



The Reel

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No 257

SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2006

THE 27TH GARDEN DANCE OF THE LONDON BRANCH Polesden Lacey, 11th June 2006



Stephen Webb

Emergency gas repairs in Epsom High Street are not the ideal prelude to an afternoon's dancing at Polesden Lacey. Struggling with picnic baskets, we finally reached our group who were reclining in the shade of a coolabah (or was it a walnut?) tree. The buzz of conversation as we ate our lunch (sumptuous salads, quality quiches, succulent strawberries, choice cherries) testified to our eager anticipation at the prospect of a pleasant afternoon's dancing on the green sward of the Walnut Tree Lawn (perhaps falling giant walnuts had created the hollows we occasionally encountered?). Up in the blue sky an aviator performed a daring loop the loop, mirroring the butterflies in my stomach.

The sun shone brightly on this, my first time at this gathering. My expectations were high as those who had attended in previous years had extolled the virtues of this event. I was not disappointed: the ambience and conviviality were wonderful. Music was from Ian Muir's Craiggellachie band. The selection of tunes soon had us (we numbered about 150) cavorting with delight on the grass. Between the dances it was pleasant to sit beneath a shady bower and rest. The lawn was not as hard on the feet as I had feared; it was springy, probably due to the rain earlier in the week.

The dances on the programme were agreeably undemanding and were ably recapped by Simon Wales in the first half and by Owen Meyer after the interval; some of the onlookers were persuaded to take part in the ceilidh-type dances like The Dashing White Sergeant and Virginia Reel. During the break our party partook of delicious fruit cake, a splendid "tarte aux pommes" and Earl Grey Tea.

We were privileged to see the London Branch demonstration team perform an elegant programme of dances in honour of the Queen's 80th birthday celebrations. They all had a royal connection and included Holyrood House and The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.

All in all, the occasion was a feast for our senses – the touch of hands in the dances, the sound of the music, the fragrance of the trees and the lawn, the sight of the flowing dancers and the exquisite taste of our picnics.

Ian MacGillivray



Ann Dix and Anna Crawford, guests of Vancouver Branch.

See article on page 11.

BRANCH DANCE

Saturday 23rd September, 2006

7.00 - 10.30 pm

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

Come and celebrate the New Alliance

The Jubilee Jig	Leaflet 19
Flowers of Edinburgh	1-6
Culla Bay	41-2
C'est L' Amour	34-1
The Sailor	24-4
The Silver Tassie	Leaflet 1
Vive La Danse	Dix
Lord Elgin's Reel	26-5
The Earl of Mansfield	Leaflet 5
Joie de Vivre	39.2
The Triumph	1.2
Montparnasse	Dix
The Starry Eyed Lassie	23-11
La Tempête	2-1
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	Leaflet 20
Follow Me Home	38-3
Adieu Mon Ami	24-11
The Reel of the Royal Scots	Leaflet 27

Dancers from France are particularly welcome to join us for this dance

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

There will be activities organised on Sunday 24th September for our French visitors: would you like to join in?

Class – Fun and technique with Philippe and Mylene Rousseau. £6.00

Lunch – The Perseverance Pub in Lamb's Conduit Street, a renovated Victorian public house. £20 approx for two courses.

Walk – led by qualified a guide, Bloomsbury and the Inns of Court. £2.00 contribution. All in the area of Corams Fields, Guilford Street, WC1, where the class will be held.

Book your place from Jenny Sweeney:
jenny.sweeney@ukgateway.net.
Tel. 020 8693 3982.

Last minute details after 10th September:
Rachel Wilton wiltonrachel@hotmail.com.
Tel 020 8858 7729.

OPEN AIR DANCING

Saturday afternoons 2nd and 9th September 2006

2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Kensington Gardens

(by the bandstand, near the Round Pond). Nearest underground stations:

Queensway and High Street Kensington

Dancing to the music of **Kafoozalum**

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

Issue No 258 will be with UK based members by 2nd December 2006 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent to the Editor, Wilson Nicol, 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS or preferably by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk, to arrive by **28th October**. (Issue No 259 will arrive by 17th February 2007).

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

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The AGM has passed, Summer Tuesdays have nearly finished and we are ready for a new season of dancing.

At the AGM we thanked Lindsay Merriman and Cherry West for their work for the Branch and welcomed two new members – Stewart Murray and Rosalind Zuridis. The Treasurer's Report (details on Page 5) and the Annual Report sent to members in the last issue of *The Reel*, were both accepted, including the section on 'plans for the coming year'. The Vice Presidents provided a delicious tea, and the evening ended with dancing to the excellent music of Angela Young. We were also privileged to view the photographs taken during last season by Stephen Webb and put together by Jeff Robertson as a recursive slide show. These will be shown at other Branch occasions and are interesting to see – everyone likes to see a photo of themselves!

Our final 75th event, Celebrating Musicians, postponed from the previous year, was an outstanding success. 22 musicians worked hard all day and provided a tremendous sound for the evening's dance, led by David Cunningham. We were also extremely fortunate with the weather at Polesden Lacey – did we ever think it might be too *hor?!?* The Craiggellachie Band did us proud under difficult conditions with heat and wind, and those present enjoyed the company, the music and the dancing.

We have two more outdoor events in Kensington Gardens in September – see page 1 – an ideal opportunity for friends and family to dance with a caller and a band.

Our plans for the autumn include a celebration of 'The New Alliance' when we shall welcome visitors from France to our dance in September. October brings the Day School which this year will be providing for all levels of dancer, and a children's class too, a workshop for musicians and one for MCs, and a final coming together of everyone for a Ceilidh in the evening – put the date in your diary (details page 4). In November – one of our 'plans for the coming year' – we shall welcome less experienced/new dancers at a St Andrew's Dance where all dances will be walked through and called. Andrew Kellett will MC and all dancers can be sure of a good evening's dancing whatever their level – Andrew has many interesting dances up his sleeve!

Then comes 'The Christmas Cracker', dancing to the music of Ian Muir (Prestwick), a pre-Christmas dance, a chance to wear your evening dress and put yourself into seasonal mode.

Don't forget to look at the enclosed Dance Diary and Classes List to find out what is on in the London area, and don't forget to look at the ever developing website – there is something for everyone,

See you on the dance floor!

Rachel Wilton

HELP!

You don't have to be a Committee member to help!

There are many jobs to do at a Branch Dance and at the Day School – pouring drinks, clearing and washing glasses, helping with refreshments – preparing, laying out, clearing up, helping at the door, putting up decorations, moving furniture – the list goes on! If you would be prepared to do just ONE of those jobs ONCE you would be welcomed with enthusiasm!

Please contact the Secretary, Pam Ellam

(Address column 3)

EDITORIAL

We managed to arrange the annual editorial meeting with John Reeve, our designer and printer, at Wisley Gardens in June. Both of us are enthusiastic gardeners as well as dancers. Working together over the last year has developed into an easy partnership. Sharing the workload has facilitated a smoother running organisation, the result of which is that we predict for next year we will be able to shorten appreciably the time between the copy deadline and the distribution of *The Reel* to readers. The Editor merely collects the copy, edits appropriately and sends it all off to John electronically: the post plays little part in the modern communication system. By a masterful juggling with the layout, John manages to squeeze a quart into a pint pot – I'm sorry if the issues appear crowded but we have an obligation as a charity to provide maximum information and interest at a minimum of cost. One of the dividends of John receiving all the copy electronically is that his cost reduction has been turned into an advantage for our readers: we can now afford within the budget four colour pages in each issue. We hope you all enjoy the upgrade.

Our grateful thanks to John!

Wilson Nicol



NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Marketing Officer: Membership Services are preparing a job specification for the post of Marketing Officer and it has been emphasised that the person appointed would be promoting the Society worldwide, not just in Scotland.

Strategic Plan: The Board and Committees are progressing the Strategic Plan update. Completion before AGM.

The Technique Sub-Committee: There will be an article in the next edition of the Scottish Country Dancer to keep the membership informed of the sub committee and its work.

Society Website: The new site will have a completely different look.

The Scottish Country Dancer: The Society Magazine continues to attract positive feedback. The next issue will include dances, but in future these may only be included in the spring edition.

Society Logo: The Board have approved the final recommendation for the revised Society logo.

Gift Aid: GP&F are reviewing the possibility of claiming Gift Aid on Society subscriptions.

Youth Director: Jayne Brown has been appointed Youth Director.

Revised Society Constitution: Following consultation, the final version will be available for distribution to Branches with the draft agenda in August.

Society Tartan: A new tartan has been designed for the Society and kilt weight fabric in the new tartan should be ready in time for the Society AGM in November 2006.

Management Board Vacancies: There are still several vacancies on the Management Board and Committees and anyone who is interested in contributing to how the Society works is urged to consider applying for a place. Application forms, available on the website, must be returned with a proposer, seconder, ten signatories, a recent photograph and a brief CV by 8th September 2006.

Jeff Robertson

COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

The London Branch Committee next meets on 14th September and 13th October. Items for discussion should be sent to the Secretary, Pamela Ellam at least two weeks before the meetings to ensure inclusion on the Agenda.

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY



Patron - H.M. The Queen

HEADQUARTERS:

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

LONDON BRANCH

Hon. President

Mary Stoker

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

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

Chairman:

Rachel Wilton,
31 Kensing Road, London SE10 0LL.
Tel: 020 8858 7729.
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Hon. Treasurer:

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

SUB-COMMITTEES

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

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

Dances:..... Rachel Wilton, Margaret Catchick,
Angela Young, Stewart Murray

Demonstrations: James Fairbairn, Angela Young,

Publicity: Jeff Robertson, Rita Marlow*,
Wilson Nicol, Meryl Thomson, Rosalind Zuridis

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

Membership: Owen Meyer*

Bookstall: Ian Anderson*

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

Hon. Archivist:..... Iris Anderson*

S E Branches:..... Andrew Kellett, Simon Wales

Combined Societies: Rachel Wilton

Branch Website:..... Meryl and Ian* Thomson

*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

Website

www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Objects of London Branch

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

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

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

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

ST. ANDREW'S DANCE

Saturday 18th November 2006
7.00 - 10.30 p.m.

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1.
Would your friends/family like to dance
Scottish?

Have they been daunted by unknown dances?
Do they do other dancing and would like to try
Scottish?

This is the dance for them, but also for you!
All dances will be walked and called – nothing
too difficult, but something different, even for
the most experienced dancer.

MC: Andrew Kellett

Band **Kafoozalum**

Scottish food, Scottish music,
Scottish DANCING.

Admission £7.50 members, £8.50 non members.
Welcome drink and refreshments included.

A CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Branch Dance

Saturday 9th December 2006

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1.
7.00 for 7.15 - 11.0 p.m.

Ian Muir (Prestwick) and his Band

The Hollin Buss	24/8
Maxwell's Rant	16/10
The Braes of Breadalbane	21/7
The Chequered Court	42/3
General Stuart's Reel	10/3
The White Rose of Scotland.....	London 75th/3
Pelorus Jack	41/1
The Silver Thistle	44/10
Staffin Harvest	1978/4
Cadgers in the Canongate	9/10
The Flowers of Edinburgh.....	1/6
Tribute to the Borders	L.31
Anna Holden's Strathspey	42/2
The First of September	London 75th/12
Major Ian Stewart	35/4
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	Leaflet 18
Earlston Loch	Foss
Neidpath Castle	22/9
The Machine without Horses.....	12/12
Mrs MacPherson of Inveran	Drewry

Admission £10.00 members, £11.00 non
members. Reception drink and refreshments
included in price. Those with highland/evening
dress are encouraged to wear it

ADVANCE NOTICE OF DANCES

Branch Dances 2006 – 2007

At St Columba's unless otherwise stated.

13th January.....	Frank Reid
	Burns' Supper/Ceilidh Dance
24th March.....	Invercauld
	Children/family dance in afternoon, dance in the evening
12th May.....	Nicol McLaren
	St Columba's participators dance
9th June.....	Craigellachie
	Outdoor dance, Polesden Lacey

BRANCH BOOKSTALL

At your service

Books and CDs for Scottish Dancers

Mail order from Ian Anderson,

104 Whitedown Lane, Alton,

Hants GU34 1QR.

Tel: 01420 84599

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

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

Please state your Branch when ordering.

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

NEW BRANCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS



STEWART MURRAY

As a long-time, though occasional, ceilidh dancer, I discovered the Real McCoy of SCD only recently. But I have developed the passion of a convert for "these joyous Scottish reels" as a young Italian fellow student at Sloane Avenue described this wonderful mix of social dancing, physical exercise and mental stimulation.

It was thanks to the warm reception and encouragement of the members of the Surbiton and District Caledonian Society that I finally succumbed to the charms of SCDs. But without the inspirational teaching of Rachel Wilton and Lindsey Rousseau, my progress up the learning curve would have been a lot slower.

The Internet and the World Wide Web are tremendous resources for dancers everywhere and have also been a major help in learning about dancing and dances. Of course, we must always remember that many of us are not "connected" but I hope to be able to make a contribution to the spread of SCDs by helping the London Branch to exploit the electronic media in its recruitment of new dancers: perhaps some of these younger people who participate so energetically in ceilidh dancing in London.

Having rediscovered my former enthusiasm for playing the bagpipes, my other SCD ambition is to be able to play – probably on the small pipes – for one or two of the dances which feature on our programmes.

FAMILY DANCING WEEKEND

Friday 6th - Sunday 8th October 2006
at Troon organised by RSCDS Headquarters
in the Walker Hall, Troon, Ayrshire.

All the family welcome – dancers and non-
dancers.

Weekend package: £27 per family
(up to 2 adults + 3 children)

You will have to book your own accommodation.

For further information contact HQ either
through their web page or tel: 0131 225 3854.

ST COLUMBA'S DANCERS

St. Columba's Dancers will start their sessions on
Monday 2nd October – the format will be the
same – walk throughs from 7.15 - 7.45 p.m.,
followed by dancing to recorded music;
step practice every third Monday,
led by Lindsey Rousseau,
and Band Nights -
30th October - **Craigellachie**
11th December - **David Hall**.
Programmes – www.stcolumbas.org.uk/
activities/forthcoming.htm



ROSALIND ZURIDIS

I am delighted to have been invited to become a member of London Branch Committee and have every intention of contributing to their sterling work. I am a graduate in Modern Languages, but, apart from teaching, my career path has covered interior design and, latterly, writing on design and botanical history. Some are kind enough to call this a "portfolio career" but I am sure there are less flattering names!

I fell in love with Scottish Country Dancing on the very first evening I tried it (on an April evening with the Chelsea Reel Club) and hurried up to Summer School at St Andrews, where I encountered wonderful teaching.

Since then, my intoxication with this activity has never flagged and has been enriched by my discovery of SCD's traditions and history.

I hope to contribute to the committee's efforts to publicise SCD to a much wider audience.

DANCING PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

This was started by the Society in 2002 to "encourage a higher standard of dancing in the social and recreational field". London Branch would like to set up a series of classes to work towards this assessment, improving all elements of technique from head to toe and learning the required dances. This may sound dull but working hard in a group towards such a goal can also be a lot of fun!

If you would be interested in participating, please contact Moira Strutt 020 8748 6711 or email classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

EFDSS

The English Folk Dance and Song Society celebrate their 75th Anniversary in 2007 – look on their website www.efdss.org to see their programme. London Branch's contribution to their celebration is sponsorship of a

Shetland Dance Workshop

on Sunday 18th March 2007

at Cecil Sharp House, the Society's home – this will be led by Mats Melin with Ian Robertson as the musician. This was very successful last time Mats came to London so keep the date FREE!

Meanwhile, during the weekend of 14th/15th October 2006 the Dance Around the World Festival will be held at Cecil Sharp House – once again many different forms of dance will be demonstrated, with workshops for all to 'have a go' – it's a great weekend, and London Branch will be represented with a workshop and a demonstration.

CLASSES

Come to class, meet old friends, make new ones, improve your dancing and have fun!

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher / Musician
ELEMENTARY	Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3	Rachel Wilton / Jean Harrison
POPULAR S.C. DANCES	Wednesday	8.00 - 9.30	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3	Lindsey Rousseau / Ian Cutts
TECHNIQUE	Wednesday	7.15 - 9.15	St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1	Gaynor Curtis / Ken Martlew
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	7.15 - 9.15	For details contact James Fairbairn, 01865 512308	Angela Young / Sandra Smith
GENERAL	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30	St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1	Jeni Rutherford

Term begins week beginning 18th September 2006. Half term week commencing 23rd October. Term ends during the week beginning 27th November 2006. Enquiries about classes: 020 8748 6711, or email classes@rscdslondon.org.uk.

HIGHLAND CLASSES

Thursdays 12th October, 23rd November,
and 14th December
7.00 - 9.00 p.m.

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

Teacher: **Malcolm Ferris-Lay**

Musician: **Sandra Smith**

Further details from Malcolm, tel: 01279 435081
or email: Malcolm@williamsonfineteas.com.

LAST CALL FOR PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

Unit 1 (the written paper) will be done on Saturday 21st October at Parsons Green, during the Day School. Applications have to be with the organiser, Moira Strutt, plus the £15.00 fee, to send to HQ by 7th September.

All information and the application form are on the website, in the members' area under 'examinations'. (www.rscds.org) There will be a 'correspondence course' during September and October for those who wish it. Please contact Moira Strutt if you wish to participate and for the address to send application forms. Email: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk. Tel. 020 8748 6711.

SERTA WORKSHOP

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

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

Topics will include: warm-ups, teaching with live and recorded music, legal and insurance issues involved in teaching.

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

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

Further Details from: Mervyn, tel: 01903 715068.
nvrvms2@onetel.com

6 Redwood Court, St Flora's Road,
Littlehampton BN17 6BB.

SUNDAY TECHNIQUE CLASSES

Sundays, 8th October, 5th November, and 10th
December, 2006.
11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Teacher: **Philippe Rousseau**

Musicians: **Ian Cutts,**

Barbara Manning, Peter Jenkins

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

Nearest underground: Russell Square.

On street parking available

Cost £6.00. local establishments available for

lunch. Further details 020 8748 6711.

Email: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk.

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

Step Out Together With The Music

Saturday 21st October 2006

Lady Margaret School, Parsons Green, SW6

Continuing our break from tradition, classes this year will again be themed, encouraging the enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing through the understanding of movement and interaction. In addition this year we are re-introducing a class for beginners and those new to Scottish Country Dancing. Classes will be divided as follows:

Morning: 10.30 - 12.30

"Dance With Your Soul" – This class will concentrate on combining performance with a feeling for the music, providing light and shade within the dance – a class for experienced dancers

Teacher: **Elma McCausland** Musician: **Robert Mackay**

or: **"Aiming For More Control In Your Dancing"** – A class aiming to improve all aspects of technique – suitable for all abilities

Teacher: **Mervyn Short** Musician: **Judith Smith**

Afternoon: 14.00 - 16.00

"Gems You May Have Missed" – This class will focus on a selection of dances you may not have danced for a while. Suitable for more experienced dancers.

Teacher: **Mervyn Short** Musician: **Robert Mackay**

or: **"Back to Basics"** - A class concentrating on all the techniques required to produce helpful social dancing – suitable for all abilities.

Teacher: **Elma McCausland** Musician: **Judith Smith**

or: **Beginners & Improvers Class**

Teacher: **Owen Meyer** Musician: **Jean Harrison**

Lunch: 12.30 - 14.00

A baked potato and pudding lunch may be purchased. There are also facilities inside and out for packed lunches and there are pubs and cafes in the local area.

Optional Extras: 17.00 - 18.00

After tea, served from 16.00, there will be three optional classes to choose from. These are:

Dances from the Islands -

Teacher: **Simon Wales** Musician: **Robert Mackay**

Highland/Step -

Teacher: **Mervyn Short** Musician: **Jean Harrison**

M.C.'s Workshop -

Teacher: **Andrew Kellett** Musician: **David Hall**

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

Musicians' Workshop

Led by **David Hall** this will take place in both the morning and afternoon sessions. This year the course will cover playing for dancing and as a group with some background on harmony, sources of tune and the development of the dance band. This is an opportunity for all musicians to widen their knowledge and understanding of playing Scottish music for dancing.

Although there will not be an opportunity to play for the evening dancing, everyone is welcome to stay and contribute a ceilidh item.

For more details and an application form for the Musicians Workshop please contact Rachel Wilton, 31 Kensing Road, London, SE10 0LL, enclosing a stamped s.a.e., Tel: 020 8858 7729; e-mail: wiltonrachel@hotmail.com.

Evening Ceilidh: 18.30 - 21.30

This will follow the Day School and once again we anticipate much fun and entertainment. Dancing will be to **David Hall and Judith Smith**. Tickets are available in advance and on the door.

For an application form for the Day School containing further details, please contact Margaret Catchick, 251 Botley Road, Ley Hill, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 1YD, enclosing a stamped s.a.e. Tel: 01494 772305, email: margaretcatchick@hotmail.com. Application forms are also obtainable at the Branch dance, or from your class teacher.

DON'T MISS IT!!

FOCUS ON YOUTH

Children's Classes

The Branch Children's Class continues in the autumn term on Saturdays 2nd September, 7th October, and 2nd December.
10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

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

Teacher:**Angela Young**
Musician:**Jean Harrison**

£2.00 per child (including drink). adults welcome to stay. Newcomers always welcome!

Family Day – 18th November

St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1
11.00 - 12:30

Children's Class (Admission £2.00)

All children welcome to join the Branch Children's Class.

At the same time there will be a special gentle introduction to Scottish Country Dancing class for the grown ups the children bring with them to help you join in the afternoon's dancing.

12:45 Lunch (£1.00)

will be provided for all dancers

14:00 - 16:30

Dance to the music of **Kafoozalum**
(Admission £2.50)

Dances will be chosen from: Johnnie Groat's House, Reel for Jeannie, Rabbie's Reel, The Dhoon, The Flying Scotsman, The Highland Fair, Espie McNab, Cumberland Reel, The Barmkin, The Dashing White Sergeant, Virginia Reel, The Round Reel of Eight, Leap Year, A Jig for Mrs Dunn.

Whole day ticket £5.00

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

New Children's Class

Five Monday evening classes, 4.00 - 5.00 p.m., will be held in Aston Clinton, Nr. Aylesbury, Bucks from 18th Sept to 16th Oct 2006

Teacher:**Joan Desborough**

Details from Ann Robertson 01296 630682.

Spring Fling 2007

Next year Spring Fling is being held in Oxford and we hope that a lot of young dancers from the London area will want to go. It is a Scottish dance weekend organised by and for 16 - 35 year olds under the auspices of the RSCDS. More details will appear in the next issue, including how eligible dancers can apply for a Branch subsidy to offset the already very reasonable cost of attending.

30th March – 1st April 2007

Cheney School, Headington, Oxford

Teachers:**Angela Young, Ilona Velichko, Sara Latto, Ellis and Christine Rogers**
Musicians:**Karl Sandeman, Green Ginger**

The weekend will be a marvellous opportunity for young dancers from all over the world to make friends and enjoy Scottish Dancing at its best.

TEACHER'S SUCCESS

Mrs Maureen Parker from Marchwood, Southampton recently passed her Teacher's Certificate at Bournemouth. Our apologies for the late intimation of this success. We wish Maureen every success and hope that she will spread the enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing wherever she goes.

DEMONSTRATION TEAM



Well done! RSCDS London team at Slough Arts Festival

Jeff Robertson demitted office as an able convenor of the demonstration team at the AGM in June. As convenor, Jeff committed a great deal of time and thoughtful effort to dem team matters. In particular, he put on a more systematic basis our promotional efforts with public, private and commercial organisations in and around London. As a dancer, he was a stalwart of team performances and turned out for many dems, even when the location or timing was manifestly far from convenient. You would not, for example, start from Worthing if you were dancing in Leytonstone on a Saturday afternoon in May; but Jeff did. We record our heartfelt thanks to him; and also to his wife Mary who was often present in support or uncomplainingly toling his absences at home.

Joan Desborough, who has been a dem team member for longer than she probably cares to remember, retired in July. We will miss her for her good humour as well as her dancing. We are especially grateful to her for taking on the administration of the team in the last few months, a task which will now be shared among Jan Rudge, Marian Morris and Elaine Wilde.

We returned to the Slough Arts Festival in May where our two teams retained the cups won last year. In June, on the grass at Polesden Lacey, we showed that simple dances can be combined into an attractive display. Other events have included the charity fair at the Brompton Oratory on 24th June, our second, much appreciated, appearance, and our usual participation in the Leeds White Rose Festival on 8th July.

We have also become involved in The Big Dance, an initiative of Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, (see page 6).

The team calendar continues to be busy and we have had to turn down a few opportunities owing to lack of personnel. To try to redress this we held auditions in May, with an outside panel of three led by Owen Meyer together with Angela Young assessing the candidates.

The ranks of our musicians have been swelled this year by Roger Huth, an ex-Scots Guard and professional piper, who has played for several dems. Our regular pipers, Sandy Walker and Neil Esslemont, continue to play for us, but Neil has been busy getting married and Sandy has been taking it a little bit easier, so having Roger able to fill in has been a boon. Our class pianist Sandra Smith continues to play with verve and to tackle anything (musical) thrown at her with her usual aplomb. Without music we would be nowhere and we thank them all sincerely.

Angela Young has continued to teach the class and combine strict attention to technique with building new repertoire that is enjoyable to dance and attractive to view. It is a demanding job given the number of experienced and opinionated members of the team but Angela manages it very well. Our thanks are due to her.

James Fairbairn

ACCOUNTS 2005 - 6

As promised at the recent AGM, here are my comments on the accounts, with apologies once again that the tight timescales and *The Reel* publication dates make it impossible to circulate these to all members before the AGM.

The accounts show an operating surplus of £141 – very close to the break even budget we set. We did, however, have an unrealised gain on our investments of £6,282 thanks to the better performance of the stock market in the earlier part of the year. This is not even real money, as we have no intention of cashing in our shares, but all adds up to the overall surplus of £6,423 for the year.

The accounts are now constructed in such a way as to make it easier to work out how each area of Branch activity has done – classes, young dancers, dances, publicity, bookstall and demonstration team – you just have to subtract the costs from the income!

Classes

Fees, less hire of halls, less teachers and musicians expenses: £7,211 - £3,842 - £5,746 = (£2,377)

This is comfortably less than the budget set – largely as a result of the technique class taking place in a cheaper hall and being better attended.

Children's Activities

Income less expenditure: £482 – £1,538 = (£1,056), but we subsidised the children's class by £319 from the Telfer bequest.

Dances

Income less expenditure: £7,329 - £5,975 = £1,354 profit thanks to good turnout at the Christmas and Burns Night dances.

Publicity

This cost the Branch £1,597 this year, covered from the Westwood fund to cover the cost of the open air dancing in Kensington Gardens, the flyers and the car stickers. *The Reel* made a small surplus of about £150.

Bookstall and other trading

£3,977 - £3,010 = £ 967 surplus on bookstall and branded garments.

Demonstration team

This appears as "fundraising activities" ie £2,965 - £4,128 = (£1,163), a cost to the Branch which reflects their publicity function. This is higher than budget, but we are pleased to report that marketing initiatives have resulted in the team's best opening quarter for some years with income of £750 in April and May.

Administration Costs

The only other figure to comment on is the admin costs – up on last year at £631.

The meeting expenses reflect the small subsidy to travel paid to delegates attending the Society AGM (£25 per head) and meeting rooms at St Columba's. This last figure has risen as we will have to hold more meetings at St Columba's since we have lost the free accommodation at Peter Knight's flat!

Next year's budget is along much the same lines as this year's, but we will have all the costs and income for the Anniversary CD. The costs incurred in 2005-6 (slightly over £5,000) are reflected in work in progress in the balance sheet.

We are very fortunate to have the various bequests which enable us to tackle projects in the knowledge that we have sufficient funds to back them up. We made our first grant from the Bill Ireland fund for a young dancer attending Summer School, but have had no requests for this year as yet.

I would like to thank my fellow officers and convenors for their co-operation and particularly to Robert Elliott whose guidance has been invaluable.

Simon Wales

Branch Treasurer, June 2006

SCOTTISH DANCERS SMASH WORLD RECORD

Anyone tuning in to BBC One television around 9.30 p.m. on 22nd July would have caught a glimpse of RSCDS dancers taking part in a multi-cultural dance extravaganza in Trafalgar Square. The climax of The Big Dance was an attempt to break the world record for the number of different dance genres dancing their own iconic movements simultaneously to the same music. We were there with ballet, jazz, street, Irish, Slovaks, and the rest – there were even synchronised swimmers in the fountains! Happily everyone just about managed to keep their feet after a torrential downpour created a treacherous dancing surface and the record was broken. Congratulations to our dancers who spent hours perfecting the Scottish to pop music routine as well as all the other dance moves, and especially to Angela Young who taught our team how to clap flamenco style, sway in bhangra and avoid decapitation in a particularly vicious movement known as the “combine harvester”. A full report will appear in the next issue

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MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

LUCY CLARK

In the mid 1940s Lucy Clark was a popular figure in Amersham and surrounding areas playing for and teaching Scottish Country Dancing. She set up her own class in 1954 with such success that it outgrew two venues before settling in the Royal British Legion Hall in Amersham Old Town. There Lucy Clark ran her class and organised monthly Saturday dances to the live music of McBains. These dances were extremely popular with tickets hard to come by!

Lucy died in June 1966. Her class then founded the Club that bears her name, with the aim of carrying on her work. This it has done for the last 40 years – although they can now run only three Saturday dances a year. The Club is still in a very healthy state with about 50 members and some of Lucy’s pupils are still dancing with us!

To celebrate the Club’s 40th Anniversary the Lucy Clark SCD Club are holding a Ball on Saturday 16th December 2006, at Davenies School, Beaconsfield, dancing to the Karl Sandeman Band, so do make a note of this date, and register your interest with Dick Field on 01494 562231.

Archie McNair



Me with my wonderful guide dog Zola

Anne O'Connell

There are always challenges being a teacher in the London Branch as Lindsey Rousseau found out this past season. Anne O'Connell turned up for Lindsey's class with her guide dog, Zola. If any of you remember at a ceilidh some time ago a team from the Demonstration Class were blindfolded, put into a set and asked to dance Petronella, you will realise the challenge.

Lindsey had to revise her teaching techniques – and quickly – and the class had to have confidence in their own abilities as well as in helping her. Zola was a star attraction and always well behaved, although often it meant people were happy to sit out so that they could pat her! Anne came to class after a day at Birkbeck (studying criminology) and then went home, alone with Zola, on the tube back to East Ham. She is an amazing lady and dances as well as many of the Wednesday class!

But that is not the only achievement of this noble lady: she walked the London Marathon in 9 hours 40 minutes and hopes to have raised £3000 for Guide Dogs so that someone else can have their lives changed by a Zola (her words). Anne thanked the sponsorship of the class to the tune of £300 with a delicious cake.

An amazing lady!



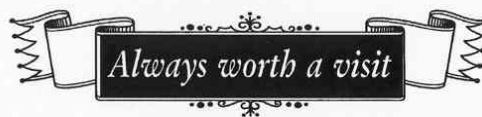
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NEW RECORDINGS

RSCDS Book 14 – James Coultts and his Band (CD055)
RSCDS Book 35 – Neil Copland and his Band (CD054)
Favourite Scottish Country Dances – Volumes 1 and 2 – The Irvine Valley Band (S22A004 and 007)
The Blackwater Collection – Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band (Shiel CD024)
RSCDS Birmingham Diamond Jubilee Book – George Meikle and the Lothian Band (BBD0601)
A' the best fae Banffshire – Colin Dewar and his Band (BCDS 0601)

Phew! Quite a marathon; 85 full length dances on seven CDs and no duplicates. Where do we start?

Let's start with James Coultts' first recording for the Society and say right away that we hope it is not his last. James leads a very good six piece band including Lynda Jordan on fiddle and Graham Berry on piano. I particularly enjoy his driving strathspeys. Having said that, his sets for *The De'il amang the Tailors* and *Lamb Skinned* also take a bit of beating.

Neil Copland's six piece includes his brother on second accordion, his wife on the fiddle and his sister in law on piano. Yet another tight sounding CD from the Copland/Rutherford stable. Well done Neil *et al.*

The Irvine Valley recordings were arranged, produced and engineered by Derek Hamilton but there is no indication as to the musicians. My guess is that Derek himself multi-tracked accordion, piano and drums. No fiddle! There are 25 popular dances on the two CDs and they make an excellent starter pack for a new teacher who has to rely on recorded music. Please, anyone, call me if you wish to have the list of dances.

There are no doubts about the members of the Craiggellachie Band! Ian Muir and John Browne on accordions, Brenda de Souza and Keith Anderson on the fiddle, Judith Robertson (Mrs Muir) piano and bass with Graham Hamilton on drums. There are ten dances by Alan Davis in the Blackwater Collection and three old time dances.

Craiggellachie are, of course, well known here in the Southeast and this recording will not disappoint their fans. Having two fiddles AND two accordions lends itself to some interesting harmonies. There are also some great changes. Listen to the track which begins with Ian Muir's Compliments to Ann Dix and you will hear what I am trying to say.

George Meikle's Band gives a solid performance on the Birmingham Branch CD. Some of the tracks are on the fast side e.g. an 8x32 strathspey in 7 mins 50 seconds. There are 15 dances and some have nice new original tunes. I do like *The Dixon Quads* by George himself in the same style as his great masterpiece for *John of Bon Accord*.

Now to this month's best buy – indeed the best CD for some time. I have lost count of the number of excellent recordings by Colin Dewar over the years (I guess about 12). This one for the Banffshire Branch is *crème de la crème*. Words fail me. Just go and buy it and you will be thrilled by the sound. There are 12 dances from the Banffshire Book and three bonus sets – a 4x40 reel, a 4x40 strathspey and a 5x48 reel.

Thanks to those who have sent me review copies of old time/ceilidh dance CDs. I will round them up and let you have details in the December *Reel* in time for Christmas.

John Laurie
Tel: 020 7286 1923.

JAMES SCOTT SKINNER 1843-1927, DANCING MASTER, FIDDLER & COMPOSER

Towards the end of his life James Scott Skinner wrote an autobiography entitled "My Life and Adventures" which he concludes by saying that after a tempestuous life he has finally dropped anchor in harbour. "That harbour" he says, "...is in the hearts of the Scottish people." This espousal of 'Scottishness' in all its somewhat romantic 19th century manifestations: dancing, composing and musicmaking, proud wearing of the kilt and devotion to Scotland's musical heritage, is the great key to our understanding of Skinner. Born to a poor family in Aberdeenshire, he imbibed Scottish music from his earliest days, becoming an outstanding dancer and fiddle player. Having absorbed the music of his great fiddler predecessors such as the Gow family and William Marshall, he went on to compose hundreds of tunes. He became particularly renowned for haunting pastoral airs and strathspeys and is often remembered as "The Strathspey King".

Born in the village of Banchory, Scott Skinner started learning music when he was six and by the age of eight, was already playing the 'cello at dances to accompany the gifted blind fiddler, Peter Milne: he was paid five shillings a month. His father had been a fiddler and dance teacher but had died young: however, James's musical education was advanced by rigorous lessons from his brother, Sandy, and by a long apprenticeship in a band of touring boys "Dr Mark's Little Men" (40 youngsters, fed and clothed by Dr Mark, playing in venues at 600 towns accompanied by a private tutor and a menagerie of pet animals!) During all this time Skinner played by ear, but then had the luck to be tutored by a classical violinist, Charles Rougier and thus to learn musical theory and classical delivery. This brief outline of his musical upbringing brings home to us how deeply Scottish life at that time was imbued with musicmaking, even for youngsters.

However, dancing was also a huge part of Scott Skinner's life and he was clearly highly gifted. At the age of 18 in front of a huge gathering in Dublin, he won various first prizes and danced the Sword Dance and the Highland Fling to great acclaim. He decided to train as a dancing master, adding ballroom quadrilles and polkas to his Scottish repertoire. In 1863, at the age of 20, he established his teaching practice, first in Aberlour and later in Elgin, achieving considerable success. He relates in his autobiography: "I had the patronage of all the big private families in Ross-shire, Inverness-shire, Elginshire and Banffshire ... I was making about £750 a year and was able to drive to and from the residences of my pupils in my own private trap, drawn by a beautiful pony." Eventually he was even appointed dancing master at Balmoral, by request of Queen Victoria. There, in the "Iron Ballroom" and apparently with iron discipline, he taught 125 pupils from the estate and he writes that he enjoyed this era greatly. Every time he taught there he was given "a lovely salmon to my tae ... the rale Mackay, fresh from the river!" Like other dancing masters, he organised balls to show off the skills of his pupils. Thus in 1880 his ball at Forres included: "German Schottische and Hungarian Polka; Long Live the Queen with Flags, the French Quadrille 'Polo', Scottish Steps, Sword Dance, The Graces, Highland Fling, Cane Hornpipes, Jack Tar, Mazurka, Valse, Gortlitz, Valse Country Dance, Galop, (Continued on page 8)

FOLK VIRGINS FIDDLE IN LONDON



All budding musicians sometimes need to play outside their comfort zone and try new things, and it was in this spirit that we got up early one fine Saturday morning to attend the Musicians' Workshop run by the RSCDS. Coming from sleepy suburbs and negotiating the London Underground at this time in the morning was something of a shocker. Our anxiety was compounded by a growing fear that we would find ourselves way out of our depth, amongst unyielding, uncompromising virtuoso fiddle players.

The welcoming smiles of the other musicians and friendly biscuits on arrival alleviated this, although the alarming tempo set by workshop leader David Cunningham whipped us up into a renewed frenzy. Apparently our rehearsal tempos had been somewhat under speed...

The morning passed in a foot-tapping, grin-inducing blur of bows and fingers, and lunchtime was spent further bonding with our fellow folkers. The easygoing friendliness of the musicians made us feel as though we had been playing with them for years. Restored by a first-rate home-cooked lunch (and one or two sips of

wine), we took up our instruments for the afternoon's marathon.

At 4 p.m. we broke to gather our strength for the evening. So far so good – we had made it this far! But the greatest excitement was yet to come!

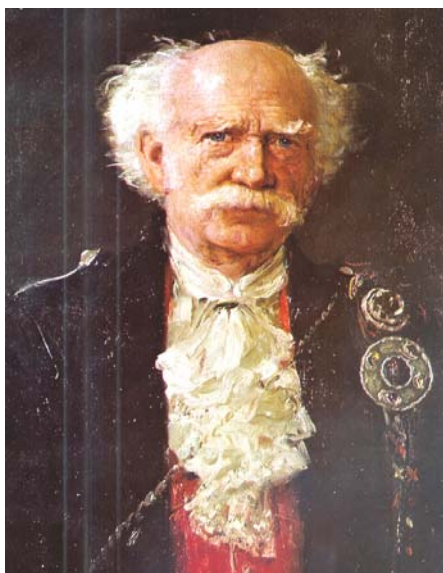
The final celebration of the RSCDS 75th anniversary in St.

Columba's Church was a most memorable occasion. The MCs and Angela Young ensured that the dancing continued ceaselessly, and with such enthusiastic displays of appreciation from the dancers it was more than a pleasure to play the numerous encores that were requested. We were astounded by the dancers' stamina, and their understanding of completely incomprehensible steps! If there was one disappointment, it was that despite our front row seats, our need to concentrate on playing meant that we could not watch the dancers. Next time, maybe, when we know it all off by heart...

More delicious food fuelled our fingers and the dancers' legs at half time, and all too soon the fantastic evening had come to an end. Our thanks and gratitude go to Rachel Wilton, David Cunningham, Angela Young, the friendly musicians, appreciative dancers and everyone else involved in the organisation of the event for enabling us to take part in such an exhilarating day and for making it so enjoyable.

See you next time!

Alison Ashburner
Jo Turton



(Continued from page 7)
Reel of Tulloch” – and others!

From his teenage years Scott Skinner had started composing his own tunes and using them for his classes. His “Ettrick Vale Quadrilles” were published during his first year of teaching and these tunes plus music for waltzes and polkas would have been used for his ballroom dancing pupils. At the same time he was writing strathspeys and reels for his country dancing classes. During these early years, during which he married and had two children, he was also playing solo pieces at local concerts. Here in typically dramatic fashion he describes performing in Banff. As the music reaches “a tremendous climax” his audience work themselves into a frenzy “watching my bow skidding up and down the strings and the pianist’s fingers flying helter-skelter over the keys...”

However around 1885 Skinner’s professional and private life seems to have fallen apart. He was left “roofless, wifeless and penniless.” These are almost the only details he discloses about this period, although later research revealed that his wife was admitted to the Elgin Lunatic Asylum in 1885. He retreated to an Aberdeen hotel and seems to have supported himself by selling sheets of his own music. Gradually he recovered and embarked on more solo performing, touring, and appearances at Highland Gatherings. In 1893 he made the bold decision to abandon dance-teaching and to devote himself to a career as a solo fiddler and “make a bold bid for national laurels”.

His performing career lasted almost until the end of his life and he toured all over Scotland, and to the Albert Hall and the Palladium in London, the last being masterminded by Harry Lauder. These were hugely successful tours which continued until 1925 and Scott Skinner was invariably at the top of the bill: according to his somewhat egocentric memoirs he had, for example, “gigantic success” and “uproariously flattering” receptions. A typical touring group would include Skinner, the fiddler – always in full Scottish regalia – a singer, a Highland dancer and a pianist. Their contributions were sometimes linked by a light sketch, often humorous in nature: thus the group appearing at the Palladium in 1911 were graced by the title of “The Caledonian Four” with our subject appearing as a Scottish laird. Scott Skinner’s reminiscences of these tours tell of a performing life full of incident and mishap, of back-to-back appointments and unorthodox venues such as a fish-shed, a tent or a commandeered barn!

Although these tours and performances do seem to contain a strong element of burlesque, Scott Skinner’s actual concert presentation was of a very high calibre. He was very much at home playing virtuoso pieces by composers such as Paganini, but his speciality was playing Scottish slow airs and strathspeys. He had a brilliant, showy style, using classical bowing techniques which distinguished him from the traditional country fiddlers of the day. Some commentators feel that his work was on the cusp between folk fiddle and classical violin but a harsher view is that his playing fell between two stools: he was too egocentric to be part of an orchestra and his over-showy technique cut him off from the traditional fiddle playing of his era. He was therefore something of an oddity and consequently highly reliant on the concert round, the adulation of his audiences and his own high self-esteem. Nevertheless he was very instrumental in freeing fiddle music from the restrictions previously imposed upon it by the dance and in introducing it to a wider public.

All his adult life Scott Skinner assiduously collected and composed tunes, including strathspeys, reels, slow airs, jigs, hornpipes, songs, pastoral airs and Highland Schottisches. He also, unusually for his time, loved composing for the bagpipes. He was deeply patriotic about Scottish traditional music and was part of the European movement of the time which was passionately concerned about preserving and recording folk music. Writing about his strathspeys, he says “while attempting to compose new strathspeys, I pledged myself to be a preserver of the best among the old ones.” Between 1861 and 1904 he published these tunes in a series of collections. Some of the collections, such as the 1881 “Miller o’Him “ (122 tunes) and the 1888 “Logie Collection” (190 tunes) are all his own work whereas his famous 1904 “Harp and Claymore Collection”, a result of collaboration with the great folk song collector Gavin Greig, contains tunes by Skinner, by earlier great composers and, furthermore, “many choice flowers of traditional melody.” Some of Scott Skinner’s most famous tunes such as “The Flower of the Quern” and “The Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord” are to be found in these collections.

Scott Skinner’s contribution as a dancing master is hard to judge. Although he was undoubtedly successful for many years, we gain very little significant detail about his attitude towards the teaching of dancing. He published several dance manuals which explained dances and stressed elegant etiquette, but he did not produce any theoretical works, as did Thomas Peacock. We gain little sense of his involvement with his pupils, but somewhat more of his enjoying the prestige his success brought him!

During all his dancing years Scott Skinner was deeply immersed in composing and playing music and it is plain that this was his great love. He does in fact say in his autobiography: “I bitterly regretted the many years I had wasted as a country dancing master”! In musical performance terms it is clear that his playing, full of virtuosity and infused with an almost Messianic belief that he was expressing the “soul” of the Scottish people, had a far-reaching influence. As far as his vast musical bequest of about 600 tunes is concerned, his contribution is universally acknowledged but modern-day opinion is somewhat divided, with some finding his slow airs over-romantic and others noting that his emphasis on virtuosity can be at the expense of musicality. Nevertheless his tunes, including his strong and vibrant strathspeys, are generally still much admired and of continuing influence. The Strathspey King spoke of his contribution with typical romanticism: “The great work of my life has been composing music for the people of Scotland.”

Rosalind Zuridis

Our President, Mary Stoker continues her reminiscences with Andrew Cockett, a former Chairman of the Branch

Andrew Cockett: Bill Ireland was another great Branch teacher. He was a very prominent member of the Branch and people of my generation often thought of you and him as the giants of the Branch, both nationally known through your teachings at St Andrews and work for Headquarters. Did you join the Branch at the same time?

Mary Stoker: I think I was slightly prior to him being a wee bit older. We were both from Glasgow and discovered later on that we both lived in Pollokshields. I had a great regard for him, but I always felt he was his own worst enemy. Many people thought that he was a difficult man and in lots of ways he was: he didn’t know his friends from his enemies.

He also showed tremendous dedication to Scottish Country dancing?

Oh yes, and to his school where he taught. He was well regarded in rugby circles too and the Royal Ballet, where he taught the boys Scottish Country dancing sometimes doing demonstrations at Pont Street.

I want to move on to Alec Westwood, who was an illustrious predecessor of yours as the President of London Branch. He, too, made his mark in every aspect of the running of the Branch. Do you have fond memories of him?

Oh yes, he was a lovely person and I can see Alex in a team or in a dance with his double lens glasses on. At times he would flick the outer lenses up and gaze at people next to him, apparently looking at their feet. It was just one of his mannerisms. We used to have lovely parties at his flat. He was an architect with a strong artistic streak and with such charisma we miss him greatly. He worked tirelessly for the Branch, which has benefited enormously from his legacy. You mentioned Miss Milligan earlier on. Miss Milligan made several visits to London Branch and I believe that you and she had a cordial relationship? Do you have any particular memories of her in London?

I remember her particularly just weeks before her death, when she was staying with me after an exam and she was coping wonderfully because she must have been in considerable pain with her back and more or less went on her hands and knees up the stairs for she insisted on sleeping upstairs. She could even touch her toes in those days, quite amazing. Some time before that, at one of the ‘Women of the Year’ luncheons in Scotland, Miss Milligan met the broadcaster Molly Weir (Molly of course was a local friend of mine) and they hit it off. Miss Milligan thought Molly was quite wonderful and vice versa, so when she was staying with me Molly came along one morning to have coffee with us. It was a complete surprise to Miss Milligan, who was absolutely over the moon about it. We couldn’t stop either of them talking and, neither

(Continued on page 9)



Stephen Webb

(Continued from page 8)

really listened to the other, but they just went at it.

I remember once at St Andrews she went for me in one of her classes. She told me to 'go and sit down' because I had been laughing, I don't know what it was I'd done, but she made a great drama of it. Other members of the class didn't realise that this was an act. I thought nothing of it.

She came down lots of times to London and took day schools. Our great mutual friend was Margaret McLaren who was quite important in physical education. Margaret told me that when she told Miss Milligan she was coming down here to adjudicate and to examine my students, Miss Milligan insisted on coming with her. She was very fair, but I have to say, if you were a man you were all right. She had a bias that way. Her strength was that she understood movement because she'd been trained herself at the Dartford P.E. College. Subsequently she was on the staff at Jordanhill in Glasgow.

But presumably you knew her at Jordanhill ?

Yes, I knew her when I was at Park School in Glasgow. Then when I was at PE College she used some of us to dance with her Jordanhill boys in a folk dance festival. Believe it or not, she brought her men to practise from Jordanhill into the sacred halls of Dunfermline College, which had never seen a male inside the doors. When we were rehearsing the Glasgow Highlanders she had a photographer there from the local paper. We were coming up the middle, as you know, in threes and she called out, "Come along Mr McClure", (my partner), "come on Mr McClure, give me everything you've got," and he was trying to do that. "No, no, no, that was no use, no, it was no use," and she kept on again, again, again, then at last she said, "That's it, that's it, take it, take it", waving her hands about as usual. The photographer said, "I will madam - if you will kindly remove your hand from the lens!"

The Branches occasionally stray beyond the realms of dancing into other areas, one of which was the publication of a cookbook?

Well, actually it was Miss Milligan who said that I should produce one; she thought that it was a good idea. We asked people to send in their favourite recipes and then chose the ones that we thought were suitable. Helen Brown was very good actually at trying out a lot of them and bringing them along for the dancers to sample.

You mentioned Helen who's recently got a Branch Award.

Yes, she richly deserves it, for she has worked very hard for the Branch and really likes being involved. She has done many years on the committee - been secretary and treasurer, and has run a Branch class. Helen is very dedicated and reliable.

And your last word, Mary

I would like to quote Jean Milligan: "Be apostles of friendship, goodwill and happiness".

SUBSCRIBE TO THE REEL

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

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SO WHAT'S IN YOUR LOFT?



What have you done with all those old 78rpm records that you used to dance to? Were you a devotee of Jimmy Shand; or perhaps of Ian Powrie or Jim Cameron? Or perhaps you have some really old records going back to before the First World War?

Not only is Cecil Sharp House the headquarters of the English Folk Dance and Song Society, but more importantly its Vaughan Williams Memorial Library is "the most important concentration of material on traditional song, dance, and music in the country. VWML is a multi-media library. The collections include: books, manuscripts, off-prints, pamphlets, periodicals, serials, press cuttings, broadsides, prints, paintings, line drawings, photographs, slides, artefacts, ephemera, records, reel-to-reel tapes, phonograph cylinders, videos, cine films, compact discs, and audio cassettes. (Visit the web site www.efdss.org/library.htm).

Scottish music is also prominent in the library collection. Now you could enhance that collection of music produced by commercial recording companies. I am a volunteer, working in the sound library to transcribe the collection of 78rpm commercial dance recordings onto CD in order to provide an improved archive and make the recordings more accessible to the listening public. I am a member of both EFDSS and RSCDS.

As you might expect, the collection of English dance recordings is almost complete from the first recordings supervised by Cecil Sharp in 1916 in the USA with the Victor Military Band and published by HMV in 1921, through to 1960 when 45 and 33 rpm recordings took over. Our collection of Scottish dance records is wide ranging but not nearly so complete. There is a much larger repertoire to start with.

You may have seen the article by Marilyn Healy, the RSCDS archivist, in the Spring 2006 issue of the Scottish Country Dancer. Reference was made there to early RSCDS recordings, initially not considered very successful. The Scottish Dance Orchestra recorded on the Columbia label in 1924, the Scottish Country Dance Orchestra on the HMV label in 1925 and 1929. The Sutherland Orchestra under J. Michael Diack must have been the orchestra used by the Society, as they recorded all the dances from Books 1 and 2 in 1924 and 1925 on the Beltona label, and then recorded them again in 1927 and 1928, together with Book 3 and 4. We have very few of these records although RSCDS HQ do have quite a number.

The era of the Scottish dance band appears to start around 1930 with the likes of Bob Smith. William Hannah was recording solo in the 1920's but his band recordings start in 1937. Both Jimmy Shand and Jim Cameron started recording in 1933, but both initially as solos or small ensembles. Their folk dance band era took off after World War 2. Coincidentally, this was the same for the EFDSS, where before WW2 recordings had been with principally with orchestras or small groups.

The post-war years saw great names that many will recall. Apart from the huge recording output of Jimmy Shand (over 300 recordings) there was Jim Cameron, Bobby McLeod, Jim McLeod, Ian

Powrie, Jimmy Blair, Tim Wright, Adam Rennie, Angus Fitchett, Andrew Rankine and many others.

There were, of course, also a number of solo artists. The earliest recordings of the great Scott Skinner go back to 1899 but his last recording session was in 1922. There were many others: apart from the well-known band leader names above, many of whom also performed solo; names such as Tony Capaldi, Daniel and Peter Wyper, William Starr come to mind, and my personal favourite, Hector MacAndrew. It's wrong in my view to call him a fiddler; the classical technique and the lilt is superb on two Parlophone recordings made in 1952.

I am greatly indebted for so much of the information I have gathered to Bill Dean-Myatt, who has a superb discography of all (well, it looks pretty complete to the average person!) Scottish vernacular music produced on 78s, phonograph cylinders and 45rpm singles. He also has a very extensive personal collection. Both of these he intends to leave to the National Library of Scotland. There are, however, still some gaps in his records. He is, for example, still seeking information on some of the less well-documented labels such as: Favorite, Beka, Pathe, Odeon, early Regals, Piccadilly, Hudson, Filmophone and others. You can read more about his work at www.beltonaproject.co.uk or contact him at wdm@scottishdiscography.co.uk

The collection of Scottish dance 78rpm records in the Vaughan Williams library is quite extensive, but we would like to extend it further with your help. We believe our collection is already better than that in the British Library, and we would like the VWML to become the foremost repository of commercial folk dance music recordings south of the Border. Our aim is to transfer to CD everything that comes to us (I have just about completed that for what we already possess) so that it can be become more accessible to everyone via the internet or other services.

How to go about the task? There is indeed a huge array of records, many of which we still do not have. I am sure there are many copies of Jimmy Shand from the Fifties out there, but we do not want to duplicate our collection. If you do have a collection of records that you are willing to part with, I really need you to list the Label and Catalogue numbers to start with so that I can check them against our collection. From there we can think about the logistics of getting them to London!

Unsurprisingly our collection has many gaps in the early recordings. If you have any records going back before the start of RSCDS in 1923, they would be particularly welcome. I am in touch with Marilyn Healy, the RSCDS archivist, about what is in the Headquarters collection, and we have agreed to exchange information on what we each have in our collection.

Although not strictly part of this project, we would also be interested in acquiring the range of 45rpm Singles and EPs produced in the Sixties.

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6.30 p.m. Thursday 7th December 2006

Borderline, the charity for homeless and insecurely housed Scots in London, invites you to celebrate Christmas with the Scottish community in London at St Columba's, Pont St, in a service with Scottish singers, speakers and groups while supporting their fellow Scots who find themselves in difficulties in London. We will also be selling tickets to a convivial evening with delicious refreshments after the service.

Scottish Dancing clubs throughout London are invited to adopt the service as their own Christmas carol celebration – bring your friends and your families, listen to Coisir Lunnainn, Streetwise Opera and the Pinstripe Highlanders. Enjoy the beautiful voice of Hilary Summers and join in singing carols such as Taladh Chriosta, the Lullaby of the Christ Child.

The evening will help raise funds for Borderline's work. We are honoured to receive support from *The Reels for Borderline* at St Columba's Church generously organised by Lindsey Rousseau. John Laurie, well known in Scottish Country Dancing circles, is a former Chairman of Borderline and a great supporter.

Borderline is the only agency in London which deals specifically with homeless Scots in the capital, and we see an average of one new client each day. Last year we saw a client from every Local Authority area in Scotland. Borderline's statutory funding comes from the Scottish Executive, and we are proud to be supported by trusts, churches, individual donations and groups such as Lunnainn Albannaich and Scots in London.

We pride ourselves on finding the appropriate accommodation and support for each individual, whatever their needs. Sadly, the need for our work does not diminish.

Please put **Caledonian Carols** on 7th December in your diary now. Email us on carols@borderline-uk.org or call us on 020 7802 2788 for further information and tickets. It promises to be an excellent evening where the many Scots living and working in London can enjoy the spirit of Christmas with their countryfolk whilst helping a small Scottish charity that achieves big results.

7/9 Belgrave Road, London SW1V 1QB. Tel 0845 456 2190; Fax 0845 456 2199.

E-mail:- carols@borderline-uk.org; Web:- www.borderline-uk.org

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TRAVELS WITH AN RSCDS TEACHER

How do you fancy a weekend in Vancouver in the spring? That was the question I was asked back in the autumn of 2005. Well who could resist looking into this further?

It has in the past been my pleasure and privilege to travel with Ann Dix to New York and Toronto when Ann has been a teacher at their weekend schools. So when she asked about Vancouver I knew that it was RSCDS based, but this weekend was more than just a dancing weekend.

Vancouver Branch is a large and active organisation. Due to the generosity of a legacy from Pearl Holmberg, they run a teachers' and musicians' weekend school, and it was on this that Ann was asking me to join her. Ann had been asked to teach the teachers, with the emphasis on use of music to enhance classes. I was to join the musicians as a student.

A nine-hour flight is a long way for a weekend, so we were able to stretch this to a week. We flew out on the Thursday and were met after a long queue and altercation with the immigration officer, by Mary and Jim Murray, and from there until they dropped us off at the airport a week later we were treated right royally.

The weekend was tremendous; the musicians were divided into two sections, fiddles, and wind, with Elke Baker (fiddle), and keyboards and Guitars with Liz Donaldson (piano). We looked at the different styles of music, in all three tempos, the choosing of music to blend together, and the role of a musician in a class scenario. The sessions were enthralling and there was so much to take in, jet lag did not help the concentration. But by the final session on the Sunday morning where the teachers and musicians came together in a class environment, it was felt by all that it had been a very worthwhile weekend. The teaching was superb and I came away with many notes. I am very grateful that I was able to borrow an accordion, as travelling with one is not to be recommended.

Ann still had one class to teach on the Monday night, but we were able to spend two days looking round Vancouver. Three nights in a hotel and three with one of the course organisers, Wendy Swaine, meant that we had the best of both worlds. We could not have been better looked after. The flight home was uneventful, but I certainly have many happy memories, of a fulfilling weekend and a happy three days in the compact and delightful city of Vancouver

Where next Ann??

Anna Crawford

BILL IRELAND MEMORIAL FUND YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There is one more letter on the next page

Musicians' Workshop

Twyford

Dear Wilson,

Thank you for encouraging me to come to the musicians' workshop in May. I had severe doubts about my ability to profit from the day because I thought the standard would be beyond me. Well I was probably the worst player there but David Cunningham created a fantastically positive atmosphere right from the very start.

I was also impressed by his understanding of a whole raft of issues around playing for dancing (as opposed to playing for people to listen to) and a number of other matters.

It was overall a very positive experience. My thanks to all who contributed to the smooth running of the event. I hope the Branch will continue to run such workshops.

Colin McEwen

[See Alison Ashburner and Jo Turton's piece on page 7. Ed.]

Hugh Foss

Dingwall

Dear Wilson,

It is interesting to read Mary Stoker's comments on Hugh Foss: my impression of the man I knew in the 1930s was different. He was tall and slender but carried himself well. His shepherd plaid kilt was not old; he wore it because he was not Scottish and considered he was not entitled to wear any tartan. He was a good dancer and a good teacher. I learnt a lot from the advanced class he taught for a few years pre-war including steps needed for a foursome reel (4 Strathspeys and ½ Reel of Tulloch). The class I think was his idea: small but enjoyable. He danced in the Branch Demonstration Team such as it was in the 1930s as did his wife, Alison. He was a member of the first team representing the Society to go abroad to Brittany in 1938. All the dancers were from London but had to pass for ability as judged by Miss Milligan. His wife was a Scot, I think, and came from the Borders, hence his retreat to Dalry. He lived in Sevenoaks and worked in the Civil Service. Perhaps his kilt appeared old post-war but at that time replacement material was difficult to obtain.

Ellen Garvie

Helen Townley

London SE9

Dear Wilson,

Seeing Helen's name in 'Echoes of the Past' reminded me that Keith Napier's 'Napier Index' was taken on from Helen. In the days of Steam Computers and Punch Cards Helen started to index all the dances and their contents. I believe, though I do not have the full story, that all her material was passed on to Keith and so we now have the Index and, latterly the DanceData website of Alan Paterson owes much to Keith Napier's lists. Both of these works are of great value in finding dances and their figures, books, tunes, music publications and so on.

Is Helen still dancing I wonder? Does any reader know?

Ron Mackey

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One of the Earliest Kilts

Guildford

Dear Wilson

The Petrie Museum in London houses about 90,000 objects making it one of the greatest collections of Egyptian and Sudanese archaeology in the world. It illustrates life in the Nile valley from prehistory through the time of the pharaohs, the Ptolemaic, Roman and Coptic times to the Islamic period. The collection is unique with some of the earliest metal, linen and important ancient clothing from Egypt.

The collection is important because so much of it is documented evidence from excavations, providing a unique insight into how people lived and died in the Nile valley.

Boys and men from the time of the New Kingdom, from BC1550 to 1000 wore kilts. They were made of natural linen or fine white linen in many amazing patterns and colours. They were sometimes pleated in common with the style of the women's dresses. The ordinary Egyptian wore short kilts to the knees or just below the knees. Longer ones were worn by those with a higher status. They were held up by a sash or belt.

A museum illustration shows a fringe down the left hand side. This is slightly more to the front than is customary today. Many sculptures and illustrations show the kilt front as a triangle. By the Middle Kingdom from BC2000 to 1750 kilts were longer, status being shown by layers of white linen clothing worn over the kilt.

Underwear was also worn in the form of a loin cloth. The material used was also a measure of status. Workers would strip to their loin clothes when working.

Women did not wear kilts but a piece of cloth wrapped around their body. They started at one shoulder with one wrap around the other shoulder, one around the waist and then tucked it in at the waist.

Terry Gibbon
Guildford Branch

New Dances

London, W9

Dear Wilson

The Society have decided not to issue any more books of dances – at least until there are a few changes on the Management Board and the decision is reversed. Let us wait and see.

There is, however, no shortage of new dances being published by Branches and individuals. Four are mentioned in New Recordings. At present I have got two of them: Birmingham's Diamond Jubilee Book and Banffshire's 75th Anniversary Book.

I have not yet had time to study them in detail. Birmingham seems to have more new, or adapted, figures e.g. Diagonal Chain Progression and Demi-Tournee. If you are one of those folk who cry 'not more new figures' try the Banffshire's book which has some easier dances.

Both books have a number of tunes clearly composed specifically for the dances. Banffshire has also taken some very popular tunes already played and recorded a lot and adopted them as originals – notably the strathspey *Margaret's Fancy* by Ian and Bill Powrie. Another 'original' in the same book is *Miss Jean Milligan* by Winifred Bird Matthew. Now, this tune was specifically composed for the dance the Angus Reel which was dedicated to Miss Milligan in 1948 in honour of her 25 years service to the Society. Was it acceptable for Banff to use it for another dance? The jury is out. Read more on this subject in the next issue of the Scottish Country Dancer.

John Laurie.

OBITUARY



Patricia (Pat) Batt

Pat's initial introduction to the Country Dance scene was through an English country dancing class in Harrogate where she lived during the war.

In the early 1950s, when she had returned to London she began Scottish Country Dancing. Later she joined three groups, Tally Ho, Silver Cross and Hertsmer. From 1991 she ran a class in New Barnet. Here she especially enjoyed sharing the history or story behind a dance before teaching it. She also went on many Scottish dancing holidays where she made friends from all over the country.

She enjoyed writing topical poems for ceilidhs and was persuaded to publish her 'party pieces' in small volumes. Through their sale she raised over two and a half thousand pounds for the North London Hospice. She received requests for her poems from all over the world including New Zealand, Canada and Saudi Arabia. Indeed if you 'google' Pat Batt, Scottish dancing on the internet you get a number of 'hits' for her poems!

Derek Haynes wrote a dance for her called 'Two up, two down'.

In her later years she ran Scottish dances to celebrate her 70th, 75th, 80th and most recently her 85th birthday at the end of January 2006.

Pat enjoyed life. She had a positive attitude to everything and had the ability to transmit her enthusiasm and zest for life to those she met. Young children especially were drawn to her as she had a curiosity and interest in things that matched their own.

She died peacefully at the Marie Curie Hospice in London. Her funeral at Hendon on May 2nd was a celebration of her life. Her daughter Jo read a poem and whilst nephew Stephen Lloyd read a tribute that truly captured that essential 'Pat Batt' spirit. To date friends and family have donated over £600 to Marie Curie Cancer care.

Jo Chima (Pat Batt's daughter)

[We are pleased to print below one of Pat's most popular poems. Ed]

THE LADIES MAN

I'm a two-sex Scottish Dancer, and may seem rather dim,
But I never spend one evening as a full time her or him.
I change my sex from dance to dance, my corners always alter –
It's really not surprising I occasionally falter.

The old and simple dances I can manage very nicely,
And I can learn a new dance and do it most precisely.
But when it comes to next week I don't know if I can,
For I learnt it as a woman and dance it as a man.

And so, you men who have the luck to stay always the same,
When female gentlemen go wrong be sparing with your blame.
I'll add a postscript to this tale – one comfort I have got:
When both the women change their sex it doesn't show a lot.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MCs

Worcester Park

Dear Wilson,
I am very pleased to find out that London Branch intends to run an MCs workshop at the Day School in October and I will do my best to attend. The Branch report presented at the AGM also mentions the possibility of an MCs course. I would like to give my thoughts on this subject.

A good MC needs three skills:-

- * A thorough knowledge of dances and dancing.
- * Good public speaking skills to put No.1 across.
- * Leadership skills.

The MC will have to deal with any emergency that arises during the evening. In my oldest copy of *The Reel*, May-July 1976, it tells how the MC Harry Simpson, kept order and prevented panic when a parapet collapsed during a dance at Brent Town Hall causing part of the ceiling to fall in. I hope none of us has to cope with anything like that!

How can these skills be learnt? The obvious answer is by taking the RSCDS Teaching Certificate, which is presumably why so many MCs are teachers. Additionally it is an advantage to be skilled in public speaking.. I discovered a local club, Epsom Speakers Club which is part of a larger organisation, Toastmasters International. They teach public speaking through a series of graded speeches (you can choose whatever subject you like to speak about) and participation in Table Topics, which are short, off-the-cuff, speeches. They also teach leadership skills by progression through various administrative tasks, from ballot counter to chairing a meeting and giving educational presentations. You can work at your own speed. I obtained my Competent Toastmaster certificate (public speaking) in 2004 and Competent Leader a few months ago. I now MC regularly for my local dance club in Wimbledon and occasionally for the London Highland Club, and have taken a speaking role at Burns' Night dinners.

The RSCDS and Toastmasters have much in common. Both were founded in the 1920s, and both have a Headquarters organisation and independent local groups (RSCDS branches = Toastmasters' clubs). Both can be found all over the world.

I would suggest therefore that a possible way to train MCs is for them to take the RSCDS written exam, which can now be taken by itself, and attend a local Toastmasters' club. You can find your nearest on www.toastmasters.org which lists them by country. I am one of two Scottish dancers at Epsom Speakers Club, out of a current membership of 39. I look forward to a collaboration between the two organisations.

Elizabeth Bennett

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DANCE EVENTS



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Annual Highland Ball
Saturday 13th January, 2007
7.30 p.m. to midnight

Ashlyns School, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted
Sandy Nixon and his Scottish Dance Band
Details: Linda Godbold, tel: 01442 866651.
Programme and full info in The Reel No. 258.

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH

Silver Jubilee Dance

Saturday 28th October 2006
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge
The Karl Sandeman Trio

Programme: The Wild Geese, The College Hornpipe, The Silver Tassie, Just as I was in the Morning, Inverneill House, Glasgow Country Dance, Well Done Jack, Macdonald of Sleat, The Silver Strathspey, The Buchan Eightsome Reel, Domino Five, The Glasgow Highlanders, Muirland Willie, The Music Makars, Susan, The Dancing Master, Maxwell's Rant, King's Chapel, The Starry Eyed Lassie, Back to the Fireside.
Extras: The Nurseryman, The Anniversary Reel.

Tickets £12. Shared Refreshments.

To apply for tickets send an S.A.E. to Dr R. Nedderman, 17 Clarkson Road, Cambridge, CB3 0EH. Tel: 01223 353869. Cheques payable to: "RSCDS Cambridge & District Branch"

Date for your Diary

Day School for Musicians & Dancers.
Saturday 17th February 2007.

CHICHESTER & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

St. Andrew's Dance

Saturday 2nd December 2006
Chichester High School for Boys
Drinks Reception 7.00
Dancing 7.30 - 11.15 p.m.

The Craigellachie Band

Programme: Jubilee Jig, West's Hornpipe, Fair Donald, Joie de Vivre, The Wellingtonia Reel, The Moray Rant, Macleod's Fancy, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Sugar Candie, Peggy Dewar, Macpherson's Jig, Rose of the North, Bauldy Bain's Fiddle, The Cranberry Tart, Culla Bay, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, Scotch Mist, The De'il Among The Tailors. *Extras:* Pelorous Jack, The Belle of Bon Accord, A Trip to Bavaria.

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7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

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Dancing to Robin Ellis SCD Band

Programme: Mrs Stewart's Jig, A Trip to Bavaria, St Columba's Strathspey, The Bees of Maggieknockater, The Falls of Rogie, Foxhill Court, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Anniversary Reel, Iona Cross, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Mrs Stuart Linnell, The Dancing Master, The Cashmere Shawl, The Dream Catcher, Polharrow Burn, Napier's Index, Ray Milbourne, Spiffin', The Minister on the Loch, The Irish Rover.

Tickets £13.00 including supper. Bar available.

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Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 - 10.30 p.m.
Unless otherwise stated

Saturday 2nd September **Craigievar**
President's Night 7.00 - 11.00

Inc Jacket Potato Supper

Saturday 7th October **David Hall**
Newcomers' Dance

Friday 27th October Hallowe'en Party Night

Saturday 4th November **Caber Feidh**

Friday 24th November St Andrew's Night

Saturday 16th December **Frank Reid**

Christmas Dance 7.00 - 11.00

All dances will be talked or walked through on request.

For further details contact: Frank Bennett on 020 8715 3564, e-mail fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk, or Roger Waterson on 020 8660 5017. You can also telephone our "Dial-a-Programme" service on 020 8763 8096 to hear our programme, or leave a message. Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening.

Please visit our website at

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

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY Day School

Saturday 11th November 2006 at 2.00 p.m.
Thameside School, Reading

Teacher Mervyn Short
Musician Ken Martlew

followed by an evening dance to recorded music

Details from Janet Wright 0118 972 2945.

www.scottishdancingreading.org

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball

Saturday 3rd March 2007

Harpden Public Hall 7.30 pm

Craigellachie SCD Band

Programme and details in the next issue.

Enquiries: Val Owens 01727 863870,

email: tvowens@beeb.net

Website: www.HSCDC.org.uk.

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

INFORMAL DANCE

Saturday 7th October 2006
7.30 - 11.00 p.m..

At Warwick School, Noke Drive, Redhill

Recorded Music

MCs: Tom Livingstone and Alister Reid

FORMAL DANCE and BUFFET

Saturday, 18th November, 2006
7.30 - 11 p.m.

Reigate School, Pendleton Road, Reigate.

David Hall and his Band

MCs: Alister Reid and Rita Marlow

Programme: Shifftin' Bobbins, Roaring Jelly, Autumn in Appin, The Black Mountain Reel, Macleod's Fancy, Sugar Candie, The Irish Rover, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, The Wild Geese, Jennifer's Jig, The Singing Sands, Festival Fling, The Flight of the Falcon, The Ladies of Dunse, The Belle of Bon Accord, The Duke of Atholl's Reel, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Mairi's Wedding. *Extras:* A Trip to Bavaria, De'il Among the Tailors, The Dundee Whaler.

Tickets £11. Enquiries to Alister Reid,

tel: 020 8393 6732.

ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Saturday 14th October 2006

Autumn Dance

Petts Wood Memorial Hall, Kent.

Friday 1st December 2006

St. Andrew's Dance

The Hobbit, The Warren, Hayes, Kent.

Saturday 30th December 2006

Hogmanay Dance

Petts Wood Memorial Hall, Kent.

Friday 26th January 2007

Burns Night

Venue *tha*

Saturday 2nd June 2007

Summer Dance

Petts Wood Memorial Hall, Kent.

Enquiries for these events, further details of which will soon be available, please to Pam French on 01689 873511.

ASHDOWN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Charity Dance for Research in to Multiple Sclerosis

Saturday 16th September 2006

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Uckfield Community & Technology College,
Downsview Cres, Uckfield, E. Sussex TN22 3DJ

Sandy Nixon and His Scottish Dance Band

Shifftin Bobbins; Jennifer's Jig; The Moray Rant; Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan; Spiffin; Ythanside; The Royal Yacht Britannia; Midnight Oil; Our Lady of the Snows; Nottingham Lace; The Cuckoo Clock; The Immigrant Lass; Lady Sophia Lindsay; Equilibrium; The Dream Catcher; The Recumbent Stone; *Band's Choice*; The Rose of the North; John of Bon Accord; Postie's Jig; Minister on the Loch; The Roselath Cross; Mairi's Wedding

Tickets, in advance only, £10.00 (child / spectator £5) plus please bring a plate of food
Contact Michael Copeman tel 01892 655971
Email michaelcopeman@aol.com

There are more dance events on
pages 14 and the back page.

DANCE EVENTS (continued)



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER BRANCH New General Class

8.00 - 10.00 p.m.
Starting on Wednesday 13th
September 2006 at Our Lady Queen of Heaven
Church Hall, Portsmouth Road, Frimley,
Surrey GU16 7AA
Contact: May Sloan, tel: 01428 604868.

Advanced Class

Starting on Monday 11th September 2006
8.00 - 10.00 p.m.
Classes held fortnightly
Finchampstead Memorial Hall,
Finchampstead RG40 4JU from
Contact: Fiona Albinson, tel: 0118 978 9181.

Saturday 7th October 2006

Autumn Social,
Carnation Hall, Winkfield RG42 7PA
Dancing to recorded music from 7.45 - 10.45 p.m.
Bring a plate to share.
Contact: Zena Guthrie, tel: 01344 420323.

Thursday 28th December 2006

Christmas Social
7.45 - 10.45 p.m..
Finchampstead Memorial Hall
Bring and share refreshments.
Dancing to recorded music
Contact: Jan Douglas, tel: 0118 978 1125.
Visit our website on www.rscds.bhs.org.uk

ST JOHN'S SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Annual Ball

Saturday 25th Nov 2006
7.30 p.m. - 11.45 p.m.

Emmbrook School, Wokingham.

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Scotland's Gardens, Pelorus Jack, The Belle of Bon Accord, Findlater Castle, MacLeod's Fancy, The Silver Strathspey, The Rev John McFarlane, Napiers Index, Farewell to the Highlands, The Blackwater Reel, Old Nick's Lumber Room, The Lochalsh Reel, Major Ian Stewart, Culla Bay, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich, James Gray, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, The Queen's View, Miss Allie Anderson, Eileen Watt's Strathspey, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The Montgomerie's Rant. *Extras:* The Anniversary Reel, The Piper and the Penguin, Cherrybank Gardens.

Tickets £14.00 from: Sue Davis, 2 Larkwood
Drive, Crowthorne, Berks. RG45 6RL.
Tel No. 01344 774344. SAE please.

Half Day School

Saturday 4th November 2006
2.00 - 5.00 p.m.

St Sebastians Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham.

Teacher:**Alan Davis**

£5. Details: Sue Davis 01344 774344.

Beginners/Intermediate Classes

on Thursdays 24th & 31st August 2006 at
St. Sebastians Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham
8.00 - 10 p.m.

Teacher:**Alan Davis**

£2 per evening

Contact: Sue Davis 01344 774344.

SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS

Annual Ball

Saturday 18th November 2006
8.00 p.m. until Midnight
Hertford Castle Hall.

David Cunningham's Band

Tickets: Maureen Ainsworth, tel: 01279 434342.

SANDERSTEAD SCOTTISH DANCERS

St Andrew's Dance
Saturday 25th November 2006
7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill,
South Croydon

Robin Ellis and his band

Programme: Highland Rambler, Joie de Vivre, SugarCandie. The Reel of 51st Division, Luckenbooth Brooch, Scotch Mist, The Reel of the Royal Scots, Johnnie Walker, Mairi's Wedding, Blooms of Bon Accord, Quarries' Jig, Butterscotch and Honey, Black Mountain Reel, Starry Eyed Lassie, The Gentleman, Pelorus Jack, Windmill of Croydon, Duke of Perth.

Tickets £12 (including supper with wine) from
Robert Brown, 020 8660 9817.

ST. COLUMBA'S DANCERS

Meet in the lower hall,
St. Columba's Church of Scotland,
Pont St. London SW1.

The 2006/7 season begins on 2nd October 2006
and ends on 21st May 2007. There will be
dancing every Monday from 7.15 to 10.00 p.m.
(Band Nights 7.30 to 10.30) except 25/12/06,
01/01/07, 09/04/07 and 07/05/07.

Admission is free except for Band Nights:-

Monday 30th Oct 06 **Craigellachie Band**
admission £7
Monday 11th Dec 06 **David Hall's Band**
admission £7
Monday 22nd Jan 07 **Frank Reid's Band**
admission £10 (Haggis Supper)
Monday 26th Feb 07 **Karl Sandeman Band,**
admission £7
Monday 26th March 07 **Green Ginger Band**
admission £7
Monday 21st May 07 **Craigellachie Band**
admission £7

Dance programmes can be viewed on the Church
website www.stcolumbas.org.uk.

Further details: Bob Harman on 020 8642 7192
or bobandmegharman@aol.com.



THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

40th Anniversary Ball
Saturday 16th December 2006
Davenies School, Beaconsfield
Bucks HP9 1AA.

The Karl Sandeman Band

Further details, including
programme, contact
Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane,
Naphill, HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231.

RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

Christmas Dance

Saturday 9th December 2006

Coel na h'Alba

American Supper. Tickets £9.

Annual Ball

Saturday 10th February 2007

Craigellachie

Tickets £15 including supper.

Venue for both events: Bournemouth School for
Girls, Castle Lane, Bournemouth.

Details: Margaret Robson 01202 698138

There are more dance events on
pages 13 and the back page

ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS

Annual Dance

Saturday 11th November 2006
at 7.30 p.m.

Ickneild School, Luton

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Ticket - £14.00 (including supper)
Details: Pat Hamilton, tel 01462 671156,
Sheila Harris, tel 01525 875060, or
Chris Walker, mail@cwalker3707.fsnet.co.uk.

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Kilts & Posh Frocks 5 — A Christmas Ball
Sunday 10th December 2006

drink from 6.30 p.m.

Dancing from 7.00 - 10.30 p.m.

Chiswick Town Hall,

Heathfield Terrace, Chiswick, London W4 4JN.

David Hall and his band

Programme: Duke of Atholl's Reel, Miss
Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Braes of
Breadalbane, The Reel of the 51st Division, The
Flying Spur, Seann Truibhas Willichan, Pelorus
Jack, The De'il Amang the Tailors, Ian Powrie's
Farewell to Auchterarder, Autumn in Appin, J.B.
Milne, The Chequered Court, The Minister on
the Loch, The Piper and the Penguin, Major Ian
Stewart, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, The Dancing
Master, The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.
Extras: Highland Rambler, Tribute to the
Borders, The Wind on Loch Fyne.

Bring and share supper. Mulled wine welcome
Places are strictly limited. Tickets with cribs
and directions £15 in advance - sae and cheques
to Chiswick SCDC, Flat 15, Sydney House,
Woodstock Road, London W4 1DP.

Jerry@chiswickscottish.org.uk, tel: 020 8994
2890 or from Kay Senior at Pont Street and other
dances, tel: 020 8743 9385.

Formal Dress Preferred

Details also on website: chiswickscottish.org.uk

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 28th October 2006
7.30 - 11.45 p.m.

Headington School, Oxford

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Happy Returns, Joie de Vivre, The
Braes of Breadalbane, Earlstoun Loch, The
Argyll Square, The Silver Tassie, Mr. Iain Stuart
Robertson, Miss Mary Douglas, The Belle of
Bon Accord, The De'il Amang the Tailors, EH3
7AF, The Lass o' Livingston, The Gentleman,
Fifty Years On, General Stuart's Reel, The
Dream Catcher, The Wild Geese, Neidpath
Castle, Follow Me Home, The Duke & Duchess
of Edinburgh.

£14.00 (spectators £6.00) including supper from
Mrs Trisha Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle
Barton, Oxon OX7 7ET. Tel: 01869 340830.
email: trish@rawlings50cc.fsnet.co.uk
Cheques should be made payable to
RSCDS Oxfordshire Branch.

BRANCH BADGES

The Branch Badge is based on the rectangular
Reel masthead logo and is available in a smart
enamel and polished finish. These are modestly
priced at £4.00 and are available from Jeff
Robertson on 01903 530750, 020 7730 9633 or
jtr@ctg.co.uk or from Ian Anderson at the
Branch Bookstall on 01420 84599 or
bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk.

Please continue to support your Branch.

Jeff Robertson

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Dancing most Mondays, 8.00 p.m. to 10.15 p.m., Sept. to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details/ map: www.geocities.com/absdc or Rowena Fowler, tel: 01865 361129.

ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15 - 10.15 p.m. September to May at Abraham Cowley Unit Hall, St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey. Details from Val Clack, tel: 01932 845869.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. from October to end May, at St Andrew's Church Hall, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN. Tel: 01242 528220. e-mail mbssteel45@aol.com.

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

CIRENCESTER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets most Wednesdays 8.00pm to 10.00pm September to end June at the Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester. Details Mr A.E.L. Bush, Lake View House, Withington, Glos. GL54 4 BN. Tel: 01242890454, e-mail: tmbush@btopenworld.com

CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details: Mrs Pip Graham, 57 Milton Mount Ave, Pound Hill, Crawley, W. Sussex RH10 3DP, tel: 01293 882173.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF. Tel: 020 84210470.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS meet Wednesdays September to June at Holy Trinity & St. John's C. of E. Primary School, St. John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7.00 to 8.00 p.m. General 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradslow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. Tel: 01843 869284.

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

MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday 8.00 p.m. at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courlier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, tel: 01628 628372. www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk.

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

MARKET HARBOROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY. Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesday 7.30-10.00 p.m. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, "Lazonby", 9 Little Lunnon, Dunton Bassett, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 5JR. Tel: 01455 209446.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY. Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Rila Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Tel: 0118 975 7500, www.scottishdancingreading.org.

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

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

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

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

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Sept to May. 7.15 to 10 p.m. Admission free except for six 'Band Nights' when tickets cost £7 inc. supper (Burns Night £10). Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details from Bob Harman, tel: 020 8642 7192, e-mail bobandmegharman@aol.com.

ST. JOHN'S'S SDC WOKINGHAM: meet every Thurs 8 - 10.15pm Sept to June at St. Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Tel: Sue Davis 01344 774344, 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne. Also Childrens' Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, tel: Deborah Draffin 01344 776831.

ST. NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS, Luton meet every Wednesday, September to July 8.00 - 10.00 pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road,Luton,Beds. Contact: Pat Hamilton, tel. 01462 671156 or Sheila Harris, tel. 01525 875600.

SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Penelope Fisk, Sunnybank Cottages, 15 Maidstone Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3BY. Tel: 01732 452722.

SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday from mid-September to May 8.30 to 10.30 pm, in Barnes. Further information: Donald Miller, 39 Lauderdale Drive, Richmond, TW10 7BS. Tel: 020 8940 8573.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON meets at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1, every Tuesday from October to end of May for Scottish Country Dancing. 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Tom Symington. Tel: 020 7344 7151 or 020 7828 6792.

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

WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION hold weekly adult Classes for, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs Maggie Westley, 56 Mount Park, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4PS. Tel: +44 (0) 20 8647 9899, e-mail: westley3148@tiscali.co.uk. Web: www.wallingtonscottish.org.uk.

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

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

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

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

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



**HAYES AND DISTRICT
SCOTTISH
ASSOCIATION,
MIDDLESEX**

50th Anniversary Ball
Saturday 4th November
2006

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Brentside High School,
Greenford Avenue, W71JJ

The Craiggellachie Band

Programme: The Montgomeries' Rant, The Jubilee Jig, John McAlpin, Blooms of Bon Accord, Aird of Coigach, The Bonnie Lass o' Bon Accord, Festival Fling, The Diamond Jubilee, The Silver Tassie, The Piper and The Penguin, The Bees of Maggiecknockater, Anniversary Reel, Jennifer's Jig, The Dream Catcher, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Moffat Weavers, Foxhill Court, The Reel of the Royal Scots, Follow Me Home, Swithland Woods, Ray Milbourne, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder

Tickets: £15 [incl. Buffet] from
Margaret Wallace, tel: 020 8560 6160.
e-mail: Margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk
Website: www.hayesscottish.org.uk

**MEDWAY & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN
ASSOCIATION**

The Grand Ball

Saturday 31st March 2007.

Stanley House Ballroom, Gundolph Road,
Chatham.

Ian Muir

Three course meal, Raffle, Licensed Bar.
Tickets £23.50, reduced to £21.50 if bought
before Hogmanay 2006. Black Tie.
Contact: Lis Bowden, tel: 01474 822919,
e-mail: timbowden.t21@btinternet.com

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LITTLE SHIP SAILS ON

On a Thursday at the end of May the Little Ship Club celebrated 35 years of Peter Knight's teaching. He is now sailing through the canals of France and returning to teach again in the autumn. In 35 years Peter has only missed two nights of teaching, quite a record! The club (which has had several venues over the years since starting at the 'Little Ship Club' at Southwark Bridge: hence the name, celebrated the occasion and decided to set Peter off in style with a nautical themed evening. We had several captains and a lot of sailors in the crew. Our dances for the evening had a nautical theme: Pelorus Jack, Culla Bay, The Sailor and we had a p.p.party of p.p.penguins who dropped in to



dance the Piper and the Penguin. We were also treated to a Jacobean sword dance from Elaine Wilde and George Ferrier. Well done and many thanks Peter for a huge commitment to Scottish country dancing from your grateful clientele. Little Ship joins up with the Hurlingham Club (where Peter also teaches) three times a year to celebrate St Andrew's night, Burns night and an end of season dance. Each of these functions has 200+ in attendance. Dancing is alive and well.

Davinia Miln

**GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCING CLUB**

New Year Ball and Supper

Saturday 6th January 2007

Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre

George Meikle

and Lothian Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Maxwell's Rant, The Jubilee Jig, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Baldovan Reel, The Ship in Full Sail, The Byron Strathspey, Napier's Index, The Pines of Pitlochry, The Minister on the Loch, Scott Meikle, The Dream Catcher, EH3 7AF, Fisherman's Reel, Sugar Candie, Crossing The Line, The Wind on Loch Fyne, Catch the Wind, The Dancing Master, Scotch Mist, Follow Me Home, The Montgomeries' Rant.

Tickets £19.50 from Muriel Agnew,
tel 01844 345089.

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**LUCKY HEATHER,
LUCKY HEATHER!**

The White Heather Jig: a dance that has remained popular for nearly four decades, and over four decades ago there was the very popular Scottish TV show *The White Heather Club* where Andy Stewart made his name. But why *White Heather*? When you travel through Scotland and enjoy the scenery, more often than not in the summer months of August and September you will see a purple haze on every heath, hill and mountainside. Look closely and you are looking at blooming heather. Of course it is there the year round but in flower we see it, as we know it! Heather is a wonderful soft springy ground cover that quickly recovers after a picnic. Robert Burns, penning a poem about his love for Jean Armour, writes:

“At barn or byre thou shalt na drudge,
Or naething else to trouble thee;
But stray among the heather-bells,
And tent the waving corn wi’ me.”

It has other romantic connotations. When Charles Edward Stuart was routed 260 years ago by Cumberland at Culloden Moor and relentlessly pursued for five months across the Highlands of Scotland he was forced to hide or sleep in the open on occasions with heather as a friend for company.



Stephen Webb

The name heather is adopted as a girl's name. *Calluna vulgaris* (common brush) has large bells or small, double or single with the colour purple, lilac, red, pink, and white! Few varieties are white and white heather is seen rarely in the wild, but they all thrive in poor acidic soil. Mountain hare and pine marten alike enjoy heather. The Grouse lives in older heather but eats the young green shoots. It is popular with bees such that some beekeepers site their hives especially on heathland to capture that strong distinctive flavour of heather honey. And ale is made from it to a much-protected recipe!

And in song too it is not forgotten. “We can all go together, Picking Wild Mountain Thyme, All around the blooming Heather, Will you go, lassie, go?”

Well, we know why the thistle is associated with Scotland but what is the significance of heather in this regard? Apparently, there wasn't always white heather; legend has it that one day in AD250 Oscar's betrothed Malvina awaited news with her father the great Bard Ossian of her beloved fighting in a distant war when a loyal messenger, weakened from hunger and dishevelled from battle, appeared and collapsing gave her the sad news that Oscar had died but as he died he had reached out pulling at the purple heather to give a bunch to his messenger for Malvina. She was greatly moved by this taking it to cry alone at her loss. The tears fell on the heather she was holding to her heart and also on that growing around turning it all in an instant to pure white. Malvina is said to have declared “*Although it is the symbol of my sorrow, may the white heather bring good fortune to all those who find it.*” And so white heather continues to this day to be a token of good luck and now we can add to our enjoyment with this knowledge when