



# The Reel

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
www.rscdslondon.org.uk  
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No 276

MAY to AUGUST 2011



Michael Nolan

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- 10, 11, 20 Photos

### Left:

Trisha and Mick Rawlings of the Oxfordshire Branch RSCDS dancing *The Wild Geese* at the 'Easy and Enjoyable' Branch Dance on 26 March.

## BRANCH DANCE



### Musical May

Saturday 14 May 2011  
7.00 - 10.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD  
**Angela Young and the Musicians**

Hooper's Jig.....	MMM2/15
Back to the Fireside.....	38/4
Lady Lucy Ramsay.....	MMM2/24
Links with St Petersburg.....	46/10
The Missing Turn.....	46/5
12 Coates Crescent.....	40/5
Ladies' Fancy.....	13/12
Adieu Mon Ami.....	24/11
The Sailor.....	24/4
EH3 7AF.....	40/6
Perth 800.....	Perth Branch Leaflet
Miss Gibson's Strathspey.....	Leaflet
Mrs Stewart's Jig.....	35/1
The Ladies of Dunse.....	26/11
Up in the Air.....	20/2
Airyhall Delight.....	40/8
Jean Martin of Aberdeen.....	3 for 2006/2
Duke of Perth.....	1/8

Admission: Members £8.50,  
non-members £9.50, children £2.50,  
members' children free

## SUMMER WOOING



Saturday  
11 June 2011  
7.00 - 10.30 pm

St Columba's  
Church, Pont  
Street, SW1 0BD

### Ian Robertson and his Band

The Loch Ness Monster.....	Graded 2/1
Lamb Skinnet.....	14/12
Monymusk.....	11/2
Swiss Lassie.....	39/1
The Frisky.....	26/10
Barbara's Strathspey.....	46/4
The Summer Assembly.....	35/8
Eileen Watt's Strathspey.....	2 for 2005/2
Best Set in the Hall.....	46/7
The Chequered Court.....	42/3
The Reel of the Royal Scots.....	Leaflet
Miss Gibson's Strathspey.....	Leaflet
The Craven Jig.....	3 for 2006/1
Summer Wooing.....	38/6
Lady Glasgow.....	MMM1
The Gilly Flower.....	36/8
The Robertson Rant.....	39/8
The Montgomeries' Rant.....	10/1

Members £8.50, non-members £9.50,  
children £2.50, members' children free.

## SEPTEMBER SEASON START



Saturday  
17 September 2011  
7.00 - 10.30 pm  
St Columba's  
Church, Pont Street,  
SW1 0BD

### Jim Lindsay and his Scottish Dance Band

Miss Allie Anderson.....	Leaflet
Jessie's Hornpipe.....	8/9
The Bonnie Tree.....	46/6
Napier's Index.....	45/8
Portnacraig.....	36/1
Neidpath Castle.....	22/9
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig.....	5 for 1982/3
The Braes of Tulliemet.....	7/12
The College Hornpipe.....	20/12
MacLeod's Fancy.....	33/3
The Music Makars.....	33/1
Miss Milligan's Strathspey.....	Leaflet
The Starry Eyed Lassie.....	23/11
Sueno's Stone.....	4 for 2008/3
Bridge of Nairn.....	13/11
Follow Me Home.....	38/3
Autumn in Appin.....	31/5
General Stuart's Reel.....	10/3

Members £9.50, non-members £11.00,  
children £2.50, members' children free.

Issue No 277 will be with UK based members by 3 September 2011 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent preferably by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk. Postal contributions should be sent to Wilson Nicol, 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS to arrive by 6 August 2011. (Issue No 278 will arrive by 3 December 2011).

The opinions expressed by contributors in *The Reel* do not necessarily reflect the official position of the RSCDS, nor of the Branch.

## BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held at St Columba's Church (Upper Hall), Pont Street, London, SW1 on Friday 17 June 2011. Tea will be served, by courtesy of the Vice-Presidents, at 6.30pm and the meeting will commence at 7.30pm. There will be dancing after the meeting. All Members and friends of the Branch are welcome to attend and there is no need to register in advance. Only Members are entitled to vote.

### AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Approval of minutes of the 2010 AGM
- 3 Matters arising from the minutes
- 4 Report on the Branch Activities during the past year
- 5 Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts
- 6 Appointment of Honorary President and Honorary Vice-Presidents
- 7 Appointment of Officers and Committee of Management
- 8 Appointment of Auditors
- 9 Election of Branch Delegates to the Society AGM
- 10 Any other business

Note: Nominations for the appointments at items 6, 8 and 9 above will be taken from the floor at the meeting.

### MEMBERSHIP

From 1 July this year membership of the RSCDS and London Branch will cost £19.50 per annum for UK based members (£20.00 for Europe; £22.50 elsewhere). There is a discount of £3 for members aged 18 to 25 and for each of two members living at the same address. For members aged 12-17 there is a discount of £7.50. Current members of other Branches can join London Branch for £4.50 per annum if they live in the UK (£5.00 in Europe and £7.50 elsewhere).

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

Membership applications and enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, St. Johns, Woking GU21 3QB, tel: 01483 721989.

### EDITORIAL



We once again appeal to members to consider volunteering to help with the running of the London Branch. Whilst it is too late to nominate for next year's Management Committee, there are many other 'backroom' jobs to be done (many of them at home).

Please consider seriously putting your name forward to help.

One area that needs volunteers immediately is *The Reel*. There are vacancies pending for several interesting jobs associated with getting *The Reel* to our readers – don't be shy, have a try! The Editor awaits the rush of applicants!

Finally, what makes *The Reel* such an interesting magazine is the regular appointment of a new Editor bringing fresh ideas to interest our world-wide readers. The current Editor is reaching his 'sell by' date: potential aspirants should have a chat with the Editor.

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Once more our AGM is upon us and members will find the Branch Annual Report enclosed with this issue of *The Reel*. Please take the time to look at the Annual Report and tell us what you think. Even if you are not able to attend the AGM in person we would still value your contribution.

There was an excellent turn out for our mid-week Winter Wednesday Dance in February when we enjoyed the music of the Strathallan Band. The Easy and Enjoyable dance in March with Ian Robertson and his Band was another great evening, much enjoyed by all. Our sincere thanks go to the many helpers who contribute to the success of these events.

In view of the increased costs and higher rental fees dance admission fees from September 2011 will be £9.50 for members and £11 for non-members.

Now that summer approaches we look forward to our Musicians' Workshop and Branch Dance on 14 May led by Angela Young and our Summer Dance on 11 June to Ian Robertson.

Unfortunately, owing to a number of related events, we will not be holding our Summer Picnic Dance this year however we are continuing to seek a suitably prestigious venue for this event in 2012.

It seems like only yesterday that I wrote my first Chairman's Message and now that the time has come for me to write my last I would like to thank everyone for his or her continued support. In particular my thanks go to the hard working members of the Committee who do so much to keep the Branch flourishing. I have considered it a great honour to serve as Chairman particularly during the 80th Anniversary of the London Branch.

Enjoy your dancing and I hope to see you at the AGM.

Jeff Robertson

### END OF YEAR BRANCH ACCOUNTS

By the end of May, the Annual Accounts of the Branch should have been approved by the Committee. It will not be possible to circulate them to all members before the AGM on 17 June but if members would like prior sight of them, they should email the Treasurer, Simon Wales, at [simon\\_wales@talk21.com](mailto:simon_wales@talk21.com) or send a stamped addressed envelope to him (address in the next column).

### PRICE INCREASES

It is with regret that even in this era of constraint we are forced to increase prices for dances and membership due to increased cost of hiring accommodation and ever increasing postal rates. Despite that, the Committee is using every endeavour to maintain value for money for members.

### COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

During the coming quarter, the London Branch Committee will meet on 5 May and 23 June. Suggestions for items to be discussed should be sent to the Secretary at least two weeks before the dates of the meetings.

#### Want to Advertise in *The Reel*?

Contact Jeff Robertson, Tel 020 7730 9633 or  
01903 245718.  
email: [chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Patron  
H.M. The Queen



President – Dr Alastair MacFadyen  
Chairman – Ruth Beattie

### HEADQUARTERS:

12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7AF  
Tel: 0131 225 3854; Fax: 0131 225 7783,  
email: [info@rscds.org](mailto:info@rscds.org).  
[www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org)

### LONDON BRANCH

#### Hon. President:

Mary Stoker

#### Hon. Vice-Presidents:

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

#### Chairman:

Jeff Robertson,  
31 Alinora Avenue, Goring-by-Sea,  
West Sussex BN12 4NA  
Tel: 01903 245718.  
email: [chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk)

#### Vice-Chairman:

Angela Young,  
75 Studland Road, Hanwell,  
London, W7 3QU  
email: [vicechairman@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:vicechairman@rscdslondon.org.uk)

#### Hon. Secretary:

Stewart Murray,  
139 Cottenham Park Road,  
London, SW20 0DW  
Tel: 020 8946 3150.  
email: [secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk)

#### Hon. Treasurer:

Simon Wales,  
Flat 6, 86 Worcester Rd, Sutton,  
Surrey SM2 6QQ  
Tel: 020 8643 0952.  
email: [treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk)

### SUB-COMMITTEES

**Youth:** ..... Angela Young, Elaine Davies

**Classes:** ..... Margaret Catchick, Gillian Bloomfield,  
George Potts, Lena Robinson,  
Margaret Shaw, Elaine Wilde

**Dances:** ..... Jeff Robertson, Margaret Catchick,  
George Potts, Marjory Reid, Lena Robinson,  
Margaret Shaw, Angela Young

**Demonstrations:** ..... Elaine Wilde, Angela Young

**Publicity:** ..... Rachel Wilton, Wilson Nicol (Reel),  
Rita Marlow\* (Reel Distribution),  
Meryl Thomson\*(Website)

**Open-air & Picnic Dances:** ..... James Fairbairn\*,  
Jeff Robertson, Jerry Reinstein

**Membership:** ..... Gaynor Curtis\*

**Bookstall:** ..... Ian Anderson\*

**CCPR:** ..... Marie Jamieson\*, Simon Wales

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

**SE Branches:** ..... Rachel Wilton

**Combined Societies:** ..... Jeff Robertson

\*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

**Website:** [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://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 AWARD

John Mitchell accompanied by his wife, Deirdre and daughter Alison, travelled up from Hove on Saturday 26 March to the Branch Dance to receive his Branch Award announced in the December Reel No 274 (*picture page 11*). John who has not enjoyed good health recently was introduced by Chairman Jeff Robertson who outlined his considerable contribution to the Branch and the RSCDS. Reel Editor and former Branch Chairman Wilson Nicol handed over the framed award which was gratefully acknowledged by John.

In return, John donated his complete collection of the *Thistle* magazine to the Branch archive. Some fifty years ago the Scottish country dance research scene was dominated by Hugh Foss and Hugh Thurston; Foss founded *The Reel* in the London Branch; Thurston founded *The Thistle* at the West Point Grey SCD Club of British Columbia. *The Thistle* ran for 55 issues over 11 years before being replaced by the Vancouver Branch's *White Cockade*. *The Thistle* is an important repository of Thurston's researches some of which will be reproduced from time to time in *The Reel*.

## THE BRANCH ARCHIVES

Our Branch Archivist, Iris Anderson, would welcome receiving for the archives, records (primarily hard copies of photographs) of Branch events including recent ones. They need to be labelled with the date, the occasion and the names of the people in the photo and should be hard copy. These should be sent to her at 104 Whitedown Lane, Alton, Hants, GU34 1QR

## BRANCH BADGES

The Branch Badge is based on the rectangular Reel masthead logo and is available in a smart enamel and polished finish. These are modestly priced at £4.00 and are available from Jeff Robertson on 01903 245718, 020 7730 9633 or [jtr@ctg.co.uk](mailto:jtr@ctg.co.uk) or from Ian Anderson at the Branch Bookstall on 01420 84599 or [bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk). Please continue to support your Branch.

**Jeff Robertson**

## WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT!

The RSCDS and the London Branch offer scholarships mostly to young people (up to 25 years) to attend RSCDS Residential Schools as a dancer or as a prospective teacher or as a musician. In addition, any member can apply for a scholarship to attend Summer School with a view to taking the RSCDS Teaching Certificate. London Branch also has funds available to give support to any event promoting Scottish country dancing among young people.

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

[stewart.murray@btinternet.com](mailto:stewart.murray@btinternet.com)

or [youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk).

There are events happening all year round such as Spring Fling, Winter and Summer Schools.

Think about it.

*We want to help*

## SOUTH EAST DANCE DIARY 2011 - 12

In keeping with previous years, the next edition of *The Reel* will include an insert of the South-East dance diary showing all the submitted functions for next season. I would also like to take this opportunity to let everyone know of some changes to the way that the diary is compiled.

As most Society and Branch secretaries are now on email, I have been able to communicate with them and receive details of their events on a much more regular basis. This allows clubs to have an up-to-date diary to refer to when organising their own events and helps to avoid date clashes with nearby societies – one of the main aims of creating the diary in the first place.

As another consequence of regularly maintaining the diary, the preparation for this year's Reel insert will be much more streamlined than before. I would still invite all societies to send me their functions for next season but if the event details are already correct on the website there will be no need to re-submit them as in previous years. We will also be writing to those societies who are not on email to ensure that as many events as possible are listed.

If you represent a society or Branch please don't wait for your letter – check the website version if you can to ensure that your future events are correct. If you have any changes to make or new events to add please send them to me using the usual form which can also be downloaded from the website, preferably by email to [diary@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:diary@rscdslondon.org.uk) or by post to Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW. Contacting me by email means you will get added to my Secretaries mailing list and get regular updates by email which, in turn, allows you to ensure that your functions are always correct and to send me details of new ones as soon as they are planned.

I would also encourage dancers to regularly download the diary to ensure they are fully up to date with all events in the South-East. It can be found at [http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk/html/s\\_e\\_dance\\_diary.html](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk/html/s_e_dance_diary.html) and is available in popular PDF and HTML formats.

**Caroline Hamilton**

## SOUTH EAST CLASSES LIST

London Branch will again be publishing, free of charge, a list of Scottish dancing classes in the south and east. If you wish your class(es) to be included, please send or confirm details, including your group name, venue, day, time, class standard, contact name and telephone number to Lena Robinson, Flat 15, Rupert House, 225 Kennington Road, London, SE11 6SU or preferably by email to [lena.robinson456@btinternet.com](mailto:lena.robinson456@btinternet.com). The printed list is distributed with the September Reel, with subsequent changes being included on an updated version that can be downloaded from the Branch website. It is perhaps worth noting that not all the classes are formal in the sense of being led by qualified teachers. A number are general/social in nature with limited instruction provided by members of the local group. To be included in the printed list, you must submit your information by no later than Monday, 8 August (and preferably earlier).

## WINTER SCHOOL 2012

Details of the 2012 Winter School will be published by the Society on its website in July, 2011.

## RSCDS MANAGEMENT BOARD

With twelve pages of notes from the February Management Board it is a little difficult to summarise all the ongoing work and decisions, so some things are bound to be missing from this report.

In the Finance report by Ross Robertson, we were informed that Summer School had made more than expected, and that it had been an excellent year for sales.

A draft budget for 2011-12 had been prepared showing a small surplus, and this indicated that there was no need for a recommendation to increase the subscriptions.

The need for urgent repair work to the roof and downpipe at HQ had been identified, and although the Society were responsible for only 40% of the cost, this would still amount to approx £25,000 (plus VAT), and the Board agreed that this work should proceed.

Overseas conferences were considered to serve a useful purpose in keeping the membership informed, especially when they were linked to existing events. The next forum would be held in Prague in June, as part of the International Branch weekend. In considering conferences within England and Wales, it was concluded that probably there was a need for this to be on a regional basis, again possibly linked to existing events. It was decided that there would be a North of England event in February 2012 in Harrogate, attached to a branch weekend in the same hotel.

The on-line booking system for Summer School had not been implemented because of ongoing problems with the new payments system.

It has been decided to have a meeting on Sunday 15 May, the day following the next Board meeting, to discuss both the strategic direction and structure of the Society.

**Malcolm Brown**

*Malcolm is the Management Board member responsible for communications with the London Branch.*

## SOCIETY AGM 2011

The AGM of the Society will be held in Glasgow on 5 November 2011 during the Conference weekend of 4-6 November.

The London Branch will elect its delegates at the Branch AGM on 17 June. Please advise the Secretary, Stewart Murray, if you would be willing to be present at the Society AGM as a Branch delegate. Delegates are required to vote as directed by the Branch Committee. There will be a small contribution towards the travel expenses but all other arrangements are the responsibility of the delegate. Application forms for function tickets during the Conference weekend should be available on the Society website by the end of April. This is a great opportunity to meet dancers from all over the world, to attend two wonderful dances and to see the Society at work. In addition to the formal business of the AGM itself, a Members' Forum will be held on the morning of Sunday, 6 November.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE WEEKEND & AGM

The Annual Meeting Conference Weekend and Annual General Meeting will take place from 4 - 6 November 2011 (AGM on Saturday 5 November) in Glasgow. Forms with details of the weekend's events and activities will be available from early May 2011 on our website. Glasgow City Marketing Bureau has set up an online accommodation booking service offering preferential rates for the weekend, via the following web link: <https://www.conferencebookings.co.uk/delegate/GMBRSCDCS2011>

# BRANCH CLASSES

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

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher / Musician
BEGINNERS	Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Davinia Miln / Jane Ng
IMPROVING YOUR SOCIAL DANCING	Wednesday	8.00 - 9.30	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Rachel Wilton / Ian Cutts
TECHNIQUE	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Maureen Campbell / Ken Martlew
GENERAL	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30	St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD	Jeni Rutherford
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	For details contact Elaine Wilde 01582 834815		Angela Young / Sandra Smith

**Summer term starts on Wednesday 27 April 2011 and ends on Wednesday 25 May 2011. There will then be a one week break for half term (no class on Wednesday 1 June 2011). Wednesday Summer evening classes (cost £35.00 for the five week term. The cost per session is £8.00). This will then be followed by four Summer General Classes. The cost of the Summer General Class is £8.00 per session.**

**The term for the Wednesday afternoon class begins on Wednesday 4 May 2011 and ends on Wednesday 29 June. Half term will be on Wednesday 1 June 2011. For further details regarding the Wednesday afternoon class please contact Jeni Rutherford, email: jrutherford@freeuk.com**

## SUMMER CLASSES

This year there will be four general classes on Wednesday evenings at Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, London, SW3 from 7.15 to 9.15pm. The classes will start on Wednesday June 8 and finish on Wednesday, 29 June 2011. The cost per class is £8.00. Each class will have a different teacher and a different musician.

Come along and try the different styles of teaching and playing: suitable for all abilities.

The teachers and musicians in alphabetical order are:

**Teachers: Anne Carter, Pat Davoll, James Fairbairn, and Mervyn Short**

**Musicians: Jeremy Hill, Peter Jenkins, Ken Martlew and Sandra Smith**

## KENSINGTON GARDENS

Although our extended season last year in Kensington Gardens was very well supported, we have had to curtail the activity as the Royal Parks are now charging for our open air dancing by the bandstand, which is of course free and open to all comers. We will be dancing on Saturdays 3 and 10 September.

The timing is from two till four o'clock each afternoon when we will have music from Kafoozalum (the 3rd) and Dave Hall (the 10th), and a friendly caller to guide everyone through the dances. We hope that veterans recalling past pleasures will want to support the events again. If you have not been before then it is a lovely way to spend a couple of hours on a sunny afternoon, alone or *en famille*, possibly sampling some of the other features of the park as well, such as Kensington Palace, the Diana Memorial playground with its café, the Albert Memorial, the Italian Gardens, the Round Pond and the Serpentine Gallery.

There are trees for shade and lots of grassy space on which to establish camp. Do remember to bring your own water and refreshments and even a sun hat or parasol. There are loos quite close by at Palace Gate. You can park on meters in nearby streets and tube access is from High Street Kensington, Gloucester Road, Queensway or Bayswater stations.

**James Fairbairn**

## DAY SCHOOL

Advance Notice

Saturday, 15 October 2011

Paddington Academy, Marylands Road, London, W9 2DR

**Teachers: ..... Helen Russell, Paul Plummer, David Queen, Deb Lees**

**Musicians: ..... Jeremy Hill, Keith Anderson, Barbara Manning, Phill Jones**

Plus a choice of optional classes

at the end of the afternoon

Musicians Workshop led by:

**Ian Muir (Prestwick)**

Evening Ceilidh:

**Ian Muir (Prestwick)**

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

Full details in the next Reel

## YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to sponsoring young dancers at Spring Fling, the Branch awards scholarships to young dancers, musicians and prospective teachers to help them attend Summer School at St Andrews. The qualifying criteria are the same as for Spring Fling and details of Summer School are on the RSCDS website. If you wish to apply please get in touch with the Youth Co-ordinator Angela Young or the Branch Secretary Stewart Murray – contact details on Page 2.

## DANCE SCOTTISH WEEK

After several successful years promoting Dance Scottish Week, headquarters has changed course and have now broadened the idea into a month – this year from 4 November immediately after the Annual Conference until 3 December. The London Branch has not yet decided a response to that but generally feels that all our events are Dance Scottish.

## 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

email: bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk.

10% reduction on RSCDS publications and recordings bought by members. Please state your Branch when ordering.

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

## FOCUS ON YOUTH

### Children's Classes

The Branch children's class continues on Saturday mornings 10.15 - 11.30am

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

Teacher: **Angela Young**

Newcomers are always welcome!

For more details please contact Angela Young on 07976 353 608/aady@mac.com and the Branch website for class dates.

**FAMILY DAY** – with class and dancing for all.

Saturday 26 November, 2011

St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London

Further details in the next edition of *The Reel*

The Branch will be holding **Medal Tests** this summer. If there are any children's class teachers who have candidates to enter, please contact Margaret Shaw 020 7329 2847

## BRANDED GARMENTS

A range of garments including Tee Shirts, fitted Ladies Tees, Polo Shirts and Sweatshirts is available sporting the Branch logo. These garments are offered in a range of colours and sizes and children's sizes are also available.

Order forms are available from Jeff Robertson on tel: 01903 245718; or 020 7730 9633; chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk, or from the Branch website: www.rscdslondon.org.uk.

These quality garments – **now with the new London Logo** – are modestly priced as follows, postage and packing being charged at cost as appropriate:-

Tee Shirts	£9
Ladies Tees	£11
Polo Shirts	£15
Sweatshirts	£16

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

On light garments the logo will be as above, but with a gold crown and silver lettering on the darker garments. Please continue to support your Branch.

**Jeff Robertson**

## FORTHCOMING BRANCH DANCES

Saturday 14 May, 2011 ..... Angela Young and the Musicians  
Saturday 11 June, 2011 ..... Ian Robertson  
Saturday 17 September, 2011 ..... Jim Lindsay  
Saturday 26 November, 2011 ..... Kafoozalum  
Saturday 17 December, 2011 ..... James Coutts

## POLESDEN LACEY

For many years, the annual picnic dance at Polesden Lacey was a major event in the Branch calendar. It was the brainchild of Stella and Howard Booth who saw the unused croquet lawn at Polesden Lacey as an ideal spot for outdoor dancing. One year we had 600 dancers there filling the lawn. But there is always a downside: the ground staff complained that it damaged the lawn (too many worms brought to the surface by the dancers?) and then they had an excuse – croquet was experiencing a renaissance and this caused us to be moved to the Walnut ‘lawn’ – definitely an inferior surface and perhaps dangerous, but we persisted. The last visit there saw us moved to the orchard ‘lawn’ which was just a meadow and totally unsuited to dancing: so ended our long association with the National Trust.

Since then we have been searching for alternative venues. First we tried Harrow school playing fields and last year we tried Kensington Gardens but they were not very popular. This year the Committee has decided not to hold a picnic dance, but the idea is not dead. Further venues are being looked at but we appeal to members to suggest possible sites which are easily accessible and might even have nearby alternative inside accommodation should the weather be inclement.

The Editor

## SUBMITTING PICTURES FOR THE REEL

*The Reel* would not be the same without the pictures and most articles can be enhanced by an illustration or two. There are a gratifying number of people who take pictures at our gatherings, but they don't always share them with the rest of us. Maybe they would be happier to do so if we could give them some guidelines:

For publication, photographs need to have a resolution of only about 500KB unless it is likely that only a portion of the picture will be of interest, in which case about 1MB is really needed. Most modern digital cameras will provide this, and owners of more bulky SLR cameras can achieve far higher resolution, maybe as much as 5MB (which is actually too high for us!). If you only have a print, we can usually use this; the results may not be very sharp, but this may not matter.

All pictures should be sent direct to The Editor who decides which ones will be accepted, depending on relevance to an article, say, or to accompany the write-up of an event. We are particularly keen to be able to provide a picture to accompany a long wordy article. Many such illustrations can be obtained by photographing a page out of a book or, in the last resort, by photocopying, but please respect copyright and obtain permission if appropriate. Pictures can take a long time to prepare for publication as we usually have to adjust colour balance and lighting, or remove glitches and distracting background objects. We therefore start in on preparing submitted pictures a couple of weeks before the copy deadline, so please do not hold back until then. Receipt of a relevant picture will sometimes determine whether an article will be included.

We look forward to receiving contributions, particularly from new people.

Editorial Team

## YOUR DEMONSTRATION TEAM UPDATE

The team has continued to be an excellent ambassador this year, giving a wide range of displays and demonstrations to a variety of audiences, carefully adapted to specific requirements, from a large home for the elderly in Chelsea to a well-known multinational hotel in West London in addition to competing at the Newcastle Festival. That said, if you know of anyone, group or organisation looking for a display, workshop or some Scottish country dancing to ‘see and do’ (parties, etc.) please give them my contact details: demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk, tel: 07779 202529, or refer them to our Branch website [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk) so that they can see and read news of the team.

I am very proud to report that the [ladies] team succeeded again in both winning the ladies' section at the Newcastle Festival on 12 February and winning a second cup for the overall highest score across all competition sections; one of the two dances danced obtained an amazing score of 97 out of 100. We were also very pleased this year to be part of the RSCDS South East Branches entries, for both the mixed section and the display under the direction of Angela Young, repeating the display that we performed at The Royal Albert Hall last September with some slight adaptations. The [SE Branches] mixed team were thrilled to be awarded 3rd place out of the nine teams; quite a feat considering that the team were only brought together a few days before the festival. Very well



Graham Berry

done everyone! (picture on the back page)

As planned, we have been holding auditions this term for new team members with 7 auditioning in March. I'll report on the outcomes of all the auditions this year in the next edition of *The Reel*.

Although the busy time of year has now passed for the team we are all still working very hard to perfect some of the newer repertoire and continuing to strive to improve our own dancing.....and so it continues.....with the great teamwork, talent and energy within the team making it a pleasure to be part of.

If not before, hoping to see many of you at the Musical May dance on 14 May and/or the two open air dances in Kensington Gardens on 3 & 10 September, when the team will give a short display at about 3pm.

Elaine Wilde

## SUNDAY MORNING TECHNIQUE



Stephen Webb

As I usually dance on a Wednesday evening in Marlborough School at Rachel Wilton's "Improve your Social Dancing" class, I was a bit reluctant when I saw the flyer for technique, but as I long to develop my dancing technique I thought I'd give it a try – after all you can only get better by dancing with better dancers! I was told that Joan Desborough is a marvellous teacher and being spoiled by having met so many great teachers since I have been in London, I convinced myself I was good enough to go.

The Band Hall in Coram's Fields in London is a lovely intimate, but bright hall with a sprung floor. Joan said we should maintain good balance through good posture but on occasions 'slip stop' was also needed to achieve good dancing. We did our best!

The jig *Machine without Horses* was a good warm-up dance and I thought it wouldn't be a problem but even with this simple dance there were useful teaching points to discover. Then it was the reel *Sunday Morning*. Being a Sunday morning doesn't automatically mean it's the perfect time for dancing it! Not for me at least.

The title implies more a relaxed full English breakfast and not the tough work that followed. This dance required a petronella turn to begin, something we've seen a thousand times already and still it looks not as beautifully effortless and simply correct as when Joan was demonstrating. Under Joan's all-seeing critical eyes we did some reel-time step practice concentrating on turning and moving using the pas-de-basque step whilst maintaining the rhythm. After the two reels of four there was the allemande when at some point Lindsey Rousseau commented devastatingly, "This allemande was a dreadful mess" – a bit discouraging, but unfortunately true!

I was glad when we moved on to the next dance but in retrospect, I wished we hadn't. I would have been happier to leave the strathspey, *The Glasgow Highlanders*, alone! It was the setting step, you see! We practised the Highland step which I had never seen before and whilst Rachel encouraged, "We're getting there". I felt like I was getting nowhere, but at least my attempts must have looked entertaining and I am now obsessed to find the step explained. I have been advised to look in the Manual or the Collins book or, even on the web to have a closer look before practising this step again – but this time secretly at home. I was also helped by remembering the words 'forward - hop - back - hop - behind - side - in front - hop'.

To finish it was a jig again, *Old Nick's Lumber Room*, a really lovely dance with beautiful music. Time had been flying by! Barbara Manning had played elegantly for us on her fiddle for all of the dances, including the warm-up and cool-down exercises and together with Joan's excellent teaching, made it a wonderful Sunday morning class.

Most of the class then adjourned to a local pub for a well-deserved rest and chat with the proverbial glass of wine!

Nina Zoll



Stephen Webb

## BRUCE FRAZER

Just before the last issue of *The Reel* went to print, we heard the sad news that Bruce Frazer, teacher, examiner, tutor and most importantly friend had passed away.

When I moved to London, and undertook my Full Teacher's Certificate, Bruce ensured I made it through the process! Like many others I appreciated his unending patience, good humour and quiet calm advice. Playing for subsequent certificate classes, Bruce's ability to help candidates conquer nerves and achieve their full potential was a teaching inspiration.

Lots of *Reel* readers will have their own personal memories of Bruce, and our thoughts are all with Valerie, Shona, Moira and their families at this time.

Many thanks to Robert Mackay for allowing us to print the following. The full article will appear in the next issue of the Scottish Country Dancer.

**Angela Young**

Born in Dundee in 1942, as a small boy Bruce went to Highland Dancing classes and did some Country dancing at school. After graduating from St Andrews University, Bruce worked for Rolls Royce in Derby and in East Kilbride where he attended a Country Dance class taught by Florence Adams.

He then moved with Rolls Royce to Montreal, Canada, where he attended a class taught by John Bowie Dickson and became a Life Member of the RSCDS. At a Ball in Toronto he met his wife Valerie and they were married in 1971. Their two daughters Shona and Moira were born in Montreal.

In 1976 they returned to the UK to Frimley Green where Bruce started Country dance classes. He was a founder member of the Berks, Hants, Surrey Border Branch of the RSCDS in 1977 and was appointed President in 2003. He taught classes there at all levels including very successful certificate classes. His patience and understanding greatly helped many candidates. When the family moved to Scotland in 2006, Bruce taught for the St Andrews Branch.

He was appointed an examiner in 1990 and again his pleasant manner greatly assisted the candidates he examined. He was awarded the Society's Scroll of Honour in 2005.

Bruce taught at Day and Weekend Schools throughout the UK and Europe. He was on the Summer School staff for many years and was Director of Winter School in 2004. He taught at the Australian Winter School in Adelaide, the New Zealand Summer Schools in Nelson and Dunedin, at Pawling [New York Branch] and for TAC in Vancouver.

Very sympathetic to his musician in classes, Bruce was keen for dancers to learn about the history of the music, and encouraged musicians to talk to classes.

We have lost a true friend and a gentleman and the Society a loyal and devoted member.

**Robert Mackay**

## JOHN BOWIE DICKSON: 7 APRIL 1919 - 12 SEPTEMBER 1998

J.B. Dickson's joy in dancing is expressed in Eliot's Quartet IV. JB's dance involvement turned boundless after he overcame his initial reticence. His family moved from Scotland to New South Wales in 1926, the first of many trans-ocean moves. He was a member of the London Demonstration Team (1950-1951) and the Dunedin Dancers in Edinburgh. He taught at Staines Caledonia Society (near London) until he and his wife, Christina McLellan, returned to Australia in 1951. There he met May Goldie, one of Miss Milligan's first teacher pupils, and together they founded the Adelaide Branch, where John did his first teaching.

He and Christina lived in Montreal twice (1954-1957 and 1962-1981). They joined the Scottish Country Dance group that had formed only the week before their arrival. He taught at the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce YMCA from 1955-1957 and was Chairman of the Branch in 1969. He taught the Valois (Lakeshore class) until returning to Scotland in 1981.

His career was varied: apprentice electrician, medical orderly (WWII – Australian Army, which he refused to join because he would have to have his hair cut!), and wireless telegraphist for merchant services. He helped set up the first TV at the 1948 Olympics in London, installed the first camera in Guy's Hospital operating room, and as a studio engineer with CBC in Montreal, he installed colour TV across Canada in 1962.

John's first three great loves in life were family, Scotland, and books. The fourth was Scottish country dancing. Familiar dance lore has SCD originating from unheated village halls or "sets" with earthen floors that could accommodate eight to ten people. Trial and error proved that the most heat was generated in the least amount of time if all the occupants of the "set" were able to run about together simultaneously. Local residents drew plans for the best use of available space, and "walk throughs," aided by local brews, were often inaccurate as set members reeled their way through planned patterns. This patterned dancing became known as "reeling".

Furthermore, uneven ground caused set members to jig their way around rocks and unexpected clods of earth, so this skipping technique was called "jigging". As patterns were exchanged, they were rated on efficiency of space and heat generation. Those that rated high were repeated often and their creators lauded. While SCD fashions changed, dances based on old criteria (speed, balance, lightfootedness) continue to be well loved, as shown by the tradition-bound choreography of J.B. Dickson.

While he never became a certificated teacher, Christina said: "He did book to go to St. Andrews but had to cancel due to work commitments. We had met Jean Milligan on more than one occasion: London in the early fifties, in Montreal, and John when she was at Lossiemouth."

She told him: "Carry on teaching for there is no absolute need to have a certificate."

"Jean Milligan was a bit of a problem, however. Neither would she, nor did she, pass on to her successors the original dance instructions as she found them. John would have delighted in examining original manuscripts, but it was learned that a short while before her death she had destroyed all the original copies of those dances." Being authoritative and controlling, she ensured that Scottish country dancing would echo her style.

John's experience and keen eye for patterns and movements enabled him to compose many superb dances. Each is characterized by its flow and satisfying apparent complexity as in *The*

*Luckenbooth Brooch*, where the figures represent the shape of a brooch; *The Pinewoods Reel*, where "Petronella Triangles" are a variation on double triangles, and *The Bannockburn Reel*, where an abstract sense of battle is created using familiar figures. He created most dances for birthdays, anniversaries, and weddings, and almost invariably would listen to music first and then compose a dance to accompany it. Music was his inspiration; listening, his skill. J.B. Dickson was thoughtful, kind, gentle – an excellent listener and storyteller. He died of pancreatic cancer in Edinburgh only 12 miles from where he was born in Gorebridge, south of Dalkeith.

**Donald E. Holmes**

From *Set & Link* The Toronto Newsletter  
March 2011

## FILES FROM THE PAST

### THE REEL - 100th ISSUE

Congratulations to 'The Reel' on its 100th issue! Now in its sixteenth year, it has provided members of the London Branch with details of its own and neighbouring functions, besides articles on different aspects of Scottish country dancing. It has also offered a correspondence column in which anyone can give expression to his/her views.

It is interesting to recall how 'The Reel' came into being. The classes sub-committee had been endeavouring to increase the numbers attending the London Branch classes but, although making good progress, they felt that the lack of a medium of circulating information hampered their efforts. They therefore suggested to the main committee that a leaflet be produced giving days, times and places, etc., of classes. This leaflet could also include details of forthcoming events such as dances, and so on.

Hugh Foss, who was chairman at that time, suggested that while we were at it, might we not produce a proper bulletin giving much more information including editorial and articles on different matters of interest? It was agreed that this would be highly desirable but it would involve a lot more work and the question was who was going to do it.

Hugh then said that if the committee were agreeable he would be willing to undertake the responsibility. His offer was promptly accepted. Then the question arose as to what it was to be called. Ronald Ryall suggested 'The Reel' and 'The Reel' was born!

It was indeed fortunate for the London Branch that on Hugh Foss's shoulders – with so much grey matter above – was laid the task of bringing 'The Reel' into being. It must have entailed considerable time, energy and ability. All these he brought into play.

I have heard many people make favourable references to articles which appeared in earlier issues, "Mr. Light and Mr. Dark", and particularly "The Hielan' Toe Club".

Since these early days it has been found desirable to ease the burden on the editor by having a colleague take over the business of circulation. With a circulation of 1500 copies per issue and with six issues a year, over the years the task is no light one – dealing with advertisers and printers, checking all proofs, getting material in by the deadline date. Pity the poor editors!

To them, however, our thanks are due, and we give them our best wishes for the second 100 issues.

**Alastair Ross**

*And now we are well on our way to the 300th issue! The Editor's task has been reduced by issuing The Reel quarterly, though the print run is now 2000 and it goes to readers all round the world on paper and electronically.*

## SPRING FAMILY DANCE



There are many events for adults. However, when it comes to children, (typically from the age of 3 until around 16 when they are able to go on their own), the two annual Family dances in Kensington, are the highlights of the year and

really worth coming to!

On Saturday 26 March the local children, who usually come here to the monthly Scottish dance class with Angela Young, started the day at 11.30am with two sets.

At lunch the dancers tucked in to delicious pizza, crisps and ice cream.

As more children and families arrived the Family Dance started at 2pm with fantastic music from David Hall on the accordion and Christina Hood playing the violin. Angela Young was our wonderful and patient MC who challenged us with dance elements like a fast time pousette and petronella. She gave all the girls and boys a reason to dance well and do their best by rewarding them with sweets. This might sound a little old fashioned, but worked a treat! Prizes went to "the best set", "the neatest circle", "the best couple" and "the tidiest and most alert dancers".

The Dem team demonstrated how elegant and beautiful Scottish dancing can look by performing a medley of dances. I believe that is one of the most important parts in the middle of the family day, because the children need something to aspire to, a role model to emulate and they are able to soak up what they see before them.

My sons Thomas (10) and Andrew (8) were encouraged, like everyone else, to take a different partner and dance with somebody new every time. Although this was out of their comfort zone and not easy for them, they asked girls with increasing confidence.

The success of the afternoon was a credit to the RSCDS with eight sets in the hall. All enjoyed much laughter and happiness. Where else can you participate so interactively with all members of the family, whether Father, Mother, Brother, Sister, Granny, Granddad, Friend, Auntie, Son or Daughter? Everyone is always made welcome whether new or experienced. This is our window to promote what we all know is so fantastic about Scottish dancing.

**Iris Ronayne**



I think the family dance is great for meeting up with everyone else and having a celebration instead of normal lessons with Angela.

It's really excellent how we can get together

and show off everything we have learned. Also, you can make new friends and meet new people.

Definitely, my favourite part is (unsurprisingly) the pizza! My second favourite part was dancing the Petronella!

**Thomas Ronayne**

## SPRING FLING 2011 DIARY OF A NEWCOMER

Spring Fling is an annual event of the RSCDS for young dancers (age 16-35), which is organized by a group of young dancers with the support of the local Branch. This year it was held on 25 - 27 March, in Edinburgh. A number of scholarships were offered that covered residential and course fees. I have been dancing for about one year and a half in Madrid and I was awarded one of those scholarships to attend my first workshop on SCD.

At check-in on Friday afternoon I met my roommates at the youth hostel and, although we came from different countries, our stories turned out to be very similar: we came across SCD somehow accidentally, but we got right away captivated by its elegance; our local groups are relatively small, with a mixture of beginners and experienced dancers, and an average age over sixty years. We were very excited with the opportunity to meet young dancers who share our passion and we were eager to make the most of the workshop.

On Friday evening it was my first Ceilidh and I did not have a clear idea of what it would consist of. I felt both joy and panic that vanished as soon as we danced *The Sausage Machine*. After singing Auld Lang Syne, some of us headed for a drink at a quiet pub to slow down and recap our day.

Jumping out of bed on Saturday morning felt unusually effortless. I attended two country dance classes for beginners, which were held in a light and spacious room with live music. Our teachers, Margo Priestley and Sophie Rickebusch were most welcoming and provided us with a good number of useful tips to improve our technique and dancing skills. After a light lunch, there was a choice of Highland, ladies' step, or hard-sole step dancing class. I made my mind up for the ladies' step and met Atsuko Clement. Her performance is simply awesome; her movements flow in a light, smooth and elegant way, especially in contrast with my own attempts to reproduce them. Certainly, ladies' step is not for me, but I enjoyed the class and I cannot imagine a better way of getting the flavour of that kind of dance.

The Ball on Saturday evening was definitely the highlight of the weekend. Open to all, the dance floor was comfortably full of different-aged dancers who floated in time with the music and kept smiling even when someone made a mistake. Every detail, from the impressive venue to the lively band, including the exceptionally assorted catering, contributed to a great success. After the formal dance, a number of informal parties took place between swollen feet and plenty of laughs.

During the weekend, none of the organizers dared to answer our questions about the Sunday's challenge. Whenever asked, they simply smiled and encouraged us to be on time. Getting to the venue was a challenge itself. Once there, we were divided into six teams and faced four tasks. First, each group was given a short story somehow inspired on Edinburgh and was asked to devise a dance, choose a tune, and dance it! Honestly, I think that we all did a great job. Then, teams were given a series of diagrams showing different dances and had to identify them. The third challenge consisted in answering a quiz about Edinburgh. Finally, each team formed a set, the first eight bars of some tune were played, we had to recognize the dance and, immediately afterwards, first couples had to dance it until the first progression. Except for *Mairi's Wedding*, cries of "keep moving" and "reorganize the set" were often heard in the middle of a hilarious mess. Without doubt it was a challenging and a breathtaking way to say goodbye.

Many thanks to the organizers, teachers, musicians, and helpers for a wonderful weekend. Happy dancing to all!

**Rocío Alcalá-Quintana**  
The Schiehallion Group, Madrid

## THE XVII IBERIAN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE WEEKEND

The Melia Hotel, Benidorm in Alicante Spain, was the setting for the XVII Iberian Scottish Country Dance held over 11-13 March 2011. Nearly 120 dancers attended the event and all raring to go.

The Iberian Peninsula Scottish Country Dance Weekend started in 1995 as a get together for the groups scattered throughout the Peninsula (currently 10 groups between Spain and Portugal) though there are people coming from far away now. First devised by Jerónimo Maeso with the aim of fostering relations between groups and enjoying together the Scottish country dancing, it is now organized each year by a different group on a rotating basis.

Our weekend started with registration when we all received a very well presented and explicit welcome package from the hosting group. Then we went on to the first of the dance walkthroughs where we met William Williamson, the teacher from Dumfriesshire, and the trio making up the Alan Gardiner Band from Biggar. A few of the participants, as newcomers and beginners, were nervous and hesitant at first but after a warm welcome from everybody sets were made up, musicians tuned, and Willie gave us some of his humour, easing us into the walkthrough.



The official reception later in the evening gave us all a chance to mix and meet up with other groups and this continued during dinner. After dinner everybody made their way to the Function Room for the Grand March. The many colours of the tartans and sashes swinging in unison to the tunes of the piper leading the way made an impressive sight. The evening's dancing was set off with *Hooper's Jig* and another fifteen dances followed before the clock struck midnight. I'm sure a few of us were grateful to rest our weary legs!

Saturday beckoned and with a mixed bag of weather, unusual for Benidorm, we warmed up to more instruction from Willie. The discussions at the Iberian Group Meeting were quite lively and decisions were made regarding further gatherings. It was agreed that the next one will be held in Lisbon in March next year. During the course of the evening's dancing there was a warm welcome to Joseph Killeen, the founder member of the Torrejeja Group, who were hosting the weekend. To honour this special occasion everyone danced *The City of Light* devised by Joseph, and Willie sang a wonderful rendition of 'Bonnie Galloway' which was much appreciated by all the guests. All too soon it was the end of the evening and everybody joined together for 'Auld Lang Syne'.

For my husband and me, as newcomers to Spain and the Schiehallion Group, it was a weekend to be remembered. Thanks to the Torrejeja Group for their organisation, to Willie and the band for keeping our toes tapping and wheeling and reeling in time to the music, and most of all to everybody for their Highland Welcome.

**Linda Jamieson**  
Schiehallion SCD Group, Madrid, Spain

# NEW RECORDINGS

**Ian Hutson and his Band** – Memories of Jim Johnstone (HRMCD 019)  
**Iain MacPhail and Friends** – Reflecting on (Andrew) Rankine (Logan 001)

By an amazing coincidence these two CDs honouring the music played by Andrew Rankine who died in 1985 and Jim Johnstone who died in 2008, have been released about the same time. On a historical note, Jim first broadcast in 1950 and Andrew in 1951. Jim actually played in Andrew's band from 1963 to 1966. On both CDs we have a wide selection of tunes composed by or played in sets by these bands. There are some country dances either full or half length. (If you would like to have details, please phone me).

As well as Ian Hutson's own band, 18 of the 23 tracks are played by a number of musicians (but not all at once) connected with Jim over the years; notably Marie Fielding, Neil Barron and the amazing Pam Brough. Iain MacPhail's is more straightforward with all six players on all the 20 tracks.

So, what about the music itself? It is really superb on both recordings. I listen to one all the way through and want to put it on again. There is almost exactly two hours of music on the two CDs. Buy both and enjoy.

Raemond Jappy won the Glenfiddich award at Blair Atholl Castle in October 2008 and has now released his first CD – Crossing the Spey (RLJCD01). Tunes by the great composers (Marshall, Skinner and Mackintosh) are interspersed with some modern ones. Piano accompaniment is by Maureen Rutherford who also has a couple of piano solos. The whole CD is just beautiful and is already, as I write this on 31 March, in my top of the list for 2011. Again, buy and enjoy.

John Laurie 020 7286 1923



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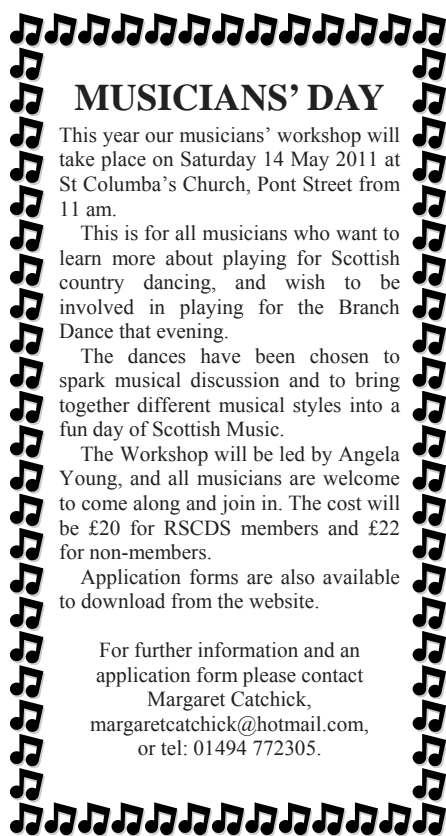
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## MUSICIANS' DAY

This year our musicians' workshop will take place on Saturday 14 May 2011 at St Columba's Church, Pont Street from 11 am.

This is for all musicians who want to learn more about playing for Scottish country dancing, and wish to be involved in playing for the Branch Dance that evening.

The dances have been chosen to spark musical discussion and to bring together different musical styles into a fun day of Scottish Music.

The Workshop will be led by Angela Young, and all musicians are welcome to come along and join in. The cost will be £20 for RSCDS members and £22 for non-members.

Application forms are also available to download from the website.

For further information and an application form please contact Margaret Catchick, margaretcatchick@hotmail.com, or tel: 01494 772305.

## BOBBY BROWN AWARD

Box & Fiddle, the official magazine and website of the National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Clubs in Britain this year recognize the contributions of Bobby Brown to Scottish music. Previous winners include Sir Jimmy Shand, Ian Powrie, and Andy Stewart. On Robbie Shepherd's *Take The Floor* programme on BBC Scotland, Nicol McLaren, Chair of the NAACF, said the award is to acknowledge the artist's contribution to the scene. It honours the musical "Who's Who" – not just Scottish Dance bands, but people who have contributed broadly to Scottish Music. He said we must never forget the people who have done so much to develop and preserve our music. The Guest of Honour for 2011, and the first from overseas, is Bobby Brown.

## THE FLEET MUSICIANS

On a fine spring morning an eclectic group of musicians met at the BHS Border Branch workshop. Under the bow of the well-known Scottish fiddler, Gordon Simpson, we were drawn together into a cohesive group. Not an easy feat with 25 players on various instruments, guitar, accordion, fiddles, keyboards, flutes, drums and a fine contingent of fiddlers of the Shetland Tradition. The fine nuances of the various forms of Jigs, Reels and Strathspeys were worked on and by the end of the day we were raring to go for the dance in the evening.

Playing in the Big Scottish Dance Band is a fine and fitting culmination of the day, drawing together all we had learnt. Certainly to see the dancers bring our music alive on the dance floor and to see their enjoyment and appreciation made the pleasure that we had had even more worthwhile.

Our thanks to the organisers who by doing so are encouraging the tradition of Scottish Dance and its music.

Anon

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## WINTER SCHOOL 1

Looking out at the daffodils and tulips coming up in the garden, it's strange to think that just over a month ago Winter School was in full swing in Pitlochry.

Last year, the format of the event changed and two sessions were offered, with the same teachers and musicians throughout. This year, we were faced not only with a choice of dates, but also of staff – Linda Gaul had put two very different 'teams' together to make things really difficult.

Unable to take enough time off work to go to both sessions, as some lucky dancers did, I travelled up from Folkestone looking forward to some excellent teaching and music from Elaine Brunken, Graham Donald, Linda Gaul, Dave Hall, Marian Anderson, Muriel Johnstone, Peter Shand and Keith Smith.

It was particularly nice to see, among many well known faces, a new one, at least for many of us in Europe and the UK – Elaine Brunken, originally from Scotland but now based in Maryland, has taught all over North America and is also one of the Society's newest examiners.

The morning classes at the Atholl Palace Hotel and in Pitlochry itself were complemented by a variety of afternoon activities – Ladies' Step, Highland, a presentation on the RSCDS by Ruth Beattie and Liz Foster with an opportunity to ask questions (the hottest topic was Summer School and the teething problems with the new online-only booking system), as well as one of Muriel's inimitable and always different music talks.

Music is one of the highlights of Winter School, with soirées in the hotel lobby after social dancing every evening, a ceilidh on the Wednesday night and of course the ball in the magnificent setting of Blair Castle.

Ensuring that a regular event remains attractive both to first-timers and 'repeat customers' is a familiar challenge for many organisers. Much thought is being given to finding the ideal format for Winter School. In a relatively short time, Linda Gaul's brainchild has become a fixed point in the Scottish country dancing calendar, attracting dancers from all over the world every year.

The two-session format feels less like a house-party, as there are other guests in the hotel; on the other hand it is now easier to get a place, even for those of us who prefer a single room. Offering a cheaper option, for example without the ball at Blair Castle, would make Winter School more affordable but lose some of its charm.

The final morning (very much 'after the night before') was a rush of activity – bags to pack and load in the car, breakfast to eat before hitting the road south, goodbyes to say – until next time!

Susi Meyr

## WINTER SCHOOL 2

I've known for many years that the RSCDS runs a Summer School in St Andrews, but it wasn't until two years ago that I discovered from a dancing friend that the RSCDS also runs a Winter School in Pitlochry, Perthshire in February. This gap in my knowledge may be due to the fact that the Winter School is so popular that it booked up quickly meaning that the RSCDS hardly needed to advertise.

Such has been its success, that for the last two years there have been two 5-day sessions rather than the usual one, doubling the chances of getting a place. For those of you for whom Winter School is a new subject, here is a brief description.

Winter School is really a delightful house party held in the Atholl Palace Hotel which stands proud in the Pitlochry landscape, giving most guests a great view from their bedroom window. All dancers, teachers and musicians stay and eat in the hotel and the majority of the activities are run in the hotel too. This set-up creates a very convivial atmosphere.

There are classes every morning where (in time honoured RSCDS style) dancers are worked hard and encouraged to do their best, whatever their ability. The afternoons are free to explore the surrounding area or take part in optional classes and activities. A 3-course dinner is followed by a short dance and the evening is rounded off by entertainment in the lounge from the musicians. On the final evening, we don our finery and dance in

the atmospheric Great Hall at Blair Castle.

So, how was it this year? I went in 'week 2' because my husband, Ian, had been asked to be one of the four musicians. A group from my club at Berkhamsted also signed up for the week. In short, a fabulous time was had by all! The entire week was extremely sociable and there were plenty of laughs in class and in the evenings. Mealtimes were a sociable affair too as we rarely sat at the same table or with the same group. The teachers and the musicians were a great team with a shared sense of humour and party spirit. Evenings in the bar extended well past the witching hour and I have to admit to needing an afternoon snooze on a couple of days!

Attendance is required at classes to ensure maximum enjoyment for all participants, but all other activities are wonderfully relaxed. One evening, I gave my aching limbs a break and just relaxed in the lounge with a group of like-minded people.

There were two highlights for me. In the lounge on the first evening Ian, Muriel Johnstone and Jim Lindsay played "The Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord" in its original form as an air. As they started to play, a hush fell on the lounge. It was one of those magical moments when three quality musicians played a piece of music beautifully and from the heart; not planned or rehearsed.

The second highlight came during Angela Young's class. Ian and Muriel provided the music, and were engrossed in conversation when not playing. At one point, the musicians weren't quite paying attention and yet managed, in a split second, to switch from gossip to music in time with Angela's "Ready, and!" It was very impressive and the guilty look on their faces caused great hilarity all round!

I heard rumours that the RSCDS are considering returning to one session per year because the two sessions have not been full. I have a clear message for the RSCDS: "Please don't! You have a great thing going and it deserves to be enjoyed by many. I've just started your advertising campaign for 2012 and now it's over to you!"

Ann Robertson

(see picture on the back page)



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# PICTURE PAGES

Photographs on these pages not otherwise attributed are by Stephen Webb

## Winter Wednesday

1. Nick, Ken, Alan, Nina, Louise and Rachel dance the circle in *The Birks of Invermay*. *Photo Angela Young*
2. Bob and Meg Harman lead round in *Joie de Vivre*.
3. The Grand Chain in *Mrs Stewart's Jig*.
4. Cos Ahmet & Christine Hastie cross up in *The Birks of Invermay*.
5. MC for the evening, Angela Young, with Strathallan led by Chris Oxtoby.

--- o0o ---

6. John and Jan Douglas lead down in *Happy Returns* at the Maidenhead Scottish Dancing Club's Diamond Anniversary Ball on 26 February. (see page 14)
7. Family Day is enjoyed by old and young alike as the first couple dance under the arch in the *Cumberland Reel*. *Photo Angela Young*
8. Smiles all round as Ian Robertson with Rosy le Good fiddle and Angela Young keyboard take a break from playing at the 'Easy and Enjoyable' Branch Dance on 26 March. *Photo Michael Nolan*



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9. Lorraine Wiener and Hugh Cowell at the Watford & West Herts Caledonian Ball dancing the allemande in *The Deil among the tailors* on 19 March. See page 14.

10. Dancers fly in the circle in interval dance *The Round Reel of Eight* at the 'Easy and Enjoyable' Branch Dance on 26 March.

Photo Michael Nolan

11. Secretary and piper Stewart Murray with Thomas and Andrew outside St Columba's Church back in April last year. See page 7.

Photo Iris Ronayne



11



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12. Ian Robertson and Jim Lindsay with Muriel Johnstone and Linda Gaul in the background at Blair Atholl Castle during Winter School 2011 Course 2.

Photo Ann Robertson

13. The Advanced Technique Sunday morning class dance the dance a reel of four in *The Glasgow Highlanders* under the able guidance of Joan Desborough. See page 5.

14. Fun is had by all at the Spring Fling 2011 Friday Ceilidh held in Edinburgh to great music from Luke Brady and his Scottish Dance Band seen in the background on 25 March. See page 7.

Photo Carolyn Adrain

15. London Branch Award recipient John Mitchell with his wife Deidre and Past and current Branch Chairmen Wilson Nicol and Jeff Robertson at St Columba's Church on 26 March. (Note, John writes again on page 18).

Photo Michael Nolan



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## GANGING SCOTTISH IN GHENT, BELGIUM (or Meeting a Gent in Ghent)



Stephen Webb

### ALASTAIR AITKENHEAD

Congratulations to Alastair who a few weeks ago celebrated being 90 years young!

He joins the select band of Branch nonagenarians and demonstrates the youth-giving powers of Scottish country dancing by continuing to dance actively and encouraging others to join him. He is well known on the Isle of Arran, where he now lives, leading the dancing in his local hall. He is a staunch supporter of the RSCDS and continues to convey the joy, fun and friendship of dancing. One of his neighbours wrote the following to thank him for all he has done for the village –

*He teaches us the Eightsome, he teaches us the  
waltz,  
He's always very patient in spite of all our faults.  
He'll demonstrate a Barn Dance and then a slow  
strathspey,  
He even makes us pas de basque the strictly  
proper way.  
And that's why folk from far and wide all come to  
Corrie Hall,  
They know that with our Alastair they'll have  
themselves a ball.  
They come from Ayr and London Town, from  
Wales and Spain and France  
To find this man of great renown who makes our  
island dance  
He's the man who makes our island dance,  
The man who makes our island dance*

Alastair is a former Chairman of the RSCDS, examiner, adjudicator, teacher and, most of all, a dancer!

Scottish enthusiasts and the general public gathered during the second weekend in February, for the annual *Schotse Beurs* (Scottish Fair). This celebration of Scottish culture in Ghent has been held for 33 years and during the last 15 years has been organised by the Flemish Caledonian Society at the International Convention Centre Ghent.

Ghent has become my new home and, as a Scottish dancer with an interest in all things Caledonian, I wanted to find out what is going on in the local scene. The sound of the swirl of the pipes reassured me I was heading in the right direction. A warm welcome may sound like a cliché but it can and did make a difference!

I was given a very tempting *Schotse Beurs* programme of activities, which included dance demonstrations, tartan parades, pipes and drums, workshops on cooking, weapon and dress demonstration, a ceremony of haggis and an indoor tattoo.

By the time I reached the main hall my St Andrew's cross carrier bag was full of useful leaflets about Highland Games and other events held in Belgium throughout the year, brochures, guides to Scotland and couple of tins of haggis! There were plenty of stalls offering tastings of typical traditional produce.

Reggie Picavet, the Chairman of the Flemish Caledonian Society oversaw a great deal of hard work and progress to accomplish the success of this year's fair, held in a more compact and intimate venue than before. It brought the

audience, performers and eating areas closer to each other.

An intercultural Scottish/Celtic dance and music evening preceded the weekend events. This was a collaborative venture with Danspunt, a Flemish institute for amateur dancers and combined several Highland, Irish and Country dance groups from all over the country.

Reggie could prove it was a fantastic weekend: the audience is getting younger and there are currently 650 members in the Society. Retaining younger participants remains a challenge, although Reggie and the Caledonian Society seem to have a recipe for achieving this. He explains that many youngsters in the dance groups and pipe bands (27 in total!) are maintaining family traditions. They also hold an introduction to Scottish Country, Highland and Irish Dancing in February. He uses media like Facebook and newspapers to attract a wider public. All ages are certainly welcome and Reggie says "As long as people are happy, I am happy too."

The Chairman was not the only happy voice. Nancy Van Huffelen, a first time visitor from Antwerp said: "I think it's great. My partner enjoyed whisky tasting (a Whisky Festival is held simultaneously upstairs). We are interested in Scotland, which we want to visit and, of course, the sound of the bagpipes attracted us when we heard them outside. We plan going to Scottish Days in Ooidonk, East Flanders this August."

Voilà! The Belgians demonstrate how far a true interest and Celtic passion can go. *Schotse beurs, lang may yer lum reek!*

Renata Stankova

### THE WILD GEESE

Many of us are familiar with that popular jig, *The Wild Geese*, from RSCDS Book 24. I just wish that I could determine the name of its devisor. We are of course very aware of the ubiquitous Canada geese that are well known for fouling parks and recreation areas wherever they decide to congregate. Could these be the wild geese celebrated earlier in Book 24?

A more likely possibility has to do with Irish military history. For centuries, Irish mercenaries have been found fighting the wars of other countries. Even Hannibal's armies crossing the Alps to surprise the Romans from the rear included Celtic warriors from Hibernia. In time, the French learned the value of including Irishmen in their armies, and a ready supply of recruits always seemed to be available to become part of "The Irish Brigade"..... dubbed in Irish Gaelic *Na Gianna Fiaine – The Wild Geese*.

Origin? Well, French smuggling vessels bringing wines and brandies to the Irish coast would illegally carry military recruits on their return journey. The customs paperwork described them routinely as wild geese: Foie Gras in the making perhaps? When the Stuart monarchy was driven into exile in France in the mid-17th century, sure enough, many of the soldiers that "emigrated" with them were Catholic Irishmen, ready to die in support of their king. So it should be no surprise that Irish mercenaries, or "wild geese", were to be found among Bonnie Prince Charlie's army in 1745. At that time, however, they were more likely to be called Irish piquets. The French word piquet is well-known in military circles through its English version, picket, meaning "a small ad hoc unit of soldiers doing guard duty", for example.

So with *The Wild Geese*, we may have yet another Scottish country dance with an Irish background. *The Irish Rover*, anyone?

**Barry Pipes:** [mccallum.pipes@sympatico.ca](mailto:mccallum.pipes@sympatico.ca)  
From The Toronto Branch magazine SET & LINK,

January 2010



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## A POINT OF VIEW IS PARALLEL, THE NEW THIRD?

Are you concerned for the health of your fellow dancer? Am I alone in this or have you, like me, noticed that the footwork of dancers is in general, poorly done? The foot position which we are taught to be the bedrock of Scottish country dancing steps that we dance seems to be losing its accuracy and taking on a character



of its own! If this is a lowering of standards why is it happening and does it really matter, does it affect the enjoyment of dancing, does it affect anyone else apart from the dancer doing it, is it dangerous, and worst of all can it become contagious? What do you think?

What am I referring to? And where are the so-called lowered standards to be seen? Well, certainly not in step practice when the steps are being taught and where everybody raises their standard to what teacher says, 'close in third for travelling steps, stay turned out in first and second in jig and reel time circles whilst facing in, extend from third for the jeté in the pas de basque, maintain 45° for fourth'. A pair of white socks with dirty marks over the instep was always considered the measure of a good standard of foot position at the end of a dance that is, for the pas de basque step at least!

So it is not in classes but it is at dances and social clubs where serious variations in these taught steps are to be found! The steps that we can all see if we look around, whilst not dancing, can be quite amazing in their cleverness, even complexity and sometimes quite mesmerising in their antics and certainly dangerous in their execution! Closing in third has given way to the 'virtual parallel' where slipping by in travelling steps rather than a momentary stop in third is becoming the norm with rhythm in dancing being put at risk. Circles lose their shape and balance as dancers contort their bodies generally facing the direction of the circle, often going too fast, with the feet no longer having a defined first and second position but a sort of skewed parallel! Perish the thought, but these deviations can even be seen being done by teachers when in dancing mode rather than technique class mode!

It would seem that at dances some people slip into bad habits. There being no teacher to keep the dancers on the straight and narrow, there is often a complexity of dance patterns to mentally wrestle with and as the evening wears on dancers get tired. And then again some dancers could find it physically difficult to achieve? They may never have even been taught where the feet should go so when dancing they have simply picked it up *en passant*? It is commonly accepted that the foot positions set out in the Manual can only be done with ease when using a correct posture, body position and a controlled naturalness where checking foot positions is not done by eye whilst dancing but is intuitive – *a correct feeling for the steps as well as for the timing and shape*, in Jean Milligan's words. It matters to dance the technique as taught because SCD is all about light and shade, on the spot and moving, straight lines and curves and this, all done using just three steps in jig/reel time and two in strathspey. It is asking a lot unless the dancer learns to adjust the step length to accommodate what is required!

Dancing in a set where the standard of dancing is high is a delight. It can be like a part in a carefully balanced watch running to time and this should be something to be experienced by all dancers. Yet, some may never have known it! I

believe that we all aspire to dance well through having fun, to have social interaction but above all not to let others down in the set by being out of position. Having control of the steps and dancing them correctly with the music will give the dancer the best chance of being in the right place at the right time. Only after this

control, can social interaction in the set take place with confidence.

Therefore, here are a few tips if you wish to improve your fun factor when SCD. Always start in first position and return to first. Be aware of the tee position (often the feet are not fully turned out and can drift). Ensure that in skip-change and strathspey travelling steps you are aware that the following foot closes momentarily in third and consciously feel it every time! Be conscious too of hearing the musical beats in your mind and be aware of the bars (figures are generally in 8-bar measures). In circles always face in and look and smile at the dancer directly opposite even for strathspeys! And teachers, if you slip into those bad habits, because you have the responsibility, always dance as you were correctly taught for others to safely imitate.

Starting SCD late in life can bring great pleasure to people for whom it is like finding a jewel and this can mean that not all the physical demands required for correct steps can be managed. The bottom, but most important line for all of us, is to have fun and do this the best way we can, perhaps not with a perfect tee but do try not to let parallel become the new third!

Stephen Webb

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

New York

Bratach Bana

Dear Wilson,

I have just seen John Mitchell's comments about John Drewry's dance *Bratach Bana* in Reel 272, courtesy of the current issue of The Tartan Times (the Boston Branch newsletter.) The main point: that Drewry changed his original instructions for bars 27-28 to two travelling steps instead of pas-de-basque is quite correct. As regards the handing, however, Drewry does say "turn second corners half way round by the right hand", after dropping left hands. There is no need to hunt down an elusive slip of paper, since the more recent versions of The Bon Accord Book have this wording in the dance description. Thus, I would have to disagree with John that the 'Pilling' is in error.

It may be worth adding that 'turn half way by the right hand' is only a rough description of what happens when bars 25-28 are danced in a continuous, flowing way, but it conveys the idea quite neatly and concisely.

Chris Ronald

### FIVE-COUPLE SETS

Fifty years ago when Hugh Foss the Chairman of the London Branch was researching Scottish dances and compiling new ones, the five couple set appeared in the Dundarroch sheets which he issued. One of the tricks he used was to ensure that after the first time through the dance, the first couple landed in third place so that in three couple dances everyone was involved more of the time. The object in a way was to bring the end couples in a set more quickly into the dance.

Not every dance can easily be modified to allow this to happen, but the other evening in my group in Croydon towards the end of the evening when a number had melted away we were down to two 5-couple sets. We danced the *Reel of the 51st Division* not in the original 5-couple set format but with first and third couples starting and continuing with appropriate stepping up right to the last two steps when working couples crossed down to third and fifth places and all five couples joined in 10-hands round and back. First couple were now in third place ready to start again with a new couple at the top. It was a great warmer for going out into the cold night and the dancers warmly welcomed the spur of the moment idea.

When I returned home I did some research and found that in 1964 Hugh Foss had already thought of the same thing. He said then:

"Some dances can easily be modified to suit a five couple set. *Lamb Skinnet* is one. I know it is easy because at a Ball once I devised the method after the music had started and everyone in the set caught on almost immediately (perhaps they had all done it before). 1st couple dance normally the first time except that they slip to 3rd place and 2nd couple start from top place. Then and thereafter there are always two couples dancing. *Cauld Kail*, *Speed the Plough* and the *Reel of the 51st Division* are other dances that can be treated this way. The last named ends with ten hands round the second and subsequent times."

The only difference is that in our current case, in true Fossian style, I had first and third couples starting.

Wilson Nicol

## BHS BORDER BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

The Day School at Court Moor School on Saturday 12 March was both hard work and fun. The Branch had arranged a class for musicians and three for dancers – beginners, mixed ability and advanced. I go for mixed ability nowadays and started with Craig Houston and Ken Martlew in the gym while the advanced class was with Helen Russell and Pat Clark in the hall. After lunch the classes changed rooms. The teachers were very different and worked us hard and encouraged us to look up and smile! Meanwhile the beginners were with Margaret Williams and Judith Muir in the dance studio – hope the mirrors didn't put them off. It was nice to see so many dancers over from the Isle of Wight.

Gordon Simpson was in charge of the musicians and produced an excellent band for the evening dance. There were some 130 dancers and musicians in the hall. The committee under Chairman Mervyn Short worked extremely hard all day and I hope they had some fun too. Many thanks to them all.

Peter Luke

## MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB 60TH ANNIVERSARY



Jane Courtier

On 26 February Maidenhead held their 60th Anniversary Highland Ball at Brigidine School in Windsor. For this celebration Marian Anderson and her Band came from Scotland to play and gave the dancing a special lift with her excellent choice of lively music. The evening started with a toast to the Club and during the supper interval the Anniversary Cake was cut by Bill Forbes who has been teaching at Maidenhead for over 30 years.

The Highland Ball has been on the Maidenhead calendar since 1963 and was the first and only Ball held in the BHS Border Branch area in the sixties and seventies. Originally held in Maidenhead Town Hall the Ball moved to Windsor in 1989 with Frank Reid being the regular band.

The Club has run many events besides the weekly Tuesday class. There have been demonstration teams; highland classes; children's classes; ceilidhs (sometimes fancy dress) and day schools.

The Tea Dance is a recent popular innovation now usually held twice a year in May and November, the next one on Sunday afternoon 8 May at Carnation Hall in Winkfield Row.

The final 60th Anniversary event is a party on Sunday 5 June to which all former members are invited. There will be time to chat, some entertainment, dancing and of course afternoon tea. If any reader knows of someone who used to dance with Maidenhead and who would like to be invited please contact the secretary Jane Courtier.

George Flett

## WATFORD BALL

On the 19 March, Watford and West Herts Scottish Society held their annual ball at the Allum Hall in Elstree. This was their second year at this smart venue. The previous year the club hosted the Australian Duo, Catherine Fraser and Duncan Smith, but this year they presented the well-loved local sound of Ian Robertson and his Band. Many ingredients came together to make for an enjoyable evening. There was a welcome from the president and his wife, 100 dancing friends to banter with, a dance programme that was social with a few dances of special interest, a band that sounded really good playing the originals, with balanced sets of tunes, a hall floor that was neither too hard or slippery, and sympathetic MC, Dick Field. The food was a variety of small portioned flavours in buffet style allowing dancers to have an amount of food suited to dancing again. With this dance under their belts, the Watford Society think they have marked this event out on the dance circuit as 'a function to be at'! Next year the Society will feature the Marian Anderson Band.

Andy Wiener

## SCOTSCARE 400TH ANNIVERSARY

As you may be aware, 2011 marks the 400th Anniversary of the Scots Box and the beginning of the Royal Scottish Corporation. The basic desire, to help less fortunate Scots in London, remains the same now as it did in 1611.

We have always had close links with the RSCDS in London and further afield and we hope you will be willing to support us throughout this anniversary year. There are various ways you could get involved this year but in particular;

- For dinners, we can arrange for a speaker to attend and talk about our history and current work
- We also have banners and other promotional materials that we hope you will display at dances and events
- We hope your members will be interested in joining our Scots Box Legacies Club, which carries on that 400 year old legacy. We can send you information about this.
- Finally, perhaps you could do something within your group or work with us to develop a special event to raise awareness of this important anniversary.

If you would like further information on the year's activities or you would like to have someone speak at one of your events then please contact; ross@scotscare.com or call us on 0207 240 3718.

## THE MILTON KEYNES 32ND ANNUAL BALL

"It's a strange night out", said the person sitting next to me at the dinner at the Branch's 32nd Annual Ball. "Most people going out for a Saturday night see it as an attempt to relax, and perhaps to empty the mind. We, on the other hand, have chosen to do something strenuous, which needs considerable homework for effective participation, so that we drove here from Watford and Hemel Hempstead frantically boning up on what we needed to know by the time we arrived". I had to admit that he was right, as I too had spent some of the day revising to the point where I was confident I had mastery. (A confidence which proved unsound when tested under exam conditions).

Strange or not, what a good time we had. A good-sized modern hall with a wooden floor, excellent music from Robert Whitehead's Danelaw Band, competent, unfussy MC-ing, wholesome catering satisfying veggies and non-veggies alike, an interesting choice of dances, and

## STEP BY STEP

Serendipity came our way about six months ago when a friend of a friend happened to mention Scottish Dancing at the Little Ship Club.

Having been holidaying on Mull regularly once a year and been to ceilidhs without being able to participate properly, my husband and I had resolved to learn to dance in London, but had so far not managed to do so. Therefore our ears pricked up at the mention of lessons, and we duly turned up at the Little Ship Club at St Columba's. We had been told that it was quite informal and that we should bring a sandwich. So we trundled up in trousers and trainers armed with a box of sandwiches.

I must confess that our introduction to this long sought after recreation was not a wholly happy experience. Right from the beginning, as soon as we saw men wearing the kilt and women in swirly skirts with proper dancing shoes, we had misgivings. Clearly this was an event for the cognoscenti. However, with the help of some very generous people who pushed and prodded and prompted us into the right moves, we survived the first half. Then came the break for refreshments and to our dismay the other people began to bring out their gourmet canapés. We reluctantly brought out our rather too wholesome, healthy sandwiches. We were definitely going to leave after the break, as clearly we were totally out of our depth here.

However, by a fortuitous coincidence during the break we sat next to Davinia Miln, whom all know as "the Wednesday teacher". She told us about her beginners' class at Marlborough School.

My husband and I have now been attending her classes for two terms. Being Asian I found the cosmopolitan atmosphere very appealing. The classes are inclusive and welcoming, and we have made many nice friends. The instructions are succinct and perfectly geared to a total beginner. She and Rachel Wilton have a sixth sense for noticing people who need help, and under their vigilant and benevolent tutelage, our group felt confident enough to attend the Winter Wednesday Dance at St Columba's this February.

As soon as we arrived, Davinia was on the lookout for her flock and with great efficiency we were all paired off with more experienced dancers and were able to dance all the dances except a couple of the most difficult ones. Throughout the evening she kept her beady eye on any waifs and strays, and we were all able to have a wonderfully satisfying evening. We really appreciated the warmth of the welcome given to us by the regulars. To the inspiring beat of the Strathallan Band we found it very rewarding to put into practice all the steps and manoeuvres we had learned at the Marlborough School. We are already waiting for the next Dance with great anticipation!

Qamar Maclean

– always the key ingredient – a lively, good-natured group of dancers, the women at their most radiant and the men at their most dashing. Moreover everyone (well nearly) knew what they were doing, if not always on the first go, certainly by the encores.

As a temporary exile from Edinburgh, I was pleasantly surprised when I arrived in MK a few months ago at the apparent liveliness of the local Scottish country dancing scene, especially by the linking between neighbouring towns, and I wondered how healthy it was really. My impression from this gathering is that it is positively vibrant. Some more young people would be a boon, but until SCD is endorsed by a pop-star or an iApp appears to help with the homework, few of us know how to achieve that. The committee is to be congratulated on organising a splendid event. I went home well past the "gently glowing" stage, and too exhilarated to sleep readily. Thank you everyone.

Bob Harwood

# ECHOES FROM THE PAST

Letter to the Editor, *The Reel* No 123  
February 1973

Dear Sir,

The Branch AGM last June was reported to have been a quiet affair, and for this I must offer my apologies for being unexpectedly absent. Last minute business commitments prevented my participation in the annual committee baiting tournament!

However, I feel I cannot leave unsaid till next year what I was to raise, as I might not still be with you; or worse still, someone else may pre-empt my ideas. Let me first voice my appreciation of the hard work the committee puts into running the Branch. I have served on many committees and I know the degree of frustration at the apparent lack of support of activities. But ponder awhile. How were YOU dragged into joining the Society? Could it not be that no sooner had they collected your sub. than you were being mercilessly berated for not supporting the Branch? It is what is known commercially as "generating a demand". What about those who were cute on the housekeeping and reckoned that it was cheaper to become a life member, the pay-off period being a mere  $x$  years? They are probably still getting the "REEL" (and being members for life are unable to stop it), but no longer read it, and no longer even dance. I wonder how many of the Branch's 570 life members are just dead wood? Is the London Branch the biggest dead tree in the Society?

The Society itself is so dead that the formal agenda doesn't rise to an "Any other business" item. Instead, as a sop to awkward characters with horns and cloven hooves, and after all the back slapping has been promulgated, an any questions session, TIME PERMITTING, is indicated in a footnote. The death knell tolls for societies afraid to discuss their policies openly with the membership. It is time the Society became more broad minded, more attuned to the times. What happened to the candlemakers when electric light came along? The enlightened few realised they were in the illumination industry and made electric light bulbs, the rest continued to make candles, and ultimately went to the wall. So it is with Scottish dancing. If the Society is going to stick to looking for old and often trivial dances, can you wonder at the membership going stale? There is such a welling of innovation in Scottish dancing that the Society should be capitalising it. What dances do the flourishing groups dance? Not the trivia like *Miss Brown's Reel* or *Saw ye my wee thing*, but the delightful choreography of Foss and Drewry.

Shouldn't the Society be publishing the bulk of this modern Scottish dance form and getting its cut of the turnover and the goodwill? What about a big merger with the Highland dancing organisations to form the Royal Scottish Dancing Society? Enough of all this parochialism!

Now, who's getting carried away? I will, I expect, for a breach of the peace. But to return to our ain kailyard: the London Branch stole a march on the Society by getting in first with the "REEL" as a regular news sheet for members. Recently, but for this letter, it has become a dull stereotyped engagement diary. True, talent or interest seems to be lacking in the London area, so what about casting the net a bit wider? Perhaps neighbouring branches and clubs within 50 or 100 miles of Fetter Lane could be inveigled into buying the "REEL" in bulk for resale to members. With an augmented circulation the Editor would have more scope to include general articles which in turn could expand further the area of circulation. "Get out at the peak!" is what they recommend in the Stock Exchange. Now, comparing a "REEL" of 1957 (when I first foisted myself on the London Branch) with a current issue, there are several committee stalwarts who have weathered the storms of time. While

appreciating the sterling service given selflessly by these devoted members, is it not time to retire on the crest and see what a hash, in contrast, some fresh blood would make? Committee work, like teaching, thrives on a continuing fresh outlook. I have heard it suggested that only half the committee should be elected annually – for a stint of two years. That, to me, seems sensible in ensuring continuity. What about limiting to four years the continuous service of a committee member? I'm all for half a dozen new faces on the committee. Let's get talking (and writing) now and we may be in time to arrange some changes by next June.

Enough is enough! If this epistle hasn't ensured my ostracism, I hope it will provide future fodder for the Editor to liven up the "REEL".

Yours infernally,

"AULD NICK"

*Note: The Editor at the time was interested to hear of comments on any of the points made above. (There were three letters in the next issue all supporting the above – so what has changed?)*

## THE DUKE OF PERTH

(from *The Thistle* No 1 November 1961)

The dance first appeared in a manuscript known as the *Blantyre manuscript*, written in 1806, and at present in the public library in Perth. Perhaps this date does not look very old to anyone who scans the dates in the footnotes in the Scottish Country Dance books, but in fact most of these dates are of documents which recorded old dances which were quickly forgotten, and were, after a lapse of years, reconstructed (some more accurately than others). The Duke of Perth, however, was never forgotten, but was handed down from one generation of dancers to the next. Indeed the RSCDS did not get the dance from the *Blantyre MS*: the source quoted is *The Ballroom 1827*, which is the earliest printed version of the dance. And they could, if necessary, have done without documents altogether but have recorded the dance from traditional dancers.

Here is the description in the *Blantyre MS*:

*Hook right hand with partner, turn around, throw off a couple. Hook partner with left. Turn round downmost lady with right, partner with left, upmost lady with right, partner with left twice round. Sett across corners, reels.*

There follows the instruction *End with four round, four across, r and l once*. These figures are not part of the particular dance. They (or something similar, such as *End in the usual way*) occur at the end of every dance in the MS, and were evidently a general finale.

*Throw off* means simply *cast off*. The *hook* seems to me to imply that an elbow link was used for the fast turns. Our elbow cup hold has presumably descended from this (I think it is a better hold: the elbow link is slightly awkward with our steps, and it is not easy to let your partners go smoothly at the speed at which we dance. In any case, nobody uses an elbow link today as far as I know). A one-hand hold would have struck the Scots of the early nineteenth century as very English – in those days country dancing was still done in the English aristocratic ballroom, and was done in a more genteel fashion than would appeal to the more vigorous Scots. The custom, which has become unfortunately prevalent in some quarters, of trying to dance the tune with a handhold and (on finding that it cannot be done) twisting wrists together in what looks like a jiu-jitsu grip, or pushing one's partner round with one's free hand, is a consequence which any sensible person ought to be able to foresee of the use of an inadequate technique.

The name *Duke of Perth* is the name of a tune (as indeed all names of country dances were in

those days) It is the familiar tune to the dance in the Scottish Country Dance Book. This sequence of figures has, from time to time, been regularly danced to other tunes, and so has had other names. In *The Ballroom*, for instance, the dance is called *The Duke of Perth or Keep the Country, Bonnie lassie*. Many books give it as *The Duke of Perth or Brown's Reel*. In the Scottish Country Dance Book, *Brown's Reel* has become *Broun's Reel*; while in D.R. Mackenzie's *National Dances of Scotland* it has become *The Brownie's Reel*. Another tune which was very commonly used is *Pease strae* (sometimes called *Clean pease strae*).

All these tunes are reel tunes. However, if you compare the tune as played nowadays with the written notes you will find that it being played at exactly half speed, ie one bar of the written tune is turned into two bars. At this speed of course the tune is not a reel tune, because the quaver rhythm of the reel has been slowed down into a crotchet rhythm. The rhythm has, in fact, become that of the Scottish measure, which is a very suitable rhythm for country dancing, though of course it could not be used in a reel (such as the eightsome or foursome reel). It seems very likely that this is the original way of playing the tune, for it appears away back in 1750, under the name Lord Rockingham's reel or Scampden's Cade in Jn. Johnson's *200 favourite country dances* published in London. Here the bars are half as long as the bars in the reel version.

(probably written by Hugh Thurston)

Flett and Flett in their *Traditional Dancing in Scotland* add further detail.

*Duke of Perth* or *Brown's Reel* was particularly popular in Angus, Perthshire and Fife and featured in the repertoires of the many dancing masters there. The alternative name *Pease Strae* was confined to Lanarkshire, Ayrshire, Arran and Galloway and appeared in the dancing master repertoires there. The last alternative name, *Keep the Country, Bonnie Lassie* seemed to be restricted to Ettrick where it was taught by dancie James Laidlaw. The travelling step for all of these was usually the chassé except for *Pease Strae* in which it was usually hop one and two: setting was pas de Basque. The use of linked arms for all turns was universal in this dance but strangely not in any other in the dancies' repertoire. Hop one and two is the closest to our current skip change of step, while the chassé is similar but without the hop

It is interesting to note that the sequence 'set and turn corners and reels of three with corners' which is the last half of the *Duke of Perth* in a Scottish contribution to the Country Dance, and was particularly common in Country Dances in Scotland in the 18th century. After 1800 the sequence tended to fall out of use. It is striking that no new dance with this sequence was published after 1835.

## THE REEL OF TULLOCH

*The Reel of Tulloch* used to be on Branch programmes regularly a score or more years ago, but it has not been seen for quite a while. Is it that global warming has made it too hot for this vigorous dance or are we becoming too lazy? It might of course be that the average age of our dancers is increasing....

In exploring the dim and distant past one source says that the reel's origin began outside a locked Tulloch Church in the Highland village of Tulloch where it was danced by a group of freezing parishioners trying to keep warm while waiting for the tardy clergyman to arrive. It was further posited that *The Reel of Tulloch* was supposedly the first reel..... Some folk will believe anything!!

Anon

# DANCE EVENTS



**ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP**  
Musicians Weekend at  
Dillington House, Somerset  
7 - 9 October 2011  
Led by **Ian Muir**

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

For further information and brochure:  
email: dillington@somerset.gov.uk  
Website www.dillington.co.uk.



**BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND REEL CLUB**  
**Spring Dance**  
Saturday 21 May 2011  
7.30 - 11.30pm

Boxmoor Playhouse, St John's Road,  
Hemel Hempstead HP1 1NP

### Ceol na h-Alba

*Programme:* Joie de Vivre, The Baldovan Reel, The Byron Strathspey, Kendall's Hornpipe, Domino Five, Butterscotch and Honey, Best Set in the Hall, New Scotland Strathspey, J.B. Milne, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Rest and be Thankful, The Bees of Maggieknockater, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, The Recumbent Stone, Quarries' Jig, Up in the Air, Fife Ness, The Minister on the Loch, Pelorus Jack, The Montgomerie's Rant.

Admission by Programme - £10.

Licensed Bar. Bring and share supper. Raffle.

Details and tickets from: Mrs Janet Halse,  
1 Highcroft Road, Felden,

Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 0BU,  
Tel: 01442 246381.

email: events@berkhamstedreelclub.org  
www.berkhamstedreelclub.org.

## SOUTH EAST HERTFORDSHIRE SCDS Summer Dance

Friday 10 June 2011

7.45 - 10.45 pm

Sele School, Hertford, SG14 2DG

Tickets £3.50 (plus shared refreshments).

### Beating Retreat

Sunday 4 September 2011

The Castle Grounds, Hertford, SG14 1HR.  
2.00 - 5.00 pm

Pipe Band Display/Silver Cross Band.  
Entry free with local charity collection.

### 53rd Annual Ball

Saturday 19 November 2011

Venue to be announced

7.30 - 11.30 pm

### Craigellachie

Contact for all events Peter Dixon

01920 462213

email:- peter@gamels.freemove.co.uk.

## HARWELL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

### May Ball

Saturday 14 May 2011

Old Mill Hall, Grove, Oxfordshire, OX12 7LB

### Ian Muir & the Craigellachie Band

The ball programme is on our website  
www.harwellscdc.mno.org.uk

Tickets £17.50, inc supper by Grove WI  
from Lesley Austen 01235 533626.

email ball@harwellscdc.mno.org.uk

SAE 11 Corn Avill Close, Abingdon,  
OX14 2ND.

## HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL BALL

Saturday 12 November 2011

### George Meikle's Lothian Scottish Dance Band

Programme and details in the next issue

Enquiries: Margaret Wallace Tel 020 8560 6160.

email: margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk

website: www.hayesscottish.org.uk.



## LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

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

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

Saturday 7 May ..... **Musicmakers**

Saturday 4 June ..... **Karl Sandeman**

Summer Ball 7.00 to 11.00pm

Saturday 10 Sept..... **David Hall**

President's Night

Saturday 1 Oct..... **Karl Sandeman**

For further details contact: Frank Bennett on  
020 8715 3564, email 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.

## LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Saturday 4 June 2010

### Summer Ball

St Columba's Church, Pont Street

7.00 to 11.00 pm

### Karl Sandeman

*Programme:* The White Heather Jig, The Sailor,  
Autumn in Appin, Muirland Willie, Anniversary  
Reel, The Silver Tassie, Midnight Oil, The  
Highland Rambler, The Moray Rant, Hamilton  
House, Cutty Sark, Balmoral Strathspey, The  
Meeting of the Waters, Posties' Jig, The  
Australian Ladies, Kilkenny Castle, The Black  
Mountain Reel, The Kelloholm Jig, The Winding  
Road, The Irish Rover.

Dances will not be walked through at this dance

Tickets: (Including finger buffet refreshments)

LHC Members in advance £11.00.

Non Members in advance £13.00.

All classes on door £15.00.

Highland or evening dress preferred.

Please visit our website at

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



## RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

### 75th Anniversary Ball

Saturday 18 February 2012

Hampton School, Hampton

### Marian Anderson and her band

Details to follow

www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk.

## WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCDC

### 50th Anniversary Dance

Saturday 14 May 2011

Woolmer Green Village Hall SG3 6XA

### David Hall Band

Call Hayley or Douglas 01582 469928

email welwyn.scdc@ntlworld.com.

## IAN & VAL MCFARLANE

Cordially invite their dancing friends to another  
Scottish /English dance

4.15 - 8.00pm, Sunday 3 July 2011

The Beaconsfield School, HP9 1SJ.

### Superb music from Ian Robertson

01494 672782 www.mcf107.com.

## RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

### Open Air Summer Dance

N.B. same great venue but new day

Sunday 28th August 2011

2.30. - 6.30 p.m.

Wolfson College Lawn, Linton Road, Oxford,  
OX2 6UD.

(indoors if wet)

Dancing to recorded music

Tea and Biscuits provided.

Ticket prices and programme will be published  
on our website.

### Annual Ball

Headington School, Oxford, OX3 7TD

Saturday 22 October 2011

### Ian Muir and The Craigellachie Band

Programme and ticket details in next issue

Contact: Trisha Rawlings, tel. 01869 340830.

email: trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com.

www.rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk.



## RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER BRANCH

### May Ball

Saturday 21 May 2011

### Ian Muir & the Craigellachie Band

At Emmbrook School, Wokingham,

Berks RG41 1JP.

Contact Catherine Smith 01483 502422.

### Summer Open Air Dance

Saturday 18 June 2011, from 2 - 4.30pm

At South Hill Park, Bracknell RG12 7PA.

All dances will be recapped.

Contact: Rhoda Finch 01276 681820.

Details of events on www.rscds-bhs.org.uk.

## THISTLE CLUB

### Musician's Workshop & Dance

at Wing Village Hall, LU7 0NN

Saturday 3 September 2011.

### Workshop tutored by David Cunningham

10.30am to 4.30pm - £15

### Dance to David & the Workshop Musicians

7.30 - 10.30 p.m. (shared supper) - £7

All enquiries to Jan Jones

jange@verybusy.co.uk

Phone 07877 153259 - www.thistleclub.co.uk

## RSCDS CAMBRIDGE BRANCH

### Tea Dance

Chesterton Community College,

Cambridge CB4 3NY

Saturday 14 May 2010 from 2.00 to 5.00 pm.

Dancing to Barbara Manning

Afternoon tea with scones

Bring the family for fun and easy dances

### Open air dance

Anglesey Abbey, Lode, Cambridge CB5 9EJ.

Sunday 12 June 2009 from 2.00 to 5.00 pm

Dancing to recorded music

Bring family and friends for a great day out

### Annual Dance

Chesterton Community College Cambridge

Saturday 15 October 2010 7.30 to 11.30 pm

Dancing to Keith Smith and Peter Shand

Details: www.rscds-cambridge.org.



# EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE FORMATION OF THE LONDON BRANCH

We have very little information on the early days of London Branch. As you may know none of the material relating to the Branches survived the move in 1952 from premises in Cairnmuir Road in Edinburgh to 12 Coates Crescent. We may all regret it, but there it is!

I looked through the Executive Committee Minute Book (1923-38) for references to a branch being formed in London and this is what I found.

## *Meeting 22 October 1926:*

“Branches – It was agreed that more Branches be formed where possible and the Secretary was asked to find out if a meeting could be arranged in London, with the object of forming a Branch there.”

## *Meeting 13 February 1928:*

“London – The St. Andrews Society of London had organised a demonstration of Country dancing at their Christmas party. Miss Milligan had since volunteered to go to London for a week in April to hold classes for teachers. The Council gratefully accepted her suggestion and instructed the Secretary to offer Miss Milligan the sum of 15 guineas for expenses.”

## *Meeting 21 August 1928:*

“London – Classes held in London by Miss Milligan had proved very successful and resulted in nine members passing the Teacher’s Certificate.”

The **5th Annual Report in 1928** lists the number of branches as ten, viz.: – Aberdeen, Clackmannanshire, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Morayshire, Perth, Renfrewshire, Stirlingshire and Western Dumbartonshire.

Between the AGMs in 1928 and 1929 there is a record of only one Executive meeting (on 11 February 1929) and the Minute does not mention the formation of a Branch in London. The **Annual Report for 1929** records that “A new Branch had been formed in Fife with centres at St Andrews, Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy. A Branch has just been formed and classes started at Inverness” – no mention of a new Branch in London. **The Reports from Branches**, however, includes:

“**London Branch** – 42 members. There is still no Committee for this Branch, but a Secretary has now been secured. Classes were held after Christmas and were well attended. The SCD Club run by Mrs MacLachlan has also organised classes and dances during the last year.”

The Branch reports included in the **1930 Annual Report** recorded:

“**London Branch** – A London branch of the SCDS was formed and classes were held at the Portsmouth Club in the Spring of 1930. The Classes were well attended and resulted in a small credit balance. Miss Milligan held a small Easter School and the instruction received was most appreciated by those who attended. After Easter a Dance was held to raise funds for the branch and increase the London membership. It is proposed to hold a monthly meeting of the Society where members and friends can meet to practise the dances. The SCD Club has continued to organise classes, and also a “Summer School.” Mrs MacLachlan has presented a shield for team competition.”

At a meeting of the Executive Council held on

1 November 1930 – “the Secretary reported that an invitation had been received from the English Folk Dance Society to the opening of Cecil Sharp House in London and that Mrs Ross, Secretary of London (Kensington) Branch had represented the Society on this occasion.”

In the **Annual Report for 1931** London Branch reported that it had 138 members

“The membership of this Branch has increased a great deal during the past year, which has been a successful one. Classes had been held at the Duke of York’s School, Sloane Square, from October until Christmas and again from January until Easter. They were well attended. The Committee have arranged a Winter Course which will be divided into classes for beginners and advanced students. 28 members are certificated in Books 1 and 2, and 10 in Book 1 only. The Scottish Country Dance Club (in London) continues its activities and has published the Border Book of 12 Scottish Country Dances. Mrs MacLachlan has had a film made to be used in conjunction with the book.”

*In August 1931 the Executive Council minutes report:*

“**Film.** Mr Jamieson announced a private offer to finance the making of a film of 12 dances from the SCD books. Agreed to accept the offer and Mr Jamieson was asked to reply to this effect and to ask the donor to make her offer in writing for the Secretary for it to be dealt with at the next meeting.”

*By November 1931:*

“The offer to finance the making of a film of 12 dances from SCD books had not been confirmed. Mrs MacLachlan had offered a film, already made to her direction, for purchase by the Society at the price of £20.”

The film was shown to members of the Council but in January 1932 the Minutes record that Mrs MacLachlan’s film would not be purchased.

*Does anyone know of a copy of this film in the London Branch?*

The SCDS Bulletin was first published in March 1932 and in the second edition, published in October 1932 the London Branch report gave the number of members as 100 (down from 138 in the previous Report). Nevertheless,

“The membership has increased considerably during the past year. 3 separate classes were held at which about 80 people attended, of whom about 45 were non-members. The monthly reel parties were temporarily abandoned, but a successful dance took place in March. Miss Kenyon’s team of children from Glasgow gave an excellent demonstration on January 2, which was much enjoyed. The Annual General Meeting of the Branch was held at the Portsmouth Club on June 10, and at its conclusion Lord James Stewart Murray gave an interesting address on the aims and methods of the Society”.

Newly formed branches could apply to the Council for a grant of £10 to help cover the incidental expense of setting up the Branch, which was generally repaid. In January 1932 a request from London Branch was read to the Executive Council asking for ‘a further grant of £10’.

“It was agreed to send them this sum for office purposes, and that the local Committee be told that classes must be arranged so as to pay their

own way.”

At a meeting in August 1932 – a letter was read from the President of the London Branch “asking for preferential treatment as compared with other branches of the Society, as they covered an area of the whole of England”. After discussion it was decided that London Branch should cover London and the Home Counties and that they should receive 50% of members’ subscriptions to enable them to organise ‘propaganda and other schemes’ in connection with the other Scottish and Caledonian Clubs and Societies in their area.

We do not have ‘first editions’ of many of the pre-war books the Society published but a copy of Book 4, published in 1930 and copies of Book 5, first published in 1929, listing Branches of SCDS, show London Branch as:

President - The Hon. Victoria Bruce

Secretary - Mrs Hugh Ross, 48 Bramham Gardens, S.W.5

An early edition of Book 6 (published about 1931-32) shows

The Hon. Victoria Bruce still as President but by now the Secretary was Mrs Law, 21 Margaretta Terrace, Chelsea S.W.3

A later edition of Book 6 (published 1938-39) lists Mrs Law still as secretary, but the President as Mrs. Baillie Hamilton, 10 Graham Street, Eaton Terrace, S.W.1.

Mrs Law died in 1941 and a tribute was paid to her in a war-time Bulletin dated June 1941:

“Members of the Society will learn with very deep regret of the death a short time ago of Mrs Law, Secretary of the London Branch. Mrs Law gave her services unsparsingly not only to the work of the London Branch but also to the general work of the Society. When information was wanted in the research work of some of the dances it was often Mrs Law who got it for us. These visits to the British Museum must have taken a great deal of time and patience but both were given gladly and ungrudgingly. Many Society members will have very warm memories of Mrs Law’s hospitality and welcome to the activities of the London Branch. She was often a keen member of our Summer School at St Andrews. The Society and the London Branch in particular have suffered a great loss in the death of Mrs Law.”

Tom Bazalgette died on 23 September 1994 and an obituary appeared in Bulletin No. 73 – October 1995, p.89. He was a founder member of the Branch and I do not doubt that he was a leading light in the early years of London Branch.

I would have been interested in the letter “the Branch Secretary” received from Princess Mary inviting the Branch to assist in improving the Scottish dancing skills of her brother, the Prince of Wales in 1935. Alas, the original letter no longer exists as far as we know.

I Hope this is of interest to you and your members.

**Marilyn Healy**  
Hon. Archivist

## THE GLASGOW HIGHLANDERS

In 1794, the Glasgow Highlanders Regiment was formed from the Macleod Highlanders. In 1809, in honour of its achievements in the Peninsular War, it was renamed as the 71st Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry. The Regimental Depot was located in Glasgow and its name has been retained. For many years it was the only Regiment in the British Army to wear Tartan Trews, until, in 1947, Army Order 61 restored the kilt to the Regiment. It is not evident that the dance, republished by the RSCDS in The Scottish Country Dance Book 2 [1926] as a strathspey, has any connection with the Regiment. It was probably named after the tune 'The Glasgow Highlanders', which was first published, in 1866, by D. Godfrey for 'The Merry Tunes Lancers'.

The dance was published by Mozart Allan (Glasgow) New Reference Guide to the Ballroom (1880) and David Anderson (Dundee) Universal Ballroom and Solo Dance Guide with full tuition in the art of dancing without the use of French terms (1890); and has been republished in several books including Miss Jean C. Milligan's 101 Scottish Country Dances (1956) and The Border Book. It is typically Scottish in form and technique, but does not conform to the normally accepted format of either a Country Dance or a Highland Dance. It was an attempt to combine Country and Highland dancing, the first half comprising recognisable country dance figures, the second half being sixteen bars of a foursome reel. The original instructions indicate that the name tune is to be played for the first 16 bars, at the end of which it is clearly stated 'change to strathspey'. Kerr in Collection of Reels and Strathspeys (1910) provided the music of the strathspey 'Stumpie' for the last 16 bars, to be played at about 44 bars per minute; other strathspey tunes which were used include 'The Braes of Mar' and 'Lady Drummond of Perth'.

The RSCDS originally published the dance as a 24 bar strathspey, but failed to indicate that the first 8 bars should be performed with two reel steps to each bar. After the first edition the dance was changed to be danced to 32 bars played at a constant speed. This innovation by the RSCDS changed the nature of the dance, as did the decision to perform the whole dance to 'The Glasgow Highlanders' tune which is not strictly a strathspey.

The early instructions indicate quite clearly that the couples should 'Stand up as for the Foursome Reel', i.e. form the set, each man with his partner on his right. (Another dance (not yet republished) which gives the instruction 'Stand as if for the Scotch Reel' is 'The Lover's Dream' in The Dundalk Manuscript [1867]). The present entry, forming up as if for a country dance and then changing positions on the second chord is an innovation made by the RSCDS. It is understood that all country dances originally started, not with a chord, but with a four or eight bar introduction, on which to honour ones partner. This introduction of moving into position on a second chord has unfortunately become established and now appears in the instructions for many modern dances; although a few devisors are introducing dances in which the dancers form up in what may now be regarded as unconventional positions. This change at the commencement of the dance gives rise to a further problem in deciding whether all should return to their own sides at the end of the dance. According to a letter issued by the RSCDS in the 1930s:

'When the music stops you may give an extra chord, crossing to places on the first chord and bowing on the second, but generally in the ballroom partners bow to each other and lead away as they are standing.'

A similar problem occurs during the progression in this dance. The method usually taught by RSCDS teachers is that at the end of the reel of four the second lady stays on her own side of the set and the second man crosses from second place

on the ladies' side into first place on the men's side, then at the end of the following reel of four the original second lady crosses from first place on the ladies side to second place on the men's side. The first crossing is awkward for the second man and the second crossing is awkward for his partner. The older and more logical movement is for the second lady to finish the reel by crossing into first man's position and the second man to finish in first lady's position; at the end of the following reel, the original second lady steps down and the original second man crosses to first man's position. They thus move far more easily out of the reel into a standing position and then move easily into position ready to start again when appropriate. This is consistent with the original idea of forming up in foursome formation and progressing one place counter clockwise on each repeat (as happens at the foot of the set).

Newman-Sanders in Scottish Dancing a do it yourself guide (1952), indicated that at the end of the 'rights and lefts' the dancers should all be back in place on the side-lines, dancing in to proceed down the middle on bar 9. The change to finishing the rights and lefts in position ready to move down the middle appears to have been introduced by the RSCDS. Rather surprisingly Newman-Sanders indicates that in this dance all setting should be carried out using either the 'Common Schottische' step or the 'Highland Schottische' step; although elsewhere in his book he gives instructions for the 'Glasgow Highlander Setting Step' as an alternative step for use in other dances.

The so called 'Glasgow Highlander's Setting Step' is a ladies' step which was included in the instructions as an example of a suitable step to perform during this dance. There is no reason why dancers should not perform any highland setting step they choose, ideally a different set on each repeat, as was recommended by the RSCDS prior to the mid-1960s.

John Mitchell

## OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

**ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Dancing most Mondays, 8.00 - 10.15pm, Sept to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details: [www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com](http://www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com) or Carol Gibbins 01235 527211 [cgibbins60@hotmail.com](mailto:cgibbins60@hotmail.com)

**ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY** meets Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm September to May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet, KT14 7NF. Details from Val Clack, 01932 845869. [www.addlestonscottish.org.uk](http://www.addlestonscottish.org.uk)

**BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB** meets in Potten End Village Hall. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15 September to May, Sat. gardens June/July. Classes: Mondays 8pm: Intermediate and Advanced, Tuesdays 8.15: Beginners. Contact: Judy Roythorne, 1, Pine Close, North Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3BZ Tel. 01442 875496 [www.berkhamstedreelclub.org](http://www.berkhamstedreelclub.org)

**BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS** meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth. Newcomers and Beginners 7.15-8.30pm. Improvers/Intermediate 8.45-10.15pm. 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 Clive Hamblin on 01273 723761 or [enquiries@rscds-brighton.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@rscds-brighton.org.uk). <http://www.rscds-brighton.org.uk/>

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

**CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB**. Dancing every Tuesday 8pm 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 RSCDS**. Classes for all grades. Details: Jacqui Brocker, 24 Hemingford Rd, Cambridge, CB1 3BZ. Tel. 07916 892611, [jacqui\\_brocker@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jacqui_brocker@yahoo.com.au).

**CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY** ScottishCountry Dancing and other events.. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8pm from Sept to June. Details [www.camscotsoc.org.uk](http://www.camscotsoc.org.uk) or Rachel Schicker 01223 364557.

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

**CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY**. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30 to 10.30pm from October to end May, at The Reddings Community Centre, The Reddings, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN. Tel:01242 528220, [mbsteele45@aol.com](mailto:mbsteele45@aol.com).

**CHELMSFORD: SANDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets on Monday evenings 7:30-9:30pm at Columbus School & College, Maltese Road, Chelmsford. Beginners welcome. Details from Esther Wilkinson, email: [ewilkin@gmail.com](mailto:ewilkin@gmail.com) or tel. 01206 240132. [www.sandonscotdance.org.uk](http://www.sandonscotdance.org.uk)

**CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB**. Upper Hall at St Michael's & All Angels' church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Road (turn right out of Turnham Green tube) W4. Sundays from 27 Sep till 4 July with Xmas and Easter breaks. Midsummer Magic open air evening dance in Chiswick House grounds 11 July. Beginners class at 6.00 till 7.10. General class 7.15 till 9.20. Advanced dancers evenings with musicians twice each term. Tel 020 8743 9385 (afternoons only) / [www.chiswickscottish.org.uk](http://www.chiswickscottish.org.uk).

**CIRENCESTER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets most Wednesdays 8:00 - 10:00pm September to end June at the Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester. Details: Mrs Val Williams, Leaholme, Broadway Lane, South Cerney, Glos. Tel 01285 860660. [williams147@btinternet.com](mailto:williams147@btinternet.com)

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

**CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH**: Branch classes:- General, incl Beginners with technique Coulsdon (Fri). Advanced (Wed) Coulsdon. Details: Sue Hassanein 01737 358401 [www.rscdscroydon.org.uk](http://www.rscdscroydon.org.uk)

**EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Club night Mondays (all year) 8-10 pm at Woodford Green Prep School, Glengall Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0BZ. Details: [www.efsa.org.uk](http://www.efsa.org.uk) or Angela Ross, 02085043376, [angelaross87@hotmail.com](mailto:angelaross87@hotmail.com).

**EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION**. holds weekly adult dance classes for beginners and intermediate/advanced levels, (September to March), including informal dances. Details from Dorothy Pearson, 366 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon CR5 3BF. Tel 01737 551724

**FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB**. Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, 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 8.00pm, September to mid-July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Details from Ann or Paul Brown, tel: 01784 462456 or mobile 07801 160643. Email: [p@ulfbrown.co.uk](mailto:p@ulfbrown.co.uk)

**FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.30pm, September to May. Full details from Vikki Spencer, 24 Park Hill, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 6PW. Tel: 01252 691922.

## OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS (continued from previous page)

- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays from September to June. Beginners 7.30pm, General 8.15pm. Details from Jeanette Patterson: 01759 890591; info@gsscottish.org.uk; www.gxscottish.org.uk.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- GUILDFORD SDCD** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from September to June. www.gscdc.org.uk or tel 01483 502422.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept.-June from 8.00-10.00pm 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. 020 8870 6131.
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00pm. Details from Phil Bray, 25 St. Olams Close, Luton, Beds LU3 2LD. Tel: 01582 617734.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St.Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner HA5 3QR. Tel: 020 8428 6055. www.harrowscottish.org.uk.
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8-10pm, September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.
- HEREFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS:** Dancing in this beautiful holiday area every week of the year. Visitors always welcome. Contact Brian on 01568 615470 email brianraasay@btinternet.com
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, 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 8.15 to 10.15pm. 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: 01483 202386.
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP.** Contacts: Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel/Fax 01534 854459; Alan Nicolle 01534 484375, alan.nicolle88@googlegmail.com; or Brenda Gale 01534 862357. See www.scottishcountrydancingjersey.blogspot.com.
- 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 7.00-8.00pm. General 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. 01843 869284.
- LEICESTER BRANCH RSCDS** meets Thursdays, Holy Cross Centre, Wellington St., Leicester. 4 classes – Beginners, Intermediates, Social, Advanced. 7.30-8.30p.m., followed by Social dancing until 10p.m. Also Tuesdays 1.30-3.45p.m. General class at same venue. Contact: Mrs. Pamela Hood 0016 2753886, jdjimps@talktalk.net.
- 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. 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096. www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Oster Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 283732. maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk.
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP** meets every Wednesday 7.30-10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details from Jane Masters, 251 Robin Hood Lane, Blue Bell Hill, Chatham, Kent ME5 9QU. Tel. 01634 864007.
- MARKET HARBOROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesday 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, "Lazonby", 9 Little Lunnon, Dunton Bassett, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 5JR. 01455 209446.
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at St. Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 3HL. tel 01474 822919.
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB** meets every Monday evening from September - June at 8.15-10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details from Mrs Jane Whittington. 5 Coldharbour Rd. Northfleet.Kent.DA11 8AE, 01474 359018.
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS.** Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00- 10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. MK3 5LP. 01908 378730, jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. from September to May at Roecroft School, Stotfold. Informal Saturday Dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds. SG17 5AL. Tel: 01462 812691.
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dancing 7.45-10.00pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9JN. Tel. 01634 254451.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners/Improvers Class Every Monday 8.00-10.15pm at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Pam. French, 20 Beaumont Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent, BR5 1JN. 01689 873511.
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET. Tel: 01869 340830.
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00-10.00pm. 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 8.00pm from mid Sept. to end of May. For Information contact Marshall Christie 020 8977 5237 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk.
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP.** Dancing Tues 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc.
- ST ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON).** Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB. or Elizabeth Bennett 020-8715 3564, libennett@blueyonder.co.uk. www.standrewsoc.london.netne.net.
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns Nights' when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details: Denise Haugh 020 8392 2920, email dhaugh200@btinternet.com.
- ST JOHN'S'S SDC WOKINGHAM:** meet every Thurs 8-10.15pm Sept to June at St. Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Sue Davis 01344 747344, 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne, alan.suedavis@live.com. Also Childrens' Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, Deborah Draffin 01344 776831.
- ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS,** Luton meet every Wednesday, September to July 8.00-10.00pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road,Luton, Beds. Contact: Pat Hamilton, 01462 671156 or Sheila Harris, 01525 875060.
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00-10.00pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Rebecca Evans, 2 Vestry Cottages, Old Otford Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5EH 01732 456382 beccab31@hotmail.com .
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from September to May, 8.15-10.15pm, in Barnes. Further info: Fiona Jack, 07780 671021, jack.fiona@hotmail.com.
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details: Pauline Cameron, 7 Wayne Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 9TS. Tel 01689 838395.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30-10.00pm. 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 10.30pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details Mrs Edna Carroll, 01702 428974.
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS.** Classes in Hertford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Bengoe School, Hertford; Beginners Thurs 7.30pm. Millmead School, Hertford. Demonstration Alt. Mons 8.0pm. St John's Hall, Hertford. Details: Chay Smith 01992 442154.
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details: Martin Heath, 01273 478069, m.j.heath@talk21.com.
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** dancing every Thursday at 8pm from September to June at St Matthew's School, Langley Road, Surbiton KT6 6LW. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx, TW16 7TY. http://www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk.
- THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON** meets at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1, every Tuesday from October to end of May for Scottish Country Dancing, 7.00-10.00pm. Details: Tom Symington, 020 7834 7151 or 020 7828 6792.
- THE SCOTS SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW SLOUGH & DISTRICT** meets every Wednesday (September to May) 8.00 to 10.15pm at Trinity ERC Hall, Windsor Rd, Slough SL1 2JA. Scottish Dancing and other social events. Details from the Sec: Carol Berry, tel:01628 620 072 or 01771 223 8165.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 7.30-10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8-10pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details: Sue Bush, 33 St Luke's Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9JH. Tel: 01892 615269, website: www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk.
- WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** hold weekly adult Classes for, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs Maggie Westley, 30 Stanley Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4LF. Tel: +44 (0) 20 8647 9899, website: westley3148@tiscali.co.uk. www.wallingtonscottish.org.uk.
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** General and Beginners/Improvers Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE. 01923 492475, reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk.
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Wednesdays 8 to 10 pm September to June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. email welwyn.scdc@ntlworld.com or telephone Douglas Wood 01582 469928.
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Mondays 8.00pm. Dance Class. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford. WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Both evenings take place at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ. 01264 363293, wendy@mumford.com.
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from Beryl Munro, tel 01621 850838 or email: beryl.munro@btinternet.com .



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Top:

Newcastle Festival - the South East Branches display team. See article on page 5.

Photo: Graham Berry.

Above:

Pitlochry Winter School: Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club Group at the Blair Castle Ball. See article on page 9.

Back row from left to right: Brian Rose, Chris Roythorne, Mick Aylward, Frank Joyce, Ann Robertson.

Front row from left to right: Janet Ridgway, Pat Milner, Jane Rose, Janet Aylward, Maureen Ainsworth, Judy Roythorne.

The man at the back is an uninvited gentleman from the Duke of Atholl's private army no doubt checking what they were up to.

Photo: Stuart Somerville.



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