



The Reel

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
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No 261

SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER 2007

DANCE SCOTTISH WEEK

7-15 September 2007

This action-packed week is nearly upon us: it aims to celebrate the start of our dancing season. The Branch is using this week as an eye-opener for existing and potential dancers.

On the Branch website www.rscdslondon.org.uk you can access a wealth of information about dancing possibilities in the Southeast, whether inside the M25, within a 60-mile radius of Central London or in the wider Southeast area. Classes, dances, reeling and ceilidhs are all flagged up on this excellent and user-friendly site. We encourage dancers to avail themselves of this facility and also to encourage friends who are considering starting dancing. This site must surely make beginners think that joining up is wonderfully easy! For "Dance Scottish" visit the special section in www.rscdslondon.org.uk.

Would anyone like to dance every night of this week and write up a dancing diary for *The Reel*? The Editor will be pleased to consider entries!

For the Open-air dancing in Kensington Gardens (see this page) the Royal Parks are helping us to publicise this event more widely and we hope to attract potential dancers to these delightful occasions and to retain them! Do come and swell the ranks and help newcomers experience the thrills of Scottish Dancing. No booking, all welcome, entrance free! The Royal Parks website is www.royalparcs.org.uk.

For events at HQ and elsewhere visit the RSCDS website.

This should be a week for spreading the word about this marvellous activity and we hope for enthusiastic support from all our readers.

Rosalind Zuridis



Zoë shows the way

Stephen Webb

OPEN AIR DANCING

Saturday afternoons 8 and 15 September 2007
2.00-4.00 pm

Kensington Gardens

(by the bandstand, near the Round Pond)

Nearest underground stations: Queensway and High Street Kensington

Dancing to the music of **Kafoozalum**

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

See London Branch website for more.

CELEBRATE FOR CHRISTMAS



Branch Dance

Saturday 15 December 2007

6.45 for 7.00-10.45pm.

Colin Dewar and his Band

Machine without Horses.....	12/12
Jessie's Hornpipe.....	8/9
Miss Gibson's Strathspey.....	L.20
The Diamond Jubilee.....	31/1
The Royal Deeside Railway.....	40/9
John McAlpin.....	Foss/Galloway
Bonnie Anne.....	MacNab II/1
Autumn in Appin.....	31/5
The Montgomeries' Rant.....	10/1

The Laird of Milton's Daughter.....	22/10
Mrs McLeod.....	6/11
Anna Holden's Strathspey.....	42/2
Napier's Index.....	45/8
John of Bon Accord.....	33/5
Sugar Candie.....	6/9
Jennifer's Jig.....	Drewry Silver City 4
Macdonald of the Isles.....	Haynes Carnforth 2/7
The Reel of the Royal Scots.....	L.7

Admission £15.00 members, £16.00 non members. Reception drink and refreshments provided. Those with Highland/evening dress are encouraged to wear it.

AN AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

Branch Dance

Saturday 22 September 2007

7.00 - 10.30pm

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

David Hall and his Band

The Duke of Atholl's Reel.....	16/3
The Ladies of Dunse.....	26/11
The Braes of Breadalbane.....	21/7
The Swilcan.....	23/8
The Flowers of Edinburgh.....	1/6
Culla Bay.....	41/2
Miss Allie Anderson.....	L.16
Miss Milligan's Strathspey.....	L.19
The Hamilton Rant.....	22/2

Good Hearted Glasgow.....	Knapman
The First of September.....	Dix
Seann Truibhas Willichan.....	27/9
Major Ian Stewart.....	35/4
Fife Ness.....	4 for '78
The Robertson Rant.....	39/8
Muirland Willie.....	21/9
Cuillins of Skye.....	4 for '78
The Reel of the 51st Division.....	13/10

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

ST. ANDREW'S DANCE

Saturday 17 November 2007

7.00-10.30pm

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

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

MC Andrew Kellett

The programme will include some of the traditional dances of Scotland, such as the Eightsome Reel and Strip the Willow, plus ceilidh waltzes, two-steps and polkas and some straightforward country dances like Good Hearted Glasgow, The Highland Rambler and Posties' Jig. All the dances will be talked through and called, and some will be shown on the floor.

Have friends/family/colleagues been daunted by unknown dances? This is the dance for them but also for you! Dances will be walked and called.

Scottish food, Scottish music,

Scottish DANCING

Admission £7.50 members, £8.50 non members

Welcome drink and refreshments provided.

Important Editorial Notice

The next issue of *The Reel*, No 262, will be edited in New Zealand (made possible by modern technology). Please note that contributions should be sent if at all possible by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk as usual. However, postal contributions should be sent to John Reeve, 233 Cassiobury Drive, Watford, Herts WD17 3AN. All contributions must arrive before 3 November and it would be helpful to have them as early as possible.

Issue No 262 will be with UK based members by 1 December 2007 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 c/o John Reeve, 233 Cassiobury Drive, Watford, WD17 3AN) to arrive by 3 November. (Issue No 263 will arrive by 16 February 2008).

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

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

'Dance Scottish!' is how we are beginning a new season, grammatical or not, so bring your friends, family, workmates to have a go in Kensington Gardens (See Page 1). Many people have been dancing throughout the summer in the UK and in other parts of the world; have a look at the enclosed 'Dance Diary' and South East Classes list to see where you can continue or even extend now that the autumn is upon us.

Our summer season closed with the Garden Dance, indoors because of persistent rain, but what a good afternoon's dancing! David Hall and his Band provided such good music with a varied programme put together by Vice-President Owen Meyer that the dancers did not even think about the weather, but it was thanks to the hospitality and hard work of Iain Farrell at Harrow School that the afternoon was such a success; we have already been invited to do the same next year but this time the sun will shine – many thanks, Iain.

Our AGM passed smoothly; the members who were able to attend accepted the accounts (see Page 3) and the Annual Report, including plans for the year ahead. Mary Stoker was re-elected Honorary President with acclaim as were our Vice Presidents also. The draft minutes of the meeting will be on the website after the Committee meeting in September. As a member pointed out, the AGM is really a social occasion – tea to start, and then a special treat to end – dancing to the four hands of Angela Young and David Hall – welcome back to London, David and family!

David will be providing more wonderful music in September but this time with a 5-piece band; will the sound be better? different? the same? Come to 'An Autumn Assembly' and see.

The Day School is another 'must'; the Elementary Class will have two sessions this year, the themes of each class are enticing, the musicians will be led by a fiddler this year and it will culminate in another excellent ceilidh for all Day School participants and those who were not able to attend to join in together. (See Page 4).

In November we have our Family Day, a class for adults and children, and then a dance for all to join in, followed by a St. Andrew's Dance for those with little or no experience of Scottish Country dancing, a chance for newcomers, those who do other dancing to enjoy the excellent music of Frank Reid and calling of Andrew Kellett and be inspired to dance with us regularly.

Then in December 'Celebrate for Christmas' with Colin Dewar and his Band. What a good pre-Christmas celebration that will be!

So dancing shoes ready – off we go! See you on the dance floor.

Rachel Wilton

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

THANKYOU

The Annual General Meeting welcomes new people to work for the Branch and thanks those who are retiring, although fortunately most of them do not retire very far! This year thanks are due to Meryl Thomson who has served as a Committee member for five years, leaving the Committee but not, you will be glad hear, her post as webmistress and creator of Branch publicity materials; Pam Ellam tried to retire last year but was persuaded to continue – she has worked hard as a link between the Society Headquarters and the Branch and between Committee members as well as fielding enquiries from all over on a wide range of aspects of the Branch and Scottish Country Dancing, so again we can thank her for all her work and be pleased that she has agreed to remain as a Committee member.

A category 'non executive Committee member' appears under the list of Branch Officers in *The Reel* and one very important position is that of Membership Secretary; this has been Owen Meyer's job since 2000 and he has now decided to retire, but again, not too far; he will continue to be very active and an interested Vice-President. The work of the Membership Secretary is extensive and the Branch appreciates greatly the efficiency and commitment he has given to this responsibility for so long. The other posts in this category, committed but sometimes unsung are Rita Marlow – distributor of *The Reel* to non Branch members; Ian Anderson – Bookstall; Iris Anderson – Archivist; Marie Jamieson – representative to the Central Council for Physical Recreation; Ian Thomson who works with Meryl on the website; and Robert Elliott our auditor – thank you all for your contributions. With such a strong team we can look forward to the coming year

It would not do to forget our own photographer, Stephen Webb – how we enjoy seeing ourselves and others! – thank you to him for the photographs and for the display at the AGM, coordinated with Jeff Robertson.

Last of all to the Committee; thank you for all your work towards a good dancing year and for agreeing to serve for another year.

The Committee welcomes Stewart Murray as the new Secretary, Gillian Bloomfield as a new member, and Margaret Shaw as a returning member; the publicity Sub-Committee also welcomes a co-opted member, Lindsay Jenkins. The Committee is delighted to welcome Gaynor Curtis as the new Membership Secretary with confidence and enthusiasm.

Rachel Wilton



EDITORIAL

It is not often that we have the pleasure of listening and dancing to a big band. As RSCDS Director of music Mo Rutherford tells us in her letter (page 8), a big band gives something really different. I hope you will come along to the Branch September dance to enjoy the special treat.

We are continually being reminded by all sorts of happenings of the really international friendship engendered by Scottish Country dancing – it promotes friendship and enjoyment around the world. We will be in New Zealand revisiting our dancing friends there this autumn, and nearer to home Jim Cook in this issue tells us of his circle of dancing friends in Europe. When you travel, always take your dancing shoes with you – you never know when you will meet some new dancing friends!

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Patron - H.M. The Queen



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LONDON BRANCH

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Mary Stoker

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

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Jenny Greene, Marie Jamieson,
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SUB-COMMITTEES

Youth:Andrew Kellett, Angela Young

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

Dances:..... Rachel Wilton, Gillian Bloomfield,
Margaret Catchick, Jeff Robertson,
Angela Young

Demonstrations: James Fairbairn, Angela Young

Publicity:.....Rosalind Zuridis, Lindsay Jenkins*,
Rita Marlow*, Wilson Nicol (Reel),
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:.....Andrew Kellett, Simon Wales

Combined Societies:.....Rachel Wilton

*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

Website

www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Objects of London Branch

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

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

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

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

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Margaret Shaw



Margaret needs little introduction. She has been a member of the Branch for many years and has served on the Committee quite a number of times in the past. She was Branch Secretary 2000-03; and served on the Classes Sub-Committee 1981-85, 1989-93, and again 2003-05; and on Dances and Children Sub Committees during 1998-2001. We welcome her back to the Classes Sub-Committee where her experience will be invaluable.

Gillian Bloomfield



Dancing has been part of my life from the age of three when I joined ballet classes. It has been my only form of exercise for most of my life because, rather than going to the gym or participating in sports, I have always preferred to dance. Consequently, I have attended classes for ballroom, tap, rock'n'roll, Ceroc, line, even Morris dancing and for many years I was a very active member of an English country dance club. Since becoming a member of the London branch of the RSCDS two years ago, I have benefited from attending the weekly beginners and popular classes, the encouragement given by the excellent and enthusiastic teachers, and the support I have received from my partners and other dancers. As a relative newcomer to SCD but with some experience of dance in general, I hope that I might help in guiding the Committee's decisions on teaching as well as making a significant contribution to encouraging others to share in and carry on the tradition of Scottish Country Dancing.

COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

The London Branch Committee next meets on 17 September, 11 October and 29 November. Items for discussion should be sent to the Secretary, Stewart Murray, at least two weeks before the meetings to ensure inclusion on the Agenda.

ACCOUNTS 2006-7

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

The accounts show an operating surplus of £6,205 – however, this includes £6,212 of donations (including the Ruth Simpson bequest). You cannot get much closer to breakeven than that!

We did, however, have an unrealised gain on our investments of £3,238 thanks to the steady performance of the stock market. This is not even real money, as we have no intention of cashing in our shares, but it all adds up to the overall surplus of £9,443 for the year.

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

Classes

Fees, less hire of halls, less teachers and musicians expenses: £9,393 - £4,525 - £7,606 = (£2,738). This is less than the budget set – largely as a result of the day school making a good surplus.

Children's Activities

Income less expenditure: £1,116 – £2,022 = (£906), but we subsidised the two children's classes by £498 from the Telfer bequest.

Dances

Income less expenditure: £7,199 – £5,468 = £1,731 surplus thanks to good turnout at the Christmas and Burns Night dances, and every dance made a surplus.

Publicity

This cost the Branch £1,190 this year covered from the Westwood fund to cover the cost of the open air dancing in Kensington Gardens. *The Reel* made an operating loss of £626 which is covered by the £683 from the long term and life members funds.

Bookstall and other trading

£6,057 - £4,493 = £ 1,564 surplus on bookstall, branded garments, London Anniversary Book and CD. Stock has increased because of the number of CDs left to sell.

Demonstration Team

This appears as "fundraising activities" ie £4,882 - £6,557 = (£1,675). The new white dresses cost £1,680, so without this there would have been a £5 surplus! This is a fantastic turnaround from previous years and the higher levels of income seem to be continuing, but hall costs are set to increase after the budget was set.

Administration Costs

The only other figure to comment on is the admin costs – roughly level with last year at £593. This is made up as follows:

Membership expenses	£173
Insurance	£60
Treasurer's /secretarial	£82
Cable protectors.....	£181
PAT testing.....	£15
Dance Diary.....	£32
EFDSS	£50

The meeting expenses reflect the small subsidy to travel paid to delegates attending the Society AGM (£25 per head) and meeting rooms at St Columba's. This last figure may go down if we have fewer meetings at St Columba's.

Next year's budget is along much the same lines as this year's, but we will have different financial arrangements for the classes from what we budgeted. Next year from September we will be responsible for the costs and the income unlike at present. This should help to reduce further the cost of classes.

We are very fortunate to have the various bequests which enable us to tackle projects in the knowledge that we have sufficient funds to back them up. We had no requests for grants from the Ireland fund in 2006-7 but will have in 2007-8. This year we received the Ruth Simpson bequest for which we are very grateful – this has paid for the Branch keyboard.

We should be concentrating next year on making use of some of these legacies and funds for the furtherance of our aims and objectives.

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow officers and convenors who are always on top of their paperwork and enable me to keep the accounts on the straight and narrow. As ever, the biggest thanks are due to Robert Elliott, the independent examiner, who does so much more than his title suggests!

Simon Wales, Branch Treasurer

ANNUAL CONFERENCE WEEKEND & AGM

2-4 November 2007

The application form for the weekend is available on request from Headquarters, or to download from the website. The programme is:

Friday

Ball: **David Cunningham and his Band**

Saturday

Class:

Teacher: **Mervyn Short**

Musician: **Rodger McAndrew**

Members' Forum: Led by Bristol Branch

Dance: **Marian Anderson and her Band**

Sunday

Workshop: "Are these the instructions?"

Teacher: **Peter Clark**

Musician: **Pat Clark**

Musicians' Forum:

Youth Forum Leader: **Jayne Brown**

Meeting for International Branch members.

THE SOCIETY'S FEATURED DANCES 2007-08

To provide some consistency and familiarity for dancers who visit other Branches, the Society has selected a set of common dances below which it suggests are featured during the coming year's programme of events.

Bridge of Nairn	S	13.11
Cauld Kail	M	9.11
Festival Fling	R	44.7
From Scotia's Shores We're Noo Awa'	S	Leaflet
Glasgow Lassies	S	34.3
Hamilton House	J	7.10
Ladies' Fancy	J	13.12
Lady Mary Menzies' Reel	R	7.5
Open the Door to Three	J	34.8
Summer Wooing	R	38.6

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, SW1	Jenni Rutherford
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	For details contact James Fairbairn, 01865 512308		Angela Young / Sandra Smith

Term starts week commencing 24th September. Half Term week commencing 22nd October and term ends during the week commencing 3rd December 2007. Enquiries about classes: 020 8748 6711, or email classes@rscdslondon.org.uk.

CLASSES

This year for the first time all three Wednesday evening classes will be held at Marlborough School. So, whether you are in the beginners, attending the technique class or an enthusiast for popular dances, everyone can see something of what is involved in the other classes. Also, for the first time, all the classes will be run by the Branch (as the technique class has been) instead of the Adult Education Authority. This may not sound important but it does mean that dancers may be able to move from one class to another, if appropriate. We will also be able to offer classes to visitors to London and a discount to Branch members. The fee for the term will be £60 for members and £65 for non-members. See above for class and term details.

Which class?

Beginners meet from 6.30-8.00. If you are a complete beginner or have only done a bit this is the one for you. The basic steps and movements will be covered and the frequently used formations in a number of simple dances.

Popular Dances is from 8.00-9.30. You need to know the basic steps and the common formations. Less usual formations and aspects of social dancing will be taught and a variety of the more popular dances covered.

Technique meets from 7.00-9.00. You need to know the steps and formations well and this class is all about improving your own personal dancing standards. Individual comments will be made so you know what you need to work at.

Other classes:

Wednesday afternoon is a general class which has been running for a number of years and open to dancers of all abilities

Dem Class is for members of the demonstration team. Competent dancers of a high standard and able to commit to dancing in demonstrations are welcome to contact James Fairbairn on 01865 512 308

Highland. Unfortunately we lost the venue for this class so although plans are in hand nothing is fixed yet. If interested please send your contact details to Margaret Shaw, 020 7329 2847.

Ladies Step is taught by Joan Desborough as a day school. The next one will probably be in November. Details will be on the Branch website or contact her at joandesborough@dsl.pipex.com.

Children's classes are run on a monthly basis in London and there is also a children's class at Aston Clinton. Details in The Reel or contact Andrew Kellett on 020 8301 1403 or email youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

Advanced Technique is a class held approximately monthly at Coram Fields Band Hall on a Sunday from 11.00-1.00. For this term the dates are: 7th October, 4th November, and 9th December. Each date will have a different teacher. You need to have a good knowledge of figures and formations and want to improve your own standard of dancing.

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

Step out together with the music

Saturday 13 October 2007

Lady Margaret School, Parsons Green, SW6 4UN

Continuing our break from tradition, classes will once again be themed, encouraging the enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing through the understanding of movement and interaction. In addition to these themed classes there will also be a class for beginners and those fairly new to Scottish Country Dancing which this year will take place in both the morning and afternoon. Classes will be divided as follows:

Morning: 10.30-12.30

"Changing Step and Changing Feet" – This class will concentrate on the smooth transition from one step to another as well as well as a smooth change of feet – a class for experienced dancers

Teacher: **Linda Gaul** Musician: **George MacLennan**

or: "Follow Your Nose" – A class aiming to cover formations where it is sometimes confusing whether to put in an extra turn or dance straight back to place as well as keeping the flow of the dance going – suitable for all abilities

Teacher: **Graham Donald** Musician: **Phill Jones**

or: Beginners & Improvers Class

Teacher: **Irene Edgar** Musician: **Barbara Manning**

Afternoon 14.00-16.00

"Spinning Around" – This class will look at the different types of turns, use of hands and how to help yourself when turning – a class for experienced dancers

Teacher: **Graham Donald** Musician: **George MacLennan**

or: "How Well Do You Know Your Corners?" – This class will look at who your corners are, how you get to them and what you do with them - suitable for all abilities

Teacher: **Linda Gaul** Musician: **Phill Jones**

or: Beginners & Improvers Class

Teacher: **Irene Edgar** Musician: **Barbara Manning**

Lunch: 12.30-14.00

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

Optional Extras: 17.00-8.00

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

A Taste of MacNab (inc. MacDonald of Sleat)

Teacher: **Simon Wales** Musician: **George MacLennan**

Highland/Step

Teacher: **Joan Desborough** Musician: **Barbara Manning**

Recapping & Calling **Andrew Kellett**

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

Musicians' Workshop

Led by **Keith Smith** this will take place in both the morning and afternoon. This year the course will cover playing as a group for Scottish Country Dance and what you need to do to work together. Although there will not be an opportunity to play for the evening dancing, everyone is welcome to stay and contribute a ceilidh item.

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

Evening Ceilidh: 18.30-21.30

This will follow the Day School and once again we anticipate much fun and entertainment. Dancing will be to **Ceol na h'Alba**. Tickets are available in advance and on the door.

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

DON'T MISS IT!!

MARY ISDALE MacNAB

At the Branch Day school on 13 October, I have been asked to teach a couple of the MacNab dances (MacDonald of Sleat and Because he was a Bonny Lad) and I thought it might be useful to explore a bit about Mrs MacNab before coming into contact with the dances. I am indebted to the Vancouver Branch whose article appeared in Reel 216 and from which much of this is taken.

Mary Isdale emigrated from Scotland to Canada as a young girl in 1907. She became a leading teacher of highland dancing, but also supported the work of the RSCDS in Vancouver. However, it is as a choreographer that she is best remembered.

Her dances bring together the highland and country traditions, and cover a great range – from pure country dances to those consisting almost entirely of highland steps. Most characteristic of all are her set dances, including MacDonald of Sleat. These are danced in formations, with many country dance figures as well as passages of highland steps. They are remarkable for their fluid choreography, with one formation melting into another – this makes them superb demonstration dances. Some have even made it onto the dance floor occasionally at Scottish country dances.

The origin and development of these dances provoke interesting questions. Most are based, if loosely, on dances originally collected by Mrs MacNab from a variety of sources – some from Scottish immigrants in Vancouver and Nova Scotia and some from sources in Scotland. She seems to have lent an open ear to anyone willing to teach her a dance, especially old people describing dances they knew as children.

The finished dances appear to have evolved also from the collaboration between Mrs MacNab and her class, rather as plays can evolve in a collaborative workshop process. They also owe much to her artistic feeling for dance as a spectacle and her flair for organising an effective and varied performance – any performance dance choreographer tries to achieve this! Her theatrical instincts may be seen in the last eight bars of Because he was a Bonnie Lad.

Mrs MacNab's work was widely recognised both in Canada and in Scotland – her relationship with Mrs Milligan was one of mutual esteem. Mrs Milligan taught two new MacNab dances at Summer School in 1964, and wrote the obituary for Mrs MacNab which appeared in the RSCDS Bulletin in 1968.

Despite their comparative difficulty, many of the MacNab dances have become firm favourites on the dance floor and amongst demonstration dancers – at the White Rose Festival in July this year the audience was treated to the spectacle of eight teams of six couples dancing MacLeod of Dunvegan. The RSCDS has recently invested in recording on video the dances of the two published books under the auspices of London's own Peter Knight.

Simon Wales

ADVANCE NOTICE Branch Dances 2008

At St Columba's unless otherwise stated
12 January **Strathallan**
Burns Supper/Ceilidh Dance
15 March..... **Kafoozalium**
Family Dance afternoon
10 MayMusicians/ **Gordon Simpson**
Musicians Day followed by dance
PARKING – there is no congestion charge on a Saturday and after 6.30pm on-street parking is free and available.

SERTA WORKSHOP

(South East Region Teachers Association)
Sunday 30 September 2007
10.30am-4.00pm

Abbott's Hill School, Bunkers Lane,
Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8RP

Subject: Teaching Skills

Tutor: **Helen Russell**
Musician: **Ken Martlew**

Application forms from Mervyn Short
email nylvrems2@onetel.com, tel: 01903 715068.

SERTA is open to those who have a Teachers' Certificate Part 1 or 2 or who lead a group; if you would like your name added to the mailing list please contact Mike Johnson. email mikejohnson@waitrose.com, tel: 01491 873026.

Potential Tutors' Course

There has been a suggestion that a weekend course for teachers who like to become tutors to run Teaching Certificate Courses should be arranged in South East England. Potential Tutors must hold Teachers' Certificate Part 2. Please contact Mervyn Short if you are interested on 01903 715068 or e mail nylvrems2@onetel.com.

SERTA

Do you need a new teacher for your class?

The South-East Region Teachers' Association (SERTA) organises events for dance teachers and those taking teaching certificate courses. Some of these people will already be very busy, but others may be in a position to take on another class or a special event. Those taking teaching certificates may be looking for an opportunity to gain teaching experience.

If you are looking for a new teacher and would like to be put in contact with the members of SERTA, please contact me on 01491 873026, email mikejohnson@waitrose.com or at 4 Gatehampton Cottages, Gatehampton Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9LX. Clubs are also invited to let me know of events which might be of particular interest to teachers in the region.

The next SERTA workshop is on Teaching Skills, led by Helen Russell, on Sunday 30th September in Hemel Hempstead. Numbers will be limited and application forms have already been sent out to those on the SERTA mailing list. If you would like your name added to the database please contact me as above.

Mike Johnson



Stephen Webb

Moira Strutt
hears the
good news
of her
teaching
success

FOCUS ON YOUTH

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

The Branch children's class continues in the autumn term on Saturdays 22 September, 20 October, 24 November, 15 December, restarting in the New Year on Saturday 19 January 10.30-11.30am.

St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1

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

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

Newcomers always welcome!

FAMILY DAY - 17 November

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

11.30 - 12.45 Children's Class

(Admission £2.00).

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

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

13.00 Lunch (£1.00)

will be provided for all dancers

14:00 - 16:30 Dance to the music of

Frank Reid and his Band

(Admission £2.50)

Dances will be chosen from: The Prince of Orange, The Dashing White Sergeant, Reel for Jeannie, Rabbie's Reel, The Dhooon, A Jig for Mrs Dunn, Le Papillon, The Flying Scotsman, The Barmkin, Cumberland Reel, Petronella, Espie McNab, Watson's Reel, Leap Year, The Wild Geese, Round Reel of Eight.

Whole day ticket £5.00

Everyone is welcome for all or part of the day.

Dances in the afternoon will be talked
through. For more details please contact

Andrew Kellett 020 8301 1403.

Medal Tests

Later in the season there will be an opportunity for children to take the RSCDS Medal Tests for Young Dancers. More details in the next issue.

And finally another Family Day will be held on

15 March 2008.

Children's Class

Aston Clinton, Nr. Aylesbury, Bucks

Teacher: **Joan Desborough**

Further details from

Ann Robertson 01296 630682

CANDIDATES' SUCCESS

After 6 months of hard work and commitment congratulations to the following on the award of their Teacher's Certificate:

Unit 2

Pamela Cross
Bevan Marchand
Elizabeth Marchand
Ann Robertson
Catherine Smith

Unit 3

Pamela Cross
Bevan Marchand
Elizabeth Marchand
Ann Robertson
Catherine Smith
Alex Harvey

Unit 5

Christine Hastie
Stephanie Robertson
Jane Rose
Moira Strutt

Anyone who is thinking of taking the first part of the Teacher's Certificate, the Branch is willing to organise facilities for taking Unit 1 on Saturday 13 October at the Day School in Parsons Green. Unit 1 needs to be done before embarking on Units 2 and 3, and this is the date to do Unit 1 if you wish to do Units 2 and 3 at Summer School 2008.

Please contact Moira Strutt, email moirastrutt@btinternet .com, tel: 020 8748 6711.

PROGRAMMES — PROGRAMMES

How often have you heard 'I did enjoy that dance, such a good programme' but occasionally 'I'm not going to that dance, such an awful programme'. These two remarks set me thinking 'What makes a good programme?' Having been in my time a dancer, MC, programme compiler, class pianist and band leader, I should be able to see this exercise from all sides.

Firstly who is the programme for? Is it experts, middle of the road dancers, beginners, your own club or are you expecting visitors from many other areas. If, as is often the case the answer is 'All of them' then keeping everybody contented is going to be difficult. Remember that experts are often happy doing quite easy dances – they just do them better, often much better! However, beginners will soon lose interest if they find the programme too hard. Remember that what you find easy is not always the same as what they find easy. These days with over 12,000 dances to choose from many clubs have a considerable number of their own favourites and although visitors may enjoy one or two new dances, too many will put them off very quickly. Recapping at dances where there was live music was at one time unknown but now it seems to be getting more and more common. Could it be that the programmes are getting too difficult, too varied or is it just that we are all getting too old?

When compiling a programme the first thing to decide is how many dances to include. In years gone by when every dance was 8x32, or more, and encores were common then 10 minutes per dance was a good rule but these days when most dances are x3 x4 x5 and encores are far less common, probably 6 or 7 minutes per dance can easily be achieved. Remember to leave adequate time for the interval, the raffle and any finale as these usually take longer than expected. For some reason sets form up quicker in a dance with 75 people than one with say 150 people, I don't know why because there are usually the same number of 'ends' to make up in each case!

What dance to put where? The best programmes start with an easy jig then an easy reel and then an easy short strathspey. This allows both the band and dancers to warm up. There is nothing worse than having a programme start with dances such as Hamilton Rant and then the Pines of Pitlochry. Both players and dancers are shattered by the third dance. Yes, I have experienced just that on a programme! A number of clubs now start the second half with a strathspey – not a bad idea if the refreshments have been generous as is now so often the case. We discovered on our tour of the USA some years ago that it is common over there to start a dance with a 10 minute 'warm up' as in a class or aerobic session. This is apparently for legal reasons as should anybody pull a muscle whilst still 'cold' the club could be sued. Some clubs even had a 'wind down' session at the end for the same reasons. We haven't got to that stage yet but it is something to consider!

If you must have 8x32 strathspeys please put them in the middle of the programme particularly if they have dreamy tunes. To put something like Miss Gibson's Strathspey as the penultimate dance after a long evening can be torture for the band. It always reminds me of the joke 'I dreamt I was playing at a dance and woke up to find that I was!' I'm sure all musicians have found themselves on 'autopilot' on such occasions only to come

back to earth with a bit of a bump somewhere near the end of the dance! There seems to be a growing trend to have lists of extras included with a programme. These used not to be needed so why now? Perhaps there is a reason at a dinner dance when the exact length of the meal and speeches is somewhat unknown, but at a dance surely not. To me it gives the impression that the compiler doesn't really know what is going on. Most good MC's can time a dance to the nearest minute without any bother – I know – we have worked with plenty. So why the 'extras'?

It is so difficult to decide what the perfect programme is. The programme compiler is only one contributor: the dancers themselves add to the enjoyment by their reactions; but surely one of the most important ingredients is the band, the tunes they choose and the way they play.

There must be many 'good' programmes, but the perfect programme may be the pot of gold at the foot of the rainbow

Robin Ellis

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

AGM 2007

Arrangements for the Society AGM and Society Conference in Perth are being finalised and the Members' Forum will be held in the same format as last year. Nomination forms for election to the Management Board and Committees are now available.

The Society Magazine

The Spring 2007 edition of the *Scottish Country Dancer* has been dispatched to members and subscribers all over the world. It is packed with interesting articles and current news about the SCD world. Highlights of this issue are a frank interview with Bobby Brown; a description of the life of Hugh Foss to compliment a supplement containing three of his dances; and the announcement of the new official RSCDS tartan.

Marketing Officer

Following a successful introductory period as Marketing Officer, Liz Fraser's appointment has been extended for a further year.

Website

Development work on the website is ongoing with the ability to place shop orders online.

Scottish Issues

Dance Scottish Week, will be launched by a Reception and Ball at Surgeons Hall in Edinburgh on 7 September. During Dance Scottish Week the Society HQ will extend a warm welcome to members and the wider public with an opportunity to meet the Society's Chairman and other members of the team.

Jeff Robertson

DANCE AROUND THE WORLD

The English Folk Dance and Song Society will be repeating this excellent two days of displays and workshops involving many different dance groups on Saturday 13 October, and Sunday 14 October 2007 at Cecil Sharp House. The Branch will be performing and leading a workshop on the Sunday (Day School on Saturday, don't forget) so come and support the Branch and enjoy watching and having a go at other dances.

Further information www.efdss.org
tel. 020 7484 0523.

FLOOD, FIRE AND PICNICS

The switch to Harrow School for the London Branch's popular summer picnic dance assumed biblical dimensions when half the dancers spent valuable dancing time stuck on the North Circular or crawling along Harrow-on-the-Hill's quaint High Street. A fire had closed key roads.

Did the Rousseaus win the prize for the slowest approach at three hours for a journey which should have taken just one? Or was it Irene Spooner whose car gave out under the strain? Everyone had a story and mobile phones were working overtime.

With the heavens pouring rain on the proceedings – but why not on the fire? – and washed out from the playing fields, the cavernous sports hall gave everyone plenty of room to enjoy David Hall and his Band on great form. Iain Farrell, host of the proceedings, entertained with superb and dextrous piping and the demonstration team obviously relished the extra space and delighted as always. The consummate MCs were Wilson Nicol and Owen Meyer.

Suffice it to say that the facilities at Harrow School are superb; access on every other day of the year is easy, and we are indeed lucky to be invited to dance there. Few took advantage of the wonderful swimming pool to recover after their exertions, no doubt having got wet enough already, but next year when the sun is certain to shine the cooling waters will beckon.

Driving away, the eye was attracted to a long distance runner alone on the track, oblivious to the downpour, and beyond him a vast sweep of green fields awaits our return.

Lindsay Jenkins

Editor's note: The first Polesdon Lacey in 1980 was also very wet and held in a local school

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(More letters on pages 8, 9 and 19)

MC Wakeup

Toddington

Dear Editor

Well done Andrew Kellett! You highlighted a situation in your article "Will you MC our next dance, please?" I have been concerned about for years. I agree entirely.

This year yet again we have been subjected to several instances of incompetent MCing. On the last occasion, to regular dance attendees it was obvious in the second half that time was running out to complete the advertised programme and yet there had been plenty of time available if the evening had been properly MCed. It was due to the usual reasons, too long between dances especially in the first half, unnecessary repeats, and the meal and raffle dragging on. As a result two dances had to be axed and this spoilt what had generally been a good evening.

Is there a need for classes of instruction for MCs? I say YES but would these people attend – probably not because they think they know best. Are these people inexperienced? NO. They have been on the scene for years. All MCs should remember we have paid to attend their dance and it's not an opportunity to repeat their favourite dance or exercise their ego. I hope if they hear of or read this letter they will respond.

Finally, a plea to dance programme compilers – in the main we are an ageing group, so can we please have the first dance with travelling steps only to get the legs moving. There are plenty of popular dances in this category.

Yours sincerely

Tony Harris

RSCDS TEACHERS' CERTIFICATE: THE LONDON VOLUNTEER CLASS

To demonstrate to the examiners that they have reached the required standard, the candidates aspiring to gain their Teaching Certificate require a class to teach. Volunteers for this class have to be recruited by the Branch to ensure that the examination can take place.

The Tale of two Volunteers

On arriving at Oddfellows Hall, Richmond (Richmond Caledonian Club) we were welcomed by a host of smiling dancers enjoying a cup of tea and biscuits, and being briefed about what to expect as a volunteer or "stooge" as it is called up north at St Andrews Summer School. We already knew!

There was a friendly atmosphere as we waited for Stephen Webb to select the number of dancers requested by each of the candidates in turn. On being called we climbed the stairs (the 'warming up process!') to the class. Once there, the Examiners explained what was required of us. 'Do what the candidate requests'. Sounds easy!

One kilted candidate demonstrated the Strath-spey (pronounced Strath-SPA (A as a in ace). I was very glad we were doing the Strath-SPA as we both have problems with the dipping of the leg and as someone commented "bring the leg round as if you are stepping through treacle". After the candidate explained the history of the Strath-SPA, we were arranged in a circle with a partner and started working on our step. Smile, shoulders back, and watch your posture. After changing our partners a couple of times I certainly felt I was improving with this manoeuvre. Dancing with different partners can help you discover your good and bad faults.

Later we incorporated our movements into a dance that included reels on the side, ladies chain, rights and lefts while, of course, watching that our feet were in correct positions. Demonstrating all these qualities must have looked brilliant to Ken Martlew who was providing such exhilarating music on the piano. He certainly would have earned a dram at the end of the day.

Throughout this splendid day we were hosted with refreshing liquids and food. We wish to thank Davinia Miln, Rachel Wilton and Gaynor Curtis for providing the foods and tirelessly clearing the tables and, I can only guess, washing up!



During a break we walked along the river sharing our experiences. Step forward on right foot, toe pointed. Draw left foot up to meet right.

Step forward on right foot again. Hop on right foot while drawing left foot through, ready to step on the left foot to start again.

The sun shone all day making it a pleasure for both dancers and candidates in this important aspect of Scottish Country Dancing.

Peter & Lizzie Sayce

AN UNUSUAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

How we came to teach Scottish Dancing on a World Cruise

One is reluctant to get involved with teaching on a cruise ship when there is a large staff dedicated to entertaining you from 7am to the early hours of the morning for almost 18 hours a day. On a world cruise of three months the Cruise Director is looking for entertainment variety to keep the passengers happy. New ideas are constantly requested from passengers and even their participation if possible.

It has always been our habit when cruising to take a pair of gillies instead of black shoes for dancing as this cuts down the weight. Once it became visibly obvious to the Cruise Director that we were experienced in Scottish Dancing we received a letter asking us if we would teach some sessions. We had neither music nor instructions so we asked the ship's musicians to provide some suitable music and also requested the aid of some of the ballet dancers from the entertainment staff. Out of six dancers we were allocated four, including two ballroom dancing professionals from the Ukraine.

We decided to forget about standard dances and each day made up dances in increasing complexity using simple figures. We would simplify the dance if it looked as if there was a problem like dancing twice in a set, so we had them dancing once and dropping to the bottom. Another problem was teaching the bars and counting. Most of the dancers were familiar with *The Gay Gordons* as a social dance so we used that to introduce the beat. We also found that although there were some Scottish tunes available any tune with a good beat was sufficient. As people got more familiar with the dancing we gradually introduced real dances.

Our emphasis the whole time was to have fun and it proved such a hit with the passengers that we were requested many times to continue. Initially the dance floor was too crowded but it soon settled down to a more manageable number. We were very pleased at the number of occasions that people said that when they got home they were going to take up Scottish Dancing at a local club.

One problem was an ancient Scottish lady who was the port lecturer and who kept wandering around the set muttering 'this is not the way we do Scottish Dancing in Scotland'. After consoling her with *Strip the Willow* she became more enthusiastic. Everyone by now had got used to her as an eccentric and humoured her during the dancing by steering her in the right direction.

As we cruise in future we plan to be better prepared and offer our services as soon as we get on board the vessel.

Terry and Margaret Gibbon

FÈIS LONDON

Fèis London is a charity to advance learning and awareness of Scottish, Highland and Gaelic Culture and music here in London and the South East.

Fèis is the Gaelic word for a festival or feast. Over the past few years the word has become synonymous with a dynamic, fast growing grassroots movement, involving schoolchildren as well as adults. There are now 40 Fèisean every year in Scotland, where participants are offered tuition in Gaelic music, dance, literature and song by leading artists. Participation and informality are key ingredients of their success.

The first London Fèis is being held at Roehampton 7-9 September 2007 with dancer Mats Melin and musicians Iain Fraser, Jenna Reid, Donald Stewart and Ian Lowthian. For further details please see the website: www.feislondon.org

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

Our Annual Ceilidh was held on 28th April at Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common. This year it was a special occasion coinciding with the 70th birthday of Peter Luke, a Life Member of our Society and the RSCDS, who has been Scottish Country Dancing since he was 21! Friends of Peter and past members came from as far away as Scotland and Cornwall to share in the birthday celebrations.

Peter is a very highly regarded member of our Society; (and of the London Branch), dancing in demonstrations all over the UK and abroad. He takes part in competitions and MCs social dances, often dancing 3 or 4 nights a week and then at weekends too. No wonder he has earned the nickname of 'Pete the Feet'.

The committee arranged a very special item of entertainment for Peter – a very proud Cornishman – involving a (Scottish) dance by 'Cornish Piskies' called 'The Haunt of the Gnomes'. Peter watched all this from the vantage point of a specially constructed toadstool! (See picture on page 10.) The 'Piskies', ten of our male members dressed in green/red tunics, tights and pixie hats, entered dancing to the strains of the 'Floral Dance'. Each 'Pisky' had a Cornish gift for Peter and after their dance, they lifted him off the toadstool and carried him shoulder high from the room, dancing off to 'Hi-Ho, Hi-Ho, It's off to Work We Go'.

Joan Desborough, our Demonstration Team's teacher, gave us an amazing display of step-dancing, the Demonstration Team (including Peter, of course) performed a dance entitled 'Pete the Feet', especially arranged for the occasion by Joan, and Ian King piped around the hall to entertain us during the interval.

Alan Davis was our MC for the evening – he has a wonderful ability for bringing everyone together, including people who have never danced before – while the Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band (Chris Oxtoby, Ann Stonehouse and Martin Cairns) provided superb music.

Jenny Stoddart

JERSEY CALEDONIA SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

The annual Jersey May Bank holiday weekend has been running for 22 years to the enjoyment of many local and visiting dancers. We have been fortunate indeed to have danced to the delightful music of Sound Company for so many years. However the band has now officially been 'disbanded' as the members have migrated to other bands.

The good news is that the future of the weekend is assured as we have now secured the use of the Jersey College for Girls for the foreseeable future and look forward to welcoming you all back in 2008 with Ian Robertson and his band providing the music. Programme details will be available as usual, towards the end of October and will appear in subsequent issues of *The Reel*. Readers may visit the Jersey blog page on <http://scottishcountrydancingjersey.blogspot.com/>

Alan Nicolle

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *There are more Letters on the next page and on page 18*

The Beauty of Big Bands

Perth

Dear Wilson,

There is no better experience than dancing to the full bodied sound of a 5-piece Scottish Dance Band, with the depth, lift and sheer roundness of sound that is exuded. A "complete" 5-piece, comprising lead accordion, fiddle, 2nd accordion (the player of which pumps out the chords in rhythm, adding great "oomph"), plus the rhythm section of keyboard with bass and drums, simply cannot be equalled. Each player is as important as the other, and they depend on each other for the tightness of the ensemble. The band operates as a well oiled wheel; take away a cog and immediately the performance is reduced significantly. Look at it another way – would you book the London Symphony Orchestra for a concert, but say without the woodwind section, or indeed, without any other section? I think not. Many bands operate with electronic substitutes, such as a midi bass for the accordion, but, believe me, it is not the same. You only get what you pay for.

As a dancer, musician and indeed, as Music Director for the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society I would say if the money is there, why deny your dancers the chance to dance to a big band simply to keep the cash in the bank!

Kind regards,

Mo Rutherford

Step Classes

Sunningdale

Dear Wilson

If you hadn't been able to dance for over a year, how would you re-launch yourself? A gentle General Class perhaps with many helpful hands to help you?

My motto these days is definitely '*carpe diem*' (seize the day) so I decided that I was going to re-start by going to my first ever of Joan

Desborough's Step Classes! Joan was upbeat and encouraging when I emailed her about my total lack of fitness and prolonged absence from dancing so, on a sunny April day, I was off to the scout hut in Kings Langley.

It was a delight. The class ranged from the highly expert to the total novice. Joan set a light-hearted and friendly tone of 'we're all in this together' and through her clear teaching and endless patience, coaxed us through 'Over the Water to Charlie' so that by the end of the morning, we were all able to dance it, if not faultlessly, at least well enough to feel we had achieved something very worthwhile.

After lunch, Joan responded to popular request by leading us through a wide variety of dancing ranging from the Fling, through several new Highland setting steps, to be used in the Eightsome or Foursome Reels, to Derek Haynes' Threesome Reel and the Scottish Lilt. The 'expert' dancers were kept on their toes by being shown other alternative steps while those who needed more practice were encouraged to consolidate what they had just learnt.

The music was the crowning glory of the day. Provided by Joan's daughter Wendy on her fiddle, it kept us on our feet, if not always our toes, and carried us along. Wendy is endlessly versatile, able to pull out just the right tune at no notice, responding to the flexibility of the day's programme while her own cheeky 'backchat to the teacher' kept us all amused and involved.

All in all it was a very happy day and I departed exhausted but elated, having found that I could still dance, even if not as well as I would wish, and that I loved doing it. Joan's excellence as a teacher and her ability to draw the best from her varied class while never making anyone feel incompetent (or bored!) is a gift. I would encourage anyone, male or female to do as I did, 'Seize the Day' and give it a go!

Jane Bennett-Rees

Marie Jamieson

London

Dear Sir,

Way back in 1980 I attended a Scottish Country dancing class at Morley College which was, at that time, taken by Marie Jamieson. I went for a year and then life circumstances interrupted everything and I had to give it up and didn't return to Scottish Country Dancing for another 16 years. I was, of course, very rusty by then but the excellent tuition I had from Marie on the steps and basic formations stayed with me and enabled me to more or less pick up from where I left off. The dances all seemed to be new at the club I joined and since I seemed to be learning about 20 new dances a week it took me a long time to begin to really know the dances themselves.

I see that Marie is now an honorary vice-president. It is unlikely that I'll meet her in the course of going to dances so I wondered whether you could publish a photo of her and it would be nice if this letter could be a small thank you to her for starting me off on what has now become something of an obsession!

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

Jill Roeder

Warm-up Dance

Reading

Dear Wilson,

I would like to express my agreement with Stephen Webb that a Scottish Waltz should be played as a warm-up dance. At the last Reading Ball, the Craiggallachie Band did just that as an introduction to the evening before the first dance. Quite a few dancers enjoyed the opportunity.

In addition, at the end of the evening, how about a Scottish Waltz after Auld Lang Syne to cool down instead of the usual fast polka!

Yours Sincerely

Janet Wright



Best of Scotland 2004 Award for Excellence

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Canadian Barn Dance

Hove

Dear Wilson,

In the article on page 3 of *The Reel* entitled "Kensington Gardens" James Fairbairn lists as one of the dances performed "*Canadian Barn Dance (Progressive)*". May I point out that this is a contradiction in terms. The "Canadian Barn Dance" is never progressive. On the other hand the "Bradford Barn Dance" is always progressive. In fact the only difference between the two dances is the progression. When the Bradford Barn Dance is performed at Branch functions, let us at least give it its correct title.

Yours sincerely,

John Mitchell

Editor's note: space prevented us including the rest of John's article on Schottisches in Reel 260.

The Canadian Barn Dance

This dance is a development of the 'Military Schottische'. Its adoption by Old Time Dance Clubs resulted in the dance steps being simplified, hops eliminated and the concluding step-hops replaced by a two-step dance round. This dance (see Sylvester Old Time and Sequence Dancing, 1949) is never progressive.

The Bradford Barn Dance

This progressive dance was developed from the 'Canadian Barn Dance' by C. J. Daniels, a dancing teacher who lived in Bradford. It is danced similarly to the Canadian Barn Dance, the difference being that on bars 9 - 12, the gentlemen change partners by advancing to join the lady immediately in front of their previous partner (see Sylvester Old Time and Sequence Dancing 1949). Unfortunately some Teachers insist on calling this a 'Progressive Canadian Barn Dance' instead of using its correct title.

Hugh Foss Dances

Chalfont St. Peter

Dear Wilson,

I was pleased that the RSCDS decided to republish some of Hugh Foss's dances, presumably in order to make the definitive instructions available to a wider audience. Although the reprints differ from the originals in several respects, these amendments are generally helpful where they provide a fuller explanation or introduce RSCDS terminology.

However, such modifications should be made with care and there is one instance where a change appears to alter the nature of the dance. I refer to bars 25-28 of John McAlpin where the original (in *The Galloway Album*) reads:

25-26 1st, 2nd and 3rd couples cross over, giving right hands, **form a circle** (see Fig. 2) and

27-28 Dance six hands half round to the left. The words and figure clearly indicate that the dancers are in a circle by the end of bar 26. So far as I recall, this is how it has always been danced and this certainly makes it easier to complete the six hands half round in two bars.

The RSCDS reprint reads:

25-26 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples, giving right hands, cross over to finish **ready to form a circle**.

27-28 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance six hands round to the left half way.

What on earth does the phrase 'ready to form a circle' mean? Where should the dancers be at the end of bar 26? Obviously, not in a circle as Hugh Foss intended. Should they be standing in a circle, with hands by their sides? Should they be on the side lines, poised to enter the circle, which is the interpretation of one respected RSCDS teacher of my acquaintance, but which results in a stilted aberration of the original dance?

It is anybody's guess – and therein lies the problem. By all means, let the RSCDS continue

to republish modern, non-RSCDS dances, so long as it is careful not to introduce changes which conflict with the original and can only lead to uncertainty and confusion.

Andrew Patterson

Street Names

London

Dear Wilson,

Might I put in a plea for street names to be included in dance notices?

In present-day maps, street names are meticulously indexed and referenced – nothing else is. If I am told "the Oddfellows school, Barchester" there may be 23 "sch"s marked on the map. If I am told "Priory Road" the map-book says "page 23, grid B6" and all is plain.

This has long been true of the London A-Z; now, all over Britain, petrol stations sell local map books, still based on street-names;

I looked in a recent *Reel*, where things seemed to be fairly evenly divided. Of 15 dance notices, 8 gave street names and 7 did not. Do you think advertisers might be given a hint on the subject?

This point might be quite important; dance organisers recruit their own dancers at weekly meetings, so *The Reel* is aimed mostly at "foreigners". If, in fact, the foreigner is doubtful of finding the place, and gives up, few will want to say so.

Of course, the only magic in the street name is that map-makers use it. Still, until the maps change, street names would be a blessing.

Richard Dodwell

Strathspeys

Hemel Hempstead

Dear Wilson

The following comments were prompted by Stephen Webb's letter in the May issue. I agree with much of what he says. But I must take issue regarding Strathspeys. There are two problems with Strathspeys:

1. There are relatively few worth dancing.
2. Most bands can't play them. (Before I am inundated with protests let me say there are some honourable exceptions but I am not going to name them.) It may be that bands find them boring and that of course communicates itself to the dancers or perhaps the accordion is simply not suited to this style of music. I have always felt that it is more enjoyable to dance strathspeys to a really good pianist than to an accordion-led band. Perhaps some musicians would like to comment on that?

As regards the dances themselves, let's be honest. There are a small number that have a good tune and are interesting to dance. If one dance in three is a strathspey we will find the same few dances on nearly every programme. If the ratio was, say, one in five we might not see (for example) Culla Bay, Wind on Loch Fyne and The Robertson Rant on nearly every dance programme. Nothing wrong with these dances but they could do with a rest. And before someone says okay, let's write more new strathspeys, I have to add that, with very few exceptions, I find recently written ones less satisfactory than the traditional ones.

My views may change with advancing age but at present I see strathspeys as a 'breather' between more energetic reels and jigs and as such they should be kept to a (necessary) minimum in order not to interrupt the flow of the evening too much.

I often find when asking someone for a dance that the response is "oh dear, I've only got strathspeys left" or "you only ever ask me for strathspeys". Both responses of course indicate that strathspeys are regarded as second best; and I think we have to accept that, for the majority of social dancers, this is the reality.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Mason

A SPECIAL DAY IN MAY

Up early and a long drive! For this there needed to be a special incentive! Leafy Winchester on a sunny Saturday in May was the destination and a treat was in store for us all!

Such diverse places as Lockerbie, Winchester, Auckland, Texas and The Hunter Valley on similar days in April and May this year played host to the memory of somebody very special – the inimitable Derek Haynes! Across the world a programme entitled A TRIBUTE TO DEREK was being taught, from an idea originally by Sue Petyt of *Fisherman's Reel* fame.

Maureen Haynes was our teacher and of course there was no one who was more appropriate to take such a class. On arrival dancers were greeted in the usual hospitable way by Wendy Mumford and her team from the RSCDS Winchester Branch. The hall was full!

The extended morning was split into 3 sessions with breaks. And even before the warm-up exercises we all began with the very social round the room dance *The Newby Circle* walking to the music of *Lord of the Dance* and then gently dancing to it.

Maureen's teaching took us on a journey through twelve of Derek's dances, which she selected from his large collection of devised dances. Some dancers knew some of these, like *The Tattie Bogle* and *The Celtic Cross* whilst other like *The Ring of Brodgar*, *Gaelforce Wind* and *Miss Stevenson's Fancy* were less well-known. In this latter dance we were introduced to the surprisingly simple, but effective, new progression the *Divided Knot*. We also danced the strathspey *Two Up, Two Down*, a dance inspired by Pat Batt's well-known Party Piece 'The Ladies Man', which was read out for us by her niece. The mix of dances taught was well balanced with square and round the room ones together with the traditional longwise dances represented. Maureen told me afterwards that she had chosen the dances 'that were straightforward and easy to dance but with varied formations'.

Scintillating and lively playing from Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning kept our weary legs from flagging. They used all the tunes that Derek had chosen to accompany his dances (on which incidentally, Maureen said, Derek had often sought advice from Jennifer Wilson). Tunes by Scott Skinner such as *Mrs. Forbes Leith* and *Mr. Martin* were particular favourites.

The fact that Derek Haynes lives on in the memories of those who knew him or met him or saw him dance with such elegant precision or enjoyed being in his presence on the dance floor is in no doubt. Maureen reflected through her selection of Derek's own dances a teaching warmth and affection which left us all with the feeling that the spirit of Derek had been with us on that special day in May! *Copies of the Carnforth Collection (5 booklets in total, describing 49 of Derek's dances are available from Maureen tel: 01524 733431 at £1 each – all sales go to two separate cancer charities). Also in the near future a CD entitled "A Tribute to Derek Haynes" recorded live at Lockerbie Town Hall by Nicol McLaren, Gordon Howe and the rest of the Band will be available direct from Streaming Pictures, tel: 01387 810958 or www.streaming-pictures.co.uk.*

Stephen Webb

(A photograph of this occasion
is on the back page)



1



4



2

Below:
RSCDS teacher Ron Watson (*centre*) receiving his
50-year Teacher's Award.
(Picture Stephen Webb)



3

Below Right:
"Piskie Pete"
(see Reading St Andrews article on page 7.)



6



7



5



PICTURE PAGE

Harrow School Dance

- 1 Kate Sweeney with James Fairburn and Catriona Bennett with Chris Twinn in a demonstration with new black colour combination.
- 2 Philippe and Lindsey Rousseau dancing with elegance, lead up in *The Silver Tassie*.
- 3 Great sound, great band – David Hall with Ian and Heulwen Hall and Judith Smith on fiddle.
- 4 David and Nancy Massie promenaded in *Capetown Wedding*.

St. Columba's Pont Street AGM

- 5 Owen Meyer hands over the reins to Gaynor Curtis
- 6 Past editors John Laurie and Andrew Kellett in discussion mode with our Branch Chairman Rachel Wilton.
- 7 A double musical treat for 'the after AGM dance' is provided by Angela Young and David Hall.

Other

- 8 Kerry and Nino find extra time to enjoy *The Reel!*

12 May Dance at St. Columba's Pont Street

- 9 Jim Cook and Jeff Robertson in convivial mood.
- 10 End of evening lineup: Nicol McLaren and the Glencaig Band with MCs for the Combined Societies' Dance – Denise Haugh, Jeff Robertson, Peter Knight, Elizabeth Bennett, Robert Morgan, Jim Cook and London Branch Chairman Rachel Wilton.
- 11 Half time break for Ellen MacDuff, Irene Edgar and Alistair Reid.
- 12 Biff Frederikson from Bratislava joins Gillian Bloomfield and Andy Nicol from New Zealand to dance up in *Margaret Parker's Strathspey*.
- 13 Nicol McLaren and the Glencaig Band (Robert Simpson drums, Gordon Howe fiddle, Isobelle Hodgson keyboard).

All the above pictures by Stephen Webb

HAVE TRAIN WILL TRAVEL

In a moment of madness, our Editor, Wilson, mentioned that I had not written about my train travels for a while. And so I am putting pen to paper. Or is that keyboard to screen?

Even the most ardent dancer likes a holiday to recharge the batteries. So Easter Sunday found me at Waterloo on the way to Switzerland ostensibly for a fortnight's walking, sightseeing and visiting friends...

BRUSSELS

...But the following weekend the annual Brussels Day School and Ball (Saturday 14th April) was taking place. This was an extra special occasion as it was promoted as "Dave Hall's Farewell to Brussels". After four years working in Brussels, Dave and his family were about to return to the UK.

Well it is only 500 miles from Lac Léman to Brussels. So the Friday found me on the train crossing Switzerland, France, Luxembourg and Belgium in time to participate in a special dinner in a Brussels restaurant.

Then on Saturday we were in the rural suburb of Wezembeek-Oppem for the Day School. Participants came from Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary and the UK in particular.

Dave had been approached as to which teacher he would most like to work with on this occasion. The answer was Deb Lees and she put us through our paces for the morning and afternoon. Deb's life is summarised in the dance "The Bridgwater Geordie" which she taught us. Deb picks up the story. "I was born in Bridgwater, Somerset, moved to Newcastle as a student and haven't left yet. So I am a kind of adopted Geordie. I do like this dance which David Queen devised. He also wrote the tune "Deb the Leg", a reference to my liking for short skirts!"

Our musicians Judith Smith, Dave and his parents Heulwen and Ian divided up the classes between them and they all came together for the Evening Ball which was MC'd by Anne Scobie and Renée Campbell. The day finished with an informal after-dance party in the bar.

In reaction to this farewell, Dave said "It was especially nice for me to have friends and family from the UK, and elsewhere, for what was billed as my Farewell to Brussels. The St. Andrew's Church's SCD Group in Brussels, inspired by Renée Campbell, and with tireless work from Anne Scobie and others, are an extremely friendly crowd. They really enjoy their dancing and are great supporters of the RSCDS. The warm weather, relaxed venue which permitted an informal after-dance party, and friendly crowd all contributed to an excellent weekend. I have enjoyed my time dancing in Brussels and hope to come back many times in the future."

Deb amplified this saying "Brussels was great! Wonderful hospitality and friendliness of all the dancers and their willingness to have a go at whatever I threw at them. The Belgian beer didn't come amiss either! Indeed, I was unprepared for the Belgian style of Day School – none of this tea, coffee and juice at lunchtime but full bar service. I wondered if my choice of dances after lunch was ambitious given how much beer was passing across the bar. All was well though; I think the exercise burned it all off.

"It was great having a full band, or various components of the band, playing throughout the day. It certainly kept me on my toes, quite literally as it was a high stage and I'm not that tall and it was a stretch to see the musicians at times!

"I was very chuffed that Dave suggested me to teach. I have known Dave a long time. He has played for me at past day schools and has

provided music for the Built Wells festival which included playing for some of my demonstration medleys at short notice. Last year, Dave joined up with us in the Newcastle RSCDS Branch on part of our trip to North Carolina – a great experience which much improved for Dave when his accordion made it to the venue a day or so after he did! I have plenty of memories sitting waiting for performances, sleeping on American school buses and partying well into the night – a typical trip really!

"The reason why so many Newcastle dancers travelled to Brussels was nothing to do with me but an awful lot to do with catching up with Dave."

But it was time for me to move on. Sunday found me returning to Switzerland to resume my holiday.

GENEVA

One week later it was time for the Geneva Ball on Saturday 21st April. The ball took place in Dardagny, not so much in the City of Geneva but in the Canton of Geneva a stone's throw from the French border.

Our accomplished musicians were Sue Bollans from Munich on keyboard and Sheena Sturrock from Cupar on fiddle. Our MCs were Colin McLean and David and Avril Quarrie. Needless to say Quarries' Jig was on the programme. I asked Avril how the dance came about.

"The RSCDS asked for new dances to be considered for the "Frae a' the Airts" book 36. Branches could submit one dance each for consideration. The Chicago Branch asked members for their submissions and received 35. And the Branch only had 60 members! So we danced all 35 dances and the dancers graded them. After two sessions, five dances were left. But the dances had already been named and David and I knew that one of them was named after us! So we could not really vote even though we thought it was the best dance. So we removed the names and gave them anonymous numbers. People who had not danced them yet were brought in to vote. And you know the result!

"The deviser, Kent Smith, is a good friend who has devised many excellent dances and notes on organising a dance programme.

"There is no official name for the "Quarries' Jig" figure but Suzie Kinsman of Chicago named it the Quarrangles and this has stuck in Chicago. Once, when I taught a workshop in North Carolina, I started to explain the figure when a voice drawled from the back "Oh, you mean the toasted cheese sandwich figure." Well, I suppose that does explain it well! We always feel guilty when people say how much they like it as it should be Kent getting the praise, not us."

On the Sunday morning, I headed east, pottering around the eastern end of Lake Constance for the day where Switzerland, Austria and Germany converge. Then it was a night train from Bregenz to Vienna and a day train to Poprad Tatry in Slovakia for a couple of days of tourism before returning to Bratislava to stay with Biff Frederikson who danced in London before she took on teaching jobs in Basel and now Bratislava.

VIENNA

Biff's closest dancing is with the Vienna Branch, an hour's train ride away. Now that Slovakia is in the EU the frontier formalities are trivial. But I think of thirty years ago when that same journey took me three or four hours with

two of those being spent waiting at the Czechoslovak frontier station for the authorities to dismantle grills under seats and panels in compartment ceilings looking for illegal emigrants.

Felix Hamelbeck and Susi Mayr took us through our paces at the evenings's two classes, one for the less experienced and the second for the advanced dancer. Dances on the forthcoming Budapest Ball programme were featured and I would be meeting up with the Viennese dancers again then.

It is easy to get from Bratislava to Budapest by EuroCity train in a few hours. But liking a challenge, I travelled "all stations" to Komárno on the Slovakian side of the Danube and then walked across the Danube bridge to Komárom in Hungary to continue my train journey. The kilt raised a smile with the border police but, for some strange reason, I did not recognise any other dancers making the same journey.

BUDAPEST

What has become a two yearly event, the Budapest SCD Club excelled themselves again hosting their International Dance Weekend, a stay which could be extended by taking optional excursions to various parts of Hungary.

Our evening dances were enhanced by the music of David Cunningham and his Band. Our classes were taught by Eric Finley from Ayr, accompanied on the piano by Andrew Lyon from Glossop. Success was therefore assured.

Eric says "When Gabor Turi asked me to teach, I was really delighted having heard so much about the previous weekends. However I was not prepared for the reality. I have never met such a friendly crowd of really enthusiastic dancers. The Hungarians who looked after the visitors were so friendly and helpful and worked hard to make our stay so enjoyable. They were very knowledgeable about their country's history.

"Before the first class, I admit I was really nervous about teaching a class of over a hundred people. How would I cope and keep them under control? I needn't have worried as they all listened attentively and did all that was asked of them. I certainly enjoyed the experience and hoped that the applause at the end of the last class, for myself and Andrew Lyon my pianist, who was really superb, meant that the participants enjoyed it too.

"My only worry is that I might be remembered not for my teaching but my ability to party all night and teach a class the next morning. Still I suppose it may be something to be marvelled at at my age."

Participants came from such countries as Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Switzerland, UK and Ukraine. Japan was also represented as the assembly was graced by Atsuko, and Bill Clement. Atsuko was promoting the Cherry Blossom International Dance Tour of Japan from 29th March to 6th April 2008, with Muriel Johnstone, Keith Smith and Bill Zobel. Contact Atsuko on atsukoclement@aol.com for details.

The core weekend in Budapest started with dinner on Friday 27th April followed by a Welcome Dance MC'd by Eric. The main Ball on the Saturday was MC'd by Peter Clark and I was privileged to be asked to MC the Farewell Dance on the Monday. But what about the Sunday? The "bad news" was no dancing on Sunday evening (Boo!). The "good news" was there was dinner on a Danube cruise boat instead.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

DANCING IN UKRAINE

How pleasing to see Scottish Country Dancing heading forever east as I spoke, in Budapest, with Iryna Zhurakovska, who fronts the dance group in Kiev, and Guy Lawrence who has started a group in Lviv. I feel a future train trip coming on. Iryna started SCD in Lausanne whilst on a student exchange programme in 2004-5. She picks up her story.

"Thanks to Avril and David Quarrie, I visited St Andrew's Summer School in 2005. When I went home, I did not want to give up SCD. As there was no group in Kiev I started one. Of the 24 dancers we can call on, eight come regularly.

"During these two years, we have organised dancing events with other groups such as Irish Dance and Mediaeval Dances. We have participated in festivals in Ukraine, and organised a workshop taught by the Quarries. We have also conducted workshops for St Andrew's Day in the British Consulate in Kiev.

"Our group is still small and young with many difficulties to face, mainly financial ones as we are mostly students. We strive to find halls and we only dream about kilts. We have no certificated teachers yet but I am preparing to take Units 2 and 3. Everyone is welcome in Kiev. Contact me on iryna.ukrainienne@gmail.com.

Guy Lawrence, an Englishman living in Lviv, continues the Ukrainian story. "Encouraged by the success of groups in Tallinn, Kiev, Moscow and Krasnodar, I have been holding beginners' classes in Lviv for several months. Numbers are still small, up to a dozen attending weekly, but it is hoped that things – including sporrans – will start swinging after the summer break. Indeed Eithne Noakes will be teaching our inaugural weekend workshop on 12-14 October. Anyone interested in combining a holiday to Lviv or the Carpathians, giving a helping hand to the new club, should get in touch with me on guidolawrence@yahoo.co.uk."

HOME AGAIN

For me the Budapest experience finished with lunch on the Tuesday. After a stroll to nearby Déli station, I started my journey home with dinner in Vienna, breakfast on the train in Switzerland, lunch in Paris and dinner in London. You do not starve when travelling by train.

Jim Cook

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OLIM SALTATORES

An Appreciation of George Lawson (1930 - 2007) RSCDS Chairman 1994 - 1996

The death of George Lawson in Paisley on 17th April 2007 deprived the RSCDS of a loyal and dedicated member. His contribution to Scottish Country Dancing over the past half century has been outstanding.



As he revealed when interviewed at St. Andrews in 1995 for *The Reel* (No 210) by Rachel Wilton, George made his first acquaintance with Scotland's traditional social dances when accompanying his parents to weddings and kirns in and around the Fife village of Windygates where his father was a ploughman. His RSCDS association was first with the Leven Branch and then with Glasgow Branch in which he served twice as Treasurer, twice as Chairman and latterly as President. In all of these offices he conducted himself in his usual quiet, dignified and efficient manner. Membership of the RSCDS Executive Council occurred in 1986 and election to the Chairmanship in 1994. A report in the *RSCDS Bulletin* (No 73) noted that George, as Chairman, spent a day with the London Branch in support of its participation in Dance World '95 at Olympia. As a teacher and examiner, he was also a frequent member of the Summer School staff and made several successful visits abroad on the Society's behalf.

In 1998 a joint RSCDS Scroll was awarded to George and his wife Nan, also an enthusiastic country dancer and teacher.

Universally respected, George was a quiet, modest man who was generous in his support and encouragement of anyone who shared his love of the country dance and its music. With a strong sense of commitment and loyalty, he was grateful for the opportunities afforded to him by the RSCDS and in return he was unstinting in his dedication to it and its aims.

George Lawson will be sorely missed but by his many friends and admirers in the community of Scottish country dancing, he will long be remembered with affection and gratitude.

Alastair MacFadyen

Pat Bawden 1925-2007



Pat was a well known and active member of the Branch in the late 1950s, 60s and 70s.

Born in London on the same day as Margaret Thatcher, Pat grew up in north London and attended the City of London School for Girls. After being

evacuated to Keighley during the war, she returned to London and joined the Bank of England.

During her education she became an

accomplished pianist and gained her LRAM.

After the war she decided to have a change of career and enrolled at Trent Park Training College where she gained her teaching qualifications, and went on to combine classroom teaching with responsibility for Music.

In 1950, Pat discovered Scottish Country Dancing, then at the beginning of its enormous popularity, she joined the Branch in 1951 and very soon achieved the required standard to join the demonstration class. She was a very active member of the team and continued to be a member until 1982 when she moved to Mundesley on the Norfolk coast. She retained her Branch membership and continued to dance until fairly recently.

Pat used her musical expertise and qualifications to take part in the musical activities of North Norfolk. In 1984 she became the accompanist for her friend Jo Oxborough, an accomplished singer and they entered many music festivals in East Anglia gaining distinction at the first they entered, where the competition was judged not only on the soloist, but also the accompanist. Among her musical commitments she was the organist for the local church in Mundesley.

She travelled extensively from Antarctica to Alaska, Australasia and all over Europe. She certainly lived life to the full. In 1967 she was made a Freeman of the City of London.

Pat was very interested in the Branch and her last visit to the Branch was for the lunch held during the 75th anniversary year. She died at her home in Mundesley on 22nd May.

Sheila Wilson 1922-2007

Sheila was born of Jewish professional parents in Germany. In 1933 the family moved to Haifa where she was educated. In the war she enlisted in the RAF as an NCO clerk in Egypt. One evening in Cairo, attending a concert in uniform, she met a young RAF officer in uniform. This



officer was Clem Wilson! They soon married at the High Commissioner's Office in Haifa on 30 September 1946. On return to the UK they first settled in Rugby, Clem's home town, but then moved to Surrey where Clem had a teaching post in Hackbridge. It was while Sheila was teaching an evening class at Wallington Grammar school that she heard the strains of Scottish music coming from the gym. She saw people dancing and she was noticed by none other than Bill Ireland who was taking the class. Before you could say Schiehallion she had joined. She loved it so much she started dancing all over the area - Surbiton, Wimbledon, Epsom, Highland Club and RSCDS London Branch. Anywhere and any place for a dance. She also found time for Highland dancing. A short spell in the 70s took the family to Bognor, where Clem and Sheila quickly joined a class and danced all along the south coast. They returned to Wallington and it was about this time Molly and I joined the Epsom Caledonians. Clem and Sheila often came to this class to help out. Sheila took me under her wing and Clem looked after Molly and in no

time at all we, as raw beginners, had moved from the bottom set in the hall to the top! Sheila became the President's wife when Clem became the very popular President of Epsom Caledonians. She was a great supporter of the Bramley Hill Rangers dances and I do not think she ever missed a dance in all the 30 years they have been running.

In the last couple of years Sheila was ill, but nobody knew. She danced regularly at Purley, Croydon, and London and danced to the very end. She danced with us at our Christmas Party in December but her condition deteriorated rapidly and in the New Year she opted to remain at home with Clem looking after her. She was taken to Epsom District Hospital as an emergency in the early hours of Monday 7th May and within a few hours she died peacefully.

Alister Reid

Maguy Paillet 1952-2007



Stephen Webb

It was with great sadness that SCD dancers recently learned of the death of Maguy Paillet on July 24 after a brief but very courageous struggle with cancer.

Maguy's first contact with Scottish Country Dancing came about through Scottish friends in her native Lyon (France) a little under 20 years ago. Thereafter she became a stalwart of the Lyon group now known as Scottish Chanterelle, her special interest being in co-ordinating a modest "Dem Team" who performed at Burns Suppers and various local cultural events. At the end of June she was at the helm of a little open-air dem in a park in Lyon but finally went into hospital two days later. She also travelled extensively and managed to take her dancing shoes along, whether to Japan or to North America. She loved the dancing and the music and also the welcoming friendly atmosphere she encountered wherever she went. Her art work was another important part of her life and her notelets and greetings cards illustrated with pictures of dancers and especially "The Blue Lady" were regularly on sale at the Summer School shop. A collage of these has now been gifted to the RSCDS as a token of the great pleasure she derived from her many years of attending Summer School. Her fondness for strathspeys was well known and two dances have been devised for her by her friends, one with music by Ken Martlew and the other with a tune by Keith Smith. She was thrilled to be able to dance these with her Lyon friends earlier this year.

It is perhaps no coincidence that she passed away the morning after her Lyon friends started their 2007 Summer School and her picture had arrived safely at the RSCDS.

Diana Sarran,

Secretary Scottish Chanterelle

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Harpist for functions, weddings etc. 07814 135281. www.fionamcgeeharp.co.uk.

RECIPE FOR HARMONY

Take a handful of music teachers, a heaped spoonful of retired or almost retired consultants and managers, a sprinkling of 'Kiwis' from Down Under (the authentic variety who say 'Yeess'), an RAF policeman, an interpreter from France and a Japanese music arranger. Mix carefully with a dash of German rigour, stir – the wooden spoon to be held at any time by Gordon Simpson, George Meikle or Mo Rutherford – and what do you get? The Summer School 2007 Musicians Course!

Unlike the dancers who have optional afternoon activities, the musicians find their course has a much more pungent taste as they are hard at it all day, and often take the opportunity in the evening to go along to the various venues to dance or at least watch the dancing. Maybe one day it will be possible to get the dancers to come along specifically to listen to the musicians and realise what a complex art playing for dancing actually is. It doesn't just happen. For the tutors it's not easy having varying quantities of ingredients from one course to another and they work hard at getting the correct balance in the flavour. Whether in the big group or in smaller sections, Gordon, George and Mo played, listened, gave their critique, made us play over again. "Do that again. You're not getting it. Bar 17 has to be quieter... You need more lift... Make it rock... Play it again... and again... and again... Again!" As awe-inspiring sights go, Gordon Simpson pacing the room thrusting at the air with his bow takes some beating. We were fortunate to have three tutors with different personalities and different approaches, but a common passion for what they're doing. How could we *not* improve our playing with these examples to inspire us? The extent of their knowledge is phenomenal.

The RSCDS run the Course to encourage and enable musicians to play for classes as well as for social dancing. It is often said that without the music, and therefore musicians, where would the dancers be? But why do the *musicians* do the course? It's exacting and time-consuming, especially if you add the social aspect (by the end of the week some students were beginning to feel the ill-effects of too much partying). What did this year's participants take away at the end? "*Peace and quiet*" (that was from a tutor!) "*An empty wallet*" (too much money spent on new CDs?!) "*A lovely feeling of achievement.*" "*The satisfaction of having found the key to playing differently.*" "*A smashing time and enjoyment at playing with Gordon, George and M.*" These tutors are top musicians and it is a privilege for us to learn through their generous giving of their talent and to play with them for social dancing twice in the week, blending our own subtle *bouquets* in with theirs. Another valuable session was spent – after a little busking outside Victory Memorial Hall – actually playing for a mock class so as to learn how to choose tunes for step practice and how to play them. Participants also displayed their other talents by contributing to the Friday-night Ceilidh, with a small group of fiddlers. It was good to play in smaller groups and to appreciate each other's playing. Most have gone home fired with a new enthusiasm, determined to keep practising, maybe even take lessons again – and to return next year, hoping to turn our humble *plats du jour* into something *cordon bleu*.

Diana Sarran

NEW RECORDINGS

RSCDS Book 13 - Neil Barron's Band (CD 059)

RSCDS Book 34 plus 3 dances 2006 – Ian

Muir's (Prestwick) Band (CD 060)

PLATINUM – 70 years of Dancing in St Andrews (SBJ 0701)

The CDs by Neil and Ian are both excellent in every way and there is really no need to say more than that. Congratulations to all the musicians.

Back in 1978, to celebrate its Golden Jubilee, the St Andrews Branch issued a book of 7 new dances with a cassette by the David Cunningham (Snr) Trio with Ron Gonnella on fiddle. The cassette has now been issued in CD format together with five new dances played by David Cunningham (Jnr) and his band. (Two of the new dances were devised in 2002 to mark Prince William's arrival at the University). Once again, the music is superb. The distinctive 'Cunningham Sound' is there throughout.

Coming soon: RSCDS Book 7 and the three Hugh Foss dances played by David Cunningham; also from David, more dances from the Vallin Suite. Colin Dewar has also been in the recording studio. Much to look forward to and I will bring you some listening CDs for your Christmas shopping lists.

John Laurie

BRANCH BOOKSTALL

At your service

Books and CDs for Scottish Dancers

Mail order from Ian Anderson,
104 Whitedown Lane, Alton,
Hants GU34 1QR.

Tel: 01420 84599

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

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

Please state your Branch when ordering.

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

VALLIN COLLECTIONS 1,2 & 3

each book contains 12 Scottish Country dances
£3.00 each plus p&p

these dance books are being augmented by a series of CDs, the first is now available.

CD – the VALLIN SUITE One

"excellent choice of tunes, beautifully played by NEIL BARRON & his Scottish Dance Band"
£13.00 each plus p&p

contact: L.J. Morris 0161-439-3814
email: vallinjmorris@aol.com

[net proceeds donated to Stepping Hill Hospital](http://net.proceeds.donated.to/SteppingHillHospital)

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

DANCE EVENTS



BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND REEL CLUB

Annual Highland Ball
Saturday 9 February 2008
7:30pm to midnight

Ashlyns School, Chesham Rd, Berkhamsted HP4 3AH

Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band

Details: Janet Halse, tel: 01442 246381.

Programme and full info. in *The Reel No. 262*
www.berkhamstedreelclub.org.

ASHDOWN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Charity Dance

Saturday 15 September 2007

7.30 - 11.30pm

Beacon Community College

North Beeches, Crowborough TN6 7AS

Ian Muir & the Craigellachie Band

Programme: The Reel of the 51st Highland Division, Napier's Index, The Moray Rant, Muirland Willie, Anniversary Reel, The Dream Catcher, Mairi's Wedding, The Miller of Sessnie, Gang the Same Gate, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Peggy Dewar, The Bees of Maggielockater, Currie Mountain, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Rose of the North, Nottingham Lace, *Band's Solo*, Blue Mess Jacket, Catch the Wind, Dundee City Police, Flower of the Quern, The Weathercock, The Irish Rover.

Tickets in advance please £10.00 [child/spectator £6] plus please bring a plate of food.

Contact Michael Copeman 01892 655971
michaelcopeman@aol.com.



RSCDS CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH

Annual Dance
20 October 2007
7.30-11.30pm

Long Rd Sixth Form College, Cambridge CB2 8PX

Green Ginger

Programme: Maxwell's Rant, Major Ian Stewart, Seann Triubhas Willican, Red House, Indian River Strathspey, Jennifer's Jig, The Flowers of Edinburgh, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Alan J Smith: The Saltire Society Reel, The Sands of Morar, Pelorus Jack, The Round Reel of Eight, Autumn in Appin, Joie de Vivre, Sugar Candie, Diamond Jubilee, The Montgomerie's Rant. *Extras:* The De'il amang the Tailors, Swiss Lassie, The Duke of Perth.

Tickets at £12.00 each from Dr Alison Gundy, 31 Lichfield House, Rustat Avenue, Cambridge, CB1 3RD. Cheques payable to RSCDS Cambridge and District Branch.

RSCDS BATH BRANCH

Diamond Jubilee Ball
Friday 22 February 2008
The Guildhall, Bath

Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band

Tickets £25 from June Hall, Top Flat,
141 Wells Rd, Bath BA2 3AL.

RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

Christmas Dance

Saturday 8 December 2007

Coel na h'Alba

American Supper. Tickets £9.

Annual Ball

Saturday 9 February 2008

Strathallan S.C.D. Band

Tickets £15 including supper.

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

Details: Margaret Robson. 01202 698138.



BRACKNELL REEL CLUB

Ease into the new season with the

Start of Season Dance

Saturday 29 September 2007
7.30-11.00pm

Carnation Hall, Chavey Down Road,
North Ascot RG42 7PA

The Craigievar Scottish Dance Band

Tickets £8 inc. buffet + home-made desserts.
For details see www.bracknellreelclub.org.uk.

Tickets from: David McQuillan 0118 9793024
email: dance@bracknellreelclub.org.uk.

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball

Saturday 1 March 2008

7.30 pm

Harpندن Public Hall, AL5 1PT.

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme and details in the next issue.

Enquiries: Val Owens 01727 863870

email: tvowens@beeb.net

website: www.HSCDC.org.uk.

RSCDS LEICESTER BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 17 November

7.00-11.30p.m.

Braunstone Civic Centre, Kingsway,

Braunstone, Leicester

Ian MacPhail and his Band

Programme: Grand March, Clutha, Quarries' Jig, Sugar Candie, Angus MacLeod, Starry Eyed Lassie, Sands of Morar, Inverneill House, Johnnie Walker, Major Ian Stewart, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Duke of Perth, Muirland Willie, The Piper and the Penguin, Bonnie Ina Campbell, Follow Me Home, Polharrow Burn, The Dream Catcher, Joe Foster's Jig (*Leics. Crystal Collection*) Shiftin' Bobbins, From Scotia's Shores We're Noo Awa, The Bees of Maggielockater, The Irish Rover. *Extras:* Minister on the Loch, Lady Sophia Lindsay, Immigrant Lass.

Tickets (inc. Supper) Dancers £12, Spectators £6.
Please reserve tickets by 10 November 2007.

Contact: Mrs. Pamela Hood. (Hon Sec.)

0116 2753886. jdjimps@aol.com or by post:

Mrs. Pamela Hood, 51, Hardwicke Rd.,
Narborough, Leicester LE19 3LZ.

CHICHESTER & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

St. Andrew's Dance

Saturday 1 December 2007

Chichester High School for Boys

Drinks Reception 7.00 for 7.30

Dancing to 11.15 pm to

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Kelloholm Jig, Festival Fling, The Gentleman, Sinclair's Chief, Nottingham Lace, Falkirk Lass, The Wee Cooper of Fife, Catch the Wind, Wind On Loch Fyne, Posties Jig, Trip to Bavaria, Rose of the North, Trinity Tensome, Balmullo Reel, The Duchess Tree, Jessie's Hornpipe, Ray Milbourne, MacDonald of The Isles, Follow Me Home, Irish Rover. *Extras:* The Wild Geese, The Sailor, Balmoral Strathspey.

Tickets £11 for members, £12 for guests,
American Supper.

Apply for tickets with s.a.e. to Stuart Dean,

35 Shillinglea, Purbrook, Waterlooville

PO7 5RW, Tel: 02392 792073,

or e-mail mqfd50@dial.piper.com.



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

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

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

Saturday 1 September**Musicmakers**

7.00-11.00pm President's Night

Saturday 5 October**Stradivarius**

Friday 26 OctoberHallowe'en

Saturday 10 November**Strathallan**

Friday 30 November**St Andrews**

Friday 14 December**Frank Reid**

7.30-11.00pm Christmas Dance

Saturday 5 January**Craigievar**

7-11pm New Year's Dance with haggis supper

Friday 11 JanuaryAGM

Saturday 2 February**Marian Anderson**

7.00-11.00pm Annual Ball

All dances will be talked or walked through on request, except Christmas or Annual Ball. For further details contact: Frank Bennett on 020 8715 3564, email fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk, or Roger Waterson on 020 8660 5017. You can also telephone our "Dial-a-Programme" service on 020 8763 8096 to hear our programme, or leave a message. Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening. Please visit our website at www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk for the latest news and programmes of our dances.

ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Saturday 13 October 2007

AUTUMN DANCE

Memorial Hall, Petts Wood

Friday 30 November 2007

ST ANDREW'S DANCE

The Warren, Hayes, Kent.

Monday 31 December 2007

HOGMANAY

Memorial Hall, Petts Wood.

Friday 25 January 2008

BURNS' SUPPER

Saturday 7 June 2008

SUMMER DANCE

Memorial Hall, Petts Wood

For all the above events the dancing will be to
Robin Ellis and His Band

Regrettably the venue for our Burns' Supper has yet to be confirmed but please contact Pam French on 01689 873511 for further details of any of the above events and notification of the venue for the Burns' Supper. Ticket prices will also be available at a later date.

The Orpington & District Caledonian Society look forward to welcoming many guests to the above events. Happy Dancing, Pam French

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

Day School

Saturday 10 November 2007 at 2.00 pm

Thameside School, Reading.

Teacher:**Lindsey Rousseau**

Musician:**George McLennan**

followed by an evening dance to recorded music.

Details from Janet Wright 0118 972 2945

www.scottishdancingreading.org

DANCE EVENTS (continued)

Another couple of Dance Events are on the back page

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Formal Dance & Buffet
Saturday 17 November, 2007
7.30-11.00 pm

Reigate School, Pendleton Road, Reigate.

The Invercauld Scottish Dance Band

MCs: Alister Reid and Rita Marlow

Programme: The Wild Geese, The De'il among the Tailors, Kilkenny Castle, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Autumn in Appin, The Irish Rover, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, The Luckenbooth Brooch, Neidpath Castle, The Sailor, The Dancing Master, The Gentleman, Polharrow Burn, Kelloholm Jig, Moray Rant, The Machine without Horses, The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh. *Extras:* Maxwell's Rant, Jennifer's Jig, Silver Tassie.

Tickets £11,

Enquiries to Alister Reid 020 8393 6732.



RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

70TH ANNIVERSARY BALL

Saturday 20 October 2007
7.30-11.30pm

Queen Charlotte's Hall,
Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RE.

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Programme: Bratach Bana, The Bees of Maggiecknockater, Kilkenny Castle, Anniversary Reel, Pelorus Jack, Minister on the Loch, Lochalsh Reel, Equilibrium, St. Columba's Strathspey, Major Ian Stewart, The Dancing Master, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Pines of Pitlochry, Bonnie Stronshiray, Angus MacLeod, Napier's Index, The Dream Catcher, Peggy Dewar, The Piper & The Penguin, The Cashmere Shawl, The Montgomerie's Rant, Follow me Home. *Extras:* The Wind on Loch Fyne, Polharrow Burn.

Dress Formal. No Bar Tickets £16 (to include supper) in advance from Ted Goater, 71 Burtons Road, Hampton TW12 1DE. Tel: 020 8783 9282
email tedgoater@tiscali.co.uk
www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk

RSCDS CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH

Annual Weekend School

Cumberland Hotel, Eastbourne

Friday 9 - Sunday 11 November 2007

Teacher: **Wendy Mumford**, Andover
Cost £96 for Branch members; £99 for non-members. Application forms available from Pauline Cashmore 020 8686 9362.

Saturday 12 January 2008

Annual Ball

Sanderstead URC Hall

Sanderstead Hill, Sanderstead

Robin Ellis and his Band

Tickets £14.50 incl supper

Contact: Dorothy Pearson 01737 551724.

ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS

Annual Dance

Saturday 10 November 2007 at 7.30pm

Icknield School,

Riddy Lane, LUTON

David Cunningham and his Band.

Tickets £16.50 (including supper)

Details from:

Pat Hamilton - tel 01462 671156,

Sheila Harris - tel 01525 875060,

or Chris Walker,

e-mail: mail@cwalker3707.fsnet.co.uk.

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 27 October 2007

Headington School, Oxford

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Programme: Maxwell's Rant, The Immigrant Lass, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Polharrow Burn, The New Rigged Ship, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, The Piper and the Penguin, Napier's Index, The Birks of Invermay, Macleod's Fancy, Hooper's Jig, Ladies of Dunse, Sands of Morar, Todlen Hame, Summer Wooing, 1314, Fraser's Favourite, The Double Diamond Strathspey, Major Ian Stewart, The De'il Among the Tailors.

Tickets £14 (spectators £7) including supper

Contact: Trisha Rawlings, tel. 01869 340830

email: trish@rawlings50cc.fsnet.co.uk.

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Autumn Dance

Saturday 20 October 2007, 7 to 11 pm
St Luke's Parish Hall, Pinner, HA5 3EX

Craigievar

Tickets: £10 from Jim Henderson

Tel: 020 8954 2586,

email: jimhendersonuk@aol.com

Annual Ball

Friday 4 January 2008, 7:45 to 11:45 pm
Allum Hall, Elstree, WD6 3PJ

Craiggellachie

Programme in the next issue.



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH

Autumn Social

Saturday 6 October 2007

Normandy Community Hall,
GU3 2DF

7.45-10.45pm

Bring and share refreshments,

dancing to recorded music

Contact Roger Hills 01483 836056.

Christmas Social - 27 December 2007

Finchampstead Memorial Hall, RG40 4JU

7.45-10.45pm

Bring and share refreshments,

dancing to recorded music

Contact Mervyn Short 01903 715068.

Dance Scottish Week Event

Saturday 15 September 2007 - 2.30 till 4.30pm

Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd,

Guildford GU2 7QR

Taster Session - Free admission.

Dancers and Musicians Day School

8 March 2008

Court Moor School, Fleet

Contact for Dancers is Diane Hoskins 01628

639699 / Fiona Albinson 0118 9789181

and Musicians: May Sloan 01428 604868.

Advanced Classes - alternate Mondays

Finchampstead Memorial Hall

starting on 10 September 2007

8.00-10.00pm.

Teachers: **Ann Dix, Mervyn Short, Gaynor Curtis & Alan Davis**

Contact: Fiona Albinson 0118 9789181

General Class - Every Wednesday

Our Lady Queen of Heaven RC Church, Frimley
Starting on 12 September 2007 at 8.00pm.

Teacher: **Mervyn Short**

Contact: May Sloan 01428 604868

Details of events on website

www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

ST. JOHN'S SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball

Saturday 24 November 2007

7.30-11.45p.m.

Emmbrook School, Wokingham

Marian Anderson & her SCD Band

Programme Maxwell's Rant, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Farewell to the Highlands, The Rev. John McFarlane, The Chequered Court, Silver Strathspey, The Dancing Man, Craigmin Brig, Culla Bay, The Earl of Mansfield, Old Nick's Lumber Room, Lochalsh Reel, The Starry Eyed Lassie, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Scott Meikle, Friday's Child, The Gentleman, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloch, The Wild Goose Chase, S-Locomotion, Follow Me Home, The Montgomerie's Rant. *Extras:* Macleod's Fancy, Anniversary Reel, The Piper and the Penguin.

Tickets, priced £15 including supper available from Sue Davis on 01344 774344,
2 Larkswood Dr, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 6RL,
(s.a.e please)

No Bar, but soft drinks will be provided,
and wine with supper.

www.warmweb.co.uk/stjohnssdc

email - alandaviskirk@hotmail.com

Afternoon School for Intermediates

(Technique and selected figures)

Saturday 3 November 2007

2-5pm £5.00

St. Sebastians Hall, Nine Mile Ride,
Wokingham.

Teacher: **Alan Davis**

Contact: Sue Davis 01344 774344 for
Application Form. 2 Larkswood Drive,
Crowthorne, Berks RG45 6RL with s.a.e. please.
email: alandaviskirk@hotmail.com.

RSCDS BRISTOL BRANCH

New Season Dance

Saturday 13 October 2007

St Monica's Trust, Westbury-on-Trym

Green Ginger

Branch AGM

St Monica's Trust, Westbury-on-Trym

Saturday 18 October 2007

Day School & Dance

Saturday 17 November 2007

St Peter's Church Hall, Henleaze

Teacher: **David Hall**

Musician: **Angela Young**

Evening Dance Band:

Hugh Ferguson & Dalriada

Burns Supper & Dance

Saturday 19 January 2008

Redland High School Redland

Hugh Ferguson & Dalriada

Newcomers Dance

Saturday 9 February 2008

St Monica's Trust, Westbury-on-Trym

Scottish Measure

Summer Dance

Saturday 10 May 2008

St Monica's Trust, Westbury-on-Trym

Ian Robertson

Thursday night classes for all

7.30-10.00pm

With weekly beginners sessions

7.30-break

St Monica's Trust, Westbury-on-Trym

Term Dates: 2007-08:

13 Sept-13 Dec; 10 Jan-13 March;

3 April-26 June

For further information and details of where to get tickets please see www.rscdsbristol.info or call our ticket secretary on 0117 9629533.

More OLIM SALTATORES

Mrs Margaret Henderson



Mrs Margaret Henderson died on 13 February 2007 at West Middlesex Hospital a week after suffering a stroke at home. Margaret was known to many people in the west area of London for her patient teaching over many years including many current teachers of Scottish Country Dancing. She was still teaching at Feltham & District Scottish Association on a Tuesday evening at the age of 85.

Born in Scotland she was fiercely Scottish. She qualified as a dancing teacher in 1963, but by 1967 she was already famous and merited a full page article as personality of the month in the Middlesex Chronicle under the headline of "She keeps the Scots dancing". The article ended with the words "Scottish Dancing is not merely a hobby, it is a way of life".

When she reached the age of 60 she retired from paid employment as a dancing teacher, but continued teaching as a hobby, enjoying many happy years with The Feltham and District Scottish Association. Always in demand, she was asked last summer if she would take the classes at another local Scottish society. Imagine being head-hunted at the age of 85!

Whatever she did, she did well. We all know that she excelled at Scottish Country Dancing. The dances she wrote won prizes, the teams she entered for competitions won prizes. No one she entered for a medal ever failed – highly commended was usually the phrase mentioned on the certificates.

Michael Nolan

A Tribute to May Yarker

May was my tutor for Part 1 Certificate and as such I got to know her for the fun-loving, artistic person she was. May was one of the Society's senior teachers, a great friend of Jean Milligan and a regular staff member at the St Andrews Summer Schools.

Two years ago, Rita Marlow and I accepted an invitation to an exhibition of May's enamels and art works in Thurso, near her home in Scrabster. She was a successful artist as well as SCD teacher! One of her neighbours was the Queen Mother who lived at the nearby Castle of Mey. May was very proud of her connections with the Castle of Mey. She had been invited to the castle for tea on the strength of her art but the conversation soon turned to Scottish dancing – the Gay Gordons in particular. May talked of a different version and the Queen Mother insisted on learning it. "She was an excellent dancer, very light on her feet."

She continued her teaching of dancing well into her eighties, by this time concentrating on Ceilidh dancing, but she still did her warm-ups to Abba and Super Duper Trooper and similar lively music. Goodness knows what Miss Milligan would have made of that.

It was a privilege to know you, May!

Gill Russell

IAIN STUART ROBERTSON AND THE CORONATION HIGHLAND BALL

Following the Queen's Coronation in Westminster Abbey in 1953, Queen Elizabeth and The Duke of Edinburgh came north to visit Scotland, staying in the Palace of Holyroodhouse. During their stay many great events took place, such as the State Procession to St Giles Cathedral where the Honours of Scotland were carried before Her Majesty. Edinburgh's week of Balls came to a climax on Friday evening 26th June in the Assembly Rooms. About 1000 guests attended the Coronation Highland Ball organized by the Council of Scottish Clan Societies.

Iain Stuart Robertson who was Art Master at Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh and a central figure in the RSCDS was one of the organisers. The Clan Hay set for the Ball was to have been led by the Clan Chief, the Countess of Errol and her husband Captain Iain Moncreiffe but they had been invited to attend the Queen's reception at Holyrood Palace that same evening. Captain Jock Hay was making the arrangements for the Clan Hay set and had already invited Mrs Isobel (Tibby) Cramb of Aberdeen to participate. Iain Robertson invited me and Moira Bayne as fourth couple.

On entering the Assembly Rooms, guests were received by Lord Macpherson of Drumochter, chairman of the Council of the Scottish Clans Societies, and Lady Macpherson, and also by Lord and Lady Strathspey. Ascending the stair to the ballrooms we beheld a brilliant scene, a wonderful vivid splash of tartan, men in Highland evening dress and almost all the ladies wearing tartan sashes over their ballgowns.

Tartan drapings and heraldic banners decorated both halls. In the Music Hall three shining suits of armour, specially illuminated, were arranged on the platform. In addition to Tim Wright and his band and Cam Robbie and his band, pipers of the Edinburgh City Police Band played selections. At 10pm more than twenty Clan Eightsome Reel Sets walked on to the ballroom floor, many being led by their Clan Chief.

Dancing in the Clan Robertson Set arranged by Iain Robertson were some well known Scottish country dancers – David Robertson from Perth who devised a number of dances including 'The Fair Maid of Perth' and 'Lord Stormont'; Mrs Winchester who devised 'The Robertson Rant'; Fearie McLagan from Perth Branch; Isobel Reid who like Iain was a member of the Edinburgh Branch Demonstration Team; Jean Robertson; and two of Iain's senior pupils from Merchiston Castle School, John Duncan and James Robertson. Iain's diary record of the event was: *We, the oldest clan danced under the middle chandelier, the place préféré, and danced well. The BBC commentator described John as a seventeen year old schoolboy having the time of his life and myself as Bonnie Prince Charlie.*

Apart from the Eightsome Reel, I will never forget the Duke of Perth which we danced for more than twenty minutes. Tim Wright's music was superb and the dancers simply encored the dance time and time again.

Even after 50 years, I remember the evening so clearly.

Bill Clement

More LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cameras at Dances

Hemel Hempstead

Dear Wilson,

Am I alone in finding the use of cameras, both still and video, at dances increasingly irritating?

While it is of course nice to see pictures of oneself and friends in glorious Technicolor in *The Reel*, this should surely not be at the expense of enjoyment of the dance itself. Recently (not in the UK) I have experienced dances where the video cameras were so intrusive as to ruin the dance totally for me whenever they targeted my set. The video operators (who were clearly not dancers) positioned themselves inside the set during the dance and moved out of the way of the dancers only at the last minute; contact was narrowly avoided only by concentrating on the video operators rather than on the dance. They had apparently been invited – or at least tolerated – by the organisers who wanted maximum publicity for the event and it did not seem to occur to them that they were obstructing the dancers and constituting a safety hazard. As yet, things have not reached such a point in the UK but I fear they are moving that way. There seems to be an assumption that anyone can use their camera wherever and whenever they like without considering the feelings of fellow dancers.

Perhaps dance organisers should print a large notice on the ticket or the programme stating that purchase of a ticket implies agreement to pictures being taken and to their unrestricted use by the photographer? At least we would know where we stood. But whatever the legal position (which I suspect is not clear-cut - comments from lawyers please) surely good manners should dictate

restraint in the use of cameras during dances. Failing this, the RSCDS and other dance organisers should draw up a simple code of behaviour, including as a minimum no videos on the dance floor except before the dance and during intervals and no use of mobile phone cameras by dancers who are at the same time participating in the dance. Modern technology is such that it is possible to be more discreet and still obtain acceptable results. Dancers performing demonstrations may expect to be closely watched and filmed, yet, ironically, demonstration sets are not usually subjected to the intrusions of close-range video and phone cameras; so why should ordinary dancers who have not come along to offer a spectacle be accorded less respect?

Yours sincerely,

Julian Mason

Guidance for MCs

Woodbridge

Dear Wilson,

I read Andrew Kellett's article with interest. During my years in London he was clearly the finest of MCs and largely confirmed my own beliefs and aspirations. In 2000 I drew up notes for MCs to assist a newly formed dance group and put forward my own ideas on compiling dance programmes. I think they could be of interest to your readers.

Yours,

Barrie Sheldon

Editor's note: These will appear on the Branch website after this issue is published.

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/abscdc or Rowena Fowler, 01865 361129.
- ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY** meets Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm September to May at the Brook Memorial Hall, Ottershaw, KT16 0HG. Details from Val Clack, 01932 845869.
- 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 Tuesday evenings, September to May. Garden dances June and July. 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 childrens' 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 Alison Gundy, 92, Devonshire Mews, Devonshire Road, Cambridge, CB1 2BB; tel 01223 303603.
- CHELSEA REEL CLUB** meets once a month from Sept to April in St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1. All welcome. Instruction given. Dancing to live music. Details Ruth Hewlett, 020 8749 5471, r_hewlett3@hotmail.com.
- CHELtenham BRANCH RSCDS** Advanced class Mondays 7.30-9.30pm. General class Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm. Belridge 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, mbsleale45@aol.com.
- CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING** in the Upper Hall at St Michael & All Angels Church corner of The Avenue and Bath Rd. W4 (nr Turnham Green tube), Sundays 7.30-9.30pm. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: 020 8743 9385 (afternoons).
- 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
- CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY**: Robertson, Reids, Duncans etc. The London & Southern Counties Branch has attractive programme of events tailored to meet members' preferences. Details: jean_robertson@beeb.net.
- CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00pm September to June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details: Mrs Pip Graham, 57 Milton Mount Ave, Pound Hill, Crawley, W. Sussex RH10 3DP, tel: 01293 882173.
- CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH**: Branch classes: General, incl Beginners with technique Coulsdon (Fri). Advanced (Wed) Coulsdon. Other classes in the area: Beginners: Reigate & Selsdon (Tues): Gen: Reigate (Mon); West Wickham (Fri); 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.
- EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Details from John Tanner, Tel: 020 8504 1632. www.efsa.org.uk, john@efsa.org.uk
- EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION**. Dance classes, including beginners, (September to March). Many other activities including frequent informal dances. Details from Brian Burgess, 72 Seymour Avenue, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 2RR. Tel: 020 8786 7452.
- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB**. Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, 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. Instruction by Mrs Margaret Henderson. Details from Pam Black, 0208 894 9399. pamblack@aol.com
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** dance on alternate Saturdays at various venues in the Fleet, Hampshire area, from 7.30 to 11.00pm. September to May. Full details from Julia Anderson, 54 Little Green Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8TB. Tel: 01252 726138.
- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays 8 to 10pm end of September to May. Details: Mrs B MacKenzie Ross, Blythe Muse, Misbourne Ave, Chalfont St Peter SL9 0PD. Tel 01494 874604.
- GREAT MISSENDEN: THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00pm, Oldhams Hall, Church Road, Great Misenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Walford, Herts WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- GUILDFORD SCDC** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford most Mondays at 8.15pm from September to April. Teacher Paul Plummer, 01483 236946.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept.-June from 8.00-10.00pm in Elderkin Hall, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hordoff 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 8.00-10.00pm, Orley Farm School, South Hill Ave, Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Sheena Henderson, 92a Kenton Road, Kenton HA3 8AE. Tel: 020 8907 6581.
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8-10pm, 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), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.
- HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION**. Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15pm. September to July, tuition followed by social dancing. Also monthly Saturday dances and ceilidhs. All at Heston Methodist Church Hall. Details from Mrs Rosemary Mitchell, Tel: 01784 254401.
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SDC GROUP**. Contacts: Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel/Fax 01534 854459; Alan Nicolle 01534 484375, alan.nicolle@yahoo.co.uk; or Brenda Gale 01534 862357. See blog <http://scottishcountrydancing.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 McRichie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. 01843 869284.
- LEICESTER BRANCH RSCDS** meets Thursdays, Holy Cross Centre, Wellington St., Leicester. 4 classes - Beginners, Intermediates, Social, Advanced. 7.30-8.30p.m., followed by Social dancing until 10p.m. Also Tuesdays 1.30-3.45p.m. General class at same venue. Contact: Mrs. Pamela Hood 0016 2753886, jdjmpps@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 Gale, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372. maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk
- MAIDSTONE (COBTRÉE) 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 HARBOROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY**. Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesdays 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: Miss Kate Penny, 133 Broom Hill Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3LO. 01634 716644
- MEOPHAM SCDC 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, Blechley, Milton Keynes. MK3 5LP. 01908 378730, jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB**. Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. from September to May at Rococt 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: Bill MacFarlane, 26 Lewis Road, Istead Rise, Northfleet, Kent DA13 9JG. Tel: 01474 832801.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY**. Dancing every Thursday 7.45-10.15pm. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Classes Mon eves at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Mrs. P. J. 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 348030.
- 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@ee.org.
- ST. ALBANS & MID HERTS CALEDONIAN SOCIETY**. Dancing most Fridays from October to March. Group meets at Homewood Road U.R. Church Hall, Sandpit Lane, St. Albans at 8.00pm. Details: Mrs I. Smallwood, 26 Gresford Ct, St. Albans, AL4 0UB. Tel: 01727 760878.
- 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. 020 8540 1755. www.geocities.com/standrewsoclondon.
- ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**, Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Sept 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.
- ST. JOHN'S SDC WOKINGHAM**: meet every Thurs 8-10.15pm Sept to June at St. Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Sue Davis 01344 774344, 2 Larkwood Rd, Crowhorne. Also Childrens' Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowhorne, 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: Donald Miller, 39 Lauderdale Dr, Richmond, TW10 7BS. 020 8940 8573.
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION**. Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details: Terry Boorman, 15 Old Farm Road West, Sidcup, DA15 8AG. Tel: 020 8302 2974.
- SOMERSET BRANCH RSCDS** Beginners and General Class at Keinton Mandeville School Mon. 7.30-9.30pm. Experienced Thurs. at Monteclefe School, Somerton 7.45-9.45pm Childrens' Class Charlton Mackrell Reading Room 2.30-4.00pm Sats. Highland class Kingsdon Village Hall 2.00-4.00pm Suns.
- 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 the hospital). Tuilion 7.30-9.00pm. Details from Mrs Edna Carroll, 01702 428974.
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS**. Classes in Herford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Sacred Heart School, Ware; Beginners Thurs 7.30pm. Millmead School, Herford. Demonstration Alt. Mons 8.0pm. St John's Hall, Herford. 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 Wolsley 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, General and Advanced classes on Mon, Tues, Thurs, 8.00-10.00pm at St. Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details: Colin Simpson, 21 Culverden Avenue, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9RE. Tel: 01892 532712(eve) 01732 377407(work).
- WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** hold weekly adult Classes for, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs Maggie Westley, 56 Mount Park, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4PS. Tel: +44 (0) 20 8647 9899, wesley3148@tiscali.co.uk. www.wallingtonscottish.org.uk
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY**. Dancing Class at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1BJ. Thursdays from 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Kroll, 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 Mrs Rita Gorrie, 14 Coleridge Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 6DH. Tel: 01621 854006.

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

New Year Ball and Dinner
Saturday 5 January 2008
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The Craiggellachie Band

Programme: Happy Returns, Good Hearted Glasgow, Sugar Candie, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Ladies' Fancy, Braes of Breadalbane, The Hazel Tree, Summer Wooing, The Minister on the Loch, The Black Mountain Reel, Cramond Bridge, Haste to the Wedding, Culla Bay, Festival Fling, The Starry Eyed Lassie, St. Columba's Strathspey, The Sailor, Joie de Vivre, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, The White Heather Jig.

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HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION (MIDDLESEX)

Annual Ball
Saturday 3 November 2007
7.30-11.30pm
Brentside High School,
Greenford Avenue, W7 1JJ

The Craiggellachie Band

Programme: The Sailor, The Hazel Tree, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, The Piper and the Penguin, Father Connelly's Jig, Neidpath Castle, Ray Milbourne, Midsummer Madness, The Cashmere Shawl, The Irish Rover, The Roselath Cross, Catch the Wind, The Pines of Pitlochry, St Columba's Strathspey, The Earl of Mansfield, The Craven Jig, The Dream Catcher, Scott Meikle, Pelorus Jack, The Flower o' the Quern, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder.

Tickets:- £15 [incl. Buffet] from
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e-mail: Margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk
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Stephen Webb

Wendy Mumford, Maureen Haynes, Barbara Manning and Ken Martlew
See the article on page 9 — A Special Day in May

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