



The Reel



Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
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No 274

DECEMBER 2010 to FEBRUARY 2011

We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS DANCE

Saturday 11 December, 2010
7.00 - 10.30pm

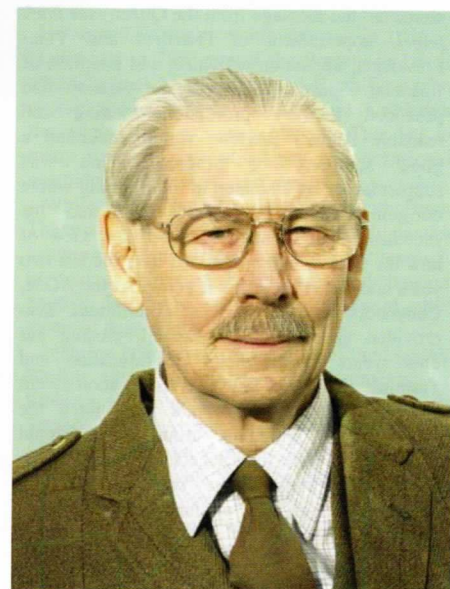
St Columba's Church, Pont St. SW1 0BD
Marian Anderson and her Band

The Jubilee Jig	Leaflet
London Reel	London 75th - 8
Peggy Spouse MBE.....	46 - 11
The Starry Eyed Lassie	23 - 11
The Deil amang the Tailors	14 - 7
The Silver Tassie	Leaflet
The Wild Geese	24 - 3
The Robertson Rant	39 - 8
Scott Meikle	46 - 3
St Andrew's Fair	5 for 1982 - 2
None So Pretty	19 - 1
The Braes of Breadalbane	21 - 7
Best Set in the Hall	46 - 7
Clutha	31 - 1
Gang the Same Gate	36 - 4
Major Ian Stewart	35 - 4
The Minister on the Loch	3 for 2008 - 2
General Stuart's Reel	10 - 3
Members £16 / non-members £17	
Reception drink and refreshments provided	
Those with highland / evening dress are encouraged to wear it.	



Stephen Webb

Ruth Beattie, newly elected Chairman of the RSCDS. Ruth writes about her Scottish dancing life on page 3



LONDON BRANCH AWARD

The London Branch is pleased to announce that John W Mitchell has been nominated to receive a Branch Award. Citation on page 3

What's Inside

2	AGM Report
4	Classes,
4,6	Summer School
8	Letters
9	Music and recordings
15-18	Events



BURNS' SUPPER AND CEILIDH DANCE

Saturday 15 January 2011
6.45 - 10.45pm

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

This is a great chance to share with your friends and family the fun of Scottish music and dancing. The programme will include Gay Gordons, Britannia Two Step, Circle Waltz, Dashing White Sergeant, Canadian Barn Dance, The Eightsome Reel, Swedish Masquerade, Cumberland Reel, St Bernard's Waltz, Virginia Reel, Boston Two Step, Strip the Willow and many others.

Admission, including supper,
£10.50 for RSCDS members,
£13.50 non members.

Tickets in advance (SAE please) from Jeff Robertson, 31 Alinora Avenue, Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN12 4NA, jtr@ctg.co.uk
(a pair of tickets would make a wonderful Christmas present)



WINTER WEDNESDAY

Branch Dance

Wednesday 9 February 2011
7.00 - 10.00pm

St Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1X 0BD
Chris Oxtoby

Espie McNabb	MMM1
Maxwell's Rant	18/10
Rakes of Glasgow	11/11
Kendall's Hornpipe	Gr 22
The Sailor	14/4
Byron Strathspey	Drewry
Round Reel of Eight	28/7
Joie de Vivre	29/2
Flowers of Edinburgh	1/6
The Birks of Invermay	16/2
Mrs Stewart's Jig	35/1
The Reel of the 51st Division	13/10
The Dream Catcher	45/9
The Montgomerie's Rant	10/1
Admission including light refreshments £8.50	
Members, £9.00 Non Members. £2 Children,	
but member's children admitted free.	



Rachel Wilton who organised the Anniversary Ball is presented with a fine bouquet

Issue No 275 will be with UK based members by 12 February 2011 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent preferably by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk. Postal contributions should be sent to Wilson Nicol, 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS to arrive by 15 January 2011. (Issue No 276 will arrive by 30 April 2011).

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

The RSCDS AGM in Perth

The 81st Annual General Meeting of the RSCDS was held in Perth on 6 November 2010. London Branch was well-represented with eight delegates and many more of our members present and busy in various supporting roles. Of course, the weekend is more than just the AGM and the social activities were enjoyed by all those present; the two evening dances, a class, youth forum and our own Michael Nolan giving widely appreciated sessions on public relations amongst that going on.

The meeting itself was a well-run and substantive affair nearly three hours in length. There were the usual procedural (but important) elements: the message from the Queen (*see back page*); appointment of President and Vice-Presidents; update on activities; and adoption of financial reports. This year the Society had produced a very professional-looking and readable Annual Review, which contained a good summary of progress. This was supplemented by a session in the morning where out-going Chairman, Alex Gray, and his successor, Ruth Beattie, outlined their view of how the Society had progressed over the last two years and where they saw it going. At the AGM, Convenors of the various committees also provided updates. Helen Russell, closing her three years at the helm of Education and Training, noted the Teachers Association Event held on the day before and highlighted the successes of initiatives around professional development work for teachers. Bill Austin, who had nobly stepped in mid-year to run Membership Services, outlined a busy year in terms of production of publications of dances and CDs of music. And Elizabeth Foster, the Society's relatively new Executive Officer, described the activities of the HQ office and her work in taking forward the main six elements from the RSCDS Strategic Plan.

On finances, William Whyte, who was finishing his tenure as Treasurer, was able to celebrate by leaving the Society in a stable and positive position. Essentially, the RSCDS has some £750,000 of reserves and is able to deliver a small operating profit each year by adhering to careful but realistic planning budget. The worrying decline in Membership revenue in recent years appears to have been stemmed, but maintaining numbers is still a big challenge. And our running costs will need to be carefully monitored if the current position is to be maintained. The Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, the subject of some interest given its recent use, will have its governance arrangements tightened but the independent audit gave a broadly positive opinion of the Management Board's approach to running the fund. As well as adopting the accounts and giving William deserved thanks for his great efforts in getting the Society's finances to this favourable place, the AGM endorsed new arrangements for financial control and management. More of the day-to-day financial responsibilities will be taken on by the Executive Officer, and the GP&F Committee will be disbanded with a Treasurer appointed by the Management Board (and confirmed by the AGM). The aim is for clearer definition of responsibilities, and greater alignment of skills to duties to ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness in running the finances of a complex organisation.

Ruth Beattie was confirmed as the new Chairman of the RSCDS. In her acceptance speech, she gave an admirably positive vision of a Society where all the members worked together to deliver an organisation that facilitated and spread the enjoyment of Scottish country

dancing. She generously acknowledged the progress that had been made by her predecessor: the stable financial position; appointment of Executive Officer; improved information systems in the HQ office; progress on the Society website; and real attempts to engage more successfully with the worldwide community of Scottish country dancers. Ruth had, earlier in the day, run a session to take stock of Dance Scottish Week and invite suggestions for how it could be taken forward. This was a good example of successfully ventilating the disparate opinions across the Society on a venture that unquestionably is seeking to address the real need to evangelise, but where flexibility of approach and implementation may improve effectiveness – and, indeed, harmony within our own organisation.

John Wilkinson was appointed the new Chairman Elect (we look forward to working with John, and welcoming him to London in due course), Ross Robertson installed in the new role of Treasurer (as a short-term appointment) and a number of positions filled on the various executive committees. It was nice to see outstanding long-servers of the Society honoured with scrolls – I was particularly pleased to see John Cass, the founder and organiser of the Newcastle Festival from which London teams have derived enormous enjoyment, receive one.

There were a number of small, largely 'housekeeping' motions considered, of which one raised particular interest at the meeting – the payment of honoraria by the Management Board. While this motion was introduced specifically around the new role of Treasurer and the feeling that an honorarium might be a valuable tool for recruiting the best candidate, it inspired a very interesting and worthwhile debate. Defeat of this motion showed that the RSCDS is not yet ready for the provision of such a facility, guarding jealously its historical dependence on the tremendous goodwill and hard work of its members. I do wonder, though, whether the day will come when the Society will accept the need for rewarding exceptional contribution (e.g. enormous time given in leading Schools work or provision of specific high-quality technical expertise) without fear of losing that essential foundation of most of its work relying on generous goodwill? The debate on this, and much else about this very enjoyable meeting and weekend, left me feeling very positive about the level of engagement of those in the RSCDS and reminded me how pleasant and important a contribution it all makes to mine and so many of our lives.

Ian Hutchinson of Glasgow gave a warm vote of thanks and invited us all for more of the same next year in Glasgow – I'll certainly try to be there and I would encourage all members to give it a go.

David Hall

EDITORIAL



As I come up to four score years, I am heartened (if I can use that idiom after my recent bypass experience) to read further evidence that Scottish dancing is so good for health and longevity, as supported by further research in Glasgow (*see page 13*). People keep saying that I don't look my age and I'm happy to tell them that it is Scottish dancing that is responsible for that. It is leading an active life that is so important. Scottish country dancing is both very sociable and healthy!

ROYAL SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCE
SOCIETY

Patron
H.M. The Queen



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Chairman – Ruth Beattie

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www.rscds.org.

LONDON BRANCH

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

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Hon. Treasurer:

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Tel: 020 8643 0952.
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SUB-COMMITTEES

- Youth:**Angela Young, Elaine Davies
Classes:Margaret Catchick, Gillian Bloomfield,
George Potts, Lena Robinson,
Margaret Shaw, Elaine Wilde
Dances:Jeff Robertson, Margaret Catchick,
George Potts, Marjory Reid, Lena Robinson,
Margaret Shaw, Angela Young
Demonstrations:Elaine Wilde, Angela Young
Publicity: Rachel Wilton, Wilson Nicol (Reel),
Rita Marlow* (Reel Distribution),
Meryl Thomson*(website)
Open-air & Picnic Dances: James Fairbairn*,
Jeff Robertson, Jerry Reinstein
80th Anniversary Events: Angela Young,
Margaret Catchick, Andrew Kellert*,
Rachel Wilton, Simon Wales
Membership: Gaynor Curtis*
Bookstall: Ian Anderson*
CCPR: Marie Jamieson*, Simon Wales
Hon Archivist: Iris Anderson*
SE Branches: Rachel Wilton
Combined Societies:Jeff Robertson

*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

Website: www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Objects of London Branch

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

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

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As we approach Christmas and the closing stages of our 80th Anniversary celebrations it is an opportunity to reflect on a busy season of successful events enjoyed by many members and friends. Grateful thanks are due to the Anniversary Sub-Committee for co-ordinating the various activities.

In October, we held a successful Musicians' Workshop and Day School at Paddington Academy. This is a new venue which attracted favourable comment and proved to have distinct possibilities. A huge thank you to our organiser Margaret Catchick and her many, many helpers for all their hard work.

At the end of October our Branch Anniversary Ball at Hammersmith Town Hall with Ian Muir and The Craiggellachie Band was an outstanding success with over 200 dancers in attendance including the Society Chairman and Chairman Elect. A personal message of congratulations from our patron Her Majesty the Queen was read out and the Branch was toasted in style. Our sincere thanks go to Rachel Wilton and the team for their sterling work.

We had a full day of dancing in November with a children's class in the morning and family dancing in the afternoon led by Angela Young. Our thanks to musicians Iain Cathcart and his Band and MCs Angela Young and Andrew Kellett.

We look forward to our Christmas Dance on 11 December with Marian Anderson and her Band all the way from Scotland; an excellent start to the festive season and a fitting way to end our Anniversary year activities.

Congratulations to the recipient of this year's Branch Award for his sterling work over the years, greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Dance. Enjoy the festive season and a Happy New Year to you all.

Jeff Robertson

80th ANNIVERSARY

Well, we're nearly at the end of our 80th Anniversary celebrations having had a varied year of activities – starting with our Burns Supper in January, and looking forward to finishing with our Christmas dance to the music of Marian Anderson on Saturday 11 December.

A huge thanks is owed to all those who have made these events successful – and to you, the Branch members, for supporting this Anniversary year: more of which in the next issue of *The Reel* when we will round up all the events with a special 80th Anniversary supplement.

So if you have any photos or memories from the anniversary year let us know so we can include them. Or do you have a photo from further back in Branch history that you would like to share? Bring it along to the Christmas dance where we will display photos from the Branch archive and try to recognise as many London Branch members as possible.

In the meantime here's to the future and to the London Branch activities in 2011.

Angela Young

80th Anniversary Sub-Committee Convenor

COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

During the coming quarter, the London Branch Committee will meet on 9 December, 3 February, and the Convenors will meet on 3 March. Suggestions for items to be discussed should be sent to the Secretary at least two weeks before the dates of the meetings.

RUTH BEATTIE

My first introduction to Scottish country dancing was during my school days in the Highlands. I was fortunate in having teachers, dedicated Society members, who taught with great thoroughness and precision. They prepared pupils for the local competitive festival, which was a highlight of the year. I recall my excitement and my nervousness at being selected to dance, especially as the adjudicator was none other than Miss Milligan. We did not win our section, but our teacher kindly said, by way of consolation, that she had partnered her 'best' girls with the boys, who were not quite up to standard, and needed some help. The winning team was all girls. I am sure many male dancers will not like to hear that, but I also know very well that there are many outstanding male dancers out there. However, dancing, thankfully, is not just about competition. It is about enjoyment, fun, socialising and experiencing an indescribable sense of 'joie de vivre'.

From these early days I continued to dance, mainly in ballet, but later as a student I rediscovered the great pleasure that Scottish country dancing can bring. I recall student trips to festivals in the UK and abroad, dancing morning noon and night on rocky stages, cobbled streets and crowded tents, and falling asleep exhausted on homeward journeys. A particular occasion comes to mind: after a demonstration in Germany, on the train, a frustrated guard could not reconcile the number on the group ticket with the number in the compartment, until he triumphantly declared that 'Nummer acht' was on the floor, under the seat!

Later, after settling in Glasgow, my home city, I enjoyed dancing in regular classes and also with the demonstration group. Commitments with the team brought with them very memorable experiences and friendships that last to this day. There were many highlights, not least a "Glasgow Flourish" – an informal performance of song, verse and dance, the first script for which my father, a great enthusiast for all things Scottish, and I wrote together. It was followed by other excellent productions, led by Dr Alastair MacFadyen.

Other memories include dancing in our beautiful Kelvingrove Art Gallery, our imposing City Chambers, our Trades' House and George Square in the heart of the city. I do love Glasgow! Much later I was to become a Glasgow committee member, demonstration group convenor, Vice-chairman and Chairman. I enjoyed developing and managing projects, and as part of our City of Culture programme in 1990 I became involved in country dancing events for people with special needs. Much more recently I was convenor of the Glasgow Children's Festival, which about 800 children attend in the spring. This event still runs successfully thanks to the generous support of the City of Glasgow Education Department and the Branch. We also have a Seniors Group for which I organise events together with other Glasgow colleagues. We have most enjoyable afternoons in lively, friendly company. Many of our members have served on the committee, taught classes and supported the Branch over a long number of years.

But life was not all about dancing. I had a busy career in social work, mostly in management, working in community care and child care services. This presented me with many complex situations, challenges and rewards, just as my role in the Society does now. I first joined the Management Board in 2006, and was honoured to be elected Chairman Elect in 2008. The last two years have been interesting and worthwhile. I have had the opportunity to meet many

members at home and abroad, which I have found most stimulating and inspiring. The next two years will, I know, bring their own particular challenges, but I am encouraged by the expressions of support I have received from many people as November approaches, and not least from my family who patiently wait and watch!

JOHN W. MITCHELL

John was born of Scottish parentage in Hove in 1931 where after marrying Dheirdre they resettled.

He started Scottish country dancing in 1946 in Dollar and in 1963 joined the Society in Leeds where he met May Yarker and Hugh Foss who encouraged him to devise dances and to research the origins of the Society dances. This led to many years of correspondence and occasional meetings, mainly at St. Andrews.

While in Belfast he corresponded with Hugh Thurston about the origins of Scottish dances resulting in him carrying out extensive research in various libraries, which extended beyond Scottish dancing to include the influence of other forms of dancing throughout the years.

John has been an active member of the London Branch since 1966 and was instrumental in forming the Sussex Association of Scottish Societies and becoming its first Chairman. The Association ran an Annual Charity Ball, other dances, day schools and the Sussex Scottish Dancing Festival. For the Brighton and Hove SCD Club he started a series of Summer Dances on the lawns on Hove seafront. His outreach activities on the south coast recruited many members for the London Branch leading to the founding of the Brighton and Hove Branch of the Society.

When May Yarker retired to Sussex he persuaded her to organise teacher training courses, through which he was examined for both certificates by Miss Jean Milligan, gaining his Teacher's Certificate in 1972.

In 1975, he was the Founder Chairman and Instructor of the Hangleton Scottish Country Dance Club (which eventually became the Brighton and Hove Branch of the Society). In 1982, he transferred to teaching the Aldrington Scottish Country Dance Club.

John has been a regular contributor to *The Reel* for many years based on his extensive research into the origins of Scottish dancing.

BILL AUSTIN

Bill Austin, is the new RSCDS Convenor of Membership Services. He is an IT expert. As the Society moves more and more into web and IT based solutions to communication and distribution of dance related services, Bill is very well placed by experience and inclination to progress these issues effectively and rapidly. He is a past chairman of Dunfermline Branch and served on the Membership Services Committee for the past two years. During this time he worked closely with members of HQ staff on the new website helping to specify project requirements and select an external supplier.

He has worked at the sharp end of software research and development. Bill founded an educational simulations company in 1998 and has worked as a consultant in the field of learning technology.

His goal is to listen to members and help deliver the services that they require in a transparent and professional manner.

BRANCH CLASSES

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

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

Term starts on Wednesday, 12 January 2011 and ends on Wednesday 30 March 2011. Half term will be on Wednesday 16 February 2011 and Wednesday 23 February 2011 (two week break). Wednesday evening classes cost £65.00 for ten week term (£60.00 for Branch members). For members and non-members each half term costs £35.00. The cost per session is £8.00.

The term for the Wednesday afternoon class begins on Wednesday 5 January, 2011 and ends on Wednesday 6 April 2011. Half term will be on Wednesday 16 February 2011. For further details regarding the Wednesday afternoon class please contact Jeni Rutherford, email: jrutherford@freeuk.com

HIGHLAND / STEP ONE DAY WORKSHOP

Oddfellows Hall, Richmond, TW9 2RT
(minutes from Richmond Station)
Sunday, 6 February, 2011
Sunday, 10 April, 2011

This series of one day workshops incorporates Highland Dancing in the morning and Ladies Step in the afternoon and replace the previous Highland & Ladies Step classes.

The teachers for these Workshops are:

6 February 2011

Highland: **David Hall**
Ladies Step: **Alice Stainer**
10 April, 2011

Highland: **David Hall**
Ladies Step: **Angela Young**

All those attending are welcome to stay for the whole day or come for either the morning or afternoon sessions. The cost will be:

All day..... £18.00 (RSCDS member)
..... £20.00 (non-RSCDS member)
Half-day £9.00 (RSCDS member)
..... £10.00 (non-RSCDS member)

The Highland class will commence at 10.30am and run till 12.30pm (morning coffee at 10.00am). The Ladies Step class will commence at 2.00pm and run till 4.00pm. There are local establishments nearby for lunch.

Contact Margaret Shaw on 020 7329 2847 or email: classes2@rscdslondon.org.uk

SUMMER SCHOOL 2011

Dates - Week 1 - 17 July - 24 July

Week 2 - 24 July - 31 July

Week 3 - 31 July - 7 August

Week 4 - 7 August - 14 August

Booking will start ON LINE in mid December
www.rscds.org

This is a very simple procedure but if you do not wish to book this way you can telephone 0131 225 3854 on the following dates during January 2011 between 10.00am and 4.00pm:

Friday 7,14,21,28

Saturday 8,15,22,29

Sunday 9,16,23,30

Monday 10,17,24,31.

From then on every Monday and Friday through February until June

Do not miss this opportunity - a wonderful time of dancing, music and company from round the world!

And now a NEW SUMMER SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY for 11-15 year olds: Week 3.

Further information from

RSCDS Headquarters (address page 2).

SUNDAY ADVANCED TECHNIQUE CLASSES

Band Hall, Coram's Fields
93 Guilford Street, WC1N 1DN
11.00am - 1.00pm

Sunday 23 January 2011

Teacher..... **Angela Young**

Musician **David Hall**

Sunday 27 February 2011

Teacher **Joan Desborough**

Musician **Barbara Manning**

Sunday 27 March 2011

Teachers... **Phillippe & Lindsey Rousseau**

Musician..... **Angela Young**

Nearest underground station: Russell Square.

Cost: £8.00 Free on-street parking available.

Local establishments available for lunch.

Further details from Margaret Catchick on

01494 772305 or

email: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

DEMONSTRATION TEAM

Your team has been very busy over the summer months since James Fairbairn's last report, giving demonstrations of Scottish country dancing on no fewer than twelve varied occasions ranging from workshops at Kensington Palace, dancing in Kensington Gardens and Duke of York Square, at Cecil Sharp House as part of 'Dance Around The World' event and joining with other dancers from the South East Branches at The Royal Albert Hall, beautifully choreographed by our very own Angela Young. The Royal Albert Hall event, The Central Council for Physical Recreation's (CCPR) 'On Show', was a fantastic experience in itself for those fortunate to have taken part, with Angela pulling all 46 dancers into a dynamic team and Simon Wales co-ordinating it all very ably.

Although the team have declined in numbers this year due to semi-retirement (two male dancers) and work related moves, albeit temporary (three male dancers), it is a measure of their talent, generosity and comradeship that the remaining team continue to cover all requested demonstrations with such professionalism and flair; thank you. That said, we are looking for new members from the many very advanced dancers in our midst. Any dancers who would like to try for the team are invited to three of our classes on the 8, 15 and 22 March 2011; please feel free to talk about it and gain more information from either Angela Young or me. You are very welcome to contact Angela Young vicechairman@rscdslondon.org.uk 07976 353608 and me demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk 01582 834815/07779202529 or speak with either of us at one of our Branch events. I look forward to any interest or comments you may have.

Elaine Wilde

FOCUS ON YOUTH

Children's Classes

The Branch children's class continues on Saturday mornings

11 December 2010, 29 January 2011,

12 March 2011 and 9 April 2011

10.15 - 11.30am

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

Teacher: **Angela Young**

Newcomers are always welcome!

Family Day - 26 March 2011

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

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

2.00 - 4.30pm Dance

to the music of **Dave Hall**

Dances will include: The Barmkin, Cumberland Reel, The Dashing White Sergeant, The Dhoon, Easy Peasy, Espie McNabb, The Flying Scotsman, The Loch Ness Monster, Le Papillion, Petronella, Reel for Jeannie and The Round Reel of Eight.

Everyone is welcome for all or part of the day and the dances in the afternoon will be talked through.

For more details please contact Angela Young on 07976 353 608/aady@mac.com

TEACHER EXAM RESULT

Judie Seymour at a recent examination passed Units 4 and 5 of the Society Certificate. We congratulate her and wish her success in furthering the objects of the Society.

REQUEST FOR FIRST AIDERS

Recently at Branch functions we have had the occasion to require a First Aider, and it's good that dancers are willing to volunteer on the spot. The committee feel that where possible we should identify a qualified First Aider at our events.

If you hold a current First Aid Certificate and would be willing to act in this capacity at any dance please let a member of the committee know - either on the night, or by email.

CHILDREN'S MEDAL TEST RESULTS

Congratulations to all the children from The Upland Dancers, Bexleyheath who entered the RSCDS Medal Test in June.

Everyone passed either with a credit (*) or a distinction (#) thanks to Wendy Kellett's intensive teaching.

Introductory Grade	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 5
Maisie Bevan#	Elena Anderson*	Charley Griffin*	Steven Dawson#
Yasmin Bligh-Hasan*	Maisie Bevan#	Feyi Kadri*	Florence Moore#
Holly Bolan#	Marina Chen#		Amy Moughton*
Zoe Edwards#	Sabrina Chen#		Roya Saeedria*
Emily Humphrey*	Molly Down#	Grade 3	
Amy Mackenzie*	Abbie Edwards#	Mirian Bligh-Hasan*	
Phoebe McNeill	Holly Jay*	Evie Booker#	
Stanley#	Moyo Kadri*	Tom Booker#	
Chloe Moleenont#	Megan Powell#	Lucy Cutting#	
Louise Ruddell*	Megan Stockbridge#	Max Moore#	

SERTA

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

The next workshop will be in Purley on 13 March 2011. It will be led by Robert Mackay and include discussions on music in Scottish country dancing and the history of dancing and dances.

The report of our last workshop by Pamela Cross appears below.

Mike Johnson

SERTA

SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP

This workshop took place in the Memorial Hall in Finchampstead, a charming spot which tested the map reading skills/satnav of those not already familiar with it. The planned topic for the first part of the session, teaching Scottish country dancing to children, had been changed when Marilyn Watson, who had agreed to give that session, had an unfortunate injury. We hope she is recovering well and we look forward to her session in the future.

Wendy Mumford stepped in at short notice. Her topic was 'organising a taster session' What we got wasn't so much a taster as a full three course meal! Her request to us not to put on dancing shoes at the start of the session left us wondering whether we were going to be sitting through a lecture, but this was a ruse to get us thinking like beginners. Wendy took us step by step through running a ceilidh for non-dancers, a taster weekend for beginners and further integration into a regular class. As we played the part of the beginners in her very practical demonstration, we enjoyed doing a number of simple dances, including some devised by Wendy to illustrate certain formations. We also enjoyed pretending not to know what we should do, and taking every opportunity to misunderstand, but Wendy took all that in her stride. At the end we had a question and answer session, and Wendy handed out some excellent summaries of her session with suggestions for dances to use to build up skills progressively. Thanks, Wendy, this was a really well planned and delivered workshop and especially admirable given the short notice.

After a break for lunch, the second session was organised by Mervyn Short and involved teaching tips for various formations from both sides of the dance. Mervyn had asked for suggestions for formations to include in advance.

However, not all of those making suggestions realised that they were going to be demonstrating their own tips for teaching the formation before getting advice from the rest of the group. That way, Mervyn cleverly got most of the teaching done for him. We had, among others, tips for teaching stepping up and down (Judy Valvona, all the way from the Isle of Wight), setting to corner and partner (Ann Dix), the tournée (Barbara Martlew), and set and link for three (Catherine Smith). A particularly memorable tip was to practice for set to corner and partner in a circle, giving hands to guide people from the centre to the edge of the circle (easier to demonstrate than describe). The 'teaching from both sides of the dance' meant that the men got a chance to dance formations such as the tournée from the women's side of the dance, which was an eye opener for them and also fun.

For both the morning and afternoon sessions we had music from Keith Anderson on the fiddle, who coped with requests for various snatches of reel, jig or strathspey music expertly played, greatly enhancing our day.

This workshop managed to be extremely useful and practical while also being great fun, the laughter almost drowning out the music at times. The lovely cakes at the tea break also deserve a mention. This will be a tough act to follow.

Pamela Cross

THE ANNIVERSARY BALL

In true Scottish style, the dancers arrived in their finery to the lilt of Bob Harman's pipes at the impressive Hammersmith Town Hall. At the largest gathering of country dancers for some time, over 200 took to the floor in the magnificent ballroom to the augmented Craigellachie Band.

The programme was well chosen to reflect the local aspects of the RSCDS and its popularity showed by the tightness of the sets for every dance. The pace was maintained by all four of the MCs, John Laurie, Simon Wales, David Hall and Andrew Kellett. The Branch was honoured by the presence of the current chairman of the Society, Alex Gray and his wife, Kate, and by the Chairman Elect, Ruth Beattie. The President, Dr Alastair MacFadyen had intended to be present but at the last minute could not attend.

A letter (see page 20) from the Her Majesty the Queen, the Society Patron, was read to the assembly as was a message from the Branch President Mary Stoker who unfortunately was indisposed. During a respite from the dancing the assembled dancers enjoyed a delightful buffet well shaken down by *Ladies' Fancy* and *The Earl of Mansfield!* There were guests from as far afield as North America, Continental Europe and Scotland. The event was superbly master-minded by Rachel Wilton and the Anniversary Sub-Committee chaired by Angela Young. Our grateful thanks to all those involved for a marvellous evening long to be remembered.

The Editor

ANNIVERSARY FUND APPEAL

We want to be looking forward in our 80th Anniversary year as well as celebrating our past, and we also want all our members to feel that they can be involved in the events that mark the Branch's Anniversary. That is why we have set up a special Anniversary Fund and inviting all our members and supporters past and present to contribute. The Fund will be used to establish a Schools Project with the aim of taking Scottish country dancing into more schools in the London area.

Every year the Branch is asked to provide teachers to take occasional classes in London schools. We cannot always accept because the number of teachers with the necessary training and skills is limited, and the shortage of teachers also means that we have to curb our ambition for pro-actively seeking opportunities to promote Scottish country dancing in schools.

How far the Project will extend will depend on how much money we can raise. We need funding for training teachers, ensuring that they have the proper authorisations to teach children, providing them with materials (including music) and expenses, plus publicity and administration.

To get the scheme off the ground we need your support. Our Anniversary Appeal Fund will provide a legacy to a future generation of dancers and will demonstrate that after 80 years London Branch continues to look forward towards a bright future for Scottish country dancing. Please send your Anniversary Appeal donation to the Branch Treasurer (address on page 2, column 3). If you pay sufficient UK tax, you can Gift Aid your donation, which means that we can claim the tax back. Please include a note with your payment declaring that you pay sufficient UK income tax, and let the taxman know on your next tax return. Every little helps – please assist us to foster interest amongst young people for the activity which has given many of us a lifetime of pleasure!

BRANCH COMMUNICATIONS TO MEMBERS

Communications to members has traditionally been via the pages of *The Reel*, plus in recent years, the information on the Branch website. Nowadays many members have email addresses which offer a third method of providing information to members. If you have provided your email address to the Branch Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis for the purpose of receiving such communication, you may have received, for example, messages from the Chairman. If you have not, in spite of the Branch knowing your email address, this is because you have not explicitly authorised us to send such communications to you. If this is the case and you wish to receive them in future, please send an email to Gaynor. (membership@rscdslondon.org.uk) asking her to add your name to the email list.

Book 46

Wednesday 6 April 2011
St Columba's Church
Teachers and Musicians
Angela Young / Dave Hall

Following on from the success of our September Class, there will be a chance for dancers to complete learning Book 46, as well as revise any requested dances. Additionally, there will be a chance to dance *The Kandahar Reel*. (See Report on previous class on Letters page)

A Former Chairman of London Branch's Perspective

"We're going to fourth week, why don't you come and join us?" After a gap of 18 years this suggestion from friends in nearby Leeds was both exciting and daunting. At the age of 72 however, would one be able to keep up?

On the principle of nothing ventured, nothing gained and recalling that there is a seniors class, I decided to take the plunge and so it was that I drove into St Andrews on a hot, sunny Sunday eager to rediscover the lovely town and more particularly to re-acquaint myself with University Hall.

The academic pile looked to all intents and purposes as before. Access is a little more difficult, security (or is it Health & Safety) having to be taken into account. Once inside however it is a different story, the sentry boxes that formerly guarded entry into Lumsden Wing have long been dismantled and nowadays Tom, Dick and Harry can walk in unheeded; indeed some of them are quartered there. Desegregation also extends to Old Wing and one eventually became accustomed to members of the fair sex emerging from the showers, without the nagging doubt that one had entered the wrong door again.

The welcome at registration has not changed. HQ staff greeted the new intake warmly and quickly sorted out any queries to ensure that we were all set on the right course. There were many familiar faces arriving, many of whom one could name (and one was always appreciative of those who reminded one of their names, on meeting). And so on to the first challenge. Most Scottish country dancers are party animals – they like to entertain and be entertained. Invitations to parties are handed out freely and the trick is to remember the where and the when. In the absence of a memory, a system is required. Apart from our contribution to the cultural life of St Andrews, I fancy that the local liquor industry benefits hugely from our presence.

Dining at University Hall is little changed. We no longer have the waitresses and there were no formal dinners, but the atmosphere is just as lively, even at breakfast. The food is varied, plentiful and OK. One notes that the rabbits, which are very numerous at St Andrews this year are everywhere, except on the menu.

The Seniors Class was located in the main hall of the Town Hall which has the benefits of plentiful space, a good floor and a grand piano; but with a somewhat boomy acoustic. Those hard of hearing were especially tested. The advantage of being a senior in the seniors class is that short term memory loss and arthritis (and other ailments) are not unusual. Even so, we were encouraged to try hard and every now and again it all came together and the effect was pleasing (even to our teachers). The class had its fair share of that essential ingredient – laughter.

Of the two big dances in the town during the week, the first – on the Tuesday evening – was given by St Andrews Branch at the Town Hall to the music of David Cunningham's band. About 150 people turned up. The atmosphere was electric, the space for dancing, very limited. This scheduling meant that the events taking place at University Hall simultaneously were less well attended, which was a pity – because they were both good.

The dance at Younger Hall on the Thursday evening is run by the town, but is the main RSCDS showcase of the week. The band this time was Marian Anderson's. During the evening demonstrations by members of the Summer School are given. London Branch was represented in the teams (as indeed we were on the staff of teachers and musicians, as well as the

students and even some of the local residents.) In former times there appeared to be no limit to the tickets sold for this dance. Combine this with a very pliable floor and it used to be possible to go through the programme without actually dancing. With fewer dancers, things have changed for the better.

Apart from the morning classes and evening dances, there was a very full programme of afternoon activities at Summer School. For a senior these activities tend more to the quiet read or rest category. A talk given by the President, Alastair MacFadyen, about his involvement in the publication of some Society dances was the exception to this regime. His audience was well rewarded by his amusing and informative anecdotes.

The Sunday of departure was again hot and sunny (!) and after the numerous farewells, there was time to reflect. I made my first visit to Summer School in 1976 (fourth week). In those days, the week started on a Monday so that in fourth week, after the Saturday night, there was a tailing off – a sense of anti-climax. This is certainly not the case nowadays – in fact I'm reliably told that fourth week this year was the busiest. It certainly came up to expectations. The big question looms – "What about 2011?". The answer is probably a cautious 'Yes (arthritis & memory permitting)'.

Andrew Cockett

A novice's experience

Approaching sunny St Andrews for my first ever week of Summer School, I confess to feeling some trepidation and wondering what on earth I had let myself in for. I needn't have worried. From the moment I arrived, to be greeted by Jane Rose, our ever enthusiastic teacher from Berkhamsted, and whisked off to register, I realised it was going to be lots of fun. After settling in to my room (much nicer than my memories of student accommodation) and attending the first of many drinks parties on the first evening I joined everyone else in a very informal short programme of easy dances that warmed us up and got people mingling.

Part of the attraction of the week for me had been the opportunity to simply focus on dancing, without having to worry about day to day distractions, getting away from work in time to get to class, or being too tired to go at all. For once, we could all simply relax and enjoy learning new dances, improving on what we already knew and generally building up our confidence. Our teachers, Grace Hill and Ian Hall, were both endlessly patient with our lower intermediate class which was a very mixed bunch of ages and nationalities but which bonded very well from the start – there were many laughs along the way and everyone was keen to be supportive. Having superb live music from Bill Ewan and Jim Lindsay was a huge treat and a completely different experience to the sometimes temperamental CDs at class.

St Andrews is a beautiful location and there were numerous things for people to do in the afternoons; two stunning beaches, the golf, terrific shopping and a very pretty historic town to wander around. One afternoon I took myself off to go horse riding down the beach but, most days, I tried to attend the afternoon walk-through of that evening's programme. I would recommend this to any other novice dancers as it helped boost the confidence and meant I was

slightly less nervous about attempting new and more complicated dances – not that I needed to worry as more experienced dancers are always so generous in their assistance and encouragement.

The Wednesday evening Ceilidh, under the expert compère skills of Dave Hall, was a highlight – it was astonishing to realise how many talented people had gathered together and we were entertained with a mixture of song, dance, music and comedy, followed by a fabulous party night.

It was a terrific week and my thanks would go to Margo Priestley and Janet Johnston, the teachers, musicians and their teams for all the effort they put in to make the event such a huge success. Despite the sore feet, I will certainly be back next year and am already looking forward to meeting old friends and new.

Morwenna Lewis

Playing (but not football) at St Andrews

Spain 1 – France 1 Germany 2 – Russia 1
Canada 1 – USA 1 Scotland 5 – England 5

Scores from the football World Cup this summer? No – the numbers of residents from these countries present at the RSCDS Summer School Musicians' Course this year! It was a very cosmopolitan group of 17 – an accordion player from Canada, a 'cellist from the USA, a beautiful young violinist from the Moscow conservatoire, a fiddler and a pianist from Germany ...

These 17 met every morning with their tutors, Gordon Simpson and George Meikle, in a church hall near University Hall, practising together, with later sessions for individual instrument groups. In the afternoons smaller ensembles practised playing together till 3 or 4 pm. But that was not the end of the day as most of the musicians were to be found in the Party Room every evening, still playing – though not necessarily Scottish music! Some of the class musicians joined in at the piano or on their accordion playing good old tunes from the past, with dancers singing along when they knew the words. There was, however, a curfew on Musicians' Course members who in previous years could be heard playing till the wee small hours every night. This year they dutifully went off to bed at midnight so as not to disturb the dancers who wanted to sleep!

The day-time classes are very important (learning to play in the specific idiom for Scottish dancing, learning to play together and to listen to each other, acquiring the techniques to give the music lift and swing) but the evening jam sessions are also vital when the less experienced try to keep up with the experts who can play hundreds of tunes from memory or easily sight-read new ones.

All this hard work built up until Thursday night when the three small ensembles each played three dances for the dancers in the Common Room, and the grand finale on Saturday when all the course musicians joined the band on the stage at the Younger Hall to play several dances at the last dance of the week.

The week flies by and soon it is time to go home, our ears full of music, our minds full of resolutions to keep practising so as not to lose the new-found skills, sorry to part from our fellows with whom the musical bond has been strengthened – but this year, thanks to the midnight curfew, not quite in the zombie-like state that we've known in the past!

Roll on Musicians' Course 2011!!

Diana Sarran

LONDON DAY SCHOOL 2010

I very much enjoy the London Branch Annual Day School and have three times made the journey from the North of England to attend it. Here is an account of my experience this year.

Paddington Academy is a pleasant venue with a large space for reception, catering etc. and enough halls (one of which is a dance studio with barre and mirrors) for the three classes. Its position in the West of London made my car journey easy, and there is ample secure parking. It is also convenient for access by public transport.

I was taught in the morning by Janet Johnston with Andrew Lyon at the piano and in the afternoon by Angela Young with David Hall playing the accordion. There was enough room in both classes for us to spread our sets wide and long, so that we could use the travelling steps just practised. We learned dances containing sequences of figures which lead to awkward or unfamiliar movements or foot changes. I very much appreciated being shown the associated points of technique and having the chance to practise them in isolation and then in the context of the dance.

For the late afternoon session, I chose the Highland/Step class taught by Janet Johnston with George MacLennan at the piano. We learned the hornpipe 'Come Ashore Jolly Tar' by Derek Haynes. This was an excellent choice for a class where most were principally country dancers: the steps were new and interesting but still achievable within the time available.

All this, together with the ceilidh (which I could only stay for part of) made up a very full day. Organising an event of this complexity must be an enormous task. I thank all those involved in the work necessary to provide so much pleasure to so many people. I look forward to next year's London Branch Day School.

Geoff Hodges

RSCDS Manchester and Leeds

NICOL McLAREN COMES TO LONDON

To play for the Friday night ceilidh and Saturday night country dance in the middle of September.

A rare treat for dancers was the visit to Pont Street by the Glencraig Scottish Dance Band led by Nicol McLaren. Real toe-tapping stuff, genuine magic from the highlands, they played like a well oiled machine from their very first chords.

Anyone keen to know their first from their third position of their feet should have studied hard the beautiful demonstrations by the London Dem team, who are an example to all of us.

The dances had been deliberately kept straightforward to give dancers the best chance to listen to such captivating music. The infectious enthusiasm of Simon Wales was ideal for explaining some high energy dances at Friday's ceilidh. Equally the very clear recaps at Saturday's dance from Maureen Campbell and Gaynor Curtis left no excuse for error. Saturday's dance brought forth a full attendance of dancers from clubs in and around London and we welcomed once again Peter Richards and Kay Sutherland from Vancouver to brighten up the evening with their lovely smiles.

Attendance was lower on Friday, possibly due to the papal visit, but at the ceilidh I did spot, thoroughly enjoying themselves, several Marlborough School students who had been considered lost to the cause, visitors from the Reelers, Cecil Sharp House, and an Irish dance club. As well there was a lady from Stuttgart in Germany who started dancing at Summer School in 2009. Scottish dancing appeals across the board.

In addition to Nicol, the Glencraig Band consisted of an all-star line up: Patsy Reid a recent Glenfiddich fiddle champion from Perth, the legendary Graham Berry from Glenfarg on his piano keyboard, and our own London stalwart, Graham Hamilton from the Craiggellachie Band applying well timed drums. Nicol led and chose the music and declared

himself delighted with the opportunity to play Pat Hamilton's beautifully tuned traditional Hohner Morino accordion on both evenings. These memorable two evenings I shall long remember. Thanks to all who contributed to the success.

Tom Cooper

There are two more chances to dance to bands from Scotland this year – Ian Cathcart at the end of November and Marian Anderson for the Christmas dance in December.

CCPR FESTIVAL AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

On the 25 September a number of Branch members came together to watch the latest show of the CCPR at the Royal Albert Hall. The highlight for us was the London Branch showcasing Scottish country dancing. Angela Young assembled 46 dancers from the South East with Branch members forming the core. It was a joy to see the famous arena filled with dancers giving their best and thoroughly enjoying the experience.

Angela chose six fairly simple dances making the dancers weave intricate patterns using traditional figures to show the dancers covering the whole of the arena.

The most memorable feature was using 32 dancers in four sets to show the St Andrews Cross and changing patterns to incorporate the remaining dancers and finishing in a perfect circle.

Well done, Angela, for what must have been a daunting prospect assembling that number of dancers from a wide area and producing a magnificent spectacle.

The other items on the programme were diverse forms of dancing from modern, Keep Fit, Indian, Irish, junior members of the Royal Ballet School and a delightful item of waltzes danced in Victorian evening dress.

The afternoon ended with nearly all of the participants in their colourful costumes filling the arena, doing 'The Lambeth Walk'.

Owen Meyer

(picture on centre pages)



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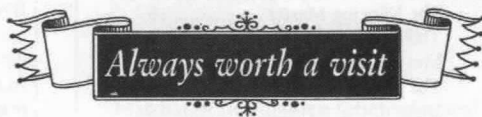
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thornhill

Kilt Pins

Dear Wilson,

Stephen Webb's letter about kilt pins, states pins were used in the 17th and 18th centuries to hold a belted plaid in position. This makes me wonder if these early kilt pins might have been similar to the ones I received along with my kilt as a piper in the Black Watch in 1942.

At that time soldiers' kilts had no straps or buckles and the two common pins supplied were used to hold the kilt in place. These pins were of tempered steel and 70 mm long similar to a ladies hat pin. Similar pins may also have been useful to fasten a belted plaid, and a little kilt until the last war.

On putting on a military kilt and wrapping round the under apron, the top apron was then pulled tightly round; using your left elbow to hold the under apron in place; a pin is then pushed through the top apron on your right side, pointing to the back and then just catching the under apron, turn the pin round 180 degrees, so that it is pointing forward push the pin into the material. In this way the kilt is extremely tight, then it will hang nicely and does not droop at the back.

Atholl Kilt Pin

The Atholl Kilt Pin is possibly the oldest known decorative kilt pin and has been worn since the 19th century by the Atholl Highlanders, The Duke of Atholl's private regiment. This simple kilt pin consists of two silver beads, 12mm diameter joined by a silver pin 60mm long. One bead is fixed while the other is threaded.

Bill Clement

Worcester Park

Kilt Pins

Dear Wilson,

I would like to add a caveat to Stephen Webb's letter about kilt pins in Reel 273. They should only be used, as Steve says, to weigh down the outer apron. Never pin the aprons together, as this can damage the garment.

When my daughter, Catriona, started high school, the uniform included a garment optimistically described as a kilt. It was actually a kilted skirt of indifferent quality. A kilted skirt is a lightweight lady's garment, with considerable differences in construction from a man's kilt. A well-made kilted skirt, like a kilt, has aprons wide enough to overlap about half way round the body. Inexpensive ones tend to have much narrower aprons, and are therefore more prone to gape. This was the case with Catriona's school uniform. A blanket pin, as described by Stephen, was provided, so Catriona took the logical action and pinned the aprons together. Within a few weeks there were two holes in each apron! I had to spend about two hours darning them, and then sewing on a large snap fastener to prevent the problem recurring.

Stephen also mentions the risk of accidents. A kilt pin is not very likely to be the cause of damage, although I bought my husband one in a thistle design which turned out to have sharp points on the leaves, causing him a cut. The supplier told me that this had never occurred before, and filed the edges so it did not happen again. I feel that it is safest to avoid large rings and loose jewellery when dancing, as I once had a bracelet caught in my hair while dancing under an arch, and brooches need to be securely fastened.

Elizabeth Bennett

Highgate, London

Paternoster Square

Dear Wilson,

Yes, I remember dancing at Paternoster Square, but I am surprised no one mentioned its mega-drawback. At my first evening there I wore an almost new pair of ghillies – and by the end of the evening the soles looked as if mice had been gnawing them: holes everywhere! Throughout just one evening the concrete had steadily ground away the soles as I danced.

If I remember rightly everyone else wore rather more sturdy and 'sensible' footwear. Does anyone else remember their ghillies suffering a similar fate – or was I the only one to be so naïve?

Elizabeth Woodman

Edinburgh

Caddam Wood

Dear Wilson,

John Mitchell's story about the tune for the dance 'Caddam Wood' is not quite correct.

Yes, I believe, Miss Milligan did stop the band playing this tune one evening at Summer School. However, this tune was never a pipe tune. In fact, it is a European Folk tune. Dutch Folk dancers sing a folk song having a great many verses to the first part of this tune.

In the 1950s, there was a court case. Two well known SCD musicians each claiming to have composed this tune. The outcome revealed that neither composed the first part, but one of them had composed a second part to this European folk tune.

The reason Miss Milligan disliked the tune was because of its Polka rhythm, which she could not abide, and maintained it was foreign to Scotland, also asked for a two beat Pas de Basque.

Finally Miss Milligan did use many pipe tunes for Scottish country dances. In particular, she selected the well known pipe tune 'The Glendaruel Highlanders' as the original tune for the dance *Bonnie Anne*, and again the tune 'Dovecot Park' for *MacDonald of Sleat*.

Remember there are great many pipe tunes, which are used for SCDs, i.e. *The Duke of Atholl's Reel*, *The Earl of Mansfield*, *The Reel of the 51st Division*.

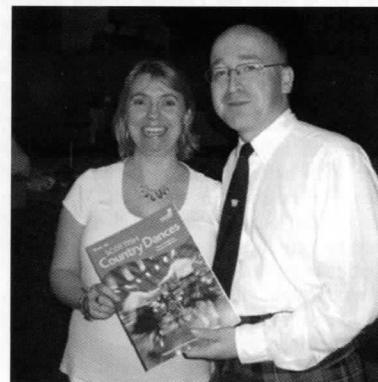
Bill Clement

The Most Popular Dances

Iain Ross has recently listed the most popular dances in the SE England over the last year from nearly 100 events incorporating 1800 dances. Below is the list of the top twenty dances with their frequency in bold. Those interested in the complete list should contact the Editor by email.

Mairi's Wedding	24
Hooper's Jig	23
Pelorus Jack	23
The Montgomeries' Rant.....	21
Postie's Jig.....	21
The Bees of Maggieknockater..	20
The Belle of Bon Accord.....	20
The Sailor.....	19
The Minister on the Loch	18
The Irish Rover.....	17
Quarries' Jig.....	17
Shiftn' Bobbins	17
Wild Geese.....	17
The Dancing Master	16
The Dream Catcher.....	16
Mrs MacPherson of Inveran	16
The Reel of the Royal Scots	16
Duke of Duke Perth.....	15
MacDonald of the Isles.....	15
The Wind on Loch Fyne.....	15

New Books of Dances from the RSCDS



This summer saw the launch of two new books of dances with accompanying CDs. For teachers of younger and inexperienced dancers a further 24 jigs and reels are now added in *A Second Book of Graded Dances* to the original book of 24 Graded SC dances for children and beginners published 1960, a further 10 SCD for Children 1991 and more recently in Book 40 10 SCD for young people and new dancers in 1999. The other new book this year is a return to the numbered books discontinued in 2005 as *Book 46* of 13 dances (an odd number it seems as, since Book 40, except leaflets, the number has regularly been 10 dances).

Having been at all the Branch Dance Scottish Week events the previous week plus a few others held at St Columba's Church I was there again on 23 September to catch up on what I had missed by not attending St Andrews Summer School this year. Angela Young and David Hall (pictured) were taking a class of mainly teachers through as many as possible dances from Book 46 in two hours. Angela on the piano and Dave teaching or was it vice-versa, well, for this talented and versatile pair it was both! Cleverly, they alternated roles jokingly telling us that either one had got the better deal depending on the complexity of music such as in *High Society* where Colin Dewar had composed a tune in the style of Ian MacPhail or for teaching the circulating allemande in *The Flower of Glasgow!*

Angela and Dave expertly taught eight of the 13 dances sadly, due to pressing time having to miss out the 128-bar reel quadrille and John Wilkinson's already popular *Peggy Spouse MBE* with its unusual angled half poussette start. But certainly, *Scott Meikle* and *Best Set in the Hall* being the other two dances from our Christmas programme were covered. For me this latter New Zealand devised dance, with a clever variation by the late Alec Hay on half reels of four incorporating setting, was my favourite requiring forethought, direction awareness with flow and with a good tune will, I believe 'catch on'. As an aside, readers should know that the HQ Publications Committee substituted the dance deviser's chosen tune to dance this to with one of their own choice, the deviser's choice is *Danse de chez nous* a French Canadian jig which New Zealand dancers continue to prefer.

The class of over three sets was missed by many, perhaps due to dance overload, who would have found it both enjoyable and informative. Their loss, our gain! I reflected that it has been five years since such a class was run previously by LB and it was so worthwhile that with five dances remaining from Book 46 and a further 24 from Graded Book 2 there was more than enough material for a reprise! So, come back Angela and Dave and let more dancers experience the excellent evening you most generously gave us!

Stephen Webb

NEW RECORDINGS

Scottish Country Dances – Ah'm askin – The Glencaig Scottish Dance Band (TRAX 355).
 The Ribble Valley Book – Nicol McLaren (TRVCD 001).
 Let's go Scottish Country Dancing – Volume 1 – Rob Gordon and his Band.
 Scottish Dances Volume 14 (from Highlander Music) – Craigievar Band (HRMCD 514).
 The Fisherman's Reel – Marian Anderson's Band (HRMCD 018).

Many of us in the London Branch have been lucky to hear Nicol during the past few months and been captivated by his excellent playing. These two CDs confirm his excellence. In the first we have old favourites: New Scotland Strathspey, The Plantation Reel, Pines of Pitlochry, Alison Rose, Schiehallion, The Waggle O' the Kilt and The Duchess Tree with nine newer cracking dances. In the second there has unfortunately been a mix-up with one of the tunes. One of the originals in the book is Rose Among the Heather but on the CD Nicol plays a different tune which he claims to be the original. This is an unfortunate slip and at best some misunderstanding somewhere along the line. I should also mention that there are 20 dances in the book but only room for 16 dances on the CD.

The late Rob Gordon's CD is culled from some LPs issued, I think, in the 1970s. I had the LPs at the time and it is really good to hear the dances again on CD. The Duchess Tree is a feast to savour as is Lord MacLay's Reel and Mrs Hepburn Belches of Invermay.

It is always good to hear a local band on CD

MUSICIANS' WORKSHOP

15 musicians (fiddlers, box players, pianists and drummers) attended the Musicians' Workshop led by Ian Robertson at the Day School on 16 October.

We were sent a fine selection of music in advance, illustrating the different styles of tune needed for each type of dance. Ian emphasised the importance of playing as a band rather than just a group of individual musicians, by listening to each other, keeping a close eye on the leader's tempo, and trying to produce consistent phrasing in the tune.

Good and bad rhythm and phrasing were demonstrated to show how best to lift the dancers. As a multi-instrumentalist, Ian was also able to give us all tips on how to produce a better sound and a strong but light rhythm.

We learned a lot, and many thanks are due to Ian for giving us such an enjoyable and instructive workshop, conducted with a very light touch.

Charlie Stewart

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch costs £19.00 per annum for UK based members (£19.50 for Europe; £21.50 elsewhere). There is a discount of £3 for members aged 18 to 25 and for each of two members living at the same address. For members aged 12-17 there is a discount of £7.50. Current members of other Branches can join London Branch for £4.00 per annum if they live in the UK (£4.50 in Europe and £6.50 elsewhere).

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

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

and Craigievar maintain on this recording the very lively style which we hear when we see them at dances. A glance at their engagements in *The Reel* confirms their growing popularity. They are very much a family band with Alistair Forbes on accordion, his brother Stuart on fiddle and Stuart's son Alex on keyboard. David Home guests on second accordion: no drummer but Alex's strong left hand makes up for it. Among the old favourites in the disc are Aird of Coigach, Old Nick's Lumber Room, The Rothesay Rant, La Tempête, Gavin's Reel and The Birks of Invermay.

Marian's Band is another lively one with loads of 'get up and go' and we look forward to hearing them at the Branch Christmas Dance. We will enjoy it if this CD is typical and I know it is! On most CDs of late there have been one or two dances for which the Band have not chosen to play the original tune. Here, Marian does not play the very distinctive tune for Shifftin' Bobbins. I cannot understand why – must ask her in December. It would be better to simply say a 'Set of Reels – 8 x 32' I still cannot get over Nicol playing Bonnie Dundee for Posties Jig on an earlier recording! But I must mention that Craigievar play the correct tune, The Island of Mull for My Heather Hills.

On the Rocks is the unusual title for James Coult's latest CD. The rocks being in the foreground of the cover photograph, taken by David Cunningham, at Dysart looking across the Firth of Forth to Edinburgh. There are a few country dance tracks (including Shifftin' Bobbins to the correct tune) but they are all a bit fast for comfortable dancing. There is a lovely set of strathspeys (4 x 32) for the Wishing Well with Lindsay Ross' fine original. The highlights for me are 4 tracks of pipe marches – 6/8s, 2/4s and 4/4s. They are fantastic.

Highland Shortbread is a new CD from Keith Smith and Muriel Johnstone: no country dances but lots of good listening as always from this duo. Many of the tunes composed by Keith and Muriel with two beautiful waltz tunes by Keith – my favourite track. Buy and listen.

That is all for now. Next time I will tell you about two Jimmy Shand LPs now on CD, and Colin Dewar's Special Requests Volume 8.

Meantime feel free to ring me with any queries or comments.

John Laurie 020 7286 1923

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Dance Scottish Week

Kensington Gardens

Left:
Jeff Robertson dances *A Reel for Jeannie* with an enthusiastic overseas visitor at the last Kensington Gardens afternoon dance for 2010



80th Anniversary Ball

Left:
Arriving guests are greeted with the welcome sound of the pipes played by Bob Harman.



80th Anniversary Ball

Above:
Kenneth and Ruth Beattie join with our Chairman Jeff Robertson and outgoing Society Chairman Alex Gray before the evening's dancing begins.

Left:
Guest's Border's Branch Members from left to right Zena Guthrie, Margaret Williams, Sheila Jupp, David Williams, Alan Davis, May Sloan and Sue Davis enjoying an aperitif before the Ball!

Right:
London Branch's finest – Ball MC line-up John Laurie, Andrew Kellett, David Hall with Simon Wales



CCPR event at the Royal Albert Hall

Every five years a CCPR multi-dance festival is held in the Royal Albert Hall in London. For the 2010 occasion Angela Young choreographed, with 46 dancers, an arena display of Scottish country dancing which was greatly appreciated by all that went.

Far left:
Returning Committee Member Lena Robinson looking bonnie for the arena display.



Dance Scottish Week

Open House

Left page, top right:
London Branch Dem Team dances the medley *Schiehallion* as part of the Open House events.

Left page, right:
Karl Sandeman played for the Open House event, here seen with Angela and James, MCs for the evening

Ceilidh

Near right:
Top musicians Patsy Reid, Graham Hamilton, Graham Berry and Glencraig SCD Band leader Nicol McLaren.

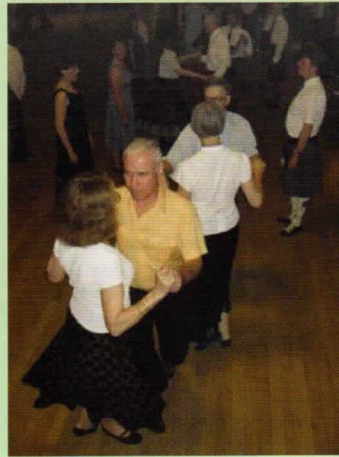
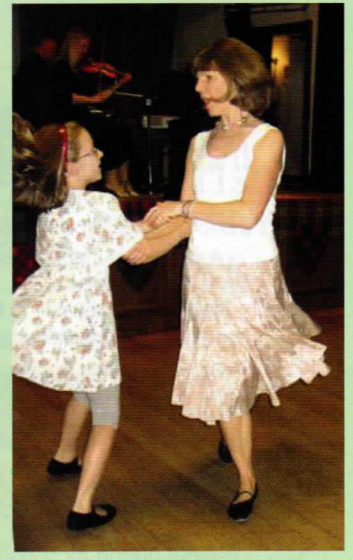
Far right:
Jenny Evans and Anya spin in a ceilidh dance.

Scotland in September Branch Dance

Below near right: Danielle and Jerry with Valerie and Mark dance the all round poussette in *The Gentleman*.

Below far right:
Jeff greets returning Vancouver visitors Kay Sutherland and Peter Richards.

PICTURE PAGES



London Branch Day School

Right:
Maureen Campbell Studies her notes before starting to teach

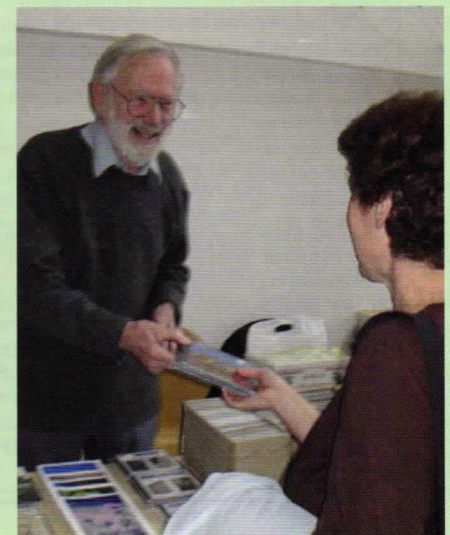
Far right:
Pianist Andrew Lyon, Day School organizer Margaret Catchick with Advanced Class Teacher Janet Johnston.

Below:
Musicians' Workshop being led by Ian Robertson as part of the Day School.

Far right below:
Ian Anderson with the bookstall attends to the dancing needs of Pauline Cashmore during the lunchtime break at the Day School.



Pictures on these pages by
Graham Berry, Stephen Webb and
Owen Meyer



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

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

Jeff Robertson

LIFE STYLE CHANGES

Histories of social dancing frequently comment upon the manner in which Country Dancing in longwise sets was replaced by the quadrilles during the early years of the nineteenth century. Was this merely a change brought about by society seeking something different, or was it the result of changes in the life style of the "gentry". The usual comment is that the upper classes adopted and developed a peculiar style of dancing, this was invariably adopted by those lower down the social ladder – which resulted in the upper classes seeking something new. It is, however, possible that changes in contemporary life styles contributed in some way to these changes.

During the eighteenth century most country houses had spacious reception rooms, which included a large hall or ballroom which could accommodate up to 100 guests for country dancing. There would be an adjacent room containing a large buffet table where guest could refresh themselves as they wished and also a separate room for cards. In addition the estates had large barns in which the tenantry and employees could be similarly entertained at appropriate times. As noted by Elizabeth Grant:

"We had three harvest homes to keep in Rothiemurchus: a very small affair indeed at the Croft; a luncheon in the parlour for us children only and a view of the barn prepared for the dinner and dance to the servants."

"At the Dell... it was a much merrier meeting... (after dining the ladies withdrew and when the gentlemen joined them)... the parlour was prepared for dancing. With waster ecstasies we heard the first sweep of that masterly bow across the stings of my father's Cremona. The first strathspey was danced by my father and Mrs McIntosh as the principal personages. The other pair from the foursome was of less consequence. ... after the more stately reels of the opening of the dance were over, when the servants and labourers and neighbours of that degree came in turns into the parlour, Mary came along with the others, and I have seen her often figuring away in the very same set with Mr McIntosh, his goodwife looking on with a very peculiar smile: too pretty and too good she was to fear such rivalry."

"We were accustomed to dance with all the company, just as if they were our equals; it was always done and without injury to either party. There was no fear of undue assumption on the one side, or low familiarity on the other; a vein of thorough good breeding ran through all ranks, of course influencing the manners and rendering the intercourse of all most particularly agreeable."

"The Doune harvest home was very nearly like that at the Dell, only that dinner was in the farm kitchen and the ball in the barn, and two fiddlers stuck up on tubs formed the orchestra." "...we all joined in the reels the hour or two we stayed..."

"The great event of the Christmas time was the floaters' ball. As the harvest home was given to the farm, this entertainment belonged to the forest--all engaged in wood manufacture, their wives and families being invited. ... We delighted in the floater's ball, so very large a party, such a crowd of strangers. Some splendid dancers from Strathspey, the hay loft, the straw loft, and the upper floor of the threshing mill all thrown open en suite. Two sets of fiddlers playing different tunes, punch made in the washing tubs a perfect illumination of tallow dips. It is very surprising that the boards took

the pounding they got; the thumping noise of the many energetic feet could have been heard half a mile off."

Similarly she comments about staying in the Bothie at shearing time:

"The Bothie had but two rooms, a parlour and a kitchen; the gentlemen occupied the kitchen,

after walking miles all day
we danced for hours at night

the ladies the parlour, all sleeping on the floor. The cooking kitchen was outside in the open air, near an old wall under a tree. We took all our meals out of doors, and so merry were we, so happy in this gypsy life we would have enjoyed a week of it instead of the two days my mother limited our visit to, out of consideration for the resources of Mrs Mitchell; particularly as two fiddlers were of the party, and after walking miles all day we danced for hours at night in the gentlemen's larger apartment."

Any social meeting appears to have been an excuse for dancing as she also recorded:

"The first incident that comes to memory is the death of old George Ross, not the gardener, the hen wife's husband. He was not so very old a man but he had never been a strong one and, catching cold, inflammation came on; a bottle of whiskey or more failed to cure him, so he died, and was waked, after the old fashion shaved and partly dressed and set up on his bed, all the countryside collecting round him. After an abundance of refreshments the company set to dancing, when, from the jolting of the floor, I suppose, out tumbled the corpse into the midst of the reel, and away scampered the guests screaming and running about the farm yard declaring the old man had come to life again. As the bereaved wife had not been the gentlest of helpmates, this was generally supposed to be a warning--of what however was not declared; all that was plain was that the spirit of the deceased was not satisfied. Some of the spectators had seen his eyes roll, his hand raised, his head shake."

The Pitmain tryst was the annual Cattle Market held each September on the Moor between Kingussie and Pitmain. In 1824, Elizabeth Grant recorded:

"After the market in the morning there was a dinner in the evening, Drovers, farmers and lairds all meeting in the large room at Pitmain to enjoy the best good cheer the country afforded. ... This year it was proposed that the ladies should be invited to shine on the assemblage--not to join the dinner, but to prepare tea in another room, which would break up the punch party earlier, and allow of the larger apartment being meanwhile prepared for dancing. ... The Ball was received with much favour, and in future always followed the Tryst, doing a deal more in the way of improving the country than anyone at first sight would suppose."

But when writing in 1830, she indicates, that a change had occurred in society relationships:

"All this is over now. ... Our former wise occasional reunions are matters of history; each section now appears to keep apart, unnoticed by the class above, and in turn not noticing the class below. ... The highlands is not the highlands now, ... "I found amongst the Kinrara guests at the Pitmain Tryst our old Arklow place friend Colonel Thornton, he who had taught us all waltzing..."

John Mitchell

ARGYLL GROUP WEEKEND AT DILLINGTON HOUSE, SOMERSET

We assembled on an autumnal Friday evening in the attractive Tudor mansion, now a residential adult education centre. The blazing open fire was a welcome contrast to the torrential rain which had covered much of the West Country earlier that day. Our weekend began with a welcome, introductions and dinner with a Scottish theme including haggis and venison. There followed relaxed social dancing.

Saturday morning was devoted to classes. With new facilities at Dillington, it had become possible to run two classes simultaneously and these were taken by Jessie Stuart and Mervyn Short, with Christina Hood and Robert Mackay providing the music. The classes provided opportunities both to learn some new dances and to brush up on technique. Teaching and music were both excellent. The afternoon afforded an opportunity to enjoy the optional "non-Scottish" dance class – on this occasion Old Time Dancing – to relax in Dillington's gardens or to explore the area, with its National Trust properties such as Montacute House and Barrington Court and the towns of Ilminster, Chard and Crewkerne.

Saturday evening included a pre-prandial wine reception and a second session of social dancing, this time to Green Ginger.

Following more classes on Sunday morning, the weekend concluded with a leisurely lunch and farewells.

After a gap of probably 20 years since I last participated in a weekend school, I found the Argyll Group's weekend an extremely enjoyable experience – the dancing activities, the excellent venue and food and the chance to meet old and new friends. As another "new recruit" put it: "Excellent! – that's all you need to say!"

Graham Miller

AS IF WE DIDN'T KNOW!

Scottish country dancing could be the key to keeping fit in old age, a leading university claims.

Participants in a study who took part in the dancing were found to have better levels of fitness than people who did other exercises. Dr Paul Dougall, an expert in dance and drama at Strathclyde University led the research. He said 'It is generally assumed that dancing is good exercise but we wanted to measure whether Scottish country dancing has specific health benefits.'

The study focused on older women and had 70 participants – 35 women aged between 60 and 85 who practise Scottish country dancing and 35 in the same age group who took part in other forms of exercise. The comparison between two groups who were active in different types of exercise suggested that country dancing was particularly effective at keeping people fit.

Dr Susan Dewhurst an exercise physiologist from Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences led the assessment of the participants' fitness. She said 'We used state of the art equipment to give very precise measurements of muscle quality and function. By studying participants of various ages we were able to build a comprehensive picture of the considerable health benefits of Scottish country dancing'. ▶

TOP AWARD FOR DAVINIA



Davinia Miln collects her award from James Rook (left), MD Sanctuary Personnel (sponsors of the awards) and Hilton Dawson, (right) Chief Executive, BASW

Having purchased my ticket for the RSCDS 80th anniversary Ball I discovered I had been put forward for the Social Work Awards 2010! One portfolio later and a long drive to Bedford, after arranging the flowers at Hammersmith town hall I was at a rather different kind of evening. Of the 300 guests 16 of us were shortlisted. The chief executive of the British Association of Social Workers did the presentations and I was surprised to discover I had been awarded first prize.

After dinner we had reggae and rap (I did think of you all): the beat was good and I had a lovely dance or bop to be more precise and although there was certainly not a pointed toe in sight, there were lots of sparkly dresses. Later on in the evening the DJ wore a kilt with red T-shirt which definitely felt a bit more 'like home'.

When not seen at dances I work as a social worker. I trained first as a teacher and moved into social work after working with children with difficulties. My career has spanned Children and Families to Older Adults.

I feel honoured to receive the 2010 social work award as I have always been a front line worker. The founder of the awards wishes to promote good practice so that we do not just hear about the tragedies and sad times.

To sum up as young Beth (James and Sam Fairbairn's daughter) has so succinctly written in a card to me "Dear Auntie Davinia, Congratulations on winning the prize for being helpful". I couldn't have put it better myself and that just about sums up my working life!

Davinia Miln

▶ Dr Dougall believes the benefits are not just physical, and that dancing exercises the mind as well. He added 'We chose to study this particular type of dancing partly because it is very popular with older people in Scotland but also because it has steps which have to be followed precisely. This calls for a particular level of fitness and mental alertness'

The participants took part in 3 hour fitness assessment sessions to monitor their strength, stamina, flexibility and balance. When compared with average fitness levels for women of their age, all 70 compared favourably. But those who danced had better levels of fitness in some or all of the areas assessed than those who did not. The study group of dancers was assembled with the help of the RSCDS.

From the Dundee Courier 7 August 2010



THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Lucy Clark was an enthusiastic member of the RSCDS. She was a professional teacher of Scottish country dancing and an accomplished accordion player. She taught Scottish dancing in schools as far apart as Rickmansworth, Beaconsfield and High Wycombe. She also taught adults and children at classes throughout this area.

In 1955 she started her own class in Amersham Old Town and this flourished at the Royal British Legion Hall until her death in 1966. Lucy had a reputation as a strict teacher who demanded high standards of her dancers. She would regularly demonstrate footwork or dance figures while playing her accordion, which also provided the music for the class.

To give her dancers experience of dancing without instruction, she introduced monthly Saturday evening dances to a live band, usually

**... tell her of your dancing experience.
You were then invited to the next dance,
on a trial basis**

McBain's: Bill Farr leading, Alan Humberstone on piano and a young Ian Muir on second accordion, attracting upwards of one hundred enthusiasts from a wide area each month.

Owen Meyer recalls that if as a non-member of the club, you wanted to attend a dance, you were expected to phone Lucy Clark to introduce yourself and tell her of your dancing experience. You were then invited to the next dance, on a trial basis, to assess your ability and only if you reached the required "Lucy standard" could you attend the dances regularly. What wonderful dances they were! He remembers that the members of Mary Stoker's London class had a head start!

When Lucy Clark died in 1966 her class decided that her work in promoting Scottish country dancing should continue, along with her name, so they formed the club which bears her name and continues to this day. One of those dancers, Muriel Agnew, not only danced at Lucy's classes, but also with Bill Ireland and Mary Stoker. She also tells of the high standards expected in those days.

It was Bill Farr's wife, Valerie, who taught when Patricia and John Reeve started there in the early 70s, and the dreaded big mirror that Lucy had to improve their steps was still used. Valerie devised the dance *Cramond Bridge*. Later, Wesley Harry took on the teaching and stayed for many years.

During this time a couple of teenagers, brother and sister, were members. During one main dance John Reeve recalls seeing the sister up on the stage at the piano whilst Alan stood aside. Who was this talented young woman? Judith Robertson – who with her brother Ian started up Sound Company. The rest is history of course!

John also recalls a memorable evening when the club was invited to dance a demonstration in Amersham for the English Speaking Union. Puzzled as to why three out of the four men had a "knife down his stocking" and one did not, a very large African gentleman approached Wesley and enquired whether the one "without the knife" was a vegetarian?

Marian Rudd and John Reeve

OBITUARIES

Lewis Innes

1941 - 2010

Lewis passed away on 23 October 2010 after a protracted battle with prostate cancer. He was a familiar face behind the display counter of the S.N.D.C. Trade Stand at dances, competitions, day schools and Gatherings, but few know that he was in fact a very competent Scottish country dancer. Starting with "The Reivers Scottish Dance Group" in 1962 Lewis and his wife Margaret learnt the repertoire of performance dances and performed at the many bookings including the International Folk Festival at Letterkenny, Eire. The Reivers flourished until 1970 when the S.N.D.C. emerged both as a performance group and a trading company. Trade grew from very humble local beginnings into an International dealership in Scottish Country and Highland Dance Shoes, Publications and Recordings.

To many of you he will be remembered for his cheerful voice on the end of the telephone, to those that knew him personally he will be remembered for his ever helpful demeanour and all of us will miss the service he provided for 40 years. For me, I will remember the business partner I had and the lifelong friend whose company I had the pleasure of enjoying for some 55 years.

His Scottish heritage came through his father and he has often recalled to me many of the happy times he spent in the village of Rannoch, his father's homeland. He leaves Margaret, his wife, Fiona, his daughter and his sister, Janet, all of whom wish to express their thanks to members of the Scottish Dance fraternity for their kind messages and to those who were able to attend the crematorium ceremony held on 2 November.

Colin Robertson

PEGGY'S LOVE

The original instructions for bars 17 - 24 of this Strathspey were extremely clear and concise.

17-20 First couple dance a half figure of eight round the second couple to return to their own sides of the set.

Obviously at the end of this movement the first couple are in second place on their own sides.

21-24 First and second couples poussette (first four bars of an All Round Poussette):

21 they advance to join two hands with partner.

22 they dance diagonally out to the sides.

23 they dance diagonally into the middle.

24 they turn with two hands to finish facing the top ready for the Allemande which follows.

The Publications Committee have apparently decided to alter the dance so that it will in future read:

17-19 First couple dance a half figure of eight round the second couple to return to their own sides of the set. (Rather a long way to go in three bars).

20 First and second couples dance into the middle of the set.

21-24 First and second couples dance a half poussette:

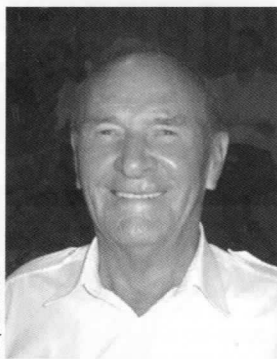
21 they dance diagonally out to the sides.

22 they dance diagonally into the middle.

23 they turn with two hands.

On bar 24 they would normally fall back to the side lines, in which case they would be in the wrong position to start the allemande which follows. As they are in position ready for the allemande at the end of bar 23 what are they supposed to do on bar 24?

John Mitchell



Stephen Webb

Ron Watson

On 4 August 2010, The Scottish Dance World, lost one of the south's leading lights, sadly Ron Watson passed away.

In 1952, Ron left his home in Arbroath Scotland, to live in the north of England for a short while. He then moved south to live in Eastleigh in Hampshire. It was here that he started attending classes at the Winchester Branch of the RSCDS. In his youth he had done his fair share of ceilidh dancing, but he took to the country dancing in a big way.

It soon became clear that this man had all the correct ingredients, to not only to be a very accomplished dancer, but he also was showing that he had a natural aptitude for teaching, so he was given the Beginners Class to teach in 1956.

He gained his Full Teaching Certificate in 1957 at the Summer School in St Andrews. His examiner was Miss Jean Milligan, who at that time he was very much in awe of. She told him that he had a great future in teaching for the RSCDS and was sure that all would enjoy his classes, How right she was!

In 1958 Ron moved to Broadstone in Dorset. He soon became the teacher of the Broadstone Scottish Dance Club. Around this time, he also joined the newly formed Bournemouth Reel Club and became their teacher in 1961.

It was due to Ron that Bournemouth gained RSCDS status; it became a Branch on 6 August 1965.

In 1996, Ron left Bournemouth to pastures new. In 1997 he, along with Mrs Pauline Fillis and accordionist Mr Robin Baird, started the Minstead group for social dancing, which he was still very involved with after 13 years. They will miss him really badly, particularly as MC on their Monthly socials. As well as this, in 1998, he took over the New Forest Dance Group, where he was still teaching a shared class with Mrs Maggie Morgan, until his sudden death.

Throughout Ron's dancing life, he firmly upheld the aims of the RSCDS and encouraged others to become teachers. He was passionate about the music and was frequently heard to burst into "song" as his exuberance bubbled over whilst dancing.

Ron will be greatly missed for his excellent teaching, training of Demonstration Teams and for being a brilliant MC. His energy, looks and personality belied the fact that he was 82 years of age.

Marilyn Watson

Scottish dancing is fun, or at least it should be,
So be nice to the people you meet.
Don't expect perfection from everyone here.
Or tell someone they have two left feet.
Some learned to dance when they were young –
It's much easier then to learn steps.
Others were older, and their feet just won't point,
What they do is as good as it gets.

Ann Kendall

OUR DANCING MASTER

There was a young Scot came to Totton
I say young – but his age? – best forgotten
But he put on his kilt
And he said in that lilt

"Your travelling steps are just rotten!"
Of this man it has sometimes been said
He has eyes in the back of his head
One mistake, you'll agree,
Though you hope he won't see,
He'll just call out "I saw that, Ted!"

Take for instance our diamond poussette
If our footwork is wrong, will he fret?
Will he gasp with surprise,
Before rolling his eyes?
No. He'll call us a "...right glaikit set!"

Yes, those incomprehensible phrases,
We might think he's just singing our praises
But what we don't know is,
The gist of his flow is,
Our timing has just gone to blazes.

But our footwork will soon be sublime
He tells us so, time after time
But one thing we have learned
Is that where he's concerned
A two beat pas de basque is a crime.

Though some things we do are first rate
There are things that we know he'll just hate
He'll look and he'll splutter
And he'll have a wee mutter
If the lines in our set are not straight.

His dance classes pass in a haze
Of jigs and reels and strathspeys
He'll be sweetness and light
For the whole of the night
Just as long as we do as he says

So who is this
Scotsman of note
This daft and
obstreperous old
goat?
His eyes may be
steely
But we all love
him really
So it's for Ron
(Watson) that
this ditty was
wrote!

Helen
Walmsley

Stephen Webb



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available on the Branch Website.**

THE DANCE SOCIETY LONDON PART II

And it was a big night! The Fulham Town Hall was filled with 125 dancers, most of them in period costumes and the rest adhering to the black tie code. Particularly the ladies in their crinolines and old-time feminine finery were a pleasure to look at and dance with. The 'unfamiliar' couple dances turned out to be quite simple and contributed greatly to meeting other dancers. Waltzes and mazurkas were danced in a great circle around the room, and after a number of set movements each couple separated and the lady progressed one place forward to repeat the movements with a new partner. Thus during each dance you had an opportunity to flirt with several partners. Weren't the Victorians pleasure-loving and inventive dancers?

For all that jolly weekend at the beginning of July we have to thank the Dance Society London! You may ask, who or what is Dance Society London? And I, in my generous and co-operative mood, will give you the answer. Poetically described, it is a blossoming offshoot of the Società di Danza. Do I see a quizzical expression on your face? Who or what is the Società di Danza? So let me start from the beginning:

Many years ago, a young Italian named Fabio Mollica came to London and took lessons in 19th century dancing and etiquette from two well-known experts on this social period, Ellis and Chris Rogers (to this day they promote Regency and Victorian dancing and lead the Quadrille Club in London). Fabio got hooked, and on his return to Italy started building up his own organisation, propagating the 19th century dancing culture. At present there are active groups and classes in 26 Italian cities, and further groups in six other European countries.

According to its manifesto, the Società di Danza is "a cultural association and a school of dance – but primarily, it is an "IDEA". The Idea is to develop a dance system based on the 19th century social dancing tradition and spread this tradition through bringing together groups of people who are interested in dancing and wish to re-live the social atmosphere of our ancestors.

The dancing repertoire of the Società comprises a wide variety of dances that were popular in the dancing salons and at the balls in Paris, Vienna, London, St Petersburg, Venice and other European, and also American cities. Next to couple dances like waltz, polka or mazurka, the list of dances includes Victorian quadrilles and country dances. Many of the country dances belong to the Scottish tradition, and thus Scottish country dancing is richly represented on the Società's programmes.

I first came into contact with the Società di Danza three years ago, in Prague. I often go and dance with the Caledonian Club of Prague, and its members were then invited to widen their experience and join the Società's Summer School, which also coincided with the launch of the Czech group's activities. Nearly one hundred Italians and about a score of Bohemian dancers attended the school. Four of us came from London, and we really enjoyed the week. Indeed so much, that my friend Libby then flew to several of the Società's events in Italy, and I decided to attend last year's Summer School, which was organised in the Bavarian Alpine resort of Füssen. The majority of participants were Italians – after all, it is an Italian organisation – but there were also a dozen Russians, and several French, Germans, Americans, and me.

I often think that the Società di Danza will, in the not too distant future, resemble the RSCDS. At the moment it has its offshoots in the Czech Republic, Russia, the Ukraine, Byelorussia,

Finland, and Britain. There is a small branch in Manchester, and – what we hope will become a big branch – in London. In Scottish country dancing, with branches all over the globe, you can join in anywhere, make new friends and dance. I have this vision of the Società's groups being soon scattered all over the place, at least all over Europe, and the members of the Dance Society London will be able there to join in, make new friends, and dance the dances they are familiar with. For the Italians it has already become a reality. They not only travel inside Italy to events organised by each of the 26 local groups; they travel to Prague, Moscow or Bavaria to dance and socialise. At the beginning of July they had an opportunity to come to London, all 80 odd of them and dance with the Dance Society London. They very much appreciated dancing to live music – there are not many Scottish dance bands in Italy, neither is there such a fine trio as Green Ginger, who can make even the most tired feet dance to the lively tunes of G & S operas and other popular melodies of 150 years ago.

I believe the Dance Society London made a grand entry onto the dancing floor with the two balls at the beginning of July and deserves a great future. I am confident, its activities will truly lift off after the summer holidays and it will sprightly step into the autumn season – in spite of the fact that the leading lady of the whole enterprise, Libby Curzon, recently got a year's contract to work in Africa, and it is going to be quite a job to organise the things in London from Accra.

Many years ago, I was a pure one-track Scottish country dancer. Then it occurred to me that variety is the spice of life and I branched out into other types of dancing, among them the 19th century Victorian era. It is a great complement to Scottish country dancing. I believe, many Scottish dancers, once tasting it, could be hooked. Why don't you try it and see? The Dance Society London can fit the picture admirably. You can get more information on the website www.DanceSocietyLondon.org and the Italian group at www.societadidanza.it and you can contact the Society by e-mail on DanceSocLondon@gmail.com.

Dal Sudwell

WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT!

The RSCDS and the London Branch offer scholarships mostly to young people (up to 25 years) to attend RSCDS Residential Schools as a dancer or as a prospective teacher or as a musician. In addition, any member can apply for a scholarship to attend Summer School with a view to taking the RSCDS Teaching Certificate.

London Branch also has funds available to give support to any event promoting Scottish country dancing among young people.

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

stewart.murray@btinternet.com

or youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk.

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

Think about it.

We want to help

Dance Events (also on pages 16-18)

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Burns' Night Supper and Dance

Saturday 29 January 2011

7.00 - 11.30 p.m.

Benson Parish Hall OX10 6LZ

Ian Muir and the Craiggellacie Band

Programme will be published on our website.

Tickets priced £14 from: Trisha Rawlings,
29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Oxon OX7 7ET.

Tel: 01869 340830

email: trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com

Day School and Dance

Saturday 19 February 2011

Headington School, Oxford OX3 7TD

Teachers: Margie Stevenson,

David Hall, Dennis Tucker

Musicians: Chris Oxtoby, Jeremy Hill,
Ken Martlew

Tickets: Whole day £23.00

Morning or afternoon class £8.00 each session.

Evening Dance £12.00

Music for the evening dance provided by

Strathallan

Evening Dance Programme: Good Hearted Glasgow, Flowers of Edinburgh, The Double Diamond Strathspey, The Happy Meeting, Bratach Bana, Radcliffe Square, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, West's Hornpipe, The Ayr Promenade, Round Reel of Eight, Porchester Hall, The Starry-Eyed Lassie, The Black Mountain Reel, MacDonald of the Isles, Tribute to the Borders, The Reel of the 51st Division



ST ANDREWS SOCIETY (LONDON)

Founded 1910

Traditional Burns Night
Dinner and Dance

to complete our Centenary Year on Friday 28 January 2011 (at 7.00 for 7.30pm) at the recently enlarged Pavilion of the Wimbledon Rugby Football Club, at the end of Barham Road off Copse Hill, SW20 0ET.

Piper, 3-course haggis dinner with Ceremonial Recital of "Ode to the Haggis"; Toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns, proposed in song and music by Terry Saunders (Baritone and Pianist) Followed by Scottish country dancing to a lively music trio playing until 12.30 am

Tickets at £30, available only in advance from Mrs. Trish White at 7 The Crest, SURBITON, KT5 8JZ or (preferably) via tel 0208 399 3070 or whiteaw@btinternet.com

Parties Welcome.

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,

Ashted, Surrey KT21 2LH,

tel: 01372 812821,

e-mail: rusmar@ntlworld.com

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

DANCE EVENTS



BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND REEL CLUB

Annual Highland Ball
Saturday 12 February, 2011
7:30pm to midnight
Ashlyns School, Chesham Road,
Berkhamsted HP4 3AH

Ian Robertson and his Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Light and Airy, Rest and be Thankful, The Bonnie Tree, The Wee Cooper o' Fife, Flowers of Edinburgh, Glasgow Highlanders, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Huntly Castle, Pelorus Jack, The Recumbent Stone, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Let the Hackles Rise, Scott Meikle, Gang the Same Gate, The Weathercock, College Hornpipe, 1314, Mrs MacLeod, Neidpath Castle, Kendall's Hornpipe, The Montgomerie's Rant. (Extras: Scottish Reform, Rakes of Glasgow).

Admission by Programme:

£18.50 including supper.

No bar – BYO drinks (soft drinks provided).

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

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

e-mail: events@berkhamstedreelclub.org.

Highland Ball Practice

Saturday 5 February 2011
2:00 - 5:30 pm

Potten End Village Hall, Potten End,
Berkhamsted HP4 2QG
£3 on door.

www.berkhamstedreelclub.org.



WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Caledonian Ball
Saturday 19 March 2011
7.30-11.30pm
Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane,
Elstree, Hertfordshire. WD6 3PJ

Ian Robertson and his Band

Programme: Shiftn' Bobbins, Midsummer Madness, Blue Mess Jacket, Swiss Lassie, The Nurseryman, Cape Town Wedding, Airie Bannan, Aird of Coigach, Macdonald of the Isles, The Recumbent Stone, *Grand March into Round Reel of Eight*, Tribute to the Borders, Scotch Mist, Bauldy Bains Fiddle, The Minister on the Loch, Wicked Willie, Miss Hadden's Reel, City of Belfast, Deil amang the Tailors, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran.

Tickets include Buffet Supper: £17.50

Highland or Evening Dress preferred

Contact Rose on 07880 842370 or

tickets@WatfordScottish.org.uk

A full Ball practice will be held on Sunday 13th
March from 2-5pm – venue to be confirmed.

Please contact us if you wish to attend.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL DANCE

Thursday 23 December 2010

8.00 - 11.00pm

Bushey Centre, Bushey Country Club,
High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT.

to the music of

Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

Please bring something to share in the interval.

Cost £6.00 at the door

See www.watfordscottish.org.uk for programme

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Annual Ball
Friday 7 January 2011
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.
Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree,
Herts WD6 3PJ

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme: The Luckenbooth Brooch, Lady Sophia Lindsay, Sands of Morar, Airie Bannan, John of Bon Accord, Cherrybank Gardens, Quarries' Jig, The Piper and the Penguin, Kinfauns Castle, The Glenalmond Gamekeeper, Nottingham Lace, The Cashmere Shawl, The Cooper's Wife, Swiss Lassie, The Flower o' the Quern, Equilibrium, The Falls of Rogie, The Robertson Rant, James Gray, The Irish Rover.

Tickets £17.00 (non-dancers and juniors £8.50),

including refreshments,

from Jim Henderson, Tel. 020 8954 2586,

email: jwh698@gmail.com

and Jan Alsop, tel. 07762 079 083,

email: j.alsop@ion.ucl.ac.uk

THE LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB

Christmas Dance

Saturday 11 December 2010

7.30 - 11.30pm

Prestwood Village Hall,

Nr Great Missenden, HP16 0NZ

Stradivarious

Cost £10 plus bring-and-share refreshments.

Programme on our website

www.lucyclark.org.uk.

Enquiries to Dick Field, Stonefield House,

Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL.

Tel: 01494 562231.



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER BRANCH

Christmas Social

Tuesday 28 December 2010
7.45 - 10.45pm

St Paul's Parish Rooms, Wokingham RG41 1EH

Bring and share refreshments

Dancing to recorded music

Contact: Peter Loveland 07747 112720

or Deborah Draffin 01344 776831

Branch Day School

Saturday 13 March 2011

Court Moor School, Fleet GU52 7RY

Teachers: **Craig Houston, Helen Russell,
Margaret Williams**

Class Musicians:..... **Robert Mackay,**

Ken Martlew, Judith Muir

Musicians Day School:..... **Muriel Johnstone**

Contact: Dancers; Chris Brown 01252 674708

Musicians; Mervyn Short 01903 782

Branch Ball

21 May 2011

Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Contact: Catherine Smith 01483 502422

Visit our website on www.rscds-bhs.org.uk



ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Day School

Saturday 16 April 2011

Edgbarrow School,

Sandhurst Road

Crowthorne, RG45 7HZ

Teachers: **Dave Hall,**

Margo Priestley, Catherine Smith

Musicians: **Phil Jones,**

Robert Mackay, Caroline Sloan

For further details and application forms contact:

Gaynor Curtis: 60 Bishops Wood, St Johns,

Woking Surrey, GU21 3QB Tel: 01483 721989

Argyll Weekend

at Dillington House, Somerset

7 - 9 October 2011

Dancers Weekend School

Teachers: **Sue Porter, Antoine Rousseau**

Musicians: **Robert Mackay, Judith Muir**

Musicians Weekend School

Led by **Ian Muir**

Booking Opens January 2011

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

For further information and brochure:

email dillington@somerset.gov.uk

website www.dillington.co.uk.

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB

Golden Anniversary Ball

Saturday 26 March 2011

starts 7.30pm

Emmbrook School, Wokingham, Berks RG41 1JP

Dancing to Strathallan

Celebratory drink on arrival

Programme and details in next issue

Contact: Janette Walton 01252-875511

or tickets@camberleyreelclub.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Annual Ball

Saturday 7 May 2011

7.00 for 7.30 till 11.30pm

at Long Road Sixth Form College.

Danelaw Band

Shared refreshments. For tickets ring

Donald Wilson on 01954 210683.

Details: on www.camscotsoc

WEST MACS CHARITY BALL

Saturday 9 April 2011

Brentside High School W7 1JJ

The Craigellachie Band

Programme and other details in the next issue.

Tickets from Margaret Wallace 020 8560 6160

Email: margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Annual Spring Dance

Saturday 26 February 2011.

7.30 - 11.30pm

Pittville School, Albert Road,

Cheltenham, GL52 3JD

Iain MacPhail and his SCD Band

Programme: Grand March, Nottingham Lace, St Andrews Fair, The Belle of Bon Accord, The Lochalsh Reel, Pelorus Jack, Heather Dewar, Gavin's Reel, Gothenburg's Welcome, The Glengarry Homestead, Milton's Welcome*, Thirteen-Fourteen, The Flying Spur, The Flower of the Quern, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, Quarries' Jig, Sauchie Haugh, The Sailor, Follow Me Home, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Mairi's Wedding.

Tickets £13 from John Marshall, 17 Gratton

Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BT.

duracellbunney@tiscali.co.uk Cheques to

"Cheltenham Scottish Society" with SAE please.



ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

60th Anniversary Ball
Saturday 12 March 2011
Benson Parish Hall OX10 6LZ

Ian Robertson and his band

Programme and details: February Reel

01235 527211/535442

or www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

DANCE EVENTS (continued)

There are two more
Dance Events on
Page 15.

HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS ASSOCIATION

Burns Night Supper and Dance
TUESDAY 25 January 2011
7.30 for 8.00 - 10.30pm

St Andrew's United Reformed Church Hall,
Frogna Lane, Finchley Road, London NW3
(Entrance up steps in Frogna Lane)
Recorded music

Admission: £10.00 including haggis supper
Tickets in advance, available mid-November
Contact: Joan Burgess 020 8870 6131

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball
Saturday 5 March 2011
7.30 - 11.30pm

Harpenden Public Hall, Harpenden, Herts
Kafoozalum Country Dance Band

Programme: Jennifer's Jig, Gavin's Reel, Bratach Bana, The Belle of Bon Accord, MacDonald of the Isles, Torridon Lassies, The Black Black Oil, Sueno's Stone, The Flight of the Falcon, Leaving Benbecula, The Moray Rant, The Cooper's Wife 2, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Polharrow Burn, Spiffin, Lady Peak's Strathspey, The Road to Mallaig, Peat Fire Flame, Muirland Willie, The Robertson Rant, The Bees of Maggielknockater, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder.

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

Ticket Secretary Val Owens 01727 863870
Website www.HSCDC.org.uk

MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB

60th Anniversary Highland Ball
Saturday 26 February 2011
7.00 - 11.00pm

Brigidine School, King's Road
Windsor SL4 2AX

Marian Anderson & her SCD Band

Programme: Happy Returns, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, Queen's View, Alison Rose, Bratach Bana, The Roselath Cross, Cherrybank Gardens, Swiss Lassie, The Diamond Jubilee, The Dream Catcher, Findlater Castle. *Supper Interval.* The Australian Ladies, The White Heather Jig, Royal Deeside, Polharrow Burn, Mrs Stewart's Jig, S-Loconotion, Whistlin' in the Kitchen, Old Nick's Lumber Room, Peggy's Strathspey, General Stuart's Reel, Mairi's Wedding. *Extras:* The Rev John MacFarlane, Postie's Jig.

Dress Formal Celebratory drink on arrival
Tickets £19.00 including Supper from:
Jane Leach 16 Brudenell, Windsor SL4 4UR
Tel: 01753 869557

Please send a SAE with cheque if delivery to home address required, otherwise tickets for collection on arrival. Visit our website at: www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk

FOR SALE

3 Kilts; 2 day Jackets;
1 Black Evening Jacket with Waistcoat;
2 Day Sporrans; 1 Dress Sporran
For more information, call 01425-280712

ISLE OF WIGHT

Weekend School
18 - 20 Feb 2011

Teachers: Rachel Wilton, David Queen
Musicians: Robert Mackay,
Ian Muir & The Craiggellachie Band

For further information send SAE to Catherine
Packwood-Bluett, 33 Highfield Rise, Shrewton,
Salisbury Wilts SP3 4DZ
or email catherinep@hugh-davies.co.uk

JERSEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE WEEKEND

Bank Holiday Weekend

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 May, 2011

Dancing to Craiggellachie

£30.00 per person for two evenings incl. supper.

Saturday Ball Programme: 7.00 - 11.30 pm

Scott Meikle, Major Ian Stewart, The Bonnie Tree, The Wind on the Heath, Macleod's Fancy, Ettrick Water, Mrs Stuart Linnell, The Chequered Court, Kilkenny Castle, High Society, Jim's Haberdashery, Peggy Spouse MBE, The Kilt Maker, Alison Rose, Clutha, Kamo Karousel, The Gardeners' Fantasia, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, A Diamond for Belfast, Tom Steele, John of Bon Accord.

Sunday Dance Programme: 7.00 - 11.30 pm

Maxwell's Rant, Inchmickery, Linnea's Strathspey, The Reverend John Macfarlane, The Flying Spur, Burns' Bicentenary Strathspey, Fife Ness, Joie de Vivre, Culla Bay, Hairy Mary, A Capital Jig, The Brigs o'Ayr, Polharrow Burn, The Gentleman, The Peat Fire Flame, Quarries' Jig, Lomondside, The Summer Assembly, The Wild Geese, The Singing Sands, General Stuart's Reel.

Please visit the blog below for more information and recent updates

Contact: Mr Alan P Nicolle, 88 La Ville du Bocage, St Peter, Jersey, JE3 7YT Tel 01534 484375, email alan.nicolle88@googlegmail.com
<http://scottishcountrydancingjersey.blogspot.com/>

THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE

HIGHLAND BALL

Saturday 5 March 2011
7.30-11.45pm

Millennium and Memorial Hall
Stanton Harcourt OX29 5SB

StrathCam

Programme: Joie de Vivre, Mrs Macleod, Gang the Same Gate, Ladies' Fancy, Black, Black Oil, Rose of the North, Napier's Index, Swiss Lassie, Schiehallion, The Reel of the Royal Scots, St Andrew's Fair, The Piper and the Penguin, The Gentleman, Lamp Black Lizzie, General Stuart's Reel, Forget-me-knot, The Wild Geese, Falls of Rogie, MacDonald of the Isles, The Irish Rover.

Tickets: £16 (students £12.50) inc. supper from:
Sarah Lothian, Worcester College, Oxford.

Email: sarah.lothian@worce.ox.ac.uk
Tel 07974 171957

RSCDS BATH BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday, 12 February, 2011

At The Guildhall, Bath, Dancing to
Craiggellachie Scottish Country Dance Band

Tickets £25 from June Hall

Top Flat, 141 Wells Rd, Bath, BA2 3AL
Tel 01225 318906

Want to Advertise in The Reel?

Contact Jeff Robertson, Tel 020 7730 9633 or
01903 245718. email: jtr@ctg.co.uk



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

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

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

Saturday 18 Dec **Frank Reid**
Christmas Dance 7.00 - 11.00 pm
Saturday 8 Jan **Craigievar**
7.00 - 11.00pm with haggis supper
Friday 14 Jan **AGM**
Saturday 5 Feb **Marian Anderson**
Annual Ball..7.00 - 11.00 pm
Friday 11 Feb St Valentines
Saturday 5 March **Green Ginger**

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.

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Saturday 5 February 2011

Annual Ball

St Columba's Church, Pont Street
7.00 to 11.00 pm

Marian Anderson

Programme: The Bees of Maggielknockater; The Australian Ladies; Indian River Strathspey; Father Connelly's Jig; Blooms of Bon Accord; Summer in Assynt; Airdrie Lassies; Flowers of Edinburgh; The Moray Rant; The Black Mountain Reel; The Irish Rover; The Blue Mess Jacket; Quarries' Jig; Foursome Reel; McLeod's Fancy; Monymusk; Clutha; Pelorus Jack; Culla Bay; The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.

Tickets: (Including finger buffet refreshments)

LHC Members in advance £13.00.

Non Members in advance £15.00.

All classes on door £17.00.

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

Annual Ball

Saturday 5 February 2011

The Abbey School, 17 Kendrick Road, Reading
RG1 5DZ

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Programme: EH3 7AF, The Reverend John MacFarlane, Sugar Candie, The Starry Eyed Lassie, Fraser's Favourite, The Belle of Bon Accord, Joie de Vivre, John of Bon Accord, St Columba's Strathspey, Swiss Lassie, Pelorus Jack, Scott Meikle, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, The Dancing Master, The Saltire Society Reel, The Moray Rant, Mrs Stewart's Jig, The Reel of the Royal Scots, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, The Montgomerie's Rant. *Extras:* The Music Makar's and James Gray.

Tickets: £16 including sherry reception and supper with a glass of wine, from Rita Cane, 45 Beech Road, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT

Tel: 0118 975 7507

www.scottishdancingreading.org

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCDC

50th Anniversary Dance

Saturday 14 May 2011

Woolmer Green Village Hall SG3 6XA

David Hall Band

Call Hayley or Douglas 01582 469928
e-mail welwyn.scdc@ntlworld.com

DANCE EVENTS (continued)

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Spring Formal Dance and Buffet
Saturday 12 March, 2011.
7.30 - 11pm.

Reigate School, Pendleton Road,
Reigate, RH2 7NT

David Hall and his Band.

Programme: Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel, The Highland Rambler, The Gentleman, Tribute to the Borders, Lady Sophia Lindsay, Jubilee Greeting, Fisherman's Reel, Follow Me Home, Balquidder Strathspey, Lamb Skinnit, The Black Mountain Reel, The Blue Mess Jacket, The Luckenbooth Brooch, Dancer's Wedding, Gang the Same Gate, Duke of Atholl's Reel, Neidpath Castle, The Reel of the Royal Scots.

Tickets £12 at the door

Enquiries to Wendy Mitton, tel 01737 766244.

RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 15 January 2011

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham, GL52 3JE.

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Tickets £20 (including light refreshments)

Programme on website:

www.cheltenhamrscds.btik.com

Contact: Margaret Winterbourne,

Email: mj.winterbourne@btinternet.com

ST ANDREWS CHURCH SCD GROUP, BRUSSELS

"Fooling Around in Belgium"

1 - 3 April 2011

Retie, near Turnhout, Belgium

Teachers - Angela Young, David Hall

Music: Angela and David joined by Judith Smith.

Programme includes Friday social, classes

Saturday and Sunday morning, visit to brewery

Saturday afternoon, ball on Saturday evening

Price from €220 including all meals from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch

Website: www.bricksite.com/scdbrussels

More details: scdbrussels@yahoo.com

ST COLUMBA'S DANCERS

Bring a Friend/Newcomers Evening

Monday 13 December 2010

7.15 to 10 pm

This is a good evening to come for the first time, on your own or with a friend. We will have an informal programme to suit all tastes.

Tea and a biscuit £1, otherwise free - we look forward to meeting you then.

Denise Haugh 020 8392 2920

Dhaugh200@btinternet.com

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH

Day School

Saturday 19 March 2010

Mascalls School, Maidstone Rd, Paddock Wood,
Tonbridge, TN12 6LT

Teachers:**Deb Lees, Suzi Mayr, Angela Young**

Musicians:**Robert Mackay, Barbara Manning, Ken Martlew**

Further details and application forms from:

Pat Davoll, Cambridge Cottage, Crockham Hill,
Kent, TN8 6RD. Tel 01732 866557.

Email: pdavoll@aol.com

www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

WEMBLEY AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball

Saturday 26 February 2011

Eastman's Hall, Kodak, Harrow View,

Harrow, HA2 6QQ

7.30-11.30pm

The Craiggellachie Band

M.C: Mrs Caroline Hamilton

Programme: Joie de Vivre, Anniversary Reel, Culla Bay, Pelorus Jack, The Duchess Tree, The Lochalsh Reel, The Dancing Master, S-Loconation, John of Bon Accord, Father Connelly's Jig, The Irish Rover, The Cashmere Shawl, EH3 7AF, The Plantation Reel, The Dream Catcher, The Luckenbooth Brooch, The Reverend John MacFarlane, The Minister on the Loch, James Gray, Mairi's Wedding.

Tickets: £16 from Patricia Hamilton
020 8866 2841



SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION for WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON and DISTRICT

New Year Ball

Saturday 8 January 2011

From 7 - 11pm

FOUNDED 1911 Aitken Hall, St Andrew's Church,
Northey Avenue, Cheam SM2 7HF

Strathallan

Programme: Grand March; Rothesay Rant; Napier's Index; The Belle of Bon Accord; The Dundee City Police; John of Bon Accord; The Gentleman; The Luckenbooth Brooch; The Buchan Eightsome Reel: Johnnie Walker; Earl of Mansfield; The Minister on the Loch; Major Ian Stewart; Anniversary Reel; Neidpath Castle; Mrs Stewart's Jig' The Montgomeries' Rant

Tickets £20 in advance to include supper & wine

Details from Maggie Westley: 020 8647 9899 /

Maggie.westley@rmh.nhs.uk or

Gill Russell: 01372 812821 /

rusmar@ntlworld.com

RSCDS CAMBRIDGE BRANCH WINTER RECORD DANCE

Emmanuel United Reformed Church,

Trumpington Street, CB2 1RR

5 February 2011 7.30 to 10.30 pm

Details forthcoming: www.rscds-cambridge.org

Club de Danse Écossaise de MONTPELLIER, FRANCE

-O-

23rd ANNUAL BALL and OUTING

Weekend of 11-12 June 2011

Dancing to the

Craiggellachie Band

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

Rendez-vous with sunshine and social warmth.

Contact: William Whyte +33 467 868 919 or
wwhyte@buzig.com

Our photograph gallery plus the 2011 booking form is now available on our website
<http://dansecossaisemp.free.fr/>

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

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

ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm September to May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet, KT14 7NF. Details from Val Clack, 01932 845869. www.addlestonescottish.org.uk

ALDRINGTON (HOVE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday 8.15-10.30pm, September to June. Details from John Steer, 57 Hangleton Rd, Hove, E. Sussex BN3 7GH. Tel: 01273 416893.

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

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth. Newcomers and Beginners 7.15-8.30pm. Improvers/Intermediate 8.45-10.15pm. Weekly children's classes. Technique class by invitation - alternate Wednesdays. Details from Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Rd, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX. Tel: 01202 698138.

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details from Clive Hamblin on 01273 723761 or enquiries@rscds-brighton.org.uk. <http://www.rscds-brighton.org.uk/>

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

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 8pm at St. Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details from Rhoda Finch, 20 Redcrest Gardens, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2DU. Tel: 01276 681820.

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for all grades. Details: Jacqui Brocker, 24 Hemingford Road, Cambridge, CB1 3BZ. Tel. 07916 892611, jacqui_brocker@yahoo.com.au.

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

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

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

CHELMSFORD: SANDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets on Monday evenings 7:30-9:30pm at the Hayward School, Maltese Road, Chelmsford. Beginners welcome. Details from Esther Wilkinson, email: ewilkin@gmail.com or tel. 01206 240132. www.sandonscotdance.org.uk

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Upper Hall at St Michael's & All Angels' church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Road (turn right out of Turnham Green tube) W4. Sundays from 27 Sep till 4 July with Xmas and Easter breaks.

Midsummer Magic open air evening dance in Chiswick House grounds 11 July. Beginners class at 6.00 till 7.10. General class 7.15 till 9.20. Advanced dancers evenings with musicians twice each term. Tel 020 8743 9385 (afternoons only) / www.chiswickscottish.org.uk.

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

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. Gen incl Beginners Selsdon (Tues) Gen: Reigate (Mon). Details: Sue Hassanein 01737 358401 www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

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

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

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS (continued from previous page)

- 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 Beauleck Green, Winchfield, Hook, Hants RG27 8BF. Tel: 01252 845187.
- FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Tuesdays 8.00pm, September to mid-July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Details from Ann or Paul Brown, tel: 01784 462456 or mobile 07801 160643. Email: p@ulfbrown.co.uk
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.30pm, September to May. Full details from Vikki Spencer, 24 Park Hill, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 6PW. Tel: 01252 691922.
- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays from September to June. Beginners 7.30pm, General 8.15pm. Details from Jeanette Patterson: 01753 890591; info@gxscottish.org.uk; www.gxscottish.org.uk.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- GUILDFORD SCDC** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from September to June. www.gsdc.org.uk or tel 01483 502422.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept.-June from 8.00-10.00pm in Elderkin Hall, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF. 020 8870 6131.
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00pm. Details from Phil Bray, 25 St. Olms Close, Luton, Beds LU3 2LD. Tel: 01582 617734.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St. Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner HA5 3QR. Tel: 020 8428 6055. www.harrowscottish.org.uk.
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8-10pm, September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.
- HEREFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS:** Dancing in this beautiful holiday area every week of the year. Visitors always welcome. Contact Brian on 01568 615470 email brianraasay@btinternet.com
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.
- HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15pm. September to July, tuition followed by social dancing. Also monthly Saturday dances and ceilidhs. All at Heston Methodist Church Hall. Details from Mrs Rosemary Mitchell, Tel: 01784 254401.
- JERSEY CALEDONIAN SCD GROUP.** Contacts: Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel/Fax 01534 854459; Alan Nicolle 01534 484375, alan.nicolle88@googlemail.com; or Brenda Gale 01534 862357. See www.scottishcountrydancingjersey.blogspot.com.
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** meet Wednesdays September to June at Holy Trinity & St. John's C. of E. Primary School, St. John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7.00-8.00pm. General 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. 01843 869284.
- LEICESTER BRANCH RSCDS** meets Thursdays, Holy Cross Centre, Wellington St., Leicester. 4 classes - Beginners, Intermediates, Social, Advanced. 7.30-8.30p.m., followed by Social dancing until 10p.m. Also Tuesdays 1.30-3.45p.m. General class at same venue. Contact: Mrs. Pamela Hood 0016 2753886, jdjimps@talktalk.net.
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Some major functions held at other London venues. Details: adverts in *The Reel* or contact Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG. 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096. www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372. maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk.
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP** meets every Wednesday 7.30-10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details from Jane Masters, 251 Robin Hood Lane, Blue Bell Hill, Chatham, Kent ME5 9QU. Tel: 01634 864007.
- MARKET HARBOROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesday 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, "Lazonby", 9 Little Lunnon, Dunton Bassett, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 5JR. 01455 209446.
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at St. Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 3HL. tel 01474 822919.
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB** meets every Monday evening from September - June at 8.15-10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details from Mrs Jane Whittington. 5 Coldharbour Rd. Northfleet.Kent.DA11 8AE, 01474 359018.
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS.** Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00- 10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, 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 Roecroft School, Stotford. Informal Saturday Dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds. SG17 5AL. Tel: 01462 812691.
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dancing 7.45-10.00pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9JN. Tel: 01634 254451.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners/Improvers Class Every Monday 8.00-10.15pm at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Pam. French, 20 Beaumont Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent, BR5 1JN. 01689 873511.
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET. Tel: 01869 340830.
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00-10.00pm. September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Rita Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Tel: 0118 975 7507, www.scottishdancingreading.org.
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00pm from mid Sept. to end of May. For information contact Marshall Christie 020 8977 5237 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk.
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP.** Dancing Tues 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc.
- ST ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON).** Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB. or Elizabeth Bennett 020-8715 3564, lizbennett@blueyonder.co.uk. www.standrewsoc london.netne.net.
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns Nights' when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details: Denise Haugh 020 8392 2920, email dhaugh200@btinternet.com.
- ST JOHN'S 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 Larkswood Dr, Crowthorne, alan.suedavis@live.com. Also Childrens' Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, Deborah Draffin 01344 776831.
- ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS,** Luton meet every Wednesday, September to July 8.00-10.00pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road, Luton, Beds. Contact: Pat Hamilton, 01462 671156 or Sheila Harris, 01525 875060.
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00-10.00pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Rebecca Evans, 2 Vestry Cottages, Old Otford Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5EH 01732 456382 beccab31@hotmail.com.
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from mid-September to May 8.30-10.30pm, in Barnes. Further info: Further info: Denise Haugh, 6 Medcroft Gardens, East Sheen, SW14 7RN, 020 8392 2920, email dhaugh200@btinternet.com..
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details: Pauline Cameron, 7 Wayne Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 9TS. Tel 01689 838395.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30-10.00pm. Details from Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ. Tel: 01305 265177.
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Fridays, 7.30 to 10.30pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details Mrs Edna Carroll, 01702 428974.
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SDCS.** Classes in Hertford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Bengoe School, Hertford; Beginners Thurs 7.30pm. Millmead School, Hertford. Demonstration Alt. Mons 8.0pm. St John's Hall, Hertford. Details: Chay Smith 01992 442154.
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details: Martin Heath, 01273 478069, m.j.heath@talk21.com.
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** dancing every Thursday at 8pm from September to June at St Matthew's School, Langley Road, Surbiton KT6 6LW. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx, TW16 7TY. http://www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk.
- THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON** meets at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1, every Tuesday from October to end of May for Scottish Country Dancing, 7.00-10.00pm. Details: Tom Symington, 020 7834 7151 or 020 7828 6792.
- THE SCOTS SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW SLOUGH & DISTRICT** meets every Wednesday (September to May) 8.00 to 10.15pm at Trinity ERC Hall, Windsor Rd, Slough SL1 2JA. Scottish Dancing and other social events. Details from the Sec: Carol Berry, tel:01628 620 072 or 01771 223 8165.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 7.30-10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8-10pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details: Sue Bush, 33 St Luke's Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9JH. Tel: 01892 615269, website: www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk.
- WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** hold weekly adult Classes for, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs Maggie Westley, 30 Stanley Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4LF. Tel: +44 (0) 20 8647 9899, website: westley3148@tiscali.co.uk. www.wallingtonscottish.org.uk.
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** General and Beginners/Improvers Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Krelhoff, 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 Sept to the end of June, 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Pat Mumford, 02380 252570.
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Dancing Wednesday 8 to 10 pm from September to June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, near Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. email welwyn.scdc@hotmail.com or telephone Douglas Wood 01582 469928.
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Mondays 8.00pm. Dance Class. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford. WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Both evenings take place at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ. 01264 363293, wendy@mumford.com.
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from Beryl Munro, tel 01621 850838 or email: beryl.munro@btinternet.com .

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Ann Dix

The Queen's Message reads:

Please convey my warm thanks to the Committee and Members of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society for their kind message of loyal greetings, sent on occasion of their Eightieth Anniversary which is being celebrated this year.

As your Patron, I was pleased to learn that you will be holding a Celebration Ball at Hammersmith Town Hall in October. I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, send my best wishes to all concerned on this most special anniversary,

ELIZABETH R



More Anniversary Ball pictures

Above:

Ian Muir with the six-piece Craigellachie Band provided marvellously lively music with an excellent choice of tunes.

Left:

The Queen's message of welcome.

Below:

On the dance floor. Dancers Bar Martlew and Jeannette Patterson, Brian and Jane Rose, promenade round the set.

Bottom:

The North West London table with Jane Hansell, Annette Hughes, John Lewis, Maureen Lewis, Ian MacGillivray, Sue Marshall, Jean Simpson, Lizzie Sayce, Peyer Sayce and Chris Tomlinson



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Graham Berry



Graham Berry