediately became involved with St Columba's Church of Scotland, including the Monday night socials held there. He became the regular MC in late 1960s, overseeing the dancing, compiling the dance programmes and, most importantly, selecting the music. John was passionate about SCD music. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of tunes and recordings, which he happily shared with his many friends, and knew many band leaders and other musicians north and south of the border. His enthusiasm for tunes was often expressed with a jubilant "whoop" when the band changed tunes!

John supported the other dance groups that met at St Columba's, and he joined the London Branch Committee. For many years he ran our monthly dances, writing the programmes and MC'ing at many of them, and acted as convenor of the Dances Subcommittee. He served as Chairman from 1981 to 1984, and in 1998 he was appointed Vice President. For over thirteen years John edited *The Reel*, our longest-serving editor, and he continued to contribute music reviews up until his untimely death. He awarded the accolade "sheer magic" to the recordings that particularly impressed him. He also represented the Branch on the RSCDS Executive Council and was elected to the Publications Committee. He was delighted when his dance *Fraser's Favourite* was published by the Society in 1976, having been personally endorsed by Miss Milligan herself. Robbie Shepherd recognised John's contribution to Scottish country dancing and

music in a tribute on BBC Radio Scotland's *Take the Floor* programme on the announcement of his death.

Although he retired from running the Monday night dances in 2003, John remained the heart and soul of dancing at St Columba's. Generations of dancers will recall the friendly welcome they received from John whenever they arrived at a dance. He took a real interest in people, not just as dancers but as individuals, and he cared about them deeply. He had an amazing facility for remembering names, and he addressed many of his friends by the nicknames he had given them. I am flattered that having known him for almost forty years he still referred to me as "Young Kellett".

It is testament to the affection and respect in which he was held that so many dancers and musicians attended his funeral in Killin, Perthshire and the memorial service at St Columba's. Michael Stevenson, the Session Clerk, commented in his eulogy that "John never forgot his Scottish roots. He always loved his native Perthshire, and Iona in particular. He was returning from Perthshire when he died. He would visit Scotland several times a year to see his family – his surviving brother and two sisters. He had 13 nieces and nephews, and 30 great- and great-great-nieces and -nephews." To them, dancers may be surprised to know, he was known as Jake.

There will be another opportunity for us to remember John at the Combined Societies Dance on 25 April 2015, which is being dedicated to him. John will be missed greatly. He was a real enthusiast for Scottish country dancing and its music, and, more importantly, he was a true friend to so many of us.

Andrew Kellett

Raymond West

26 September 1928 – 8 October 2014

Raymond West, an only child, was born in Raynes Park, SW20. During the war, his father's employment, as a government inspector of military and RAF uniforms and equipment, meant the family moved frequently. After a short period of conscription, and a series of boring jobs, Ray discovered an escape route – climbing – and he was away to the hills and mountains in the UK and Switzerland! After a tough day's trekking, mountaineering clubs frequently indulged in vigorous Scottish country dancing, as further evening sport. You had to be super-fit!

This was a new, fun challenge for all, where you did not have to be technically perfect, but, on acquiring a working knowledge of a few dances, you could birl the ladies and have an enjoyable evening. Never one to worry about the exactitudes of style, he just loved SCD for the jollity of the music, the fun and the comradeship of fellow dancers. All that we hope SCD to be!

Ray was one of the last people to go to Fetter Lane, and he danced at Pont St since the 1960s. He saw so many people come and go. He also joined other groups of dancers for weekends dancing in other cities in Europe and Russia.

In the last few years, the chronic deteriorating conditions of arthritis and Parkinson's had left him marooned helplessly in a care home. For one so active and full of ingenuity, it was a demoralising, tragic situation.

Ray loved coming to Pont St, and is sadly missed, but we will remember him happily dancing his favourites – *The Irish Rover* and *"Ian Powrie"*.

Cherry West



Ray at the Burns' Supper Ball at The Hurlingham Club, 24 January 2009.

Vale

Valerie Twining (14 January 1924 – 17 November 2014) Readers will have read the brief article on Valerie Twining's life in *The Reel* 288. Valerie did not manage to settle in Arundel, and returned to Chelsea. After a short time in a residential care home in Wimbledon, her heart sadly slowed down and she passed away peacefully in a cottage hospital in Cheam.

We were also sorry to receive notice of the recent deaths of Ian Dennison and Annie Waterson, both of whom will have been well-known to many dancers at St Columba's. Their lives will be remembered in *The Reel* 291.

An Appreciation of Bobby Crowe and John Laurie

Dear Jeremy,

I wanted to write to share my very positive memories of both Bobby Crowe and John Laurie.

I knew Bobby much less well, but he was a big influence on my early playing days. He came to play with his band in Manchester very regularly in the 1980s. They were great nights in the Stockport Town Hall with a sell-out crowd of 300 dancers. The Band included the likes of Angus Fitchet and Ron Kerr on fiddle, Muriel Johnstone on piano and Malcolm Ross on drums. The style, accuracy and danceable nature of Bobby's music made it an absolute pleasure for both dancer and listener alike. He was, of course, also a regular contributor at the Younger Hall in St Andrews during the RSCDS Summer Schools over a long period.

Even though I loved to dance, I would also watch keenly to absorb Bobby's tremendous control of his instrument, particularly the lovely fluid left-hand technique he had. But my abiding memory of Bobby was his interest in young folk (as I was then), and his generosity of spirit, both in talking about the music, and in sharing his immense collection of tunes and arrangements. Much of my early band music is based on sheets that Bobby willingly gave away.

I first met John Laurie in the late 1980s at a wedding in Belgium. It was the start of a long friendship based on a common interest in Scottish dancing and music, and hymn tunes too!

John had an encyclopaedic knowledge of Scottish dance tunes, though I like to think I occasionally gave him a run for his money. He was always interested in the people too, and it was most fitting that this aspect of his character came out so strongly at his funeral. He certainly gave me and my fledgling band every encouragement, including sponsoring and being the driving force behind the Band's early recordings. I am so very grateful for that support.

In London, he was definitely the face of Scottish country dancing at St Columba's Church. He masterminded the Monday night dancing for several decades, and was very often MCing or on the door at so many other dancing nights. John was the guy that was always networking, connecting people and generally providing the welcoming glue for the large ensemble of dancers that would pass through the Pont Street doors. Somehow, dancing at Pont Street won't seem quite the same without John there: the welcome, the keeping up with what tunes the band are playing, appreciating the different qualities that each band brings, and being introduced to yet another new and interesting person with whom there is a connection you'd never have discovered without John.

Yours sincerely

David Hall

Bobby Crowe

1 February 1933 – 17 September 2014

There are very few Scottish dance band leaders who dedicated as much time and contributed so much to the Scottish country dance scene as Bobby Crowe. Hailing from Balmullo, in Fife, Bobby was involved in the Scottish dance band scene from the early fifties. He was a renowned accordionist and band leader, who not only led his own top class band, but was also the accordion sound of The Olympians, The Cameron Kerr Band, Angus Fitchet's Band and the New Cavendish Band. His own band, formed in 1955, was one of the best known in its time, very popular and in great demand in Scottish country dance circles north and south of the border. His first band broadcast was in 1961, he recorded eleven LPs for the RSCDS, released three commercial recordings and played for the Queen at Balmoral and Holyrood.

The Bobby Crowe Band had a truly great sound and was one of the best bands to dance to. He understood the need to have the tempo just right, the tunes were carefully selected to suit each dance and the playing was superb.

Bobby has been greatly missed from the broadcasting and Scottish dance scene, but, even after his playing career was prematurely ended in the early nineties, he maintained a keen interest in the music, and was a well-known figure, travelling the country to listen to the music, chat with fellow enthusiasts and promote the quality approach to traditional music he loved. Indeed, he was doing just that at Perth Accordion Club the night before he passed away. Several generations of young musicians have benefited from his encouragement and he was always prepared to do what he could to help youngsters achieve their potential.

My introduction to Bobby came about on the stage at Younger Hall during Summer School in the 1970s. I had just played for a ladies' step demonstration when an agitated Mr Crowe suddenly asked me, "Do you read the dots?" Not really knowing what he meant, I shrugged and mumbled something about giving it a go, whereupon I was directed to the piano, and was launched into playing for the next dance on the programme. I had never played in a band; the "dots" were actually a chord chart (really?!) and I was terrified! I remember some hideous moments when I got the chord symbols back to front, and was producing some chords that definitely didn't quite fit! Bobby must have been hoping that his pianist would return from the pub in time for the next dance, but he failed to appear. I managed to get through the evening somehow – and was hooked!

Even more surprisingly, I was booked for another gig, and subsequently was privileged to have seven years playing in Bobby's band. I learned a huge amount about the music, the harmony, tempo, rhythm and lift, playing in a band, the repertoire, putting sets together and how to write the band parts (all done by hand in those days). Many of us musicians have in our possession some cherished arrangements in Bobby's distinctive hand – bold and black, clear and correct. He also spent hours searching through books and old manuscripts to find good tunes. To my mind he was the best executant of fiddle strathspeys on the accordion. I always remember him saying, "There's more to being a band leader than strapping on a box".

On long journeys Bobby entertained us with stories from the old days and anecdotes about various legendary figures: Jimmy Shand, Angus Fitchet, Ian Powrie, Jimmy Blue and a host of others including producers at the BBC and characters in dancing circles; no-one was safe!

In addition to his informed insights into the music scene Bobby had a unique sense of humour. Some of his funny sayings spring to mind such as "long may yer lum hat" and "it's only one of his legs that's not the same length as the other". To say that Bobby was a character is an understatement! He had a great zest for life and tended not to do things by half...

Jim Lindsay remembers: "In the early days, when on a long journey in the old transit van, he would have a reel to reel tape recorder rigged up to the band speakers playing at full volume, and optics for the whisky attached to the side of the van – it was jumping!"

There is a story about him going to a big British accordion festival in Blackpool a few years back, long after he had stopped playing. He had an accordion case with him and everyone was surprised, assuming he had started playing again. But the first acquaintance he met in the foyer was treated to the case being opened to reveal a cocktail cabinet complete with various spirits, glasses, water etc., and throughout the weekend he would set up the bar wherever he happened to be!

Bobby certainly entered into the spirit of things, but nowhere more than in his love of music, which extended far beyond Scottish dance music. A highly respected musician and band leader, a master joiner, a devoted family man and a great friend of many, Bobby will be missed.

As he himself would have said in parting, "See ye a while ago!"

Muriel Johnstone



John Laurie on Bobby Crowe

John Laurie's contributions to the Record Review corner of The Reel stretch back over 40 years, both before and after he was Editor. He always brought his vast knowledge to bear to the benefit of the reader, and wasn't afraid to state his views firmly. Of the many reviews he wrote, many demonstrate these attributes and warrant reproduction, but it seemed appropriate to pick one that featured Bobby Crowe's Band. It dates from The Reel 145, dated August 1978. Sadly the recording has never been re-released, although some of the tracks are available on RSCDS compilation CDs, including one entitled A Fife Fairing (now out of stock at HQ).

Four RSCDS Dances for 1978, etc.: Exactly seven years ago we reviewed nine records and said "Top of the Pops in this lot is undoubtedly Bobby Crowe" and went on to say "you will want to listen to over and over again." Seven years on...buy this new record and you will want to listen over and over again. It really is excellent. Tempo is just right on each and every track. For reasons best known to the Society its records do not contain any of the good modern tunes composed by contemporary band leaders, but if you were disappointed with the quite dreary selection of tunes on the record for Book 28 have no fears on this latest record. There are in fact hundreds of good traditional tunes and those chosen on this occasion are, without exception, good ones. We immediately recognise no fewer than six strathspeys by J. Scott Skinner. (We suspect there are one or two new compositions among the originals and do wish the Society (our Society!) would take the trouble to give us the sources of tunes.) Assisting Bobby, we have James Lindsay playing exceedingly competently on second accordion (not to be confused with Jimmy Lindsay who made the Book 28 record), Angus Fitchet on fiddle – the sleeve says violin – Peter Straughan on piano, Dave Barclay on bass and Colin Lander on drums. Sound engineer is Stuart Jeffrey, which means the recording was done in Bryce Laing's Craighall studio in Edinburgh and this means first-rate recording quality. (Did you know that Craighall's reputation is such that EMI Records brings them, with their mobile studio, all the way to Earl's Court to record the Royal Tournament?). This record is very good value with about 50 minutes' playing time. It will surely appeal to dancers and to listeners alike.

John Laurie

THE DANCING WORLD



1



3



2

1. Open Air Dancing, 23 August 2014 in Kensington Gardens: Newcomers and experienced dancers together enjoying dancing to the music of Kafoozalum, behind, on the bandstand.
2. Piper Stewart Murray preparing himself for, or recovering from, playing for some of the dancing.

3. New Season Dance, 13 September 2014 at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont St: Band for the evening Strathallan, with Iain Farrell, MC for the second half.
4. The French Connection: Andrew Kellett (Branch Chairman – second left) greets, from left, Julia Griffin from Paris, newcomer Nathalie Levy from Lille, now based in London, and is joined by Parisians/Londoners Jerry and Danielle Reinstein (see also p1).

5. Some of the younger dancers at the dance to open the season, from left: Elaine Davies, Katy Sweetman, Edward Davies, Jamie Walker, Catriona Bennett, Kieran McLachlan, Linsey McLachlan and Liz Douglas (see also p7).

6. Branch Day School, 18 October 2014 at Paddington Academy: Graham Donald providing clear instruction and delightful manner, with the assistance of Danielle Reinstein. See p7.



11



10



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IN PICTURES



4

7. and 8. **Branch Day School, 18 October 2014:** Musician Judith Muir (left) and teacher Di Rooney teamed up for the Mixed Ability class in the morning, and Newcomers & Improvers after lunch.

9. Maggie Scott from Brighton Branch being looked after by the Branch's new Bookstall Manager, Daniel Capron. See p12.

10. **SERTA Meeting, Abbots Langley 28 September 2014:** Sue Porter gives advice to Branch Secretary Margaret Catchick (see p7).

11. **Autumn Wednesday Dance, St Columba's Church, Pont St, 29 October 2014:** Jeremy Dent and Nick Haimendorf to the fore, dancing *The Highlandman kissed his Mother*.



5



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8



9

Partners for *The Eightsome Reel*

I was recently faced with an interesting decision – without a live musician, which recording of *The Eightsome Reel* should I choose for a dance evening? Most dances have been recorded at least once; this one perhaps more than any other. The adventurous can find dozens to choose from on iTunes, ranging from a hasty 7'03" version from The Reel Thing, to a Jim Macleod the slowest, at 8'54".

I decided to do something of a test across the recordings I own, to decide which I felt was most suitable for my purposes. In doing so I compared a number of factors:

- Tempo – without access to adjustment technology I needed something that would work as it was;
- Tunes – a great variety is available, with no clear original. The Society has settled on the *Deil amang the Tailors*, though this is one occasion when this seems less relevant. Traditional fiddle reels such as *Soldier's Joy*, *The Fairy Dance* and *Kate Dalrymple* are most common to make up the sets (some noted originals for other RSCDS dances);
- Layout of tunes – how well the tunes are structured to make up the 464 bars, or more particularly, 40 at the start and finish and 8x48 in between, and therefore to fit the dance;
- Sound – I needed something I could project into a hall without it sounding terrible, but was also looking for some variety across the long dance.

I found I had seven recordings, covering a range of popular bands and spread over quite a number of years.

The Jim Macleod recording I have is the oldest, and, at 8'00", one of the quickest of those I am considering. It suffers from poor sound, which from the first chord is a challenge – this wouldn't come across well if amplified in a hall. The stereo is rather accentuated, with drums in one corner, bass and piano in another, and fiddle and accordion in the centre. It's great to hear the work of Jim Macleod adding his characteristic flavour on the piano, but the drums are rather prominent, with frequent and insistent cross rhythms. He takes *The Marquess of Tulliebardine* as the original, followed by 'standards' from the Jim Macleod band book, each with flavour, though quite straight in presentation (more 'herb' than 'spice'). The lead into the final tune (*Kate Dalrymple*) seems a little half-hearted, amid a set that overall feels rather frenetic.

Iain MacPhail clocks the same time on his live recording from South America. His tunes follow the fiddle reel model, from *De'il amang the Tailors* to start, to *Kate Dalrymple* to finish. Ron Kerr's fiddle is to the fore, plus second box, giving a full sound across the band. The whole band (or "orchestra" as I sometimes heard it referred to) get

their moment in the spotlight, with syncopation, octave doubling of parts, and second parts etc. It's a typically thrilling approach.

Ron Kerr also features on Bobby Crowe's recording, possibly too prominently for some. It is similar to the MacPhail in its use of traditional tunes, starting and finishing with *High Road to Linton*, and the spread of rhythmic, harmonic and melodic interest across the full band. Bobby insisted on playing the middle, verse sections as 2x24 bars (ABBABB) for each dancer, fitting the dance better than the more common AABBA, something I particular enjoy. He also switches to a minor key tune (*The Drummer*) to point up the start of the men's section in the middle, complete with piano solo and wood-blocks. A slight curiosity is that he used five tunes for the middle section, so three are re-used. As with all of Bobby's playing its focus is on supporting the dance whilst maintaining the listener's interest. The tempo feels just right at 8'11" for the whole track.

Against high expectations, as a big fan of the band, I found Colin Dewar's recording for the Collins book disappointing. The three-piece band doesn't give a full sound, or the options of more interesting arrangements. Whilst the playing is as classy as I expected, at 8'30" it is a little on the slow side, and the choice of tunes – song and march style rather than fiddle reels – makes for a less exciting mix. The return to the *Deil amang the Tailors* for the final chorus comes as a bit of a change of gear, a sign for me of less well-matched alternatives.

Neil Barron's RSCDS recording is punchy and dramatic from the outset, but I felt did not sustain that through the whole set. There is a solid sound across the band, and some neat moments, including a particularly pleasing key change in the middle of *High Road to Linton* as tune 6. Unlike others, there is no key change or dramatic return to *The Deil amang the Tailors* for the final chorus. At 8'36" it is even a touch slower than Colin Dewar.

A more recent recording comes from Jim Lindsay, pianist on the Bobby Crowe CD.

He follows Bobby's lead in the layout of traditional tunes to support the dancers in the middle section (ABBABB), heightened by the use of wood-block for the second 8 of each 48, though some may find this a little repetitive. Again, like Bobby Crowe, he uses a minor key tune, *The Ale is Dear*, for first man. He also distributes six tunes across the eight dancers, so two tunes are repeated for third and fourth men, something I found slightly distracting. Tempo is just right (8'13" in total), and it's a great addition to the options.

The final option I had is Luke Brady's recording from the 2014 RSCDS Commonwealth Ceilidh download. His verse sections use four tunes, each laid out in a different way, including *The Black Bear* (ABAABA) and *High Road to Linton* (ABCABB). The playing style differs from the other bands, with quavers played more evenly, but it's a great sound and offers a good modern option.

In the end, it's Bobby Crowe's recording I return to. I can use the objective criteria I set above, variety, tempo, matching of the tunes to the dance, band sound etc. to justify my final choice, but memories play a part: as well as dancing to Bobby Crowe in Manchester, London and St Andrews, when this particular CD was released, Bobby and the band played in Maidenhead for a ball. Naturally the band joined an after-dance party, and we danced into the night, including the band members. When it came to *The Eightsome Reel* track, Edward Galley, the second box player, was persuaded to dance. Falling over part way through, he was surprised to find that we carried on dancing round him; he had no choice but to get up and carry on! So, my choice is based on a combination of structural, musical and social factors – the essence of dance, in fact. You may consider the same factors and reach an entirely reasonable, but different conclusion.

Jeremy Hill

Recordings under consideration

| Band | CD/album | Publisher | Year | Track Length |
|---------------|--|-------------|------|--------------|
| Jim MacLeod | Sounds of Scotland | Savanna | 1971 | 8'00" |
| Bobby Crowe | Shores of Loch Alvie | Grasmere | 1991 | 8'11" |
| Neil Barron | RSCDS Book 6 The World of Scottish Dance | RSCDS | 1986 | 8'36" |
| Colin Dewar | Scottish Country Dancing Vol 2 (Music for Collins Book) | RSCDS | 1998 | 8'30" |
| Iain MacPhail | Celebrates in South America | Shielburn | 2000 | 8'00" |
| Jim Lindsay | The Black Watch Ball | Black Watch | 2013 | 8'13" |
| Luke Brady | Commonwealth Ceilidh | RSCDS | 2014 | 8'15" |

The Branch Bookstall is back in business

You may have seen the bookstall at a Branch dance or at the Day School. Books and CDs are also being sent out by post. A list of books and CDs currently available is on the Branch website, www.rscdslondon.org.uk, and will be updated regularly.

There has been a lot of interest in recent RSCDS publications, such as Book 48 and Graded Book 3 (both £7.78), and the reissued book of Hugh Foss Dances to Song Tunes (£6.67) and Imperial Book Vols 1-3 (£10.00); also the related CDs, which were reviewed on p9 of *The Reel* 289. RSCDS members get 10% off all Society publications.

The bookstall also has earlier publications. These provide the opportunity to buy books now probably out of print, such as books of original dances by John Drewry from the 1960's on (£3.50 – £6.50), or CDs by well-known bands for about £11.00 – £13.00. We have all the RSCDS books from Book 1 at prices generally lower than the current reprint, some being bargains at 20p or 50p; and CDs of all books, CDs of Books 1-42 being only £3.00 each. And if you missed buying the London Branch 75th Anniversary book of Scottish country dances and CD by top London musicians, these are still available at just £1.00 each.

Among other items we sell London Branch badges, one with a thistle and the words 'RSCDS

London since 1930', and one in white, gold and black with a lion rampant.

I invite you to look on the website for details of what is available, or contact me if you cannot access the website or have any queries. The bookstall will be on a smaller scale than in the past, as the Internet has reduced demand for printed books and CDs; but I aim to continue to provide a useful service to Branch members and others.

Daniel Capron

bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk

74B Thurlow Park Road, London SE21 8HY
020 8670 6918

NEW RECORDINGS

Ceilidh on Cloud Nine – Craigievar Ceilidh Band. CD (£7.00) available from the Branch Bookstall (see p12), via craigievarband@aol.com or various online sources.

Dances: *Grand March, Flying Scotsman* (4x32R), *Wind On Loch Fyne* (3x32S), *Eva Three-Step, Burns' Waltzes, The Dashing White Sergeant* (4x32R), *Gay Gordons, St Bernard's Waltz, A Trip To Bavaria* (4x32R), *Canadian Barn Dance, Strip The Willow* (3x64J), *Scottish Waltz, Mairi's Wedding Encore* (4x40R)



Craigievar's CD covers a range of traditional tunes for well-known dances, most of them ceilidh dances. It features three members of the Forbes family: Alastair, Stuart and Alex; four if you count Alastair's second box playing in addition. The fiddle and accordion provide a strong lead, with a well-balanced piano in support, and the addition of second accordion makes for a balanced sound, though it might be considered less suitable for use at a ceilidh due to the lack of drums. I particularly enjoyed the *Fairyland Waltz* by Charles Warren, used for the *St Bernard's Waltz*. The CD shows off the band to good effect, and several of the unusual track lengths may prove useful, for example a four times through *Mairi's Wedding Encore*.

Moments In Time (SSCD31) – Jim Lindsay (accordion), Muriel Johnstone (piano) * with Keith Smith (fiddle). CD (£12.00) and Book (£10.00) available from the Branch Bookstall, or via murieljohnstone@scotsscores.com

Dances: *A Wee Nothin' / More Than Nothin'* (8x32J), *Haggarty's Brig* (4x32S), *The Pawling Porch / A Double Measure** (8x32R), *The Union Jig / The Comeback Jig* (8x32J), *Cardross House** (8x32S), *The Cast'n Reel* (8x32R), *The Silver Hamer / Dr Quarrie's Birthday* (3x32S), *The Diamond Quarrie / The Penny Whistle Hornpipe** (8x32R), *It's About Time / The Falkirk Lass** (8x32S), *The Greenbelt Jig* (8x32J), *Pinewoods Transitions* (8x40R), *Mr Gallamore's Strathspey** (4x32S), *Tine's Jig** (8x32J), *Four's a Score / The Road to the Border* (8x32R)

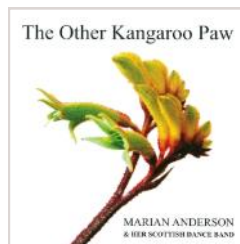


On their latest CD, Jim and Muriel, both erstwhile key members of Bobby Crowe's Band (see p9 and article opposite), with Keith Smith on fiddle for several tracks, form a true chamber group, equal partners throughout. Muriel's extraordinary originality and productivity is in evidence, not just in composition, with 35 of her tunes across the 14 dances, many of them new, but also in the interpretation: throughout the recording the music is enlivened by counter-melodies, doubling on the piano, light and shade within tunes, and delightful harmonies, all backed by the fundamental security of rhythm that is a hallmark of Muriel's playing. The playing is really beautiful, and I particularly enjoyed the lilt of the jigs. There's a really slick cascade of triplets in a version of Scott Skinner's *Dr Gordon Stables' Reel* in the set for *The Pawling Porch / A Double Measure*. The most valid comparison would be with Muriel's early *Dancing Fingers* recordings, except here with accordion (and in some cases fiddle) substituting for one of the multi-tracked piano parts on those iconic releases.

The dances are taken from *Moments in Time*, a collection of dances by Elaine Brunken. Born in Falkland, Elaine has been in the US for over 35 years, and the dances have been written over the last 14 years for a variety of friends in a great variety of places. Several of the dances contain unusual variations on movements, for example mirror reels of four, but there are also easier dances that may be useful for teaching purposes. One thing to note: the 14 tracks are representing 21 dances, so seven of them double up for two dances, with both originals played within the set.

The Other Kangaroo Paw – Marian Anderson & Her Scottish Dance Band. Dances and original tunes available free of charge from www.members.westnet.com.au/trevanne/rscdswa. CD available from the Branch Bookstall.

Dances: *Warm Up March / The Lion Gate* (5x32March), *Emmett's Chase* (8x32J) *A Special Occasion* (3x48R) *Far North Queensland* (5x32S), *May's 100* (8x32J), *The Anne Archdeacon Reel* (4x40R), *Audrey & Peter's Jubilee* (3x48S), *The Torridon Cross* (4x48J), *The Two Gray Cats* (8x40R), *A Highlander in Glasgow* (4x32S), *Christine M Phillips* (8x32J), *High Society* (4x40R), *The Swan & The Tay* (3x32S), *Perth Meets Perth* (4x32R), *Cool Down Waltz*



Marian Anderson's second CD to accompany dances originating from Western Australia also features Keith Smith on fiddle, but within the context of a full, modern, accordion band sound, alongside Marian and Graham Bell on accordions, Isabelle Hodgson on piano (and bass) and Max Ketchin on drums. It's well-balanced to hear all the instruments (something I have not always found to be the case when heard live).

Of the dances recorded, *Christine M Phillips* and *High Society* were both in RSCDS Book 46, and two others were in the book *Scottish Country Dances for Perth 800*. The instructions for the other dances are included in the insert booklet of the CD, or else are available to download free of charge, along with the original tunes.

Marian's band display all the characteristics we have come to expect, with lots of variety of style and use of cross-rhythms, syncopation and harmonic flavour to liven up the material. Many of the dances feature her own original tunes, and she matches these throughout with modern tunes, many also of her own devising, but also including some band favourites, such as Robert Mathieson's pipe reel *Itchy Fingers*, in a great set for *The Two Gray Cats*. I'm sorry that means we get no traditional tunes in the mix. There is a great pair of march tunes by John Burns to start the CD (with an associated walking ceilidh-style dance to go with them), and a most attractive cool-down waltz at the end.

Jeremy Hill

BANDS

CALEDONIAN REELERS

Well established 3-piece SCD band, consisting of accordionist, fiddler and drummer. Caller/piper can also be supplied. Available for RSCDS dances, ceilidhs, weddings, reeling. Anywhere, anytime for your function. Please contact Derek Chappell 01206 764232 / Mary Felgate 07866 757401 for further information, or Derekdexie@aol.com

KAFOOZALUM COUNTRY DANCE BAND

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

M C B A I N S
Country Band Dance

M C B A I N S
Band

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

Soloist: PETER JENKINS

Solo accordion for workshops, classes, day schools and 'smaller functions'. 020 8581 0359 or peter@kafoozalum.co.uk

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

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

THE INVERCAULD SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

Scottish Dance Band for Dances, Balls, Ceilidhs and Weddings in Jersey, Channel Islands and in the UK. Please contact Lilian Linden at lilian.linden@virgin.net or on 01534 789817 or 07829 722446. CDs £12.00 each (+£1.00 p&p in UK) www.invercauldband.com

HELP NEEDED

The Reel is very fortunate in receiving a good number of contributors of photographs of dancing, dancers and dancing events. Sadly, they cannot all be accommodated. We are seeking someone with an interest and/or expertise in assisting with editing and layout of photographs in the preparation of *The Reel*. Please contact editor@rscdslondon.org.uk if you might be interested.

THE REEL

The Reel is published four times a year by the London Branch and posted free to all Branch members. Non-members may subscribe to be on the mailing list, and clubs can negotiate bulk copies for their members. Enquiries to Wilson Nicol, see advert on p14.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Seeking the Apolaustic Life

Dear Jeremy,

Referring to your Editorial in *The Reel* 289, particularly the plethora of complex dances where the programme devisers feel it necessary to hold pre-ball practice sessions, some even lasting the whole day, who is it, I wonder, who goes to these sessions? Surely not the people who need to travel far and wide for the ball itself. Just the home team? Do they not learn the dances in class?

This begs the question, if a programme has so many new and complex dances, then is it perhaps not a very suitable programme? A host club needs dancers from other clubs in order to pay for the hire of the hall and band, and help along the ambience. Such folk may well not know any of these complex dances well enough to feel comfortable dancing them without a practice.

Certainly, when choosing dances to attend, I tend to pick those that have a goodly proportion of good old favourites, with just a sprinkling of new ones and no poor ones (regrettably lots of the latter are forgettable and should be forgotten). Really complex dances I will not attempt to do, since my memory is not up to it. They are the ones I choose to sit out (I need to sit out sometimes at my age), and if the mix is not to my liking I select another dance from the Dance Events pages instead. After all, the main purpose is to have an enjoyable evening.

Yours apolaustically (no, I didn't know what this meant either. It is "the total seeking of enjoyment". Very desirable as one gets older!)

Jim Eva

Heads and Eyes Up

Dear Jeremy,

I've been dancing now for about 30 years, in and around those distant London suburbs of Cheshire, the North West and the West Midlands. I've been enjoying your magazine for a good many of those years, and particularly like the frankness of some of the articles and letters.

You cannot guess just how much I agree with Adrian Conrad's letter in *The Reel* 289, particularly his last paragraph. It becomes such a disappointment when, as happens, you have a dance with an excellent partner who has perfect footwork, faultless timing and a very clear knowledge of the dance, only to find that all you've really seen of her is the top of her head as she is so interested in the floor!

Have you ever watched the solemn faces in the line opposite during recaps, at dances and balls? Many look as though they are on death row rather than out to enjoy themselves!

I've found a good way of helping overcome those problems, and that is to continually supplement the "heads up" requests, often with a joke to get a smile, or comments like "check that there's a person on the other end of that hand you're holding", or "if you're talking to a friend do you look at them or at the floor?" It seems to be working well at my various groups – faces are so much nicer to look at than the top of people's heads, and, if you get eye contact too, then WOW, that really feels good!

As for the reviews of CDs, generally pretty good, honest and helpful, just what we want. BUT, I think there are a couple of words missing in John Laurie's review of RSCDS Book 48 CD. Those words are "very much". The recording isn't just "on the slow side", it is VERY MUCH on the slow side. If I played it as it stands at any of my groups and classes, I'd be inundated with adverse comments. Pity as the music is otherwise great, and a tribute to Susan MacFadyen and her Band. All I can say is, thank goodness for speed adjustment programmes – I use The Amazing Slow Downer, which can speed up or slow down in 1% increments without changing the pitch. (Other speed adjustment programmes are available!)

Anyway, keep up your great work with *The Reel* – it is by far my favourite Scottish dancing 'Read'.

Peter Marshall

SUBSCRIBE TO THE REEL

If you are not a member of the London Branch, you can order copies of *The Reel* from Wilson Nicol at reelsubscriptions@rscdslondon.org.uk or 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS.

For individual subscribers we now offer electronic subscription for £4.00 for four issues (see below left), and, for hard copies sent by post, rates are £6.00 if resident in the UK, £12.00 for other European residents and £15.00 if resident elsewhere. There are special rates on request for bulk orders. Remittances in sterling please, payable to RSCDS (London Branch).

London Branch Membership

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

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

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

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

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

The Branch is also looking at the introduction of PayPal as a payment mechanism for Branch membership and subscriptions. For further details please contact Jerry Reinstein jar@reinsteinassociates.com

Scottish Country Dancing in Malaysia? Reely?!

Jessie Behan recently passed through London and came to dance at Pont St, but most of the time she's dancing in a rather different atmosphere. We asked her to paint a picture of dancing in Malaysia.

"Isn't it too hot over there?", I hear you ask! No, no; we have highlands here too! "Well okay then, but why on earth would people gather to do Scottish dancing in Malaysia of all places?" Well actually, there is a reason to dance *The Flowers of Edinburgh* by the South China Sea: the British first came to Malaysia in the 18th century, seeking to establish trading posts. When the jungle heat became too intense, they holidayed in hill stations created in the style of quaint British villages, taking afternoon tea, dancing and playing music. One of these hill stations, the Cameron Highlands, became the main producer of Malaysia's tea industry. And that all started when, in 1929, the first tea bush was planted by a Brit by the name of John Archibald Russell.

So, even if you hadn't imagined Malaysia as a place to petronella, you may be interested to know that there is a group in Kuala Lumpur who meet fortnightly to celebrate and enjoy this Scottish tradition. What is more, the octogenarian son of J.A. Russell, the tea pioneer whose family has lived in Malaysia ever since, continues to organise the practices to this day.

The group meet within sight of the iconic Petronas Twin Towers and welcome people of any ability. Most dance practices attract a crowd large enough to form two or three sets, and include a dedicated following. Expats and Malaysians alike are attracted by the jovial, collective nature of the dance, and attendees represent at least ten nationalities, reflecting the cosmopolitan nature of the city. A couple of experienced dancers (real Scots!) patiently call, and occasionally prepare the group for performances at events organised by the St Andrew's Society of Kuala Lumpur. Additionally, definite highlights on the calendar are the trips up to the Cameron Highlands; hosted by the original tea estate, when the group spends the weekend 'speeding the plough' amongst the lush tea plantations' cool mountain air.



From L to R: Jessie Behan, Julian Armstrong, Sharon De Souza, Richard Thompson (the MC) and Cherry Beadsworth, some of the dancers at the most recent of Kuala Lumpur Scottish Dancing Group's event at the Cameron Highlands and taken in March this year.

Jessie Behan

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB Highland Ball



Saturday 10 January 2015
6.30 – 10.30pm
Manor Green School, Elizabeth
Hawkes Way, Maidenhead SL6
3HF

Ian Muir (Prestwick) and his Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Happy Returns, The Chequered Court, Linnea's Strathspey, General Stuart's Reel, The Ship in Full Sail, City of Belfast, Bratach Bana, Rodney's Rant, St Columba's Strathspey, J.B.Milne, The Rutland Reel, Argyll's Fancy, The Minister on the Loch, The Irish Rover, The Flying Spur, The Whisky Line Strathspey, Polharrow Burn, The White Heather Jig, MacDonald of the Isles, The Dancing Man
Extras: The Starry Eyed Lassie, Festival Fling, Follow Me Home

Tickets £19.00 before 20 December,
£21.00 thereafter

Includes supper and a welcome drink
Bring your own wine
Dress Formal

Contact Jane Leach, 16 Brudenell, Windsor,
Berks SL4 4UR, 01753 869557 or
janeleach@hotmail.com

Please send a SAE with cheque if delivery to
home address required, otherwise tickets for
collection on arrival.

www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk

THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE Highland Ball

Saturday 7 March 2015
7.30 – 11.45pm

Millennium and Memorial Hall, Stanton
Harcourt, Oxon OX29 5SN

Luke Brady's Scottish Dance Band

Programme: St Andrew's Fair, Red House, Alltshellach, Macleod's Fancy, Black, Black Oil, Autumn in Appin, The Happy Weasel, The Earl of Mansfield, Forget Me Knot, Mrs Macleod, The Chequered Court, Reel of the Puffins, The Glasgow Highlanders, The Dundee City Police Jig, The Reverend John MacFarlane, The Gentleman, The Wild Geese, John of Bon Accord, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, The Reel of the 51st Division, *Extras:* Postie's Jig, West's Hornpipe

Tickets: £17.50 (students £12.50)
including supper

Contact Alex Rigby, 07792 791390 or
alexandra.rigby@keble.ox.ac.uk

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS Day School

Saturday 21 March 2015
Mascalls School, Paddock Wood, Nr Tonbridge
TN12 6LT

**Teachers: Mervyn Short, Jane Rose and
Paul Plummer**

**Musicians: Barbara Manning, Ian Cutts and
another to be announced**

For application form please contact Pat Davoll,
Cambridge Cottage, Crockham Hill, Kent
TN8 6RD (SAE) or patdavoll2@gmail.com
or Kay Dunlop, 32 Beulah Road,
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2NR (SAE) or
kaydunlop@blueyonder.co.uk

Diary Date: **Spring Dance**

Saturday 18 April 2015
7.00 – 11.00pm

Venue as above

Details in *The Reel* 291 and
www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH Annual Ball

Saturday 10 January 2015
Pittville School, Albert Road, Cheltenham,
Gloucs GL52 3JD

The Craiggellachie Scottish Dance Band
Tickets £18.00 (including light refreshments)
Programme and flyer on website (see below)

Day School

Saturday 18 April 2015
Reddings Community Centre, Cheltenham,
Gloucs GL51 6RF

Teacher: Fiona Grant

More details at website:

www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH Burns' Night Supper & Dance

Saturday 17 January 2015
7.00 – 11.30pm

Benson Parish Hall, Oxon OX10 6LZ
The Craiggellachie Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Happy Returns, Ladies' Fancy, The Rose of the North, Blooms of Bon Accord, The Chequered Court, The Rutland Reel, The Flower of Glasgow, Back to the Fireside, Tribute to the Borders, Les Noces d'Or, The Starry Eyed Lassie, The Dream Catcher, Links with St Petersburg, The Black Mountain Reel, Follow Me Home, The Belle of Bon Accord, Scott Meikle, The Reel of the 51st Division

Tickets £15.00

Contact Trisha Rawlings, 29 Frances Road,
Middle Barton, Oxon OX7 7ET, 01869 340830
or trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com

Day School and Dance

Saturday 21 February 2015
Evening Dance 7.00 – 10.30pm

Headington School, Oxford OX3 7TD

**Teachers: Margie Stevenson, Eric Finley,
Dennis Tucker**

**Musicians: Chris Oxtoby, Jeremy Hill,
Ian Robertson**

Music for the evening dance provided by
Strathallan Scottish Dance Band

Tickets: Whole day £26.00, morning or
afternoon class £9.00 each session,

Evening dance £14.00

Programme: Anderson's Rant, Hooper's Jig, The Silver Tassie, General Stuart's Reel, Miss Allie Anderson, Radcliffe Square, Kiss under the Stairs, The Belle of Bon Accord, The Deil among the Tailors, Kendall's Hornpipe, Fraser's Favourite, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Ladies' Fancy, Bratach Bana, The Flower of Glasgow, James Gray, The Reel of The Royal Scots

Applications available from

www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk to:

Trisha Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle
Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon, OX7 7ET,
01869 340830 or trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Spring Ball

Saturday 14 February 2015
7.00 – 11.00pm

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

**Nicol McLaren & The Glencraig Scottish
Dance Band**

Programme: Pelorus Jack, Bratach Bana, The Cashmere Shawl, Midnight Oil, J.B.Milne, Sands of Morar, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Glastonbury Tor, The Garry Strathspey, Olive MacNeil of Hayes, The Peat Fire Flame, The Dancing Master, Barbara's Strathspey, The Plantation Reel, Gothenburg's Welcome, The Minister on the Loch, Torridon Lassies, The Falls of Rogie, City of Belfast, The Irish Rover

Tickets £25.00 to include supper
(£16.00 non-dancers)

Contact Frances Campbell Colquhoun,
020 8943 3773 or frances18ed@gmail.com

Dance practice (subject to demand)

Sunday 1 February 2015

11.00am – 1.00pm

Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond
TW9 2RD

Members £3.00, non-members £5.00

Places must be reserved by 25 January
Contact Katy Kendall, 020 8755 0050

info@richmondcaledonian.co.uk

www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk

WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY



Caledonian Ball

Saturday 21 March 2015
7.30 – 11.30pm

Allum Hall, Allum Lane,
Elstree, WD6 3PJ

Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band
Programme: Good Hearted Glasgow, Bratach Bana, Golden Wedding Strathspey, Muirland Willie, The Australian Ladies, Gang the Same Gate, Airie Bannan, The Singing Sands, The Bees of Maggicknockater, Swiss Lassie, 1314, Torridon Lassies, General Stuart's Reel, The Dream Catcher, The Kelloholm Jig, Earlstoun Loch, Light and Airy, Macdonald of the Isles, Blooms of Bon Accord, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran

Tickets £20.00 include Buffet Supper and wine
reception

Ball practice

Sunday 15 March 2015 4.00 – 7.00pm
St Thomas' URC gymnasium, Langley Road,
Watford, WD17 4PN

Please contact us if you wish to attend
Contact us: tickets@watfordscottish.org.uk,
rkreloff@hotmail.co.uk,

07880 842370

www.watfordscottish.org.uk



CREDITS

Many thanks to all who contributed, including the following for providing photos for this edition:
Angela Berry: p1 (JR)
Stephen Webb: p1 (JL), p2, p5 (MS), p8 (JL & RW), p10 (10), p11 (4, 8 & 9)
From Jim Lindsay: p4
From Spring Fling organisers: p5
Muriel Johnstone: p9
Marjory Reid: p10 (1 & 2)
Elaine Davies: p10 (3)

From Elaine Davies: p11 (5)
Jerry Reinstein: p10 (11)
Simon Wales: p11 (6 & 7)
From Jessie Beham: p14
Silver River/Fred Fabre: p20 (top)
Zoe Hill: p20 (left)
Grace Hill: p20 (right)
Thanks also to Stephen Webb for additional reporting and co-ordination.

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

Saturday 27 December 2014
St Paul's Parish Rooms,
Wokingham, Berks RG41 1EH
7.45 – 10.45pm

Dancing to recorded music
Bring and share refreshments

Contact Fiona Albinson, 0118 978 9181



Branch Day School

Saturday 14 March 2015
Garth Hill College, Bull Lane, Bracknell
RG42 2AD

Teachers: Alice Stainer, Lindsay Ibbotson

**Class Musicians: Robert Mackay,
Judith Muir**

Musicians' Day School: Ian Muir
Contact Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

Branch Ball

Saturday 16 May 2015
Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP
The Craiggellachie Scottish Dance Band
Contact Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

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

West MACs Charity Ball

In aid of Erskine Homes
Saturday 11 April 2015
Bushey Meads School, Bushey WD23 4PA
7.30 – 11.30pm

Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig Band
M.C: Mrs Caroline Hamilton

Programme: Hooper's Jig, Bratach Bana, The Byron Strathspey, The Kelloholm Jig, Flight to Melbourne, The Cashmere Shawl, Olive MacNeil of Hayes, The Irish Rover, Alison Rose, The Cranberry Tart, Glastonbury Tor, Butterscotch and Honey, Bill Clement MBE, Scott Meikle, Gang the Same Gate, Inchmickery, Swiss Lassie, MacDonald of the Isles, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The Falls of Rogie

Tickets (including supper): £18.00 if paid before 4 April, £19.00 thereafter

From: Kate Fraser, 63 Buckingham Close,
London, W5 1TS or

WestMACS@greenfordcaledonian.net

**ISLE OF WIGHT
Weekend School**

13 – 15 February 2015

**Teachers: Craig Houston &
Anne Smyth**

Musicians: Robert Mackay,

The Craiggellachie Scottish Dance Band

For further information and application form
Contact Catherine Packwood-Bluett,
01980 621322 or catherinepb@hotmail.co.uk



SOUTH EAST DANCE DIARY

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

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

NEW!

DANCING IN MALTA

Friday 18 – Monday
21 September 2015
Dance Course and Evening
Dances in St Julian's, Malta

5 star Hotel Radisson Blu with full board

Teacher: Tom McKinlay

Musicians: Phill Jones and Sue Jennings
Early price: 530 EUR until 15 March 2015



**Optional Holiday in two parts in
Malta and in Sicily**

Monday 21 September – Friday 2 October 2015
Accommodation for 6 + 5 nights in 4 and 5-star
hotels, nearly full board and lots of programmes
including

8 UNESCO World Heritage sites
in Valetta, Gozo, Siracuse, Agrigento, Piazza
Armerina, the Aeolian islands with the
permanently active volcano of Stromboli,
the mud baths of Vulcano, Lipari and Mount
Etna and the vertically built panoramic town of
Taormina

Early price: 820 EUR + 720 EUR until

15 March Contact Katalin Konya,

kkonyakatalin@gmail.com

**HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN
SOCIETY**

Annual Ball

Friday 2 January, 2015

7.30 – 11.30pm

Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree, Herts
WD6 3PJ

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Hooper's Jig, Blooms of Bon Accord, The Cashmere Shawl, The Moffat Weavers, The Fireworks Reel, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Bill Clement MBE, The Recumbent Stone, The Dream Catcher, Torridon Lassies, The Cooper's Wife, Alison Rose, The Black Mountain Reel, General Stuart's Reel, The Gardeners' Fantasia, Equilibrium, Nottingham Lace, The Garry Strathspey, James Gray, The Irish Rover

Tickets £19.00 (non-dancers & juniors £9.00) up
to 23 December; £20.00/£10.00 thereafter,
including refreshments

Contact Gail Bignell, 020 8868 9064 or

gail.bignell@talktalk.net

Cribs available at www.harrowscottish.org.uk

**GUILDFORD SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCING
CLUB**

Spring Dance

Saturday 2 May 2015

Sandy Nixon and his

Scottish Dance Band

Tickets £15.00

will be on sale from February 2015

Contact Mike Anning, preferably by email:

mnj.anning@gmail.com or 01483 534946

www.gsdc.org.uk



LUCY CLARK CHARITY DANCE

28 March 2015

7.30pm

Prestwood Village Hall, Great Missenden

HP16 0NZ

Craigievar

Programme: Cramond Bridge, Major Ian Stewart, The Minister on the Loch, Catch the Wind, The Cooper's Wife, Culla Bay, The Falls of Rogie, Napier's Index, Bonnie Stronshiray, Queen's View, The Rose of the North, The Black Mountain Reel, Shiftn' Bobbings, Sauchie Haugh, Cape Breton Island, Welcome to Ayr, Monymusk, Ray Milbourne, A Capital Jig, The Irish Rover

Tickets and further details from from Dick Field
dickandrosie@aol.com

**RSCDS CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT
BRANCH**

Annual Dance

Saturday 14 March 2015

7.30 – 11.30pm

Impington Village College, Impington,
Cambridge CB24 9LX

Green Ginger

Programme: Hooper's Jig, Flowers of Edinburgh, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, The Fairbridge Reel, Seann Truibhas Willichan, Tribute to the Borders, The Braes of Breadalbane, The Clansman, Oh, whistle and I'll come tae ye, my lad, The Saltire Society Reel, The Diamond Jubilee, Gang the Same Gate, Jennifer's Jig, The Flower of Glasgow, The Ladies of Dunse, Sugar Candie, The Last of the Lairds, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran

Contact Lindsey Ibbotson, 07977 905291 or
lindsey.ibbotson@gmail.com

**HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY
DANCING CLUB**

Diamond Anniversary Ball

Saturday 7 March 2015

7.30 – 11.30pm

Harpenden Public Halls, Harpenden, Herts
AL5 1PD

Strathallan Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Jennifer's Jig, Lady Sophia Lindsay, The Belle of Bon Accord, Muirland Willie, The Earl of Mansfield, Foxhill Court, The Diamond Jubilee, Scott Meikle, 1314, Major Ian Stewart, The Peat Fire Flame, Grand March, The Montgomerie's Rant, James Gray, The Dream Catcher, Anniversary Reel, Fugal Fergus, Autumn in Appin, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Midnight Oil, Cherrybank Gardens, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets £20.00 including supper with wine
(Students 16-21 £12.00)

Contact Val Owens, 01727 863870

www.HSCDC.org.uk

RSCDS BATH BRANCH

67th Annual Ball

Saturday 14 February 2015

The Guildhall, Bath, BA1 1LZ

Strathallan Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Good Hearted Glasgow, Anchors Aweigh, The Dream Catcher, The Chequered Court, A Trip to Bavaria, Linnea's Strathspey, Torridon Lassie, James Senior of St Andrews, The Flying Spur, The Falls of Rogie, The Montgomerie's Rant, The Immigrant Lass, The Iona Cross, Gothenburg's Welcome, Kilkenny Castle, The Black Mountain Reel, Dancing Dolphins, The Winding Road, The Reel of The Royal Scots

Tickets £25.00

Contact June Hall, Top Flat, 141 Wells Rd, Bath

BA2 3AL, 01225 318906 or

jdandjhall@gmail.com

www.rscdsbath.co.uk

**JERSEY CALEDONIA SCOTTISH
DANCE GROUP**

Scottish Dance weekend

Friday 11 – Saturday 12 September 2015

Venu, Town Hall, St Helier JE4 8PA

Tickets £35.00 for both nights

Ian Robertson

Thursday pre-Ball practice £5.00

Event will coincide with the

International Air Display

Contact Joy Carry, 01534 862205 or

jechanjoy97@gmail.com

Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or

alan.nicolle88@gmail.com

scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming dances to be held at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD



Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 – 10.30pm unless otherwise stated

Saturday 3 January: New Year Dance
7.00 – 11.00pm **Craigievar**
Saturday 7 February: Annual Ball (see below)
Saturday 7 March: **Frank Thomson duo**

Annual Ball

Saturday 7 February 2015
7.00 – 11.00pm

Sandy Nixon & His Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Hooper's Jig, The Belle of Bon Accord, Whistling Wind, The Moffat Weavers, The Valentine, The Reverend John MacFarlane, The Luckenbooth Brooch, S-Locomotion, The Cuckoo Clock, The Dancing Master, Grand March & The Buchan Eightsome Reel, Flower o' the Quern, Tribute to the Borders, Anniversary Reel, The Silver Tassie, Inchmickery, Rest and be Thankful, Balmoral Strathspey, J.B.Milne, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder

Ball Tickets:

Including finger buffet refreshments
* LHC Members in advance £16.00
* Non Members in advance £18.00
All classes on the door £20.00
* Advance booking price is only available on orders received by midnight 4 February
For tickets contact Frank Bennett,
020 8715 3564 or fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk

If you have Highland dress, you are invited to wear it.

Programmes & cribs are now available on our website:

www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

For further details, contact Catriona Bennett on 020 8544 5558 or cmb84scd@gmail.com

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

ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Day School

Saturday 25 April 2015
Edgbarrow School, Crowthorne,
Berks RG45 7HZ

Teachers: Andrew Nolan & Catherine Smith
Musicians: Andrew Lyon & Robert Mackay

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

Argyll Weekend

Friday 2 – Sunday 4 October 2015
Dillington House, Somerset
Dancers' Weekend School

Teachers: the

Musicians: Robert Mackay & Judith Muir
Musicians' Weekend School

Led by Ian Muir

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

For further information and brochure contact
dillington@somerset.gov.uk or go to
www.dillington.co.uk or

www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk



WEMBLEY AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball

Saturday 28 February 2015
7.30 – 11.30pm

The Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band MC: Mrs Caroline Hamilton

Programme: EH3 7AF, The Black Mountain Reel, Culla Bay, A Capital Jig, Glastonbury Tor, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, The Luckenbooth Brooch, Flight to Melbourne, The Gardeners' Fantasia, The Earl of Mansfield, James Gray, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Best Set in the Hall, The Falls of Rogie, The Dream Catcher, Inchmickery, The Fireworks Reel, Butterscotch and Honey, The Dancing Master, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets £17.00 from Brenda Manbauhar
020 8933 9169

info@wdsa.co.uk or www.wdsa.co.uk

GERRARD CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Tea Dance

Beat the post-Christmas blues with our fun and friendly event!

All dances will be talked and walked through
Sunday 18 January 2015
2.15pm – 6.00pm

Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre, East Common
SL9 7AD

Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

Programme: Scotch Mixer, Miss Hadden's Reel, Sugar Candie, The Australian Ladies, City of Belfast, The Starry Eyed Lassie, The Black Mountain Reel, Shiftin' Bobbins, A Capital Jig, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, West's Hornpipe, The Robertson Rant, Airie Bennan, The Deil among the Tailors

Tickets £8.50

Bring and Share refreshments – tea, coffee and squash provided

Contact Anne Ratcliffe, 01923 771535 or
anne.ratcliffe@hotmail.co.uk

www.gxscottish.org

Dance Practice: Saturday 17 January 2015,
9.45am – 12.45pm Memorial Centre (as above)

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB

Spring Ball

Saturday 21 March 2015
Charters School, Sunningdale, Ascot, Berks
SL5 9QY

Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme and details in next issue
Contact Maria Gunston, 01276 34609 or
tickets@camberleyreelclub.org.uk

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

Annual Ball

Saturday 7 February 2015
The Abbey School, 17 Kendrick Road, Reading,
Berks RG1 5DZ

The Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Joie de Vivre, The Highland Rambler, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, The Zoologist, The Reverend John MacFarlane, S-Locomotion, Mrs Stewart's Jig, The Recumbent Stone, The Byron Strathspey, Swiss Lassie, Best Set in the Hall, Maxwell's Rant, Gang the Same Gate, MacLeod's Fancy, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran, The Dream Catcher, Inchmickery, Orwell Lodge Strathspey, James Gray, The Reel of The Royal Scots. *Extra:* West's Hornpipe

Tickets £20.00 including drinks reception and supper with a glass of wine

Contact Anne Wyatt, Crescent Key,
The Crescent, Shiplake, Oxon RG9 3LL,
0118 940 4012 or sascdo1@gmail.com
www.scottishdancingreading.org

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB



63rd Highland Ball

Saturday 14 February 2015
Ashlyns School, Berkhamsted,
HP4 3AH

Sandy Nixon's Scottish Country Dance Band

Programme: Light and Airy, The College Hornpipe, City of Belfast, The Chequered Court, 1314, Bedrule, Equilibrium, The Wee Cooper of Fife, Gang the Same Gate, Joie de Vivre, Bratach Bana, Flight to Melbourne, The Valentine, Lord Maclay's Reel, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Polharrow Burn, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, James Gray, Summer Wooing, Macdonald of the Isles, Follow Me Home, Duke of Perth

Tickets £24.00

(Dinner & welcome drink included)

Contact Gerry Elliott,
01442 832753 or

events@berkhamstedreelclub.org

Tickets also available via website and PayPal



Highland Ball Practice

Saturday 7 February 2015, 11:00am – 5:00pm
Potten End Village Hall, Berkhamsted,
HP4 2QQ

£5.00 on the door

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

www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

Scottish Country Dance Weekend

June 19th - 20th 2015

at
St. Mary's Church Centre,
Peterborough PE1 1TT

Friday 19th June

Social Dance to Ian Slater

with Bring & Share Supper & raffle in aid of charity

Saturday 20th June

Two classes taught by Graham Donald and Sue Ronald
with musicians Marion Turnock and David Page & Debbie Hammond

Buffet Supper at 6 pm

followed by

Social Dance to the School Musicians

Application form and further details from:

Amanda Peart, Weekend Co-ordinator,
2 Deeping Road, Baston,
Peterborough PE6 9NP

Tel: 01778 560433 email: amandapeart@thesundayclass.org.uk
www.peterboroughrscds.org.uk

with support from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund

BRANCH DIARY DATES

Saturday 10 January: Burns' Supper & Ceilidh Dance – Caledonian Reelers (see p3)

Wednesday 18 February: Winter Wednesday Dance – Christina Hood & Sandra Smith (p3)

Saturday 21 March: Family Day Dance (p4) and Spring Dance (p3) – Kafoozalum

Friday 17 – Sunday 19 April: Spring Fling, Spring Fringe, Musicians' Day & Evening Dance open to all on Saturday 18 April – Jim Lindsay and the Musicians (pp4-5)

Saturday 13 June: Family Day Dance, AGM & End of Season Dance – Barbara Manning & Callum Mitchell

Saturday 31 October 2015: RSCDS London Branch 85th Anniversary Celebration Dance – The Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band (p3)

For further details see future editions of *The Reel* and www.rscdslondon.org.uk



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Royal Scottish Country Dance Society



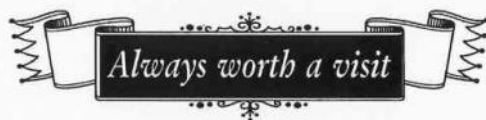
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OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

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

ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15–10.15pm Sept–May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Val Clack, 01932 845869 or www.addlestonscottish.org.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB meets in Potten End Village Hall, HP4 2QG. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15pm Sept–May, Sat. gardens June/July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Gerard Elliott, 10 Dinmore, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 0QQ, 01442 832753 or www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS. Technique Class, alternate Mondays, starting on Monday 8 September 2014, 8–10pm Finchampstead Memorial Hall, RG40 4JU. General Class, every Wednesday, starting on Wednesday 10 September 2014, 8–10pm, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church Hall, Frimley, GU16 7AA. Teacher: Mervyn Short. Details: Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at St Andrew's Church Hall, Millhams Road, Kinson, Bournemouth, BH10 7LN 7.30–10pm. Alternate Wednesday Technique class, by invitation. Details: Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Road, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX, 01202 698138

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30–10pm from October to end May, at St Andrew's URC, Montpellier Street,

Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN, 01242 528220 or mbsteele45@aol.com

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

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

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

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

DULWICH Scottish Country Dancers meet on alternate Tuesdays between September and June from 7.30–10pm (later when we have live music) at St Barnabas Hall in Dulwich Village. Teacher Peter Knight. Enquiries: Lindsay Merriman 020 8693 2182 or Michael Merifield 020 8693 624

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

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

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8pm, Sept–end of April at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details: Pippa Peatman 01256 703909 or p_peatman@yahoo.com or www.fscdc.co.uk

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30–10pm, Sept–May. Details: Morna Partridge, 01252 711992 or morna.partridge@btinternet.com

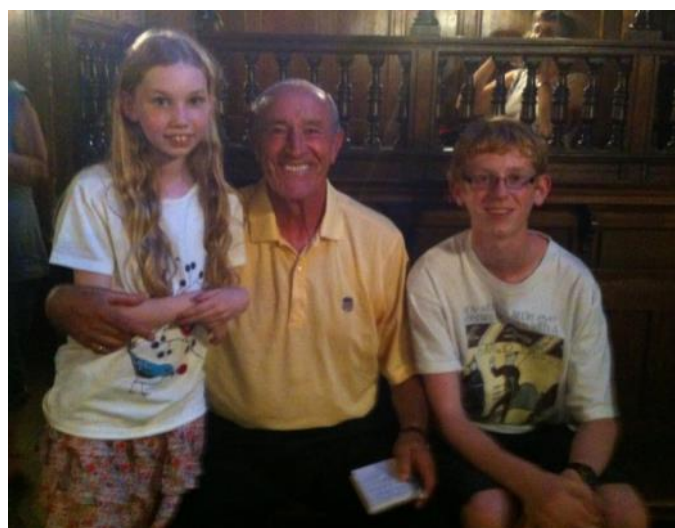
GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays from

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- Sept–June. Beginners 7.30pm, General 8.15pm. Details: Celia Stuart-Lee, 01753 884217 or info@gxscottish.org.uk or www.gxscottish.org.uk
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8–10.30 p.m. Details: Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF, 0203 078 0018
- GUILDFORD SCD meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford, GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8pm from Sept–June. Details: 01483 456091 or www.gscdc.org.uk
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Tuesdays Sept–June from 8–10pm in The Parlour, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF, 020 8870 6131
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday at 8pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8pm. Details: Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts AL3 5RE, 01727 863870
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Classes Wednesdays 8.15–10.15pm, St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details: Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner, HA5 3QR, 020 8428 6055 or www.harrowscottish.org.uk
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Fridays 8–10pm, Sept–July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, 020 8560 6160
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB. Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30–11pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 0208 440 3236 or margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS meet Wednesdays Sept–June at Holy Trinity & St John's C. of E. Primary School, St John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7–8pm. General 8–10pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent, 01843 869284
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP. Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinity, Jersey JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or icchanjoy@gmail.com Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@gmail.com or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB meets regularly at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: adverts in *The Reel*, Catriona Bennett, 33 Pains Close, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1BY, cmb84scd@gmail.com or 020 8544 5558 or www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB meets Thursdays 8pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL, 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday 8pm at St Piran's School, Gringer Hill, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7LZ. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372 or maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP meets every Wednesday 7.30–10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details: Dick Barford, 55 Northumberland Road, Maidstone ME25 7JG, 01622 685984
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing Thursdays 8–10.15pm at St Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent DA12 3HL, 01474 822919
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB meets every Monday evening from September – June at 8.15–10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details: Mrs Jane Whittington, 5 Coldharbour Rd., Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AE, 01474 359018
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS. Mixed ability class Mondays 8–10pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5LP, 01908 378730 or jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB. Dancing most Wednesdays during school term, 8.15–10.15pm from Sept–May at St Thomas' Church Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, SG6 4DZ. Informal Saturday dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds SG17 5AL or 01462 812691
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dancing 7.45–10pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 9UN, 01634 254451
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday 8–10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners'/Improvers' Class every Monday 8–10.15pm at St Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or hadyndavies@gmail.com
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS. Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET, 01869 340830
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY. Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading, RG1 5BD from 8–10pm, Sept–May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st & 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Margaret Spiceley 0118 978 7181 or sascdo1@gmail.com or www.scottishdancingreading.org
- REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets most Mondays 8.15 –10.15pm, Sept–May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8pm from mid Sept. to end of May. Details: 020 8943 3773 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP. Dancing Tues 8pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Scottish country dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15–10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns' Nights when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Details: Denise Haugh, 020 8392 2920 or dhaugh200@btinternet.com or www.stcolumbasdancers.org
- ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM meet every Thurs 8–10.15pm Sept–June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Sue Davis 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne, 01344 774344 or alan.suedavis@gmail.com Also Children's Class Sats 9.30–11am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT hold weekly classes for all levels of dancers on Monday evenings from 7.30–9.30pm at Collingwood School, Springfield Road, Wallington, SM6 0BD. Details: Maggie Westley, 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157, or westley.maggie14@gmail.com
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB meets every Tuesday from Sept–May, 8–10pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Mrs Josephine Ellis, 26 Byng Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8EJ or josephine@ellismp.plus.com
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday from Sept–May, 8.15–10.15pm, in Barnes. Details: Sheena Clarke, 07954 350899
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Wednesdays from 8–10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin, 48 Eastbrook Road, Blackheath SE3 8BT, 020 8856 4522
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing at St Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30–10pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Fridays, 7.30–10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30–9pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS. Classes in Hertford, Sept–May: Int/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Hollybush School, Hertford SG14 2DF; Beginners/Improvers Thurs 8pm, Guide Hut, West Street, Hertford SG13 8EZ. Details: Martin Hirst, 01992 412833 or sehscds@hotmail.com. For Demonstration class contact Anne Nutt 01992 550923
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday at 8pm from Sept–June at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY or www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS. Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8–10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8–10pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9AL. Details: George Daly, 1 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5UE, 01892 534512 or www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY. General and Beginners'/Improvers' Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey, WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8–10pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford, WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Wednesdays 8–10pm Sept–June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dance Class Mondays 8pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, WD19 5HF, 020 3078 0018
- WIMBLEDON. St Andrew Society (London): Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8pm at Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1SB. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3JB, 020 8540 1755 or araffan@googlemail.com or www.standrewsoclondon.net/ne.net
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS. Classes Tuesdays 8–10pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8–10pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ, 01264 363293 or wendy@mumford.com
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Wednesday 8–10pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Alex Daniel, 01621 855548 or alexsdaniel@aol.com

Dancing Cheek to Cheek

An Intimate History of Dance



On a July evening, London Branch members helped to show how Scottish dancing fitted into the History of Dance in the UK, for a BBC4 series presented by historian Dr Lucy Worsley and *Strictly Come Dancing's* head judge, Len Goodman. Ian Robertson provided the music for the team (top, from left): Marian Morris, Chris Twinn, Jeremy Hill, Grace Hill, Edward Davies, Kate Gentles and Andrew Kellett (not shown: Anna Twinn, who organised everything). Below: Andrew and Lucy discuss the finer points, and Zoe and Joshua Hill take the chance to get Len's autograph.

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