



The Reel rscds London Branch

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
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Scottish Country Dancing –
For fun, fitness and
friendship

No 283

FEBRUARY TO MAY 2013



Unusual setting: military and civilian dancers celebrate St Andrew's Night in Helmand with an *Eightsome Reel* – see feature on page 5

WINTER WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 20 February 2013

7.00 – 10.00pm

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

Chris Oxtoby

St Andrew's Fair.....	5 for 1982/2
The Dashing White Sergeant.....	3/2
The Wind on Loch Fyne.....	Dunedin 1
Kendall's Hornpipe.....	Graded 1/22
The Sailor.....	24/4
Fair Donald.....	29/4
Round Reel of Eight.....	27/7
Joie de Vivre.....	39/2
The Piper and the Penguin.....	Scotia/6
John McAlpin.....	3 for 2007/2
Napier's Index.....	45/8
The Reel of the Royal Scots.....	Leaflet 27
The Robertson Rant.....	39/8
Mairi's Wedding.....	22 SCD/4
<i>Extra: The Black Mountain Reel</i>	Carnforth 3/1

RSCDS class members £9.50,
non-members £10.00
Children admitted free

COMBINED SOCIETIES' DANCE

Saturday 23 March 2013

7.00 – 10.30pm

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

Kafoozalum

Hooper's Jig.....	MM2/15
Scott Meikle.....	46/3
The Silver Tassie.....	Leaflet 30
Postie's Jig.....	Ormskirk 5/1
The Castle of Mey.....	Diamond Jubilee/2
Jean Martin of Aberdeen.....	3 for 2006/2
The Machine without Horses.....	12/12
MacDonald of the Isles.....	Carnforth 2/7
John of Bon Accord.....	33/5
The White Heather Jig.....	Cosh
Swiss Lassie.....	39/1
The Duchess Tree.....	Brodie/11
Miss Allie Anderson.....	Leaflet 16
Starlight.....	44/1
Sugar Candie.....	26/9
The Starry Eyed Lassie.....	23/11
The Dream Catcher.....	45/9
The Montgomerie's Rant.....	10/1

Tickets £9.00, children admitted free

DANCING TO THE MUSICIANS

Saturday 27 April 2013

7.00 – 10.30pm

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

Graham Berry and the Musicians

Lamb Skinnet.....	14/12
Catch the Wind.....	45/5
Bridge of Nairn.....	13/11
The Diamond Jubilee.....	31/1
The Clansman.....	32/8
The Lea Rig.....	21/5
Pelorus Jack.....	41/1
Glasgow Lassies.....	34/3
Flowers of Edinburgh.....	1/6
Miss Allie Anderson.....	Leaflet 16
The Reverend John MacFarlane.....	37/1
The Braes of Breadalbane.....	21/7
Quarries' Jig.....	36/3
Johnnie's Welcome Home.....	32/1
The Minister on the Loch.....	4 for 2008/2
Miss Hadden's Reel.....	23/5
Neidpath Castle.....	22/9
Duke of Perth.....	1/8
RSCDS class members	£10.00, non-members
	£12.00, children £3.00 (members' children free)



LONDON BRANCH AGM

Friday 14 June 2013 7.30 pm

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will take place on 14 June at 7.30 pm. The venue will be announced in the next issue of *The Reel*.

All members of the Branch are most welcome to attend. The AGM is an ideal opportunity to meet fellow members, find out what has been achieved over the last year and contribute to plans for the coming year. A formal agenda for the meeting and a report covering the Branch's activities will be circulated with the next issue of *The Reel*.

Any member can put a motion to the meeting providing it is submitted in writing to the Branch Secretary (see the right hand column of this page) and received by 30 March, so that it can be included on the agenda. The motion should be signed by the proposer and a seconder, who must also be a member of the Branch. Members can also raise any pertinent matter at the meeting under Any Other Business, but only motions appearing on the agenda can be voted upon.

Members wishing to stand for election as an office holder or Committee member should provide the Secretary with a written nomination signed by the nominee and by a proposer and seconder, who must also be Branch members, by 30 March. There are likely to be at least two vacant places on the Committee, so please consider putting yourself or a fellow member forward. If there are more candidates than places, ballot papers will be issued to all members with the next issue of *The Reel*.

The current officers and members of Committee are eligible for re-election, apart from Angela Young, who is stepping down from the Chairmanship and leaving the Committee. They are listed below with the date they joined or last re-joined the Committee.

Vice-Chairmen	Pamela Ellam	2011
	Marjory Reid	2009
Secretary	Andrew Kellett	2011
Treasurer	Simon Wales	2003

Elaine Davies 2009, Jeremy Hill 2012, Bar Martlew 2012, George Potts 2009, Jerry Reinstein 2009, Thelma-Jane Robb 2011, Lena Robinson 2010, Margaret Shaw 2007 and Elaine Wilde 2010.

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CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Happy 2013!

I hope that the New Year so far has been kind to you and that you have enjoyed plenty of dancing and music over the Festive Season and at the start of 2013.

As I'm sure you all know 2011 saw my BBC job relocating to Manchester as well as my name changing to Mrs Berry. A result was the logical decision to sell my house in London, so 2013 has started with the exchange, completion and move from Studland Road. I was very concerned last year that I wouldn't be able to attend as many classes and events as I would have done when staying in London. However, despite this, the committee were happy for me to stay on as Branch Chairman. This no longer seems viable to me, and I am sorry to be stepping down from the position at this year's AGM.

Over the last few years, I and the Committee have been extremely concerned about the future of London Branch – attendance at classes is not as it once was, new dancers and Branch members are few and far between, dances have fewer attendees, often due to coinciding club evenings – a similar picture to SCD Branches around the country, but none the less concerning.

We have taken a number of financial measures to secure the Branch future well into the 21st Century, but this is not enough. The Branch will need everyone's support and attendance to ensure that London is still Scottish country dancing in 2020.

Please stand for this year's Branch Committee if you feel you can help in any way. Additionally, do reply to the Members' questionnaire enclosed in this edition of *The Reel* so that the Committee can work on how to make the Branch continue to be viable.

I have loved my time in London. The Branch, dancing, music and friendship has been such a huge part of that, and I really hope that it can continue to flourish.

Angela Young (Berry)



ROYAL SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCE
SOCIETY

Patron
H.M. The Queen



President – Dr Alastair MacFadyen
Chairman – John Wilkinson

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LONDON BRANCH

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Owen Meyer, Rosemary Tilden

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COMMITTEE

Elaine Davies, Jeremy Hill, Bar Martlew,
George Potts, Jerry Reinstein, Thelma-Jane
Robb, Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw,
Elaine Wilde

Co-ordinators:

Classes: Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw
Dances: Angela Young
Demonstrations: Elaine Wilde
Publicity: Marjory Reid
The Reel: Jeremy Hill
Youth: Angela Young

Non-Executive roles

Bookstall Ian Rutherford
Day School: Margaret Catchick
Hon Archivist: Iris Anderson
Membership: Gaynor Curtis
The Reel Business Editor: Jeff Robertson
Subscribers: Wilson Nicol
Webmaster: Meryl Thomson
Website: www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Objects of London Branch

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

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

RSCDS Spring Fling 2013 For dancers aged 18 – 35

12 – 14 April 2013

Accommodation at Manchester Youth Hostel,
Potato Wharf, dancing at Sale Masonic Hall
Teachers: Catherine Livsey, David Queen and

Diane Rooney

Musicians: Andrew Lyon, Phill Jones and
Ian Slater

Band for Friday night: Ian Slater

Band for Saturday night: Scottish Measure

Tickets:	RSCDS member	Non-member
Resident	£110*	£120*
Non-resident	£45	£55
Friday dance	£7	£9
Saturday dance	£8	£10

* £10 discount for booking before 28 February
Scholarships are available for attendance
Booking for the Spring Fling weekend and
further details available at
www.rscds.org/events/spring-fling.html

South East Region Teachers' Association

The South East Region Teachers' Association (SERTA) organises workshops for Scottish dance teachers. The next workshop on Sunday 17 March 2013 in Hemel Hempstead will be led by Sue Porter from Oban, who will take a fresh look at the basics of steps and formations. Our musician will be Christina Hood (violin). The following meeting will be in Croydon on Sunday 29 September 2013, with more details in the next issue of *The Reel*.

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

Mike Johnson



hosted by South East Branches at
The Civic Suite,
Wandsworth Town Hall,
London SW18 2PU
to celebrate the
90th Anniversary of the
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
on
Saturday 29th June 2013
Dancing to
Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band
Dress: Formal
Welcome drink 7.00pm
Carriages at Midnight
Ticket includes buffet supper:
£50 earlybird before 31 Jan 2013
£55 from 1 Feb 2013
Information and application forms available from the
Branches' websites listed below, Branch Secretaries or
Pat Davoll 01732 866 557 or email pdavoll@aol.com

BHS Borders www.rscds-bhs.org.uk • Croydon www.rscds-croydon.org.uk
London www.rscds-london.org.uk • Milton Keynes www.rscds-mk.co.uk
Oxfordshire www.rscds-oxfordshire.org.uk • Tambridge Wells www.rscds-tambridge-wells.org.uk
Winchester www.rscds-winc.org.uk

A few tickets remain for the South East Branches' Summer Ball – please contact Pat Davoll 01732 866557 or pdavoll@aol.com

Branch Award Margaret Catchick

The Branch Christmas dance saw the presentation of a Branch Award to Margaret Catchick in recognition of her excellent service to the Branch.

Having first got interested in Scottish country dancing whilst attending a ceilidh on holiday in Brunei, Margaret joined the local Wembley & District Scottish Association on returning, and started to attend Branch and other Clubs' events. She joined the London and BHS Border Branches, as well as the South East Herts SCDS, Berkhamsted Strathspey & Reel Club, Gerrards Cross SCDC and MacLennan Scottish Group.

With a professional administrative background, her organising skills have been put to good use, as Treasurer for three years of the South East Herts SCDS before joining the London Branch Committee. She was asked to get involved in organising the Branch Day School, something she has continued to do with great skill over the last ten years, maintaining a consistently high level of quality and attendance, at the same time dealing with changing venues and many practical details without problem.

Margaret played an important part as a member of the London 80th Anniversary Sub-Committee, including organising a highly successful 80th Anniversary Weekend School. She also served as Classes Convenor on the Committee, and is currently representing the Branch as a member of the SE Branches RSCDS 90th Anniversary Ball Committee.

When she joined the Committee Margaret said she hoped to inspire others with her enthusiasm and love of Scottish country dancing, "without a doubt the most social and enjoyable form of dance".

The Branch Award is recognition of Margaret's success in providing this inspiration to many dancers.

See photo p10

THE LEEDS 59th WHITE ROSE FESTIVAL

The Leeds 59th White Rose Festival of Scottish Country Dancing will take place on Saturday 13 July 2013 at Gateways School, Harewood Avenue, Leeds LS17 9LE. The afternoon Scottish country dance festival takes place outdoors, weather permitting, followed by an evening dance in the school sports hall - all to live music. It is a most enjoyable, non-competitive and friendly festival.

The Branch will fund the team entry fee for the festival, but costs of travel, accommodation, and classes prior to the festival (further details to be confirmed) would be expected to be covered by those wishing to participate. If you are a dancer of at least intermediate standard and would be interested in being part of the London Branch team(s), please contact Marjory at marjoryreid@yahoo.co.uk by 28 February 2013.

Marjory Reid

EDITORIAL

Sadly this issue commemorates a number of individuals who were highly influential in the dancing world of the South East, including Ian Anderson, who contributed to the Branch in so many ways, most recently as manager of the Branch Bookstall.

Opportunities to dance all over the world remain, and particularly when celebrating St Andrew's or Burns' Nights, as the photos and articles attest. Peter Rundell's contribution about dancing in Afghanistan arose from a chance conversation with Rachel Wilton on a Monday night at St Columba's. I daresay Denise Hora's trip to Australia took a little more planning!

In some respects the report of Hayes Scottish Dancers enthusing the local Brownies gives greatest encouragement, and I know of similar activities with other groups. These are surely the dancers of 2020 that Angela is looking for in her Chairman's comments. As we thank her for her years of contribution to London dancing we must continue to work together to find and encourage them in furthering the activity that we enjoy so much.

Jeremy Hill

RSCDS Management Board

The new Health Strategy Pack, mentioned in *The Reel* 282 by the incoming Chairman of the Society, John Wilkinson, has now been sent to all Branches and Affiliated Groups; an attractive flyer offers Scottish country dancing to reduce stress levels, boost social life and get fitter. The aims of the Strategy are to encourage those with a range of health issues to be active, to increase regular attendance at classes and dance events and by increased membership safeguard Scottish country dancing for future generations. It can only be obvious that if you start dancing early you may never have such health issues – look at the healthy people you dance with!

The Membership Services Committee is investigating the possibility of making its publications available in e-book or similar format. Members can complete a survey to help the Committee, which can be accessed on www.facebook.com/RSCDS or the RSCDS website. Now that publications are no longer included in the membership package this is an important issue.

In response to members' comments the Editorial Board of the magazine *The Scottish Country Dancer* is trying a new approach to the section 'From Around the World'. Details may be found on p22 of the latest issue, and Helen McGinley will be very pleased to receive reports, especially with photographs of Branch and Affiliated Group activities.

David Cunningham, the Music and New Media Development Officer, is looking at ways to develop and nurture young talent in the field of Scottish traditional dance music and also to develop use of the YouTube channel, the RSCDS website and social media by encouraging interaction with Branches and individual members. There is already video footage of interviews with Convenors of Committees on the website and your photos and video footage could be included if you send them to HQ.

If you still have not accessed the Members' Area of the website Gaynor Curtis (membership@rscdslondon.org.uk) can give you your username and advice on setting up a password.

It has been noted that attendance at the RSCDS Annual General Meeting/Conference Weekend has been decreasing. The next one will be in Perth in November, and a survey has been conducted to reach people who have never attended or who do not attend regularly. A survey conducted after the weekend showed that the changes to hold the Ball on Saturday night instead of Friday and starting the meeting at 2.00pm instead of 2.30pm, were popular.

The Management Board meeting will be held on 16 February 2013.

Rachel Wilton

BOOKSTALL

For any enquiries relating to the bookstall, please contact Ian Rutherford, 0208 295 1273 or ianrutherford@ntlworld.com



BRANCH CLASSES

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher/Musician
BASIC SKILLS	Wednesday	7.00 – 9.00pm	Park Walk School, Park Walk, King's Road, Chelsea, London SW10 0AY	Teacher: Bar Martlew Musicians: Jane Ng and Ian Cutts
TECHNIQUE	Wednesday	7.00 – 9.00pm	Park Walk School, Park Walk, King's Road, Chelsea, London SW10 0AY	Teacher: Pat Davoll Musician: Ken Martlew
GENERAL	Wednesday	2.30 – 4.30pm	St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD	Teacher: Jeni Rutherford
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday		For details, contact Elaine Wilde 01582 834815	Teacher: Paul Plummer Musician: Sandra Smith

The Spring Term runs from 16 January to 27 March. Half-term will be 20 February.

Wednesday evening classes cost £75 for ten weeks for members (£85 for non-members) or £9 per session (£10 for non-members).

The Summer Term runs from 17 April to 15 May (5 weeks), with no half-term. Fees for members and non-members £40.

For any questions on classes please contact classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

For the Wednesday afternoon class, the Spring term will start on Wednesday 9 January and the last class will be on Wednesday 20 March.

Half-term will be Wednesday 20 February. The Summer Term runs from 17 April to 3 July, with half-term on 29 May.

Cost is £5 per class, payable weekly, and we welcome visitors. Contact: Jeni Rutherford, email jrutherford@freeuk.com

HIGHLAND/STEP ONE DAY WORKSHOPS

Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RT
(minutes from Richmond Station)

Sunday 17 February
Highland class: 10.30am – 12.30pm
(morning coffee at 10.00am)
Step class: 2.00 – 4.00pm

Teacher: Mervyn Short
Musician: Sandra Smith

All those attending are welcome to stay for the whole day or come for either the morning or afternoon sessions.

Sunday 28 April 2013
Highland class: (timing as above)
Teacher/Musician: to be confirmed

All day: Members £20.00, non-members £22.00
Half day: Members £10.00, non-members £11.00

There are local establishments nearby for lunch or you may bring your own if you wish.

Contact Margaret Shaw, 020 7329 2847 or
classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

SUNDAY ADVANCED TECHNIQUE CLASS

10 March
Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RT
(minutes from Richmond Station)
11.00am – 1.00pm

Teacher: Philippe Rousseau
Musicians: Barbara Manning and Ian Cutts

Members £10.00, non-members £11.00 per session. There are local establishments nearby for lunch if required.

Contact Margaret Shaw 020 7329 2847
or classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch costs £21.00 per annum for UK based members (£21.50 for Europe; £24.00 elsewhere). There are discounts of £7.50 for members aged 12–17, £3 aged 18–25 and £3 for each of two members living at the same address. Members of other Branches can join London Branch for £6.00 per annum if they live in the UK (£6.50 in Europe and £9.00 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, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989 or membership@rscdslondon.org.uk Membership forms can also be downloaded from the Branch website.

MUSICIANS' DAY

This year our musicians' workshop will take place on Saturday 27 April 2013 at St Columba's Church, Pont Street with coffee from 10.30 for an 11.00am start. 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 Workshop will be led by Graham Berry. With 30 years of experience playing keyboard in David Cunningham's SCD Band as well as with too many band leaders to mention, Graham has a wealth of knowledge to share about styles of playing, how sets are put together, as well as making an arrangement work for both musician and dancer.

All musicians are welcome to come along and join in.

Members £22, non-members £25

For further information and an application form please contact Angela Young
chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk or 07976 353608.
Application forms will also be available to download from the website.

Demonstration team update

Your demonstration team continues to work hard, this term with Paul Plummer preparing the team for dems and competing in the Newcastle Festival on 9 February. Although we are still a little low in numbers, especially regarding men, we endeavour to ensure that London Branch has a team that it can be proud of. That said, if you would like to join us, and consider that you have both the competence and stamina required, please email Paul (plummers5@ntlworld.com) or me (demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk) or call me on 07779 202529.

Happy Dancing
Elaine Wilde

FOCUS ON YOUTH

Family Day

Saturday 23rd March 2013

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

Children's Class 11.30am – 1.00pm
followed by lunch for all dancers

Dance to the music of **Kafoozalum**
2.00 – 4.30pm

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

Special Day Ticket (includes class, lunch and dance): £7.00

Admission: £3:50 dance only

Everyone is welcome for all or part of the day, and the dances in the afternoon will be talked through. For more details please contact Angela Young on 07976 353 608 or youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

RSCDS Burns' Supper

Some 130 attended a splendid Burns' Supper. Ian Rutherford addressed the haggis, piped in by Bob Harman. Ian Robertson played for dancing, with Rosy Le Good on fiddle and the Berrys on keyboard: Angela (first half) and Graham (second half). Peter Knight MC'd dances including *St. Bernard's Waltz*, *Canadian Barn Dance* and more unusual ones such as *The Lambeth Walk* and *Rozsa*. The usual excellent fare emerged from the solid kitchen team including George Potts, Margaret Shaw and Lena Robinson with Peter Knight adding the traditional 'gravy' to our serving of haggis.

Stephen Webb

See Photos p11 and 20

Forthcoming Branch Events

20 February	Winter Wednesday (see p1)	29 May	Summer Wednesday
23 March	Family Day (see box on this page) and Combined Societies' Evening Dance (see p1)	14 June	Branch AGM (see p2)
27 April	Musicians' Day (see box above) and Dance (see p1)	29 June	SE Branches Summer Ball for the Society's 90th Anniversary
		14 September	New Season Dance
		12 October	Day School

HIGHLAND IN HELMAND



You might expect to encounter unusual tribal customs in Helmand, in Southern Afghanistan, but among the more unexpected such customs was the tribal dancing found in December in Lashkar Gah, the Provincial capital.

The tribe in question was Scottish, though a good many of those taking part were at best honorary Scots, and the occasion was St. Andrew's Night. No St. Andrew's Ball would be complete without at least some basic dances, and the Ball in Lashkar Gah was no exception.

Since the weather was chilly, and the only space to dance was in the open air, costumes were inevitably practical rather than traditional. Equally non-traditional were some of the setting steps – though pointing one's toes is difficult in military boots. Those taking part made up in enthusiasm what they lacked in expertise, and energy kept the cold at bay.

St. Andrew's Night was a welcome break from the main tasks of those taking part. Some are from the military – British, American and Danish – whose courage and sacrifice have made possible the gains in security in this most hotly fought-over Province of Afghanistan. The others are from the civilian Provincial Reconstruction Team, bringing their expertise and experience to bear to help the

Government deliver the services Helmand's ordinary people need – in schools, clinics, police posts, law courts, and the host of other Government functions which were once unheard-of and are now becoming normal for an increasing share of Helmand's population.

This was not the first Scottish event in Lashkar Gah, of course. The Brigade Commander, Brigadier Bob Bruce, can often be heard playing the pipes – at sunset they compete with the muezzin of the nearby mosque. And a couple of years ago we had an event that cannot have been seen for a few hundred years: an *Eightsome Reel* in armour. True, the armour was modern and drab, not the shiny metal of yore, and the camp was on alert and without lighting so no photos came out – but we did it. And I can confirm that setting with armour on is hard on the back...

This year the dance card was a bit limited. We danced the obvious ones, like *Strip the Willow*. We managed *The Dashing White Sergeant* with only twelve dancers (requiring a mad race from one end of the space to the other to meet the trio at the far end). We adapted *Sleepy Maggie* and *Cumberland Reel* to random numbers of couples. We danced *General Brown's Jig*, a very simple dance written for the departure of the senior British military officer in Iraq in 2010. And of course we danced an *Eightsome Reel* – and this time we have the photos to prove it.

Dr Peter Rundell
Strategy Adviser, Helmand PRT



Peter (in the kilt in the photos) helps the international civilian team to work out the best way to use the people and money put into Helmand Province, by establishing what works, what doesn't, and why. "The situation evolves very fast here, and we constantly have to adapt the way we work to help the Government to reach the kinds of legitimate inclusive political settlements, and build up the accountable delivery of justice and basic services, which will sustain all that has been achieved over the past years. I came to Helmand in mid-2010 as the Director leading the programme delivery teams, and I've been working here (apart from an amazing and extra-ordinary year in Libya leading DFID's programme from the earliest days of the Libyan revolution) more or less ever since, albeit in a different role now."



THE REEL

The Reel is published four times a year by the London Branch. It is posted free to all Branch members (membership enquiries to Gaynor Curtis, see advert p4).

Non-members may subscribe to be on the mailing list, and Clubs can negotiate bulk copies for their members. Enquiries to Wilson Nicol, see advert on p18.

Articles and advertisements for *The Reel* should be sent to the Editor, address at the foot of the front page.

Advertising rates are £13 per column inch in black and white,

£19.50 per column inch in colour.

Enquiries to the Business Editor Jeff Robertson,
businesseditor@rscsdslondon.org.uk

Ian Glyn Anderson 1924 – 2013

I first knew Ian in December 1963. When I say “knew”, that is a bit of an exaggeration. I had just started Scottish country dancing and joined the Branch that month. In those days the monthly dances, or members’ dances as they were called, were always oversubscribed and you had to apply for tickets in advance. I presented myself at Fetter Lane and found Ian Anderson in charge.

Shortly afterwards I went to the Branch Easter Weekend School held at Lodge Hill, Pulborough and found that Ian was at the helm. He ran those weekends with a great sense of humour and efficient organization. Thus, began nearly 50 years’ friendship with Ian and also with Iris after their marriage. Those Pulborough weekends were never to be forgotten, and I’m sure all those who attended feel the same.

Ian was born in London of Scottish parents and regarded himself as a Scot. He grew up in Wallington. He attended Wallington County School for Boys, which later became associated with Bill Ireland, who spent most of his teaching career there. Ian studied chemistry at Battersea Polytechnic (later to become the University of Surrey) and on graduation he wanted to join the RAF in the photographic section. As there were no officers’ post in this section, the selection board did not think it was correct to choose him if they could not offer him a commission. He spent the war years working for Shell at Ellesmere Port developing lubricants for piston engines. After the war he returned to Battersea Polytechnic and obtained a PhD, thereafter joining the Medical School of Guy’s Hospital. It was much later here that he met Iris, whom he married in 1965.

Needless to say, Branch members active from the 1950’s onwards knew Ian in some capacity or another. Ian was a very active member of the Dem Class from 1952 to 1962 when membership was much sought after. It was here that he met and married Doreen Bedford, who died at an early age leaving him with two young children. Dancing took him to Holland on a few occasions, where he enjoyed leading visiting teams. He worked tirelessly over many years for the Branch committee, except for a short period in the early 1980’s. He was a major force at dances at dear old Fetter Lane, and weekend schools, but latterly was most widely known for the bookstall, which he managed for almost 25 years. This must have been a labour of love, taking it to many dancing functions in the South East and always wherever there was a Branch Day School. Ian’s knowledge of published dances was immense and he always knew how to obtain copies for even the most obscure dances.

In the Pulborough years I was very pleased to be invited by Ian to join a team of dancers for a tour of Holland and my wife Chris and I have very fond memories of that hectic week. On a personal note, Chris and I have enjoyed our friendship with Ian and Iris away from the dance floor, sharing their knowledge of food – especially wine! – and interesting anecdotes of travels all over the world.

His passing is a great loss to the Branch and his service to Scottish country dancing in the South East will be sorely missed. The Branch has lost a valuable member and we extend our sympathy and kind thoughts to Iris and her family.

Owen Meyer

VALE

We are also sorry to have received notice recently of the following Branch members and local dancers who have passed away:

Theresa (Trixie) Whitehead. Sadly, Trixie passed away in October 2012. Originally from Manchester she quickly continued her involvement with dance on moving to London. She was a familiar face at Branch and other events for many years and a long standing member of the Wednesday afternoon General Class. Trixie endeared herself to everyone she met and she will be missed.

Norman Nicoll, originally from Kirriemuir, Branch Treasurer 1961 - 1966, aged 94.

Mairi Wallace, London Branch teacher in the 1950s, before moving overseas, and **Pam Maas.**

John Tanner

Died 21 December 2012

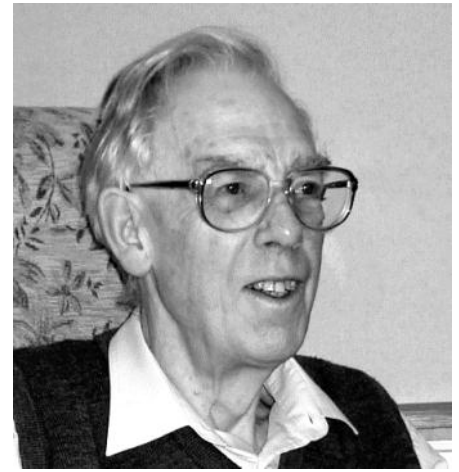
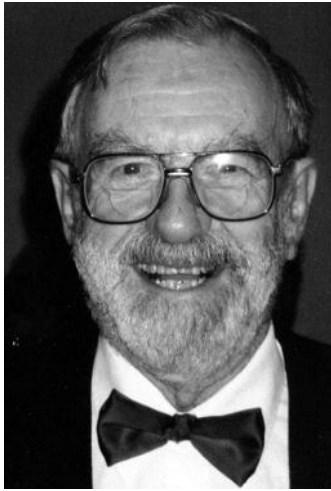
Born in Tottenham, John’s childhood was a typical wartime one, as an evacuee to the safety of Hoddesdon, an experience that must have developed his great natural resilience. Back in Tottenham as a Boy Scout he learned to play the bagpipes, and played at The Royal Albert Hall and Ostend Casino.

In 1963 he married Sheila in University Chapel of Kings College, Aberdeen, where Sheila had graduated. It was a great partnership, partly the attraction of opposites: John never seemed to have a care in the world, and Sheila was never without one. They had two sons, Stewart and Lindsay.

When the boys were old enough John and Sheila set off on their worldwide travels, which included many dancing holidays. They were a familiar and well loved couple around the Scottish dance scene. John was a long time member of Epping Forest Scottish Association, a very able Social Secretary, but he declined the offer of presidency; he seemed to feel that it was not for a Tottenham lad.

In latter years John developed cancer, heart problems and a very unstable blood pressure. This led to a number of medical emergencies. No man could surpass John’s ability to survive. Within days of a disaster this courageous man would appear on the dance floor quite unfazed. He did live life to the full, was a good friend to a great many people and he will be sadly missed by many.

Chris Whitfield



George Robinson 1929 – 2012

George started Scottish country and Highland dancing while studying civil engineering at Leeds University. When work took him to London in 1954, he was introduced to the RSCDS London Branch whose Demonstration class he was soon invited to join. There he met Margaret Johnston, who was a teacher with the Croydon Branch. They participated in foreign tours with the Demonstration group including Paris and Amsterdam, and married at St Columba’s Church in 1961. Pressures of family life meant retirement from the Demonstration class but they turned their attention more locally to dancing with the Wallington Scottish Association, and George was a popular MC at dances. Health problems led to stopping dancing in the mid 1980s, but his daughters have continued the tradition and George was happy to get up for a couple of ceilidh dances at Jean’s wedding in 1994.

Wilson Nicol

John Mitchell 1931 – 2013

Born of Scottish parentage, John was born in Hove, whence he returned after his marriage to Dheidre. He had started dancing as a teenager in Dollar, and, after meeting Hugh Foss in Leeds, he developed a deep interest in the origins of dances, as well as in devising dances. He also corresponded with Hugh Thurston. He published some 24 books of dances, perhaps more than 700 dances in all,

including *Caddam Wood, The Dundee City Police Jig, Iona Cross and The Cooper’s Wife.*

Active in the London Branch from 1966, John was also a key figure in Sussex: he was the first Chairman of the Sussex Association of Scottish Associations; he started Summer Dances on the lawns on Hove seafront for the Brighton and Hove SCD Club; after receiving his Teacher’s Certificate in 1972 (from Miss Jean Milligan) he was the Founder Chairman and Instructor of the Hangleton Scottish Country Dance Club (which eventually became the Brighton and Hove Branch of the Society), and he also taught the Aldrington Scottish Country Dance Club.

His extensive research and interests in dance of all sorts meant he was a regular contributor to *The Reel*, and it is appropriate that his last contribution should have been the book review of *A Treatise of Dance* in *The Reel* 282.

Jeremy Hill

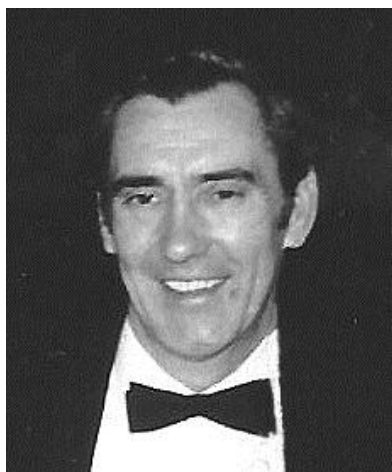


David (Davie) Thornton 1925 – 2013

Long time members of the London Branch will be saddened to hear of the recent death, just two days before his 88th birthday, of David (Davie) Thornton, who for over 30 years played the fiddle for McBain's Scottish Country Dance Band.

David was born in Glasgow. He began to play the violin when his father gave him a half size fiddle in 1936 and he became a member of the Glasgow Strathspey and Reel Society when he was 14. In 1942 he joined the Navy where he served for four years and on demob returned to Glasgow to finish his apprenticeship. In 1949 he moved to London where he met his wife Beryl.

A year later in 1950 he was introduced to Donnie McBain, who had founded McBain's Band four years earlier. From then on Davie became a permanent member of the band and took over as leader around 1970. McBain's Band developed a distinctive sound and became the premier band for Scottish country dancers in London and the South East of England in the seventies and eighties. This was largely due to Davie's strong fiddle lead, supported by the late



David Thornton at Porchester Hall, 1970

Alan Humberstone's magical piano accompaniment. McBain's played for the dancers and not just for themselves and it was David who always seemed able to sense the mood from the floor.

David was very proud of his Glasgow roots – west of Bathgate as he frequently reminded those of us from the east of Scotland! He loved Scottish music and McBain's Band was a very important part of his life. David left the band in the mid 1980s by which time Bill Farr had taken over as leader. When he retired in 1989 David and Beryl moved to Killin in Perthshire. David then joined the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra for a number of years until he found the journey to Stirling and back for practices too much. In his retirement David enjoyed playing golf and watching many sports from his armchair, especially rugby, football, golf and athletics.

David had not been well for a number of months and passed away peacefully after a few weeks in hospital.

Joyce Patrick

SOUTH EAST DANCE DIARY

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

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

The following, previously unpublished, Pat Batt poem, has been kindly sent in by her friend, Maureen Bedford of Bishop's Stortford, who, many years ago, on hearing Pat telling it as a ceilidh item at an Old Harlow Hogmanay Party, asked her for a copy and received it in handwritten form soon afterwards.

Did you have an enjoyable Christmas?

Dear Friends

Did you have an enjoyable Christmas?
Ours didn't begin too well –
When I stirred up the Christmas pudding
There was a peculiar smell.

The family all made rude comments,
And I'll admit it wasn't too nice –
I'd mistakenly used curry powder
Instead of the proper spice.

The Christmas cake looked lovely!
(And nobody's noticed yet
That the cat had walked over the icing
Before it was really set).

The turkey would have been tasty,
And I'm sorry we all ignored
The instructions (wired) on the label
That stated it had to be thawed.

The cat had kittens on Christmas Eve,
And the T.V. had to be fixed.
It's not surprising that the presents
Got most of their labels mixed.

We had to invite Aunt Janie –
Her only interest is bridge
Oh yes! – The hamster went on walk about
And ended up in the fridge!

Dad collected Grandma –
She lives at Wrights Green Heath,
But I feel she'd have been a lot brighter
If she hadn't forgotten her teeth.

Grandpa likes to provide the drinks
The wine and the beer and the gin.
He took them all down to the cellar
And managed to lock himself in!

The dog ate all of the chocolate –
(There were piles of them up on the shelf)
I don't need to tell you what happened
You can work that one out for yourself.

The waste pipe was blocked after breakfast
And we needed Old John who's our plumber
But his van got stuck on the M25
So I doubt if we'll see him till summer.

The baby developed a touch of croup
And I did nothing but sneeze –
It was lucky the family didn't mind
A dinner of plain bread and cheese!

I'm sorry that you couldn't join us –
I do like to keep in touch –
But as you can tell from this letter
This Christmas we didn't do much.

Pat Batt

In 15 minutes – Jeremy Hill

Following our introduction to new Committee member Bar Martlew, it was pointed out to me that I had not given my own version of background and views on Scottish country dancing:

When did you first start dancing?

My mother danced (and later taught) at the local Caledonian Society, and I went along at Hogmanay or occasionally during school holidays, but it was at University that I started to take it more seriously.

Who has been the biggest influence on your dancing and why?

Dennis Tucker was my first real teacher, but the biggest influence was Bill Ireland, from when I started attending the London Branch Demonstration class.

Where do you dance now?

Other commitments make it impossible to attend a regular SCD class, so we make do with getting to Summer School and dances when we can.

What do you enjoy most about Scottish dancing?

I agree with Professor Michael Argyle, Oxford dancer and expert on the psychology of happiness, who considered Scottish country dancing an ideal combination of mental, physical, musical and social stimulation.

Whose dancing have you most admired?

I favour strong male dancing: Andrew Kellett was an early inspiration for me in the Dem class, as well as the style of Philippe Rousseau.

What is your favourite dance and why?

It's difficult to nominate a single favourite. Often it's based on a memory of a great combination of music, company and setting. *Round Reel of Eight* has several such connections including dancing with Grace, before we were married, when we won at the Slough Festival.

Who is your favourite dance band and why?

Colin Dewar stands out for me as a player, but I also I love to hear bands in which all the players are making a complementary contribution, such as David Cunningham, and on the ceilidh scene, Alasdair MacCuish.

What is your best dancing memory?

Meeting and dancing with my wife.

What would you like to change in the dancing world?

I'd love to see dance programmes featuring more traditional dances, to preserve the tradition, to encourage good dancing (not just complex dances) and because I feel they are often more suited to the less experienced dancers.

How do you think we can encourage more young people to dance?

There are thriving groups of children and young people, such as in Harpenden, where we live (see review of *A Measure of Scotch in The Reel 282*), but they are not always connected into or perhaps welcomed by the wider dancing community. We need to continue to introduce dancing to children whenever we can, using opportunities to get into the school environment. Even if they don't take up dancing immediately they may do later in life.

What do you see as the future of Scottish dancing?

We need to seek more ways to introduce dancing to people, to avoid further reduction of the pool of dancers. We may need further collaboration (rather than competition) between groups to organise successful events.

What do you do when you are away from the dance floor?

When I escape my day job as an International Benefits Consultant, it's most important to me to spend time with my family. Happily they share my interests in dancing, music, singing in the church choir and elsewhere. Recently Grace and I have taken up ballroom dancing, for a bit of variety. Oh yes, and there's *The Reel!*

I went down under to Dookie and I got the T-shirt

During the first week in October, I attended the 37th Australian Winter School, hosted by the Melbourne and District Branch and held in Dookie – I have the T-shirt. Each year the School is hosted by one of the seven Australian branches in rotation; next year will be the turn of Perth, Australia, that is. Dookie is a town about 95km from Melbourne. It is very much a country town, widely spread out, but with a strong sense of community. We were based at Dookie Agricultural College, which was established in the late 19th Century as an independent college, but was recently bought out by Melbourne University, and at the moment is mainly used for short courses. With its halls and dormitories, it is ideally suited for a Scottish country dance school. Our teachers and musicians came from Australia, New Zealand, Scotland and England, a cosmopolitan collection, which blended together very well.

There were six classes, including a children's class, each with a name from Scottish fiction: I was in Brigadoon! Two of these classes were held on Campus, but the other four were spread around Dookie Town itself, and us non car drivers were bussed to our venue each morning. I was lucky enough to know Heather Byers, a very prominent member of the Branch, and one of their standby teachers. I first met Heather in St. Andrew's about 12 years ago. Heather gave me lifts in her car to and from my class, lent me a pillow, and in every way made me feel at home. The sole criterion for being assigned to a class appeared to be age. It was sad to hear that there, as here, dancers are getting older, and not being replaced quickly enough by the next generation.

My late husband, Norris Haugh, was well-known as a piper and a partier by those who had attended St Andrews and, by association, in Dookie, but the person who was foremost in everyone's affections was the late and widely known Andrew Gillies, who taught my local Shene group for as long as he was able. Andrew was a member of Croydon Branch.

Compulsory classes were held every morning. In the afternoons there were optional classes and in the evenings social dancing, including a ceilidh on the Wednesday and a ball on the final Friday night. The children's class gave a very creditable display at the ball, with an age range of 5 to 15, they blended together very well. The ceilidh included indoor Highland Games: the hammer was an inflatable children's toy, the caber a polystyrene tube and the curling stones, balloons. The beauty of the evening dances for me was that I knew the programmes, usually when I travel I find I have not got a clue. The class dances were more challenging.

On the Wednesday afternoon those of us who wanted to were taken on a tour of the area, we visited the Bangerang Cultural Centre, the first Aboriginal Cultural 'keeping place/museum' in Australia to be developed and managed by the aboriginal community. I was struck by the similarity between the aboriginal tribal initiation procedure and that in South Africa. We met up with a lady who is making a big success of a chocolate apple factory, and one who is running a palatial B&B in an old colonial house. On two other afternoons I was taken around the countryside by members of my class.

Last May I went to the Hamburg Weekend School, another great experience; much to my amazement and joy, I found a Hamburg dancer at Dookie, Anett Sievers. Apart from us two, I think all the other dancers were Australian or New Zealanders. Both Hamburg, Australia, and in the past, Botswana and South Africa and Canada, have made me very conscious of how friendly and welcoming Scottish country dancing can be.

There are so many people I should thank for this memorable week, too many, but one name I would like to mention is Jo Reed, their very professional secretary.



Denise Hora *Denise and Anett showing refined foot positions from their classes Down Under*

WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT

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

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

CERTIFICATE COURSE

I am proposing to run a course for Units 2, 3 and 5, also with tuition for Unit 4, commencing September 2013. To be held in the Bournemouth area.

Anyone who is interested, please contact Marilyn Watson, 01425 28071 or marilynscd@sky.com

RSCDS Summer School

The Society Summer School 2013 will run from 14 July to 11 August in St Andrews. Accommodation will once again be provided in University Hall, following the refurbishment in 2012. The course in Week 3 will also be open to young people between the ages of 12 and 16 attending with a responsible adult. Applications may be made by downloading a form from www.rscds.org or by contacting Moira Thomson, 0131 225 3854 or moira.thomson@rscds.org

Dancing in the North East

While London Branch covers a densely populated geographical area of some 600 square miles, with an excellent public transport network, the Yorkshire and Humber region, together with the North East, serves a slightly lower combined population, but covers over 9,000 square miles, with local transport in the evenings really just confined to within Leeds and Newcastle. As you can imagine, logistic problems are very different to those encountered by dancers in London.

Six branches cover these Yorkshire and North East regions, though their characters are different: Doncaster & Region and Sheffield look more to the East Midlands, and North West Craven up in the Yorkshire Dales is very much on its own; Newcastle and Leeds Branches are centred on their respective cities, while York & North Humberside, largely inspired by the indefatigable Malcolm Brown, encompasses a network of smaller cities and rural towns stretching from Pickering to the West Hull villages, York itself, and Knaresborough. There are several affiliated groups: York and Leeds have large thriving SCD clubs, and smaller groups stretch from Darlington to Scarborough to Brighouse, and all points between.

Most branches and groups function independently, attracting dancers from nearby groups for dances with live music. There is live music in Leeds twice a month, one dance organised by Leeds RSCDS and the other by Leeds SCDC; these dances bring dancers from York as well as West Yorkshire. Driving along a dual carriageway to Leeds often seems preferable for some York dancers to braving Arras Hill in winter for a dance to recorded music on the banks of the Humber! Dancers from all parts of the area will often attend the annual dances in York and Northallerton. A fairly recent but successful institution has been the Joint Ball organised by York & North Humberside and Leeds Branches in alternate years in Leeds and Tadcaster: the late Roy Goldring wrote the dance *Branches Together* for the first of these.

Leeds, Newcastle and York & North Humberside Branches also hold annual day or half-day schools; all three have websites and publish newsletters, Leeds and Y&NH publishing four times a year. The three all have some Highland or ladies' step dancing.

Leeds RSCDS hosts a children's festival each year, as does the Darlington affiliated group; Newcastle has its annual competitive festival every year, where the last several years have seen pleasing growth in the children's section. Finally, we can meet up at the Y&NH Weekend in Harrogate, or at The White Rose Festival held in Harewood each year, a great celebration of Scottish country dancing. As you see, we are a sociable bunch – distance and transport won't stop us – and we are always delighted to see visitors. Do let us know if you are in the area!



Joyce Cochrane
RSCDS York & North Humberside Branch

NEW RECORDINGS

Magazine Dances 2005 – 2009

Dance instructions £8.00
Accompanying CD £14.30

Whether it is the economic downturn or just coincidence, no entirely new recordings have come in for editorial review recently.

The Society has brought together instructions for 17 dances published in Bulletins and the *Scottish Country Dancer* in a single book, and collected the recordings on a CD. These have already featured as 'tail-end Charlies' to recordings

of RSCDS books, which were reviewed at the time of their original release. The mix of bands means that the CD is less likely to be acquired for listening, though it may be useful for completeness.



John Laurie

A NEW CD!

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Celtic Connections

Ceoll Dansa

The wonders of digital media allow access to a vast range of programmes to suit every taste. The true Scotophile will be keeping a careful eye on the schedule of BBC Alba, the Gaelic language channel. For the Scottish dance music fan there was a treat over the Christmas period: a programme of dance music from the 2012 Celtic Connections Festival, featuring modern stars of the dance band scene paying tribute to the legends of the genre.

Thus we heard, amongst others, Iain MacPhail paying tribute to Andrew Rankine (as well as playing in his own inimitable style – a modern legend), Marie Fielding as Ian Powrie, and Robert Black remembering Jim Johnstone. The legends also included Jimmy Shand, Bobby MacLeod, Calum Kennedy and Angus Fitchet.

The list of modern stars from the dance music scene was just as exciting, led by Alasdair MacCuish of the Black Rose Ceilidh Band (who had put together the programme), but also featuring the talents, amongst others, of Archie Macallister, Gordon Smith, Denis Morrison, Tom Orr and Judith Smith (well-known from playing in London, and featuring here with Iain MacPhail's Band).

Some of those featured bridged the gap: as well as appearing on second box, John Carmichael shared some entertaining anecdotes of his experiences with the 'greats' when he was young; Alasdair MacLeod, son of Bobby, was on the bass; Fergie MacDonald played and remembered his days at the Highland Institute in Glasgow.

The curiosity factor would have been nothing without supremely classy playing, whatever the combination of players. The classical, largely acoustic sound (six piece band including double bass and grand piano) was a particular joy. Strangely, the audience didn't seem so overwhelmed – most of the shots showed some rather half-hearted applause! Sadly, the 2013 live show in Glasgow has already passed (at the end of January). Let's hope there may be a repeat of the programme, or even a commercial release to open it up to a wider audience.

Jeremy Hill

Record Deal Competition

"Dance Music For The Future"

The RSCDS has launched an initiative to get musicians involved in shaping the future of Scottish dance music. The search is on for new and interesting ideas, based around our traditional music, but which injects creativity and keeps the essence that make people want to dance. On offer for the winning entry is a recording contract and the opportunity to play at RSCDS events including celebrations for the Society's 90th Anniversary in 2013.

Entries will be assessed and judged by a panel of well-known dance music professionals and highly experienced dance teachers. For the short-listed entries, the competition will culminate in a grand live final in Perth, Scotland in November 2013. As well as receiving a recording contract, the winner will be given the honour of becoming the Society's first 'adopted band'.

Further details are available on www.rscds.org

Closing date for entries: 14 June 2013

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THE DANCING WORLD



1

1. Hayes and District Scottish Association joined the 6th Greenford Brownies on 23 November 2012 to help celebrate St Andrew's Day.

2. Margaret Catchick receives her Branch Award from John Laurie and Angela Berry at the RSCDS Festive Fling dance on 8 December 2012.

3. Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band at the St Andrew's Ball, The Hurlingham Club, 24 November 2012.

4. *The Reel of the 51st Division*, Aberdonian style, at The Hurlingham St Andrew's Ball: Amy Banner and Andrew Hudson birling.



2



3



4



5

5. Penny and Geoff Burton taking their chance in *Mrs MacPherson of Inveran* at the London Highland Club New Year's Dance, 5 January 2013.

6. The Berkhamsted Strathspey & Reel Club Christmas Party on 18 December 2012 included *Postie's Jig*.

7...and *Fisherman's Reel*.

8. Brenda de Souza, fiddle, and Alistair Forbes, accordion, provided the music for the Guildford Scottish Country Dance Club Christmas Party, 17 December 2012.



6



7



8



9

9. Sin See and Catriona Bennett in suitably festive mood (and accessories) whilst dancing *Schiehallion* at London Highland Club's Christmas Dance, 15 December 2012.



10

10. *The Glenalmond Gamekeeper*, from the 65th Harrow and District Caledonian Society Annual Ball, 4 January 2013.

11. Founder members Kay Robb and Sheila Jupp cutting the cake at the St John's Scottish Dance Club Ruby Anniversary Ball, 24 November 2012.



11



12

12. Bob Harman piping in the haggis at the RSCDS Burns' Supper and Ceilidh Dance on 12 January 2013.



13

13. Matthew & Helen dancing *The Wild Geese* at the 11th Kilts & Posh Frocks Chiswick Christmas Dance, 9 December 2012.

14. Ian Robertson at the RSCDS Burns' Supper and Ceilidh Dance.

15. Behind the scenes: preparation of the haggis supper.



14



15

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sidmouth Folk Festival

Dear Jeremy

Albeit a little late, I would like to wish you every success in your new role as Editor of *The Reel*, an unenviable task following in the footsteps of Wilson Nicol, a tough act to follow!

I have just returned with friends from a wonderful Scottish country dancing weekend in Eastbourne organised by the Croydon Branch of the RSCDS with excellent teaching and plenty of encouragement!

During the summer, dancing pals and I attended a very successful Sidmouth Folk Festival and I am prompted to write to you on seeing Angela Young's comment in *The Reel* 282, in which she said that "the Committee has huge concerns about the future of Scottish country dancing in London – especially regarding classes". We were disappointed that in recent years the representation of Scottish country dancing at the Sidmouth Folk Festival has completely disappeared, whereas a few years ago it was in evidence, albeit in outlying areas but always great fun. We were made very welcome at other dance disciplines, from Appalachian clog to barefoot flamenco!! Speaking to other visitors to Sidmouth, it was evident that many attended Scottish country dance classes around the country and all were disappointed that this form of dance was not represented.

The class I attend in Orpington is always welcoming new members who go on to enjoy social functions organised so ably by the Orpington & District Caledonian Society throughout the year.

Just a thought, but could re-introducing Scottish country dancing to some folk festivals throughout the country be a way of encouraging newcomers to, as your Chairman says in her introduction, "the overriding feeling of fun and friendships made"?

Regards,
Pam French, ever-learning!

Burns' Supper and Ceilidh Dance and The Next Step

Dear Jeremy,

First, I would like to express my thanks to the hardworking members of RSCDS London Branch Committee and others who gave us such a superb evening on Saturday 12 January. The tasty haggis supper, efficiently served, copious wine and delightful music from the band gave us all an evening to remember. Indeed this attracted several members and friends of Harrow and District Caledonian Society who would not normally be tempted on to the dance floor.

Secondly, I heartily applaud Barbara Martlew's comments in *The Reel* 281 entitled *The Next Step*. In our dance class we have quite a few Less Experienced dancers who now are venturing to dances around the area, but still feel shy about attending balls. Each week at our class we practise dances from programmes of forthcoming dances around our area. I find this a great help and I am building up a larger repertoire of dances I feel happy to tackle. However, some programmes have quite a lot of different dances, which deters some people from attending.

The solution from New Zealand mentioned by Bar of selecting nine dances each year, six of which must be included in every dance programme nationwide is an excellent idea. I am sure this would give many dancers the confidence they need to attend other clubs' dances and balls. Both Elizabeth Bennett's comments in *Back to Basics* and Marjory Reid's comments on colour coding of dances and not hectoring less confident dancers to make up sets in difficult dances (from *The Reel* 282) are also worthy of note.

Let's face it, we were all beginners once and it would be so encouraging to less experienced dancers if the RSCDS would take a lead on this.

Gail Bignell

See photos p11 and p20

"Traditional Dances"

Dear Jeremy

I found the dance lists given in the last two editions very interesting, together with the letter from Adrian Conrad and your comments. Why do the area lists vary so much and how would they compare with other areas? It would be interesting to know why they vary: is it because of individuals, groups or perhaps a band?

As Adrian suggests, it does seem good dances and their music are being destroyed, and there is little doubt that programme devisers and teachers have much to answer for, but I also believe management over the years should have done more to curtail publications and give guidance. A moratorium until 2023 would do no harm.

Can the Society justify the resources (and the damage) for looking at 333 new dances for the next two books while we have lost 1,000 members last year? Little wonder we are calling dances at dances these days.

To have unwritten rules about Society and non-Society dances is not acceptable and if the Society wishes to be the leading authority on Scottish country dancing it must look after all styles of Scottish country dancing, and the (great) dances of Cosh, Foss, Thurston, Drewry, etc.

I believe dancing to Scottish music is traditional, but the question of the dances themselves is more difficult, though you had a good go at defining it, Jeremy! It seems that dances that exist when you start dancing are traditional and that anything that comes after is new. I remember getting very excited about a new dance with its new formations and great music. The new dance was called *Mairi's Wedding*! What a dance this has been and still the Society does not have it on its books! If the dance music is slowed down, is it still traditional? Can a dance originating outside Scotland be traditional? *The Plantation Reel*? I do not think we can define traditional dancing.

I would have expected the dance programmes for joint events this year to have all the classic dances of the last 90 years, but of the programmes I have seen so far, I am not impressed.

Even happier dancing,
John D Carswell

Can some Dances be more Equal than Others?

Dear Jeremy

Following on from my letter in *The Reel* 280 and your footnote to Adrian Conrad's observations in the last edition of *The Reel*, can I ask whether I am alone or has anyone else noticed that a trend is developing within the RSCDS? Namely, the apparent adoption of non-RSCDS dances! RSCDS dances

here are defined as those published through headquarters and not through Branches or Affiliated Groups. If this is happening, why is it, and is it good or bad? Flares or tank tops, miniskirts or hot pants, but whatever the trend, it is natural to want to be up with it! So it is with dances. One club puts *Never at Sea* on its dance programme and it is enjoyed, and before long it is on every programme.

The main objects concerning dances, as set out in the minutes of the meeting dated 26 November 1923 paraphrasing, were 'to collect, practise and preserve country dances as danced in Scotland and publish them'. Up until the Victory Book in 1945 those objects had meant traditional dances. In that book *The Reel of the 51st Division* was published, and a new approach was born. From then on the RSCDS would include modern dances as well as preserving the traditional. Slowing with time the supply of traditional dances has given way to modern ones with modern patterns, formations and progressions. Traditional dances were often found to lack flow from one figure to another or linking properly when repeated. Awkward turns and counter-intuitive movements were considered part of dancing then and dancing adjusted so these could be accommodated.

The age of the modern dance was born in the 1950s, 60s and 70s with Hugh Foss and Hugh Thurston then, later, John Drewry, James Cosh, Barry Priddey, Derek Haynes, Roy Clowes, Roy Goldring, Bob Campbell, Derek Ivory to name but a few – all devising dances that were catching the imagination; *Schiehallion*, *Posties Jig*, *Mairi's Wedding*, etc. and being published by Hugh Foss Glendarroch, Roy Clowes/ Bob Donald of Scottish Dance Archives or in individual book or leaflet form. For years these non-RSCDS dances co-existed alongside RSCDS Books 1 to 38, and still do. In 1996 something unusual happened, following a developing trend, when in Book 39 the RSCDS adopted three dances which had already and separately been published, at the end of 1940s – *The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh*, *The Robertson Rant* and *Prince Charles of Edinburgh* – but why? Then again in 2007 three already published popular Hugh Foss dances were republished by the RSCDS – again why?

Looking at the RSCDS recommended dances, *A Selection of Core Dances*, published in 2008 by Membership Services, which gives a list of 57 introductory and 54 intermediate dances; 10 are non-RSCDS plus a further 5 which are from *A Guide to Scottish Country Dancing*. This book, formerly published by Collins, is now published by the RSCDS. So suddenly all the non-RSCDS dances such as *The Saint John River*, *A Trip to Bavaria* and *Seton's Ceilidh Band* plus those considered as ceilidh dances totalling 50, as published in this book were in effect by default, RSCDS dances! However, for those sitting the RSCDS Unit 1 exam it is essential that 'only RSCDS dances' are referred to and the 12 prescribed dances in Unit 2 to learn, are all RSCDS too.

It seems therefore, by its actions the RSCDS has now in effect sent out a signal that it wishes to embrace all 'Scottish country dances', whether traditional or modern, ceilidh, RSCDS published or published by a.n.other. So, using this logic it is clear that the RSCDS not only could consider managing the register of Scottish country dances but also be prepared to acknowledge all modern dances that are devised, perhaps with a level of difficulty grading system and move from the previously believed view that RSCDS dances against other dances were in some way different. Is this then time for an all embracing open approach and change in RSCDS policy towards all *Scottish* dances?

Best wishes,
Stephen Webb

What's in a name?

Dear Jeremy

Reports in *The Reel* 282 on both the London Day School and the Winchester Branch Workshop referred to the good practice of teachers (and musicians) taking the time to tell us about the piece of music or dance at hand. We should emphasise this more, to prevent historical background from being lost. The instructions for *The Gentleman* in Book 35 include the note that it was devised by Roz Scott Huxley for her father, the late Group Captain David Huxley, MC for the first fortnight ceilidhs at St Andrews Summer School for twenty-six years. What it does not mention is that Muriel Johnstone's original tune for the dance, *The Ceilidh Umbrella*, is so named because David Huxley always MC'd ceilidhs with a rolled umbrella hooked over his arm that he would bang on the floor to call for silence.

It is particularly important to keep information with a dance when the figures have been devised to illustrate some aspect of the title. The figures of the strathspey *The Ship of Grace* illustrate various aspects of a lifeboat rescue. Does Grace refer to the work of the lifeboat or to Grace Darling, the daughter of a Victorian lighthouse keeper who helped her father with a rescue? I have also heard the following possible interpretations of dance figures. Does anyone know if they are correct?

- 1) In John Drewry's *The Peat Fire Flame* the half reels could represent the embers. The 1st couple then set to comers and dance round each other, which certainly resembles the flickering movement of flames.
- 2) Bestwick's *MacPherson's Jig* in a triangular set seems to have some connection with the song McPherson's Farewell. James 'Jamie' MacPherson (1675–1700) was a Scottish outlaw, famed for his Lament or Rant, which includes the lines: "He play'd a spring, and danc'd it round, Below the gallows-tree." A spring is a lively dance, and one type of gallows was a triangle of beams supported on posts, to which a rope was attached.

Although there are a huge number of dance books available, it can be difficult to obtain the original instructions for dances devised in the past. This is likely to exacerbate the loss of information, to the irritation of future historians and archivists and the general detriment of dancing.

Elizabeth Bennett

Summer Dancing

Dear Jeremy

I was introduced to Scottish dancing by Ginger Goulding of the Society for International Folk Dancing, and then danced at The Royal Scottish Corporation in Fetter Lane. In my early 20s I got a job in the North Yorkshire Moors National Park, and quickly realised I would never return to the big smoke. The things I really missed were the wonderful live music and companionship at Fetter Lane. Not having a car, I had to dance English, the only thing available in Goathland, to records, and only in the winter.

I can't completely understand why dancing still stops in the summer in this modern age, when we no longer have haymaking to do, or peats to cut and dry. Frances Richardson's article made me realise that old traditions are hard to change and she still doesn't dance in the summer.

Here in rural Herefordshire, I am glad to say that we have bucked the system. Not only are we a beautiful county to holiday in but three of our Scottish dance clubs meet all year round. So, if you want a few days away to the peace of the west, please be in touch and I will tell you where and when you can dance.

Brian Wood

Why Robert Burns?

Burns' Night having just passed, it seems a good moment to ask the key question: why Burns? We don't celebrate Dickens' night on 7 February, and, even if we restrict ourselves to Scots, neither do we dress up for Walter Scott night on 15 August each year. It seems to me there are a number of reasons why it is Burns and Burns alone who is remembered in this way.

First, he was in the right place at the right time. Following the Union of 1707, Scotland spent quite a bit of the 18th Century trying to find its own identity. Plenty of leading figures like David Hume and James Boswell declared that they were North Britons, not Scots, and rejected Scottish expressions. When it came to his time, Burns of course took the Scottish rather than North British line, as reflected in his poem of some years later describing the English: "Such a parcel of rogues in a nation!"

The Scottish 'voice' was first heard when James Macpherson, writer, poet, literary collector and politician published poems he had apparently discovered, recounting the heroism of the warrior Fingal, and written in Gaelic by his son, Ossian. According to Macpherson he translated these poems, and they were published in 1760 in *Fragments of Ancient Poetry Collected in the Highlands of Scotland*.

The poems depicted a beautiful Scotland, with folk tales of heroes and adventures set against a mystical background. The Ossian poems were an immediate hit, not just in Scotland but all over Europe, and created for Scotland a history and identity it had not previously had. Questions were asked by many about the authenticity of these poems – no originals were ever produced, and it remains likely that Macpherson made up or at least adapted originals – but there was no doubting the influence.

The influence of the Ossian poems on Burns may be combined with that of Robert Fergusson, one of the first to use the Scots language in his poems. Fergusson died aged only 24 in 1774, and Burns commissioned and paid for a memorial headstone for Fergusson's grave.

Many works by Burns either echo or are directly modelled on works by Fergusson. So, Burns' famous *To a Mouse* can be traced back to Fergusson's poem *On seeing a Butterfly in the Street*. Fergusson, and others such as Allan Ramsay, demonstrated that there was a market for poetry in the Scots vernacular.

Burns' satirical poem *Twa Dogs* shows the influence both of Ossian and Fergusson: there

Why make it Complicated?

Dear Jeremy

I refer to your coda, to Adrian Conrad's piece in *The Reel* 282. I found this explanation and enlargement of his premise a little confusing – seeming to be a little like mental gymnastics but with a poor landing! For me it has always been simply a matter of fact, with two categories i.e. those found in old manuscripts or by word of mouth from the 19th Century or earlier being called Traditional, and all the rest called Modern. The RSCDS doesn't come into it! And the term Old is simply subjective!

An example of Traditional would be the 1770 dance Jimmie Hill taught at the Day School called *A Peep at the Jubilee* or any dance from 18th and 19th Centuries, but not especially published by RSCDS, and a Modern dance example would be *Fisherman's Reel*, devised by Sue Petyt and Jane Gamon in 1994. Why make life unnecessarily complicated? SCD surely, is complicated enough!

Best wishes,
Stephen Webb

are references to the Ossian stories, and the dialogue and poetic form follow a model from Fergusson. The two dogs debate the relative merits of the high and low born, ultimately reaching the conclusion that man is a foolish beast and rejoicing that "they were na men but dogs".

This poem captures a second reason for the strength of Burns' legacy: his ability to comment on and interact with all strata of society. His ploughman's upbringing is well-known, though tempered by a good education. He wasn't averse to the bawdy humour that he was used to, preserving a private collection of poems under the title *The Merry Muses of Caledonia* – but there are also plenty of clean poems reflecting the lowly life of the ploughman.

The Masonic tradition was another strong influence on Burns, as well as opening doors socially. He is of course famous for having dashed off lots of poems for special or for that matter, odd occasions. Alongside *A Stanza added in a Masonic Lodge* we have *Lines written on a banknote* and others where the title is almost as long as the verse, such as *Verses Written With A Pencil Over the Chimney-piece in the Parlour of the Inn at Kenmore, Taymouth*.

Burns the Romantic was of course very fond of female society and doesn't seem to have been too choosy as to the social standing of his companions. Famous amongst those is Agnes McLehose, with whom he continued flirtatious correspondence over many years under the names Clarinda and Sylvander. Burns wrote many love poems, some for his love affairs and others, perhaps written in guilt, for his wife. There's no doubt that love fuelled some of his best work, such as *Ae Fond Kiss, My luve is like A red, red rose* and so on.

The final key item in our remembering Burns started when Queen Victoria and the Royal family as it were adopted Scotland. With the purchase of Balmoral in 1852, the wearing of tartan became *de rigueur*, and things Scottish, including the dances, became very trendy. Clans were practically invented at this time to meet the demand. The *Waverley* novels of Sir Walter Scott were brought out again to give some historical context, which was a good fit for the upper classes, but left the middle and lower classes unrepresented.

Enter Burns once more as the champion of the masses. Interest in his poems grew, in line with the romanticism of the period. Whilst there had been celebrations of his birthday from as early as 1801, interest really picked up at the end of the 19th Century. At its inauguration in 1885 the Burns Foundation had ten Burns clubs – eight in Scotland and two in England. The growth from there was enormous, with some 350 by 1925, a number that has remained pretty stable ever since.

And that's how we find ourselves annually celebrating the memory of this great man:

- Who was in the right place at the right time, to build on the Ossianic tradition and give Scotland its own identity, through the Scots language;
- Whose combination of sociability, earthiness and reading allowed him to mix with, poke fun at but at the same time appeal to all levels of society;
- Who developed a strand of romantic poetry second to none that was taken up with gusto in the Romantic era; and
- Who became the ideal model at the end of the 19th Century and beyond, representing the best of Scotland.

Long may the celebrations continue.

Jeremy Hill

Bournemouth Weekend 11 – 14 January 2013

Following the successful 2012 Weymouth Weekend we were amongst an enthusiastic group of dancers from around the country who descended on the Mayfair Hotel, Bournemouth to hone our dancing skills. The morning technique classes were taught by Mervyn Short accompanied by Robert Mackay on piano. Afternoons were free to explore Bournemouth, while some ventured further afield. Mervyn led the informal evening dances and Robert gave one of his celebrated talks on Scottish dance music. With so little opportunity for practising technique, Mervyn's uncompromising approach is most welcome particularly in conjunction with Robert's playing.

Despite adverse forecasts the weather stayed snow-free for the entire weekend. We are already looking forward to next year!

Jeff and Mary Robertson

A 'reel' St Andrew's Day for 6th Greenford Brownies

Hayes Scottish Country Dancers teamed up on 23 November with 6th Greenford Brownies to help them prepare to celebrate St Andrew's Day.

Hayes club members attended a Brownies' evening on 23 November at the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation in Greenford. The dancers wore national dress and explained its significance to the Brownies. After a short display of dancing they taught them three simple dances *A Reel for Jeannie*, *The Dunedin Festival Dance* and *The Dhoon*.

The link up was the brainchild of Brownie leader Desiree Polluk who had heard of the local dancing group and decided to ask for their help. "We like to give our Brownies a fun and varied programme of activities so this evening was ideal. The girls (and leaders) really enjoyed themselves and used up lots of energy whilst experiencing some Scottish culture!"

She explained "It will also go towards fulfilling one of two possible parts in their Dancer's Badge which are to find out about the national dances of three countries, including their history, the costumes worn and the music played as an accompaniment. And also to know three dances and be able to perform them really well".

Seven year old Brownie Suzanna said, "We had great fun learning the Scottish dancing. We also learned about why their kilts are different colours."

Around 24 Brownies mostly aged 7 or 8 were involved on the night as well as some adult leaders and the Hayes Scottish Dancers.

Michael Nolan

See photo p10

St John's Ruby Anniversary 24 November 2012

St. John's Scottish Country Dance Club celebrated its 40th Anniversary with 100 people dancing to Strathallan's music. The Club has been going since 1972, starting off at St. John's Church Hall, Finchampstead, until that was pulled down, when it moved to St. Sebastian's Hall, in Crowthorne. After a very hairy day, worrying about the flood alert given to Emmbrook School at 8.00am on Saturday, we managed to escape the water and park higher up on the children's play area. Avoiding huge puddles from the rain in the car park we got into the Hall and were able to enjoy a thoroughly great evening.

Sue Davis

See photo p10

St Andrew's Ball with a Difference

There is always an air of excitement associated with dressing up for a dance. This is probably felt more by the ladies because they look so lovely in their head-turning stylish gowns of taffeta and the like, and the sparkling jewellery they often wear. The ticket proclaims Black Tie/Highland Dress, so for the gentlemen dinner jacket or Prince Charlie Coatie is generally worn. The event is the St Andrew's Ball, the venue The Hurlingham Club and the date 24 November, the closest Saturday in advance of St Andrew's Day.

The Hurlingham Club, founded in 1869, is situated on the Thames at Fulham. Scottish dancing has been on its extensive programme of activities for 29 years, with three balls a year, marking St Andrew's Day, Burns' birthday and one held near Easter called The Hurlingham Highland Ball. We arrive at 7.30 to be greeted by a piper playing, for dancing to begin promptly at 8.00pm, and we can expect the event to go on into the wee hours. Previously they ended at 2.00am, but these days it is Carriages at 1.00am. The two large adjacent modern, connected dance floors were included in the new East Wing in 2004 and can comfortably hold over 300 dancers with a generous carpeted dining area alongside and ceilings bedecked with tartan hangings. The band plays from a central position so they can easily be seen and heard by all.

The three functions are shared between top bands from the South East. For me on the 24 November it was the Craigellachie Band, Ian Muir was leading a 5-piece band that didn't fail to disappoint in its wonderful selection of strict tempo tunes always beginning and ending a set with the original – well, with one or two 'party type' exceptions. On other occasions Frank Reid or Ian Robertson's bands play with equally uplifting effect. Peter Knight keeps the evening on course, as MC, allowing encores as sensed from the floor.

The 18 dance programme has various, what have become traditional, features: it always commences with *The Dashing White Sergeant*, which is such a great way of saying hello to other guests, and ends with *Duke of Perth*. The present elegant arrangement is to have 6 dances then dinner then 6 more dances a short interval with the last 6 to follow. *The Eightsome Reel* and *Foursome Reel* always precede dinner. The programme also includes *The Reel of the 51st Division* and *Hamilton House* and other regularly appearing dances would be *Inverness Country Dance*, *A Trip to Bavaria* and *The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh*. Few strathspeys are included, although *Monymusk* is a favourite.

The Grace is charmingly given by the Club's SCD Chairman, Gilly Nester-Smith preceding the dinner, which is three-course in the 'fine dining' tradition with coffee to finish and is always excellent. With a record attendance (probably at a maximum) of 326 guests, serving requires a high level of organisational skill and this, all carried out in an understated manner, with courtesy and consideration.

These three events always attract a range of dancers from the twenty/thirty-somethings to the silver brigade, bringing with them a range of Scottish dance styles. There tends to be a type of friendly segregation of these styles, with more traditional SCD on one side, and reelers on the other, clapping after setting, and birling at every opportunity often defying g-forces to stay upright! And, when it is time to dance *The Reel of the 51st Division* or *Inverness Country Dance*, the Aberdonian form of progression is taken to

Dancers Descend on Epping Forest

The Epping Forest Scottish Association did seem to be taking a chance on having a dance on 22 December 2012, so close to Christmas; but it turned out well. There were no clashing events so 96 dancers arrived, ranging from Cambridge to Croydon, Southend to Hemel Hempstead, all desperate to dance. A welcoming glass of mulled wine put everyone at their ease as they entered, and so the music started.

The Craigievar Scottish Dance Band was inspirational, playing lots of their own composed tunes and some seasonal Christmas music towards the end. There really is nothing quite like live music to get the feet tapping. Craigievar is synonymous with the Forbes family name: Stuart plays the fiddle, his brother Alistair lead accordion and son Alex usually on keyboard or double bass, but, on this occasion, the third musician was Anne Reid on keyboard. We were pleased to welcome three Mrs Forbes too, Stuart's and Alistair's wives Jill and Bronia and their mother too! Members enjoyed having them as dance partners. EFSA usually have two MCs. Ian Gray organised the first half, with his cheery banter, and I, the second.

Our usual format is a quick recap of the first eight or sixteen bars; enough to focus the dancers' minds, though we take more time on the unfamiliar dances. *The Hyperactive Reel* looked difficult, but was straightforward, *The Recumbent Stone* looked challenging and it was! The first half ended with *Epping Hundred*, written by John Drewry for the EFSA Centenary in 2003. The original tune is *Iain MacPhail's Compliments to John and Sheila Tanner*. There was a walk-through for this dance as it was unfamiliar to many.

The interval brought along a sumptuous feast, with plenty of choice for all tastes, despite the unexpected large numbers. Events like this don't just happen. The two convenors and their helpers worked very hard to ensure it was a success, and missed some of the dancing, so our especial thanks to Angela Ross and Yem Gray for their organising genius, and for selecting the programme of dances. All too soon it was time for *Mairi's Wedding*. Pat Browne, our Chairman, gave a deserved vote of thanks to all and the dance too quickly, it seemed, came to a close.

The evening was saddened by the recent passing of John Tanner. Craigievar were good friends of John and had announced that they would be playing their music in his honour and dedicating the evening to his memory, and when we later danced *The Belle of Bon Accord* it was to a new tune especially composed by Alistair called *John's Belle of Bon Accord* (Sheila, John's wife, comes from Aberdeen).

Alan Talbot

with gusto. Dancers from both camps frequently move from one side to the other with great camaraderie being present.

The evening, like all super evenings, finishes all too quickly with a rousing cheer for the band and then for the MC. A large circle, *Auld Lang Syne*, the National Anthem and a polka round off yet another unforgettable experience.

Stephen Webb

Footnote: *The Hurlingham St Andrew's Ball* is in association with *The Little Ship Club* where Peter Knight also MCs.

See photos p10

**Club de Danse Écossaise de
MONTPELLIER, FRANCE**

25th Annual Ball and Outing
Weekend of 8 – 9 June 2013

Craigellachie Band

Dancing, eating, drinking, more dancing
followed by a jolly boating outing on the famous
Canal du Midi
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Rendez-vous with sunshine and social warmth

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wlwhyte@buzig.com

Our photograph gallery plus the 2013 booking
form is now available on our website [http://
danseecossaisemtp.free.fr/](http://danseecossaisemtp.free.fr/)

RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH

Day School

Saturday 20 April 2013

Reddings Community Centre, Cheltenham
GL51 6RF

Teacher: **Elaine Wilde**

Musician: **Jeremy Hill**

Contact Margaret Winterbourne, 01242 863238
or mj.winterbourne@btinternet.com

DANCING IN FINLAND / ESTONIA

Friday 16 – Monday 19 August 2013

Dance Course and Evening Dances
Turku, Finland

Full board at 4* Radisson Blu Hotel

Teacher: **Pat Houghton**

Musicians: **James Gray and Andrew Lyon**

Early price: €460 until 31 January 2013

DANCING HOLIDAY IN TALLINN

Monday 19 – Sunday 25 August 2013

Full board for 6 nights in 4 star hotels
Lots of programmes with UNESCO World
Heritage sites at Helsinki, Tallinn, Rauma smoke
sauna experience, archipelago, etc.

Price: €875 (£700) per person with options for
River view room and boat trip

Contact Jim Cook 020 8948 5637 or Katalin
Konya/Jim Cook at
dancingnewplace@yahoo.com

**MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING
CLUB**

Highland Ball

Saturday 23 February 2013

7.00 – 11.00pm

Brigidine School, King's Road, Windsor
SL4 2AX

Strathallan

Programme: Good Hearted Glasgow,
Whigmaleeries, The Gentleman, Napier's Index,
The Barmaid*, Sands of Morar, Major Ian
Stewart, The Sailor, Culla Bay, Seton's Ceilidh
Band, The Reverend John MacFarlane, The
Wind that Shakes the Barley, Pelorus Jack, The
Bonnie Lass O'Bon Accord*, The Wild Goose
Chase*, Swiss Lassie, Cobham Trees*, Old
Nick's Lumber Room, The Plantation Reel,
Cherrybank Gardens, The White Heather Jig,
Mairi's Wedding. Extras: Lothian Lads, Queen's
View. * Will be recapped.

Tickets £18.00 including interval supper, bring
your own wine

Contact Jane Leach 01753 869557, 16 Brudenell,
Windsor SL4 4UR or
www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk

**RSCDS CAMBRIDGE AND DISTRICT
BRANCH**

Tea Dance

Saturday 11 May 2013

2.00 – 5.00pm

Chesterton Community College, Cambridge
CB4 3NY

Ken Martlew

Tickets: £8.00 (Students £6.00)
including cream tea

Annual Dance

Saturday 26 October 2013

7.30 – 11.30pm

Keith Smith and Muriel Johnstone

Details to follow

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

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Spring Dance

Saturday 20 April 2013

7.00 – 11.00pm

Mascalls School, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge
TN12 6LT

The Caledonian Reelers

Programme: refer to

www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

Tickets £8.50 including a plate for the buffet

Day School

Saturday 16 March 2013

Mascalls School, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge
TN12 6LT

Teachers: **Gaynor Curtis, Kate Gentles and
Kathy Lawmon**

Full day £22.00 Half day £14.00

For application form contact Pat Davoll,
Cambridge Cottage, Crockham Hill, Kent TN8
6RD or pdavoll@aol.com

**BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL
CLUB**

Spring Dance

Saturday 11 May 2013

7.30 – 11.30pm

Boxmoor Playhouse, Hemel
Hempstead, Herts HP1 1NP

George Meikle & The Lothian
Band

Programme: refer to

www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

Tickets £12.00

Raffle, Bar and Bring & Share buffet

Contact Judy Roythorne, 01442 875496 or
events@berkhamstedreelclub.org



**WATFORD & WEST
HERTS SCOTTISH
SOCIETY**

Caledonian Ball

Saturday 16 March 2013

7.30 – 11.30pm

Allum Hall, Allum Lane,
Elstree WD6 3PJ

Sandy Nixon's Scottish Dance Band

Programme: refer to *The Reel* 282 or
www.watfordscottish.org.uk

Tickets £19.00 include Buffet Supper and
sparkling wine reception

Contact Rose Kreloff on 07880 842370,
tickets@watfordscottish.org.uk or
rkreloff@hotmail.co.uk

Ball practice: Sunday 10 March, 2.00 – 5.00pm
St Thomas' URC Gymnasium, Langley Road,
Watford WD17 4PN

Please contact us if you wish to attend

**LONDON HIGHLAND
CLUB**

Forthcoming attractions to be
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Hall, Pont Street, London
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Fridays: Upper Hall 7.30 – 10.30pm

Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 – 10.30pm unless
otherwise stated

Saturday 2 March:

Green Ginger

Saturday 6 April:

Kafoozalum

Friday 19 April: Spring Ceilidh

Saturday 11 May:

Ian Robertson

Saturday 1 June: Summer Ball 7.00 – 11.00pm:

Sandy Nixon

Saturday 7 September:

Kafoozalum

**Cribs are now available on our website:
www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk**

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

90th ANNIVERSARY BALL

Saturday 5 October 2013

Nicol McLaren

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

Please visit our website at
www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk for the latest
news and programmes of our dances

**CHISWICK SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCE CLUB**

A Ball to Celebrate 90 years of
RSCDS

Sunday 24 March 2013

7.30 – 11.30pm

St. Benedict's School, Ealing W5 2DZ

**Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig Scottish
Dance Band**

Tickets in advance only:

CSCDC members: £25 Non-members £27

Supper, wine & soft drinks included

SAE & cheques, payable to Chiswick SCD Club,
to 16 Woodstock Road, London W4 1UE

Details, programme, application form and cribs
available from: www.chiswickscottish.org.uk



**HARWELL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE
CLUB**

Spring Ball

Saturday 27 April 2013

Old Mill Hall, Grove, Oxfordshire OX12 7LB

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Cramond Bridge, Hooper's Jig, The
Shieling, Fiddler on the Capstan, Muirland
Willie, Gang the Same Gate, The Sound of
Harris, Quarries' Jig, Culla Bay, Shiftn'
Bobbins, Round Reel of Eight, The Hazel Tree,
Wisp of Thistle, Father Connelly's Jig, The
Lochalsh Reel, St Columba's Strathspey, Follow
Me Home, Cherrybank Gardens, The Kelloholm
Jig, The Reel of the 51st Division

Tickets £17.50, inc supper by Grove W1
from Lesley Austen, 01235 533626 or

ball@harwellscdc.mno.org.uk

11 Corn Avill Close, Abingdon OX14 2ND
www.harwellscdc.mno.org.uk

**THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE
HIGHLAND BALL**

Saturday 23 February 2013
7.30 – 11.45pm

Millennium and Memorial Hall,
Stanton Harcourt, Oxford OX29 5SB
Keith Smith and Muriel Johnstone

Programme: The Machine without Horses, Catch the Wind, Wisp of Thistle, Midnight Oil, The Saltire Society Reel, Radcliffe Square, Major Ian Stewart, The Ladies of Dunse, Trysting Place, Summer Wooing, The Wee Cooper o' Fife, Da Rain Dancin', The Duchess Tree, The Dancing Master, Silver Penny-Farthing, Giradet House, Follow me Home, Miss Johnstone of Ardrrossan, The Minister on the Loch, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran; extras: The Reverend John MacFarlane, Postie's Jig.

Tickets: £15 (students £12) inc. supper from
Alex Rigby 07792 791390 or
alexandra.rigby@lmh.ox.ac.uk

CREDITS

Many thanks to the following for providing the photos in this edition:

- Via Peter Rundell: Front Cover, p5
- Iris Anderson: p6 (IA)
- Stephen Webb: p2, p6 (JT), p8 (JC), p10 (3-8), p11 (9, 10 & 13)
- Wilson Nicol: p6 (GR)
- Joyce Patrick: p7
- Michael Nolan: p10 (1)
- Jerry Reinstein: p10 (2)
- Sue Davis: p11 (11)
- Angela Berry: p11 (12)
- Graham Berry: p11 (14 & 15) and p20

Thanks also to Stephen Webb for additional reporting and co-ordination around the clubs.

WEST MACS:

**MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION OF
CALEDONIAN SOCIETIES**

Charity Ball in aid of National Autistic Society
of Scotland

Saturday 20 April 2013

Bushey Meads School, Bushey WD23 4PA

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band
M.C.: Caroline Hamilton

Programme: Jennifer's Jig, The Piper and the Penguin, The Gentleman, Olive MacNeil of Hayes, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, Father Connelly's Jig, A Trip to Bavaria, The Wind on Loch Fyne, Spiffin', The Queen's View, The Belle of Bon Accord, Best Set in the Hall, Nottingham Lace, The Gardeners' Fantasia, Equilibrium, The Fireworks Reel, The Dream Catcher, James Gray, The Irish Rover

Contact Patricia Hamilton, 0208 866 2841 or
patricia@summertuesdays.co.uk

**HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY
DANCING CLUB**

Annual Ball

Saturday 2 March 2013

7.30pm – 11.30pm

Harpenden Public Hall, Harpenden, Herts
Strathallan

Programme: The Lochalsh Reel, The Immigrant Lass, The Cashmere Shawl, The Meeting of the Waters, The Brisk Young Lad, 1915 Penny, Lothian Lads, The Moffat Weavers, The Silver Strathspey, Eileen Watt's Reel, Falconer Hall, The Deveron Reel, Torridon Lassies, The Dream Catcher, The Recumbent Stone, Napier's Index, S-Locomotion, John of Bon Accord, Christine M Phillips, The Corian Strathspey, Gothenburg's Welcome, The Reel of the Royal Scots.

Tickets £18 incl supper (£12 for Students 16-21)
Contact Ticket Secretary Val Owens,
01727 863870 or www.HSCDC.org.uk

**Scottish Dance Week
in Prague, Czech Republic**

August 23 - September 1, 2013

Dear dancing friends,

Again in 2013, you are cordially invited to our Scottish Dance Week. For more than 20 years, we have been organizing regular summer dance courses.

The participants will surely be thrilled to learn that the teacher will be again **Ron Wallace**, with **Muriel Zobel** (Johnstone) on the piano. They can hardly wish for any better tandem. We dance on the wooden floor!

Apart from dance classes we prepared nice afternoon and evenings trips and programs. **The Highland Games** in the park of the Sychrov chateau have already become a tradition and are, arguably, the biggest annual event on the continent of Europe, outside Scotland.

All the details and registration on our web site:
<http://www.dvorana.cz/>

**JERSEY CALEDONIAN SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCE GROUP**

Annual Ball

Friday 24 to Sunday 26 May 2013

Dancing two nights to Strathallan

Friday night: 8.00 – 10.30pm run through of dances (includes refreshments)

Saturday morning: free to explore the island
Saturday and Sunday evening: 7.00 – 11.30pm
(includes a buffet supper and a glass of wine)

*Programme and tickets will be available from
mid-November*

Tickets: Friday night: £5

Saturday or Sunday night: £17.50

Whole weekend: £40 (£35 if paid before 28
February 2013)

Contact Joy Carry, 01534 862205 or
chanjoy@jerseymail.co.uk,

Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or

brendascd@jerseymail.co.uk and
scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com

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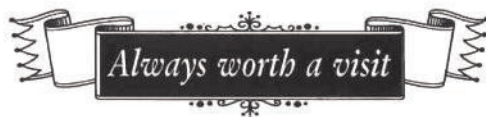


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MacLENNAN SCOTTISH GROUP
32nd International Folkdance and Music Festival
Friday 24 – Monday 27 May 2013
The Priory School, Tintagel Road, Orpington,
Kent BR5 4LG

Saturday 25 May 2013
7.30 – 11.00pm

International Folkdance with our international
and local guests including
Estonian, Austrian, Morris and Scottish
Tickets Adults £7.50, Conc. £6.00 and Children
£3.00

Sunday 26 May 2013
2.00 – 5.30pm approx.

International Folk Dance Concert
Tickets Adults £7.50, Conc. £6.00 and Children
£3.00

Licensed bar, refreshments and stalls
Family and weekend discounts available
Contact Jean Webb 020 8300 0621,
festival@msg.org.uk or www.msg.org.uk

**GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCE CLUB**

Wot – No GX Ball this year?

Quite a few of our regulars may have wondered
what happened to the Gerrards Cross Ball this
year. After all, it has been one of the most well-
attended in the local area for many years and its
lovely candlelit dining rooms have provided an
extra attraction in the post Christmas gloom.

Last year's ball marked the imminent
departure of Andrew and Jeanette Patterson to
New Zealand and was a very special occasion to
celebrate their contribution to the club. With this
in mind, the Committee has decided to leave this
event to history and to concentrate its efforts on
a summer event instead.

This will be the Tea Dance, to be held on
Sunday 9 June at the Gerrards Cross Memorial
Centre (full details will be in the next Reel). The
event will be an afternoon of dances suitable for
all levels of dancers, with each dance talked and
walked through. The lovely setting of the
Memorial Hall, a beautiful display of Highland
Dancing by Lesley Fidell and a very civilised
bring and share afternoon tea will make this a
welcome addition to the summer calendar.

Tickets will go on sale after Easter – but
make a note for your diary now!

The Gerrards Cross Committee

**WEMBLEY AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH
ASSOCIATION**

80th Anniversary Ball
Saturday 23 February 2013
7.30 – 11.30pm

Nower Hill School, George V Avenue, Pinner,
Middlesex HA5 5RP

The Craigellachie Band
M.C. Mrs Caroline Hamilton

Programme: The Frisky, Anniversary Reel, The
Dream Catcher, Olive MacNeil of Hayes, The
Sailor, Kilkenny Castle, The Cooper's Wife, The
Fireworks Reel, The Byron Strathspey, Ian
Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The Earl of
Mansfield, St Columba's Strathspey, The
Dancing Master, Mairi's Wedding, Alison Rose,
Quarries Jig, Miss Johnstone of Ardrrossan,
MacDonald of the Isles, James Gray, The
Montgomerie's Rant

Tickets: £14.00

Contact Brenda Manbauhar, 020 8933 9169,
info@wdsa.co.uk or www.wdsa.co.uk

**HORSHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY
DANCING CLUB**

An Informal Dance
Saturday 4 May 2013
7.00pm

The Forest School, Comptons Lane, Horsham
RH13 5NW

Marian Anderson & Her Band

Programme: Maxwell's Rant, The Hunting
Horn, Glengarry Homestead, Shiftin' Bobbins,
The Cooper's Wife, Staffin Harvest, Bratach
Bana, Father Connelly's Jig, The Sleeping
Warrior, The Lochalsh Reel, The Rose of the
North, The Chequered Court, The
Montgomerie's Rant, The Minister on The Loch,
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The Irish
Rover, Seton's Ceilidh Band, The Silver Grey,
Pelorus Jack, Mairi's Wedding Extras The
Sailor, Catch the Wind

Tickets in advance £12.50 (£6 non dancers/
children) plus a plate of finger food Contact
Chris & Lee Pratt 01403 269439 or
www.horshamscdc.org.uk

**ABINGDON SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCE CLUB**

Abingdon Assembly Hall
Saturday 9 March 2013
7.30 – 11.00pm

Benson Parish Hall, Benson, Oxon OX10 6LZ
Skara Brae

Programme: Cramond Bridge, Follow me Home,
Double Diamond Strathspey, Wee Cooper of
Fife*, Inchmickery, Tribute to Peter McBryde,
Dancing Master*, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson,
Giradet House, Joie de Vivre, The Irish Rover,
Abingdon Antics, Macleod's Fancy, The Dream
Catcher, Bees of Maggiecknockater, The Reels of
Dunans*, Cherrybank Gardens, Ramadan-ce,
Postie's Jig, Balmoral Strathspey, St Andrew's
Fair, Mairi's Wedding
Dances marked * will be walked through once.

Tickets: £16.00 including buffet supper
Purchase before 20th February at early bird price
of £15.00

Cheques (Abingdon Scottish Country Dance
Club) to Pat Berry, 2 Drysdale Close, Radley,
Oxon OX14 3BU (please enclose SAE) 01235
526192/528154 or abingdonscdc.wordpress.com



**REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY
DANCE CLUB**

Formal Dance and Buffet
Saturday 9 March 2013
7.30 – 11.00pm

The Reigate School, Pendleton Road, Reigate
RH2 7NT
Green Ginger

Programme: Flowers of Edinburgh, Capital Jig,
Gang the Same Gate, Ladies of Dunse, Dundee
City Police, Minister on the Loch, Miss
Johnstone of Ardrrossan, Sugar Candie, Starry
Eyed Lassie, St. Columba's Strathspey, Ian
Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Lochalsh
Reel, Kilkenny Castle, Macleod's Fancy,
Festival Fling, The Robertson Rant, The Bees of
Maggielknockater, Mairi's Wedding

Contact Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244

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

Branch Day School
Saturday 9 March 2013
Court Moor School, Fleet GU52 7RY
Teachers: **Margo Priestley, Raphaëlle Orgeret,
Jane Rose**

Class Musicians: **Robert Mackay,
Ken Martlew, Ian Cutts**
Musicians Day School: **Jim Lindsay**
Dancers contact Ann Dix, 01344 429521
Musicians contact Shirley Ferguson,
01276 501952

Branch Ball

Saturday 18 May 2013
Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP
Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Miss Allie Anderson, The Lochalsh
Reel, Mist o'er the Loch, Pelorus Jack, Glen
Alva, The Gentleman, Best Set in the Hall,
Clutha, Gang the Same Gate, James Gray,
Quarries Jig, James Senior of St Andrews,
Milton's Welcome, The Dancing Master,
Lammermuir Hills, Swiss Lassie, Light and Airy,
The Wind on Loch Fyne, Mairi's Wedding
Contact Gordon Anderson, 0118 961 7813

90th Anniversary Tea Party

Sunday 30 June 2013
2.00 – 5.00pm

Normandy Village Hall, Glazier's Lane,
Normandy GU3 2DD

Ian and Judith Muir

Come and help us celebrate the 90th Anniversary
of the RSCDS – more details in *The Reel* 284
Visit our website on www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Annual Ball
Saturday 4 May 2013
7.30 – 11.30pm

New Venue: Impington Village College,
Cambridge CB24 9LX

Danelaw Band

Programme: Hooper's Jig, The Lochalsh Reel,
Margaret Parker's Strathspey, The Ship in Full
Sail, The Sound of Harris, Mrs Milne of Kinneff,
Immigrant Lass, The Fireworks Reel, Return to
Shieldaig, Father Connelly's Jig, High Society,
Foxhill Court, Postie's Jig, The Recumbent
Stone, MacDonald of the Isles, Equilibrium,
Nottingham Lace, The Minister on the Loch,
Miss Johnstone of Ardrrossan, Major Ian Stewart

Tickets £14.00

Shared refreshments, details on
www.camscotsoc.org.uk
Contact Donald Wilson, 01954 210683

BEDFORD SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP

Summer Ball
Saturday 18 May 2013
7.30 – 11.30pm

Goldington Academy, Haylands Way, Bedford
MK41 9BX
Strathallan

Programme: Quarries Jig, Clutha, The Rose of
the North, The Chequered Court, Polharrow
Burn, Indian River Strathspey, The Weathercock,
The Peat Fire Flame, Glen Clova, The Elephant's
Stampede, The Gentleman, Seton's Ceilidh
Band, Pelorus Jack, City of Belfast, Nottingham
Lace, Jennifer's Jig, Sands of Morar, The Celtic
Cross, Hooper's Jig, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets: £18.00 inc dinner
Mrs Joan Sawyer, 01234 349803 or
07980 173944

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

Unfortunately the increased cost of postage has led to increased overseas subscription prices. The annual cost for individual subscribers is now £6.00 if resident in the UK, £12.00 for other European residents and £15.00 if resident elsewhere. There are special rates for bulk orders. Remittances in sterling please, payable to RSCDS (London Branch).

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OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

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

ADDESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15–10.15pm September to May at St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Monica Johnson, 01276 472756 or www.addlestonscottish.org.uk

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

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS. Advanced Class, alternate Mondays, starting on Monday 10 September 2012. 8–10pm Finchampstead Memorial Hall RG40 4JU. Details: Shirley Ferguson, 01276 501952. General Class, every Wednesday, starting on Wednesday 12 September 2012, 8–10pm, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church Hall, Frimley GU16 7AA. Teacher: Mervyn Short. Details: May Sloan, 01428 604868

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth 7.30–10pm. Technique class by invitation – alternate Wednesdays. Details: Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Rd, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX, 01202 698138

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and Highland, adults and children. Details: Rod Burrows, 01908 783053 or chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk or www.rscds-brighton.org.uk

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

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

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for all grades. Details: Jacqui Broucker, 24 Hemingford Rd, Cambridge CB1 3BZ, 07916 892611 or jacqui_broucker@yahoo.com

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

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

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30–10pm from October to end May, at St. Andrew's URC, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham GL51 9RN, 01242 528220 or mbsteele45@aol.com

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

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Upper Hall at St. Michael's & All Angels' Church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Road, Chiswick W4 1TX (right turn out of Turnham Green tube station, 100yds). Sundays from 16 Sep 2012 till 23 June 2013 with Xmas and Easter breaks. Midsummer Magic open air picnic dance in Chiswick House grounds 30 June 2013. Beginners' class 6–7.10; Social Dancing 7.15–9.20. Details: 07990 573671 or www.chiswickscottish.org.uk

CIRENCESTER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets most Wednesdays 8–10pm September to end June at the Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester. Details: Mrs Val Williams, Leaholme, Broadway Lane, South Cerney, Glos, 01285 860660 or williams147@btinternet.com

CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets Thursdays 8–10pm 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, 01293 882173

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH. Branch classes in Coulsdon: General, incl Beginners with technique (Fri); Advanced & Improvers (Wed). Details: Sue Hassanein, 01737 358401 or suehassanein@tiscali.co.uk or 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: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or angelaross87@hotmail.com or www.efsa.org.uk

EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION holds weekly adult dance classes for beginners and intermediate/advanced levels (September to March), including informal dances. Details: Dorothy Pearson, 366 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon CR5 3BF, 01737 551724 or pearson2902@tiscali.co.uk

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8pm, September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details: Mrs Annette Owen, 19 Park Prewett Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 9RG, 01256 959097 or www.fscdc.co.uk or annetteowen@hotmail.co.uk

FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Tuesdays 8pm, September to mid-July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Details: Ann or Paul Brown, 01784 462456 or 07801 160643, or 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. Details: Michael Ferguson, 01276 501952

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: Bar Martlew, 01442 261525 or info@gxscottish.org.uk or www.gxscottish.org.uk

GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8–10.30 p.m. Details: Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF, 0203 078 0018

GUILDFORD SCDC meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8pm from September to June. Details: 01483 456091 or www.gsdc.org.uk

HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Tuesdays Sept–June from 8–10pm 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 8pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8pm. Details: Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St. Albans, Herts AL3 5RE, 01727 863870

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Classes Wednesdays 8.15–10.15pm, St. Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details: Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner HA5 3QR, 020 8428 6055 or www.harrowscottish.org.uk

HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Fridays 8–10pm, September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS (continued from previous page)

- welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, 020 8560 6160
- HEREFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing in this beautiful holiday area every week of the year. Visitors always welcome. Details: Brian, 01568 615470 or brianraasay@btinternet.com
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30–11pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield EN2 8LN, 020 8367 4201
- 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 7–8pm. General 8–10pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent, 01843 869284
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP.** Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinity, Jersey JE3 5HB, 01534 862205; Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@googlemail.com; or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com
- 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*, Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG, 020 8715 3564 or www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL, 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8pm at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372 or maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP** meets every Wednesday 7.30–10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details: Dick Barford, 55 Northumberland Road, Maidstone ME25 7JG, 01622 685984
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing Thursdays 8–10.15pm at St. Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent DA12 3HL, 01474 822919
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB** meets every Monday evening from September – June at 8.15–10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details: Mrs Jane Whittington, 5 Coldharbour Rd., Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AE, 01474 359018
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS.** Mixed ability class Mondays 8–10pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Blechley, Milton Keynes MK3 5LP, 01908 378730 or jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays during school term, 8.15–10.15pm from September to May at St. Thomas' Church Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth SG6 4DZ. Informal Saturday dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds SG17 5AL
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dancing 7.45–10pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 9JN, 01634 254451
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 8–10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners/Improvers Class every Monday 8–10.15pm at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Hadyn Davies, 0208 658 9188 or hadyndavies@gmail.com
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET, 01869 340830
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8–10pm, September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Sara Ribbins, 157 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7JR, 0118 947 3207 or sara@ribbins.co.uk or www.scottishdancingreading.org
- REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets most Mondays 8.15–10.15pm, September to May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8pm from mid Sept. to end of May. Details: 020 8943 3773 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP.** Dancing Tues 8pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Pont Street. Scottish country dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15–10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns' Nights when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Details: Denise Haugh, 020 8392 2920 or dhaugh200@btinternet.com
- ST JOHN'S SDC WOKINGHAM** meet every Thurs 8–10.15pm Sept to June at St. Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Sue Davis 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne, 01344 774344 or alan.suedavis@gmail.com. Also Children's Class Sats 9.30–11am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS,** Luton, meet every Wednesday, September to June 8–10pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road, Luton, Beds. Details: Sarah Kelsall-Patel, 01296 681968 or Ted Andrews, 01582 508580 or www.saintniniansluton.org.uk
- SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT** hold weekly classes for all levels of dancers on Monday evenings from 7.30–9.30pm at Collingwood School, Springfield Road, Wallington SM6 OBD. Details: Maggie Westley, 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157, or maggie.westley@rmh.nhs.uk
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8–10pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Philip Howey, 53 Asher Reeds, Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0AR, 01892 862094 or philip.howey3@virginmedia.com
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from September to May, 8.15–10.15 pm, in Barnes. Details: Fiona Jack, 07780 671021 or jack_fiona@hotmail.com
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8–10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details: Pauline Cameron, 7 Wayne Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 9TS, 01689 838395
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30–10pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Fridays, 7.30–10.30pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30–9pm. Details: Mrs Edna Carroll, 01702 428974
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS.** Classes in Hertford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Hollybush School, Hertford; Beginners Thurs 7.30pm, Millmead School, Hertford. Demonstration 2nd Mons 8pm, St. John's Hall, Hertford. Details: Jack Ginn, 01438 861754
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8–10.15pm at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W Sussex. Details: Martin Heath, 01273 478069 or m.j.heath@talk21.com
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday at 8pm from September to June at St. Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY or www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8–10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8–10pm at St. Augustine's School, Wilman Rd, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9AL, Details: George Daly, 1 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5UE, 01892 534512 or www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** General and Beginners/Improvers Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8–10pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Wednesdays 8–10 pm September to June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dance Class Mondays 8pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Wafford WD19 5HF, 020 3078 0018
- WIMBLEDON.** St Andrew Society (London): Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8pm at Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1SB. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3JB, 020 8540 1755 or araffan@googlemail.com or www.standrewsoclondon.netne.net
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS.** Classes Tuesdays 8–10pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8–10pm. Both evenings at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover SP10 3NQ, 01264 363293 or wendy@mumford.com
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8–10pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Beryl Munro, 01621 850838 or beryl.munro@btinternet.com

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