



The Reel



Published by the LONDON BRANCH of THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
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FEBRUARY TO APRIL 2005

BRANCH A.G.M.

Friday 17th June 2005

All members are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society London Branch, which will be held at St Columba's Church (Upper Hall), Pont Street, London SW1 on Friday 17th June 2005. Tea will be served at 6 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m. There will be dancing after the meeting.

This is your chance to contribute to the work of the Branch by participating in a review of the past year, our 75th anniversary season and planning for the next year. Any member may propose a motion for discussion at the AGM. These must be signed by the proposer and seconder and be sent to the Branch Secretary (see page 2) to reach her by 26th March. Any topic may also be raised at the meeting under 'Any other business'. The agenda, including any motions submitted in advance, will appear in the next issue of *The Reel*.

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

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

Chairman	Owen Meyer	1999
Vice-Chairman	Rachel Wilton	1993
Secretary	Pamela Ellam	2000
Treasurer	Simon Wales	2003

Daniel Capron 2000; Margaret Catchick 2003; Peter Knight 2001; Lindsay Merriman 2003; Davinia Miln 2000; Jeff Robertson 1999; Margaret Shaw 1998; Moira Strutt 2004; Meryl Thomson 2002; Cherry West 2003; Angela Young 2000.

Having served three consecutive years as Chairman, Owen Meyer must retire from the Committee. Rachel Wilton must stand down as Vice-Chairman after three consecutive years in that post. Otherwise all the above are eligible for re-election.

If you have any queries about the AGM, contact Owen Meyer (see page 2) or any Committee member.

WORLD DAY OF DANCE

Friday 29th April
and a special anniversary
Polesden Lacey Dance

See Page 4

FIRST LONDON BRANCH AWARDS



Stephen Webb

From left to right: Helen Brown, John Laurie, Jean Harrison, Owen Meyer

The RSCDS Branch Award has been established by the Society to give Branches the opportunity to acknowledge outstanding service to the Branch and to Scottish Country Dancing generally in the locality of the Branch. Recipients of the Award will have upheld the objectives of the Society, shown sustained and exceptional commitment to the promotion of Scottish Country Dancing, and been responsible for some notable achievements in relation to Scottish Country Dancing and/or its music.

Other than a joint Award it will be rare for a Branch to make more than one Award a year. However, this being the inaugural year of the Award, and also London Branch's 75th Anniversary year, the Branch has made two awards to two very worthy recipients who have made major contributions to the Branch over many years – Jean Harrison and Helen Brown. The Awards were presented by John Laurie, one of our honorary vice-presidents, at the Christmas Dance.

Helen Brown

Helen's enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing began when she lived in Canada and continued when she moved to London to take up employment with the BBC, where she started a class and through it encouraged dancers to join the Branch. Later on she saw the need for an afternoon class for those not wishing to travel to central London at night; with the blessing of the

Branch she found a hall, set up a class and taught it herself.

Helen is a stalwart member of the Branch; she has served on the Committee as Treasurer, Secretary and ordinary member and has been the organiser of very successful Branch weekend schools including the most recent 75th Anniversary weekend in Cirencester. She supports all our Branch functions and can always be relied upon to help when asked. Helen is very interested in all aspects of the Branch and the Society and is always ready to encourage and support new dancers.

Jean Harrison

Jean has been a member of the Branch for nearly 30 years and for many of those years has served the Branch as a loyal and dedicated pianist for classes. She has been an excellent support for the teachers of the Beginners and Intermediate classes. Over the last few years she has played for the Certificate class where she was a great help to the exam candidates in the use of music when preparing a class.

She is meticulous in her preparation of the music, always liaising with the teacher so that the most appropriate music is selected. She has also played for ladies step and children's classes over the years. At the last count she has been the accompanist for over 50 different teachers.

Owen Meyer

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS

Jimmie Hill gave an impressive presentation on this subject at the Society AGM weekend in November, and has kindly set down his thoughts here. A member of London Branch before there was a branch in Brighton, he founded Brighton Branch, then in 2003 moved to Edinburgh and now teaches in Edinburgh Branch. He is in his final year on the Management Board and is editor of the new RSCDS Members' Magazine.

Associations of subject teachers are common in all countries. Sometimes they are encouraged by the national education system and sometimes they exist despite it. In my experience they are strongest in situations where formal in-service teacher training is minimal or non-existent. They exist to support teachers after they have qualified; to encourage continuous teacher development; and to act as a forum for teachers to share ideas. Wherever teachers' associations exist, teaching standards rise.

Associations of Scottish Country Dance teachers already exist in Canada and Australia. It would seem well within the aims and objectives of the Society to encourage other similar associations in other parts of the RSCDS world.

Is there a need for teacher support?

When I qualified about 10 years ago, I had the support not only of the two other Brighton branch teachers, but also a most helpful teacher in an affiliated group in Worthing, who gave me access to her huge collection of books and leaflets. The other 'support' was a wholly unrealistic beginners' syllabus which I rejected after two weeks of teaching a real class!

The teachers' classes at Summer School at that time had no pedagogical input. The only proper in-service training in the southeast was the excellent annual one-day teachers' workshops offered by London Branch and their September workshops on the new book.

More recently, teaching skills courses have been run by the Society. But in-service training is still patchy and unavailable to most teachers. Most branches are too small to run such courses. It is also worth noting that a large number of teachers who qualify go on to teach in affiliated groups as opportunities for branch teaching can be very limited. Although we are a branch-based Society, we need to recognise that a very large number of RSCDS teachers are working in clubs and groups with little or no branch connection, often in remote areas, even in the UK. Teachers in the larger city branches often have more experienced teachers to turn to for help. Most of our teachers, however, are working in smaller places where they may be the only qualified teacher. As a voluntary body, the Society does not have the resources to provide regular in-service training for its teachers. It makes sense, then, for teachers to organise professional support for each other.

What form would a TA take?

I don't believe that one Teachers' Association for the whole Society is feasible. The last thing our Education and Training Committee needs is another area of responsibility and, with it, inevitably, another level of bureaucracy. I would like to encourage the formation of regional associations, run BY teachers FOR teachers. This means that no single branch can dominate because it is teachers individually who are in control. I can see regions developing naturally. The southeast is an obvious one with an excellent history of inter-branch cooperation.

Who would a TA be for?

A TA would be primarily for all fully certificated teachers and for those teachers who had passed the first part of their teaching certificate. It would be important in any area for a TA to reach out to and offer support to the many dancers who are teaching without being qualified and who are doing sterling work to promote Scottish country dancing in clubs and groups.

What would a TA do?

I can imagine a TA functioning on several different levels. On a formal level, I can imagine a TA meeting a couple of times each term – perhaps on a Sunday – with a combination of a workshop on teaching techniques and a discussion problem-sharing session. This could be run by teachers from within the group or some 'expert' from outside. On a less formal level, I can see the building up of a network of relationships where a newly qualified teacher can ring a more experienced teacher for advice on technique or even for a copy of dance instructions. How DO you get out of that poussette to face your first corner! I have yet to meet even a very experienced teacher who does not have some doubts about how you do such and such a dance. The following are a few more possible activities:

- Support new teachers by linking them with a mentor
- Co-ordinate refresher courses
- Run courses on specific topics: children's classes, teaching beginners, coping with mixed ability classes, teaching a technique or demonstration class etc
- Help run local courses for non-certificated teachers such as guide leaders, primary school teachers, etc
- Help identify potential tutors, adjudicators, summer school teachers
- Act as a complement to Branch secretaries in the dissemination of information relevant to teachers

Change of ethos

For many years the RSCDS was a rather top-down organisation. We are now living in a bottom-up world! We no longer necessarily take what the doctor or the judge or the teacher says as self-evidently true. Teachers' Associations would go some way to helping us change our image because they would bring teachers together to share and value each other's experience. TAs will act as the main source of teacher development in an area by facilitating the exchange of ideas and encouraging peer-group support. All teachers have something to contribute to each other. I hope that teachers throughout the RSCDS world will get together and form teachers' associations where none exists at present.

Jimmie Hill

Following on from Jimmie's presentation at the AGM weekend, the South-East Branches of the RSCDS have decided to discuss setting up a regional teachers' association at our next meeting in February 2005. Anyone with any ideas or input to make, please contact me (see last column).

Simon Wales

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Patron - H.M. The Queen



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www.rscds.org

LONDON BRANCH

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John Laurie, Rosemary Tilden.

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SUB-COMMITTEES

Children:.....Rachel Wilton, Angela Young

Classes:Margaret Shaw,
Margaret Catchick (Day School),
Lindsay Merriman, Owen Meyer, Moira Strutt

Dances:Peter Knight, Davinia Miln,
Cherry West

Demonstrations: Jeff Robertson,
Gaynor Curtis*, Angela Young

Publicity:Daniel Capron, Rita Marlow*,
Lindsay Merriman, Jeff Robertson,
Meryl Thomson

Open-air Dances:... Moira Strutt, Simon Wales.

Membership:Owen Meyer

Bookstall: Ian Anderson*

Central Council of Physical Recreation:.....
Marie Jamieson*

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

Southeast Group:..... Peter Knight

Combined Societies: Peter Knight,
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.

BRANCH MATTERS

I hope that you have all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year holiday and are looking forward to 2005.

Lots of enthusiastic children attended the Children's Day and Family Dance, where great fun was had by all. We are hoping to build on this with the occasional children's classes planned over the coming months and that these will introduce new children to the fun of Scottish Country Dancing.

Despite the poor turnout for the November dance, an enjoyable evening was had by those who attended, including representatives from Branches celebrating significant anniversaries.

The Christmas dance started off the festive season with excellent music provided by David Hall and his band. We were pleased to be able to present the first Branch Awards to two worthy members, Helen Brown and Jean Harrison for outstanding service to the Branch over many years.

Friday 29th April has been designated World Day of Dance. Our plans are to encourage school children to join in. We hope to approach various junior schools to see if they would participate.

Looking to the end of the dancing season, and weather permitting on the day, we hope that the open-air dance at Polesden Lacey in June will be a fitting climax to our anniversary year. There are plans afoot, so watch *The Reel*.

Owen Meyer

MANAGEMENT BOARD REPORT

27th November 2004

A welcome was given by the new Chairman, Stewart Adam, (see *The Reel* 250) to Irene Bennett, the new chairman elect, re-elected Board members Malcolm Brown and Jerry Reinstein, and new Board members Ruth Beattie (Glasgow), Helen Frame (Ayr) Marjorie Hume (BHS Borders) and Lorna Ogilvie (Croydon).

Stewart emphasised the need for the Board to have a monitoring and reviewing role; he hopes to strengthen two areas in particular – project management and budgeting. There may be a review of the size of the Board and the Committees, and the frequency of meetings, in his second year. The right of the Committees to co-opt non voting individuals with expertise in particular areas, and the usefulness of telephone conference calls was reiterated.

General Purposes and Finance: The Committee is reviewing CD pricing policy.

Membership Services: There are plans to produce a book of original tunes of RSCDS dances – the production of recorded music for the Medal Tests is considered a priority – Jim Healy (Perth), present archivist, was elected interim Convenor of this Committee until the AGM 2005. The post of archivist is now vacant and members interested in serving in this capacity should submit a profile for consideration – the list of current projects of this Committee is long and some will be transferred to other Committees or to working groups.

Education and Training: Unit 1 examinations will be held in March and June 2005 and then at 4 monthly intervals.

Database: A working group has begun consideration of the most effective way of consolidating data already received from Branches with the existing database.

Branch Awards (see page 1) 22 Branch Awards have been issued to date.

The next Management Board meeting is on 12th February 2005. The reports of the meetings are sent to Branch Secretaries and can be found on the Society website under 'reports' or 'what's new'.

Rachel Wilton

ALBERT HALL

24th September 2005

The RSCDS has again been invited to take part in the Central Council for Physical Recreation show at the Albert Hall on 24th September 2005 and we plan to make this a joint effort by members of all the RSCDS Branches who wish to participate.

We plan to run this along the same lines as ten years ago, with three rehearsals on the Sunday afternoons leading up to this date, i.e. 4, 11 and 18 September, at Cecil Sharp House in north London.

We are looking for probably 40-48 dancers with some experience of performance, who can commit to all the rehearsal dates and are willing to take part in this spectacular show. In the unlikely event of there being too many volunteers, there will have to be some element of audition.

Angela Young will be responsible for the choreography – she has a wealth of experience in Scottish country dancing and has made an extremely successful start to her teaching of the London Branch demonstration team.

At this stage we are seeking expressions of interest from individuals or groups of individuals – further details will be sent out as they become available. Please contact Simon Wales by post to Flat 6, 86 Worcester Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 6QQ or by email to simon_wales@talk21.com.

THE REEL 250

I should like to thank all those who made appreciative comments about this special colour issue. Thanks too to all who contributed copy or photos or otherwise helped in its production.

Answers to Quiz

Ian Hastie writes: 'I am proud to confirm that the lady in blue shown dancing with Jim McLucas at the London Ball at the Hurlingham Club is my wife Christine.' Bob Harman confirms: 'The lady dancing with P/Maj. Jim McLucas is Christine Hastie. I can say that without a shadow of a doubt because I shared a sauna with her in Trencin, Slovakia a year or two ago.'

Irene Mitchell's partner was Ian Macfarlane.

Correction

In the article on the Hurlingham Ball on page 6 Jean Martin and Stewart Adam are described as RSCDS President and President-Elect respectively. At the time of the Ball Jean was in fact the Chairman of the Society and Stewart the Chairman-Elect. Stewart took over the Chair at the Society's AGM on 6th November and is therefore correctly described as the new Chairman on page 3 of *The Reel* 250. The President of the RSCDS is the Earl of Mansfield.

Daniel Capron, Editor

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: ian.g.anderson@ukgateway.net

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.

ANNIVERSARY GARMENTS

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

Order forms are available from Jeff Robertson on tel: 01903 530750 or 020 7730 9633, from jtr@ctg.co.uk, or from the Branch Website www.rscdslondon.org.uk.

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

Tee Shirts £8 Ladies Tees£10

Polo Shirts .. £14 Sweatshirts£15

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

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

On light garments the design is in blue, with a gold crown and silver lettering on the darker garments. (See *The Reel* 250 back page, lower right.)

Please continue to support your Branch in its anniversary year.

Jeff Robertson

DANCE ON!

In November 2004 a new magazine called *Dance On!* was launched by Karin Ingram as Editor and Rob Corcoran doing the administration. It is a monthly publication costing £2 + 70p P&P per month. It is A4 size, about 32 pages on high quality paper, with some full colour photographs. *Dance On!* is aimed at people who enjoy Scottish Traditional Dance (Country, Old Time, Ceilidh, Step, Highland, Shetland, Orcadian, Hebridean etc) and its music. There are features on dance styles, dance groups and dance bands as well as dance instructions each month.

I have seen their first (November) issue. There are some features of general interest to dancers, such as an interesting piece on The Hebridean Weaving Lilt by Mats Melin and the history of the RSCDS written by Dr Alastair MacFadyen. Many features focus on dancing in Scotland. For example, Mike Scott writes about the Ceilidh Scene in Edinburgh and Alasdair Graham's Dance Diary lists many interesting events, nearly all in Scotland. There are articles too on Scottish bands and bandleaders.

Dance On! will be compiling a List of Dance Groups, Clubs and Classes and an entry in this will be free of charge. This should make life a lot easier for people looking for groups in their area and might get groups some new members! I have sent them details of London Branch.

If you would like to see more about *Dance On!* then visit the new website at

www.danceon.co.uk.

All correspondence for *Dance On!* should be sent to 7 Achachork, Portree, Isle of Skye IV51 9HT, tel: 01478 613104, e-mail: editor@danceon.co.uk. Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to "Northbeat".

Daniel Capron

PONT STREET PARTICIPATORS' DANCE

A joint event with Chelsea Reel Club, Little Ship Club, London Highland Club, St. Columba's Monday Dancers and the Scottish Clans Association of London

Saturday 19th March 2005
7.00 - 10.30 p.m.

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

Green Ginger

Machine Without Horses	12-12
The Sailor	24-4
Sugar Candie	26-9
The Diamond Jubilee.....	31-1
Kilkenny Castle	Forbes
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder	Hamilton
The Clansman	32-8
MacDonald of the Isles.....	Haynes
Mrs Stewart's Jig.....	35-1
The Eightsome Reel	2-12
Minister on the Loch	Goldring
The Last of the Lairds.....	22-5
Fire in the Rye	Ozorak
Cape Town Wedding.....	39-4
Swiss Lassie.....	39-1
Pelorus Jack	41-1
The Robertson Rant.....	39-8
The Montgomerie's Rant.....	10-1

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

BRANCH DANCE

Saturday 21st May 2005
7.00 - 10.30 pm

St Columba's Church Hall , Pont Street, SW1

Invercauld Band

Diamond Jubilee	31-3
Gang the Same Gate	36-4
Lauderdale Lads	Duthie
Newton Park	London
The Duchess Tree.....	Drewry
College Hornpipe.....	20-12
Autumn in Appin.....	31-5
The Weathercock.....	Leeds
Clutha	31-2
Major Ian Stewart.....	36-4
Staffin Harvest.....	4 for 78-3
John of Bon Accord.....	33-5
The New Rigged Ship	9-7
The Lea Rig	21-5
Blooms of Bon Accord.....	Drewry
Schiehallion	Thurston
The Dundee City Police Jig.....	Mitchell
Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.....	39-7

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

SUBSCRIBE TO THE REEL

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

Rita Marlow, 17 West Farm Close, Ashtead, Surrey KT21 2LH,
tel: 01372 812821,
e-mail: rusmar.ashtead@virgin.net.

Subscription rates have been increased as from *Reel* 249. The annual cost for individual subscribers is £4.50 if resident in the UK, £5.00 for other European residents and £7.00 if resident elsewhere. There are special rates for bulk orders. Remittances in sterling please, payable to RSCDS (London Branch).

Advance Notice 75th Anniversary Garden Dance at Polesden Lacey



Date: Saturday 11th June 2005
Place: Polesden Lacey, Great Bookham, Surrey, from 2.00 - 6.00 p.m.
Band: Craigellachie

As part of our 75th Anniversary celebrations, this year we invite dancers to come to the dance
DRESSED IN FASHIONS FROM THE LAST 75 YEARS



The programme will be a mixture of Scottish Country and ceilidh dances

Bring your family, bring a picnic and join in the fun
More details in the next issue of *The Reel*

and on the Branch website:
www.rscdslondon.org.uk

WORLD DAY OF DANCE

This year the Society has joined a group entitled 'Conseil International de la Danse', a group under the auspices of UNESCO whose day of dance is **Friday 29th April 2005**.

Branches and Affiliated Groups are asked to plan events - e.g. special performances, exhibitions, contributions to local media, dance evenings, visits, street shows with the aim of attracting the attention of the wider public, emphasising aspects such as the importance of dance to society and its universal character.

The Society's website will post every event that is notified so send your event to info@rscds.org so that Branches and dancers all over the world may monitor them.

London Branch's target will be schools; if you know of a school that would like a session of Scottish Country dancing on that day please contact Margaret Catchick on 020 8907 2754 or email margaretcatchick@hotmail.com.

Rachel Wilton

SUMMER SCHOOL 2005

18th July - 14th August

Application Forms for dancing classes and the musicians' course are available on the Society's website or from the Branch Secretary (see p. 2).

800 dancers will gather from around the world to enjoy the dancing, the music, the social events, the surroundings; there is a welcome for all, from beginners to advanced dancers.

Scholarships are available and there is a discount for members under 21 and full time students under 25.

We also have our own Bill Ireland Memorial Fund Scholarships for young people between 16 - 25 to attend Summer School and to help young dancers in taking their teaching certificates.

Applications should be in by 1st March 2005 so **APPLY NOW!**

Rachel Wilton

CHILDREN'S CORNER

The Family dance was enjoyed by children and parents with Kafoozalium providing music to keep feet dancing and Angela Young a clear and entertaining MC. Our 75 candles were lit without mishap and all present gave three mighty cheers for London Branch in its 75th year.



Stephen Webb

Grace Hill with her children Joshua and Zoe, with the candles that were lit to celebrate the 75th Anniversary. In the background one may just glimpse a few of the many helpers - Lena, Rachel, Marion, Cherry and Henry.

CHILDREN'S DAY

Saturday 19th March 2005

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

Class 11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. ... £2.00

Dance 1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. £2.50

Come at 12.30 p.m. and have a pizza and ice cream picnic and join in with a surprise in the afternoon.

Green Ginger

Dances will be chosen from:

A Reel for Jeannie	R	40/1
The Cumberland Reel	J	1/11
Johnny Groat's House	R	18/1
Leap Year	J	Gr. 1
Kelso Races	R	MMM1
Prince of Orange	J	6/8
Nice to See you	R	40/3
Espie McNab	J	MMM1
Lady C. Bruce's Reel	R	MMM1
Highland Fair	J	Gr. 6
Long Live the Queen	R	MMM1
The Dhooon	J	Ch. 1
Round Reel of Eight	R	27/7
A Jig for Mrs Dunn	J	Ch. 8
Rabbie's Reel	R	40/7
The Dashing White Sergeant ..	R	3/2

CHILDREN'S CLASS

This is the 4th of these classes; we have lots of fun; come and join us - make a day of it - visit Harrods and the Museums at South Kensington, all near by!

Saturday 5th March 2005

St. Columba's Church, Pont St. SW1

10.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

NB The Branch likes to keep a photographic record of events - if you do not wish your child to be included in Branch photographs please contact the Secretary (see page 2).

Rachel Wilton

CLASSES

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

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher / Musician
ELEMENTARY	Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3	Rachel Wilton / Jean Harrison
POPULAR S.C. DANCES	Wednesday	8.00 - 9.30	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3	Lindsey Rousseau / Ian Cutts
TECHNIQUE	Wednesday	7.30 - 9.30	St. Barnabas' & St. Phillip's School, Pembroke Mews, W8	Gaynor Curtis / Ken Martlew
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	7.15 - 9.15	For details contact Gaynor Curtis, 01483 721989.	Angela Young / Sandra Smith
GENERAL (Central)	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30	St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1	Jeni Rutherford

Spring term ends in the week beginning 14th March 2005. Summer term starts in the week beginning 11th April.
All enquiries about classes to Margaret Shaw, 020 7329 2847.

HIGHLAND CLASSES

Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London WC2.
Thursday 17th March 2005

Teacher:.....**Malcolm Ferris Lay**
Musician:.....**Sandra Smith**

For details please contact either Malcolm on
01279 425081,
email: malcolm@williamsonmagor.com,
or Margaret Shaw on 020 7329 2847.

LADIES' STEP

DANCING CLASSES

Sunday 13th March 2005

10.45 a.m.- 12.45 p.m., 2.00 - 3.45 p.m.

Teacher:.....**Jenny Greene**
Musician:..... **Jean Harrison**

The Guide Hall, Wallington Green,
Wallington, Surrey.

Further details: Margaret Shaw,
Tel: 020 7329 2847.

If there is sufficient demand, a further class will
be arranged in May 2005.

TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE

Part 1 Unit 1 Written Paper

There will be an opportunity to do the written unit for the Certificate in March 2005, and anyone wishing to do Part 1 of the Certificate – the old Preliminary Certificate – at Summer School MUST have passed the written paper BEFORE they do units 2 and 3 (the practical dancing and the teaching Level 1) If anyone is interested in doing the paper in March please contact Margaret Shaw on 020 7329 2847.

There are more details on the Society website, www.rscds.org.uk, including sample questions and answers, or contact HQ or the Secretary (see page 2). If you do take and pass this unit you do not have to do units 2 and 3 immediately. (There will be other opportunities to do the paper this year, this is just the first).

Parts 1 Units 2 and 3;

Full Certificate

If you are considering working towards Units 2 and 3 of the Teachers' Certificate Part 1 – the practical dancing and teaching – or the Full Certificate in London this year, we would be pleased to hear from you. Contact Margaret Shaw, 020 7329 2847.

Rachel Wilton

ARE YOU BETWEEN 16 AND 35 YEARS OLD?

The Edinburgh Spring Fling is for you.
Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd April 2005
Accommodation and dancing in central Edinburgh.

Application forms from RSCDS HQ, Branch Secretary or on the Society website (see page 2).
Financial support available – contact the Branch Secretary.

FAMILY WEEKEND

7th - 9th October 2005

South Beach Hotel, Troon, Ayrshire.

Cost £217.00 per room for 4 people

The weekend is planned for dancers and non dancers, with a mixture of Scottish Country and ceilidh dances so that adults and children will dance together. Non-dancers will have free time during class time but one adult and one child in each family group will be expected to go to the classes.

What an opportunity to meet other dancing families, make new friends, enjoy the Ayrshire coast.

Further details and application forms from RSCDS. HQ, Branch Secretary and the Society website (see page 2).

Best of
Scotland
2004
Award for
Excellence



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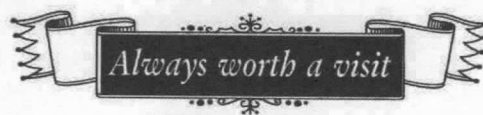
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DEMONSTRATIONS



Cairiona Stewart

The Demonstration Class is continuing to flourish in 2005 and has expanded with some new and returned members. We are pleased to welcome Heather, Elaine, Alice, Elaine, Sharon, Andrew and Ian. We are also delighted that our piper Neil and his partner Amanda are helping with the dem class of the future by announcing that they have had a baby girl (next time could it be a boy – we really need men!!)

At the time of going to press we are preparing for lots of Burns Night demonstrations including Kneller Hall – the Royal Military School of Music and the Savoy Hotel. We are also planning our annual trip to Newcastle and are really looking forward to meeting dancers from around the country and having a great time socially.

You might recognise the Dem Class faces in the photograph taken just after the Christmas Branch Dance dem when we revealed our new ladies' costumes. Below are four pairs of dem class feet. Can you name who they belong to?



Our sincere thanks as always go to Angela, Gaynor and Sandra for their contribution towards the success of the class.

We are keen to welcome dancers of an advanced standard, so anyone interested in joining the team please get in touch with Jeff Robertson on 01903 530750, 020 7730 9633 or email jtr@ctg.co.uk.

Jeff Robertson

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

FOUND

after a dance at Pont St. in the early autumn – a silver bracelet. Will the owner please contact Bernard Bligh on brbligh@hotmail.com or tel: 020 8979 0874.

A DANCE FOR JIM JOHNSTONE

devised by Roy Goldring

A copy of Roy's dance 'With gratitude for some wonderful music' is available free of charge. Send a stamped addressed envelope to the Branch Bookstall (see page 3) or pick up a copy at a Branch dance.

Jim Johnstone's first solo programme was for BBC Children in 1950. He has played with Andrew Rankine, Jimmy Shand, and formed his own band in 1968. He provided a great sound, wonderful rhythm, a delight to dance to. Over the years he has been much admired by his peers and influenced a younger generation of musicians and all around him enjoy his wit and humour. He has composed many fine tunes that have been picked up, played and recorded by many bands – Billy Thom's Reel is a very well known example. He has also done stage shows – a well-known bandleader says he never had so much fun as when he played with Jim. Do enjoy dancing his reel!

Rachel Wilton

DANCING IN JAPAN

I was the first French woman dancer of SCD at Kobe in Japan dancing with the Kansai White Heather Dancers group, among a hundred mainly Japanese dancers! To put in the record book, please.

I met Tom Toriyama at Summer School of St Andrews in Scotland some years ago. (I have been every year for 9 years.) He danced with us in Lyon on his way to Pau (southwest France) for the Easter weekend organized by Paris Branch in April 2004. When I told him that I was to go to Kyoto in May to visit some French friends who lived at Kyoto and I'd like to dance as well, we exchanged email addresses and he said he would let me know where and when it would be possible to dance.

The only opportunity to dance not too far from Kyoto was Kobe (midway between the airport and Kyoto) but I had no choice about the day – it was in fact the very day of my arrival. The attraction of dancing in Japan was so strong that I said to myself: let's go, we only live once and never mind if I do not sleep for nearly two days! The only thing to do for a lady turned 50 is to take a lot of vitamin tablets with added caffeine. It works! and the Scottish music helps quite a lot. I say nothing about the jetlag of 7 hours...

It was not so easy to choose a dress to support a nearly 14-hours of flight in my handbag from Lyon to Osaka and to be well matched with the sash put on as a belt in my own way of wearing it. Eventually, I opted for a white dress which represents all the spectral colours. I thought during the flight that I will save time if I get changed in the plane before landing. It was a good idea.



With Tom Toriyama and Nori

As I entered the dancing room, I recognized immediately Nori sitting on a bench and the music started for "La Flora". The set was complete with us as a fourth couple. I had just the time to see Miyuki, his wife, in another set (around 7 or 8 sets) – great movement of arms on each side (I met Nori and Miyuki also at the Summer School, in 1998). It was great to see them again after 6 years. We danced a lovely programme, included very nice dances designed by different dancers in the group, till lunch. After coffee I was introduced officially by Tom and welcomed very warmly by all the people attending this day of dance. I only missed one dance (Muirland Willie) to take another tablet and I danced till the end. We had some intervals to allow several musicians to play lovely music, and for a very funny sketch. In the middle of the afternoon, all the dancers gathered for a photo of that wonderful day. I will remember it forever. My thanks go to Tom for making it so pleasant and a big thank you for all the dancers I met this 16th May 2004.

Maguy Paillet

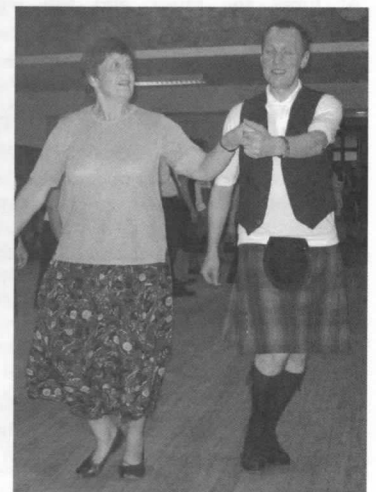
Maguy Paillet dances with the Lyon group in France and is the creator of the painting "The Blue Lady" for the 75th anniversary of the RSCDS in 1998.



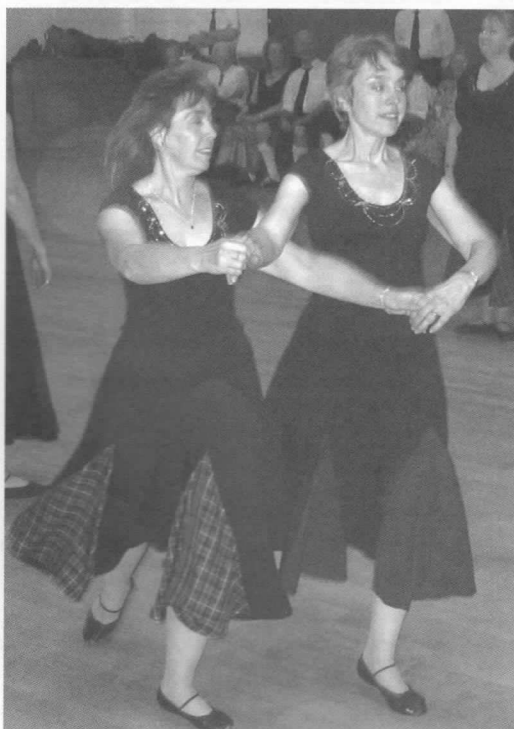
The Web page ...

SCENES AT THE CHRISTMAS DANCE

All photographs on this page by Stephen Webb



**SATURDAY 11th
DECEMBER 2004**



AN EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT

19th May 1972

The Rutherford School on the 19th May was the scene of one of the Branch's most successful ventures in recent years. This was an illustrated Tour of Scotland, in dance, music, song, verse and prose, covering the cities, islands, the South-West and Perthshire. The organisers had assembled an outstanding array of talent and the variety of the effects was quite dazzling. It would be invidious to single out any particular item or special mention but it was clear that the programme was so organised to come to effective climaxes at the end of each half of the programme. The organisers are to be particularly congratulated for the way in which the items succeeded each other without any awkward gaps, notwithstanding the somewhat difficult entrances to the stage and body of the hall.

About 280 members and friends attended and clearly had a most enjoyable evening. At times the music and fun were so infectious that some of the audience must have had difficulty in restraining themselves from joining in. Obviously this was a venture which would be worth repeating but the organisers have set an example which it will be difficult to emulate.

[No. 121, 1972]

FRINGE DANCES

by Hugh Foss

Complaints are often voiced about the selection of dances for Ball programmes. Disgruntled dancers have had to sit out half a dozen dances unknown to them.

The complaint is often justified. A Ball is an occasion for enjoying dances well known to all those taking part. Only when you know the dance, your partner knows it and all the rest of the set knows it can you glory in the music and let it carry you away. In making so many dances well known the R.S.C.D.S. has done a good job.

Some complainants, however, go a step further and propose that Ball programmes should only include dances published by the Society: there should, they say, be a severe restriction on the number of any other dances at Balls or classes organised by any Branch of the Society. It is this proposal that I want to discuss.

Is it loyal for a Branch of the Society to allow or even teach dances not published by the Society? My answer is "Yes." Members of the Society have two loyalties: one is to the concrete body of the Society, the other is to the abstract idea - the Art, Tradition or whatever you like to call it - of Scottish Country Dancing.

No one will deny that a Member of the Royal Academy should try to serve Art as well as the Academy. Obviously, Art existed before and exists independently of the Royal Academy.

With Scottish Country Dancing the facts are not quite so obvious. Is Scottish Country Dancing an Art or is it only an activity of the Society? Without the Society there would have been no Scottish Country Dancing as we know and enjoy it. Scottish Country Dancing in the style of 1922, before the Society was founded, would leave most of us cold.

The world-wide success of the Society is due to its having created something greater than itself: the idea, which has not only given pleasure to millions of dancers, but also inspired hundreds of devisers to make up new dances and so renew and carry on the tradition.

Paradoxically, it is traditional to make up new dances. It is often a good thing, as we know, to resurrect a dance that has been dead for 200 years, but it is not traditional. Before 1923 a Scottish Country Dance that was not performed every year was forgotten and replaced by new dances in the current style.

There should be no conflict of loyalty between the abstract idea and the concrete body. Members should feel just as free to enjoy "fringe" dances as the official ones.

Dances officially adopted by the Society gain a tremendous advantage over others. They have been tested and are guaranteed to work. Descriptions are sent to every Member of the Society. Hundreds go to St. Andrews each summer to find out what the descriptions mean and the best methods of performance. The "new book" is taught everywhere during the autumn. Its dances are categorised as well known and are included in Ball programmes. The Society, as it should do, does a good job.

Fringe dances must sink or swim on their own. They have no seal of approval. Many dancers are cautious about spending money on anything unknown. Publication is expensive. Some dances are never printed or even duplicated. If a printed description is obscure, few dancers will bother to find out what it means. There is no regular channel of distribution and some dances are hard to find.

It seems curious that, with all the advantages enjoyed by official dances, anyone should have so little confidence in their merits that he believes they will only be used if fringe dances are banned, restricted or otherwise prevented from becoming well known.

Any such ban or restriction will lead to heresy hunts, schisms, rebellions, breakaway groups and other troubles which will do no good either to the concrete body of the Society or the abstract idea which it has created.

Any dance, whatever its origin or up-bringing, should be considered on its merits. If it is good enough to become well known it should be allowed to become well known and be welcome in a Ball programme.

[No. 110, 1970]

DAY SCHOOL, APRIL 1974

The Branch was delighted to welcome Miss Milligan for her annual visit to London in April and also to welcome Mrs Holden from Birmingham for the second year in succession when they combined in teaching a very successful Day School in Quintin Kynaston School. The classes were attended by over 120 students who greatly enjoyed the various classes.

For the first time ever, the Day School was combined with a Branch Dance in the evening and the day ended with the season's best-attended dance when a "full house" still had sufficient energy left to enjoy dancing to the music of Stan Watts and his band.

Congratulations to the following who obtained the Society's Teaching Certificate during Miss Milligan's visit.

Preliminary Certificate: Mrs. Pat Pleydell and Mr. Donald Barratt.

Full Certificate: Miss Jenny Beale, Miss Kay Caines, Miss Beryl Heathcote, Miss Sheila Munro, Mrs Sylvia Tingey, Mrs Molly White, Mr David Burgess, Mr. Arnold Meads and Mr. John Tyler.

[No. 129, 1974]

52 Shirley Drive,
Hove BN1 6UF.

Dear Sir,

The Society has set standards to which we try to conform but must beware of alienating others with the attitude of, "We are perfect; you do not know how to dance properly". This does happen. London Branch dances are often referred to as the "Morgue" by non-members because by concentrating on perfection we have lost the joie de vivre that is an essential ingredient of dancing, tending to frown upon any display of high spirits.

Personally, I like the Branch programmes because they give the opportunity to perform many dances which do not normally appear. They are essentially dancers' programmes, but do lack popular appeal. Possibly the injection of more non-R.S.C.D.S. dances might improve this aspect of Branch functions. There is no need for Branches to be strictly purist when devising programmes.

It must be admitted that the Society tends to lose sight of the fact that dancing is a living art form. There is a condemnation of modern dances which overlooks completely the fact that all the dances were at one time modern "made-up" dances. Living composers should be encouraged.

Yours faithfully
J. WALLACE MITCHELL

[No. 124, 1973]

[All these items are in the original size and
typeface - Ed]

UNWOUND

ed by Daniel Capron from those selected by Rachel Wilton

LETTER FROM A SATISFIED MEMBER

68 Janes Lane
Burgess Hill
Sussex
1st March 1981

Dear John,

We had not been to a dance at the Porchester Hall for several years and even those we had been to some few years ago were Highland Club rather than RSCDS so it was with even greater anticipation and perhaps even some trepidation that we came to your dance yesterday. We were not disappointed. I feel constrained to put in writing what many must feel but few say outright, how very, very much we enjoyed the occasion and how grateful we are to you personally, to Bill Ireland, and to the other "behind the scenes" workers who all contribute to making these events such wonderful successes. Please convey our personal thanks to your committee for all the hard work they do in connection with all the activities of the Branch, not least "The Reel", which keeps us in touch. We had feared that being RSCDS the dance might be that little bit "stiff and starchy", but not a bit of it. It was a real "letting the hair down" occasion, to which the band contributed a great deal, and we felt privileged to be there.

I am listening to Jim MacLeod's London Record as I write and am thoroughly enjoying it. I was also able to purchase the Alex MacArthur (Vol 1) record recommended in The Reel and thoroughly agree with the high praise heaped on it.

Scottish Country Dancing has been the most wonderful thing in my life. It helped me to find a wonderful wife and I shall always thrill to the music long after my dancing days are over.

Please don't bother to reply to this, but I just wanted you and your fellow workers to know what a great deal of pleasure you give.

Yours sincerely,

Donald Barrat

[No. 156, 1981]

SUNDRY JOTTINGS

We now have a Badge available specially designed and made for members of London Branch. It has the words "RSCDS London" and a Blue Lion Rampant on a white background. It is suitable for wearing on the lapel or on a kilt or tartan skirt. The cost is £1.50 (15p postage and packing). It is available at Branch Dances or by post from Mrs. Stella Booth, 1 Bridle Road, Claygate, Surrey KT10 OET.

[No. 163, 1982]

TICKLE YOUR FANCY

Well how about it? A day of dance with a difference. Why not come to Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, NW1 at 10 o'clock on Saturday, January 30th and try out some different forms of dance? We are planning to have a series of demonstrations in the morning to help you to choose which sessions to attend in the afternoon.

Just imagine—Bill Ireland doing modern jive, Andrew Kellett in a leotard or your very own John Laurie as an Elizabethan Courtier. Don't miss out on the fun. For further details phone 01-4212 8859. Application forms will be available at Branch classes.

ANOTHER EVENT RUN BY THE FRIENDS
OF CECIL SHARP HOUSE.

[No. 182, 1988]

EASTHAMPSTEAD WEEKEND 1985

Let me introduce myself—I'm a fly on an Easthampstead wall. There was quite a buzz of excitement amongst my brothers and sisters when we heard that the Scottish Dancers were coming again for the weekend. My Mother and Granny have told us about previous visits, but I cannot imagine a finer pair of teachers than the sparkling Lena Barclay and that smooth Frenchman, Philippe Rousseau, with the quaint turn of English phrase. None of the dancers will ever dance "down the middle and up" without remembering "make a good cortege"! Such good teaching was made even better by the welcome return of pianists Phyllis Draper and Robert Mackay.

On Saturday afternoon I watched Lena's workshop class until my brother fetched me to see something special upstairs. Mike Begley was putting a class through their paces in Highland Dancing—and some paces too—they were doing the Cake Walk by the end of the session!

Both evenings we settled in a good position to watch the Social Dancing, two quite different programmes presented by Andrew Cockett and John McDonald. Nobody needed to sit out as both M.C.'s were ready with recaps for the unsure, and there was an extra area for dancing, made possible by Dheirdre Brown bringing John Mitchell's extension speaker.

I overheard a conversation between Alex Westwood and Ully Harris, who had apparently been planning for some time something called an Olde Tyme Music Hall for the late evening entertainment on Saturday. Well, you have never seen such a transformation to the upstairs room. Ully and Alex, aided by Mr. Sparks (Kevin Marchand), Mr. Shifter (Sandy Milne from Aberdeen), Mrs. Sunshine (Pat Brown) made it into a Victorian Theatre Bar. Rosemary Tilden and her helpers appetisingly presented the food brought by the weekenders and the two Annes (Hodgson and Carter) even fetched in buckets of snow to ensure the wine at their bar was chilled.

The audience, many ladies in flowered hats, some in period dress, and all our family on the back wall, were entertained by over twenty items, presented in quickfire succession. Those involved were too numerous to mention individually, but it was a tremendous effort greatly appreciated.

Even after such a late night, there they all were at class again on Sunday morning, and as if that was not enough, Philippe presented the afternoon social dancing, with Phyllis playing her heart out.

As I was enjoying a few crumbs off the biscuit plate at tea-time, I overheard Margaret Shaw say how very grateful she was to the many friends who had helped to create such a memorable weekend.

We certainly hope they'll come back next year... must fly!

[No. 172, 1985]

3 Fortismere Avenue,
Muswell Hill,
London N10 3BN.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to tell you how I started Scottish Country Dancing.

For a couple of terms we danced in a freezing cold hall with not more than six of us. I kept going because Jean was such an enthusiastic and interesting teacher. Also our pianist played very well, and both were very friendly (and they never got cross).

Later we moved to Pont Street: that was much better. A lot more children came. The standard improved and we made lots of friends. At the end of the class we danced round the room, got into a circle, whirled round and fell on the floor (unlike Humpty Dumpty we got up again).

The next term we started working for the Children's Dance, which went very well.

Now we are going to enter a festival. We hope that it will go well like the Children's Dance.

I am very glad that the RSCDS London Branch Committee started our class.

Yours sincerely,
Jennifer Griggs. Age—8½

[No. 192, 1990]

MR. DONNIE MCBAIN

Donnie McBain died at the end of December 1981. Donnie joined the Metropolitan Police in 1930 and retired to Lochinver in 1958. He then became involved in local politics and served two terms as County Convenor of Sutherlandshire.

He will however, be remembered here in the London Area as the founder of McBain's Band which still bears his name. The Band was formed in 1946 with Nan Fleming-Williams (violin) and Alan Humberstone (piano). Prior to 1946 he had joined up with another London Scottish policeman, Johnnie "Box" MacDonald playing at dances and ceilidhs in the old R.S.C. Hall at Fetter Lane.

Donnie is survived by his wife to whom our sympathy is extended.

[No. 160, 1982]

19 YEARS ON AND THE DEMONSTRATION TEAM ARE STILL GENERATING

On Saturday 21st December 1996 you may have witnessed the Branch demonstration team being beamed across the nation on the festive edition of the BBC's Generation Game. None of our dancers was a survivor from the last time the team appeared on the show in 1977, but I am told that one of the men's jacket's managed both performances.

Following the same format as the normal normal show, the end-of-series 1996 Christmas Special required two heats of competitive 'games' for four couples for which marks were awarded with the winning pairs progressing to the final game.

As the opening game on the show twelve twelve members of the team demonstrated a modified Glasgow Country Dance and a Round the room Hullochan to fit in the allotted one minute and forty second window in the schedule. Two team members then gracefully bowed out to allow the pairs of competitors to have a go. Their performances were judged by class teacher Ann Dix and marks awarded for spirit, enthusiasm and novel interpretation of the team's on-the-spot directions!

The initially nervous competitors effected two effected two energetic performances which they obviously enjoyed and this set the party mood for the rest of the show. The demonstration team also had an exhilarating time during the two afternoon rehearsals and the evening filming in the bowels of BBC Television Centre. BBC hospitality was humbly if not ignorantly shared with the likes of such TV mega-stars as Bobby Davro, Norman Collier, Windsor Davies, 'Derek' from Coronation Street and our fast talking, rather amiable and (off-camera) very risqué host Jim Davidson.

It was not for the purists – at rehearsals the producer's initial comments were: "very nice, but can you do it without the slow bit?" – the final cut had some of the strathspey missing. However, judging from enthusiastic and interested comments from friends and colleagues who saw the show it seems we have shared some of the spirit of the dance with a wide audience. The overall effect was a graceful and enjoyable performance with sufficient whirls, burls and "hooch!"s to satisfy a seasonally receptive audience, even though some of the finer details may have been sacrificed in pursuit of ratings!

Judy Berry

(now Judy Hall) [No. 219, 1997]

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NEW RECORDINGS

Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith - Campbell's Birl (SSCD 17)

On the Wings of the Morning, The Expert Dancer, Davy Nick Nack, General Ritchie's Reel, Dear Gladys, The Shetland Fiddler, Montreal Rendezvous, Just in Time, The Spirit of the Dance, Let's Have a Ceilidh, The Traveller's Jig, The Banks of Spey, The Australian Ladies.

Special Requests - Volume 6 - Colin Dewar's Sound (SRCD 006)

The Australian Ladies, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder and Encore, The Braes of Breadalbane, The Chequered Court, The Piper and The Penguin and Encore, Bonnie Anne and Encore, The Reel of the 51st Division, The Belle of Bon Accord, The Flight of the Falcon, Robbie Over the Waves, Balnain House, The Phantom Piper, Bonnie Stronshiray, Rest and be Thankful.

Once again Muriel (piano) and Keith (fiddle) treat us to a most excellent selection of tunes for dances devised by Bob Campbell and a couple by Irene Paterson. As always we have loads of lift and a good steady tempo throughout.

Colin Dewar's CD lives up to expectations. Again tempo is just right and the six-piece band is very "together". Some fine playing by fiddler Gordon Simpson and pianist Dennis Morrison adds to the overall texture. There will no doubt be some critics who wished they played the original at the end as well as the beginning of each dance. Yes, they play the *correct* original for Belle of Bon Accord.

The notes provide instructions for some of the dances.

.....

On An Evening with Friends Vol 4 (NOR 0204) Colin Dewar and his Band are again letting us hear just how good they are. They play a mix of old time and ballroom dances. There are twenty tracks but only ten named dances with an encore for each one. Mention must be made of two fantastic sets of tunes for Circassian Circle. This is dance music of the highest quality.

On his debut CD (CONIS 801) Iain Cathcart plays an eclectic mix of music. It ranges from Nellie the Elephant and You are my Sunshine to some fine sets of jigs and reels and a Touch of Blarney. The country dances are played at a very steady tempo. Iain's six piece band includes Alistair McCulloch on fiddle and Graham Berry on piano. Hope we have a follow up CD soon, Iain.

Fiddler Pete Clark and a few friends bring us a CD (INVER 225) with some 50 tunes all composed by Robert MacKintosh (1745 to 1807) who was born in the area of Perthshire where Pete now resides. He now has several CDs under his belt and this one maintains the high standard of musicianship already set. (The complete works published by MacKintosh were re-issued in a single volume by Highland Music Trust in 2002).

Lady Nairne (1766 to 1845) was also from Perthshire. Anne Lorne Gillies brings us 19 of the Lady's songs (BR 002) the best known being Charlie is my Darling and The Rowan Tree. Anne is in fine voice as ever and is accompanied by some fine musicians including Alistair McCulloch on fiddle and Rhona MacKay on clarsach.

Three classically trained Scottish tenors who for some years have been singing opera and oratorio have changed direction. Alan Beck, Jamie MacDougall and Ivan Sharpe with pianist Michael Barrett have formed themselves into a group called Caledon. They specialise in Scottish songs and have now issued a CD (RECD 548) and video (RELV 069) together with the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra. There is some variation in content particularly on the tracks featuring the orchestra. Caledon sing with a real passion for Scottish songs. There are solo verses and some fine harmonies. The orchestra's selections are bright and lively. These recordings are 'a must buy' for all lovers of Scottish music.

John Laurie

A COMPANION TO THE RETICULE

A number of the early RSCDS books cite a source from approximately 1830 with an unusual title: *The Companion to the Reticule*. It contains piano settings of many well-known tunes, including "Delvin Side," "Mrs McLeod of Raasay," "The Deil among the Tailors," "The Duke of Perth," and "Tullochgorum." At first sight the title seems to have nothing to do with dancing, since a "reticule" as defined in the *OED* is "A small bag, usually made of some woven material, for carrying on the arm or in the hand, used by ladies as a pocket or workbag."

However, the book shows how attached the Scots were to their dance music: they expected their daughters to be able to jump up at a moment's notice, reach into their reticule for their music book, and perform a reel or strathspey on the piano. Here is part of the preface:

It cannot have escaped observation at convivial family parties, that young Ladies have been often found so deficient in the execution of Dancing Music, that, out of a dozen, there are seldom above two or three qualified to give their companions a Reel on the Piano Forte (to which this Collection is especially adapted,) by way of interlude to the musical or other entertainments of a winter evening. This, it is presumed, will not only be generally admitted, but also that many young Ladies, known to be proficient, can scarcely be prevailed upon to sit down to a Piano Forte in their neighbour's house for want of their own music.

In order to remedy this inconvenience, the present Miniature Collection of the most select of the Scottish Dancing Tunes has been compiled, as a "Companion to the Reticule," not doubting that it will be considered a very acceptable attendant in most circles. Although many of the following tunes are to be found in early publications, yet the expense and incumbrance of such large volumes, where it often happens that not above one out of twenty tunes is perhaps worthy of being played twice over, suggested the idea of concentrating a selection of the very choicest of the Scottish Dancing Music into a "Pocket" Collection of this sort, under the expectation that it would, at all times and in all countries, be esteemed a highly interesting work, especially to musical young Ladies and Gentlemen, whose birth, connexions, or society, can lay claim to any district North of the Tweed.

Each page of the book consists of a reel, a strathspey, and a jig in the same key, so that the performance would be varied and any impromptu dancing would be "kept up with the utmost spirit."

Reproduced with thanks from *The White Cockade, Newsletter of the RSCDS Vancouver Branch, October 2004.*

BANDS

THE HIGHLANDERS

Scottish Ceilidh and Reeling band consisting of professional musicians; includes PA sound system with monitors, etc. Musical line-ups: From 3-piece to 8-piece, with MC/Caller available whenever required. Recommended for Reeling, Balls and Ceilidh Events such as weddings, private and corporate parties, etc. Excellent client references. Please contact Bandleader: Donald Ross. Tel: 020 8203 0626 or 020 8203 5076, e-mail: info@LawsonRoss.co.uk www.thehighlanders.co.uk.

KAFOOZALUM COUNTRY DANCE BAND

Music for Scottish Country Dancing anywhere, anytime. For further details and availability, please telephone Peter Jenkins. Phone/fax: 020 8581 0359, e-mail: peter@kafoozalum.co.uk or visit our Ceilidh website at www.kafoozalum.co.uk.

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

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

THE INVERCAULD SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

3-piece Scottish Dance Band for Dances, Balls, Ceilidhs, Reels, Weddings and Parties. Please contact Lilian Linden on Tel: 01252 629178. Mobile 07879 633766. e-mail: lilian.linden@virgin.net. CDs £12 each (+ £1.00 p&p in UK).

M C B A I N S
Country Dance
M C B A I N S
Band

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

THE FOREST DUO

North London Band: Accordion / Fiddle / Piano / Drums. Versatile, experienced, affordable, references. Availability check: Peter Boyce, tel: 020 8360 4287.

BARBARA MANNING (Violin/Piano) KEN MARTLEW (Piano)

Two-piece band for Scottish Country Dancing. Have piano/amplification. Tel: 01442 261525, e-mail: KenMartlew@aol.com.

SCOTCH MIST CEILIDH BAND

Internationally acclaimed 5-piece Scottish Ceilidh Band with a suitable line-up for Scottish Ceilidhs, Reeling and Highland Balls for Clubs. M.C./caller available if required. See us, hear us and contact us on our website www.scotchmistuk.co.uk or telephone Bandleader Chris Ransom on 01843 821446 for further details.

SOLOIST: PETER JENKINS

Solo accordion for workshops, classes, day schools and 'smaller functions'. Tel: 020 8581 0359, e-mail peter@kafoozalum.co.uk.

SOLOIST: KEN MARTLEW

Solo pianist for Dances, Day Schools, etc. Have piano/amplification if needed. Tel: 01442 261525. e-mail: KenMartlew@aol.com.

SOLOIST: FIONA MCGEE

harpist for functions, weddings etc. 07814 135281.



John Reeve

DANCE FOR RUTH

A dance was held at Weston Turville on 2nd January 2005 to commemorate the dancing life of Ruth Simpson who died of cancer in October after a short illness. Karl Sandeman provided the music. Ruth was a friendly and vivacious person, and a beautiful Scottish dancer who danced regularly at Pont Street, and at clubs in Gerrards Cross and Little Chalfont as well as her 'home' club, the Lucy Clark SCD Club at Amersham. She was also a frequent attendee at St Andrew's Summer School and at dancing events overseas. She will be sadly missed.

Not surprisingly, the dance was exceptionally well supported by nearly ninety of her friends, raising £334 for Cancer Research UK (where Ruth had worked in their Amersham shop for over eight years). It was an enjoyable occasion, full of fun, in fact such fun that people came away afterwards suggesting there should be a Ruth Memorial Dance next year as well. Watch the Dance Events page!

Archie McNair

Chairman, Lucy Clark SCD Club

Ruth (with a partner) posed for this publicity picture which has been used on several flyers and tickets

Richard Carpenter, manager of the Cancer Research UK shop, writes: Ruth's constant good humour, her sense of fun and her habit of dancing round the shop at times when our spirits needed a lift, will be remembered with affection.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Booking Dances Ahead

Cheltenham

Dear Daniel,

Until I read Andrew Patterson's letter in *The Reel*, I thought that those who had been sceptical about booking dances ahead, had learnt the error of their ways. It is a magnificent system, certainly the best thing to happen to Scottish Country Dancing since the formation of the Society, and worthy of being promoted by the Society as the accepted method. It has so much to recommend it.

Instead of that frantic ill-mannered grabbing session (generally by women on women) when each dance is announced, we have time to behave in an elegant manner. If, in conversation, the first dance mentioned is booked up, an arrangement* is made for a different dance.

Instead of dancing only with your immediate group (generating the "Top Set" syndrome) you can arrange dances with different groups around the hall, including strangers and visitors. Dancing with people on the far side of the hall is not illegal, immoral or fattening, and is certainly not "contrary to the social nature of Scottish Country Dancing".

I recently went to a dance outside my area where I knew hardly anyone, so I went all round the room, booking dances with every group there, and danced the whole programme with different partners. Isn't that sociable? Had they not been civilized enough to book ahead, I doubt if I would have been able to find a partner for half the dances. (So I would have thought twice about going).

The leisurely atmosphere permits women to ask men for a dance, which is certainly something to be encouraged. It is noticeable that in areas where pre-booking is encouraged, there is a higher proportion of men dancers. Presumably this is because men lose out in the frantic grabbing of the other system.

Booking dances ahead is a system where everyone gains. Why do we still have stick-in-the-muds who do not realise this? What is there against it?

Yours sincerely,

John Marshall

Germany's First Branch

London, W4

Dear Daniel

Jim Cook's report on the formation of the first RSCDS Branch in Germany (*The Reel* No. 250) was very interesting, and the formation of the Branch is to be applauded, but I wonder if his comment about it being very difficult for legal/financial reasons is correct. That had been said for many years in Germany (and France), but as in France, it was incorrect. In Germany it may have had some basis in fact in the years following WWII, but Branches have been independent of RSCDS HQ legally since they have been required to sign a Licence Agreement with the Society in 1997, which specifies that 'The Local Association [the legal name for a Branch] is legally independent of the Society and the relation between the parties to the Agreement is one of licensee and licensor.' Even before this it was possible, as we found in Paris in 1984.

Jerry Reinstein
Paris & London Branches

RSCDS BANFFSHIRE BRANCH

Banffshire like London Branch is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

This is a Scottish Branch, so there were centuries of Scottish country dancing here before there ever was a Branch. The river Spey runs through our Branch territory, so we can claim we gave the world the strathspey. The great fiddle-maker and composer, William Marshall, lived in Fochabers. One of the great Victorian collectors of Scottish traditional music, Dean Christie, came from our district - his father was a 'dancie'. And the Duchess Tree and The Bees of Maggieknockater commemorate parts of our local heritage. There don't seem to be any RSCDS dances 'collected in Banffshire', though. And perhaps our dancers birl more than the books permit.

The Branch was formed as the 'Buckie and District Branch' in 1929, though they changed the name to the Banffshire Branch at the very first AGM in January 1930. We have, alas, outlived our county, which is now split between Aberdeenshire and Moray, but all correspondence addressed to 'Banffshire' still gets to us. The Branch is a federation of independent classes. Each class holds an annual dance (some hold more) and is supported by all the others. They all come together for the annual Branch Dance in November. There is a lot going on at Jessie Stuart's class in Dufftown. Anne Taylor runs an annual dancing weekend at Fochabers.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR REEL?

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

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The Buckie Advertiser

The children of Millbank Primary School (Buckie) are presented with the trophy that was donated to the Branch in 1932 and has been in the hands of the Branch's top dancers for 70 years.

In its 75th Anniversary year it was decided to present the trophy to the school which accumulated the most points in the Moray Music Festival - Well done Millbank Primary!

Our Chairman, Anne McArthur, organised a very successful 'come and try' day at the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival in Portsoy this year, and they want us back. May we also put in a plug for our 75th Anniversary book of dances?

It is not interesting to strangers to be given a list of our founders and heroes. 75 years is a long time to keep a society going, and many contributed. But we will mention, fresh in our memory, Jessie Bain (1909-2004) from Buckie, one of our great RSCDS pianists, who served the Society beyond Banffshire as well.

Alistair Mason

Secretary, Banff Branch

.....

Other Branches currently celebrating anniversaries include Manchester (70th), Croydon (50th), Sheffield (50th) and Paris (20th)



A NEW VENUE FOR THE FIDDLE RALLY

The Aylesbury Fiddle Rally (pictured above at the 2005 performance on 8th January) will take place next year at a new venue, The Wycombe Swan Theatre in High Wycombe, Bucks, on Friday 20th January 2006.

Details will be announced in Issue 253. In the meantime any players who want to be included in the mailing list for 2006 are invited to contact Ian Robertson, email: ibrobertson@aol.com.

THE SOUTHEAST BRANCHES CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Representatives from the RSCDS Branches in the southeast of England have been meeting together regularly since 1996. Our purpose has been to exchange information about events in the region and to share ideas about current issues affecting the Society and dancers in our area. We have also jointly organised large-scale balls and festivals that would have strained the resources of any one Branch, but collectively we were able to accomplish with relatively little risk. We are in close touch with Headquarters and we receive regular feedback from the Management Board at our meetings. We have provided direct financial support to the Society by sponsoring the transfer on to CD of the music for Volume One of the Leaflet Dances. Currently we are planning an initiative to raise the profile of Scottish Country Dancing in the southeast by participating in a major event at the Royal Albert Hall organised by the Central Council for Physical Recreation.

Not all Branches in the southeast manage to attend the twice-yearly meetings in London, but we try to stay in contact with Branch Committees so that we can help build the community spirit among dancers in the area and, where appropriate, facilitate communication between Branches and Headquarters.

If you want to know more about what we are doing or have any ideas about what we might do in future, please get in touch through your branch Committee or direct to me via Oxfordshire Branch.

Dennis Tucker

ST. ANDREWS ACCORDION CLUB

(Walton-on-Thames)

Playing together for pleasure. The club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Scottish, folk and other traditions. All standards welcome.

Contact: Anna Crawford,
Tel: 01932 244466.

THE RSCDS IN THE 21st CENTURY

A reply to

Mary Stoker and Christopher Baldock

These comments are my own and may not be shared by other members of the Committee.

No-one can deny that the big dances of the 1960s in central London halls are no more. But does it follow that enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing has waned? Comparing 1960s issues of *The Reel* with current ones suggests that there are now many more dance events and dance groups in the southeast. The number of groups advertising on the back page has doubled. There seems to have been a switch from big central London events to local dances in suburbs and smaller towns.

There was a great deal of enthusiasm shown by the nearly 300 dancers who attended the recent Hurlingham Ball, booking months in advance and paying much more than the going rate for an evening's dancing. But a fortnight later, at the Branch dance on 13th November, numbers were disappointing. Such variation is not infrequent and raises the question why some Branch dances, such as the Christmas Dance and Burns' Night Supper and Ceilidh Dance, are well attended while others are not.

One reason is a clash with a popular local dance the same night. Another factor may be a programme with less popular dances. It can be argued that some dances published by the Society are unjustly neglected and should be promoted. But we cannot have it both ways: if we put less popular dances on the programme we cannot be surprised if fewer dancers attend. What are the important factors which you look for when deciding which dance to attend? Do write to the editor with your suggestions.

Christopher Baldock expects a large proportion of London Branch membership to leave at the same time. This seems unlikely. Members usually remain loyal to the Branch and only a few leave each year because of changed circumstances; and there is no reason for this pattern to change. But membership has been slowly declining as there are not enough new members each year to replace those that leave.

It is important for newcomers to feel welcome at Branch dances. Toronto Branch has 'dance ambassadors' to greet new dancers and visitors, make introductions, arrange dance partners for the first few dances and check that everyone is having fun. Should we follow their lead, if volunteers can be found? Whatever the Branch does, the solution will to some extent be in the newcomers' hands. Those who introduce themselves and ask strangers for dances will enjoy the dance more than those who sit on the side feeling sorry for themselves.

Daniel Capron

DANCE EVENTS

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE HIGHLAND BALL

Friday 11th March 2005

7.30 - 11.30 pm

Abingdon Guildhall, Oxon.

Green Ginger

Programme: Shifftin' Bobbins, Major Ian Stewart, Bill Little's Strathspey, Summer Wooting, Pines of Pitlochry, Radcliffe Square, Twiddle in the Middle, Wild Geese, Glasgow Highlanders, Australian Ladies, Cambridge Spring Fling, Gothenburg's Welcome, Wisp of Thistle, Plantation Reel, Machine Without Horses, James Senior of St Andrews, Swiss Lassie, Wild Goose Chase, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Mairi's Wedding.

Tickets (including supper) £15 (£12 students)

from Jacqui Bradley,

St Hugh's College, Oxford. OX2 6LE.

Tel: 07743 299302.

jacqueline.bradley@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDERS BRANCH Day School

for dancers and musicians

Saturday 12th March 2005

Courtmoor School, Fleet.

Teachers:Janet Johnston, Eric Finlay
Margaret Williams

Musicians:Robert Mackay, Ken Martlew

Contact: Valerie Frazer, tel: 01252 843001.

Musicians' workshop led by

David Cunningham,

Contact: May Sloan, tel: 01428 604868.

May Dance

Saturday 21st May 2005

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Contact: Shirley Ferguson, tel: 01276 501952.

DANCING THROUGH

When I was one and twenty
I thought I'd take a chance
and go to evening classes
For Scottish Country Dance.

When I was one and thirty
I felt I knew it all -
The complicated dances
Didn't bother me at all.

When I was one and forty
I *knew* I was the cream
For I was made a member
Of the demonstration team.

When I was one and fifty
I went on the committee -
A lot less carefree dancing,
A lot more nitty gritty.

When I was one and sixty
I knew without a doubt
I was dancing rather gently,
And sometimes sat one out.

Now I am one and seventy
And I'm still having fun,
But I wonder how the feet will cope
When I am eighty one.

With thanks to Pat Batt who wrote this ditty quite a few years ago. She could add another verse now with a second one in a few years time! Pat still dances with the Tally Ho group at Finchley and elsewhere. Her poem collection is available at £3 (in aid of Macmillan Nurses) and can be obtained from her, tel: 020 8449 3155.

DANCE EVENTS (continued)

There are more Dance Events on page 13

THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Charity Dance
Saturday 26th February 2005
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

The White Hill Centre, White Hill, Chesham

The Silver Cross SCD Band

Programme: General Stuart's Reel, Machine Without Horses, The Quern, Alex T. Queen, White Heather Jig, Fisher Blue, Mr Iain Stuart Robinson, The Hazel Tree, The Dream Catcher, The Earl of Mansfield, The Garry Strathspey, Honour Your Partner, The Pines of Pitlochry, The Moray Rant, The Recumbent Stone, MacLeod's Fancy, Sugar Candie, The Salmonfield Poacher, Postie's Jig, Duke of Perth.

Tickets: £7.00 plus bring-and-share refreshments, from Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231.

MACLENNAN SCOTTISH GROUP

International Dance Festival
28-29th May 2005

Saturday 28th May 7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

International Folk Dance with our international and local guests.

Sunday 29th May 2.00 - 5.30 p.m.

24th International Dance Festival with performances by Latvian, Slovak, Cornish, Morris and Scottish dancers, all with live music.

Venue for both events: Langley Park Boys' School, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham, Kent. (Rail: Eden Park Station from Charing Cross). Licensed bar, refreshments, stalls.

Tickets and programmes for each event: Adults £5, Senior citizens £4, Children £2. Family £12. From Jennifer Rutherford, tel: 020 8295 1273, email: jrutherford@freuk.com

Website for all events www.msg.org.uk

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Annual Ball
Saturday, 19th March 2005
7.30 p.m. to midnight

Guildhall, Abingdon, near Oxford.

Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

Programme: Clutha, Pelorus Jack, Rose of the North, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, Joie de Vivre, The Belle of Bon Accord, Nottingham Lace, Inchmickery, Gang the Same Gate, Inverneil House, Hunting Horn, Peat Fire Flame, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Culla Bay, Starlight, The Cooper's Wife, Minister on the Loch, Blooms of Bon Accord, The Dancing Master, Scotch Mist, MacLeod's Fancy, Irish Rover.

Tickets: £15, includes supper seated in medieval Roysse Room. Vegetarian meal on request.

Licensed Bar. Ample free parking nearby.

Request from Anne Barnes, tel: 01235 204155

or ajbarnes@ntlworld.com

or visit www.geocities.com/absdc.

RSCDS MILTON KEYNES BRANCH

26th Annual Ball
Saturday 12th March 2005
7.30 to 11.30 p.m.

Lovat Hall, Newport Pagnell

The West Telferton Caledonian Band

Tickets £12 including supper, from Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, MK3 5LP, tel: 01908 378730, email: jan@jange.f9.co.uk.

WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Caledonian Ball
Saturday, 9th April 2005
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Parmiter's School, Garston, Watford, Herts.

Craigellachie Band

Programme: Pelorus Jack, Lochalsh Reel, Indian River, Pines of Pitlochry, Lady Sophia Lindsay, The Gentleman, The Dancing Master, Burnieboozle, Falls of Bracklinn, Bratach Bana, Schiehallion, *Grand March into Culla Bay*, The Cooper's Wife, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Swithland Woods, The Bees of Maggiecknocker, Polharrow Burn, The Moray Rant, White Heather Jig, Kilkenny Castle, The Plantation Reel, Seton's Ceildh Band. *Extras:* Byron Strathspey, The Robertson Rant, Main's Wedding.

Tickets: £14 including refreshments from Dr. John Crowder, 28 Devereux Drive, Watford, WD17 3DE. Tel. 01923 225522. email: john@drcrowder.fsnet.co.uk

SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

and Bourree Bellfontaine et Avonnaise

Garden Dance
Saturday 14th May 2005
2.00 p.m. to 5.45 p.m.

York House Gardens

York Street, Twickenham

MC Peter Knight

Programme: **Strathspeys:-** Sugar Candie, Neidpath Castle, The Gentleman, John McAlpine, Margaret Parker's Strathspey. **Reels:-** Duke of Perth, The Sailor, Nice to See You, The Earl of Mansfield, The Royal Yacht Britannia, The Piper and the Penguin. **Jigs:-** Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The Machine without Horses, Quarries' Jig, Follow Me Home, The Jubilee Jig, Pelorus Jack, plus some Bourree and Ceilidh Dances.

Entrance Free. Further information from Denise Haugh, tel: 020 8946 8572, denisehora@aol.com.

SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS

Half Day School for Dancers

Saturday 19th March 2005
Presdales School, Ware.

Start: 1.00 p.m. Classes: 2.00 - 5.30 p.m.

Children's class. Beginners/ Improvers:

Teacher: **Joan Bradbury**

Music: **Roger Swaine**

Experienced dancers class followed by

"something different":

Teacher: **Malcolm Ferris Lay**

Music: **Barbara Manning**

The Ceilidh starts at 6.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m.

Shared food.

Tickets and further information contact Mrs Maureen Ainsworth, tel: 01279 434342.

Summer Dance

Saturday 9th July 2005

Gamels Keep, Rush Green, Hertford,

by kind permission of Peter and Jenny Dixon

Starts 6 p.m. (Leaside Hall, Ware if wet.)

Shared food.

Tickets: Mrs Maureen Ainsworth

Beating Retreat

Sunday 4th September 2005

Hertford Castle grounds 2.00 - 5.00 p.m.

Pipe Band and joining in dancing, etc.

Further details when known.

WEST MACS CHARITY BALL

In aid of the

Children's Hospice Association, Scotland.

Saturday 23rd April 2005

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

North London Collegiate School,

Canons Park, Edgware.

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Hooper's Jig, Angus MacLeod, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, The Flying Spur, Fife Ness, St Columba's Strathspey, Father Connelly's Jig, Lochalsh Reel, Swithland Woods, Jubilee Jig, Polharrow Burn, My Heather Hills, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The New Scotland Strathspey, Macleod's Fancy, Clutha, Foxhill Court, The Starry-Eyed Lassie, Ray Milbourny, The Belle of Bon Accord, The Nurseryman, The Sailor.

Tickets: £14 (including refreshments) from Patricia Hamilton, tel: 0208 866 2841.

RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

Spring Picnic Dance

Saturday 23rd April 2005

Corfe Mullen Village Hall, Wareham Road,

Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset.

Caber Feidh

Bring your own Picnic Supper. Tickets: £8.

Details: Margaret Robson, tel: 01202 698138.

RSCDS BRISTOL BRANCH

Newcomers' Dance

12th February 2005

Monks Park School, Filton Road, Bristol.

Ceol na H'Alba

MC: Peter Wright

Tickets: £8 (£6.00 for students). Contact: Sara Jackson, 4 Oakfield Place, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2BJ. Tel: 0117 973 4914. Dress: Informal.

Summer Dance

21st May 2005

7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

Monks Park School, Filton Road (A38-N),

Bristol.

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

MC: Peter Wright

Dress: Informal. Tickets: £8.00; £6.00 for students. Please bring an American Supper.

Tickets: Sara Jackson, 4 Oakfield Place, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2BJ, Telephone: 0117 9734914

New Season

Date: 15th October 2005

7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

St Peter's Church Hall, The Drive, Henleaze, Bristol.

David Hall's Scottish Dance Band

Dress: Informal. Tickets: £8.00; £6.00 for students. Please bring an American Supper.

Tickets: Sara Jackson, 4 Oakfield Place, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2BJ, Telephone: 0117 9734914

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Day School

Saturday 19th March 2005

Hugh Christie School, Tonbridge

Contact: Pat Davoll, tel: 01732 886557,

e-mail: pdavoll@aol.com.

Spring Dance

Saturday 16th April 2005

Weald of Kent, Tonbridge.

Recorded music.

Tickets: £6.50 plus 'bring a plate of food'.

Contact: Sandra Ranson, tel: 01892 524022,

e-mail: sandranson@hotmail.com.

DANCE EVENTS (continued)



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming attractions to be held at St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1.

Fridays: Upper Hall 7.30 - 10.30pm
Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 - 10.30pm
Unless otherwise stated

Friday 18th February..... St Valentine's Night
Saturday 5th March..... **Green Ginger**
Friday 11th March..... Practice night for 2nd April
Saturday 2nd April..... **David Hall**
Friday 22nd April..... Spring Ceilidh
Saturday 7th May..... **Stradivarius**
Saturday 4th June..... **Craigellachie**
Summer Ball. Full details in *The Reel 252*

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.

ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP Day School

Saturday 23rd April 2005
The Holt School, Wokingham

Teachers : **Irene Edgar, Lesley Martin**
David Queen
Musicians: **Ian Cutts, Jean Harrison**
Robert Mackay

For further details and application forms contact:
Gaynor Curtis 60 Bishops Wood, St Johns,
Woking, Surrey, GU21 3QB. Tel: 01483 721989.

Weekend School

30th September - 2nd October 2005
Dillington House, Somerset.

Teacher: **Alison Russell**
Musician: **Robert Mackay**

For booking contact: Dillington House, Ilminster,
Somerset, TA19 9DT. Tel: 01460 258613,
email: dillington@somerset.gov.uk.
Website: www.dillington.co.uk.

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

50th Anniversary Ball
Saturday 5th March 2005
7.30 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.
Harpenden Public Hall.

Craigellachie Band

Programme: Bratach Bana, The Reel of the 51st Division, Autumn in Appin, Gavin's Reel, The Bees of Maggie Knockater, Silver Tassie, A Trip to Bavaria, Peat Fire Flame, The Belle of Bon Accord, Pines of Pitlochry, The Irish Rover, James Senior of St Andrews, Father Connelly's Jig; Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloch, 1314, MacPherson's Jig, Foxhill Court, The Recumbent Stone, The Dancing Master, St Columba's Strathspey, The Royal Yacht Britannia, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Charlie's Calling.

Tickets £12 including supper (vegetarian option, order before 1st March) from Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts AL3 5RE.
Tel 01272 863870.

ASHDOWN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Spring Ball
Saturday 2nd April 2005
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Beacon Community College, North Beeches,
Crowborough, East Sussex.

Ian Muir & the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Wild Geese, Saltire Society Reel, Gang the Same Gate, Midnight Oil, Fisherman's Reel, Land of the Heather Hills, Hooper's Jig, The Recumbent Stone, Butterscotch & Honey, Muirland Willie, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Dundee City Police, Lady Sophia Lindsay, Gothenburg's Welcome, St Columba's Strathspey, The Earl of Mansfield, *Band's Choice*, The Moray Rant, Mairi's Wedding, Cherrybank Gardens, Seton's Ceilidh Band, The Irish Rover, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan.

Tickets (in advance only) £11.00 (child / spectator £6) including a Buffet Supper.
Contact: Michael Copeman, tel: 01892 655971,
email michaelcopeman@aol.com.

Advance Notice

17th September Annual Charity Dance
Beacon Community College, Crowborough
Craigievar

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB

Spring Dance
Saturday 21st May 2005
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

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

The Silver Cross Scottish Dance Band

Programme: C'est l'Amour, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Duchess Tree, Aird of Coigach, General Stuart's Reel, The Dream Catcher, The Cooper's Wife, The Code Breaker, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, The Dundee City Police, The Piper and the Penguin, Alison Rose, Old Nick's Lumber Room, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Huntly Castle, The Fyket, Ray Milbourne, The Rose of the North, The Irish Rover, Follow Me Home.

Admission by programme £7 plus "Bring and Share" supper. Licensed bar. Details and tickets from Mrs Linda Godbold, Alize, Shootersway Lane, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3NP, tel: 01442 866651, e-mail: lindagodbold@hotmail.com.

For full details and cribs see our website:
www.berkhamstedreelclub.org.

RSCDS CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH

Spring Ball
Saturday 5th March 2005
7.30 - 11 pm

All Saints Church Hall, Sanderstead.

Kafoozalum

Programme: Grand March, Buchan Eightsome, Happy Meeting, Flower o' the Quern, General Stuart's Reel, White Heather Jig, Moray Rant, Blossom's Reel, Gang the Same Gate, Joie de Vivre, John of Bon Accord, Kilkenny Castle, Gothenburg's Welcome, Fraser's Favourite, Winding Road, Flight of the Falcon, St Columba's Strathspey, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterader, J B Milne. *Extras*: Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Flowers of Edinburgh.

Tickets in advance: £13 Branch members,
£14 non-members,
from Alison Raisin, tel: 01883 624492.

JERSEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING WEEKEND

20th Anniversary
Saturday & Sunday 28th & 29th May 2005
7.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.

Jersey College for Girls, Le Mont Millais.

Saturday 28th May 7.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.
Ball programme:

Maxwell's Rant 18-10
Miss Hadden's Reel 23-5
The Double Diamond Strathspey Goldring
Johnnie's Welcome Hame 32-1
Off She Goes in the North 18-8
From Scotia's Shores... Leaflet 8
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan Goldring
The Weathercock Leeds
Bruce's Men Scotia Suite
Cramond Bridge London
The Chequered Court 42-3
Sark Bridge Carlisle
The Dancing Master Drewry
Ship of Grace McAdam
Speirs Bruce - the Pole Star Scotia Suite
The Silver Thistle 44-10
Macfarlane's Lantern Priddey
Hooper's Jig Misc.2
A Trip to the Netherlands 32-6
Lomondside Attwood
The Tolsta Rant Braeside

Sunday 29th May 7.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.

Dance Programme:

The Wind that Shakes the Barley Duthie
Miss Milligan's Strathspey Leaflet 19
Side By Side Goldring
Milton's Welcome 33-8
Culla Bay Dix
The Kelloholm Jig Leaflet 12
Starlight 44-1
Lochearnside Drewry
Waggle O' the Kilt Cosh
A Castle in the Air 43-9
Lady Peak's Strathspey Drewry
Coats Land Scotia Suite
The Beekeeper's Medley Skye Collection
Scotch Mist Drewry
Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran Drewry
The Waternish Tangle Skye Collection
The Three Sisters Drewry
The Piper and the Penguin Scotia Suite
Pelorus Jack 41-1
Fair Rosamund Attwood
The Sailor 24-4

Cribs will be provided for all dances on the programme.

Contact: Mrs. Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey, JE3 9GB.
Tel. 01534 854459 or Mr. Alan Nicolle, 88, La Ville du Bocage, St. Peter, JE3 7YT. Tel. 01534 484375, email alan_nicolle@yahoo.co.uk.

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Spring dance
Saturday 12th March 2005
7.30 to 11.00 p.m.

Reigate School (Woodhatch), Pendleton Road,
Reigate.

Kafoozalum

Tickets £10.00 including buffet.

Details from Mike Harding, tel: 01737 553875.

ADVERTISING YOUR DANCE?
Send details of forthcoming events to the Editor.
After publication you will be invoiced at £10 per inch column (fractions *pro rata*), perhaps the cost of one ticket!

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, Ox Oxford. All welcome. Details/map: www.geocities.com/absdco or Anne, tel: 01235 204155.
- ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY** meets Wednesdays 8.15 - 10.15 p.m. September to May at Abraham Cowley Unit Hall, St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey. Details from Jane Warner, Tel: 01483 763606.
- ALDRINGTON (HOVE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meet every Tuesday 8.15 p.m. to 10.30 p.m., September to June. Details from John Steer, 57 Hangleton Road, Hove, E. Sussex BN3 7GH. Tel: 01273 416893.
- BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB** meets Tuesday evenings, September to May. Garden dances June and July. Contact: Linda Godbold, Alize, Shootersway Lane, Berkhamsted HP4 3NP. Tel: 01442 866651, www.berkhamstedreelclub.org.
- BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.** meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth. Newcomers and Beginners 7.15 to 8.45 p.m. Improvers/Advanced 9.00 to 10.30 p.m. Weekly children's classes. Technique class by invitation - alternate Wednesdays. Details from Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Rd, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX. Tel: 01202 698138.
- BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS.** Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details from James on 01273 737498 or Carol on 01903 207493. 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 Roderick McLachlan, 32 New Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4BW. Tel: 01223 834163.
- 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 p.m. General class Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Bettridge School, Cheltenham. Also a Beginners class. Details: Margaret Winterbourne Tel: 01242 863238.
- CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing most Friday nights 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. from October to end May, at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN. Tel: 01242 528220, e-mail mbsteel45@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).
- 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.
- CROUCH END SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** meet Wednesdays 8-10 p.m. Sept to July, at Union Church, Weston Park, London N8. On bus routes W3, W5, W7 and 41. Small friendly group, all stages welcome, instruction given. Tel: (evgs) 020 8348 0473.
- CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.** Branch class - all grades, incl. beginners, with technique: Purley (Fri). Other classes in the area: Beginners: Reigate & Selsdon (Tues), Gen: Reigate (Mon), Purley (Alt. Tues), West Wickham (Fri), Advanced: Coulsdon (Wed), Reigate (Thurs). Further details: Tel: 01737 551724.
- EALING SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thurs. 8 - 10 p.m. September to May at St Andrew's Church Centre, Mount Park Road, Ealing, W5. Details from Rena Stewart, 56 Meadvale Road, Ealing, W5 1NR, tel: 020 8998 6149.
- 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 Heather Nolan. Tel/Fax: 01784 256549, e-mail: Heather@nolan75.freeserve.co.uk. Website: www.felthamscottish.fsnet.co.uk
- 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 Earl Spencer, 24 Park Hill, Church Crookham, Fleet, Hants GU52 6PW. Tel: 01252 691922.
- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at the Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in term time. Details from Mrs M B MacKenzie Ross, Blythe Muse, Misbourne Avenue, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 0PD. Tel: 01494 874604.
- GREAT MISSENDEN: THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00 p.m. Oldhams Hall, Church Road, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs N. Merrick, 2 Hillbeck Way, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8LT.
- GUILDFORD SCDC** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford most Mondays at 8.15 from September to April. Teacher Paul Plummer, contact on 01483 236946.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept. - June from 8.00 - 10.00 p.m. in Elderkin Hall, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 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 Kenton Road, Kenton HA3 8AE. Tel: 020 8907 6581.
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8-10 p.m., September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30 to 11.00 p.m. Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.
- HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to July, tuition followed by social dancing. Also monthly Saturday dances and ceilidhs. All at Heston Methodist Church Hall. Details from Mrs Rosemary Mitchell, Tel: 01784 254401.
- JERSEY CALEDONIAN SCD GROUP.** Thursdays 7.30-10 p.m. at Trinity Primary School, La Grande Route de la Trinité. Details from Helen McGugan tel/fax: 10534 854459 or Alan Nicole email: alan_nicolle@yahoo.co.uk, tel: 01534 484375.
- 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 8.10 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. Tel: 01843 869284.
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Some major functions held at other London venues. Details: adverts in *The Reel* or contact Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG. Tel: 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096.
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8.00 p.m. at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, tel: 01628 628372. www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk
- MAIDSTONE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday 8.15 - 10.15 p.m. at The Grove Green Community Hall, District Centre, Grove Green, Maidstone. Details from Peter Green, 65 Willington Street, Bearsted, Maidstone ME15 8JR, Tel: 01622 737649.
- MARKET HARBOUROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesday 7.30-10.00 p.m. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, "Lazonby", 9 Little Lunnon, Dunton Bassett, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 5JR. Tel: 01455 209446.
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing Thursdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. at All Saint's Church Hall, Frindsbury, Rochester, Kent. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Tim Law, 44 Haig Ave, Chatham. Tel: 01634 409976.
- MID SUSSEX CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Events throughout the year at various venues. Members of SASS. Classes held before St. Andrews/Burns. Contact Mike Roberts, Bodimans, Two Mile Ash, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 0LA. Tel: 01403 732408, e-mail: mike_roberts@which.net.
- 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@janee.f9.co.uk.
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. from September to May at Rocroft 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, Istead Rise, Northfleet, Kent DA13 9JD. Tel: 01474 832801.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 7.45-10.15 p.m. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Classes Monday evgs at Chislehurst Village Hall. Details: Mrs V.J. Vincent, 2 Keith Cottages, Lusted Rd, Downe, Orpington, Kent BR6 7JY. Tel/Fax: 01959 575750.
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Gordon Lloyd, 47 Begbroke Cresc., Begbroke, Oxford OX5 1RW. Tel: 01865 375799.
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Rita Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Tel: 0118 975 7507, www.scottishdancingreading.org.
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00 p.m. from mid September to end of May. All welcome. For information contact 020 8977 4304.
- SANDERSTEAD SCOTTISH DANCERS.** Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, South Croydon. Details: Joyce Patrick, tel: 020 8657 6138.
- ST. ALBANS & MID HERTS CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing most Fridays from October to March. Group meets at Homewood Road U.R. Church Hall, Sandpit Lane, St. Albans at 8.00 p.m. Details from Mrs I. Smallwood, 26 Gresford Cl, 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.
- ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Sept to May, 7.15 to 10 p.m. Admission free except for six 'Band Nights' when tickets cost £6 inc. supper. Beginners welcome and there is step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details from Bob Harman, tel: 020 7630 1639 (day) or 020 8642 7192 (evgs), e-mail smallpip@aol.com.
- 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, Sunnysbank Cottages, 15 Maidstone Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3BY. Tel: 01732 457327.
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from September to May 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., at the Sheen Lane Centre, SW14. Details from Brian Cresswell, 16 Cole Rd, Twickenham, Middx TW1 1EZ. Tel: 020 8892 0471.
- 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 BROADWAY SCOTTISH DANCERS** meet on Fridays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. at Ashill Village Hall near Ilminster. Social dances: January, March, June, September, December. Details from Michael Cross, Tel: 01458 252001.
- SOMERSET BRANCH RSCDS.** Classes at Montclefe School, Somerton: Beginners & others Mon. 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Experienced dancers Thurs. 7.45 - 9.45 p.m. Children Sats: 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon. Ladies Step Classes monthly Fri 8 - 10 p.m. at Kingsdon. Details from: Sheila Barnes, Tel: 01458 223596.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ. Tel: 01305 265177.
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Fridays, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near the hospital). Tuition 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Anne Chandler. Tel: 01702 294645.
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS.** Classes in Hertford, Sept to May. Demonstration (alternate) Mon 8 pm, St Johns Hall, Inter/Adv Tues 7.45 pm, Bengeo School. Beginners Thurs 7.45 pm. Bengeo School. Dances 2nd Friday each month 7.45 - 10.45pm. Details: Mrs Maureen Ainsworth, tel: 01279 434342 or John Brace, tel: 01438 717420.
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15 p.m. at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details from Brenda Hinton, Tel: 01273 595017.
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday at 8 p.m. September to mid June at St. Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details from David Horwill, 32 Wolsley Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY. Tel: 01932 784866.
- THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON** meets at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1, every Tuesday from October to end of May for Scottish Country Dancing, 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Tom Symington. Tel: 020 7834 7151 or 020 7828 6792.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners, General and Advanced classes on Mon, Tues, Thurs, 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., at St. Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details from Mrs Eileen Orr, 10 Oaklands Road, Groombridge, TN3 9SB. Tel: 01892 864531.
- WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** hold weekly adult Classes for, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs Maggie Westley, 56 Mount Park, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4PS. Tel/Fax: 020 8647 9899, e-mail: mwestley@bibra.co.uk.
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Class at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey (adjacent to Bushey Golf and Country Club). Thursdays from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., Details from Stuart Kreloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford, Herts WD17 4GE. Tel: 01923 492475.
- 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 Gorrie, 14 Coleridge Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 6DH. Tel: 01621 854006.
- WOKINGHAM:** St. John's SDC meet every Thurs 8 - 10.15pm Sept to May at St. Sebastian's Memorial 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.