



The Reel

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
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FEBRUARY to APRIL 2009



St. Valentine Edition



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COMBINED SOCIETIES DANCE

A joint event with Little Ship Club, London Highland Club, and Scottish Clans Association of London, hosted this year by The London Highland Club.

Saturday 7 March 2009
7.00-10.30 pm

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1 0BD

Ian Robertson and his Band

Hooper's Jig	MMM2
MacDonald of the Isles	Haynes
The Royal Yacht Britannia	43/3
Aird of Coigach	Imperial
Seann Truibhas Willichan	27/9
Lena's Kitchen	Pierson
Pelorus Jack	41/1
The Belle of Bon Accord	Drewry
Flowers of Edinburgh	1/6
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder	Hamilton
Neidpath Castle	22/9
Shiftn' Bobbins	Clowes
The Bees of Maggie Knockater	Drewry
John of Bon Accord	Goldring
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	3 Dances/2006
Napier's Index	45/8
Round Reel of Eight	27/7
Kilkenny Castle	Craigievar 2
Postie's Jig	Clowes
Mairi's Wedding	Cosh

Admission £7.00

Enquiries: Frank Bennett 020 8715 3564
e:fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk.



Brian Pierson spinning with Danuta Orlowska dancing *Strip the Willow*

Stephen Webb

BRANCH DANCE

'Easy and Enjoyable'

Saturday 28 March 2009
7.00-10.30pm

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1 0BD

The Strathallan Band

St Andrew's Fair	5 for 82
Dashing White Sergeant	3/2
Lady Glasgow	MMM1
Jubilee Jig	Leaflet
The Sailor	24/4
Seann Truibhas Willichan	27/9
Kendall's Hornpipe	Graded/22
12 Coates Crescent	40/5
The De'il Amang the Tailors	14/7
Pelorus Jack	41/1
Round Reel of Eight	27/7
Braes of Breadalbane	21/7
Antarctica Bound	The Scotia Book
The Reel of the Royal Scots	Leaflet
The Lea Rig	21/5
Mrs Stewart's Jig	35/1
Balmoral Strathspey	22/3
The Montgomerie's Rant	10/1

Admission £7.50 members,
£8.50 non members, Children £2.00,
members' children admitted free

MUSICAL MAY

Dance to the Musicians

Saturday 9 May 2009
7.00-10.30pm.

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1 0BD

George Meikle and the Musicians

Jubilee Jig	Leaflet
John of Bon Accord	33/5
(featuring the original tune by George Meikle)	
Wisp of Thistle	37/4
Old Nick's Lumber Room	26/6
Preston Mill	45/7
Seann Truibhas Willichan	27/9
Well Done Jack	29/3
Margaret Parker's Strathspey	31/3
The Reel of the 51st Division	13/10
Miss Allie Anderson	Leaflet
Back to the Fireside	38/4
Up in the Air	20/2
Joie de Vivre	39/2
West's Hornpipe	5 for 1965
Cape Town Wedding	39/4
The Starry Eyed Lassie	23/11
Culla Bay	41/2
Mrs MacLeod	6/11

Admission £7.50 members,
£8.50 non members, £2.00 Children,
members' children admitted free.

Issue No 268 will be with UK based members by 2 May 2009 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent preferably by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk. Postal contributions should be sent to Wilson Nicol, 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS to arrive by 4 April 2009. (Issue No 269 will arrive by 22 August 2009).

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

BRANCH AGM

Friday 12 June 2009

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch will take place in the Upper Hall of St. Columba's, Pont Street, at 7:30 pm on Friday 12 June 2009. The meeting will be preceded by tea, by courtesy of the Vice-Presidents, at 6:30 pm and as usual, the AGM will be followed by dancing.

All members of the Branch are welcome to attend the AGM, which represents an ideal opportunity to meet fellow members, to find out what has been achieved in the current year and to contribute to the Branch's plans and thinking for the year ahead. In addition to the formal business of the meeting, such as the presentation of the accounts for approval and the election of officers, the meeting will consider the Branch Report for the year (which will be circulated with the next *Reel* together with the Agenda for the meeting).

Any member can propose a motion for consideration at the meeting as long as it is received in writing by the Branch Secretary by 21 March, duly signed by both the proposer and a seconder (who must also be a member). Although any subject can be raised under Any Other Business, only proposals submitted in advance and appearing on the Agenda can be voted on.

If you wish to stand for election or propose another member as an officer or as one of the eleven ordinary member of the Committee, a written proposal, signed by the nominee, the proposer and seconder (all of whom must be members) must be submitted to the Secretary by 21 March. If necessary, the Secretary will arrange for a postal ballot of all members via the next edition of *The Reel*. The officers and members of the Committee, with the dates when they joined or last rejoined the Committee are shown below. All current members are eligible for re-election at the AGM.

Chairman	Jeff Robertson	1999
Vice Chairman	Angela Young	2000
Secretary	Stewart Murray	2006
Treasurer	Simon Wales	2003

Gillian Bloomfield 2007, Margaret Catchick 2003, Pamela Ellam 2000, James Fairbairn 2006, Andrew Kellett 2005, Wilson Nicol 2005, Michael Nolan 2007, Lena Robinson 2005, Margaret Shaw 2007, Moira Strutt 2004.

If you have any queries about the AGM, please contact the Secretary.

Stewart Murray

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Here we are at the start of a new year and I hope you have all enjoyed the Festive Season as much as we did and are looking forward to dancing in 2009.

Our splendid Christmas Dance with David Cunningham and his Band proved an ideal setting for the presentation of a Branch Award to Charlie Galloway by past Chairman and Vice-President Owen Meyer. Unfortunately Sandy Walker, our other recipient, had a previous diary commitment and will not be presented with his Award until our Branch dance on 28 March. We hope to see everyone enjoying themselves at that event too.

The Burns Supper and Ceilidh Dance was a huge success thanks to Kafoozalum our band, the catering team led by Jenny Sweeney, Andrew Kellett our MC and the many helpers. Jenny has taken over the reins from Denise Haugh who has stepped down after many years of preparing our national dish and to whom we send our thanks. The ceremonial haggis was dispatched in due style by our Vice-President John Laurie (that poor haggis never stood a chance) to the accompaniment of Bob Harman, our trusty Piper. It was a super evening, worthy of the 250th Anniversary of our Bard.

Spring is on the way, and what better way to drive away those winter blues than to put your dancing shoes on and get dancing. We have some excellent dances lined up for dancers of all ages and abilities so do come along to St. Columba's.

With our AGM approaching, this is your opportunity to have your say about what the Branch is doing and contribute views, ideas and motions for discussion. Please come along and support your Branch.

Happy dancing,

Jeff Robertson

THE WORK OF THE LONDON BRANCH COMMITTEE

The Committee meets SEVEN times a year, usually at St. Columba's Church. Each member of the Committee is also a member of a sub-committee; the choice of which sub-committee is agreed with the Chairman and follows the member's particular interest. The sub-committees meet occasionally but a lot of work is now done electronically.

The sub-committees are all responsible to the main Committee. The duties of some are:

Classes – includes arranging weekly country dancing classes, Highland and step dance classes, Sunday technique classes, classes to train teachers; find and book halls, suggest and arrange for teachers and musicians, organise payment, registration and collect class fees.

Dances – set dates, liaising with all the groups that use St. Columba's; suggest and then book bands; book halls; organise catering; organise the helpers for the evening.

Publicity – includes *The Reel* and the website; organising and distributing flyers; finding and then liaising with outside agencies; thinking ahead about all ways of raising the profile of what we do.

BRANCH COMMITTEE

During the coming quarter, the London Branch Committee will meet on 30 March and 7 May. There will also be a meeting of the Convenors of the sub-committees on 5 March. Suggestions for items to be discussed should be sent to the Secretary at least two weeks before the dates of the meetings.

Headquarters News

It has not been possible to include this contribution in the current issue, but for those who are interested it can be read on the Branch website www.rscdslondon.org.uk.

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE SOCIETY



Patron - H.M. The Queen

HEADQUARTERS:

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

LONDON BRANCH

Hon. President:

Mary Stoker

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

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

Chairman:

Jeff Robertson

31 Alinora Avenue, Goring by Sea,
West Sussex BN12 4NA
Tel: 01903 245718.
email: jtr@ctg.co.uk

Vice-Chairman:

Angela Young,
75 Studland Road, Hanwell
London, W7 3QU
Tel: 020 8578 4244
email: aady@mac.com

Hon. Secretary:

Stewart Murray,
139 Cottenham Park Road,
London, SW20 0DW
Tel: 020 8946 3150.
email: stewart.murray@btinternet.com

Hon. Treasurer:

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

SUB-COMMITTEES

Youth: Andrew Kellett, Angela Young

Classes: Moira Strutt, Gillian Bloomfield,
Margaret Catchick (Day School), Pamela Ellam,
Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw

Dances: Jeff Robertson, Gillian Bloomfield,
Margaret Catchick, Margaret Shaw,
Angela Young

Demonstrations: James Fairbairn, Angela Young

Publicity: Michael Nolan, Wilson Nicol (Reel),
Rita Marlow*, Meryl Thomson*(website)

Open-air Dances: James Fairbairn,
Jeff Robertson

Membership: Gaynor Curtis*

Bookstall: Ian Anderson*

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

Hon Archivist: Iris Anderson*

S E Branches: Simon Wales,

Combined Societies: Jeff Robertson

*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

Website

www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Objects of London Branch

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

- 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.

BRANCH



EDITORIAL

The New Zealand Branch was faced with a membership crisis over the raising of the cost of membership of the Society from £10 to £15 at the 2006 AGM. Their Branch members voted for a review of the relationship with the Society. This resulted in a motion being put to the recent Society AGM in Perth to the effect that Branch members would not have to be members of the Society. Had that been approved, it is likely that Headquarters would have faced a catastrophic drop in income. The Management Board fended off the threat by promising to produce a review by June this year of what could be done to alleviate the New Zealand (and other member's) objection to the current membership fee. This could be a major headache because fixed costs are such a high proportion of Headquarter expenditure. We in the London Branch are particularly fortunate that our Branch membership fees are so low: other Branches need higher fees to remain viable. It will be of interest to all members to know in due course how the Management Board handles this problem and how its new Executive Officer can turn round the organisation: for example to farm out more of its functions to Branches where the staff is voluntary, and to find other sources of income to reduce the dependence on member subscriptions – it has been suggested that the income from membership subscriptions should be no more than 25% of the Society's income.

Wilson Nicol

KALEIDOSCOPE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CONFERENCE

3-5 July 2009, Geneva Switzerland

Venue: Holiday Inn Thoiry (near Geneva airport)
Avenue du Mont Blanc, Thoiry

A worldwide seminar on issues of Scottish Country Dancing intended as an international forum to promote ideas and generate discussion on a range of topics not usually covered by SCD workshops and will include keynote speeches, breakout sessions, panel discussions, ample opportunity to speak with the RSCDS Chairman, Convenors of RSCDS Committees and members of the RSCDS Management Board, and for networking among participants, an exhibition of SCD-related goods, published proceedings, a Saturday evening dance and on arrival an evening for meeting and informal discussions.

Registration is still open and hotel rooms are available.

Further information and online application form are available on the event website:

<http://scdkaleidoscope1.strathspay.org>

Erratum

The photo of Charlie Galloway in the last issue was incorrectly attributed: it came from Joan Spencer's collection in the Branch Archives; the photo of Sandy Walker was taken by Nigel Walker. Our apologies for the oversight.

RSCDS Leaflet Dances

It has come to our notice that there are at least two systems for numbering the RSCDS leaflets: the Pocket edition and the Leaflet Dances with Music edition. In future leaflet dances will only be listed in programmes as 'Leaflet'.

MICHAEL NOLAN, the Branch Publicity Convenor



Norman Shackley

I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself to you since I have recently joined the London Branch Committee as Publicity Convenor. Having worked with the team who steered London Branch's 2008 Dance Scottish Week activities so successfully, it was inevitable and came as no surprise that I was asked to continue to promote the work of London Branch – and I'm happy to do it.

While it's not my first trade, I have been involved in Public Relations and Communications one way or another over a number of years and I am happy to bring those skills to the party. My thanks go to those present and past members of the Publicity Sub-Committee and others who have done and continue to do a great job.

We already have in place some excellent ways to get our message across, either through the columns of this publication, our website which is bursting at the seams with information, and the many flyers and leaflets which advertise much of what London Branch RSCDS has to offer. We have an excellent product, and a huge number of people who already enjoy the wide range of what is available. There are classes, dances, music

workshops, day school, live music and above all the sharing in friendship of what has to be one of the healthiest and fun hobbies around.

You and I, we all know that, and it seems to me that the task in hand over the next couple of years is to ensure that the message reaches those who don't. There you are – I've just written my own "job description". But it's not all my job or the role of just the sub-committee. What I'd ask for is that if you have any ideas or thoughts on how we can improve our communications or include more people, please do contact me by email or phone.

Scottish Country Dancing – for fun, fitness and friendship!

Michael Nolan Tel 07813 363076

Michael@nolan75.freeserve.co.uk

ADVANCE NOTICE

Branch Dances 2009

at St. Columba's Church Hall.

9 May Musicians/**George Meikle**

13 June **Frank Reid**

Summer Picnic Dance

27 June **David Hall**

BRANCH BADGES

The Branch Badge is based on the rectangular *Reel* masthead logo and is available in a smart enamel and polished finish. These are modestly priced at £4.00 and are available from

Jeff Robertson

on 01903 245718, 020 7730 9633 or jtr@ctg.co.uk or from Ian Anderson at the Branch Bookstall on 01420 84599 or bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk.

Please continue to support your Branch.

Jeff Robertson

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch costs £19.00 per annum for UK based members (£19.50 for Europe; £21.50 elsewhere). There is a discount of £3 for members under the age of 25. Current members of other Branches can join London Branch for £4.00 per annum if they live in the UK (£4.50 in Europe and £6.50 elsewhere).

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

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

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

In January London Branch started a course for dancers who wish to be teachers. The course is again being held in Richmond and the examination days are Saturday 20 June, PM only, and Sunday 21 June and for those days a volunteer class is required. Two years ago there was a very supportive band of volunteers who thoroughly enjoyed themselves so keep the date free and let us know if you are interested in helping. Refreshments are provided!

Help would also be appreciated during the classes – the dates are Sundays 22 February, 8 and 29 March, 26 April, 3, 17, 31 May and 7 June. The classes are from 1.00 to 5.00pm.

If you would be able to help at any of these times please let Moira Strutt know. Tel.020 8748 6711, or email moirastrutt@btinternet.com

BRANCH BOOKSTALL

At your service

Books and CDs for Scottish Dancers

Mail order from Ian Anderson,

104 Whitdown Lane, Alton,

Hants GU34 1QR

Tel: 01420 84599

email: bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk.

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

Please state your Branch when ordering.

N.B.: The Bookstall Stocklist is

available on the Branch Website.



CLASSES

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

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher / Musician
BEGINNERS	Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Moira Strutt / t.b.a.
POPULAR	Wednesday	8.00 - 9.30	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Lindsey Rousseau / Ian Cutts
TECHNIQUE	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Maureen Campbell / Ken Martlew
GENERAL	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30	St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD	Jeni Rutherford
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	<i>For details contact James Fairbairn, 01865 512308</i>		Angela Young / Sandra Smith

Half term week commencing 16 February (not as in last issue of *The Reel*). Term ends week commencing 16 March with a classes party on Wednesday 25 March. Summer term starts week commencing 20 April, ends week commencing 18 May to be followed by five general classes. Wednesday evening classes cost £35 for five week term. The cost per session is £8. Newcomers are not charged the first class they attend.

HIGHLAND CLASSES 2009

Teacher: **David Hall**

Thursdays:- 19 February, 5 March, 19 March
7.15 - 9.15 p.m.

St. Michael and All Angels Church (Upper Hall).
Corner of The Avenue and Bath Road, W4 ITT.
(very close to Turnham Green Tube Station).

Further details from Margaret Shaw on
020 7329 2847 or classes@rscdslondon.org.uk.

STEP DANCING

Step Classes continue in 2009 on Sundays, 29 March and 3 May. The sessions are from 10.30 to 12.30 and 13.45 to 15.45 at the Scout Hut, Kings Langley, WD4 9HT. It is about a mile from Kings Langley station just a short train ride from Euston, or by car it is close to junction 20 on the M25 near Watford. The class is taken by Joan Desborough who invites everyone to come and have a go: her daughter Wendy provides live fiddle music. Further details from Joan, tel 01442 826629 or email ladiesstep@rscdslondon.org.uk.

SOUTH EAST REGION TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

The South East Region Teachers' Association (SERTA) organises workshops for Scottish dance teachers. It is open to anyone who teaches SCD, whether qualified or not, those with a dance teaching qualification and those taking teaching courses. If you wish to join the mailing list or have any queries, please contact me at mikejohnson@waitrose.com, at 4 Gatehampton Cottages, Gatehampton Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9LX or on 01491 873 026.

The next workshop will be in Reigate on 19 April 2009. The morning session will be a warm-up workshop led by Lynda Hughes, who is both a (retired) physiotherapist and an experienced teacher of Scottish Country Dancing. In the afternoon, David Ambrose will talk about using computers, MP3 players etc. for providing music for dance. The following meeting will be at Hemel Hempstead on 27 September 2009.

Mike Johnson

SUNDAY ADVANCED TECHNIQUE CLASSES

Band Hall, Coram's Fields,
93 Guilford Street, WC1N 1DN.

11.00am-1.00pm

22 February

Teacher: **David Hall**

Musician: **Barbara Manning**

22 March

Teacher **Joan Desborough**

Musician: **Ian Cutts**.

Nearest underground station: Russell Square
Cost £6.00. Free on-street parking available.

Local establishments available for lunch.

See website for details of teachers and musicians

Further details 020 8748 6711

email: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

EXAMINATION SUCCESS

Belated congratulations to Brian Pierson for passing the examination for Unit 5, making him a fully certificated teacher. We wish him success in teaching and promoting Scottish Country Dancing.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Central London

The Branch children's class will be held on Saturdays 14 March, 4 April. 10.30am to 11.30am. St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1 0BD.

Teacher **Angela Young**,

Pianist **Jean Harrison**

£2.00 per child per class. Adults welcome to stay. Newcomers always welcome.

Buckinghamshire

Chiltern Children's Scottish Dance Club continues. There are classes with both Country and introductory Highland Dancing on Tuesday evening for 'Improvers' and Wednesday evening for 'Wee ones' and 'Beginners' with teachers **Joan Desborough** and **Ann Robertson**. Details from Ann on 01296 630682.

FAMILY DAY

Saturday 28 March 2009

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street,
London SW1 0BD.

11.30 - 12.45 Children's Class

All children are welcome to join the Branch Children's Class (admission £2.00). At the same time there will be a chance for adults who accompany their children to learn a few

steps and dances to help them join in at the Family Dance in the afternoon.

1.00 p.m. Lunch (cost £1.00)

2.00 - 4.30 p.m. Family Dance to the music of **Strathallan** (admission £2.50 including light refreshments)

All dances will be talked through. Dances will include: The Barmkin, Cumberland Reel, Dashing White Sergeant, The Dhoon, Espie MacNab, The Flying Scotsman, Galloway House, Joe MacDiarmid's Jig, A Jig for Mrs Dunn, Jig to the Music, Petronella, A Reel for Jeannie, Round Reel of Eight, plus...

Special price for the whole day £5.00

SPRING FLING

27 - 29 March 2009

Aberdeen

A weekend of ceilidhs, dances, classes for beginner to advanced levels and parties for young dancers between 16 and 35 years. Further information on the RSCDS website www.rscds.org. London Branch members under 25 or in full time study can apply for a subsidy to help them attend Spring Fling.

Please apply as soon as possible to our

Youth Co-ordinator, Andrew Kellett

020 8301 1403 or youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

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

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

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

CHILDREN'S MEDAL TESTS

The Branch will be hosting the RSCDS Medal Tests for Young Dancers on Saturday 2 May 2009. The tests are graded to suit different levels of experience and aim to improve children's dancing in a friendly setting. Teachers who wish to enter their pupils for the tests or want to know more about them should contact the Youth Co-ordinator. youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

YOUTH WORKSHOP

Saturday 19 September 2009

Central London venue

Following the success of last year's youth workshop there will be a repeat at the start of next season. Look out for details in the next issue or on the Branch website.

Lots to Learn About Dancing

an instructional DVD produced by the Red Thistle Dancers, reviewed by **Fiona Grant**, RSCDS Bristol.

Are you a dancer with some experience who would like to know a bit more about the details of dancing technique? Are you a beginner who finds it hard to remember what was taught in class? Are you an aspiring teacher of Scottish Country Dancing who would like to see an excellent presentation of all the teaching points necessary for passing your teaching exam? Then here is a marvellous opportunity to watch and learn in your own time, as often as you want, and all in the privacy of your own home away from critical eyes.

Scottish Country Dancing with the Red Thistle Dancers is an instructional DVD illustrating the five basic steps, twenty-one common formations, and includes complete dances which demonstrate the figures and the progression within the set. Clearly and logically presented, with poised and accurate dancing, and marvellous music, this DVD has facts and information to add to any dancers' knowledge.

The format is quite formal, but its simplicity and unhurried pace make the explanations and demonstrations unambiguous and appear attainable; although by the end of the DVD, the viewer is very well aware of how much goes into a beautifully executed Scottish Country dance. The use of freeze frame and a variety of camera angles draws the viewer's attention to details explained in the clear precise narration, and much thought and preparation has gone into scripting and directing all aspects of the dancers' performance. The dancers themselves have been very brave, knowing that many of the audience for the DVD will be casting a critical eye over their prowess: rarely have I seen such elegant teamwork in a demonstration team, and any teacher facing the prospect of coaching dancers for display could learn from this DVD. I would award the children's set gold proficiency medals immediately!

The musical accompaniment is complementary to the dancers and the commentary: a variety of carefully chosen tunes are played in a sympathetic and strictly rhythmical way. If only we could have seen the musicians, and maybe a little of the interaction between musicians and dancers! But this would have been added pleasure as the musicians' presence is evident not just during the dancing of whole dances, but for dancing the figures and short phrases described. Any musician aspiring to play for a Scottish Country Dance class could pick up more than a few hints from watching and listening to this DVD.

Many of us dance in clubs where learning dances is the usual way to pass a pleasant social evening, and dance technique is rarely if ever mentioned or taught. Newbies joining the club might never have any formal teaching, either because there is no qualified teacher in the group, or learning is expected to be by the well tried trial and error method of assimilating new skills. This DVD would be a marvellous present for inexperienced dancers who might appreciate an insight into how technique can make Scottish dance easier! It is a DVD any of us dancers can come back to time and again and learn something new on each viewing: a small correction to a step, another way to teach a figure, some hints about what it is that makes us love Scottish Country Dancing. Copies available from: www.redthistledancers.org.

A GEORDIE WELCOME FOR YOUNG DANCERS

Unbeknown to the majority of the dancing community, that rare breed of dancers (those aged 16-35) disappear off to a school gym or sports hall somewhere in the country every so often. Are they plotting an RSCDS coup? No, rather the complete opposite – it is another of the demanding but fulfilling Youth Workshops, the last of which, held in London, was a great success.

So, around two dozen young dancers from as far as Aberdeen, London and also some locals congregated at Westfield School sports hall in Newcastle on the 17 January for a challenging five hours of technique, teamwork, the all important lunch and then more teaching culminating in the whole ensemble learning a Burns Medley (*Duncan Gray, The Lea Rig and Tam O' Shanter*) for use at any demonstration the RSCDS Youth Team give. The day was taught by David Queen and he combined the artful skill of constructive criticism with humour – apparently the most important parts of the body for Scottish Country Dancing (as those who have given a demonstration will know) are the left and right index fingers and both eyebrows.

Joking aside, why is it so important to hold these Youth Days? Some members of dancing clubs up and down the country might think it is elitist, ageist or exclusive. To some extent this is true. These days are provided (free of charge for RSCDS members) to advanced dancers aged between 16 and 35 only. But, in cultivating a crop of good, dancers who dance well together, there is a greater likelihood of attracting teenagers and other young people for whom Scottish Country Dancing might otherwise be seen as the preserve of senior folk. If we can show that dancing is fun, a great way to meet friends and get fit at the same time then it will be all the better for the health and well being of a lot of children growing up in today's instant consumer society.

A great deal of organisation goes into a Youth Workshop, from the careful planning and preparation of the teacher to the forethought required in the choice of biscuits for the tea table. All those who attended the day would like to thank everyone involved in making these days possible. So, if you are under 35, look out on the Headquarters website for the date and venue of the next youth workshop – you will only need your shoes and a smile.

T. Marston

SUBSCRIBE TO THE REEL

If you are not a member of the London Branch order your copy of *The Reel* from
Rita Marlow, 17 West Farm Close,
Ashtead, Surrey KT21 2LH,
tel: 01372 812821,
e-mail: rusmar@ntlworld.com

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

HAPPY 250th BIRTHDAY, ROBBIE!

To say it went with a swing would be an understatement: the Burns' Supper Ceilidh, I mean. A hundred and eighty excited and at times exhausted folk filled the lower hall at Pont Street on Saturday 17 January for an early and enthusiastic celebration of a special Burns' Birthday.

What's great about such a Ceilidh night is that it's just for fun. It invites and draws into the dancing community those new or inexperienced people who might be put off by lack of 'know how'. And some just sat and marvelled at the shenanigans on the dance floor.

With such an excellent MC in Andrew Kellett, dancers were cajoled, encouraged and pushed to their ever extending limits, with some dances changing as they progressed – now there's a challenge for all of us.

Far from the cardboard cut-out musicians as suggested by one correspondent to *The Reel*, we had the pleasure of great tunes and uplifting music from the very lively Kafoozalum band.

Unseen for most of the night was Jenny Sweeney who with her band of catering helpers produced a fine 'neeps and tatties' supper for us all. She emerged from the sidelines (kitchen) led by Piper Bob Harman who brought us tunelessly to order for John Laurie's Address "To a Haggis" (*pictures centre pages*). You could hear a pin drop as some of our guests watched and listened attentively to this ceremonial.

Our thanks should go to everyone who worked hard before and on the night to ensure that the 250th Birthday party went so well and that we were able, once more, to welcome new faces to experience the fun of Scottish Music and dancing.

Michael Nolan

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

Jeff Robertson

TAKING THE HEAT OUT OF WARM-UPS

Andrew Patterson's letter will have touched some raw nerves. We have been brainwashed into believing that these tedious warm-up routines are essential. However, in the absence of any definitive medical study, there is very little evidence on which to base an opinion.

It is well documented that the body performs far more effectively when fully warmed up, and is less subject to some injuries. What is not established is whether fancy exercises achieve this better than just getting on with the dance. Keith Grant, the polymath Californian sports instructor referenced in Jeremy and Grace Hill's well-written book on warm-ups, goes into some detail about SCD injuries and appropriate exercises, but concedes "...the best method of warm-up (or training) would be activities that mimic the physical demands placed on the body during the activity". So why not the activity itself?

At a recent Day School the dancers stood still, coatless, for 20 minutes before launching into a devious warm-up routine that the well-known teacher had explained at such length. At another was an improvised sequence of entertaining, but rapid and unfamiliar movements with the instruction "Do what I do - if you can see me". It is hard to imagine more hazardous preparations for the day's exertions! The one serious calf injury I have personally sustained came from an awkward warm-up exercise.

It is sports physiotherapists who have raised our concern, but there is a fundamental difference between their world and ours. A sportsman (or ballet dancer) must be ready to give 100% from the start, while SC dancers get no extra points at all for completing the first figure in 6.2 bars instead of 8. Moreover, in social dancing, the important elements of fun, phrasing and timing can all be achieved with minimal exertion, so warm-up can happen at our own natural rate during the first few dances. Those who do not have an easy dance step can

walk instead, and organisers should always help by choosing easy flowing dances to start a programme (please, not General Stuart's Reel!).

Another concession by Keith Grant is that the most brilliant exercise routine is no good if the class doesn't want it. Unlike the sportsmen, we are not all fitness freaks, but just enjoy dancing. I would add a further caveat, that since not every SCD teacher has the skills of a professional sports trainer, some of the warm-ups we are asked to do are inappropriate or positively dangerous.

As a GP with a particular interest in orthopaedics and osteopathy, I have for 30 years frequently been in unofficial attendance at dancers' injuries. If a dedicated warm-up were necessary, it follows that injuries would cluster near the start of an event without one. It is not my experience that they do.

Most injuries, apart from accidents (tripping up, etc.) appear to be related to overuse - repetitive strain. When the body is warmed up, endorphins perfuse the working parts and reduce protective pain; add the heady mixture of a riveting dance and driving music, and it's all too easy to be unaware of a developing problem, such as an inflamed Achilles tendon, until too late.

A dem, competition or Highland Dance is different - like the sportsmen, one has to be ready to perform optimally from the start, so it is sensible to get a sweat running from a focussed 20-minute warm-up.

"Warm-ups" are not to be confused with improving exercises in a class. The latter are designed to train movements peculiar to SCD, such as pointed toes, turnout, posture, elements of technique etc. One should be fully warmed up before attempting most of these. Some exercises, for example marching to train timing and rhythm sense, could duplicate as a warm-up. But why not dance?

Systematic "Cool-downs" may be more

important. Prolonged stretches of the major muscle groups will squeeze out accumulated lactic acid, greatly reducing stiffness and inflammation later.

A study to resolve these issues would be difficult to design and run for many reasons, but there's a challenge for some PhD student. Meanwhile on with the dance, before Health & Safety outlaws it altogether!

Ken & Bar Martlew

(Both are RSCDS teachers; Ken is a retired GP, and Bar a physiotherapist)

THE CANNY SCOTSMAN

A Scotsman walks into a bank in the City and asks for a loan. He tells the manager that he is going to Scotland on business for two weeks and needs to borrow £5,000.

The manager tells him that the bank will need some form of security for the loan, so the Scotsman hands over the keys to his new Ferrari. The car is parked on the street in front of the bank.

The Scotsman produces the registration book and everything is in order. The manager agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan. The bank staff all enjoy a good laugh at the Scotsman for using a £250,000 Ferrari as collateral against a £5,000 loan. An employee of the bank then drives the Ferrari into the bank's underground garage and parks it there.

Two weeks later, the Scotsman returns, repays the £5,000 and the interest, which comes to £15.41. The manager says, "Sir, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire. What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow £5,000?"

The Scotsman replies: "Where else in the City can I park my car for two weeks for only £15.41 and expect it to be there when I return?"

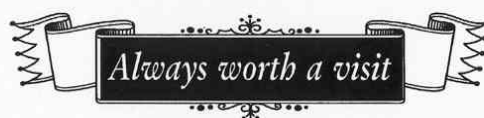


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LEICESTER BRANCH RSCDS — 2008

In 2007 Leicester RSCDS Branch celebrated its 30th Anniversary. Two founder members still regularly dance with the Branch. One of our founder members, our Vice-President Doris Buchanan, is our Senior Teacher and Demonstration Class Teacher. Thanks to the efforts and support of an original group of Leicester teachers we now have ten Fully Qualified Teachers all teaching with our Branch. This is an excellent basis of support for all our members.

Leicester Branch members meet regularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Each week, from September to July, some 60 - 70 dancers meet for classes and social dancing. Our Tuesday afternoon class is a general class while on Thursday evenings we have classes for beginners, intermediate, advanced social dancers and advanced technique as well as social dancing. Each session is some 6 or 7 weeks followed by a Social evening. Our Christmas and End of Season socials are Bring and Share events giving a true party feeling.

We have a hard working and enthusiastic committee who organise a varied programme of events. These include Saturday evening dances in February, April and August, and October, an Annual Ball in November, a Christmas Dance, a family and friends Hogmanay event and a Day School in March.

Each year we invite a different band to our Annual Ball, often from Scotland. In the past few years we have enjoyed dancing to the music of Neil Copeland and his band, George Meikle and the Lothian Band, Nicol McLaren and the Glenraig Band to name but a few. We are also fortunate to have danced to the music of more local bands at our Saturday dances, Ken Martlew, Bob Shakespeare, Ian Slater, David Hall and Chris Dewhurst among others.

Our Day School has proved very popular over many years. We invite well known teachers to lead Day School classes. On 14 March 2009 Mervyn Short will make a second visit to teach a morning advanced class and an afternoon general class. In addition we have a second morning class for intermediate dancers taught by our own Doris Buchanan. For the last few years we have

used the services of local Midland musicians. An excellent lunch is provided by Leicester caterers while we relax in the evening with social dancing.

We have a very active demonstration team. The team meet on alternate Wednesdays to prepare programmes for entertainment and festivals. In 2008 the team were particularly active around St. Andrew's Night entertaining a wide variety of groups. But their busiest time is in January and February when they are out and about in Leicester and Leicestershire with their Burns' Night entertainment. This includes piping in and addressing the haggis, poems, songs and dancing and group participation. The programme has proved so popular that the team is fully booked for more than a year ahead.

Leicester had published two CDs and books of original dances with original music. The first, 'The Crystal Collection', celebrated 15 years of RSCDS dancing in Leicester while 'The Silver Collection' celebrated the Silver Anniversary in 2002. The CDs, recorded by George Meikle and David Cunningham, and the book for the 'Silver Collection' can still be purchased from the Branch.

Members are kept well informed of all our activities in our bi-monthly Newsletter that is edited by a past Chairman, Barbara Sharp.

Our Newsletter and website also provide information about dances and dance activities across the Midlands. Up to date class information can be accessed on our website www.leicesterrscds.org.uk or by email to our secretary Pamela Hood at info@leicesterrscds.org.uk.

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"Half the battle in teaching Scottish country dancing is to teach people the good tunes that express the spirit of the dance. Music makes the dancing. Teachers have a common fault: they never give to music one quarter of its importance. Teachers must educate the majority of dancers to music. We should encourage our classes to know the tunes. We should never use music for a well-known dance for another dance."

Jean Milligan Quote
(from TAC Archive)

KEEPING FEET FIT AND AVOIDING DANCE INJURIES

Dancing is a popular activity for many people and, not surprisingly, injuries can occur both among amateur enthusiasts and professionals. This article briefly reviews some lower extremity maladies and discusses ideas on prevention and treatment, to help you dance healthier and longer.

For those of you who have not suffered an injury, the following statistics may encourage you to read on. They relate to professional dancers, and their incidence is likely higher than in Scottish country dancers. (The statistics relate to professionals, well trained and in the prime of life, versus the somewhat less youthful and agile performers you are likely to dance with.) A report by the Rudolf Nureyev Foundation states an injury incidence of 97% for ballet, 84% for contemporary dance, and 85% for classical/modern/jazz dancing. According to this report, the average dancer will suffer about 4% injuries versus an incidence of 4.7% for hockey or 2.5% for marathoners. Not surprisingly, foot and ankle injuries are most common, with the knees and spine being less frequently involved. *Hallux valgus* (bunion) formation is almost universal (89%) among ballet dancers.

Preventive measures for the dancer begin by having a proper environment in which to perform. One obvious issue is to ensure a proper dance floor. It should be even, not sloping, with a surface that has some 'give' (i.e. avoid concrete floors) to minimize impact injuries. Floors that restrict smooth movement (carpets, tacky surfaces) are an invitation to problems, especially at the end of a session. On the other hand, performing on a surface with excessive give may cause muscle fatigue. A slippery floor can cause muscle tightness or a fall.

Another less obvious environmental factor is temperature. It is important that the room is not

too cold as this may lead to tightness in the muscles. Also important is an adequate dance area to avoid collisions and reduce avoidance movements.

What can the dancer do to proactively avoid injury?

A number of preliminary considerations can be mentioned. First and foremost is to maintain oneself in good physical condition, including proper weight, nutrition and avoiding performing while fatigued. Conditioning exercises through activities at a gym or other sport are helpful. Associating with a dance group and instructor that matches one's performance capabilities can also forestall problems.

One of the most important things one can do to prevent injury is to engage in a methodical warm-up routine that involves stretching. Stretching reduces muscular tension, enhances circulation, and helps to stretch the muscle, thereby benefiting joint range of motion. Stretching can be passive (gradually lengthening the muscle, then holding it there briefly) or proprioceptive (the muscle is held in a stretched position against some resistance). Avoid aggressive bouncing or dynamic stretching, as this can actually result in injury. A cooling down series of exercises of the passive variety is also advisable.

This sequence of warming up and cooling down is also useful in actual dance activities. When instructing or leading a dance performance, do not immediately begin with a difficult sequence that is likely to result in injury. Better to lead up to the challenging activity, then follow with a more gentle sequence.

Dr. Robert N. Sterin, D.P.M.,
Podiatrist for over 25 years.

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MUSIC

NEW RECORDINGS

RSCDS Book 20 - Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig Scottish Dance Band (CD 065)

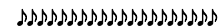
The Vallin Suite 4 - Colin Dewar and his Band (JVMCD 0802)

An Angus Welcome - Deirdre Adamson Quartet (DACD 0831). Jute Spinner's Reel, Hall Change, Glasgow Lassies, The Unicef Circle, The Express, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, Stuck in the Snow, Airdrie Lassies, Dancing in the Street, Heather Dewar's Strathspey, The Lochalsh Reel, Indian River Strathspey, Major Ian Stewart, The Auld Alliance.

Another fine recording from Nicol and his band: even better than his previous best reviewed in Reel 266. I particularly like his Strathspeys – they are bright and beautiful! There are 36 different Strathspey tunes here and they are a fine mix of old and new. In no way would I take anything away from the front row – two accordions and fiddle, but the overall sound is greatly enhanced with Isobelle Hodgson on piano and John Sinton on bass.

The fourth CD in the Vallin suite is by Colin Dewar. Need I say more? Colin is one of the best band leaders currently playing for Scottish Country Dances and once again, he excels. It is a real treat. The net proceeds from the Vallin books and CDs go to support cancer research at Stepping Hill Hospital in Stockport. Just a reminder that the three earlier CDs reviewed in previous *Reels* were by Neil Barron, David Cunningham and Ian Muir of Prestwick. For copies, contact John Morris on 0161 439 3814 or email vallinjmorris@aol.com.

Deirdre's CDs always have a great sound with lots of lift and this latest one is indeed great. The overall sound is given an extra dimension by Deirdre playing 1st and 2nd accordion. I know that a number of the dances have already been recorded on RSCDS CDs but it is good for those who depend on CDs to have some alternatives.



The latest CD from Gary Sutherland's Ceilidh Band has the intriguing title *The Telephone Box*, a tune by Freeland Barbour. It is a real cracker. The first track, for the Gay Gordons, begins with a tune rarely heard these days – *The Duke of Fife's Welcome to Deeside* by J. Scott Skinner and this sets the tone. There are 53 tunes in all for a fine mix of old time and ceilidh dances. One word of criticism: they do not play the correct original for *The Dashing White Sergeant*. Why not just say 'a set of Reels'?

John Laurie 020 7286 1923.

THE CHILTERN FIDDLE RALLY – 2009

I first met musician Ian Robertson when, with his sister Judith they came dancing at Lucy Clark SCD Club in their 'teens,. And they've been getting better ever since! The Fiddle Rally on 18 January was testament to all the musical skills they have practised since those days. Wonderful foot-tapping Scottish dance music played in High Wycombe's splendid Swan Theatre, the stage crammed with almost 100 musicians, was an experience for every Scottish dancer to die for.

The organisation was very slick; Ian looked after the musicians and his wife Ann led a team attending to just about everything else including the design work. How lucky we are to be able to go to such happenings!

Ian had invited well-known band leader Nicol McLaren, to play several pieces. He coaxed some wonderful music from his accordion including a beautiful Norwegian waltz and a terrific set of reels making this another unmissable experience.

And that was not all. With her customary skill Angela Young had choreographed a display of Scottish Country Dancing that fitted the challenging space presented by the raised orchestra pit in front of the musicians. Dancers joining and leaving to seamlessly stitch together a number of popular dances made a lovely sight. That the Dem Team can do this with only limited time for rehearsal shows real professionalism.

I recognised musicians from many bands in the southeast and some from much further afield. The person sitting beside me – neither a dancer nor Scottish – commented how infectious was the happiness and togetherness of everyone present, musicians and an audience of nearly 900. Just one great happy family! This was an extra bonus. One doesn't usually find so many friends in any audience, and in the interval and after it became one huge party.

If you haven't yet been to a Fiddle Rally, then you must come. The theatre is already booked for next year, 17 January 2010!

John Reeve

See pictures on centre and back pages

MUSICIANS' DAY

A workshop will take place all day at St. Columba's on Saturday 9 May 2009 for musicians who would like to play for the above dance.

The dances have been especially chosen for the music and it will be a wonderful evening of music and dancing.

The Workshop will be led by George Meikle and all musicians will be very welcome to join in.

For further information and an application form contact Jeff Robertson (contact details on page 2).

Application forms are also available to download from the website.

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DANCING THROUGH THE AGES

In the nineteen thirties I lived in a village of around a thousand people – a complete community with all the services you needed, except for a dancie. He had to be imported from the nearest towns some 6 miles away. As was the custom, ALL the village children went to dancing classes: we had Dancie Jackson and Dancie Kidd that I can remember. They cycled the 'lang Scotch miles' to take their village classes with fiddle slung over their backs. I don't remember much about the dances we did, but one thing sticks in my mind – at the end of term display I went the wrong way! A good start to my dancing career!

During the war there were no dancing

classes except at school when on wet sports days we were herded into the gym for country dancing.

The most memorable dance was *The Reel of the 51st Division* which the whole school performed on VE Day – modern dancing indeed at the time. At the end of the war the village doctor retired and we had an ex-RAF medic take over.

His wife was a friend of Jean Milligan and so the whole village became embroiled in Scottish country dancing. There was a waiting list for each of the three classes held during the week! At the first end of term ball in the largest of the village halls (yes, there were four halls in the village!) the local band – none other than Lindsay Ross and his band – played to a packed floor and in the interval we enjoyed groaning tables of delicacies despite rationing. The programme was not what you would expect of a SCD programme of today: Grand March, Eightsome Reel, Old Fashioned Waltz, Barn Dance, Cumberland Reel, Waltz Country Dance, Military Two Step, The Linton Ploughman, St. Bernard's Waltz, Rory O' More, Palais Glide, Dashing White Sergeant, Pride of Erin, Navy Two Step, Waltz Cotillion, The Nut, The Valeta, and Highland Schottische with several of these being repeated though the evening. Miss Milligan visited the village frequently and was a great inspiration to all of the young dancers. Of course once I had my driving licence, the stage widened and attendance at the several Farmer's Dances in the county was a highlight of social life. There the programme, often to Jim Cameron and his 6- or 7-piece Band, would include modern items such as the Foxtrot, Quickstep, Modern Waltz and Tango, and in particular, *The Lancers*. The last was a special to allow the strong and burly young farmers to lift their partners into a horizontal flight in the basket figure. I regret that there were cases where a lady lost contact and took to the air. Such was country life.

At university, the Saturday night hops were primarily modern but there was the obligatory Strip the Willow. It was the only time in my life that I was spun off my feet – by a woman! Afficionados of the St. Andrews Summer School will be surprised to know that the Diner where we had the hops – now known as the Old Diner – was licensed for a

maximum of 300 dancers! But wait, there were frequently 500 in the hall – not dancing really but just moving round en masse to the music. Scottish country dancing was especially popular: the Celtic Society ran 'ceilidhs' (just country dances) weekly and their Annual Highland Ball in the Younger Hall to big name bands was the climax of the season. As you may have guessed I was heavily involved in that aspect of dancing. In 1952 I took a group of Celtic Society members along to do the preliminary teaching certificate at Summer School in University Hall. Living in St. Andrews for seven years enabled me to frequent Summer School and enjoy the company of a large contingent of

younger members all under the watchful eye of Miss Milligan. Even in those days there were the weekly dances in the Younger Hall with demonstrations during the evening. These usually included Miss Milligan's idolised strathspey dancer, Irene Grant (now Mrs Caithness and still living in St. Andrews).

Sometimes I was lucky to

be chosen as a member of the team. It was at the 1956 Summer School that I met Jean, my wife to be, leading to a dancing partnership of over 50 years. We even went to Summer School in 1957 as part of our honeymoon – there's dedication for you!

Over the years Scottish country dancing has flourished around the world enabling us to participate without too much difficulty in dancing wherever we might travel. New Zealand is a friendly port of call where our son and wife are heavily involved in dancing and music. Our readers will have many other happy experiences around the world thanks to the groundwork put in by the founder members of the Society. Today the number of country dances to choose from exceeds 13,000 whereas when I started there must have been around 100. Choreography seems to be a widespread hobby particularly of mathematicians and scientists such as Hugh Foss, Hugh Thurston, John Drewry, Roy Goldring and many, many more.

But dancing is only half of the equation: without music there would be no dancing. I have been fortunate in being involved with both – all of my life. I often went to sleep at night to the strains of local musicians playing in our living room. That culminated in my father broadcasting on the earlier version of 'Take the Floor'. Quite a number of my classmates at school were musicians including Lindsay Ross with whom I occasionally played.

When I came down to the London area in 1957, dancing other than Scottish country disappeared from my life but over the years I have played for, taught and of course danced the hours away. Have you ever considered a programme of pre-1946 dances? One party some years ago did just that – and it was a great success! It was easy remembering all the dances then!

Wilson Nicol

*"Dancing should always
be taught as a fun,
spontaneous movement,
not the solving of a
mathematical problem."*

Jean Milligan
(from TAC Archive)



Chiltern Fiddle Rally

Top
London Branch Dem Team dance to the wonderful sound of the enthusiastic musicians at the Chiltern Rally at the Swan Theatre in High Wycombe

Above left
Michael collects a bucketful of votes for the tune competition

Burns Supper and Ceilidh Dance

Above centre
Danuta and Jeff prepare to dance the *St. Bernard's Waltz* together

Above right
The essential kitchen crew — Peter, Lena and Margaret

Upper Left
Tommy Cooper queues expectantly for the traditional Neeps, Tatties and Haggis supper whilst keeping company with Mary Robertson

Right
Piper Bob Harman and cook Jenny Sweeney, are followed by John Laurie after his addressing the Haggis with his usual traditional Scots skill

Lower left
Terry and Margaret Gibbon contributing greatly to the Guildford SCDC Christmas Party feeling on 15 December





Left
 Ian Anderson
 and his bookstall at the
 Branch Day School
 Picture: Simon Wales



Celebrate for
 Christmas
Right
 Dave with Lindsay
 lead
 Alvin and Wendy
 whilst dancing
 the knot in
 Miss Milligan's
 Strathspey



Left
 Ian Adamson on drums, David
 Cunningham and Graham Berry
 on keyboard



Right
 Iris and Ian Anderson were
 clearly delighted to welcome
 regular Christmas visitor
 Marie-Solange Pollard from the
 Paris Branch



Left
 Mary Robertson with
 Gaynor Curtis dancing
None so Pretty followed
 by Trevor Sweet-Stewart
 and Jeanette Patterson



Right
 Present Chairman
 Jeff Robertson with worthy
 London Branch Award recipient
 Branch Piper Charlie Galloway
 and Vice-President Owen
 Meyer who presented the
 Award



Left
 Sally, Samantha and Kevin all very
 much enjoying the social spirit of the
 evening

All photographs on these pages by
 Stephen Webb
 except Ian Anderson and his Bookstall



London Branch St. Andrews Dance

Left
 Excellent music from
 Elspeth Hudson, Angela
 Young and Ian Robertson
 with MC Simon Wales at
 the rear



Right
 Good friends Iben la Cœur, Sarah
 MacDonald and Annabelle Dalby meet
 up for a bit of dancing fun

THE ART(FULNESS) OF WRITING SCOTTISH DANCES Part 2

Continued from *The Reel* 266

My most recent story dance is *The Headmistress* which was inspired by my old headmistress, Miss Barbara Russell, who was a staunch citizen of Edinburgh and fervent supporter of the RSCDS. She made sure all of us at her school became proficient Scottish dancers – ‘and I am aye gratefu’. The headmistress (1st lady) addresses (sets to) the Chairman of the Board of Governors, then involves the whole board; she then speaks to the school (2nd, 3rd and 4th ladies) and leads them in procession. Finally the school and the Board pay their respects (set and make arches) to the Headmistress and Chairman as they make their dignified departure. This had its ‘maiden dance-through’ at the final meeting of the Chelsea Reel Club at the end of March, and Margaret Shaw made a magnificent headmistress; she inspired Chairman, Board and schoolgirls all to live their parts and dance with great conviction. Margaret, we were impressed by your dignity and leadership qualities and are hoping to see you again soon in the title role!

The first dance that I ever wrote (that was danceable!) was a visual effect dance; it sprang from an idea I had watching two hares zigzagging at dusk across the Hampshire countryside. In my dance, the ‘hares’ zigzag in tandem down the set. To involve everyone else I made the remaining dancers dance up the line and down the line, and that made me think of the tide coming in and out. The 1st couple were now no longer ‘hares’ but bathers in the waves. So was born *Teasing the Tide* which is a popular strathspey but difficult to perform well because the zigzagers and the waves must time things perfectly so as to avoid collisions. (It looks super when danced: one minute the tide is white with all the faces facing up and then it darkens as they turn their backs and dance away down).

Another ‘effect’ dance was ‘The Shoal’ which many dancers remember with affection. All the dancers are fish darting first in one direction and then in another, but always, and everyone, together. A good idea in theory but dancers (unless Dem.Team members of course) are not precise enough, so the appearance of the shoal, as they changed direction, was a bit ragged and not really effective. I have realised this is not for the general repertoire. It really is a Dem Dance and one day I would love to see it danced perfectly. I think it would look, could look, should look, slick and impressive.

The dance I am most proud of is a puzzle dance. It is called *Sunlight on Loch Linnhe* and I set myself the task of making the dancers perform the same steps in the last four bars of every 8-bar phrase. This makes the dance sound boring and repetitive, but it isn’t because those four bars (set and progress to position on the left) are danced from a different position every time. This same four bar sequence represents the fitful sunlight of the Highlands appearing repeatedly from behind the clouds – but never for long. Dancers of ‘Linnhe’ do not have time to get bored as they must concentrate on what they do next because they soon lose their partners and get thoroughly muddled up until, in the final flash of sunlight, they find they are all in



Elizabeth Woodman

the correct order and in progressed position. I remember hearing Valerie Twining’s triumphant cry ‘Oh, we’re all in the right places!’ at the end of the first run-through. It’s just like coming to the end of a Sudoku puzzle – only easier, because the dance is not difficult and, as it’s in strathspey time, there is plenty of time to think.

Recently I have been falling asleep at night the moment my head hits the pillow so my dance-writing time has been compromised! Nevertheless there are plenty of ideas in the pipeline. I have two tantalising titles that will one day prompt me into writing puzzle dances for them: ‘Can of Worms’ and ‘Order out of Chaos’. I also have a visual impact dance ready waiting to be written; the dance is ‘The Whangie’ and will represent a strange rock formation I have walked through in the Trossachs. If anyone has any other interesting or challenging ideas or needs a dance written I am always open to suggestion and persuasion.

When I write a dance I clear all the furniture off my living room floor and then dance through the dance from every position – many times. I have a polished wooden floor and there are eight strategically placed white labels to indicate where those positions are. These white spots have intrigued many a visitor – suggested explanations are often wild and wonderful but few people, even though they know I write Scottish dances, have guessed correctly. From time to time I hold a small private dance with friends to act as guinea pigs.

One day I will start with the music first and write a dance to fit it, and one day I may write a dance without story, visual impact or puzzle factor – but just for its pure élan, like *The Reel of the Royal Scots*, or for its sheer seductiveness, like *John McAlpin*. The versatility and breadth of the Scottish dance repertoire is enormous, as the amazing John Drewry demonstrates so well. I hope I never share the sentiments of the Earl of Mansfield (the man, not the dance) who said that the present repertoire was quite sufficient and nothing further now need be written. He should try telling that to the Pop Music Industry!

Elizabeth Woodman

WHY DON’T I WEAR A KILT?

People sometimes ask me why I haven’t got a kilt yet. They assume that if I like Scottish country dancing then I should want to wear a kilt. I don’t; firstly because I am English, and secondly because it is not traditional.

My source of information here is Hugh Trevor-Roper’s well-referenced article ‘The Highland Tradition of Scotland’, contained in Eric Hobsbawm’s anthology ‘The Invention of Tradition’ (Cambridge University Press 1983).

The kilt was invented around 1730 by Thomas Rawlinson, a Lancashire industrialist who owned an iron furnace at Invergarry. He invented it as a convenient alternative to the belted plaid worn by most Highlanders at that time (those who couldn’t afford trousers or breeches). It quickly caught on in the Highlands, but after the defeat of the 1745 rebellion it was banned, and so fell into disuse, except among the Highland regiments, who were exempt from the ban. But after the ban was lifted in 1782 it became a fashion item among the upper and middle classes of urban Scotland: ‘Anglicized Scottish peers, improving gentry, well-educated Edinburgh lawyers and prudent merchants of Aberdeen would exhibit themselves publicly not in the historic trews, the traditional costume of their class, nor in the cumbersome belted plaid, but in a costly and fanciful version of that recent innovation, the philibeg or small kilt’ (Trevor-Roper). The visit of George IV to Edinburgh in 1822 added impetus to this trend. Thus a fairly modern item of workwear for Highlanders came to be adopted as a badge of Scottishness, having formerly been ‘considered by nine Scotchmen out of ten as the dress of a thief’ (Macaulay).

It was about this time, too, that the notion of the clan tartan was invented by the textile manufacturers, with the help of a couple of highly imaginative English ‘historians’, the Allen brothers. Thus, pattern ‘number 155’, which had been supplied chiefly to a Mr Kidd for the use of his West Indian slaves, was re-labelled ‘MacPherson’. Previously, tartans were a matter of personal taste, with only a loose association between a particular tartan and a particular district.

In any case, in Scotland the country dance was danced chiefly in Edinburgh and the lowlands. Highland dress therefore does not belong to ‘the country dance as danced in Scotland’. The frontispiece to Thomas Wilson’s *Ballroom Guide* shows dancers wearing Highland gear for the reel, and normal ballroom gear for the country dance and waltz. People in Scotland did not consciously dance ‘Scottish Country Dances’, they simply danced country dances, mostly to Scottish tunes. There was, and is, no more reason to wear a kilt in a country dance (English or Scottish) than in a French cotillion or a waltz.

The kilt is particularly inappropriate at Burns’ Night events, since Burns was of course an Ayrshire man, and probably never wore a kilt in his life. If we celebrate Burns’ poetry, it is Lowland Scottish culture we are celebrating (for once).

Of course, there is no reason why a man should not wear a skirt if he wants, if he’s got the bottle, whether or not it has a tartan pattern. It is said also that the dancer’s legs can move more freely in a skirt or kilt; this could also be said of ballet tights, or shorts, or those multi-coloured leggings that were fashionable about 20 years ago. Certainly kilts are colourful – much more so than the black-and-white so often requested on formal occasions – we seem unable to decide whether we like men to be colourfully dressed or not. And of course tourists like to see ‘national costume’ – but by pandering to this taste we only perpetuate it. As for the general public, the sight of a roomful of kilts will appeal to some and not to others.

In conclusion, it is no part of the job of the RSCDS to promote that phoney emblem of Scottishness, the kilt.

Ian Cutts

OBITUARIES

Jackie Paris 1943 – 2009



Jackie Paris died on Saturday 3 January 2009. She started dancing in 1995 in the Brighton Branch of the RSCDS and very quickly became a very competent dancer. She became Branch secretary in 1997 and in 2000 was elected Chairperson; after which she became secretary again. The Brighton Branch thrived under her influence.

During the last ten years she has been active with the Mid Sussex dancers and she has been a loyal member of the Warninglid Scottish Dancers. She could always be relied on to volunteer both for demonstrations and “dem and drag” events. She will always be remembered as an energetic sociable dancer with a smiling face.

Jackie was renowned for her hospitality and her expertise in the kitchen. She loved using us as “Guinea Pigs” to try out her new recipes. She ensured that we all met away from the dance events; giving us the opportunity to get to know each other as an individual person as well as a Scottish dancer.

Losing Jackie so prematurely leaves a very big hole in the lives of the Scottish dancers of Sussex. We offer our sympathy to her sons, Jonathan and David.

Pam Johnston

Jimmy McIntosh (1922-2009)

Jimmy grew up in the village, in the Scottish Borders near Jedburgh, made famous by Lavinia Derwent in her *Breath of Border Air* novels. His old bicycle was mentioned in one of these books. The congregation of the local Church bought it for their Minister, but he found it difficult to ride, and it was sold to Jimmy’s father. Jimmy rode it around Battersea, where he lived, until fairly recently, and it still had the dent in the handlebars where the Minister fell off.

Jimmy served in the army during WWII, and afterwards started to train as a civil engineer. He was one of the first men on the site of the Pitlochry dam. He had to give this up because he had problems studying due to eye damage sustained during the war, so he became a scaffolder.

He was a great character. He had danced since he was a boy and dancing was a hobby that did not strain his eyes. He was the founder of Sidcup and District Caledonian Association and Summer Tuesdays. He did the washing up for every society that held dances at St. Columba’s. His dress sense, or lack of it, was famous. He appeared to obtain his wardrobe from Church jumble sales, and his ties looked as if they were gifts from his mother-in-law, except that he did not have one as he never married. He looked much smarter when he wore his kilt, but had not worn it for many years, probably because it no longer fitted him, although he did have a Highland jacket and tartan trews for special occasions. Jimmy had problems with his feet in his later years, and for as long as most people can remember he was only able to walk round the set, but he knew the dances well so he was always in the right place at the right time. He was always very willing to help to get newcomers up and involved. He drove an ancient mini van known at different times as “Jezebel” and “ET”, which was short for “Extra Trouble”, and belonged to the Mini Owners Club of Great Britain. He was very involved with his former regiment, the Kings Own Scottish Borderers, and took part in a campaign to prevent it being amalgamated with other Scottish Regiments. Some years ago he was a recipient of the Royal Maundy Money.

Elizabeth Bennett
with help from **Graham and Fay Cattell,**
and **Ann and Patrick White**

In his early days in London Jimmy attended Crown Court Church of Scotland but for some time now had been a regular at St. Columba’s Church of Scotland. Always ready to lend a hand, he acted as Assistant Church Officer and Assistant Beadle at St. Columba’s. His colourful personality ensured he was well known to everyone who danced there, and he will be much missed.

John Laurie

On 16 February 1951 Mr James McIntosh put an advertisement in the Sidcup Times. It said: “If no Scottish Associations exist in the area, would any Scots folk resident in or near Sidcup please let me have their names and views on the formation of a local Caledonian Association where they could meet together and arrange Scottish social evenings.” The first meeting was held in June in a private house and by the second meeting there were 70 members. The aim was to promote social and friendly intercourse among those connected with Scotland and resident within Sidcup and District and to encourage and promote the study and preservation of language,



Stephen Webb

Jimmy McIntosh spectating in Kensington Gardens at the Open Air Summer Dancing in August 2007 with the well-known twinkle in his eye which we shall surely miss.

literature, history, folklore, music and traditions of Scotland. At the first Burns Supper held in the Montrose Hall in Sidcup, attended by 150 people, Mr James McIntosh gave the address to the Haggis. Although he moved away from Sidcup two years later he remained a life member of the Association.

Wendy Carter

Jimmy was closely associated with Summer Tuesdays since the late 1950s. At that time Scottish Dancing was a winter pursuit with most societies closing down for the hot summer months though there were a number of dancers who would have liked the opportunity to continue dancing throughout the year. With no official society showing an interest in organising such dances, Jimmy McIntosh hired the Royal Scottish Corporation Hall, Fetter Lane, which was at that time the home of most of the central London clubs, for a series of Tuesday nights in June, July and August 1958. The first few evenings only attracted around 30 dancers but as the first season wore on so the numbers increased and a second season was booked for 1959. In that year 12 dances were held (none in August as Jimmy was on holiday) with 763 tickets being sold at 2/6 each. Jimmy continued to take an active role, and latterly, when the dances moved to St Columba’s, worked in the kitchen and acted as liaison with the church officials, until ill health prevented him attending in the summer of 2008. He paid for all the tickets for a Summer Tuesday in 2007, giving the dancers free entry, to celebrate his 85th birthday and the 50th Summer Tuesday season. He will be sorely missed.

The special atmosphere at Summer Tuesdays is the result of a number of individuals adding their own influence and style to the proceedings and Jimmy’s colourful personality will be a part of Tuesdays for many years to come.

Graham Hamilton



A picture of a youthful Jimmy from *The Reel* 229 in which there is also the story of Summer Tuesdays



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hemel Hempstead

Is wrong ever right?

Dear Wilson,

How often have you heard a teacher/MC say, 'finish on the wrong side' or such similar phrase using the word wrong? What does wrong mean in this context? Its usual use means not the right side with the right side being the dancer's own side – seems clear enough! The RSCDS however, discourages the use of this description for where to dance to/ from in favour of the use of the words opposite side. Once again opposite must mean not the same side as the dancer's own side – this also seems clear enough! It is though, said that it is a cardinal sin when being examined if the 'w' word is used – it would be sure to lose the candidate valuable points.

Looking through RSCDS dance instructions there are a variety of terms used to determine a position in a set. Here are some of those I found:

- Own side.
- Original position/ Partner's original position.
- Ending in his/ her partner's place
- Finishing in second place on opposite side.
- Men's side/Women's side.
- As in Fig. A.

Surely however, the purpose of communicating is not to be misunderstood? So if dancers, due to regular use, know the intention of the words wrong side what can be the harm? After all it is also used in the RSCDS instructions of *Kendall's Hornpipe* so must receive some approval from the RSCDS.

The term 'wrong side' can be often seen used in non-RSCDS dance descriptions so it would seem to be common parlance. For me however, 'wrong' means in error and with dance patterns becoming ever more complicated the last thing a dancer needs is for it to be implied to dance incorrectly! Add to this teaching in non-English speaking countries and if that is not a recipe for confusion I don't know what is?

SCD is about consistency but the RSCDS may not of course be interested in consistency to this degree as can be seen above it would mean a major overhaul of all dance descriptions! And dancers seem to get by and if nothing else, unchanged it would remain a talking point!

Rightly yours,

Stephen Webb

London

Dance Scottish Week

Dear Wilson

I thought last year's Dance Scottish Week was imaginative, energetic and well-organized. It fully deserved to get more publicity than it received. It's not every week that something like the Lehman Bros collapse occurs, and hopefully that won't happen every year.

But I wonder if in planning for the next Dance Scottish Week it would be possible to bring in other organizations in central London (some older and some newer than the RSCDS) that also 'dance Scottish'. Just a few that come to mind are:

- the London fèis, which for the past two years has been held at just about the same time as Dance Scottish Week but has not been part of it.
- Coisir Lunnainn, the London Gaelic choir, which puts on several ceilidhs a year that combine singing, piping and dancing.
- Commun Gaidhlig, the London Gaelic Society, which also puts on regular ceilidhs that include dancing as well as its other activities to promote the language.
- The Highlands and Islands Society of London, which also puts on ceilidh dances, now mostly

held in Cecil Sharp House, and has brought down some tremendous Scottish bands for Londoners to dance to over the last few years, including Skipinnish and the Vatersay Boys, both of which deservedly drew sell-out numbers.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could have a more inclusive Dance Scottish programme that involved all these organizations, and perhaps also others I haven't mentioned? I realize there's not much overlap even at the ordinary membership level between the RSCDS and those organizations and none at all at committee level, as far as I know, so it would take some doing. But wouldn't it be worthwhile? Of course it's important that we try to connect with the wider world in our Dance Scottish and other outreach activities. But shouldn't we also try to reach out to other Scottish organizations that are also trying to promote the Scottish dance tradition?

Chris Hood

Worcester Park

Role of MC

Dear Wilson,

At most dances the MC stands on the floor of the hall. This works well if there are only a few sets, but is less satisfactory if the hall is crowded.

At a recent Christmas ceilidh a friend of mine, who was unfamiliar with Dunedin Festival Dance, decided to get up for it. I knew that she was having problems following a cataract operation, and it would not have done her any good if she had caught her head going under the arches, so I felt obliged to advise her to sit down. I was not able to do this until after the walk through, and could not take her place as I need to avoid this type of dance myself. There was no one else nearby who could step in, and I could not attract the attention of the MC, who was at the other end of the hall, in front of the stage. By the time I had walked the length of the room to reach her the dance had started with a person short. On another occasion I had to walk the encore of a round-the-room dance, because I was unable to let the MC know that I was tired and would like to drop out.

An MC needs to be aware of what is going on at the far end of the hall, as well as in the nearest sets. I would therefore suggest that it is advisable for him/her to stand on the stage if there are large numbers present. I had to do this at the LHC Christmas Dance, as it was the only way I could see the set stewards' hand signals, and it is the usual procedure at London RSCDS dances.

Elizabeth Bennett

Beckenham

The Immoral Bonnie Anne

Dear Wilson,

I did enjoy Elizabeth Woodman's first article in *The Reel* 266. Such a view on some of the familiar dances had me intrigued. However, the day I read it, I attended the Sanderstead Scottish Dance Group and for the first time was introduced to *Bonnie Anne*. I hastily whispered to my partner "according to a writer in *The Reel* this one is immoral". As it happened you, Wilson, were there cool and calm as usual, although my partner and I were quite apprehensive anticipating the immorality, but it appeared not to materialise! Maybe next time?

I look forward to Elizabeth's second part.

Margie White

[You will have found it on page 12. Ed]

Kent

Musicians

Dear Wilson

I think it is about time we called Mr Peter Hoult to account!

He has insulted almost everybody, musicians for being money grabbers; dancers for ignoring the musicians and their music and for being pre-occupied with 'interaction in the lines of dancers'; the organisers who charge too much for an evening's dancing; and, finally, the many who provide the refreshments who Peter thinks could produce a higher quality.

He gives as an example an American Square Dance evening using a record player as equal to live musicians. A what? Mr Hoult!

So my friend, come out from behind the facade of a letter so we can see you. Can you produce, for those you have denigrated, an evening of dancing and music for the cost of a cucumber sandwich and a cuppa?

I wish you luck because the country dancing mafia is after you with a vengeance.

Peter Forrow

Kent

Repairing the kilt

Dear Wilson

Regarding Bob Chapman's letter, I too have met Hamish Macnab of Kennington.

A kilt made for me over 40 years ago was in a sorry state with holes in both the under and top aprons, it had been turned some 20 odd years ago. The buckles and straps were worn out and the kilt no longer fitted me.

Following a visit to his workshop Hamish was able to darn and patch the holes almost invisibly, replace the buckles and straps, resize it to my present shape, professionally clean it and post it back to me all within 10 days for not much more than seventy pounds. I now have a kilt which will last another 20 years, the problem is, will I?

Mr Macnab is able to offer personal appointments at his workshop at Newington Butts in London, which is within walking distance of the Elephant and Castle. He deals with both men and ladies' Scottish wear. He offers an excellent mail order service as well. I have no connection with Mr Macnab whatsoever except that I am a very satisfied customer. He can be contacted on allhighland@hotmail.com, tel: 0207 735 2255 or www.albionhighland.com,

Peter Forrow

Watford

Recapping Dances

Dear Wilson,

A habit has crept in to many dances which I personally find most tiresome. This is the practice of recapping every single dance before the opening chord. I don't believe anyone who isn't already familiar with the dance is going to get much useful information listening to the MC reading the full instructions (which is often what they do). For many occasions there are crib-tickets, and there's always MiniCrib or Pilling for the others, so there is an opportunity to learn a dance before the evening. For those who haven't done so, by all means remind them how it starts, but please, please, do NOT read it all the way through and expect people who don't know it to then be able to dance it.

The dancers are kept waiting for a minute or more during which time they either switch off (eyes cast to heaven with a big sigh), or chat to each other.

When every dance is recapped, that's 20 minutes of our precious evening spent just standing.

What do others think?

John Reeve

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (continued)

Maida Hill, London

The New Kenneth McKellar

Dear Wilson,

In the article (Reel 266) about Take the Floor at Cecil Sharp House, Nicky Spence is referred to as the 'new Kenneth McKellar'. Surely not and surely never! I would suggest that Nicky is a much better singer than Kenneth ever was.

Yours sincerely,

John Laurie

Wallingford

Early references to "Country Dances"

Dear Wilson

Under 'Scottish Dancing - Prehistory Part 2' in issue 265 of *The Reel*, John W. Mitchell quotes a reference dated 1549. He calls it 'an early record of country dancing in the Lowlands of Scotland'. He also says '1563 Elinor Gunter's manuscript, recorded country dances.'

Every other history of dancing that I have met quotes the play 'Misogynous', performed at Cambridge 1565-75, as the earliest-known reference to country dances from anywhere in the world. I am surprised that no scholars have come across the above items before.

There are several early references to dances in old manuscripts before 1570, both in England and Scotland. Some of them mention names which could be of country dances, but we have no proof.

Is John making assumptions here? Do either of the 1549 or 1563 records actually use the word 'country'? If either does turn out to be a genuine reference to country dances it must replace the Misogynous item as the earliest.

In the next instalment of his account John mentions 1585 - The earliest reference that has so far been traced to "The Strathspey Minuet", but he does not say where this reference is to be found, and I would be very interested to know. In my own collection I have the earliest reference to minuets in Britain as about 1660. The earliest strathspey is a "Strathspey Reel" in the Wright Collection of about 1740. If John's reference is authentic it pushes back "minuet" by almost a century, and "strathspey" by almost two.

Incidentally, I have a modern translation of Arbeau's "Orchesographie" of 1588, in which he describes in some detail dances popular about 30 years earlier. It is interesting that he does not mention either "country dances" or "contredances", which would seem to confirm that they did not exist in France at that time.

I am sure that many other readers interested in the history of our activities will be asking similar questions. Please put us out of our misery one way or the other!

Yours truly,

Harry Fell

John Mitchell replies:

The Oxford English Dictionary gives the date of 1585 for the "Strathspey-Minuet". Much depends on how you define "Country Dancing".

We know that originally the men danced together and the ladies danced together when performing the early country dances (mixed dancing being considered immoral by the Church). Dancing in two lines may have come from Morris Dancing, the earliest reference to which appeared in 1458, according to Hanham's *Review of English Studies*.

"Complaint of Scotland" published in 1549,

Continued in next column

THE FLOWERS OF EDINBURGH

The irrepressible tune "The Flowers of Edinburgh" demands that one dances to it. In fact the earliest recorded publication of the tune is in a dance collection, Walsh's Caledonian Country Dances, Volume 2 Part 1, in 1748. A few years later, in 1757, Thompson published a different set of figures set to the same tune and with the same name. In 1816, Thomas Wilson wrote two more sets of figures for the tune. Nor was its popularity limited to the United Kingdom. The 1793 manuscript of dances written by Asa Willcox** of Connecticut contains a *Flowers of Edinburgh* reminiscent of Walsh's dance, and The Gentleman and Lady's Companion (Norwich, Connecticut: 1798) contains yet another dance (and spelling), *Flowers of Edinburgh*.

By far the most enduring *Flowers of Edinburgh*, however, is the Scottish one. When Miss Milligan and Mrs Stewart put their first collection together in 1923, it was one of the few country dances still popular. In fact, the Fletts' later field work confirmed that every late 19th and early 20th century Scottish dancing master taught this dance; the only others equally popular were *Petronella* and *The Triumph*.

Even then, the dance was more than half a century old. In 1841, Frederick Hill describes it in his handwritten account of the dances he had learned at a dancing school in rural Aberdeenshire. Hill's dance begins with the characteristic pursuit of the woman by the man (a favourite motif of early 19th-century country dances), but follows it with a figure of eight, four hands round, and rights and lefts. Hill apparently learned the dance from two different itinerant masters, as he gives a slight variation of the figure of eight labelled as "Allan's way". Here is the first section of his description:

FLOWERS OF EDINBURGH

The lady turns round and crosses the dance two couples down and up the back of the Gentlemen to her partner's place. At the same time the Gentleman follows his partner and up the centre to his partner's place.

The next extant version of the dance shows how widely known it was. This is in the notebook kept by Kate Hughes of Dundalk, Ireland, beginning in 1867 and recording the dances she had learned from the master Archibald Thomson. By this time the stereotypical 19th-Century pattern of "down the middle and up, poussette" has replaced the figure of eight, and

Continued from previous column

contains a reference to "Country Dancing". Unfortunately I do not have a copy of this work.

Elinor Gunter's Manuscript (1563) contains instructions for 15 dances, performed at the Inns of Court. It was mentioned by John P. Cunningham in his article entitled *Dancing at the Inns of Court* (1966). Which you will probably find in *The Reel*.

"Misogynous" written in 1577, refers to English Country Dancing. The context of the reference, however, indicates that Country Dancing was by then well known.

The earliest recorded instructions for a dance in the longwise formation is *La Chiaranzana* which was published in *Il Ballerino* (1581).

In 1591, Queen Elizabeth, witnessed English Country Dancing, when staying with Lord Cowdray at Midhurst. She introduced Country Dancing to the English Court.

the figures of the dance are the same as those we do today.

This standardised version of *Flowers of Edinburgh* occurs in at least 14 dance manuals published in Scotland in the later 19th and early 20th Centuries. (However, it does not appear in Boulogne's *The Ballroom of 1827*, as claimed in RSCDS Book 1.) In some of these, the setting after the chase is omitted. Others indicate a technique different from our own; for example, D.R. MacKenzie tells dancers to 'march' down the centre and to dance a "two-step waltz round each other" when they poussette. The description in Mackay's *Ballroom Guide*, published in Stirling about 1910, is interesting as it shows that the figure of eight after the chase had not died out:

The figure of eight which has disappeared from our version of the dance may be a surviving vestige of some of the early English and American dances with this name and tune. Walsh's and Willcox's dances begin with figures of eight, and so does the version of "Flowers" collected much later in Warwickshire by Cecil Sharp.

The tune "The Flowers of Edinburgh" has an emphatic rhythm (described, depending on one's choice of musical terminology, as 'Scotch Measure' or 'Hornpipe'), so it is not surprising that it was danced in some parts of Scotland with the technique called 'treeping', or beating out the rhythm with the feet. The Fletts interviewed the son of an East Lothian dancing master who 'treeped' the chasing figure in this dance, as well as the figures of *Petronella*.

The 19th Century dancing masters who taught the country dance *Flowers of Edinburgh* also set a solo dance to the tune - further proof, if any were needed, of its attractiveness to dancers. The Hill Manuscript of 1841 actually contains both the country dance and the solo dance, labelled as a 'high dance'. It is a lively, emphatic dance with many 'trebles' or quick out-in beats on the balls of the feet. In its reconstructed 21st Century form, this is a hard-shoe dance, just the kind of energetic dance that might be taught to a keen young man like Frederick Hill.

Rosemary Coupe

from the Vancouver Branch magazine

The White Cockade

****John Mitchell** adds: This valuable document is a record of dances taken from Britain to North America by immigrants. It throws considerable light on how the dances were originally performed.

The American Country Dance Association members still perform these dances as originally taken to America, wearing period costume. Many of these dances have been republished in recent years.

The music was first published 1742, for the song *My love is Bonnie when she smiles on me*. Walsh republished the music for a dance in 1748. This is the only point in the article which appears to be inaccurate, and is only a minor quibble.

Clark and Evans recommended the Tune for *The Dashing White Sergeant* as now performed. (The original *Dashing White Sergeant* was a longwise country dance).

In England the figures which we dance for *Flowers of Edinburgh* are the ones which we dance as *Corn Riggs*, and vice-versa.



DANCE EVENTS

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Open Air Summer Dance
Saturday 22 August 2009
 2.30 - 6.30 pm
 Wolfson College Lawn OX2 6UD
 (indoors if wet)
 Tea and Biscuits provided
 Further details in next issue
 Contact: Trisha Rawlings, tel. 01869 340830
 Email: trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com.

Annual Ball
Saturday 24 October 2009
 Headington School, Oxford OX3 7TD
Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH

Day School
 Saturday 21 March 2009
 Walthamstow Hall, Hollybush Lane,
 Sevenoaks, TN13 3UL

Teachers: **Eric Finley,**
Marilyn Watson, Rachel Wilton
 Musicians: **Robert Mackay,**
Barbara Manning, Ken Martlew

Further details and application forms from:
 Pat Davoll, Cambridge Cottage, Crockham Hill,
 TN8 6RD. Tel 01732 866557.
 Email patdavoll@aol.com
 www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk.

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH

Spring Dance
 Saturday 18 April 2009
 7.00 - 11.00pm
 Weald of Kent School, Tudeley Lane,
 Tonbridge, TN9 2JP
 Dancing to recorded music
 Tickets £6.50 plus a plate of food to share.
 Contact Sue Fergusson, tel: 01892 513514 or
 email: socialsec@rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk
 website: rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk.

CHICHESTER AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Spring Dance
 Saturday, 18 April 2009
 7.30 - 11 pm
 Jubilee Hall, Oving, Nr Chichester, PO20 2DN
Dancing to recorded music
 Programme: The Kelloholm Jig, Shifftin' Bobbins, Culla Bay, Napier's Index, The Water of Fleet, Silver Tassie, The Hunting Horn, The Anniversary Tensome, For All the Ladies, The Luckenbooth Brooch, Cherrybank Gardens, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Summer Wooing, Gang the Same Gate, West's Hornpipe, J.B.Milne, Rose of the North, The Saltire Society Reel, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder.
 Extras: Sands of Morar, Quarrie's Jig.
 Tickets £4 members, £5 guests
 American Supper
 Apply for tickets with s.a.e. to Gerry Mason,
 21 Ernest Close, Emsworth, Hants, PO10 7NW
 Tel: 01243 371680 or e-mail
 gamcmason@btinternet.com.

RSCDS MILTON KEYNES

30th Annual Ball
 Saturday 14 March 2009
 Lovat Hall, Newport Pagnell,
 Milton Keynes, MK16 0EJ
Robert Whitehead and The Danelaw Band
 7.30 - 11.30 p.m.
 Enquiries and tickets at £15.00 each
 From Jan Jones 07877 153259
 (jange@verybusy.co.uk)
 www.vcsmk.org.uk/rscdsmk.



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH

Branch Day School
14 March 2009
 Court Moor School, Fleet GU52 7RY
 Teachers:.. **Maureen Haynes , John Wilkinson**
Ruby Wilkinson (Beginners' class)
 Musicians: **Robert Mackay,**
Ken Martlew, Judith Muir
 Music Day School: **Nicol McLaren**
 Suitable for children 14 & over with a minimum
 of Grade 4.
 Followed at 7pm by an evening dance with
Nicol McLaren and the Day School Students.
 Contacts: Day School & Dance:
 Fiona Albinson 0118 9789181,
 Musicians : Mervyn Short 07713 148192.

May Ball

Saturday 16 May 2009

Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP
Ian Muir and The Craigellachie Band
 Programme: The Isle, Peggy Dewar, Up in the Air, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Back to the Fireside, May Yarker's Strathspey, Milton's Welcome, The Hazel Tree, My Friend Joe, J.B. Milne, Anniversary Reel, Gothenburg's Welcome, The Dream Catcher, General Stuart's Reel, Miss Hadden's Reel, Miss Ogilvie's Fancy, Glen Alva, Joie de Vivre, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, The Reel of the Royal Scots.
 Contact: Shirley Ferguson 01276 501952.

Summer Open Air Dance

20 June 2009 from 2 - 5pm

At South Hill Park, Bracknell RG12 7PA
 Contact: Fiona Albinson 0118 9789181

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

MacLENNAN SCOTTISH GROUP

28th International Folkdance and Music Festival
 Weekend 23-24 May 2009

Saturday 23 May 7.30 - 11.00 pm
 International Folkdance with our international
 and local guests - Germans and Croats.
 Adults £6.00, (Conc £5.00) Children £3.00

Sunday 24 May 2.00 - 5.30 pm
 International Folk Dance Concert
 Adults £7.50, (Conc £6.00) Children £3.00

Venue for both events:
 Langley Park Boys' School
 South Eden Park Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3BP
 (Rail: Eden Park Station from Charing Cross)
 Licensed bar, refreshments and stalls.
 Family and weekend discounts available.
 Tickets from Jean Webb: 020 8300 0621
 email: festival@msg.org.uk
 website: www.msg.org.uk.

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Annual Ball
 2 May 2009
 7-00 for 7-30 till 11-30pm
 Long Road Sixth Form College CB2 8PX.
Danelaw Band
 Tickets £10 plus shared refreshments.
 Details: www.camscotsoc
 or ring Donald Wilson on 01954 210683.

SCHIEHALLION SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

of Roosendaal, the Netherlands
 Saturday 7 March 2009
 Afternoon Class 14.00-17.00 hrs
 at "Zaal Keijenburg", Keijenburg 70, Roosendaal
 tel: 0165- 53 54 39.

Teacher: **Mervyn Short** (West Sussex)
 Pianist: **Robert MacKay** (Edinburgh)

Sandwich lunch at the hall from 13.00 hrs.

Social Dance 19.30 - 23.00 hrs.

Robert Mackay on piano.

At 17.30 hrs there will be a cold and warm
 buffet, in the same hall
 (vegetarian food is possible).

Please confirm your participation and meal
 reservation before 27 February.

Class: €10. Dance: €15.

For information contact Tiny Pot, tel. (0031) 165
 546029. e-mail: tiencee@home.nl
 We hope to see you all on 7 March!

RSCDS BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Summer Ball
 Saturday 16 May 2009
 7.30 - 11.30 p.m.
 Dame Alice Harpur School, Cardington Rd,
 Bedford MK42 0BX.

Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band

Programme: J.B.Milne, Quarrie's Jig, Culla Bay, Plantation Reel, Gothenburg's Welcome, Moray Rant, Maxwell's Rant, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Gang The Same Gate, Irish Rover, The Gentleman, Fisherman's Reel, Wee Cooper of Fife, Wind on Loch Fyne, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Father Connelly's Jig, Cherrybank Gardens, Miss Johnson of Ardrossan, Molly's Mum, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder.

Tickets £15.00 inc. dinner, from Alex Lawton,
 9 Willington Rd. Cople, Beds MK44 3TH.

Tel: 01234 831036.

CORRYVRECHAN

presents

A Scottish Spectacular

An exhilarating mix of
 music, song and dance from the
 Highlands, Islands and Lowlands

Saturday 20 June 2009 at 7.30pm &
 Sunday 21 June 2009 at 2.30pm

in
 Shipham Village Hall, Somerset BS25 1SG.
 Tickets £10 (£8 Students)
 from Mike on 07880 741505.

RSCDS CROYDON AND DISTRICT BRANCH

March Dance
 Saturday 28 March 2009
 7.30 - 10.30 pm
 Purley United Reformed Church,
 Brighton Road,
 Purley CR8 2LN
Music Makers Band
 £7.00 including refreshments.
 Enquiries to 01737 551724
 www.rscdscroydon.org.uk.

Children's Ceilidh

2pm - 4pm

Tickets £4



Saturday 28 March

Ian Robertson's Band

Memorial Hall, Wharf Rd

Wendover, Bucks

Contact Ann Robertson Tel 01296 630682

CEILIDH

8pm - 11pm

Tickets £10



chilterntrad@aol.com

DANCE EVENTS (continued)



BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND REEL CLUB

Spring Dance
Saturday 16th May 2009
7:30 to 11:30pm
Boxmoor Playhouse, St John's Road,
Hemel Hempstead HP1 1NP

Craigievar Scottish Dance Band

Programme: St. Andrew's Fair, Australian Ladies, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, The Flight of the Falcon, Polharrow Burn, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, The Phantom Piper, J.B.Milne, Indian River Strathspey, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Hooper's Jig, The Dundee Whaler, The Kelloholm Jig, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Dream Catcher, Rest and be Thankful, The Rose of the North, Miss Allie Anderson, The Irish Rover.

Admission by Programme – £8.50.

Licensed Bar – £1 corkage fee if you bring your own drinks.

Bring and share supper. Raffle.

Details and tickets from: Mrs Janet Halse,
1 Highcroft Road, Felden, Hemel Hempstead,
Herts HP3 0BU, tel: 01442 246381.

e-mail: janethalseuk@btinternet.com

www.berkhamstedreelclub.org.

ASHDOWN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Annual Spring Ball
Saturday 4 April 2009
7.30 - 11.30pm

Beacon Community College,
Crowborough TN6 7AS.

Ian Muir and The Craigellachie Band

Programme: Currie Mountain, The Moffat Weavers, Sugar Candie, John of Bon Accord, Joie de Vivre, Blue Mess Jacket, The Music Makars, Father Connelly's Jig, Neidpath Castle, Fisherman's Reel, Shiftin' Bobbins, Diamond Jubilee, Lady Sophia Lindsay, Muirland Willie, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Peat Fire Flame. *Band Solo,* The Robertson Rant, The Irish Rover, The Bees of Maggieknockater, Cherrybank Gardens, The Flying Spur, The Montgomerie's Rant.

Tickets, in advance please, £13.00 (child/ spectators £6.00) includes a Buffet Supper.

Contact Michael Copeman Tel: 01892 655971

email: michaelc.copeman@btinternet.com.



ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Day School
Edgbarrow School,
Sandhurst Road
Crowthorne, RG45 7HZ
Saturday 25 April 2009

Teachers: **Ann Dix, Craig Houston,
Maggie Morgan**
Musicians:**Keith Anderson, Robert Mackay
Caroline Sloan**

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

Weekend School

Dillington House, Somerset
2 - 4 October 2009

Teacher: **Graham Donald**
Musician: **Robert Mackay**

Booking Opens January 2009

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

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

RSCDS BATH BRANCH

Annual Ball
FRIDAY 27 February 2009
The Guildhall, Bath.

Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band
Tickets £25 from June Hall, Top Flat, 141 Wells
Road, Bath BA2 3AL. Tel.01225 318906.



CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB

Spring Ball
Saturday 25 April 2009
7.30 - 11.45 pm,
Yateley Manor School, Reading
Road, Yateley, Camberley,
GU46 7UQ

The Strathallan Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Mrs MacPherson of Inveran, The Craven Jig, Wisp of Thistle, Queen's View, Hamilton House, The Wind on Loch Fyne, The Reel of the Royal Scots, Miss Allie Anderson, The Wishing Well, James Gray, The Duke of Perth, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Sugar Candie, The Glenalmond Gamekeeper, Seton's Ceilidh Band, My Friend Joe, Minard Castle, The Wild Geese, Culla Bay, The Highland Rambler, The White Heather Jig, Mairi's Wedding, *Extras:* The Black Mountain Reel, Shiftin' Bobbins.

Tickets (including supper) £17, cheques payable to Camberley Reel Club. Please order vegetarian option before 21 April 2009.

Dress Formal.

Tickets: Ivan Crosswell, 20 Cove Road, Fleet,
Hants, GU51 2RN, tel: 01252-616289.

*Please note that Yateley Manor School is a
No Smoking Area.*

Camberley Reel Club dances at 8pm every
Tuesday from September to May at St Paul's
Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley, Surrey.

Ball dances will be practised during
the preceding month.

Visit us at www.camberleyreelclub.org.uk.

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball
Saturday 7 March 2009
7.30 to 11.30

Harpenden Public Hall, Harpenden,
Herts AL5 1PD

The Craigellachie Band

Tickets £17 including Supper
Students (16-21) £10

Tickets and enquiries: Val Owens 01727 863870
email tvowens@btinternet.com

Programme and crib available on our website:
www.HSCDC.org.uk.

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Spring Formal Dance and Buffet
Saturday 14 March, 2009.
7.30 - 11pm.

Reigate School, Pendleton Road,
Reigate, RH2 7NT

Green Ginger

M.C. Alister Reid.

Programme: The De'il among the Tailors, The Kelloholm Jig, Anna Holden's Strathspey, Polharrow Burn, The Luckenbooth Brooch, The Gentleman, The Bees of Maggieknockater, Autumn in Appin, The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Neidpath Castle, J.B.Milne, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, Lady Sophia Lindsay, The Wild Geese, The Moray Rant, The Machine without Horses, The Irish Rover.

Tickets £11 at the door

Enquiries to Alister Reid, 0208 393 6732.

JERSEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE WEEKEND

Bank Holiday Weekend

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 May, 2009

Ian Robertson and his Band

£27.50 per person for two evenings.

Saturday Ball Programme: 7.00 - 11.30 pm
Happy Returns, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Gypsy Glen, A Trip to the Netherlands, Postie's Jig, Gang the Same Gate, The Kangaroo Paw, Five Penny Ness, The Glengarry Homestead, Milton's Welcome, The Flight of the Falcon, The Double Diamond Strathspey, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloch, Johnnie Walker, Peggy Dewar, The Physician's Fancy, Bonnie Ina Campbell, Bratach Bana, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Autumn in Appin, Shiftin' Bobbins.

Sunday Dance Programme: 7.00 - 11.30 pm
Catch the Wind, Miss Hadden's Reel, Dancing in the Cuckoo's Nest, The Whistling Wind, The Hazel Tree, James Senior of St Andrews, The Clansman, The Dancing Girls, The Border Weavers, Kingussie Flower, The Abbot of Unreason, Elisabeth Hunter's Strathspey, The Earl of Mansfield, St. Columba's Strathspey, The Piper and the Penguin, The Bees of Maggieknockater, The Munro Rant, Lady Sophia Lindsay, Jennifer's Jig The Dundee Whaler, The Reel of the 51st Division.

Please visit the blog below for recent updates

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

<http://scottishcountrydancingjersey.blogspot.com>

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Annual Spring Dance
Saturday 28 February 2009
7.30 - 11.30pm

Pittville School, Albert Road,
Cheltenham, GL52 3JD

Iain MacPhail and his SCD Band

Programme: Grand March, Ian Powrie's Farewell, General Stuart's Reel, Kilkenny Castle, The Saltire Society Reel, The Robertson Rant, The Chequered Court, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Neidpath Castle, Welcome to Dufftown; Johnnie Walker, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, Byron Strathspey, Ladies' Fancy, Blooms of Bon Accord, Gang the Same Gate, The Nurseryman, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Flower of the Quern, Mairi's Wedding.

Tickets £13 from John Marshall, 17 Gratton
Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BT.

01242 237385 SAE please; Cheques to
"Cheltenham Scottish Society"
duracellbunney@tiscali.co.uk.

RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

Spring Picnic Dance
Saturday 18 April 2009
Corfe Mullen Village Hall, George Road
Off Wareham Road
Corfe Mullen, Wimborne. BH21 3UA

Caber Feidh

Tickets £9 plus your picnic supper
Details: Margaret Robson. 01202 698138.

Want to Advertise in *The Reel*?

At £10 per column inch your advertisement will reach up to 2,000 readers, and all for the cost of one ticket.
Contact Jeff Robertson, Tel 020 7730 9633 or 01903 245718. email: jtr@ctg.co.uk.

DANCE EVENTS (continued)



**Club de Danse Ecosaise de
MONTPELLIER, FRANCE**
21st ANNUAL BALL and OUTING
Weekend of 13-14 June 2009
David Hall and his

Scottish Dance Band

Dancing, eating, drinking, more dancing
followed by a jolly seaside outing with more
eating and drinking.

*Rendezvous with warm sunshine and social
warmth.*

Contact: William Whyte +33 467 868 919 or
wlwhyte@btinternet.com

A gallery of photographs from the 2008 event is
available on our website
<http://danseecossaisemtp.free.fr/>.

WEST MACS CHARITY BALL 2009

Saturday 25 April 2009

7.30-11.30

London Collegiate School, Edgware, NW3 6LS
The Craigellachie Band

Programme: Pelorus Jack, The Lochalsh Reel,
Kinfauns Castle, Midsummer Madness, The
Plantation Reel, The Cashmere Shawl, James
Gray, John of Bon Accord, The Moray Rant,
Father Connelly's Jig, The Piper and the
Penguin, The Hazel Tree, The Queen's View,
Falls of Bracklinn, Macleod's Fancy, Festival
Fling, The Dream Catcher, Equilibrium,
Polharrow Burn, The Minister on the Loch,
Spiffin', The Irish Rover.

Tickets at £16 each and further information from:
Judy Snook, 86 Church Lane, Rickmansworth,
WD3 2HE. Tel: 01923 774789,
email jsnook1938@yahoo.co.uk

WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY

90th Anniversary Caledonian Ball
Saturday, 21 March 2009

7.30 - 11.30 pm

Parmiter's School, Watford, Herts WD25 0UU
Strathallan Scottish Dance Band

Programme: visit www.WatfordScottish.org.uk
or see our advert in *The Reel* issue 266

Tickets £16 including refreshments
Details from Jan Alsop tel. 07762 079083
Tickets@WatfordScottish.org.uk



HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Spring Dance

Saturday 23 May 2009

7.00 - 11.00pm

Holy Angels Church Hall

High Street, Cranford, Middx. TW5 9RG

McBains Scottish Country Dance Band

Programme: Plantation Reel, Pelorus Jack, The
Ship O' Grace, The Montgomerie's Rant, The
Grumpy Gentleman, The Robertson Rant,
Bratach Bana, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Miss
Gibson's Strathspey, The Buchan Eightsome
Reel, Scott Meikle, Jennifer's Jig, The Bonnie
Lass O' Bon Accord, The Sailor, Spiffin, Twa
Bonnie Lassies, Mairi's Wedding, The Wild
Geese, Butterscotch & Honey, The Irish Rover
Extras: The Highland Rambler, Waverley / Fugal
Fergus

Tickets £12.00/£7.00 non-dancers & juniors
purchased by 16th May (£13.00/£8.00 on door
numbers permitting) including refreshments.
Licensed Bar.

Contact: Denise Smith, tel: 0208 715 9521.

Further details and map on our website.
www.hestonscottish.co.uk

RSCDS CAMBRIDGE BRANCH

Tea Dance

Saturday 9 May 2009

2.00 to 5.00 pm.

Chesterton Community College,

Cambridge CB4 3NY

Dancing to **Ken Martlew**

Afternoon tea with scones

Bring the family for fun and easy dances

Open air dance

Sunday 7 June 2009

2.00 to 5.00 pm

Anglesey Abbey, Lode, Cambridge CB25 9EJ

Dancing to recorded music

Bring family and friends for a great day out

Annual Dance

Saturday 17 October 2009

7.30 to 11.30 pm

Chesterton Community College

Cambridge CB4 3NY

Dancing to **Craigievar**

Details: www.rscds-cambridge.org



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming attractions to be
held at St. Columba's Church
Hall, Pont Street,
London SW1 0BD

Fridays: Upper Hall 7.30-10.30pm

Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00-10.30pm

unless otherwise stated

Friday 13 Feb St Valentine's Dance

Saturday 7 March **Ian Robertson Band**

Combined Societies Dance hosted by LHC

Saturday 4 April **Music Makers**

Friday 24 April Spring Ceilidh

Saturday 2 May **Green Ginger**

Saturday 6 June Summer Ball

David Cunningham

Full details in Reel No 268

All dances will be talked or walked through on
request, except Summer Ball.

For further details contact: Frank Bennett on 020-
8715 3564, e-mail fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk, or
Roger Watson 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.

THISTLE CLUB

Events at Wing Village Hall, LU7 0NN

Saturday 18 April 2009

Spring Dance to Recorded Music

7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

Tickets £4 (shared supper)

Saturday 5 September 2009

Musician's Workshop

Tutored by **George Meikle**

10am to 4pm - £15,

then Dance to

George and the Workshop Musicians

7.30 - 11.00 p.m. (shared supper) - £6

All enquiries to Jan Jones -

jange@verybusy.co.uk

Phone 07877 153259

www.vcsmk.org.uk/thistleclub

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS (overflow from next page)

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

ST. NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS, Luton meet every
Wednesday, September to July 8.00-10.00pm at St. Ninian's
UR Church, Villa Road, Luton, Beds. Contact: Pat Hamilton,
01462 671156 or Sheila Harris, 01525 875060.

SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB meets every Tuesday from September
to May, 8.00-10.00pm at Kippington Church Centre,
Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Penelope Fisk, Sunnybank
Cottages, 15 Maidstone Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent
TN13 3BY. Tel: 01732 457327.

SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every
Wednesday from mid-September to May 8.30-10.30pm, in
Barnes. Further info: Further info: Denise Haugh, 4 Burdett
Ave, SW20 0ST, 020 8946 8572, email
dhaugh200@btinternet.com.

SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing on
Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at
Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details:
Pauline Cameron, 7 Wayne Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 9TS.
Tel 01689 838395.

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

SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Fridays, 7.30
to 10.30pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove,
Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details Mrs
Edna Carroll, 01702 428974.

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

SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB meets Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at
Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex.
Details: Brenda Hinton, 01273 595017.

SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every
Thursday at 8pm. 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. 01932
784866. surbitoncaledonian.co.uk.

THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON meets at St.
Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1, every Tuesday
from October to end of May for Scottish Country Dancing,
7.00-10.00pm. Details: Tom Symington, 020 7834 7151 or
020 7828 6792.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS. Beginners/intermediate
classes on Tues 7.30-10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8-
10pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge
Wells. Details: Sue Bush, 33 St Luke's Road, Tunbridge
Wells, TN4 9JH. Tel: 01892 615269
www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk.

WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH
ASSOCIATION hold weekly adult Classes for, Intermediate
and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs
Maggie Westley, 30 Stanley Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5
4LF. Tel: +44 (0) 20 8647 9899,
westley3148@tiscali.co.uk. www.wallingtonscottish.org.uk.

WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY. General and
Beginners/Improvers Classes at Bushey Community Centre,
High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8.00-
10.00pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road,
Watford WD17 4GE. 01923 492475,
reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk.

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

WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Mondays
8.00pm. Dance Class. The Church of the Ascension, The
Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19
Compton Place, Watford. WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.

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

WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every
Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham,
Essex. Details from Maureen Manson, tel: 01206 210927.

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Dancing most Mondays, 8.00 - 10.15pm, Sept to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details/map: www.geocities.com/absdc or Rowena Fowler, 01865 361129.
- ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY** meets Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm September to May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet, KT14 7NF. Details from Val Clack, 01932 845869. www.addlestonscottish.org.uk
- ALDRINGTON (HOVE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meet every Tuesday 8.15-10.30pm, September to June. Details from John Steer, 57 Hangleton Rd, Hove, E. Sussex BN3 7GH. Tel: 01273 416893.
- BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB** meets in Potten End Village Hall. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15 September to May, Sat. gardens June/July. Classes: Mondays 8pm: Intermediate and Advanced, Tuesdays 8.15: Beginners. Contact: Judy Roythorne, 1, Pine Close, North Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3BZ Tel. 01442 875496 www.berkhamstedreelclub.org
- BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS** meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth. Newcomers and Beginners 7.00-8.30pm. Improvers/Intermediate 8.45-10.15pm. Weekly children's classes. Technique class by invitation - alternate Wednesdays. Details from Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Rd, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX. Tel: 01202 698138.
- BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS.** Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details from Ray on 01273 684417 or Bill on 01273 731927. www.rscds-brighton.org.uk
- BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 7.30-10pm at Balfour Junior School, Balfour Road, Brighton. Details from Carol Catterall, 01273 564963.
- BURNS CLUB OF LONDON** holds lively meetings in central London, usually including live music, on second Monday of the month as well as a superb Burns Supper. Details: Jim Henderson 020 8954 2586, jimhendersonuk@aol.com.
- CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday 8pm at St. Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details from Rhoda Finch, 20 Redcrest Gardens, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2DU. Tel: 01276 681820.
- CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS.** Classes for all grades. Details from Tony Garrick, 29 Illingworth Way, Foxton, Cambridge, CB22 6RY. Tel. 01223 510201. email: anthony.garrick@ntlworld.com.
- CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY** ScottishCountry Dancing and other events.. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8pm from Sept to June. Details www.camscotsoc.org.uk or Rachel Schicker 01223 364557.
- CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS** Advanced class Mondays 7.30 -9.30pm. General class Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm. Bettridge School, Cheltenham. Also a Beginners class. Details: Margaret Winterbourne, 01242 863238.
- CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing most Friday nights 7.30 to 10.30pm from October to end May, at St Andrew's Church Hall, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN. Tel: 01242 528220, mbsteele45@aol.com.
- CHESHAM: THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00pm, White Hill Centre, Chesham HP5 1AG. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231
- CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** in the Upper Hall at St Michael's & All Angels' Church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Rd. (turn right out of Turnham Green Tube), W4. Sundays until 29 Jun. 6 Jul Midsummer Madness in Chiswick House grounds. Restart 14 Sep. Beginners 6.30 - 7.30, General Class 7.30 - 9.15. All levels welcome. Details: 020 8743 9385 (aftn's) also www.chiswickscottish.org.uk
- CIRENCESTER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets most Wednesdays 8:00 - 10:00pm September to end June at the Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester. Details Mr A.E.L. Bush, Lake View House, Withington, Glos. GL54 4 BN. 01242890454, imbush@btopenworld.com
- CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00pm September to June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details: Mrs Pip Graham, 57 Milton Mount Ave, Pound Hill, Crawley, W. Sussex RH10 3DP, tel: 01293 882173.
- CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH:** Branch classes:- General, incl Beginners with technique Coudson (Fri). Advanced (Wed) Coudson. Other classes in the area: Beginners: Reigate & Selsdon (Tues); Gen: Reigate (Mon); Advanced: Reigate (Thurs.). Details: Dorothy Pearson 01737 551724, www.rscdscroydon.org.uk
- EALING SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thurs. 8-10pm. September to May at St Andrew's Church Centre, Mount Park Road, Ealing, W5. Details: Rena Stewart, 56 Meadvale Road, Ealing, W5 1NR, tel: 020 8998 6419.
- EPHING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Club night Mondays (all year) 8-10 pm at Woodford Green Prep School, Glengall Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0BZ. Details: John Tanner 020 8504 1632. www.efsa.org.uk, john@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 from Dorothy Pearson, 366 Chipstead Valley Road, Coudson CR5 3BF. Tel 01737 551724
- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details from Mrs Annette Owen, 47 Beauclerk Green, Winchfield, Hook, Hants RG27 8BF. Tel: 01252 845187.
- FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Tuesdays 8.00pm, September to mid-July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Details from Ann or Paul Brown, tel: 01784 462456 or mobile 07801 160643. Email: p@ulfbrown.co.uk
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-11.00pm, September to May. Full details from Vikki Spencer, 24 Park Hill, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 6PW. Tel: 01252 691922.
- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays 8 to 10pm, end of September to June. Details: info@gxscottish.org.uk or from Mrs B MacKenzie Ross 01494 874604.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- GUILDFORD SCDC** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford most Mondays at 8.00pm from September to April. Teacher Paul Plummer, 01252 404639.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept.-June from 8.00-10.00pm in Elderkin Hall, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF. 020 8870 6131.
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00pm. Details from Phil Bray, 25 St. Olams Close, Luton, Beds LU3 2LD. Tel: 01582 617734.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St.Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner HA5 3QR. Tel: 020 8428 6055.
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8-10pm, September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darks Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.
- HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15pm. September to July, tuition followed by social dancing. Also monthly Saturday dances and ceilidhs. All at Heston Methodist Church Hall. Details from Mrs Rosemary Mitchell, Tel: 01784 254401.
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP.** Contacts: Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey J13 9GB Tel/Fax 01534 854459; Alan Nicolle 01534 484375, alan.nicolle88@googlemail.com; or Brenda Gale 01534 862357. See blog: www.scottishcountrydancingjersey.blogspot.com
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** meet Wednesdays September to June at Holy Trinity & St. John's C. of E. Primary School, St. John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7.00-8.00pm. General 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. 01843 869284.
- LEIGH-ON-SEA CALEDONIAN DANCERS** meet every MONDAY except Bank Holidays and during July/August at St James' Church Hall, Elmsleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 4DP from 7.15 - 10pm. Tuition given. Contact Rob on 01702 354414 or www.leighcaledonian.info.
- LEICESTER BRANCH RSCDS** meets Thursdays, Holy Cross Centre, Wellington St., Leicester. 4 classes - Beginners, Intermediates, Social, Advanced. 7.30-8.30pm., followed by Social dancing until 10p.m. Also Tuesdays 1.30-3.45p.m. General class at same venue. Contact: Mrs. Pamela Hood 0016 2753886, jjimps@aol.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* or contact Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG. 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096. www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372. maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk.
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday 7.30-10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details from Jane Masters, 251 Robin Hood Lane, Blue Bell Hill, Chatham, Kent ME5 9QU. Tel. 01634 864007.
- MARKET HARBOUROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesday 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, "Lazonby", 9 Little Lunnon, Dunton Bassett, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 5JR. 01455 209446.
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at St. Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 3HL tel 01474 822919.
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB** meets every Monday evening from September - June at 8.15-10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details from Mrs Jane Whittington. 5 Coldharbour Rd. Northfleet.Kent.DA11 8AE, 01474 359018.
- MID SUSSEX CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Events throughout the year at various venues. Members of SASS. Classes held before St. Andrews/Burns. Contact David Anderson, 8 Tindal Close, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 0LB. 01444 244854, madaanderson@hotmail.com
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS.** Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00- 10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. MK 3 5LP. 01908 378730, jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. from September to May at Roecroft School, Stotfold. Informal Saturday Dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds. SG17 5AL. Tel: 01462 812691.
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dancing 7.45-10.00pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9JN. Tel. 01634 254451.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners/Improvers Class Every Monday 8.00-10.15pm at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Pam. French, 20 Beaumont Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent, BR5 1JN. 01689 873511.
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET. Tel: 01869 340830.
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00-10.00pm. September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Rita Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Tel: 0118 975 7507, www.scottishdancingreading.org.
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00pm from mid Sept. to end of May. All welcome. Information contact 020 8977 4304.
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP.** Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@гна.сс.
- ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON).** The Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB. or Elizabeth Bennett 020-8715 3564, lizbennett@blueyonder.co.uk. www.geocities.com/standrewsoclondon.
- 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 Nights' when tickets cost £7 inc. supper (Burns Night £10). Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details: Bob Harman: 020 8642 7192, bobandmegharman@aol.com.

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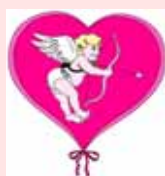


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These two pictures were taken at the Chiltern Fiddle Rally in High Wycombe on 18 January

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