



The Reel

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Scottish country dancing - for fun, fitness and friendship



A suitably festive St Columba's Church played host to the Summer Wednesday dance on 1 June 2022
Dancing (left) *Joie de Vivre* and (right) *Sugar Candie* to the splendid music of Dave Hall and Christina Hood

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Issue 322 should be with UK based members by 26 November 2022 unless delayed in the post.

Contributions for Reel 322 should be sent to arrive by and preferably in advance of 16 October 2022 by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

The opinions expressed by contributors in *The Reel* do not necessarily reflect the official position of the RSCDS, or of the Branch.

From the Chair: Joanne Lawrence

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of our 2021-22 season. Dance attendance recovered steadily, culminating in a full dance floor at both the Summer Wednesday and AGM dances. Our 11 June AGM was well attended, in person and online, and we are grateful to all who contributed. During the meeting we reconfirmed our objectives for the 2022-23 season:



- Continuing post COVID-19 recovery of membership numbers and boosting attendance at Branch events
- Developing events attractive to younger dancers
- Increasing the number of musicians playing for classes and dances
- Celebrating the Centenary of the RSCDS in style.

We are beginning a communications programme, in association with St Columba's Dancers and the Gay Gordons, contacting HR departments of large employers in central London and encouraging them to share with their social clubs, new graduate intakes and other employees the opportunities for experienced dancers and would be dancers to find social dances and classes to suit them in central London. We are also sending a similar message to university dance groups, whose graduating members may be heading to London, as well as various Scottish related social and business organisations in and around London.

From September, we will hold a monthly Tuesday Social, at St Columba's, Pont Street, aimed primarily at 'younger' dancers in their 20s and 30s who live or work in London. Including a refreshment break with time to chat as well as dance, it will typically be on the fourth Tuesday of each month (27 September, 25 October, 15 November confirmed so far) from 7 - 9.30pm and will begin by featuring popular dances, accessible to beginners but enjoyable for more experienced dancers too, consolidating steps and formations in a social dance setting. Please do pass the word to people in your families and social networks. If they are already a dancer, it is their chance to help build the London dance community and make new contacts. If they are new to dancing, it is a friendly, fun and supportive environment in which to learn.

Our regular activities continued with the annual open-air dancing in Kensington Gardens in August, to be followed by the New Season Dance (17 September with music from David Hall and his Band). Regular classes restart from 21 September. We look forward to welcoming new and familiar faces and to hearing how the thirteen London Branch beginners and improvers who have registered for Summer School, as well as their teachers and the many experienced dancers also planning to attend, enjoyed their time at St Andrews.

Our Day school on 15 October, back at Paddington Academy, will include a musicians' workshop, led by Luke Brady, offering musicians a lively and thorough grounding in the skills and techniques needed to play for dancing. We are delighted to have Kate Gentles, Dave Hall, Pat Houghton, and Judy Valvona as dance teachers, supported by musicians, Adam Brady, Barbara Manning, Ken Martlew, and Ian Robertson.

The RSCDS Centenary in 2023 will be marked by many celebratory events around the South-East, not least London Branch's Tea Dance on 12 March 2023. Ian Robertson and his band will play for us at the Allum Hall and we look forward to dancing with many of you there.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to dance with London Branch this year. After being unable to dance for so long, I have come to appreciate anew the joy, not only of dance, but of the music, the people and places, the companionship and the commitment shown by so many towards developing and sharing this most fulfilling of pastimes.

From the Classes Convenor: Margaret Moore



As the new classes convenor, I have very big shoes to fill (metaphorically speaking). Jenny Kendrick is an extremely hard act to follow and I would like to thank her so much for all her incredible work, and her infinite equanimity, over the past 6 years, particularly the most recent COVID-19 affected ones. She has done an amazing job.

I would also like to thank all the fantastic teachers and musicians who make the classes possible and, of course, all our class members, who take part with such enthusiasm and appetite for learning.

We had a very successful return to dancing last year and I am really looking forward to welcoming both new and experienced dancers to our classes in September. Please come along and join the fun of, and sense of achievement in, learning new steps, formations and dances, as well as putting more familiar ones into practice.

The listing on p4 gives full details of all our classes and you will be assured of a warm welcome. Each term, Park Walk, Richmond and St Columba's all finish with a class party (with suitable refreshments!) and the half term break features our ever popular Wednesday dances, where you can put into practice all you have learnt accompanied by more experienced dancers, to help guide you through.

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE
SOCIETY



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Objects of London Branch

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

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

London Branch Matters

Membership and *The Reel* Subscription from 1 July 2022

As a member of RSCDS London Branch, you enjoy the following benefits: reduced rates at London Branch classes, dances and events; four issues per year of *The Reel*; 10% discount on items from the RSCDS online shop and two issues per year of the RSCDS magazine *Scottish Country Dancer*. Members wishing to pay by direct debit may now do so by completing a payment mandate either by clicking on the appropriate link in the table to the right of this text (for electronic *Reel* readers) or by going to rscdslondon.org.uk/membership-page

Membership may also be purchased by Credit/Debit Card or PayPal or by cheque payable to RSCDS London Branch by going to the same page. New members should also complete the membership application form on the London Branch website. Membership/subscription enquiries and cheque payments should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989, membership@rscdslondon.org.uk Any reader who receives a paper issue of *The Reel* may send their email address to Gaynor Curtis and receive an electronic copy too at no extra charge. Those receiving an electronic copy are asked not to pass this on, unless it is to someone they feel might like to help support the Branch by becoming a member or subscribing.

The new rates for RSCDS membership through the London Branch are as follows:

Membership category	Junior 12-17 years	Young Adult 18-24 years	Adult 25 years +	Adult Joint (2) 25 years +	2nd Branch	<i>The Reel</i> only (subscription)
Electronic (<i>eReel</i>)	£16.50	£24	£29	£48	£4	£4
<i>The Reel</i> by post (UK)	£18.50	£26	£31	£52	£6	£6
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Europe)	£24.50	£32	£37	£64	£12	£12
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Rest of the World)	£27.50	£35	£40	£70	£15	£15

New Season Dance

Saturday 17 September 2022
7.00 - 10.00pm
Doors open at 6.30pm
St Columba's Church, Pont Street
SW1X 0BD

David Hall and his Band

EH3 7AF..... 8x32 J
Swiss Lassie 8x32 R
The Gentleman 8x32 S
Bill Clement MBE 8x32 J
Glastonbury Tor 8x32 R
The Gardeners' Fantasia 3x32 S
Gaelforce Wind 8x32 J
Ramadan-ce 8x32 R

Kendall's Hornpipe 8x32 J
The Piper and the Penguin Sq 88 R
Slytherin House 8x32 S
Muirland Willie 8x32 J
Polharrow Burn 5x32 R
Cherrybank Gardens 3x32 S
The Starry Eyed Lassie 8x32 J
The Irish Rover 8x32 R

Extras:

Quarries' Jig 8x32 J
Culla Bay 4x32 S
Duke of Perth 8x32 R

Admission includes refreshments

RSCDS Members £17, non-members £20
full time students (with card) and
spectators £10

Children (under 16) free
Tickets available on the door - cash or card
All dances will be recapped

Crib available at rscdslondon.org.uk

The Reel Advertising Rates

In black and white, but including colour logo: £6 per column centimetre.
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All advertisers receive a complimentary copy of *The Reel*.

Send Forthcoming Events adverts to
Willie Lawrence at:
danceads@rscdslondon.org.uk

Other adverts and enquiries on pricing to
the Business Editor, Jeff Robertson, at:
businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk

Autumn Wednesday Dance

Wednesday 26 October 2022
7.00 - 10.00pm
Doors open at 6.30pm
St Columba's Church, Pont Street
SW1X 0BD

Chris Oxtoby

Good Hearted Glasgow 8x32 J
And for the Young Ones Sq 32 J
Gramachie 8x32 S
Espie McNabb 8x32 J
Flowers of Dunbeg 5x32 R
The Haar on Skye 8x32 S
The Rothesay Rant Sq 32 J

Hedwig's Reel 8x32 R
Fair Donald 8x32 S
Joe McDiarmid's Jig 4x32 J
Petronella 8x32 R
12 Coates Crescent 4x32 S
Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel 8x32 J
Mrs MacLeod 8x32 R

Extras:

The Barmkin Sq 88 R
Jessie's Hornpipe 8x32 R
Tarry a While 8x32 J
Kendall's Hornpipe 8x32 J

Admission includes light refreshments

RSCDS members £14, non-members £16
full time students (with card) and
spectators £8

Children (under 16) free
Tickets available on the door - cash or card
All dances will be recapped/walked through

Crib available at rscdslondon.org.uk

Dates for 2022 - 2023

17 September 2022 - New Season Dance
15 October 2022 - Annual Day School
26 October 2022 - Autumn Wednesday
17 December 2022 - Christmas Dance
14 January 2023 - Burns Ceilidh
15 February 2023 - Winter Wednesday
12 March 2023 - Centenary Tea Dance
31 May 2023 - Summer Wednesday
10 June 2023 - AGM and End of Season Dance



Christmas Dance

Saturday 17 December 2022
6.45 for 7.00 - 10.30pm
Doors open at 6.30pm
St Columba's Church, Pont Street
SW1X 0BD

Robert Whitehead and his Band

The Machine without Horses 8x32 J
The Westminster Reel 8x32 R
Sands of Morar 8x32 S
MacDonald of Keppoch 2x32 S + 2x32 R
Quarries' Jig 8x32 J
Starlight 8x32 R
Asilomar Romantic 8x32 S
John Cass 5x32 J
Glastonbury Tor 8x32 R

Welcome to Ayr 8x32 J
Sugar Candie 8x32 S
Trip to Timber Ridge 8x32 R
Gothenburg's Welcome 8x32 J
The Dreamcatcher Sq 96 S
London Nine-O 8x32 R
Jean Martin of Aberdeen 3x32 S
The Hazel Tree 8x32 J
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh 8x32 R

Admission includes Christmas fare
and a glass of wine

RSCDS Members £22, non-members £25
full time students (with card) and
spectators £12

Children (under 16) free
Tickets available on the door - cash or card
All dances will be recapped

Crib available at rscdslondon.org.uk

South East Dance Diary

The diary on the Branch website is regularly updated, and all societies in the South East may submit details of their functions.

For a hard copy, please send an SAE to Caroline Hamilton.

Email diary@rscdslondon.org.uk or by post to Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW.

London Branch Classes



Set yourself a fun challenge join a Scottish country dance class

We have classes for...

The London Branch runs a large number of classes throughout the year. Some of these are regular classes during term-time; others are specialist classes in advanced technique and classes for young people.

All classes are now bookable online, and credit cards are taken on the door. London Branch will be monitoring government guidance on COVID-19 and will run classes accordingly. Check rscdslondon.org.uk as the latest position may change.

Park Walk Primary School

Park Walk, London SW10 0AY
Autumn Term 2022

Wednesday 21 September - 30 November

7.00 - 9.00pm

Half-term Wednesday 26 October

Beginners and Improvers

with teacher Simon Wales

An introduction to basic steps and formations for new dancers while supporting others to develop their technique and general dancing skills

Technique Class for Intermediate and Advanced Dancers

A technique class for dancers who have a good working knowledge of the steps and formations and who are looking to develop their technique, confidence, style and enjoyment of the dance

with teachers: James Fairbairn and Pat Davoll

Christmas Party: 7 December

A chance for both classes to socialise together and dance in a more informal environment

Fee: £7 per class for RSCDS members, £9 per class for non-RSCDS members

Underground: South Kensington, Sloane Square

Free on-street parking available after 6.30pm (Chelsea match days 10.00pm) in nearby streets

Buses: 11, 22, 19, 49, 328, 319, 345 Park Walk is in the [Ultra Low Emission Zone \(ULEZ\)](#)

No entry into the school before 6.40pm No smoking or vaping on school premises

For details contact Margaret Moore classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

St Columba's Church

Upper Hall, Pont St, London SW1X 0BD

Autumn Term 2022

Wednesday 21 September - 30 November

2.30 - 4.30pm

Half-term Wednesday 26 October

Mixed Ability Dance Group

led by Simon Wales

A low impact social activity suitable for dancers with at least some knowledge of basic steps and formations

Visitors welcome

Fee: £10 per session to recorded music

Underground: Knightsbridge, Sloane Square

Buses: 19, 22, 137, 452, C1

Pont Street is in the [Ultra Low Emission Zone \(ULEZ\)](#)

For details contact Margaret Moore classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Richmond

Richmond Library Annexe, Quadrant Road, Richmond TW9 1DH

Autumn Term 2022

Wednesday 21 September - 30 November

7.30 - 9.30pm

Half-term Wednesday 26 October

Beginners and Improvers

with teacher Judith Jones

An introduction to basic steps and formations for new dancers while supporting others to develop their technique and general dancing skills

Fee: £6 per class to recorded music

Underground/Train: Richmond

Buses: H37, 65, R68, R70, 110, 190, 371, 419, 490

For details contact Margaret Moore classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Dance Scottish - the Tuesday Social

Upper Hall, Pont St, London SW1X 0BD

Tuesdays 27 September, 25 October, 15 November

7.00 - 9.30pm

The Tuesday Social

led by Gill O'Dell

with music from Adam Brady

Aimed primarily at younger dancers (20s and 30s) living or working in London, this new monthly session will combine tuition on key steps and formations with the opportunity to enjoy dancing old favourites and discover new dances.

We have included a refreshment break to give time for dancers to chat and socialise during the evening.

Fee: £10 per session (£8 for students) including refreshments

Underground: Knightsbridge, Sloane Square

Buses: 19, 22, 137, 452, C1

Pont Street is in the [Ultra Low Emission Zone \(ULEZ\)](#)

For details contact Margaret Moore classes@rscdslondon.org.uk



Families in London Dance Scottish



We are hoping to relaunch this soon, but in the meantime for requests for children's activities eg birthdays / ceilidhs please contact Margaret: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Branch AGM Report: Branch Secretary, Mel Rowland



London Branch's Annual General Meeting took place on 11 June in the Upper Hall of St Columba's Church with a live feed for those unable to attend in person. After having held the previous two AGMs on-line, it was wonderful to welcome over thirty Branch members in person to the meeting.

Joanne Lawrence, London Branch Chair, began the Branch report by reviewing the 2021-2022 objectives. The 90th Anniversary celebrations had concluded with the deferred Anniversary Ball. Joanne thanked all those who had worked so hard to make it such a successful and memorable celebration.

Joanne confirmed that work was progressing on the digitisation of the Branch archives stressing that the Branch has a rich history which should be preserved. Turning to the modernising of payment methods for Branch events, she confirmed that the introduction of cashless payment methods for classes and dances had been working well. After the COVID-19 enforced break of face-to-face events, it was encouraging to see the increasing number of people returning to dances during the season. All classes had been well attended throughout the year, and the number of beginners had risen at both Park Walk and Richmond. The final objective for the year had been to rebuild and reinvigorate our membership base including developing classes for younger dancers. Joanne confirmed that planning for Project 23 was well underway, with monthly classes to begin in September aimed at younger dancers in their 20s and 30s.

Attention then turned to the Branch priorities for 2022-2023 which will continue to build on the work done in 2021-2022, with emphasis on boosting attendance at branch events and developing events to attract younger dancers. An additional priority will be to plan for the Centenary of the RSCDS.

The Chair then thanked all those who had contributed to make the season just finishing such a success. Special thanks were given to Margaret Catchick and

Jeni Rutherford for their decades of service to the Branch. The Branch convenors and Committee were thanked for all their hard work and commitment over the past year; with particular thanks given to Jenny Kendrick who has stepped down as classes convenor after seven years of serving on the Committee. A special mention was made of George Potts, a long-standing Committee member and Jerry Reinstein, one of our Vice Presidents, who both sadly passed away this year. Joanne then thanked our President Rachel Wilton and our Vice Presidents for their continuing support of the Branch. Final thanks were given to those involved with the communications of the Branch including Simon Wales and the *Reel* Editorial Team and Meryl Thomson, the Branch's webmaster, who play such an important role in reaching out to our Branch members and friends in the UK and overseas.

Honorary Treasurer, Simon Wales, presented the annual accounts, and a more detailed report is alongside. The Branch finances were healthy. A slight deficit for the year, attributed mainly to the loss of the income generating Burns Supper, was offset by the previous year's surplus. This had been due to the absence of any venue costs during COVID-19. The vote on approving the accounts, confirming the independent examiner, President, Vice-Presidents and Committee was approved by the members present. Three new members, Adam Brady (see CV on p7), Richard Clarke and Dave Hall (see below) were welcomed onto the Committee.

The AGM was followed by the End of Season Dance to which we welcomed many members and friends. Dancers enjoyed a lively and varied programme of dances, many on a royal theme to mark the Platinum Jubilee of the Society's Patron, HM The Queen. Adam Brady played superbly for the dances as well as providing a musical introduction to the AGM. Margaret Shaw and her team of caterers provided a delicious spread of refreshments. After the uncertainties brought on by COVID-19 it was wonderful to end the season on such a high, with people enjoying the fun of dancing in each other's company. We look forward to next season and celebrating the 100th anniversary of the RSCDS.

New Committee Members: Adam Brady (see profile on p7), and Richard Clarke and David Hall profiled below

Richard (right) joined The Gay Gordons following an invitation to a ceilidh organised by Age Concern in 2011 and joined the Committee as Treasurer a few months later. The Gay Gordons in London, Manchester and Edinburgh became affiliated to the RSCDS in 2012. Richard is currently Chair and Treasurer of the London group and when necessary, he teaches the class and acts as MC/caller at external events. His most visible dancing appearances have been with other RSCDS members for the Waterloo bicentenary anniversary at the Beating the Retreat and the Ghillies Ball in *The Crown*. His particular interest is promoting Scottish country dancing by making it a welcoming and safe community for all.



Dave (left) is very pleased to be back in London and getting engaged once again with Branch activities. His connections with the London Branch go back to the early 1990's, and he served 10 years on the Branch Executive back then. The links to the RSCDS last a lifetime for him, so he is very grateful for all it has done to promote Scottish country dancing worldwide. He has an interest in both dancing and music, and will be keen to do what he can to help support the Branch.

Branch Accounts 2021 - 22: Treasurer, Simon Wales



Thankfully there is a bit more to report on this year than last, with activities starting to pick up after their enforced layoff. Here is a summary of the published accounts which were adopted unanimously at the Branch AGM.

At 31 March 2022 the Branch's net worth of £81,564 was represented by the undernoted funds:

	2022	2021
General Fund	70,851	70,284
Ireland Fund	3,644	3,644
Anniversary Fund	2,069	2,069
Helen Brown Fund	5,000	
Total net worth	£81,564	£76,461

There was a net operating loss of £3,603 (budget was to break even) and an unrealised gain on investments of £3,707, recouping the rest of the 2019-2020 losses. The operating loss was a similar amount to the profit from last year - over the two years we were pretty much where we expected to be.

Publicity and *The Reel*

The Reel made a loss of £1,855. This was mainly due to a loss of advertising revenue, partly offset by producing slightly smaller editions. There was £1,305 expenditure on publicity for the website, and the Open Air Dancing in Kensington Gardens.

Membership

Membership numbers have reduced but not significantly, and we are grateful to our loyal members for their continued support. Membership income was down by just £71 on last year and the subscriptions paid to HQ reduced by £235.

Classes

Numbers picked up during the year, with an excellent increase in Richmond. Classes cost the Branch £1,926, well within budget. There were no family classes this season.

Dances

The cancellation of the Burns Ceilidh due to the Omicron variant made a considerable dent in the dances budget causing a £961 loss. We have reluctantly decided to increase the ticket cost of dances, because hall hire costs have increased. The 90th Anniversary Ball finished with a loss of £1,581, offset by the balance of the Nicol Fund of £464. The food price increased dramatically at the last minute which we did not pass on to the ticket holders!

Donations and Legacies

Donations and legacies raised £5,127 mostly from the bequest from the late Helen Brown, which we have earmarked to digitise the Branch's archives.

Looking forward

We have committed to spending reserves on organising activities aimed at younger dancers, as well as better publicity and promotion of all events.

RSCDS London Branch Day School and Musicians' Workshop 2022

Saturday 15 October 2022

Paddington Academy, Marylands Road, London W9 2DR

Teachers



Kate Gentles



David Hall



Pat Houghton



Judy Valvona



Luke Brady

Musicians



Adam Brady



Barbara Manning



Ken Martlew



Ian Robertson

This year the classes will be Very Advanced, Advanced, Mixed Ability and Improvers: **Very Advanced** - Participants must be able to execute all steps and formations to a very high standard. They must also be able to illustrate good phrasing, handing and covering and be able to maintain this throughout both sessions.

Advanced - Participants must be of a high standard, have sound knowledge of all steps and formations and be able to execute them accurately. In addition, dancers should also be able to assimilate instructions quickly and be able to maintain a good level of performance throughout both sessions.

Mixed Ability - Participants should have a good standard of dancing and a sound knowledge of steps and formations and be aiming to improve their personal technique.

Newcomers & Improvers - Participants should know and be looking to improve the basic steps and formations.

NB: Class allocations will be confirmed at the Day School. London Branch and teachers reserve the right to allocate participants to classes as they see fit.

Day School Programme			
Time	Activity		
10.00 - 10.30	Enrolment and coffee		
Morning session	Class	Teacher	Musician
	Very Advanced	Pat Houghton	Ian Robertson
	Advanced	David Hall	Barbara Manning
	Mixed Ability	Judy Valvona	Ken Martlew
	Newcomers & Improvers	Kate Gentles	Adam Brady
12.30 - 2.00	A lunch may be purchased comprising a baked potato or rice with a choice of fillings and dessert. Alternatively, there are facilities for packed lunches or pubs and cafés in the local area.		
Afternoon session	Class	Teacher	Musician
	Very Advanced	David Hall	Ian Robertson
	Advanced	Pat Houghton	Barbara Manning
	Mixed Ability	Kate Gentles	Ken Martlew
	Newcomers & Improvers	Judy Valvona	Adam Brady
4.00 - 4.30	Tea, coffee and biscuits		
Optional extras	Class	Teacher	Musician
	Dances from the evening programme	Pat Houghton Judy Valvona	Barbara Manning Ken Martlew
	Highland Scottish Step	David Hall Kate Gentles	Ian Robertson Adam Brady
If you do not wish to do anything too active, you may prefer to enjoy some free time before the evening dance. The choice is yours.			
6.00 - 9.00	Evening dance with ceilidh items. Dancing will be to Luke Brady and the Day School Musicians, for programme see p7. Tickets are available in advance from Joanne Lawrence or on the door.		

Musicians' Workshop Led by accordionist and band leader Luke Brady, this will take place in both the morning and afternoon. The workshop is open to players with a suggested minimum of Grade 5 and is principally aimed at giving musicians a grounding in the skills and techniques required in playing for dancing. It will cover such areas as: pleasing the dancers, regardless of your playing ability level; inspiring the dancers through drive and lift; exploring ways to enthuse the dancers through tune selection, arrangements and interpretation; performing as a group; maximising your enjoyment in playing for dancing.

Applications for the Day School or Musicians' Workshop may be made online via the [Branch website](#), or please email Joanne Lawrence on dayschool@rscdslondon.org.uk

Application forms are also obtainable at Branch dances or from your class teacher

CLASSES TO SUIT EVERYONE - DON'T MISS IT!

Kate Gentles

Kate danced as a child in Northumberland, and then started attending regular classes as a student in Cambridge. She took her teaching certificate in 1997 with Susan Nedderman in Cambridge and now teaches the class that she learned with.

She also learned step dancing from Susan and ran a weekly Zoom step class throughout lockdown. She has taught both country dancing and step dancing at St Andrews and various day schools. She particularly enjoys encouraging people to develop both their technique and their social dancing skills.

David Hall

Dave danced and played music from an early age encouraged by his parents, both of whom danced and played. As a child he competed in highland dancing competitions and got interested in the lively Scottish country dancing scene in Manchester in his teens. He formed his own Scottish Country Dance Band in 1983.

Dave got his RSCDS Teaching Certificate in 1993 and was granted Life Membership of the British Association of Teachers of Dancing (BATD) after over 25 years connection with them. He taught the London Branch Demonstration Team from 1998 to 2003 and has taught and played at the Society's Summer and Winter Schools. Dave has enjoyed meeting meeting dancers from around the world as fellow dancer, teacher, musician and keen traveller.

Patricia Houghton

Pat started dancing when she was a child in Scotland and enjoys dancing whenever and wherever possible.

Pat gained her Teaching Certificates at St Andrews Summer School. She first taught at St Andrews in 2005 and has been a member of staff there every year since, teaching at all levels of experience. Pat enjoys teaching at local classes and at day and weekend schools in the UK and has been fortunate to teach at Winter Schools in Pitlochry and at events in Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa and USA as well as in several European countries.

Pat is an RSCDS tutor, adjudicator and examiner and is currently a member of the Education and Training Committee.

Judy Valvona

Judy has been dancing since she was 11 years old. She lives on the Isle of Wight and gained her RSCDS teaching certificate in 1997 under the tutorship of Bruce Frazer. She has experience of teaching juniors and beginners as well as regularly teaching a mixed ability class and weekend workshops for the Isle of Wight Caledonian Society. Teaching further afield includes most recently presenting for serTA some of the lesser-known Imperial dances recently republished by the RSCDS. Now happily retired, Judy is thrilled to be able to devote more time to Scottish county dancing.

Day School Evening Dance

Saturday 15 October 2022

6.00 - 9.00pm

Paddington Academy, Marylands Road,
London W9 2DR

Luke Brady and the Day School Musicians

The Laird of Milton's Daughter 8x32 J
The College Hornpipe..... 8x32 R
City of Belfast..... 3x32 S
Major Ian Stewart 8x32 J
Scott Meikle 4x32 R
The Duchess Tree..... 8x32 S
The Starry Eyed Lassie 8x32 J

Clutha..... 4x48 R
Napier's Index 8x32 J
The Braes of Breadalbane 8x32 S
Maxwell's Rant 8x32 R
Muirland Willie..... 8x32 J
Jean Martin of Aberdeen 3x32 S
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh 8x40 R

Admission includes light refreshments
There will be ceilidh items during the evening, and anyone who wishes to volunteer an item should contact Joanne Lawrence or Simon Wales (details on p2)

RSCDS members £9, non-members £10

Tickets available in advance with Day School bookings or can be purchased on the door

All dances will be recapped/walked through

Crib available at www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Luke Brady

A dance band leader and Scottish music performer for over 20 years, Luke has also been a dedicated and active member of the RSCDS organisation at both local and international level for over 15 years, playing at Summer School for more than a decade as well as having coordinated both Spring Fling and Winter School. Luke is the RSCDS Musical Director and has previously been a member of both the Membership Services Committee and the Management Board as well as Chair of his local Branch.

Adam Brady

Growing up on the east coast of Scotland, traditional music and dance have formed an integral part of Adam's life. Adam began playing the accordion and piano at five years old and first started playing for country dancing at ten years old. Since first playing for local classes for RSCDS Dundee Branch, Adam has had the pleasure to travel throughout the UK, Europe, US, Canada, Japan and Australia playing for classes, dances and music workshops. We are very fortunate to have Adam as a regular London Branch class musician and as a new recruit to the Branch Committee. Adam has been an invited musician for the RSCDS Summer School for the past ten years and has also played for the RSCDS Winter School, Spring Fling and AGM Weekend. Alongside his older brother, he has recorded and released five albums of country dance music as well as two recordings for the RSCDS. As a keen dancer, Adam enjoys getting to dance - when he can!

Barbara Manning

After many years as a keen Scottish country and highland dancer, Barbara Manning turned her classical music training to band use over 35 years ago, and since then has accompanied dancing in many parts of the UK and Europe, the USA, Ukraine and Russia, besides visiting Summer School both as a dancer and musician. She has played for numerous day schools and London Branch technique classes and has featured on recordings and with McBain's Band on Radio Scotland's *Take the Floor* from St Columba's, Pont Street and on the Earls Court Radio Show, besides playing on stage at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden for the Royal Ballet School's Annual Performance in 1985.

She currently plays mainly with the Silver Cross Band and in a duo with Ken Martlew (see below), besides featuring solo on either piano or fiddle. In November 2016, Barbara was delighted to receive from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association the personal award of Vicki Avery for Service to Amateur Theatre.

Ken Martlew

Ken has been a semi-professional musician most of his life, mainly with church music and conducting choral societies. He read music at Oxford University for a year before switching to medicine. While a medical student he gained his (ARCO) diploma on the organ, conducted numerous choirs, and composed an opera which was successfully performed at the college.

Around 1980 he discovered Scottish country dancing, and became a keen dancer, gaining his RSCDS Teacher's Certificate in 1993. He then started playing the piano for Scottish country dancing, and gave up regular church and choral music commitments to concentrate on it.

Since 1994 Ken has been a frequent pianist at St Andrews Summer School. He was Branch pianist at Cambridge for 8 years, moving on to the Berks/Hants/Surrey Border Branch, and he played for the London Advanced /Technique class for 15 years. He has taught or played for countless Scottish country dancing events in the UK and in some 14 other countries. Ken has run music workshops in Germany, France and The Netherlands, danced with the London demonstration team, and tutored a successful RSCDS Teachers' Certificate course.

Ian Robertson

Ian is from Buckinghamshire and comes from a family steeped in Scottish music. Classically trained but with a lifelong passion for the fiddle, Ian is a familiar face on the Scottish dance scene. He is most often seen now leading his own band on accordion although he regularly plays fiddle with a variety of leading musicians. A regular at RSCDS Winter and Summer Schools, he has played for weekend schools, functions and festivals across the UK and throughout the world. Ian is an accomplished composer with two volumes of tunes currently in print and more in the pipeline.



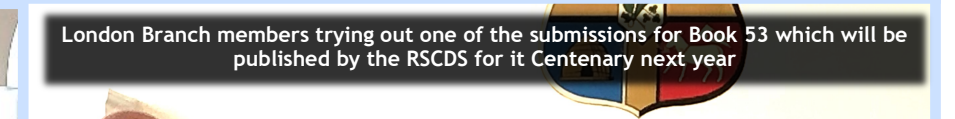
The Wednesday Mixed Ability Dance Group at St Columba's saying farewell to former teacher Jeni Rutherford (centre) in their sociable way!



View from the floor at the Branch AGM on 11 June 2022



Branch Officers preside over the AGM on 11 June 2022



London Branch members trying out one of the submissions for Book 53 which will be published by the RSCDS for its Centenary next year



AGM Dance on 11 June 2022 in the Upper Hall at St Columba's Church



Ian and Tom Robertson playing for Borrowdale Exchange at Berkhamsted's Hog Roast Ceilidh



Park Walk beginners and intermediate dancers and musicians at Davinia Miln's last class



Davinia Miln with Branch President, Rachel Wilton



Paula and Willie dance up in Shiftn' Bobbins at the second Summer Tuesday



Adam Brady, Ian Robertson and Luke Brady are the band line-up for the second Summer Tuesday



CD Review: Jeremy Hill

Ian Powrie's Welcome to Popularity



Popularity can be fickle, whether it be individuals, trends or dances, and of course is very much in the eye of the beholder. The publication by the RSCDS of *Thirty Popular Dances, Volume Two*

generated some comment on how they were selected, but the democracy of drawing on submissions from 100 branches seems as good a way as any. One of the dances included was *Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder*.

I recall our daughter and her friends coming up to us a few years ago and saying they had come across a dance that they really liked - could we include it on programmes? They had found ways to make it even more fun with additional twirls - albeit the same additions we thought we had invented thirty years ago. Perhaps *Ian Powrie* had remained popular elsewhere, but I can say that I had barely seen it for years on programmes of dances we were attending ("the eye of the beholder"). No doubt the publication in the Society book will have re-ignited interest.

The story behind the dance is itself a good one: Ian Powrie was a star, the like of which it is hard to imagine today, at least in his field as Scottish fiddler and TV personality: he was a key part of the hugely popular White Heather Club in the early 1960s; he was part of the Andy Stewart show that played summer seasons in Aberdeen, filled the Royal Albert Hall, and toured internationally, including three months in Australia and New Zealand; on his return from that, he was invited to come to play for the Queen at Balmoral; all of which enabled him to employ a six-piece band full-time, which made several recordings; and indulge in a number of interests, including learning to fly.



Ian Powrie with his trusty fiddle

The other side of Ian Powrie was his life with his family, farming in Auchterarder, which continued in parallel - he was reputed to require only five hours sleep, allowing him to rise early even after late nights on the road, to farm his 98 acres of land. When he was on tour though, it was his wife Leila who had to take over, and eventually the pressure told.

It was in 1966 that the papers that had covered Ian's exploits, registered with shock "Ian's forsaking the footlights for his family" and "When your family means much more than fame". "It's been a difficult decision", he said, in an exclusive series of articles in *The Courier and Advertiser*. And so it was that the great fiddler hung up his instrument, at least in a professional sense. Saying farewell to Auchterarder, he and the family moved to Australia, where he built a business restoring houses and ran what he referred to as an "adjustment centre" for horses - "a sort of bed-and-breakfast-cum-health-club for competitive horses".

Finally, 18 years later, he and Leila returned to Scotland, and he took up the fiddle again, performing at many gigs and Accordion and Fiddle Clubs, and touring Canada. The band was brought back together to produce a new recording, and he even made an appearance at RSCDS Summer School in 1988! He carried on sharing his love of the fiddle, Scottish music, and farming, up until he died in 2011.

The dance was written at the time of his departure in 1966 by Bill Hamilton, with the tune *West Kirkton* by John MacGregor, named for his farm. I cannot comment on its initial popularity, but it was seen on many programmes through the 1980s and 1990s, and it is great to see it on programmes still today.

As for recordings, I have seven available for the dance. The form of the 128 bar dance suggests to me that the original tune should come back at the end - rather than playing as 4x32. For me, that rules out James Coutts' version on *The Joy of Sets*, and Steven Carcary's on *Fine Mix*. I also listen for a break or clear distinction to go back into the original - which rules out Colin Dewar's two versions for his *Special Request Volume 6*.

I enjoyed the sound of Jim Johnstone's band from the aptly named LP *The Best in Scottish Music*, with *Miss Grace Bowie* as the alternative tune, but this is not widely available. Graeme Munro included a version on his recording for the 90th anniversary of the RSCDS Edinburgh Branch, but he is pipped for the arrangement, band sound and overall style by James Coutts' second recording (see cover, right). With Sandy Nixon's lively *Elaine's Jig* as the filler to the original tune, it is his recording for the Society's CD accompanying the book *Thirty Popular Dances* that I will be putting on the player, as I remember one of the greats of Scottish music, and enjoy this dance all over again.

It was a pleasure in putting this article together to be able to draw on the excellent website ianpowrie.com, including paper clippings from his whole career.

Bands

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

For Scottish country dances, ceilidhs, weddings and reeling. Any size of band from one to five. Despite moving to Scotland, still interested in gigs in the south, particularly Friday/Saturday combinations. Tel 07860 104653 or reel@frankreid.com

CALEDONIAN REELERS

Well established three-piece SCD band, consisting of accordionist, fiddler and drummer. Caller/piper can also be supplied. Available for RSCDS dances, ceilidhs, weddings, reeling. Anywhere, anytime for your function. Please contact Derek Chappell 01206 764232/ Mary Felgate 07866 757401 for further information or derek_chappell@aol.co.uk



Where is This?

Answer to 'where is this?' on p1: The Edzell Arch (or Dalhousie Arch, erected in 1887 to commemorate the deaths of the 13th Earl of Dalhousie and his wife).

Ivor Frank writes:

The Edzell Arch on the road home means 'nearly there' to me, as it is just a few hundred yards from where three generations of my family live. Passing beneath the Arch into Edzell village can be seen Inglis Memorial Hall (home to a beautifully preserved 19th century library) with its distinctive round tower and where, in the hall, the village ceilidh, for the first time since the COVID-19 lockdown, will be held again on 12 August 2022. Once under the Arch, you are only yards from the renowned Edzell Golf Course and GlenEsk Hotel, famously in the *Guinness Book of Records* for stocking more single malts (1,400) than anywhere else worldwide. It is a stone's throw from the famous Blue Door Walk which takes you to the famous Rocks of Solitude. Sadly, from the Arch can still be seen the devastation to forestry left by storm Arwen.

Now too, the Edzell Arch is a reminder of the Scottish country dance which bears its name (John Drewry, *Stoneywood Collection 1*). Of course, there are lots of arches in the dance but if you know *Postie's Jig* you'll find it a breeze. It calls to mind just how popular and widespread our dancing is, for if you want to see it danced, you can find it on Youtube danced by the Flying Scotsmen of Salzburg, Austria.

Do you have any dance name related photos? Email: editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

The Story behind the Dance: Meryl Thomson



A series of articles from Meryl Thomson delving behind the history of some of our dances and their music. Under the spotlight this issue is Lady Dorothea Stewart Murray.



Lady Dorothea Ruggles-Brise - a friend to Scottish traditional music and dance and to the RSCDS



Lady Dorothea Stewart Murray was the daughter of John Stewart-Murray, 7th Earl of Atholl and his wife Louisa Montcrieff. She was born on 25 March 1866, one of seven children, and brought up on the Atholl estates at Blair Castle. Her family had been patrons of Niel Gow through several generations and this contributed to her lifelong interest in Scottish music and traditions.

Indeed this interest in Scottish tradition ran in the family - her sister Lady Evelyn was also a great collector of Gaelic stories and folklore. Lady Dorothea started to collect Scottish music in her childhood. A lot of her music came from the link with Niel Gow and his publishing company and he wrote several compositions for the Atholl family over the years. She also appears to have collected anything and everything to do with music - pipe collections, fiddle music, harp music and many, many manuscripts of dance music.

In 1895 she married Sir Harold Goodeve Ruggles-Brise who was an officer in the Grenadier Guards. This led to her moving to London. Many people will recognise the tune *Lady Dorothea Stewart's Wedding March* composed for her by pipe major Aeneas Rose of the Atholl Highlanders.



In 1904 she managed to purchase the John Glen collection after his death. Glen was a music publisher based in Edinburgh with a large collection of music works in his possession. She later gave this collection of some 900 volumes to the National Library of Scotland in memory of her younger brother George who was killed in action in France in 1914.

What of her link to the RSCDS? In the minutes from 19 December 1923 we find she was appointed to the Research Sub Committee and in those of 16 December 1924 to the new sub committee for music. In 1925 she presented the Society with a complete collection of Niel Gow's *Reels and Strathspeys and Country Dances* in five parts and Nathaniel Gow's *Complete Repository* in three parts.



Mrs Stewart acknowledged the large part Lady Dorothea played in the finding and checking of dance sources. In Bulletin 2 from October 1932 in notes regarding the newly published Book 8 she remarks "Lady Dorothea Ruggles Brise, a member of the Research Committee, (who) not only possesses a large number of interesting books, but is indefatigable in hunting up tunes in them." In the 1934 Bulletin Mrs Stewart puts out a plea for a copy of a first edition of Nathaniel Gow's *Complete Repository part 3* to complete the set of parts owned by the Society and by the next Bulletin Lady Dorothea had given her a first edition copy of part 3 which was bound with the other three parts for the Society's use. In 1938 she presented the Society with a rare copy of MacGlashan's *Collection of Scottish Music* for which the Research Committee was very grateful.

In 1936, Lady Dorothea was asked (and accepted) to become an Honorary Vice President of the Society "as a slight recognition of her valuable help in research work amongst the old tunes and dances" (Bulletin 10). Sadly, she died on 28 December 1937 while visiting France. The March 1938 Bulletin contains a warm tribute to her, saying: "The Society will miss the very keen interest and help that The Lady Dorothea gave to the work, especially on the musical side. She had the true instincts of the antiquarian and the accurate notes she kept are a mine of information for the student. In her copy of Glen's *Early Scottish Melodies*, she made over two hundred annotations of high value, and her appended notes to the *Margaret Sinkler MS* in the National Library are as informative as they are complete".

Her personal collection of some 600 manuscripts of dance music, pipe tunes and other Scottish music was kindly donated to the Sandeman Library in Perth by personal request and when that closed this was moved to The Sandeman Room in the AK Bell Library in Perth. Several RSCDS dances are taken from sources found in this collection including *The Colledge Hornpipe* (see article in *Reel 320*).

Her obituary appeared in the *Glasgow Herald* on 7 January 1938 and relates an amusing story of her visiting an elderly Highland gentleman called Charles Macintosh, known as 'The Perthshire Naturalist', in Inver in 1909. She had heard that he possessed a rare music book (*The William Dixon manuscript*). After taking a look, she offered to purchase this from him but he threw it into the fire. She managed to rescue it and asked him why he had done this - he replied that she could have it as a present but he would never accept payment from her! This book dated from 1733 and is the oldest known source of bagpipe music in the British Isles.

Lady Dorothea was an extraordinary lady, her collections have been, and continue to be, of great importance to students of traditional dance and music. As was summed up in Bulletin 10: "The Lady Dorothea Ruggles-Brise has done very valuable work for Scotland and the Scottish Country Dance Society".

Some of the information for this article was found within the minute books and Bulletins of the Society which are available to view on the RSCDS online archive archive.rscds.org/index.php/royal-scottish-country-dance-society-records

You can read the original obituary from the *Glasgow Herald* at news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2507&dat=19380107&id=yS01AAAAIBAJ&pg=3463,941864&hl=en

Note: a shorter article about Lady Dorothea by Marilyn Healy appeared in the Autumn 2006 *Scottish Country Dancer* - archive.rscds.org/index.php/scottish-country-dancer-no-3-autumn-2006

Summer Tuesdays 2022

SUMMER TUESDAYS CONTINUE

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

Superb bands every Tuesday until
Tuesday 13 September
7.30 - 10.30pm

Admission £12 (Payment by card only)
Details of bands and programmes can be found at
summertuesdays.co.uk
For further information, contact:
summertuesdays22@gmail.com

How I started dancing from Daniel Capron



Fifty years ago, on 27 Sept 1972, I first attended Owen Meyer's beginners' class in the YWCA in Great Russell Street, opposite the British Museum. I had moved to London the year before and

checked the card index at the local library for congenial evening activities. I had enjoyed folk dancing at primary school and church socials, and so when I found the RSCDS organised classes in Scottish country dancing I decided to try it.

After classes some of us went to a nearby cafe for a drink. One of them is still a friend, although she no longer dances regularly.

I did a year of beginners' classes and then looked for a group to dance with. I found the Chelsea Reel Club, a friendly club where dances were usually walked through, and danced with them for some years, joining the Committee and being Treasurer for five years. I also learned dances and made friends. I also danced with the Little Ship Club, another friendly social group, which at that time had a younger membership than the Chelsea Reel Club and danced at Holy Trinity Brompton. Sometimes I danced with the Clans, who met in the upper hall at St Columba's on Tuesdays.

I tried the social dances on Monday nights at St Columba's, run at that time by John Laurie. But there were then usually no walkthroughs or recaps and only after dancing elsewhere for some years did I have the confidence to dance there.

After I came out as gay in 1993, I started another form of dancing - gay ballroom dancing. I enjoyed being the partner of another man and regretted that was not usually possible in Scottish country dancing. At that time while it was acceptable for two women to dance together, two men dancing together was not. So while I continued conventional Scottish country dancing, I started to dream of a Scottish dance group for gay people and their friends, where everyone could dance with whoever they wished. The dream came true in 2005 when I set up the Gay Gordons.

Nowadays the Chelsea Reel Club and the Clans are no more. I still enjoy dancing at St Columba's on winter Mondays and with the Little Ship Club. (I am one of those responsible for the Little Ship Club losing its reputation as a young group.) I also enjoy dancing with the Gay Gordons, Summer Tuesdays, RSCDS London Branch and the Highland Club.

Looking back over half a century of dancing, I have had a lot of fun, kept myself fit and made and kept many good friends. I am happy to reflect I have contributed to the fun, fitness and friendship of others. I should like to thank all those - teachers, MCs, committee members, bands, fellow dancers - who have contributed to my enjoyment of Scottish country dancing.

Richmond Class on the move from Janet Jackson

Richmond has a lot going for itself - yet some of its wonders do not stand out immediately. Treasure troves by definition, need to be discovered. And so it is with Scottish country dancing. Away from the bustle of Richmond's main road, there is a tucked away little alley - quite unassuming but it takes you to the back of the Library. This is where silence gives way to two hours of exhilarating music and dancing every Wednesday.

Our core group is made up of twelve and is growing; sometimes reaching to sixteen. Judith Jones, our indefatigable teacher, is very patient with us as we give our best in hope that we shall eventually succeed in the skills of *reels*, *poussettes*, or *pas de basque* and much more than that. We really enjoy our Wednesdays. We have good old laughs, especially when no sooner than we have built up a dance ready for dancing, some of us sheepishly look at one another and whisper "how does it start!"

Learning the steps and dances is fun but remembering them seems impossible! Positive and determined as we are, we have taken to going as a small group to the seasonal dances of the London Branch.



Members of the Richmond class enjoy tea at the Summer Wednesday Dance. Janet Jackson seated at the back

We had practised almost all the dances in time for the Summer Wednesday Dance at St Columba's Church on Pont Street. We went full of confidence. We were ready for it and most of us danced the whole lot of 18 dances and yes, there were a few times when we felt that we had caught ourselves into a long bit of spaghetti in a bowl - not so easy to get out of it! Like spaghetti, it can be messy - and we got tangled at times, yet somehow, we found a way out... and the dance continued. It was a wonderful evening, thanks to the great music provided by Dave Hall and Christina Hood, helpful instruction from MCs Judith Jones and Simon Wales and the patience of the more experienced dancers, who always came to our rescue.

Surely all this shows how much we thoroughly enjoy the Scottish country dancing. With all of this thrill, we are getting better. Simply said, we love our Wednesdays. Such fun! And as we review our efforts - mostly in a pub - we agreed that Scottish country dancing is indeed a life pursuit.

A group of us are now gearing up for the RSCDS Summer School at St Andrews. Ambitious and optimistic we go....

Inside the RSCDS

Management Board: Simon Wales

RSCDS CENTENARY

This draft calendar gives members an insight into the exciting Centenary plans - more updates to follow.

4-6 November 2022 - Autumn Gathering in Glasgow - Launch of Centenary Celebrations. Pre-order the Centenary whisky and buy the Centenary pin.

19-24 February 2023 - Winter School at the Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry. Centenary whisky ready for collection.

24 February 2023 - Flying Scotsman joint event at Waverley Station.

25 March 2023 - RSCDS Centenary Ball, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh.

April 2023 - Worldwide Spring Flings in Edinburgh, Toronto and Australasia.

June 2023 - *Minister on the Loch* event with Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh. Publication of Book 53.

16 July - 13 August 2023 - RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews, including Centenary concert and International link.

30 September 2023 - *24 Hours Around the World* with Branches dancing 10 dances from the decades (list below).

3 - 5 November 2023 - Centenary Autumn Gathering in Glasgow.

26 November 2023 - Celebration at the Athenaeum in Glasgow, where the meeting to found the Society took place in 1923.

DANCE THROUGH THE RSCDS DECADES

One dance published in each decade of the Society's one hundred years:

1923 - 1932 *The Flowers of Edinburgh* RSCDS Book 1 published 1924

1933 - 1942 *The Rakes of Glasgow* RSCDS Book 11 published 1936

1943 - 1952 *Ladies' Fancy* RSCDS Book 13 published 1945

1953 - 1962 *None so Pretty* RSCDS Book 19 published 1957

1963 - 1972 *Neidpath Castle* RSCDS Book 22 published 1963

1973 - 1982 *The Old Man of Storr* RSCDS Children's Book published 1982

1983 - 1992 *Gothenburg's Welcome* RSCDS Book 37 published 1992

1993 - 2002 *Anna Holden's Strathspey* RSCDS Book 42 published 2002

2003 - 2012 *Scott Meikle* RSCDS Book 46 published 2010

2013 - 2022 *Farewell to Balfour Road* RSCDS Book 52 published 2018

These dances reflect traditional and modern Scottish country dances, featuring familiar formations with a programme that brings some old favourites to the fore for the Centenary year. The selection also provides a mix for dancers of every standard - children, beginners and advanced dancers - with something for everyone, everywhere.

RSCDS Membership Services Committee

Lives Remembered

A Perfect Ambassador

from Stephen Webb

Douglas James Dean

20 April 1933 - 17 June 2022



I met Douglas just that one time in March 2008 at the Fleet Ball and we hit it off. He had very clear views on Scottish country dancing which coincided with my own and we chatted about Jean Milligan, (Auntie Jean he called her) and Derek Haynes and the great contribution in their various ways they had made. We corresponded on Scottish country dancing for a while too.

He was kind enough to give me his two books that he had written at that time, a third came in 2009. Combined they provide 35 dances which sought to aid the teaching of dancing by their construction and use of figures that flowed especially, at the second time through. He agreed with Jean Milligan's comment that hands were to be taken where possible as Scottish country dancing was very much about sociability where eye contact and partner interaction were essential.

Douglas started Scottish country dancing in the Liverpool area in 1947. He liked the concentration and precision of it and enjoyed 'swinging,' synchronising it to perfection with the music and placement. He would attend the big monthly dance in the Rodney Rooms in Harold House together with other weekly socials there. In 1951 Douglas started teaching at the Post Office in Liverpool, where he met Derek Haynes. In Malaya (as it was then) later whilst doing National Service he polished up his dancing. On returning to the UK he moved to Reading, teaching there and at surrounding towns but stopped teaching in 1957 after marrying Marion, another teacher. When he retired, he collected together his 1950s dances he had written and published them in *The Rodney Rooms Dances*. All his dances can be found on Strathspey Server. Readers will get a sense of the man from searching out his letters to *The Reel* nos. 232, 233, 236, 237 and 239 from 2001. Scottish country dancing needs more ambassadors like Douglas - a definite loss to dancing and us all.

For the *Rodney Rooms* publications, please see bracknellreelclub.org.uk/douglas.html

Mary Robertson relaxing with a glass of red wine



Prettiest Girl in the Village

from Jeff Robertson

Mary Gardiner Laird Robertson

26 March 1942 - 20 April 2022



Mary was kind and gentle, happy and caring and could light up any room with her smile. When I met her, she was the prettiest girl in the village.

Mary was born in Stirling and lived nearby in the small mining village of Fallin. Meanwhile I lived in Alloa some five miles away on the other side of the river Forth. We met in the Stirling County Council offices in 1967, married in July 1968 and moved to Edinburgh where we were blessed with two children, Lorna and Mark.

Mary was quite academic at school and was presented with several prize books which we still have. In 1975 the family moved to Mid Sussex and later to the south coast. Lorna and Mark both married and we now have three grand-children. In Sussex, Mary worked for an insurance broker (now AON) and became a team leader before she retired.

In the early 1990s we became involved with the Mid Sussex Caledonian Society where Mary did a spell as Secretary. Mary was proud of her Scottish heritage and around that time Mary and I were introduced to Scottish country dancing and became hooked. After a few years with Mervyn Short, local Sussex classes and London Branch, we danced in Australia, Canada and a few times at the Royal Albert Hall. We had a happy and eventful few years in the MacLennan Scottish Group dancing our way round Europe.



Mary (centre) dancing with the MacLennan Scottish Group in Zamora, July 2006

For several years we were part of a team who took part in the annual London to Brighton Bike Ride in the 1990s and Mary drove the support vehicle.

As our house backed onto a cricket ground we became active members of Lindfield Cricket Club and the highlight was our cricket tour of Australia in 1997, marking the club's 250th anniversary. We played Lindfield Australia which is a suburb of North Sydney and whilst there we contacted Keith and Morag Napier and they drove us to a Scottish dance in Newcastle, fifty miles north of Sydney. We later attended a super local class in Sydney. Mary and I were studying for our

preliminary teaching certificates at the time and during this trip our tutor, Bruce Fraser, had prepared loads of homework for us. Whilst in the area, Mary enjoyed a production of *Die Fledermaus* at Sydney Opera House.

It was amazing, the trip of a lifetime and Mary made up scrap books which documented it in great detail; all those memories.

In 2007, we bought a property in France and Mary used to love tending the borders and watching and feeding the ducks. More recently as her mobility was deteriorating we acquired several sets of garden furniture so she did not have to walk far between rests.

Mary liked to sit on the harbour wall at Portsmouth watching all the boats, ferries and ships sailing in and out. It was even better with an ice cream.

Last year we acquired an allotment and put in a raised bed so that Mary could potter away herself. We would sit there in the sun and reflect.

Mary enjoyed our local visits to Pagham Lagoon and Siddlesham Harbour where we would sit and watch the birds, occasionally spotting a heron or avocet. She also enjoyed coffee at Chichester Basin and the boat trips along the canal.

We were married two months short of 54 years and thought we still had a few more years together, sadly that was not to be.

There is still so much to do and say but the moment has gone.

Mary will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Forthcoming Events

LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE CLUB



Christmas Dance

Saturday 10 December 2022
7pm - 11pm

Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Road,
Wendover HP22 6HF

Ian Muir (Prestwick) Duo

Programme: The Shetland Shepherdess, The Highland Rambler, Linnea's Strathspey, Farewell to Balfour Road, Miss Lucy Clark, Cherrybank Gardens, Gothenburg's Welcome, The Bon Viveur, Ramadan-ce, The Bees of Maggielockater, Festival Fling, The Wind on Loch Fyne, Father Connelly's Jig, Trip to Timber Ridge, The Flower of Glasgow, Kamo Karousel, Mairi's Wedding

All dances fully recapped
Tickets £20
With a welcome glass of fizz and
buffet supper

Contact Ann Higginbottom on
01494 451374
or email lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com

Further information and cribs available at
lucyclarkscottish.org
Crib also available at
my.strathspey.org/dd/list/34212/

Forthcoming Events

ISLE OF WIGHT
Weekend School
Friday 17 - Sunday 19
February 2023



Teachers: Mervyn Short and Sue Porter
Class Musicians: Ian and Judith Muir

Band for evening dances
The Craigellachie Band

Further information from
Catherine Packwood-Bluett
01980 621322

iowdwe@hotmail.com
craigellachie-band.co.uk/isle_of_wight.html

ST JOHN'S SCOTTISH COUNTRY
DANCING CLUB



Annual Ball

Saturday 19 November 2022
7.00pm

Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP

Dancing to Strathallan

Programme: Details to follow

Louise Peddle 01276 34648 and
Rich Laws 07921 654094

Or email: tickets.stjohns.scds@gmail.com
warmweb.co.uk/stjohnssdc

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY
& REEL CLUB



Day School

Sunday 20 November 2022
White Hill Centre, Chesham HP5 1AG

Teachers: David Queen
Andrew Nolan, Jane Rose
Musicians: Ian Robertson
Adam Brady, Dave Hall

Tickets: Whole day £30
Morning or afternoon £16

Contact: Petula Martlew
Phone: 07718 236333

email: sec@berkhamstedreelclub.org
website: berkhamstedreelclub.org

READING ST ANDREW'S
SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

St Andrew's Tea Dance and Ceilidh

Sunday 27 November 2022
2.30 - 6.00pm
The Calcot Community Centre, Highview,
Reading RG31 4XD

Strathallan
Tickets £10

Annual Ball
Saturday 4 February 2023

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Contact: Duncan Barnet
Flat 4, 8 Western Elms Avenue,
Reading RG30 2AN
0118 956 9289 or sasdc01@gmail.com

scottishdancingreading.org

Tea Dance with Craigellachie

Sunday 11 September 2022
2.45 - 6.15 pm
Chorleywood War Memorial Hall,
Common Road, Chorleywood,
Herts WD3 5LN
The hall has a sprung floor!

Ian Muir and The Craigellachie Band

Programme: EH3 7AF, Scott Meikle,
Slytherin House, Ian Powrie's Farewell to
Auchterarder, Trip to Timber Ridge, Far
North Queensland, Major Ian Stewart, The
Minister on The Loch, Glastonbury Tor, The
Aviator, Butterscotch and Honey, Swiss
Lassie, Farewell to Balfour Road, The Bon
Viveur, The Rutland Reel, Miss Eleanor,
James Gray, The Falls of Rogie

Tickets £15, non-dancers £10
Advance booking only
All dances will be recapped briefly
No walk-throughs
Includes sandwiches, scones, drinks
Please bring a small plate of cakes to share

Contact Katy Kendall
teadance.katy@aol.com
or Caroline Hamilton 07785 997372
caroline@summertuesdays.co.uk
wdsa.co.uk/tea_dance_2022.html

THISTLE CLUB

**Musicians & Dancers Workshops and
Dance**

Saturday 3 September 2022
10:30-16:30 and 19:30-22:30
Wing Village Hall, LU7 ONN
Teacher: Gabor Turi,
Musician: Phill Jones

Musician Tutor: Nicol McLaren

Workshops: Musicians £20, Dancers £16
Evening Dance £10 or £24 for both
Bring your own lunch and shared buffet
contribution

See Reel 320 for programme
Contact Jan Jones 07877 153259 or
jangeverybusy@gmail.com
thistleclub.co.uk

Hogmanay Dance

Saturday 31 December 2022
7.00pm - 12.30am
Gt. Brickhill Hall, Rotten Row MK17 9BA
Chris & Julie Dewhurst

Programme: The Findlays' Jig, Scott Meikle,
City of Belfast, The Young Accordion Man,
Ecclefechan Feline, The Blue Mess Jacket,
The Wind that Shakes the Barley, Farewell
to Balfour Road, Sands of Morar, Blooms of
Bon Accord, The Starry Eyed Lassie,
Maxwell's Rant, Pelorus Jack, The Orchards
of Co. Armagh, Staircase In Styria, Bill
Clement MBE, The Moray Rant, Miss C. M.
Barbour, Major Ian Stewart, Montparnasse,
The Castle of Mey, St Bernard's Waltz, The
Bees of Maggie Knockater, Da Rain Dancin'

Tickets Booked in advance £15
Bring and share supper
Contact Jan Jones 07877 153259 or
jangeverybusy@gmail.com

thistleclub.co.uk

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY
DANCE CLUB



70th Anniversary Ball with
HARWELL SCDC

Saturday 3 December 2022
7.00 - 11.30pm
Old Mill Hall, School Lane, Grove, OXON
OX12 7LB

Ian Muir and The Craigellachie Band

Programme: Grand March into Round Reel of
Eight, Pelorous Jack, Foxhill Court*,
The Falls of Rogie, Farewell to Balfour Road,
The Orchards of Co. Armagh, Ezekiel's
Wheel*, The Wild Geese, Platinum
Strathspey, The Irish Rover, Shiftn'
Bobbins, The Dancing Master, Scotch Mist,
The Dragon, The Bees of Maggie Knockater,
Broadway, The Earl of Mansfield*, The
Cooper's Wife, The Dream Catcher, Da Rain
Dancin' Extras: Scott Meikle, Postie's Jig

Tickets £25.00 in advance only
includes a welcome drink and supper
Dances marked * will be walked through.
First 8 bars will be recapped for all other
dances

Contact: Hilary Adams
01235 528154
chairman@abingdon.org.uk
abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY
BORDER BRANCH



Autumn Social

Saturday 1 October 2022
7.30 - 10.30pm

St Mark's Church Hall, Farnborough GU14 6TU

Dancing to recorded music
Bring and share refreshments
Tickets on the door
Contact: Paul Plummer

vice-chairman@rscds-bhs.org.uk

Christmas Social

Wednesday 28 December 2022

7.00 mulled wine
St Paul's Parish Rooms, Wokingham RG41 1EH
Dancing to recorded music
7.30 - 10.30pm

Bring and share refreshments
Tickets on the door

Contact Sarah Whillis youth@rscds-bhs.org.uk

Visit our website for details
rscds-bhs.org.uk

RSCDS CROYDON &
DISTRICT BRANCH



Weekend School

Friday 11- Sunday 13 November 2022
Cumberland Hotel, Grand Parade,
Eastbourne, BN21 3YT

Teacher: Anita Wilson
Music: Ian and Judith Muir

Reserve now. Pay (£163) in October

Contact: Roger Keeling
rscdscroydon.treasurer@gmail.com
rscdscroydon.org.uk

Forthcoming Events

IAN ROBERTSON'S

Tea Dance

Sunday 13 November 2022

2.30-5.30pm

Wendover Memorial Hall,
Wharf Road, Wendover HP22 6HQ

Ian Robertson, Ewan Galloway and Tom Robertson

Programme: Hooper's Jig, Trip to Timber Ridge, Cape Town Wedding, Polharrow Burn, Bees of Maggiecknocker, Sands of Morar, Mairi's Wedding, Pelorus Jack, The Countess of Dunmore's Reel, The Dream Catcher, Best Set in the Hall, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, The De'il Amang the Tailors

All dances will be recapped and/or walked

Tickets £10 available from Ian Robertson on 07730 333824 or

ibrobertson@btinternet.com

Tea and cakes will be available

ST COLUMBA'S DANCERS

St Columba's Church

Pont Street,

London SW1X 0BD



Dancing on Monday evenings
7.15 for 7.30pm

Band Nights 2022 - 2023

31 October 2022 - **Chris Oxtoby**

5 December 2022 - **Ken Martlew and Mollie Koenigsberger**

23 January 2023 (Burns Night) - **Frank Reid**

6 March 2023 (Combined Societies' Dance)

Ian Robertson Band

22 May 2023 (End of Season Dance)

David Hall Band

Entrance fee on Band Nights: £11

Burns Night: £12

Combined Societies' Dance : £13

Recorded music on other Monday evenings

Charge only for tea and biscuits in the interval

Contact: Willie Lawrence

stcolumbasdancers@gmail.com

stcolumbasdancers.org

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 22 October 2022

7.30-11.30pm

Headington School, Oxford OX3 7TD
Ample free parking and on the London-Oxford bus route with stop near to school

Programme: The Happy Meeting, Shiftin' Bobbins, Cape Town Wedding, Inchmickery, The Royal Yacht Britannia, Neidpath Castle, James Gray, Linnea's Strathspey, The Reverend John MacFarlane, Flora's Fancy, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, The Piper and the Penguin, Quarries' Jig, Scotch Mist, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, The Flower of Glasgow, The Wild Geese, The Reel of the Royal Scots *Extras:* The Ayr Promenade, West's Hornpipe

Tickets £24 (spectators £12.00)

Contact: Helen Houghton-Carr
events.rscdsoxfordshire@gmail.com

or 07531 469213

rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk

(note our new website address)

Advance notices:

Burns' Night Supper and Dance

21 January 2023

Benson OX10 6LZ

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Day School and Dance

18 February 2023

Headington School, Oxford OX3 7TD

Ian Robertson Band



www.rscdsoxfordshire.org

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming dances to be held at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD



Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 - 10.30pm unless otherwise stated

3 September 2022: President's Night
Calum Mitchell

1 October 2022: Autumn Dance
Ian Muir (Prestwick)

3 December 2022: Christmas Dance
Frank Reid

Details on our website:

londonhighlandclub.co.uk

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

GERRARDS CROSS & CHALFONTS SCDC



January Tea Dance

Sunday 29 January 2023

2.30-5.45pm

Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre
East Common, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD

Music by Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

Programme: A London Celebration, Wild Geese, Cape Breton Island, The Haar on Skye, Coats Land, Clutha, Triple Happiness, Bauldy Bain's Fiddle, The Shetland Shepherdess, The Kissing Bridge, The Water of Leith, Inchmickery, The Tri-Mariner, Miss Eleanor, A Trip to Timber Ridge

ALL DANCES WILL BE WALKED THROUGH

Tickets: Dancers £10, Non-Dancers and Children £6

Tickets online from

tickets@gxchscottish.org

or call 07771 709771

No paper tickets will be issued
Afternoon tea will be provided on a bring and share basis

Rehearsal: Saturday 21 January 9.45am
at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre
gxchscottish.org

Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

To update your information in Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations contact editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

If you require your information to be changed in the SE Classes Listing on our website please contact

Jan Collings seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk or call on 07803 923036.

This is the second insertion of this cycle and the invoice for *Reel 320* - 323 was enclosed on the reverse of the address sheet of *Reel 320*.

If you wish to cancel, or pay by bank transfer, please contact treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Dancing most Mondays, 7.45-10.00pm, September - June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, near Oxford. All welcome. Details: secretary@ascdc.org.uk or abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

ADDESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY Meets Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm September-May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Val Clack, 01932 845869 or addestonescottish.org.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB Meets in Potten End Village Hall, HP4 2QG. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15pm September-May, Saturday: gardens June/July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8.00pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Petula Martlew 01442 261525 or berkhamstedreelclub.org

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS Advanced Class: Sixteen Mondays from 12 Sept 2022 - 24 April 2023 at St Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham Without RG40 3BA 8.15 - 10.15pm. Wednesday General Class: from September - May starting on 7 Sept 2022 at St. Mary's Church Hall, Park Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2SR, 8.00 - 10.00pm. Beginners Course: Ten Wednesdays starting 5 October (not 23 November) at St Mary's as above 8.00 - 9.00pm. Details: Fiona Albinson 01189 789181 or rscds-bhs.org.uk

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS Meets at The Scottish Hall, 80/82 Shelbourne Road, Charminster, Bournemouth BH8 8QZ every Wednesday morning, 10.00am-12 noon. Details: Margaret Robson, 01202 698138 or jl.robson@ntlworld.com

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details: Rod Burrows, 01903 783053 or chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk or rscds-brighton.org.uk

BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets Thursdays 7.45-10.15pm at Moulsecoomb Hall, Brighton. Details: Carol Catterall, 01273 564963 or bhscdc.org.uk

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB Dancing every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Jackie Cresswell, 01252 616289 or info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY Scottish country dancing and other events. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8.00pm from September-June. Details: Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or camscotsoc.org.uk

CHELTHENHAM BRANCH RSCDS General class/Club Night Mondays 7.30-9.30pm with a separate Beginners' Section fortnightly at St Luke's Church Hall, St Luke's Place, Cheltenham GL53 7HP. Details: Lesley Taylor, 07712 578622 cheltrscdssec@gmail.com

Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

Continued from p15

CHELtenham SCOTTISH SOCIETY Dancing Friday nights 7.30-10.00pm at St Andrew's UR Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP. Details: John Marshall, duracellbunney@tiscali.co.uk cheltenhamscottishsociety.org or jockjigging.webador.co.uk

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets on Sundays 7.00-9.30pm, September-June, in the Upper Hall at St Michael & All Angels Church, corner of Woodstock Road and Priory Avenue, London W4 1TX (turn right out of Turnham Green tube station). Details: chiswickscottish.org.uk or secretary@chiswickscottish.org

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH Branch class in Coulsdon: General, including Beginners with technique Fridays 7.30-10.00pm Coulsdon Methodist Church, Brighton Road, Coulsdon CR5 2BE. Details: Mary Courtney, 020 8651 0704 or rscdcroydon.org.uk

EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Club nights: Mondays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at St Barnabas Church, 127 Snakes Lane East, Woodford IG8 7HX; Thursdays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at St John's Parish Hall, High Road, Buckhurst Hill, IG9 5RX. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or angelaross87@hotmail.com or efsa.org.uk

EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION General dancing Mondays, 7.30-10.00pm, Tweddle Hall, St Andrew's URC, Northey Avenue, Cheam, SM2 7HF. Teacher: Pauline Cashmore, 020 8686 9362. Details: Dorothy Pearson, 01737 551724

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, September-end of April at Memorial Hall, Babbs Mead, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7EE. Details: Anne Lester, 01252 782927 or lesteranne@ymail.com or fscdc.co.uk

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY Dance in Fleet URC Hall, 25 Kings Road, Fleet GU51 3AF on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.00pm, September-May. Details: Anne Lester, 01252 782927 or info.fleetscscs@gmail.com or fleetscscs.co.uk

GERRARDS CROSS AND CHALFONTS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD on Tuesdays in term time from Sept-June, 7.30-10.00pm and also in Little Chalfont Methodist Church Hall, Chalfont Avenue, Little Chalfont HP6 6RD on Thursdays from 2.15-4.15pm. Visitors and beginners welcome. Details: Roger Stubbs, 01494 873063

GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION Meets at British Legion Hall, 182 Oldfield Lane South, Greenford UB6 9JS. Fridays 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Janet MacPhail janetmcp@mail54@gmail.com

GUILDFORD SCDC Meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from Sept-June. Details: 01420 362530 or gscdc.org.uk

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB Meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Details: Val Owens, 01727 863870 or rscdsherts.org/harpenden

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Also a variety of other activities. Details: Sheena Henderson, mail@harrowscottish.org.uk or 07719 985025 or harrowscottish.org.uk

HERTSMERE REEL CLUB Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. August and September) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 020 8440 3236 or margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB Meets regularly at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: londonhighlandclub.co.uk

LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB Meets Thursdays at the Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Road, Wendover HP22 6HF. Beginners' class 6.45-8.00pm, Social Dancing 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Liz Mitchell, 07947 000368 or lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com or lucyclarkscottish.org

MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB Meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Piran's School, Gringer Hill, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7LZ. Last Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 01628 628372 or maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk

MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP Meets every Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details: Dick Barford, 01622 685984

MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION Dancing Mondays Bredhurst Village Hall, 1.30-3.45pm; Thursdays Brompton-Westbrook School, Gillingham ME7 5DQ, 8.00-10.00pm. Beginners welcome. Details: Lyn Sutton-Jones, 07831 154038 or medwaycaledonians.co.uk

MID SUSSEX SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP Mixed Ability Group meets every Tuesday in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre BN6 9UY 7.45-10.30pm. Details: Fran Bramham franmssd@gmail.com

MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00-10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 01908 378730 or jange@verybusy.co.uk

NORWICH RSCDS Branch class in Norwich on Mondays from September-May/June. Beginners from 7.00-8.15pm and general dancing 8.20-9.30pm. Details: Sue Petty, 01603 741639 or secretary@rscds-norwich.org.uk

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 Paul's, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or hadyndavies@gmail.com or www.orpingtonscottishdancing.com

OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Margaret Spiceley, 07985 962781 or secretary.rscdsoxfordshire@gmail.com or rscdsoxfordshire.org

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading RG1 5BD from 8.00-10.00pm, September-May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st and 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Duncan Barnet, 0118 956 9289 dbarnet@waitrose.com or scottishdancingreading.org

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets most Mondays 8.15-10.15pm, September-May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm from mid-September to mid-June. Details: 07802 442435 or richmondcaledonian.co.uk

SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP Dancing Tuesday 8.00pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, South Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD St Columba's Dancers meet most Mondays from October to May, 7.15-10.00pm. Admission free except for Band Nights when a charge will be made. Details: Willie Lawrence, 07798 640551 or stcolumbasdancers@gmail.com or stcolumbasdancers.org

ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM Meets every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm September-June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Kate Thomson, 0118 986 0681 sec.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com Also Children's Class Saturdays 9.30-11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831

SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION Dancing on Wednesdays from 7.30-10.00pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin, 020 8856 4522

SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY Dancing Fridays, 7.30-10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808 or graham.easton@btinternet.com or seess.org.uk

SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Dancing every Thursday at 8.00pm from September-June at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, surbitoncaledonian.co.uk

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS General ability class on Tuesdays from 7.30-9.30pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9AL. Details: Colin Simpson, 01892 832712 or rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY Beginners/Improvers Class at Nascot Wood Recital Hall, Nascot Wood Road, Watford WD17 4YS Mondays from 8.00-9.30pm and General/Beginners Class at All Saints' Church Hall, The Green, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3HJ Thursdays from 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 01923 492475 or reel@watfordscottish.org.uk

WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Dance Class Mondays 8.00pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex. Details: Mrs Caroline Hamilton, 020 8866 2378 or info@wdsa.co.uk

WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS Dancing at Radipole and Southill Community Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 9SS. Thursdays, 7.00-10.00pm. Details: Judie Seymour, 01305 833660

WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS Classes Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Road North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 01264 363293 or wendy@mumford.com

WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, United Reformed Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Audrey Kennedy, 01376 513567 or amkenedy148@gmail.com

Credits: Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of *The Reel*, including the following for providing photos:

p1: Summer Wednesday Dance - Simon Wales (SDW); Dalhousie Arch - Richard Willis, licensed under Creative Commons Licence 2.0. p2: Joanne Lawrence - from herself; Margaret Moore - from herself. p4: cartoon - with permission Joan Miles. p5: Mel Rowland - from herself; Dave Hall - from himself; Richard Clarke - from himself; Simon Wales - Petar Petkovic (PP). p6: Day School staff - from themselves. pp8-9: Wednesday Social Group - Joanne Lawrence (JL); AGM Dance - PP; Park Walk class - both JL; Branch AGM - both PP; Berkhamsted Hog Roast Ceilidh - Stephen Webb (SJW); Book 53 Trial - JL; Second Summer Tuesday - *Shiftn' Bobbins* - SJW; Band - Willie Lawrence. p10: Jeremy Hill - from himself; Ian Powrie - from his Facebook page; CD cover - RSCDS. p11: Meryl Thomson - from herself; Dorothea Ruggles-Brise - 1921 by Bassano (no photographer known) Public Domain; Music - from the Glen Collection; Complete Repository - from Meryl Thomson. p12: Daniel Capron - Steve Oakes; Richmond Class - JL. p13: Douglas Dean - SJW; Mary Robertson - all from Jeff Robertson.

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The Reel is provided as part of the membership benefits of RSCDS London Branch or through a subscription to the magazine.

If you are not already a member or subscriber, please consider joining the Branch or subscribing to the magazine to help support RSCDS London Branch.

Details of membership and subscription options can be found on page 3 of this magazine.

You can subscribe for as little as £4 a year.