



the reel

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MAY TO AUGUST 2004

Jenny Greene heads North

After over 40 years in the London Branch, Jenny Greene has decided to leave the Southeast and move to Crieff in Perthshire.

Many of you will know of the excellent work she has done for the Branch, teaching at all the various levels and organising weekend and day schools and the open air dancing at Polesden Lacey. For many years she was one of the leading dancers in the demonstration team as well as supervising all the administration involved. Over the last few years, she has prepared a number of candidates for their teaching certificates, a most exacting task, taking teaching to another level. She has become one of the acknowledged experts in ladies' step dancing and is a regular teacher at the Summer School at St. Andrews. Her enthusiasm and dedication has taken her all over the UK as well as to parts of Europe and the USA.

We greatly appreciate Jenny's many years of service to the Branch and realise the loss her departure will be to the London area in general and the Branch in particular. I am sure, though, that we shall still see her from time to time, as she has many friends in the Southeast. Perthshire is a lovely county with many wonderful golf courses, which I am sure she is waiting to sample.

May I, on behalf of the Branch, wish her a very happy life in Scotland.

Owen Meyer

Having danced since I was three years old, mainly ballet and national dance, Scottish Country Dancing seemed a good idea. That was over 40 years ago in 1961 when I started my teaching career in Wallington.

The classes were run by the Wallington and Carshalton Scottish Association and taught by Andrew Grant. There were classes for beginners and advanced levels as well as a demonstration group. Andrew was a very thorough teacher and demanded high standards like someone else I got to know very well! I soon became very involved with the group and made many friends. We were all young in those days, and danced regularly on Friday and Saturday evenings at Fetter Lane, the Royal Scottish Corporation Hall. There were also dances at Amersham and Harrow with a number of different bands – Stan Watts, Flora Argent, Bobby Morton (Blue Bonnets) and, of course McBains' with Nan Fleming-Williams, Davie Thornton, Bill Farr, Alan Humberstone and Jack Farr (no relation to Bill). A group of us also formed a team – the Lads and Lasses – which competed in the Highland Games held on Clapham Common, then at Richmond Athletic ground, and also at the Harpenden Gathering. We were quite successful!

In the early sixties I joined the London Branch of the RSCDS and attended classes taken

HAPPY MEMORIES

by Innes Russell and Bill Hamilton. After a couple of years a friend and I thought we would audition for the demonstration class. We were told that we had to be "awfully good" to be accepted, but we were, so we must have been! Bill Ireland took the class – say no more. We worked hard, but had a lot of fun. I also remember the various musicians who played for



the class – Ivy Hayes, Gert Stewart and Joan Gilbert, and the pipers who played for the demonstrations – Bob Hill, Roger Huth, Sandy Reid and Charlie Galloway. Highlights of my time in the class were the EFDSS Folk Festivals at the Royal Albert Hall, trips abroad to France (Saumur) and Poland and concerts given at several different venues, master-minded by Bill.

Annual dances held at Seymour Hall and Porchester Hall and run by the RSCDS, the Reel Club and Highland Club were highlights of the dancing year, with bands from Scotland – Jimmy Shand, Ian Powrie and Jim McLeod to name but three. The other great occasion was the Branch Ball held at the Hyde Park Hotel, then Quaglino's in Piccadilly. All these dances were well attended: there was usually a waiting list for tickets! Other memorable events were the Anglo-Scottish dances held at Cecil Sharp House and Weekend Schools at Bisham Abbey. I shall always remember Marie Jamieson putting Alka-Seltzer into a mug of hot chocolate!

Ball at the Hurlingham Club On Saturday 30th October 2004

Application form on the back of the
flysheet bearing your name and address
and on the Branch website,
www.rscdslondon.org.uk. Any queries to
Peter Knight, tel: 020 7329 2847.

In the late '70s I was persuaded to take my teacher's certificate. We were tutored by Mary Stoker and learned a great deal from her knowledge and expertise, but it was quite a terrifying experience. In 1985 I was invited to teach the Tuesday Advanced class, which meant giving up dancing in the Demonstration class – a hard decision to make. I have also enjoyed teaching the Intermediate, Ladies Step and Technique classes.

From 1973 to 2001 I served on the Branch Committee, being involved with the Demonstration Class, Day Schools, Dances and Polesden Lacey. I now have the honour of being one of the Vice-Presidents.

For over 40 years I have enjoyed dancing in the London area and being a member of the Branch. I hope to continue my association with the Branch in the years to come. Having decided to move north for various reasons, I will obviously miss my many friends, but a new life awaits me in Perthshire. So, if you are up that way please call on me. From 18th April my address will be 17 Highland Crescent, Crieff, Perthshire, PH7 4LH.

Jenny Greene

[See also the article on Jenny's Ladies' Step Dancing Class on the next page.]

CONGRATULATIONS!

... to Margaret Morgan, Robert Morgan and Maureen Parker, who passed the Teachers' Preliminary Test in March.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society London Branch will be held at St Columba's Church (Lower Hall), Pont Street, London, SW1 on **Friday 18th June 2004**. Tea will be served at 6 p.m. and the meeting will commence at 7 p.m. There will be dancing after the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes of the 2003 AGM.
2. Business arising from the minutes.
3. Report on year's working of the Branch.
4. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts.
5. Appointment of Honorary President and Honorary Vice-Presidents.
6. Appointment of Officers and Committee of Management.
7. Appointment of Auditors.
8. Motions submitted in advance.
9. Any other business.

Note: Nominations for the appointments at 5 and 7 above will be taken from the floor at the meeting.

CONSULTATION: LONDON BRANCH RESPONSE

Should the Society be Branch-based or Member-based?

The Committee would like to thank all who responded. Your views have been passed to HQ.

A large majority of those who expressed a view favoured the Society continuing to be branch-based. Only one of the written responses was for a member-based option. When the question was discussed by the London Branch Committee, all but one of the fifteen members supported the branch-based alternative.

Reasons given for the Society being branch-based were:

- As Jimmie Hill writes, most dancers feel loyalty to their Branch, and their dancing life revolves round that rather than headquarters.
- There seems to be very little knowledge or (sadly) interest in the affairs of headquarters. So if one-member-one vote (omov) were to be introduced, few members would have the relevant knowledge necessary to be able to cast an informed vote on Society matters, and most would not bother.
- Under omov too much power would be concentrated in HQ, as they would control the flow of information to members. As Jimmie Hill points out, there is a risk of a pressure group dominating and causing changes which the majority would not welcome but might not discover or act in time to prevent.
- Omov was thought to be expensive and necessitate a large increase in subscriptions. Many London members are living on fixed incomes and would not want this. Moreover, as membership is falling while subscriptions are unchanged, it is reasonable to expect that a big increase in subscription would lead to an accelerated decline in membership. As many of the Society's costs are fixed irrespective of the number of members, there is a real risk of starting a spiral of rising subscriptions and falling membership, which would leave the Society much smaller.
- There is a danger a member-based constitution would politicise members (another of Jimmie Hill's points). Conscientious members would spend time considering and voting on every issue and election which now goes before an AGM. Energy would be used for Society politics which would be better spent on dancing or encouraging others to dance.
- Introducing omov would lead to a sharp drop in the quality of the Society's decision making. Branch delegates at an AGM make better decisions than would most individual members. Branch delegates have been chosen to represent the Branch, are well placed to consult within their Branch and with other Branches, often understand the management of the Society from having been involved in running their Branch, and have the chance to listen to the debate at the AGM. Individual members would often have little chance of well-informed discussion of the issues, at an AGM or elsewhere, or of receiving advice other than from the powers that be in the Society.

On HQ members, many are puzzled why they pay through the nose for HQ membership when they can join a Branch such as London and get better service for lower cost! One proposal was that HQ members in Great Britain should form a Branch, and those living overseas should form another Branch. Another suggestion was that those who choose not to join a Branch should be able to subscribe to Society publications but should not be regarded as members.

However only about two percent of London

Branch members responded in any way. It seems reasonable to deduce that the bulk of London members are content with existing arrangements and there is very little call for radical change. While some of us found it useful to reconsider the nature of the Society, the message from London Branch for the Management Board is that they should now devote their time and energy to other matters. As one member wrote, 'there are real challenges facing the Society, but this issue is not one of them'.

Daniel Capron

Management Board and Committee Nominations

All the details are in your Newsbrief, nominations have to be at Headquarters by 10th September 2004, so you have plenty of time!

Rachel Wilton

LADIES' STEP DANCING CLASS

On Sunday 28th March we met for what we hope is not going to be our last Ladies' Step Dancing Class with Jenny Greene.

When Jenny started a Step Dancing Class in Wimbledon 17 years ago, a group of interested ladies were introduced to something new and challenging. She organized the pianist and the venue - originally Wimbledon High School. Such was the enthusiasm she engendered that for several years on a roughly monthly or sometimes more frequent basis, we gathered for an enjoyable and demanding evening learning step dances.

It is a measure of Jenny's skill as an encouraging but tough teacher that over 17 years she has continued to attract and challenge us. A few of the group have travelled from considerable distances, and most have come back for more on many occasions.

Some of us still find it difficult and exacting, and experience the panic that sets in when the mind goes blank! - Should I be doing a bourré behind or in front; a coupé and follow through; a hop-step-close; perhaps it's a hop-brush-beat-beat? Thank you Jenny for persevering with us, for your inspiration, enthusiasm and the fact that you have made the challenge enjoyable. We are going to miss your step dancing sessions enormously but thank you for what you have given us and taught us.

We all wish you well in your new life in Crieff.

Elsbeth Macdonald

SUBSCRIBE TO THE REEL

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

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

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

MANAGEMENT BOARD REPORT

14th February and 3rd April 2004

The Society's Management Board has met twice since Rachel reported about its work in the previous issue of *The Reel*. The main topic under consideration has been whether Branch delegates or individual members should vote at the Society AGM. *The Reel* has given commendably full coverage to the arguments on each side of the debate, and Headquarters received 44 submissions from Branches and 127 submissions from individual members. Although these comments were not binding, a number of Board members changed their stance as a result of this consultative exercise. The upshot was that the Board decided to retain the Branch delegate system, while recognising that much could be done to improve the way it operates and that one member one vote might still be introduced some time in the future (though I personally hope that we will not reopen the debate for at least a few years).

One area where the Board is committed to seeking an improvement is in the quality of communication with members, thus helping members make better informed decisions locally when they select and task their delegates. The Board has therefore set in motion processes that will lead to the publication of a members' magazine at least twice a year to be sent direct from Headquarters to each member. In due course this magazine will replace the Bulletin and the Newsbrief. Another change concerns the position of Headquarters members who, under the Branch delegate system, do not have a voice at the AGM. The Board will therefore allow the formation of an International Branch to represent the interests of Headquarters members who choose to join it. More decisions need to be taken in relation to the magazine and the International Branch, but in facilitating both the Management Board has shown that it can act with relative decisiveness and speed compared to the former Executive Council.

The magazine is part of a wider publications policy that the Board is considering. This includes the future of an annual book for members containing (mostly) new dances with music. Also under consideration is a new structure for teachers' examinations based on five units (written paper, practical dancing, two teaching tests and a record of practical teaching), the idea being that unsuccessful candidates would only be required to re-take the unit(s) they failed if they wished to re-sit the examination. A draft structure has been sent to Branches for comment. On a related theme, the Society needs to appoint some new examiners and a selection panel is being set up.

The medal tests for junior dancers and a Branch Award, for outstanding service at a local level, will be launched later this year. A marketing group is looking at ways of recruiting new members. One idea is to take advantage of the UNESCO Day of Dance on Friday 29th April 2005. Hopefully the revised Manual will be available at Summer School. Building work to improve the facilities at Headquarters is progressing, but slowly. The Society's AGM in November 2004 has been moved to Perth from Edinburgh, where we were let down over accommodation. This year the AGM will be part of a broader Conference Weekend, including dances, classes, Branch Convention, open forum and Sunday morning seminars. Work continues on improving the Society's web page www.rscds.org, where more information about the RSCDS and its activities can be found.

Andrew Kellett

BRANCH MATTERS

We have just come to the end of the Branch year, though we still have two more dances to the end of the dancing year. The dances have been well attended this season with numbers up on the previous season. The Burns' Supper and Ceilidh Dance was a great success again. It is hoped that some of the people attending would be encouraged to come to the ordinary dances.

There has been an improvement in the numbers attending the Children's and Family dances as they are now called and we hope this will continue to happen. We have had one or two suggestions that may be put into practice.

With the summer nearly upon us, we will again be out in force at the London Squares in June, with dancing in Edwardes Square and Queen's Gate Gardens. This is a unique opportunity to visit these squares and many others that are normally closed to the public.

As you have seen in the last two Reels, plans are well advanced for the 75th Anniversary starting in September. As far as can be determined the actual formation of the Branch was in the spring of 1930. We have planned events, which we hope will attract many members and friends as well as encouraging new dancers to join.

If you wish to be a delegate at the Society's AGM to be held in Perth in September, do let me or any member of the committee know. We now have many more delegates we can send under the revised rules of the RSCDS.

Owen Meyer

THE BILL IRELAND MEMORIAL FUND

A donation is to be made to set up a Fund in memory of Bill Ireland. This will commemorate the work he did for the Branch over 50 years.

We plan to award Scholarships to young dancers between 16-25 to attend the Society's Summer, Winter and Youth Schools and to help young dancers in taking the teaching certificates. If anybody wishes to contribute to this fund, donations could be sent to the Treasurer, Simon Wales.

THE REEL AND THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

During the 75th Anniversary season 2004-05 we hope to publish articles and pictures about London Branch's 75-year history. Material will be extracted from the Branch archives, but we should also like to include readers' reminiscences and photos. In the next issue (No. 249 in September) the focus will be on the 1930s and 40s - from the foundation of the Branch in 1929/30 to the first *Reel* in 1951. *Reel* 250 in December will contain colour pictures for the first time, and so we shall be looking for good colour photos of both recent and historic events.

Any contributions to the Editor, please.

OTHER BRANCHES' NEWSLETTERS

London Branch has reciprocal arrangements with a number of other Branches, whereby we exchange newsletters and can reproduce material from each others' publications. The newsletters I receive from other Branches are placed in the whirligig which usually appears at Branch dances at St Columba's, so that members can browse through them.

Daniel Capron, Editor

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY



Patron - H.M. The Queen

HEADQUARTERS:

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www.rscds.org

LONDON BRANCH

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Mary Stoker

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Jenny Greene, Marie Jamieson,
John Laurie, Rosemary Tilden.

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SUB-COMMITTEES

Children:..... Rachel Wilton, Angela Young.
Classes:Margaret Shaw, Margaret Catchick,
Lindsay Merriman, Owen Meyer,
Caroline Sloan.

Dances: Peter Knight, Davinia Miln,
Cherry West, Angela Young.

Demonstrations: Jeff Robertson, Gaynor
Curtis* (Class Secretary).

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

Open-air Dances: Davinia Miln,
Margaret Catchick.

Membership: Owen Meyer

Bookstall: Ian Anderson*

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

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

Southeast Group:.....Peter Knight

Combined Societies:..... Peter Knight,
Owen Meyer

Branch Website..... Meryl and Ian* Thomson

*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

Website

www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Objects of London Branch

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

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

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

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

BRANDED GARMENTS UPDATE

Further to our previous notice, the Committee has decided to introduce a range of garments sporting the new Branch logo. There will be two logo styles, a discreet embroidered logo on the left breast and a larger version incorporating our website address, for printing on the backs of Tee Shirts and Ladies Tees. The present range in White, Black, Green and Navy in an array of sizes is as follows:-

Drop Shoulder Sweat Shirts
Polo Shirt Heavy Pique
Ladies Tee
Normal Tee

Embroidered Logo on left Breast
Embroidered Logo on left Breast
Logo Printed Large on Back with Web Site Address
Logo Printed Large on Back with Web Site Address

We are awaiting actual embroidered and printed samples of the logos for approval after which the garments should be available to members within a few weeks.

Jeff Robertson

75th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS 2004 - 2005

10th, 11th and 12th September 2004: **Weekend School**
Saturday 18th September 2004: **Dance** (British/French joint celebration - see page 4)
Saturday 16th October 2004: **Day School and Ceilidh** (see page 5)
Saturday 30th October 2004: **Ball** (see page 4)
Saturday 13th November 2004: **Family Dance** (see page 5)
Saturday 13th November 2004: **Dance** (Guest Night - Other Branches' Anniversaries)
Saturday 11th December 2004: **Christmas Dance**
Saturday 15th January 2005: **Burns' Night Ceilidh Dance**
Saturday 12th February 2005: **Celebrating Musicians** (see page 5)
Saturday 19th March 2005: **Children's Event and Evening Dance**
(Pont Street users participation)
Saturday 16th April 2005: **President's Lunch**
Saturday 21st May 2005: **Dance** (Guest Night - Southeast Groups and Branches)
Saturday 11th June 2005: **Garden Dance**

BRANCH DANCES

Saturday 22nd May 2004

7.00 - 10.30 p.m.

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

David Hall

Pelorus Jack.....	41-1
The Ladies of Dunse.....	26-11
The Silver Tassie.....	Leaflet 1
Quarries' Jig.....	36-3
Culla Bay.....	41-2
Nice to See You.....	40-3
The Gentleman.....	35-5
Old Nick's Lumber Room.....	26-6
The Earl of Mansfield.....	Leaflet 15
The Wild Geese.....	24-3
The Birks of Invermay.....	16-2
Mr Iain Stuart Robertson.....	42-1
Miss Mary Douglas.....	10-11
The Braes of Breadalbane.....	21-7
Round Reel of Eight.....	27-7
Follow Me Home.....	38-3
Margaret Parker's Strathspey.....	31-3
The Montgomerie's Rant.....	10-1

Admission: members £7, non-members £8, children £2, but members' children admitted free.

25th GARDEN DANCE

Saturday 12th June 2004.

2.00 - 6.00 p.m.

Polesden Lacey, Great Bookham, Surrey

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

The Happy Meeting.....	29-9
The White Cockade.....	5-11
May Yarker's Strathspey.....	42-5
The Wild Geese.....	24-3
The Dashing White Sergeant.....	3-2
The Robertson Rant.....	39-8
The Highland Rambler.....	Leaflet
Wisp of Thistle.....	37-4
The Milltimber Jig.....	41-7
8/16/32-some Reel.....	---
Monymusk.....	11-2
Hooper's Jig.....	MMM
Mairi's Wedding.....	Cosh
The Duchess of Atholl's Slipper.....	9-3
Good Hearted Glasgow.....	Knapman
Iain Stuart Robertson.....	42-1
The Braes of Breadalbane.....	21-7
Summer Assembly.....	35-8

Free car Parking. Facilities for picnics.

Refreshments available. Admission for the dancing: £5.00 (£4.00 in advance)

Dancing Children: £1.00. Young children: Free.

Admission to the grounds extra, payable at the gate. Free to National Trust and NTS members.

If wet, meet in Howard of Effingham Sports Hall, Lower Road, Effingham.

PLEASE NOTE

No outdoor shoes to be taken into the Sports Hall

There will only be *limited* indoor picnic facilities at the school but no food or drink is allowed in the actual Sports Hall. Tickets (and map if requested) in advance from:

Owen Meyer, 50 Bunby Road, Stoke Poges, Bucks, SL2 4BP.

Please enclose a s.a.e. (6" x 4").

Cheques payable to RSCDS (London Branch).

If doubtful about the weather on the day, phone Owen Meyer on 01753 643461 **after 10.30 a.m.**

Saturday 18th September 2004

Celebrate the Entente Cordiale!

7.00 - 10.30 p.m.

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

Green Ginger

Joie de Vivre.....	39-2
Happy Returns.....	Misc. 2
Porchester Hall.....	London 1989
C'est l'Amour.....	34-1
None So Pretty.....	19-1
The Belle of Bon Accord.....	Drewry
Le Papillon.....	Ch. 2
La Tempête.....	2-1
La Russe.....	Misc. I
Ladies' Fancy.....	13-12
Brunette d'Ecosse.....	Dix: Reel Friends 2-11
The Westminster Reel.....	London 1989
Frog in the Middle*.....	Misc. II
The Silver Tassie.....	Leaflet 1
Vive la Danse.....	Dix
Adieu Mon Ami.....	24-11
The Montgomerie's Rant.....	10-1

*N.B.: This was a French choice!

We shall be joined by dancers from France for a joint celebration, including Paris Branch's 20th Anniversary.

Admission £7.50 members, £8.50 non-members.

Anyone willing to accommodate French visitors on Saturday 18th September for this event please contact Lindsay Merriman, tel: 020 8693 2182, e-mail: lindsaymerriman@hotmail.com.

75th ANNIVERSARY BALL

Saturday 30th October 2004

7.00 for 7.30 - midnight

The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gdns, SW6.

Craigellachie 5-piece Band

The Machine Without Horses.....	12-12
Petronella.....	1-1
Miss Gibson's Strathspey.....	Leaflet
The Starry-Eyed Lassie.....	23-11
Sugar Candie.....	26-9
Miss Mary Douglas.....	10-11
Cramond Brudge.....	London 1979
Pelorus Jack.....	41-1
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.....	39-7

Tribute to the Borders.....	Leaflet
Fraser's Favourite.....	Leaflet
Miss Milligan's Strathspey.....	Leaflet
John of Bon Accord.....	33-5
The Last of the Lairds.....	22-5
Earlstoun Loch.....	Foss
Culla Bay.....	41-2
Argyll's Fancy.....	Graded 23
The Duke of Perth.....	1-8

Tickets £38.50; includes a formal three-course meal. Highland dress/black tie.

Accommodation is available at £70 pppn at the Travel Inn, Putney Bridge, which is 10-15 minutes from the venue.

Apply for tickets now - see reverse of fly sheet for Application Form, or Branch website.

SOUTHEAST DANCE

DIARY 2004-2005

We will soon be putting together the contents of the Diary for 2004-5. It will have the same (well tried) format as the last few years and cover the same area in the 'Southeast' i.e. from Norwich to Weymouth via Cambridge, Oxford, Bristol and Bath. Let us have details of your dances by **30th June** and they will be published in the Diary at the same time as the September copy of *The Reel*.

We need the information as it is produced in the current Diary which is: Day of the week; Date (day and month); Venue (town - and hall as well if this is somewhere special); Band or recorded music or Event (if it is day school, for example); Contact name and telephone number.

We also have a code to indicate certain features of some events. Please therefore say if it is:- in the afternoon, a ball, children's dance, suitable for the less experienced, in the open air, a special supper (e.g. Burns Night), tickets need to be booked in advance, or a special anniversary celebration.

If Branch or club secretaries have this information now, please send it to us as soon as possible; do not wait till the end of June as we have well over a hundred clubs to process. The printed version of the Diary will cover September 2004 to August 2005. The same information will be posted on the London Branch website (www.rscdslondon.org.uk). The latter is not restricted to just twelve months, so include confirmed dates beyond August next year and these also can go on the website.

Please send details for the Diary to Anne King at the address below, or email diary@rscdslondon.org.uk. Email messages will be acknowledged.

The Diary is provided by the London Branch free of charge. It will be distributed with the September copy of *The Reel* to all London Branch members in the London area. Others, including any who may subscribe to *The Reel*, can get a copy by asking for it from the Editor (address on page 1 - please send a large s.a.e.).

John & Anne King

Griffins, Flaunden Lane, Belsize, Sarraat, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 4NS.
Tel: 01923 264552

CLASSES LIST

In addition to the Southeast Dance Diary mentioned above, we also publish a list of Scottish Country Dance classes in the Southeast. The list offers free advertising for your class. Please send details of your class, venue, day, time, standard and a contact name and telephone number by **30th June 2004** to Simon Wales, 14 Blakes Green, West Wickham, Kent BR4 0RA. Tel: 020 8777 8915.

E-mail: simon_wales@talk21.com.

The Classes List is distributed in the same way as the Dance Diary, and the information is also posted on the London Branch website.

OPEN AIR DANCING

Sunday 13th June 2004

11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Edwardes Square, W8

(nearest tube: Kensington High Street) and 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Queen's Gate Gardens, SW7

(nearest tube: Gloucester Road)

Part of the London Squares Day.

Admission £5.00 gives access to all the London Squares open for the day.

Saturday afternoons 4th and 11th Sept. 2004

2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Kensington Gardens

(by the bandstand, near the Round Pond)

Nearest underground stations:

Queensway and High Street Kensington.

Kafoozalum

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

BRANCH CLASSES

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

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

Summer term ends week beginning 17th May 2004. All enquiries about classes to Margaret Shaw, 020 7329 2847.

HIGHLAND CLASS

Thursday 13th May.
7.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.

Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London WC2.

Teacher: **Malcolm Ferris Lay**

Musician: **Judith Smith**

£6 per class.

Further details from Malcolm, tel: 01279 425081
or e-mail malcolm@williamsonmagor.com.

GENERAL CLASSES

Every Wednesday in June
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Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3.

Every week there will be a different teacher and musician. Team includes Maureen Campbell, Irene Edgar, Peter Forrow, Peter Jenkins, Barbara Manning, Owen Meyer, Judith Smith, Rachel Wilton and Angela Young.

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All dancers welcome.

Enquiries to Margaret Shaw, tel: 020 7329 2847.

NEW BOOK SESSION

To go through the dances in Book 44.

Open to everyone who holds a Preliminary or Full Teacher's Certificate or teaches a class on a regular basis.

Wednesday 15th September
7.15 - 9.15 p.m.

Upper Hall, St. Columba's Church, Pont St, SW1.
Enquiries to Margaret Shaw, tel: 020 7329 2847.

DAY SCHOOL

Advance Notice

Saturday, 16th October 2004

Lady Margaret School, Parsons Green, SW6.

Teachers: **Patrick Chamoin** (Paris)
..... **Helen Frame** (Ayr)

Teachers for Optional Classes:
..... **Alastair Aitkenhead** (N. Ayrshire)
..... **Malcolm Ferris Lay** (London)

Musicians: **Jeremy Hill** (London)
..... **George MacLennan** (Edinburgh)

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CHILDREN'S CORNER

CHILDREN'S DAY

The Lower Hall at St. Columba's rang all day on Saturday 20th March with the sounds of children enjoying themselves – two classes in the morning, sometimes working together, sometimes separately. Simon Wales worked with the older ones and Angela Young (appropriately!) with the younger ones while Chris Oxtoby provided the music. After a delicious lunch provided by Janet Rudge and her family came the dance – music from Green Ginger, refreshments now organised by our vice-presidents, a raffle run by Lena Robinson and the proceedings controlled by Angela. It was difficult to work out who was enjoying themselves most – the adults or the children!

Many thanks to all the participants for their contributions and to the adults who brought the children and supported their dancing. We shall run a similar day on Saturday 13th November 2004 but at the dance we shall want 75 children to hold 75 cakes with candles to celebrate our anniversary; so put the date in your diary!

CHILDREN'S TEST RESULTS

Held on Saturday 6th March 2004

Cambridge Children's Scottish Dance Class

Grade 1

Amy Stephens
Astrid Burden
Hester Cawt
Lydia Farrer
Oliver Bates
Polly Ray
Rebecca Walsh
Grade 4
Lydia St. John*
Grade 5
Alice Harvey Purkiss*
Rebecca Gardner

Clapham Scottish Dance Group

Grade 1

Beth Duncan
Gabriella Barnes
Grace McMillan
Iona Skye McPherson
Jessica Horne
Katie Land
Kyra Fraser

Medway & District Caledonian Society

Grade 1

Ashleigh Murray
Georgina Little*
Jade Dever
Laura Aldridge
Paul Woods-Berelemont
Grade 2
Leona Chalmers
Grade 3
Bethan Evans
Lauren Key
Lloyd Evans
Rebecca Goode

Grade 4

Emily Lovelock
Victoria Grayland
Grade 5
Alex Hackwell*
Kirsty Russell*
Lizzi Huddart

The Upland Scottish Dancers

Grade 1

Annie Clements
Ayobami Olojo-Oluwo*
Lauren Purchase
Lucy Thomas
Nancy Moore
Grade 2
Claire Dawson*
Poppy Simpson*
Roya Saeednia
Grade 3
Chloe Allison
Rebecca Worrell*
Grade 5
Craig Allison*
Elaine Dawson*
Jonathan Kellett*
Frederique Thomas*

* Credit Pass

Well done to all the children; everyone passed! Thank you to all the teachers who prepared the children so well and to the adults who spent the day at Pont Street supporting them.

Rachel Wilton

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CELEBRATING MUSICIANS

As part of our 75th Anniversary events David Cunningham has agreed to lead a musicians' workshop which will culminate in a dance.

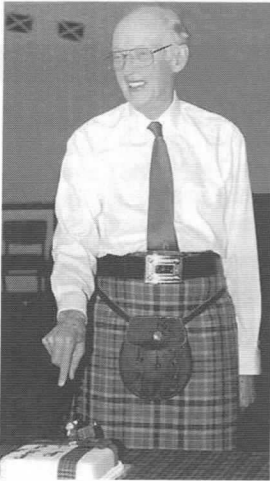
Date: - **Saturday 12th February 2005**

All musicians and all dancers, put the date in your diary! It will be a night to remember!

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR REEL?

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

KEN STOTT'S CELEBRATION DANCE



On 7th February 2004 Ken Stott, a member of the RSCDS London Branch since 1963, and a member of the South East Essex Scottish Society and the Leigh Caledonian Dancers, celebrated his 90th Birthday by holding a special Scottish Country Dance.

Ken devised the programme of twenty of his favourite dances, hired the Rayleigh Grange Hall, persuaded Jim English and the Rowans to come out of semi-retirement to provide the music, and Bob Dobney to play the bagpipes. The two Essex societies, where Ken is still an active dancer, provided the buffet for more than 120 dancers, and guests, who attended the birthday celebration.

Although Ken did Scottish Country Dancing when he lived for some years in Gourock, he did not get seriously involved until he answered an advert in a local paper to join a group called the Allen Dancers at Southend, in 1963. They were taught by a lady from Romford called Stella Shank, who encouraged him to join the London Branch of the RSCDS. In September the following year he joined the South East Essex Scottish Society's Reel Club.

Ken attended teachers classes, organised by RSCDS London Branch in the late 1960's. The class teacher was Frances Stamp. He attended many classes in London, and has been taught by many well known dance teachers including Bill Ireland, Mary Stoker and Alex Westwood. Ken successfully passed his intermediate certificate in 1971, and the full teaching certificate for Scottish Country Dancing in 1972, both passed at the first attempt.

Between 1973 and 1976 he ran a children's class at St. George's church hall in Southend, and has been President of the South East Essex Scottish Society on two occasions, first in 1976-77, and again in 1987-88.

Ken's Birthday celebration was a big success. He danced every dance on the programme, including the encores. There were dancers there from eight of the Essex Scottish Societies/Associations – Basildon, Chelmsford, Clacton, Leigh, Rayleigh, South East Essex, Upminster and Witham. Good wishes were received from Colchester, Epping, Harlow and Ilford. Eight members of Ken's family also attended, including his daughter and her husband from Nevada, USA, and his two sons and their families.

Jean Mackay

South East Essex Scottish Society

Denise Hora and Norris Haugh



Denise Hora and Norris Haugh were married at St. Columba's Church on 13th March 2004.

Norris was a member of London Branch demonstration team for 31 years. Denise is the MC of the Shene Scottish Country Dance Group and one of the MCs of St. Columba's Monday dances. Norris is the Shene Group's honorary piper. Denise also leads the team preparing Burns' Night haggis suppers for several groups each year, including the very popular London Branch Burns' Supper.

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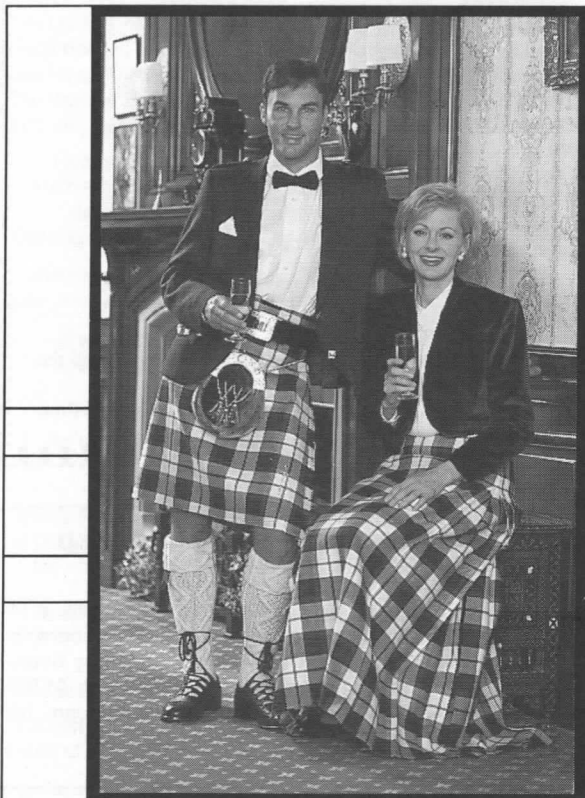
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N.B.: The Bookstall Stocklist is available on the Branch Website.

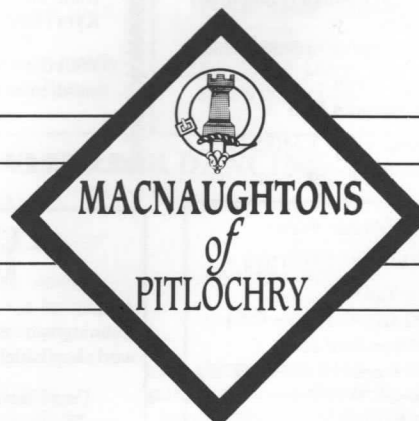
MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch costs £14.00 per annum for UK based members (£14.50 for Europe; £16.50 elsewhere). Current members of other Branches can join London Branch for £4.00 per annum if they live in the UK (£4.50 in Europe and £6.50 elsewhere). London Branch membership brings benefits including *The Reel*, while Society membership includes the annual dance publication, Bulletin and Newsletters. Membership applications and enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Owen Meyer, 50 Bunby Road, Stoke Poges, Bucks SL2 4BP. Tel: 01753 643461.



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DEMONSTRATIONS

As usual the period around Burns' Night was particularly busy and teams performed at what have become regular events at the Savoy Hotel (piper Neil Esselmont and the Dave Hall Band), Phyllis Court in Henley (piper Sandy Walker) and at Finchley (Dave Hall on accordion). Thanks to all the dancers and musicians.

In February, in addition to the Redbridge Festival, the team once again travelled to Newcastle for their annual festival at Emmanuel College Gateshead. This was a most enjoyable occasion and provided the opportunity for the team to renew acquaintances and have fun dancing socially together.

In March, the team performed at Erasmus Conference Centre, the Branch Children's Class and another repeat event at Richmond Caledonian.

Sincere thanks go to our teacher Ann Dix assisted by Joan Desborough and to our class musician Sandra Smith. Particular thanks also to our class administrator Gaynor Curtis for her sterling efforts behind the scenes.

Unfortunately, Robyn Kirk left at Christmas owing to pressure of her course work and Tom Davy has now moved to Edinburgh. However, we are pleased to offer a warm welcome to Marian Morris, our latest addition to the class.

Congratulations are due to James and Sam (Fairbairn) who were married in March 2004. Extended congratulations are also due to Helen Ives, Fiona Evans and Judy Hall who are clearly trying to build up the 2020 team, all with babies due this summer.

Publicity material for the class is being reviewed and the website is to be enhanced shortly with improved links, keywords and current images.

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

Jeff Robertson

15 DAYS ON THE BURNS CIRCUIT

Readers may be interested in a dem team with a rather different style to our own. This is from the Newsletter of RSCDS Toronto Association, with thanks.

In common with many social groups within RSCDS Toronto, the Petronella Scottish Country Dancers of Thornhill have long had a demonstration team, available to meet the needs of the community within York Region. Petronella dancers have worked hard over the years under the leadership of veteran teacher, Janette Todd, to be able to demonstrate the joys of Scottish Country Dancing to audiences at festivals and village fairs, in seniors' residences, and at other locations throughout the Region.

Since the Petronella team concluded not so long ago a run of eight performances at Burns' Suppers between January 17 and February 1, it seemed appropriate to use this recent experience as the basis for this article, especially now that the team's emcee (yours truly) has recovered from the resulting exhaustion.

Petronella has long had a core of established dances for demo purposes, focusing on four-couple dances like Let's Have a Ceilidh, Blooms of Bon Accord, and The Robertson Rant for maximum impact on an audience: i.e. no dancers are standing around for 32 bars. For similar reasons, Black Mountain Reel, a five-couple dance, is also worthy of consideration. When we do three-couple dances in a four-couple set, we

most often dance them "once and to the bottom", ensuring of course, a carefully prepared smooth exit to fourth place by the dancing couple. This avoids boring our audience with a full 256 bars of seemingly endless repetition. Even that most elegant and popular Strathspey, Bonnie Stronshiray, can seem to go on forever if danced to the full, running the risk of having a soporific effect on the audience. Having two inventive teachers (past and present), one might ask why we don't devise our own original dances. This is fine so long as you do not need to bring in guest dancers at short notice when you have a multi-event schedule. This I've certainly had to do, with guest participation by experienced dancers from other Groups.

Petronella demo performances, Burns' Suppers or otherwise, do not rely on Scottish Country Dancing exclusively. We try to vary our overall presentation by including Highland Dancers, preferably youngsters because we are fortunate to have Ella Allison, a Highland Dance teacher, within our ranks. We can also take advantage of the adult Highland Dancing talents of Donald Holmes and our own Carole Skinner for this purpose. For Burns' Suppers, we offer not only to secure a piper, but also to have our very own gregarious Glaswegian, Donald Homer, to "address the haggis". Donald is a great addition to the program, being a Burns aficionado. His recitations of other examples of the Bard's poetry, such as "Ode to a Mouse" or "Ode to a Toothache" always go over very well with our audiences. And I am working on the regular inclusion of a singer in our shows. "My Love Is Like A Red, Red Rose" or even "Westering Home", would be popular in such situations.

Me. I get to MC these events. I try to maintain a stream of banter to keep the program light. Wherever possible, I tell a brief story about each dance to bring it to life. (I trust all readers know where/what Stronshiray is!) One can also have fun introducing the dancers to the audience. On a recent occasion they all happened to be from Glasgow except one solitary Dundonian. As the Petronella MC, I am of course betrayed by my English accent, (happening to hail from Derby.... very significant in the annals of Scotland back in 1745). These situations provide opportunity to bring humour into the event. Petronella really tries to execute, not exclusively a Scottish Country Dance demonstration, but a Scottish variety show.

Things do not always go according to plan. On a really foul night a few weeks ago, we commenced our performance with a set that comprised only three women, but five men. Who says men can't dance the woman's role? We had no other choice. (Thank you, David Wilson!) Even the haggis can present the odd problem. At Thornhill Presbyterian Church, the catering staff laid a six pound haggis on the hod which was still frozen solid. Donald Homer had to struggle to get his knife into it ("An cut you up wi' ready sleight, trenchin' your gushing entrails bright" being far from the reality of the occasion). This was cause of much hilarity among the audience. And from the sublime to the ridiculous, at one long term care residence, the haggis had been boiled to death, turning it into a stew. We had it drained, dried out and re-wrapped in Saran Wrap™. When offered in small portions to the audience, they lapped it up.

Petronella dancers spice up performances with a lot of joy and laughter, because we think it is important for the audience to recognize what fun Scottish Country Dancing is. Most of the time, audiences will hardly notice slip-ups in performance, and as Janette always told us, "Just keep on dancing!". If the dancers show that they are having a whale of a fun time performing, success is virtually inevitable.

Overall, it is my view that a relaxed, light-hearted performance, replete with beaming smiles and chuckles, will trump perfection any day of the week.

Barry Pipes

NEW LIGHT ON HUGH FOSS

A recent book, *The Emperor's Codes* by Michael Smith, reveals sides of Hugh Foss which his Scottish dancing friends did not see.

Hugh Foss (1902-1971) was President of RSCDS London Branch in the 1950s. He founded *The Reel* in 1951 and helped in its early development. A tribute to him by Andrew Kellett in *Reel 200* in 1992 states that for obvious reasons he spoke little about his professional career and also revealed little about himself.

Michael Smith's book, based on material only recently released, reveals that Hugh Foss was a brilliant codebreaker who played a leading part in cracking Japanese secret ciphers before and during World War II. His first major success was in 1934 when he broke a new machine cipher used by Japanese naval attachés in their embassies. During the war he was Head of the Japanese section at Bletchley Park. He was sent to Washington in 1944 to help American codebreaking work.

It was at Bletchley Park that Alan Turing and others broke German codes using machines which were the forerunners of modern computers. Hugh Foss developed a device to read Japanese machine cipher: it was made in the office using a brown foolscap file cover with a collar stud, a piece of string and slots cut in the cover for the letters. But it worked, and from what we know of Hugh Foss he would not have been worried by its apparent lack of sophistication.

Hugh is described as an 'eccentric Scot'. In fact he was English, but his habit of wearing a kilt may well have given the wrong impression. That combined with his sandals, his straggly red beard and his height of 6ft 5in gave him a very distinctive appearance.

The book also sheds light on his domestic life, as described by his cousin Elizabeth Browning. His Scots wife Alison was said to be "a darling but almost totally incompetent domestically". So Hugh went home every day at 4.30 to put the children to bed, get supper and organise things. He had highly complicated arrangements for washing up. Every article had to be washed in a particular order. For example, saucers were washed first, as being least polluted by human lips. Two or three days' washing up was often stacked on the floor, and "the dogs were a great help". If anyone tried to help there would be shrieks of "Oh, you mustn't do the cups yet, saucers first."

There was also an arrangement that Hugh would put things away at places appropriate to his great height, while Alison, who was short and dumpy, had a smaller range. But (as in many households) not everything was always in its right place. Elizabeth Browning recalled having lunch there with Hugh's muddy boots on the table beside her to remind him they needed cleaning.

It is suggested Hugh was sent to Washington in 1944 to enable him to concentrate on codebreaking work without domestic distractions.

Life cannot have been dull when Hugh Foss was around.

'The Emperor's Codes' by Michael Smith, ISBN 0-593-04641-2, was published by Bantam Press at £16.99.

Daniel Capron

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NEW RECORDINGS

Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent – RSCDS Book 12 (CD 043)

The Muriel Johnstone Quartet – RSCDS Book 38 (CD 044)

Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith – Delaware Valley Spring Ball 2003 (SSCD 15)

Da Rain Dancing, Strathglass House, Lamb Skinnet, Catch the Wind, The Gentleman, Hooper's Jig, Burns Hornpipe, The Lea Rig, Miss Allie Anderson, Balmoral Strathspey, Follow Me Home, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran.

Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith – Vintage Goldring (SSCD 16)

18 dances from 14 Social Dances for 2000 and the Leeds Branch 40th Anniversary Book.

Sandy Nixon and his Band – The Luckenbooth Brooch (HRMCD 558)

17 dances all devised by the late John Bowie Dickson.

Bobby Brown's Band is based in Canada and is a welcome addition to those playing for the Society. I find the strathspeys a bit on the heavy side but the reels and jigs are bright with a good lift. There is perhaps a missing ingredient in the mix – i.e. a fiddle.

The Muriel Johnstone Quartet has, of course, a strong emphasis on the fiddle with Keith Smith on that instrument. Jimmy Lindsay is on accordion and Gordon Smith on drums. As ever Muriel brings it all together with her excellent piano playing.

Now to the two CDs by the Duo. What a fantastic musical partnership they are! When I was in the late Bill Ireland's class he used to say "DOWN – 2 3 4" when we were practising in strathspey time. He also used to demonstrate how far one could dance down the hall to four bars of good music in reel or jig time. I can still hear his voice – "Lift and travel... Lift and travel." Well we have music here which says "DOWN... and LIFT..." I personally prefer the Delaware Valley one because the original tunes are more familiar.

Sandy Nixon's band is a five piece with two accordions and no fiddle. He is one of the few bands who can inspire dancers without the need for a fiddle player. It is indeed scintillating stuff with, again, lots of get up and go.

The Occasionals latest CD is entitled Reel of Four (CD Trax 259) and features Freeland Barbour on accordion and Ian Hardie on fiddle. There are 18 tracks played in their distinctive style mostly for old tyme/ceilidh dances but with a couple of country dances for good measure.

Freeland also has a solo album – The Black Water (SKYE CD25) on which he plays piano and accordion. All the music is from the Highlands and Islands and has the tunes of some fine Gaelic songs. I like it a lot.

Lindsay Ross and his Band issued two LPs on the Polydor label in 1967 and 1976. They have now been re-issued on one CD (C FIRST 01). I see from *Reel* No. 141 that I gave high praise to the 1976 one and I do so again. There are no full length dancing tracks but lots of good tunes superbly played. Ron Gonnella shares the front line with Lindsay. Sadly both these gentlemen are no longer with us.

Accordianist David Bowen has been on the Scottish music scene for a number of years now. I see that he played on a Bobby Crowe Society recording (Book 3) back in 1984, but we now have his first album in his own right – Sounds of the Old Morino (DABO DB001). He plays a good varied selection of tunes backed by Dennis Morrison on piano and Billy Thom on drums.

Under the appropriate title "Serenity" the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra's latest CD (RECD 546) is made up almost entirely of slow airs two of which are from the USA. It is truly delightful. There are solos from Paul Jordan and Yla Steven who plays her own lovely composition The Flower of Portencross and Stephen Foster's Gentle Annie.

Alistair McCulloch from Ayrshire has a degree in music and is clearly one of the best of Scotland's younger generation of fiddle players. He is probably best known as a member of the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra's Folk Symphony but he is now following a composing and solo career as well as playing in at least two bands. He has recently published a book with 40 of his own compositions. A CD accompanies the book and Alistair plays all the tunes once through in the order in which they appear in the book. Reels, jigs and waltzes abound. There are a couple of excellent 6/8 marches in pipe mode and a 2/4 dedicated to one of the pianists on the CD, Morag Macaskill of Milngavie. A strathspey in the style of Scott Skinner has also caught my ear and eye. Alistair now has two other CDs. One was reviewed in *Reel* No. 236 and the other has just come to my notice (FECD 179). Great listening! There are a number of backing instruments with his wife Lyndsay on 'cello and Morag on piano.

Coming later this year:-

RSCDS Book 5 – Neil Barron

RSCDS Book 10 – David Hall

RSCDS Book 44 – Robert Whitehead

Miscellaneous Vol 3 – Muriel Johnstone.

John Laurie

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

KAFOOZALUM COUNTRY DANCE BAND

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

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

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

SOLOIST: PETER JENKINS

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

SOLOIST: KEN MARTLEW

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

OBITUARY — Donald Wood



Donald died peacefully sitting in his favourite armchair on 10th February 2004, aged 80. His interest in Scottish Country dancing started in 1976 in Tunbridge Wells. He later joined London Branch and whilst at Summer School in 1982 gained his Teacher's Certificate. Donald was a regular supporter of Branch dances, balls and weekend schools. When Stella and Howard Booth left London, Donald took over the running of the Branch Bookstall; he was so keen that he used one room in his house as the Branch bookshop.

There was a lot more to Donald than dancing; he was a qualified SRN and Mental Nurse. Before he retired to the Lake District he was the Senior Sussex Area Teaching Officer, and even after retirement he used these skills when he was offered a two year Administrative post at the then new Kendal Hospital. In his spare time he was a keen gardener, loved cooking and entertaining (being best remembered for his baking and especially for the many 'theme' cakes he made for the Cairngorm Dancers), a mountain rescue volunteer (nursing), and he also helped partially sighted people to get out and about and enjoy a day's rambling in the Lake District.

When his eyesight became a problem, he decided to move to Eastbourne to be near his family (he leaves a son and a daughter) and about three years ago he finally hung up his dancing shoes. However, his failing eyesight didn't stop him seeking adventure as, shortly before his 79th birthday, he went on a group holiday to Germany where, can you believe it, he had a go at hang-gliding!

Donald was a kind and gentle man and leaves behind many fond memories of time spent in his company.

Blake Martin

Donald's life in the North

Donald moved to Kendal in 1988 and entered into the activities of local life – joined various groups, came Scottish Dancing and made many

friends.

Although the house he bought was delightful he did a lot of work on it and being artistic he made it really lovely. He made several Christmas cakes with original and beautiful decorations. We enjoyed many dinner parties too, and everything seemed to go just right. I suspect an awful lot of work had been done behind the scenes.

His West Highland terrier, Hector, had not had a happy life until Donald rescued him but with kindness and patience he became a grand little dog and it was always a pleasure to have him to stay when Donald went away.

Donald eventually felt the house was a bit big for what he wanted and also the river flowed along the bottom of the garden so there was always the risk of flooding. He moved to a bungalow at Bowston, a village about three miles from Kendal but only a mile along the valley from where we live. There he had a lovely view of the River Kent and the hills beyond. Again he did a lot of work and made it into another delightful home – more dinner parties! He also made the most of whatever space there was in the garden with pots and colourful plants.

Stella Booth

I first met Donald over 20 years ago when I was still living on the Isle of Wight. I'd gone up to Cobham Hall for the annual Cairngorm Hogmanay celebration. The rooms were not en suite so we had to go along the corridor to bath or shower. When I came back to my room I couldn't find my glasses. I can't see anything without. I panicked as I remembered I didn't have a spare pair with me and thought that if they had fallen on the floor I might stand on them and break them. I suddenly thought, Carol and Jenny are next door, I'll go and get them to find them. Unfortunately I went to the wrong side. The door was opened by a man, who said "Yes?" All I could say was, "I'm sorry to trouble you but could you come to my bedroom and find my glasses?" He brought his room-mate with him! We've laughed about our first meeting on numerous occasions. To quote Donald, "I thought you were one of them!"

We became good friends as the years went by. He liked visiting the IOW. I was not the only friend to spend the night at his house when we were flying from Gatwick, when he lived in Horley. He always made you welcome and cooked you a lovely meal before you went and picked you up at the airport on your return. When he moved to the Lake District I certainly missed his hospitality when I flew anywhere from Gatwick.

His hospitality however continued in Kendal. He always made his Scottish dancing friends welcome, when they broke their journey to stay with him on their way to St Andrews. He loved his time in The Lakes, as he enjoyed the beautiful countryside when he was walking. He also enjoyed showing his visitors his favourite places.

We miss you Donald.

Pauline Parker

IBERIAN GATHERING



The venue was Benidorm, the occasion the 10th anniversary of the Gathering and the 5th anniversary of a Scottish band providing live music.

The annual weekend Iberian Gathering has grown from the modest origins of a couple of sets dancing to tapes; the spark created by Jeronimo Maeso who in 1994 lit a torch that each year is taken up by a host group. This year, as five years ago, the honour fell to the Torreveja group, the largest in the peninsula, whose moving spirits are Joseph and Louie Killeen.

It was fitting that the David Oswald Trio from Stirling (Kippen to be exact) again offered pulsating music and Eric Finley from Ayrshire (Mossblown to be exact) lighthearted tuition to the 140 dancers who had gathered 5-7 March to celebrate this special event. A fair number of dancers from outside the Peninsula were present – I met a lady from Hawaii, not in traditional dress!

It strikes me as an anomaly that the North Coast of Spain with its tradition of bagpipe playing – Asturias and Galicia – and comprising the cradle of the Pas de Basque shows no sign of joining the Scottish Country Dancing fold. Maybe some missionary activity is called for. Immediate past editor of *The Reel* please note.

Peter Fyfe

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Sir Jimmy Shand Sculpture Project

Cupar, Fife

Dear Mr Capron,

The Project has now been completed and the Bank account closed. The accounts have been audited and given certification. Just over £42,000 was raised and, having now settled all outstanding expenses, the balance has been paid to Fife Council in respect of their improving lighting and landscaping at the site and future maintenance of the statue and site.

The Project Committee wishes to extend sincere thanks to all donors and supporters, to the Shand family for all their co-operation, to Fife Council for much help, to all contractors who provided services and to all who freely gave publicity.

The statue attracts many visitors and is certain to continue to do so as a memorial of a revered and legendary figure.

Yours sincerely,

John Thomson
Secretary

Save Your Sanity, Dance More Often!

A recent study by the Albert Einstein Center in the Bronx, New York, found dancing to be the only regular physical activity associated with a significant drop in the incidence of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. In the research, reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, subjects who danced three or four times a week showed 76 per cent less incidence of dementia than those who danced only once a week or not at all.

Thanks to Vancouver and Toronto Branches, who both reprinted this snippet from the Globe and Mail in their newsletters.

DANCE EVENTS

TARTAN JIGSAW

Summer Ball
Saturday 10th July 2004
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.
Trinity School, Croydon

Robert Whitelaw and the Danelaw Band
MC: Clem Wilson

Programme: Grand March, Round Reel of Eight, Joie de Vivre, The Gentleman, Ladies of Dunse, Laggan Bay, Autumn in Appin, Partnerships, The Starry-Eyed Lassie, The Robertson Rant, General Stuart's Reel, Diamond Jubilee, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, The Earl of Mansfield, Kelloholm Jig, Honour Your Partner, The Reel of the Royal Scots, Follow Me Home, Mairi's Wedding.

Tickets £18.00 in advance (£20 on the door) including cold supper with wine. Dress formal.
David Faulkner 01372 722651
faulkners66@tiscali.co.uk
Joyce Patrick 020 8657 6138.

RSCDS SOUTH WALES BRANCH FESTIVAL OF SCOTTISH DANCING

Saturday 26th June 2004

Roman Amphitheatre,

Caerleon, Nr Newport, Gwent.

Afternoon (outdoors): Demonstrations and general dancing. Free entry for participating teams (adults and children).

Evening Dance and Buffet Supper (indoors).

Lothian Scottish Dance Band

Dance programme: The Reel of the Royal Scots; Luckenbooth Brooch; The Gentleman; A Castle in the Air; Hooper's Jig; Border Weavers; Mairi's Wedding; The Bees of Maggicknockater; Butterscotch and Honey; J B Milne; Ian Powrie's FTA; The Reverend John MacFarlane; St. Andrew's Fair; The Dundee Whaler; The Music Makars; Pelorus Jack; Gang the Same Gate; The Royal Deeside Railway; The Dancing Master; The Moray Rant; Swiss Lassie; The White Heather Jig.

Details from Mrs I. Williams, Waverley, Maes Ernin, Mathry. SA62 5HF. Tel: 01348 837532.
e mail Williams@mathry.freeserve.co.uk.

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH Open Air Summer Dance

(indoors if wet)

Saturday 21st August 2004
2.30 - 6.30 p.m.

Wolfson College, Oxford.

Details: Gordon Lloyd, tel: 01865 375799.

Annual Ball

Saturday 23rd October 2004

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

GRAVESEND & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION & MEOPHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

27th Annual Picnic Dance

Saturday 17th July 2004

2.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

in the grounds of Northfleet School for Girls
Northfleet, Kent

Caber Feidh

Bring your own picnic, chairs and sunshades.

Dancing indoors if wet.

Family, friends and children most welcome to join us.

Tickets £4 in advance. £5 on the day

£2.50 spectators. Children free.

Contact: Jane Whittington: 01474 359018.



FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Autumn Ball

Saturday 13th November 2004
7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

White House Community Centre,

The Avenue, Hampton, Middx. TW12 3RN

Dancing to **Robin Ellis SCD Band**.

Tickets (including supper) £11.00.

Highland Dress or Evening Suit

Details from Heather Nolan, Tel: 01784 256549.

Heather@nolan75.freeserve.co.uk

www.felthamscottish.fsnet.co.uk.

RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

Summer Picnic Dance

Saturday 12th June 2004

Corfe Mullen Village Hall, Wareham Road,

Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset.

Ken Martlew & Barbara Manning

Bring your own Picnic Supper.

Tickets £8

Details: Margaret Robson, tel: 01202 698138.

HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball

Saturday 6th November 2004

Craigellachie Band

Programme and details in next issue.

Enquiries: Margaret Wallace tel 020 8560 6160.

RSCDS BRIGHTON BRANCH

Annual Summer Ball

Saturday 19th June 2004

Dancing 7.00 - 11.30 p.m. (Drinks 6.30)

Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove

Neil Copland and his Band

Programme: Machine Without Horses, Mrs Macleod, The Bridge of Nairn, Ladies Fancy, Mrs Macpherson of Inveran, The Silver Tassie, The Snake Pass, The Flowers of Edinburgh, The Winding Road, The College Hornpipe, Corner after Corner after Corner, The Lea Rig, The Starry-Eyed Lassie, The Royal Yacht Britannia, The Village Reel, Macleod's Fancy, Polharrow Burn, The Balmoral Strathspey, The Duke of Perth, The Reel of the Royal Scots. *Extras:* The Montgomerie's Rant, The Irish Rover.

Tickets £15 (non-dancers £10) including supper and wine from Carol Knights, tel: 01903 207493 or e-mail: secretary@rscds-brighton.org.uk.

LINLITHGOW SCOTCH HOP 2004

Wednesdays 14th July to 11th August
at 7.30 p.m.

Another season of 'Scottish Dancing for All'.

Lively, friendly fun in the unique setting of Linlithgow Palace (20 miles west of Edinburgh).

Great Bands from across Scotland with a wide ranging programme of dances which are called.

Alternative venue for doubtful weather.

Tea and Walkers Shortbread included.

Beating the Retreat at 10.30 p.m.

on Wednesday 4th August.

www.scotchhop.co.uk

or telephone John D Carswell on 01506 845698.

RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH

Open Air Dance

Saturday 12th June 2004

2.00 - 4.30 p.m.

West Green House, Hartney Witney.

Entrance to gardens, £5.

Contact Alan Crawford, tel: 01932 244466 for

programme and further details.



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

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

Fridays: Upper Hall..... 19.30 - 22.30

Saturdays: Lower Hall 19.00 - 22.30

Unless otherwise stated

Saturday 8 May **Music Makers**

Saturday 5 June **SUMMER BALL**

19.00 - 23.30 **Craigellachie**

Saturday 3 July **Caber Feidh**

Friday 24 July/ camping weekend

Sunday 26 July West Wittering

Saturday 4 September **Craigievar**

President's Night with jacket potato supper

All dances will be talked or walked through on request. For further details contact: Frank Bennett on 020 8715 3564, e-mail fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk, or Roger Waterson on 020 8660 5017. You can also telephone our "Dial-a-Programme" service on 020-8763 8096 to hear our programme, or leave a message.

Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening. Visit our website at:

www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk.

Saturday 5th June 2004

Summer Ball

St Columba's Church, Pont Street

19.00 to 23.30

Craigellachie

Programme: The Bees of Maggicknockater; Duke of Perth; Flower of the Quern; Luckenbooth Brooch; The Earl of Mansfield; Peggy's Love; Airie Bennan; Gates of Edinburgh; The Corian Strathspey; Muirland Willie; The Blooms of Bon Accord; Schiehallion; Anniversary Reel; Hooper's Jig; Culla Bay; Plantation Reel; McLeod's Fancy; The Gentleman; A Trip to Bavaria; Jennifer's Jig; The New Scotland Strathspey; Rest and be Thankful; Postie's Jig; Mrs MacPherson of Inveran. *Extras:* Scotch Mist; Bonnie Anne.

Tickets: (Including refreshments) LHC Members in advance £10.00. Non Members in advance £12.00. All classes on door £13.00. Highland or evening dress preferred. All enquiries to Frank Bennett or Roger Waterson, details above.

SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS

Summer Garden Dance

Saturday 10th July 2004 starting at 6 p.m.

Peter and Jenny Dixon's beautiful garden at

Gamels Keep, Rush Green, Hertford.

Limited parking; please car share where possible.

Shared Refreshments.

In case of wet weather there is a fall back venue.

Beating Retreat

2.30 - 5.00 p.m.

Sunday 5th September

Hertford Castle Grounds

This is the 10th anniversary and promises to be a special event. There is dancing for all. The

Bedford Pipe Band will be playing as well as

The Silver Cross Band.

Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a really good afternoon. Entrance to this event is free.

Tickets for the Summer dance will be available from Mrs Jane Ritchie, tel: 01438 812025.

ADVERTISING YOUR DANCE?

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

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY** meets Wednesdays 8.15 - 10.15 p.m. September to May at Abraham Cowley Unit Hall, St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey. Details from Jane Warner, Tel: 01483 763606.
- ALDRINGTON (HOVE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meet every Tuesday 8.15 p.m. to 10.30 p.m., September to June. Details from John Steer, 57 Hangleton Road, Hove, E. Sussex BN3 7GH. Tel: 01273 416893.
- BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB** meets Tuesday evenings, September to May. Garden dances June and July. Contact: Linda Godbold, Alize, Shootersway Lane, Berkhamsted HP4 3NP. Tel: 01442 866651.
- BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.** meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth. Newcomers and Beginners 7.15 to 8.45 p.m. Improvers/Advanced 9.00 to 10.30 p.m. Weekly children's classes. Technique class by invitation - alternate Wednesdays. Details from Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Rd, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX. Tel: 01202 698138.
- BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS.** Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details from James on 01273 737498 or Carol on 01903 207493. Website: www.rscds-brighton.org.uk
- BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 7.30 - 10 p.m. at Balfour Junior School, Balfour Road, Brighton. Details from Carol Catterall, tel: 01273 564963.
- CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details from Sue Wood, 5 Windmere Walk, Camberley, Surrey GU15 1RP. Tel: 01276 683044.
- CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.** Classes for all grades. Details from Roderick McLachlan, 32 New Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4BW. Tel: 01223 834163.
- CHELSEA REEL CLUB** meets twice a month from October to March in St. Columba's Church (Upper Hall), Pont Street, SW1. Beginners welcome. Instruction given. Dancing to live music. Details from Ruth Hewlett, Tel: 020 8749 5471.
- CHELtenham SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing most Friday nights 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. from 4th October 2002 to 30th May 2003, at St Andrew's Church Hall, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN. Tel: 01242 528220, e-mail mbsteele45@aol.com.
- CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING** in the Upper Hall at St Michael & All Angels Church corner of The Avenue and Bath Rd. W4 (nr Turnham Green tube), Sundays 7.30-9.30 p.m. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details Tel: 020 8743 9385 (afternoons).
- CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details from: Dick Gray, 6 Bunting Close, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5PA. Tel: 01403 264071.
- CROUCH END SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** meet Wednesdays 8-10 p.m. Sept to July, at Union Church, Weston Park, London N8. On bus routes W3, W5, W7 and 41. Small friendly group, all stages welcome, instruction given. Tel: (evgs) 020 8348 0473.
- CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.** Branch class - all grades, incl. beginners, with technique. Purley (Fri). Other classes in the area: Beginners Reigate & Selsdon (Tues), Gen Reigate (Mon), Purley (Alt. Tues), West Wickham (Fri), Advanced: Coulsdon (Wed), Reigate (Thurs) Further details: Tel: 01737 551724.
- EALING SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 8 to 10 p.m. September to May at St Andrew's Church Centre, Mount Park Road, Ealing, W5. Details from Rena Stewart, 56 Meadvale Road, Ealing, W5 1NR, tel: 020 8998 6419.
- EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets every Wednesday, 8.00 pm at Warren Hall, Wanstead, London E11, from September to May. Details from John Tanner, Tel: 020 8504 1632. www.efsa.org.uk, e-mail: john@efsa.org.uk
- EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dance classes, including beginners, (September to March). Many other activities including frequent informal dances. Details from Brian Burgess, 72 Seymour Avenue, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 2RR. Tel: 020 8786 7452.
- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00 p.m., September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details from Mrs Annette Owen, 47 Beauclerk Green, Winchfield, Hook, Hants RG27 8BF. Tel: 01252 845187.
- FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. September to mid July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Instruction by Mrs Margaret Henderson. Details from Heather Nolan. Tel/Fax: 01784 256549, e-mail: Heather@nolan75.freeserve.co.uk. Website: www.felthamscottishfsmet.co.uk
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** dance on alternate Saturdays at various venues in the Fleet, Hampshire area, from 7.30 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. September to May. Full details from Earl Spencer, 24 Park Hill, Church Crookham, Fleet, Hants GU52 6PW. Tel: 01252 691922.
- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at the Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in term time. Details from Mrs M B MacKenzie Ross, Blythe Muse, Misbourne Avenue, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 0PD. Tel: 01494 874604.
- GREAT MISSENDEN: THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00 p.m. Oldhams Hall, Church Road, Great Missenden. Details Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs N. Merrick, 2 Hillbeck Way, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8LT.
- GUILDFORD SCDC** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford most Mondays at 8.15 from September to April. Teacher Paul Plummer, contact on 01483 236946.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept - June from 8.00 - 10.00 p.m. in the Elderkin Hall, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details from Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF. Tel: 020 8870 6131.
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday at 8.00 p.m. at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00 p.m. Details from Phil Bray, 25 St. Olams Close, Luton, Beds LU3 2LD. Tel: 01582 617734.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Classes Wednesdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., Church House Hall, Old Church Lane, Stanmore HA7 2QX. 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 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., September to July, St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.
- HERTSHERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30 to 11.00 p.m. Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.
- HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to July, tuition followed by social dancing. Also monthly Saturday dances and ceilidhs. All at Heston Methodist Church Hall. Details from Mrs Rosemary Mitchell, Tel: 01784 254401.
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** meet Wednesdays September to June at Holy Trinity & St. John's C. of E. Primary School, St. John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7.00 to 8.00 p.m. General 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. Tel: 01843 869284.
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Some major functions held at other venues in London. For details see adverts in *The Reel* or contact Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG. Tel: 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096.
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8.00 p.m. at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Frances Granshaw, 20 Byron Close, Twyford, Berks RG10 0BG. Tel: 0118 375 4422. www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk
- MAIDSTONE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday 8.15 - 10.15 p.m. at The Grove Green Community Hall, District Centre, Grove Green, Maidstone. Details from Peter Green, 65 Willington Street, Bearsted, Maidstone ME15 8JR. Tel: 01622 737649.
- MARKET HARBOUROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough Tuesday 7.30-10.00 p.m. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, "Lazonby", 9 Little Lunnun, Dunton Bassett, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 5JR. Tel: 01455 209446.
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing Thursdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. at All Saint's Church Hall, Frindsbury, Rochester, Kent. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Tim Law, 44 Haig Ave, Chatham. Tel: 01634 409976.
- MID SUSSEX CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Events throughout the year at various venues. Members of SASS. Classes held before St. Andrews/Burns. Contact Mike Roberts, Bodmans, Two Mile Ash, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 0LA. Tel: 01403 732408, e-mail: mike_roberts@whchd.net.
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS.** Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details from Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Blethley, Milton Keynes. MK3 5LP. Tel: 01908 378730, e-mail: jan@jange.f9.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. from September to May at Rocoeroff 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 - 10.00 p.m. most Wednesdays at Methodist Church Hall, Crayford. Beginners welcome. Details: Bill MacFarlane, 26 Lewis Road, Istead Rise, Northfleet, Kent DA13 9JD. Tel: 01474 832801.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 7.45 to 10.15 p.m. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Classes Monday evenings at Chislehurst Village Hall. Details from Mrs V.J. Vincent, 2 Keith Cottages, Luxted Road, Downe, Orpington, Kent BR6 7JY. Tel/Fax: 01959 575750.
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Gordon Lloyd, 47 Begbroke Cresc., Begbroke, Oxford OX5 1RW. Tel: 01865 375799.
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general) Details: Rita Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Tel: 0118 975 7507, www.scottishdancingreading.org
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00 p.m. from mid September to end of May. All welcome. For information contact 020 8977 4304.
- SANDERSTEAD SCOTTISH DANCERS.** Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, South Croydon. Details: Joyce Patrick, tel: 020 8657 6138.
- SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT** hold weekly adult Classes for, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs Maggie Westley, 56 Mount Park, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4PS. Tel/Fax: 020 8647 9899, e-mail: dmwestley@btinternet.com.
- ST. ALBANS & MID HERTS CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing most Fridays from October to March. Group meets at Homewood Road U.R. Church Hall, Sandpit Lane, St. Albans at 8.00 p.m. Details from Mrs I. Smallwood, 26 Gresford Ct, St. Albans, AL4 0UB. Tel: 01727 760878.
- ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON).** The Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB. Tel: 020 8540 1755.
- ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street.** Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Sept to May, 7.15 to 10 p.m. Admission free except for six 'Band Nights' when tickets cost £6 inc. supper. Beginners welcome and there is step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details from Bob Harman, tel: 020 7630 1639 (day) or 020 8642 7192 (evgs), e-mail smallpipes@aol.com.
- ST. JOHN'S SCD WOKINGHAM** meet every Thursday 8.00 - 10.15 p.m. Sept to May at St. Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. Also children's class on Saturday mornings in Crowthorne. Details from Sue Davis, 2 Larkswood Drive, Crowthorne, Berks. Tel: 01344 774344.
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. at the Dance Studio, West Heath New School, Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3AX. Details: Penelope Fisk, tel: 01732 457327.
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from September to May 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., at the Sheen Lane Centre, SW14. Details from Brian Cresswell, 16 Cole Rd, Twickenham, Middx TW1 1EZ. Tel: 020 8892 0471.
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00 to 10.15 p.m. throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details from Terry Boorman, 15 Old Farm Road West, Sidcup, DA15 8AG. Tel: 020 8302 2974.
- SOMERSET BROADWAY SCOTTISH DANCERS** meet on Fridays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. at Ashill Village Hall near Ilminster. Social dances: January, March, June, September, December. Details from Michael Cross, Tel: 01458 252001.
- SOMERSET BRANCH RSCDS.** Classes at Monteclefe School, Somerton. Beginners & others Mon. 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Experienced dancers Thurs. 7.45 - 9.45 p.m. Children Sats: 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon. Ladies Step Classes monthly Fri 8 - 10 p.m. at Kingsdon. Details from: Sheila Barnes, Tel: 01458 223596.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ. Tel: 01305 265177.
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Fridays, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near the hospital). Tuition 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Anne Chandler. Tel: 01702 294645.
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS.** Classes in Hertford, Sept to May. Demonstration (alternate) Mons 8pm, Inter/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Beginners Thurs 7.45pm. Dances 2nd Friday of each month 7.45 - 10.45 p.m. Details: Jane Ritchie, tel: 01438 812025 or John Brace, tel: 01438 717420.
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15 p.m. at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details from Brenda Hinton, Tel: 01273 595017.
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday at 8 p.m. September to mid June at St. Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details from David Horwill, 32 Wolsley Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY. Tel: 01932 784866.
- THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON** meets at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1, every Tuesday from October to end of May for Scottish Country Dancing. 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Tom Symington. Tel: 020 7834 7151 or 020 7828 6792.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners, General and Advanced classes on Mon, Tues, Thurs, 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., at St. Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details from Mrs Eileen Orr, 10 Oaklands Road, Groombridge, TN3 9SB. Tel: 01892 864531.
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Class at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey (adjacent to Bushey Golf and Country Club). Thursdays from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., Details from Stuart Krelloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford, Herts WD17 4GE. Tel: 01923 492475.
- WAVERLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Winchester, every Thursday from September to the end of June, 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details: Mrs Pat Mumford, tel: 02380 252570.
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Mondays 8.00 p.m. Dance Class. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details from Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, WD19 5HF. Tel: 020 8421 0470.
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., Club night (all abilities) Wednesday 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., Both evenings take place at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details from Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ. Tel: 01264 363293, e-mail wendy@mumford.com.
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from Mrs Rita Gorrie, 14 Coleridge Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 6DH. Tel: 01621 854006.