



The Reel



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MAY TO AUGUST 2015

Scottish Country Dancing—
For fun, fitness and
friendship

LONDON DANCING LIT UP BY SPRING FLING 2015



SUMMER WEDNESDAY DANCE

Wednesday 27 May 2015

7.00 – 10.00pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

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

Sandra Smith & Barbara Manning

Jig to the Music	Graded 2/7
Catch the Wind	45/5
Fair Donald	29/4
Domino Five	Graded 2/11
The Banks of Clyde	MMM/4
Light and Airy	4/5
The Sailor	24/4

Round Reel of Eight	27/7
The Hidden Valley	Carnforth 4/6
St Andrew's Fair	5 for 1982/2
Sleepy Maggie	11/5
Monymusk	11/2
Linton Ploughman	5/6
The Reel of the 51st Division	13/10

Extras:

The Wild Geese	24/3
Flight to Melbourne	47/3
The Byron Strathspey	Deeside 2/7

Admission includes light refreshments

RSCDS members £9.00, Non-members £11.00

Students (with student card) and spectators £5.00

All children (under 16) free

All tickets to be purchased (cash only)

on the door

All dances will be recapped

LONDON BRANCH AGM & END OF SEASON DANCE

Saturday 13 June 2015

AGM: 6.45 – 7.30pm

Dance: 7.30 – 10.30pm

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

Barbara Manning & Calum Mitchell

Welcome to Ayr	47/8
Maxwell's Rant	18/10
The Gentleman	35/5
Quarries' Jig	36/3
Mrs Milne of Kinneff	Leaflet 20
The Fireworks Reel	48/11

Newburgh Jig	48/1
The Committee Meeting ..	Reel Friends 3/16
Argyll Strathspey	35/3
Vintage Simon	47/5
Scott Meikle	46/3
Monymusk	11/2
Pelorus Jack	41/1
The Gardeners' Fantasia	46/2
The Reel of The Royal Scots	Leaflet 27

Extras:

Catch the Wind	45/5
Anna Holden's Strathspey	42/2
The White Heather Jig	22SCD/9

Admission includes light refreshments

RSCDS members £9.00, Non-members £11.00

Students (with student card) & spectators £5.00

All children (under 16) free

All tickets to be purchased (cash only) on the door

All dances will be recapped

Over the weekend of 17-19 April 2015, London was delighted to host 90 dancers aged 12-35 for a thrilling three days of classes and dances at Spring Fling 2015. Dances were organised in conjunction with Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club and the London Branch, as well as classes, including a 'Spring Fringe' class for those over 35.

Above: the Spring Fling 2015 participants at the dance with the London Branch on Saturday 18 April at St Columba's Church, Pont St.

Below: Elaine Davies, convenor of the Spring Fling 2015 Committee, leads the way, with Alexander McLachlan. Behind is Jim Healy, RSCDS Chairman and guest for the weekend with his wife Marilyn.

See also pp3, 8, 9 and 16 for more on the weekend



CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

It was wonderful to see the Lower Hall at St. Columba's packed once again with Scottish country dancers, as Spring Fling descended on London in April. It wasn't just the numbers that were impressive, but the age range and enthusiasm of the dancers and the musicians. Many people contributed to the success of that day and the whole weekend, but special thanks to Jim Lindsay for leading and inspiring the musicians' workshop, to Elaine Davies for two years' hard work in bringing Spring Fling to London, and Margaret Shaw for co-ordinating the Branch catering team throughout the weekend. For me it was a reminder of why we enjoy Scottish country dancing, and why we give up our time to serve on committees, or do other things to help our branches and clubs.

It's important to remember that, and to stay positive, even when, generally, attendances at dances and classes are not what they were. As I write, the Branch Committee is wrestling with a significant increase to the cost of hiring the halls at St Columba's, and the sudden unavailability of the school where we hold many of our classes. We'll deal with these problems, but there are difficult choices for us to make. What aspects of Branch activity do we subsidise, and where do we make the money that will allow us to do that? How far should we venture, in trying to attract new members, and to what extent should we look after our core supporters? How, if at all, should the Branch be different from other SCD societies?

We want your views, so do please come to our AGM on 13 June. We need a decent turn-out to ensure the meeting is quorate, and we are genuinely interested in what you think about the way the Branch is run, and how we should approach the future. You are all part of the Branch, and I am grateful for all that you do. It was really pleasing to talk to a couple of new dancers at one of our events. They commented on how friendly and welcoming we are, in contrast, they said, to some other groups. That's great (for us at least) and it reminds us all that we are ambassadors for the Society and SCD.

Keep up the good work. See you at the AGM and on the dance floor.

Andrew Kellett



ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE
SOCIETY



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Dances: Marjory Reid
Demonstrations: Anna Twinn
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@LondonRSCDS



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.

STOP PRESS: BRANCH CLASS INFORMATION

Due to the last minute unavailability of the Frances Holland School, Wednesday evening classes in April and May will be held at St Thomas' CE Primary School, Appleford Road, London W10 5EF. It is a very clean, fresh school, which was built about five years ago. They are able to accommodate both our classes on the Wednesday evenings up to 20 May. Consideration may also be given to the use of this school for classes re-starting in September.

How to Get There: The nearest underground stations are Westbourne Park (about a 10 minute walk to the school) and Ladbroke Grove, from which the number 23 bus goes closest to the school. The school's details may be found at www.st.rbkc.sch.uk/lettings

The three Summer General Classes on 3, 10 and 17 June, as well as the demonstration classes on 19 May and 16 June, will be held in the Upper Hall at St Columba's.

If you have any questions on the classes, please contact Margaret or Lena at classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Maintaining Contact – email addresses

The Branch continues to use various means to keep in touch with members, on the website, Facebook, Twitter, through *The Reel* and regular email.

If you wish to receive information by email (not more than once a month), please send your email address to Jerry Reinstein jar@reinsteinassociates.com and we will add you to the list. Note: the list is not used for any other purpose and not shared with any other organisation.

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EDITORIAL

Huge thanks and congratulations to all those responsible for bringing the Spring Fling to London in April, linking with Chiswick and the London Branch to create such a successful celebration of dance and music. Events like this, bringing together enthusiasts from across Branches, clubs and countries, suggest to me the benefit of looking beyond our own narrow groups and interests, to link with dancers of all ages and interests, from all places. It is exactly such events that we seek out for our dancing, avoiding those insular events where everyone dances only with their own club mates. Greater collaboration of groups, as exemplified by the South East Branches, seems to me to be of paramount importance for the future, and we must find more ways to work together to further our common interest in the continuation of this joyful dance form.



Jeremy Hill

Spring Fling – London

17-19 April 2015



After 23 months of planning, thousands of emails, and countless phone calls, Spring Fling 2015 finally arrived in London on the sunny Friday afternoon of 17 April. Spring Fling is an RSCDS event for 12-35 year olds organised by a local team in a different city each year – this year in London, or more specifically, Hounslow.

As the 78 participants trickled in to the Travelodge to register and receive their breakfast bags, the hours of preparation were finally coming to fruition and the weekend started proper.

The first event of the action-packed two days was a joint dance, co-hosted with Chiswick

who concentrated on technique for the first class, and more interesting dances and formations in the second.

So as to be as inclusive as possible, as a new initiative, a 'Spring Fringe' workshop was held in parallel for those over 35, with Mervyn Short and Barbara Manning putting some 20 dancers through their paces. The advance advertising for both Spring Fling and the Spring Fringe meant dancers from as far away as Romania and Australia could attend – one dedicated dancer even flew in from Germany for the day especially for the Spring Fringe workshop.

dances known well enough by dancers from across the world. The noise generated at the end of each dance and the sheer number of encores proved just how electric the atmosphere was. A team of helpers provided a plentiful supper and before too long everyone was partying back at the hotel in Hounslow.

A relaxed start time on the Sunday was welcomed by all, but the hard work was not over. From 46 original dance submissions, seven finalists had been selected for Spring Fling 2015 to dance and deliberate over, to come up with a dance to be named *The Spring Fling Reel*. Gillian Frew handled the unenviable task of taking the dancers through the new dances with great skill, supported by Angela and Graham Berry. Finally, the winner was announced. Coincidentally, the deviser of the winning dance was Samantha Burton from London, a fitting end to a fantastic weekend of dancing in the capital. The dance will be published in RSCDS Book 50,



Spring Fling 2015 Organising Team (from left): Catriona Bennett, Edd Davies, Elaine Davies, Andrew Nolan, Katy Sweetman, Gillian Frew



Samantha Burton, competition winner

Scottish Country Dance Club at Isleworth & Syon School. Councillor Corinna Smart, Mayor of Hounslow, launched the event and was presented with a newly devised dance to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the London Borough of Hounslow, which as well as being the venue for Spring Fling, is where Chiswick SCDC regularly meet. The programme, devised jointly by Sin See of Chiswick, and Spring Fling, started with *The Dashing White Sergeant*, which set the tone for the evening of easy and enjoyable dances, allowing the 160 dancers of varying experience levels to enjoy meeting new friends without a lot of crib studying. Ian, Charlotte and Steve of The Borderline Band kept the dancers going and an army of volunteers, led by Iris Ronayne, ensured the dancers were well fed for another energetic half of dancing.

The dancing continued on the Saturday morning with classes for Beginners & Improvers, Advanced and Very Advanced dancers on the Spring Fling course. Angela Berry, Heather Cowan, Andrew Nolan and Rachel Shankland were the teachers, with Angela and Andrew also working as musicians, alongside Graham Berry and Martainn Skene, to make up a suitably youthful set of teachers and musicians,

On the Saturday afternoon, for those who didn't take the opportunity to see the sights in London, Spring Fling offered a choice of three optional afternoon classes: in addition to highland and ladies' step classes, a dedicated birling class was offered, in order to provide some tuition in an activity that is regularly seen on the dance floor, but is rarely taught in classes.

The new found birling skills were put into practice later that evening when over 180 dancers gathered at Pont Street for the joint dance to the musicians co-hosted by RSCDS London Branch. Jim Lindsay and the musicians from the Branch musicians' workshop formed the 17-piece band which sounded excellent.

The programme was carefully crafted by Andrew Nolan to include a variety of tune types used for SCD for the musicians, as well as

The weekend proves that SCD is alive and kicking, and there are people out there who want it to continue, but it will take a bit of effort to keep it going. The mixture of ages present at the dances created a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere that many other sports and activities would be envious of. Spring Fling next year will be in Edinburgh on April 15-17 and a 'Fringe' style class is planned – why not make a weekend of it and give your support?

The Spring Fling team would like to thank the two co-hosts, Chiswick SCDC and London RSCDS, RSCDS Headquarters and the Youth Services Committee for making the weekend possible.

Spring Fling 2015 Organising Committee

See also pp 1, 8, 9 and 16 for photos and further comments on the Saturday Branch events on p6 and p11. The Spring Fling Reel can be watched at www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgiDzE0Dn4 as well as other videos from the weekend.



Saturday Night Live: Jim Lindsay and the Musicians, with Jim Cook (MC) on the right.

LONDON BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

13 June 2015 6.45pm

The AGM of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held at St Columba's Church (Lower Hall) Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD on Saturday 13 June 2015. All members of the Branch are welcome to attend. Tea and biscuits will be served at 6.30pm and the meeting will commence at 6.45pm. There will be dancing immediately after the meeting, commencing at 7.30pm, approximately. Light refreshments will be served during the interval of the dance.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2014 AGM
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Report on the Branch's activities 2014-15
5. Treasurer's report and statement of accounts
6. Appointment of Honorary President and Honorary Vice-Presidents
7. Appointment of Officers and Management Committee
8. Appointment of Auditors
9. Motions
10. Appointment of Branch delegates or proxies to the Society AGM
11. Any other business

Note 1: As the number of nominations does not exceed the number of places available, there will not be an election under item 7. Nominations for the appointments at items 6, 8 and 10 will be taken from the floor at the meeting. One motion has been submitted and will be voted upon at the meeting.

Note 2: The report (item 4) has been sent to members with this issue of *The Reel*. The accounts for 2014-15, and the minutes of the previous meeting, will be available at the AGM. Members can see them in advance by applying to treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk and secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk respectively.

Motion (Proposed by the Management Committee)

With immediate effect the RSCDS London Branch Constitution and Rules shall be amended as follows.

Constitution

XI REPRESENTATION IN THE SOCIETY

Delete

Subject to any restrictions on numbers and any procedures contained in the Society's constitution, the Local Association, in General Meeting, shall appoint delegates to attend a General Meeting of the Society and represent the Local Association at such meeting. In the event of a nominated delegate being unable to attend such meeting, an accredited substitute shall be nominated by the Committee of the Local Association subject to the governing document of the Society.

and replace with

Subject to any restrictions on numbers and any procedures contained in the Society's Articles of Association, the Committee of the Local Association shall appoint delegates from among its number to represent the Local Association at general meetings of the Society. Delegates who cannot attend a general meeting of the Society should appoint a proxy from a list of names nominated by the Local Association at its Annual General Meeting. If an insufficient number of names has been put forward, another delegate from the Local Association can act as proxy.

Rules

REPRESENTATION IN THE SOCIETY

Delete

24.

In the event of more than the required number of delegates for the Society's Annual General Meeting being nominated at the Annual General

Meeting of the Local Association, a ballot of the members attending the Local Association's Annual General Meeting will be arranged. 25.

If less than the required number of delegates for the Society's Annual General Meeting are nominated at the Annual General Meeting of the Local Association, the Committee of the Local Association shall appoint additional delegates up to the required number.

Background note on the motion

At its AGM in November 2014, the RSCDS changed its legal form from that of an association of members to a company limited by guarantee. The principal reason for this change was to limit the personal responsibility of the trustees should the Society become insolvent and then dissolved. The change has no impact on branches other than the point covered by this amendment.

The Society's new Articles of Association and Rules and Procedures (both of which are available on the RSCDS website) give added responsibility to Branch delegates. These are now company-law members and have a continuing role throughout the year, not just at the Society AGM. Company law members, i.e. delegates, can call a general meeting of the Society (along with sufficient like-minded delegates). They have the right to attend and vote at meetings, and may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in their place. With these increased powers in mind, particularly the right to appoint a proxy (who need not be an RSCDS member), the RSCDS recommends that Branch delegates should be members of the Branch Committee.

We are therefore proposing that the Committee, rather than the Branch AGM, appoints our Branch delegates at its first meeting following the Branch AGM (at which new Committee members may have been elected). Any delegate who finds they cannot attend the Society AGM could appoint one of the other delegates to act as their proxy. However, this could result in a Branch the size of London having only one person to represent it at the Society AGM. Alternatively, though unlikely, any delegate who cannot attend the Society AGM could appoint a non-dancer to act as their proxy. We think it better in the interests of transparency and credibility for the Branch to have as many delegates or proxies present at the Society AGM as our membership numbers allow (currently about 10), and those delegates should be members closely associated with the Branch.

We propose to set up a 'proxy list' appointed by the Branch AGM. Any London Branch delegate who cannot attend the Society AGM should choose a proxy from that list. This also gives Branch members not on the Committee the opportunity to represent the Branch at the Society AGM. Many have done so in the past.

THE REEL

The Reel is published four times a year by the London Branch and posted free to all Branch members. Non-members may subscribe to be on the mailing list, and clubs can negotiate bulk copies for their members. Enquiries to Wilson Nicol, see advert on p11.

Articles and advertisements for *The Reel* should be sent to the Editor, address at the foot of the front page. **Advertising rates are £13.00 per column inch in black and white, £19.50 per column inch in colour.** Enquiries to the Business Editor: Jeff Robertson at businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk

Children's Class 2014-2015

Teachers: James Fairbairn and Jenny Kendrick

The Branch Children's Class will take place on 16 May, 6 June, 13 June (Family Day – see below) in the Upper Hall, St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD, from 10.15 – 11.30am.

Class Fee: £5.00 per child per class
Newcomers are always welcome!

Family Day

Saturday 13 June 2015

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

11.30am – 1.00pm: Children's Class, followed by lunch for all children

2.00 – 4.30pm: Dance to the music of Barbara Manning & Calum Mitchell

Programme: Circassian (big) Circle (Trad/Fairbairn), Charleston Chaser (Gr2/2), Gay Gordons (Pocket Reference Guide), MC's Choice, The Waratah Weaver (Gr2/4), A Reel for Jeannie (40/1), The Dhoon (Ch1/1), Loch Ness Monster (Imperial 2/9), Granville Market (Gr2/18), MC's Choice, Espie McNabb (MM 23), The Barmkin (Gr2/6), Canadian Barn Dance (Pocket Reference Guide), The Dashing White Sergeant (3/2). *Extras:* Scotch Mixer, Round Reel of Eight (27/2), Witches' Reel.

Special Day Ticket (includes class, lunch & dance): £7.00 per child

Dance Admission only: £3.50 per person

All young dancers, their families, friends and teachers are welcome. The dances in the afternoon will be talked and walked through.

For further information please contact either

James Fairbairn on

07930 949599,

childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk or
youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

Representing the Branch

The Branch runs a monthly class for advanced dancers, taught by Jeremy Hill, for the purpose of creating a pool of dancers with a repertoire of dances that can be used for public displays, including Kensington Gardens (see below). The class is held on a Tuesday evening, and further classes will be held on 19 May and 16 June from 7.00 – 9.00pm in the Upper Hall at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD.

If you have a sense of fun and the ability to reflect the joy of Scottish country dancing to the general public, do come along and give us a try. Anyone interested in joining is asked to have a good grasp of basic Scottish dance steps – knowledge of a few Highland steps would be an advantage, but not essential.

For further information please contact Anna Twinn at demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk

OPEN AIR DANCING

The Bandstand, Kensington Gardens

Once again the Branch will be running informal open air dancing sessions during August in Kensington Gardens (by the bandstand near the Round Pond) on the following dates:

Saturday 8 August 2015

Saturday 15 August 2015

Saturday 22 August 2015

Time: 2.00 – 4.00pm

An MC will guide everyone through a programme of popular dances and there will be easier dances for beginners and children. Bring some friends and a picnic and enjoy dancing to some wonderful music.

Please put the dates in your diary and do come along!

Set yourself a fun challenge Join a Scottish Country Dance Class

We have
classes for...

CHILDREN in central London.

Email James Fairbairn: childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk for details

Basic Skills & Improvers 7.00 – 9.00pm

with **Jane Rose** and musicians

Ian Cutts and **Jane Ng**

at St. Thomas' CE Primary School, Appleford Road,
London W10 5EF



**Experienced dancers wishing to
improve their technique** 7.00 – 9.00pm

venue St. Thomas' CE Primary School, as above,

with **Debbie McLachlan** Musicians **Sandra Smith, Ian Cutts** and **Jane Ng**

£9 per class for RSCDS members, or £10 per class for non-members

Term 29 April – 20 May

**Summer General Classes suitable for all abilities except
total beginners** 3, 10 & 17 June, Teacher **Simon Wales** 7.00 – 9.00pm

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

Wednesday afternoons, 2.30 – 4.30pm

In the Upper Hall at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD

Fee £5 per class. Summer Term 29 April – 1 July (half-term 27 May)

Suitable for dancers with some knowledge of basic steps and formations.

Teacher **Jeni Rutherford**: jrutherford@freeuk.com

For experienced dancers interested in demonstrations

Email Anna Twinn at demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk



**Classes leading to the Intermediate level of the
RSCDS Dancing Achievement Award**

will be offered this summer over three evenings, 3, 10 & 17 June

as part of the Summer Wednesday classes at

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

7.00 – 9.00pm

Teacher **Simon Wales**

The course is open to all dancers looking to develop their
personal dancing. The syllabus is available on the RSCDS website

Contacts for all classes either Margaret or Lena at classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Mary Stoker

16 May 1918 – 20 February 2015

Branch members and many friends were very sad to hear news of the passing of Mary Stoker in February. She took up the role of Branch President Emeritus, having been Branch President from 1996 to 2014.

To parody an old song: "If you knew Mary as we knew Mary, oh oh, what a girl!" Mary was an exuberant dancer, starting as a girl in Glasgow; on the way home after a dance, she and her friends would link arms and dance the *Palais Glide* down the road. Educated at Dunfermline College, Glasgow, Mary moved to London in 1949 to join her husband, Imrie. She was a much sought-after teacher, teaching London Branch classes from 1957 to 1984, as well as a class near her home in Pinner, and for many years she spent two weeks each summer teaching at the RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews. Mary was also invited to teach abroad, even adjudicating at the Jakarta Highland Games! The Society recognized her contribution by awarding her the Society Scroll in 1997.

For a while, Mary was an examiner of candidates for the Teachers' Certificate, but retired after disagreeing with some aspects of the new Manual. She had firm points of view and wasn't afraid to speak her mind. On one classic occasion, she was asked to examine candidates in the West Country with Bill Ireland. Bill gave her a lift in his car, but, by the time they arrived, they had argued so much about the finer aspects of the pas de basque that they weren't speaking!

As a teacher, one of her expressions was "so", which she used frequently, especially if a decision was questioned by a class member. One member of class realised that she was never chosen to dance in the demonstration team in Holland Park, when she asked why, Mary replied simply "so".

Mary was an inspired and inspiring teacher, always devising a new routine for warm up exercises every week, sometimes basing them on something topical, such as when Torvill and Dean won their Olympic Gold Medals. She was such a professional, even taking the class when she had a migraine, but the class would never have guessed – they were told much later by her pianist. After she had retired from teaching the further education class at Quinton Kynaston School, Swiss Cottage, she was persuaded to come out of retirement to take an invitation-only class. This was really just another name for the Mary Stoker Fan Club Class.

When she took a class for the Preliminary Teachers' Certificate, the students were somewhat surprised to be told to sit on the floor and chant the rhythmic counting for Rights and Lefts. She was such a perfectionist, demanding the highest level from her class. Both the preliminary and full certificate classes were the most amazing experiences. She had a 100% pass rate, because if she thought that a candidate was not up to it, she wouldn't let them take the exam! When she corrected written homework with her red pen, it wasn't just the dancing that got the treatment, but also the grammar and spelling: nothing got past Mary.

Socially, Mary was excellent company, especially after a drink, and could keep us amused for hours in the evenings at Weekend Schools and AGMs, with her anecdotes and stories about the old days, but many have never been forgotten. Her passing is truly the end of an era.

Peter Knight (from the eulogy given at Mary's funeral)



Mary with her daughter, Carole, at the President's lunch in 2005, the 75th Anniversary of the Branch.

BRANCH NEWS

DANCE SEASON 2014-2015

Another popular **Winter Wednesday** dance was held at Pont Street on 18 February. The relatively easy programme attracted quite a few beginners, but there were many experienced dancers too, to help out where needed. Pat Davoll expertly recapped the dances with her clear, concise instructions and we were privileged to have music from the very talented duo, Sandra Smith and Christina Hood. I particularly enjoyed their music for *The Fisherman's Reel*, courtesy of (Gilbert &) Sullivan! Thanks also to those who prepared the refreshments – it's a long time since I've had a snowball!

Maureen Campbell

On 21 March 2015 four sets of dancers braved an unusually cold early Spring evening to come to Pont Street for the Branch **Spring Dance**. They were well rewarded as Kafoozalum, with Peter Jenkins on the accordion along with Dave McAllister on fiddle and Paul Lennon on piano, gave us super music to dance to. Simon Wales and Elaine Wilde were excellent as MCs for the evening with recaps just enough to help us go right without taking too much time from the dancing. Our trusty kitchen staff of Branch Committee members served us with delicious sandwiches and cakes in the interval. A delightful evening (see photo p8).

Jerry Reinstein

Spring Fling Meets Musicians' Workshop Meets Branch Dance (18 April): Was it a dream? Were we asleep? Did we imagine it: the hall at Pont Street crammed to capacity for a Saturday night country dance, with over 180 dancers; at least half of those present under the age of 35 – a far cry from our usual Saturday night age profile; a 17-piece band squeezed onto the stage, giving it their all and being enthusiastically cheered by the dancers all the way?

No, not a dream, but one of those unforgettable once-in-a-decade dance experiences. It arose out of an inspired combination of a musicians' workshop led by Jim Lindsay, the RSCDS Spring Fling event organised and co-ordinated by Elaine Davies and a London Branch dance planned and co-ordinated by Marjory Reid. If you were not there – eat your heart out!

Chris Hood

(see photos pp1 and 16)

COMING SOON...

Looking forward to summer, a warm welcome awaits you at the Branch Summer Wednesday dance on 27 May. On that evening enjoy dancing to the delightful music of Sandra Smith and Barbara Manning. Rachel Wilton has devised the programme and as your MC for the evening Rachel will ensure that you will all be expertly guided through the programme. Anyone new to Scottish country dancing is particularly encouraged to come along to this dance.

We end the 2014-2015 Dance Season at Pont Street on 13 June with the Branch AGM followed by the evening dance (please see p1 and p4 for further information). Barbara Manning will be joined by Calum Mitchell to play for us that evening. Jane Rose has devised the programme. Your MCs for the evening will be Jim Cook and Jane. Let's close the season with a great evening of dancing!

Many thanks to all the bands, musicians, programme devisers and MCs who have joined us during the 2014-2015 dance season. And a big thank you to all the dancers who have come along to our events. We are grateful to everyone who has been involved in organising the dances from catering and taking the ticket money to decorating the hall and serving wine. The Branch would also like to thank Rona Black for kindly accommodating the musicians and bands from Scotland. The Branch could not run dances without all this assistance.

Put the dates for the 2015-2016 dance season in your diary now (see p13) – full programmes in future issues of *The Reel*. You may find your favourite dance(s) in the programmes so do come along and join in the dancing.

We look forward to welcoming all dancers to the Branch dances next season. Dance cribs are available on the Branch website.

Enjoy your dancing!

Marjory Reid, Dances Co-ordinator

PS: And remember there is Open Air Dancing at Kensington Gardens in August (see p4).

South East Region Teachers' Association

We held a very successful workshop in March, led by Jimmie Hill and with music by Green Ginger. The day explored Scottish country dances from the 18th and 19th centuries, partly looking at familiar dances to compare the modern versions with the originals and try to understand the process of reconstruction. The afternoon session dealt with dances as yet unpublished. A full report will appear in *The Reel* 293 (see photo p16).

The next workshop will be held on Sunday 27 September at Finchampstead Memorial Hall, with further details in the next issue. Details will also be on the website (www.serta.org.uk) before then.

SERTA is open to anyone who leads an SCD group, whether qualified or not, those with a dance teaching qualification and those taking teaching courses or interested in doing so. 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.

Mike Johnson

South East Branches Candidate Course Units 2 & 3

This course, organised by the South East Branches, recently came to its conclusion, with the examination held on Saturday 28 February. Elma McCausland and Johan McLean were the examiners. Congratulations to the candidates who sat and passed Units 2 and 3: Hilary Maidstone (Norwich Branch), Maggie Kirkup (Bristol), Lizzy Conder (London), James Walker (London), David Smith (Somerset) passed Unit 3.

We are very grateful to Mervyn Short who tutored the course and Judith Muir who played for it, both contributing a huge amount to the success of the course. We are also very grateful to the dancers from the local area and further afield who gave their time as a volunteer 'class' during the course and on the examination day – from Berkhamsted Strathspey & Reel Club, Bracknell Reel Club, Farnham Scottish Country Dance Club, Fleet Scottish Country Dance Society, Guildford Scottish Country Dance Club, Reading St Andrews Scottish Country Dance Society, RSCDS Berks, Hants & Surrey Border Branch, London Branch and Royal Tunbridge Wells Branch and St John's Scottish Country Dance Club.

A Unit 5 course begins on 9 May at Finchampstead, Berkshire RG40 4JU, with the examination on Saturday 13 June, with candidates coming from BHS Border Branch, Cambridge, London and Suffolk. If you are willing and available to be part of a volunteer class please contact George Ferrier george2541@hotmail.co.uk

SE Branches Co-ordinating Committee

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

Saturday 17 October 2015

10.00am for 10.30am start

Paddington Academy, Marylands Road,
London W9 2DR

**Teachers: Joan Desborough (London), Deb Lees (Newcastle),
Antoine Rousseau (Paris) and Sam Schad (Oxford)**

**Musicians: Jeremy Hill (London), Barbara Manning (London),
Judith Muir (BHS Border) and Andrew Nolan (Edinburgh)**

Plus a choice of optional classes at the end of the afternoon covering

Ladies' Step, Highland and A Tribute to Ann Dix

Musicians' Workshop led by **Nicol McLaren (Stirling)**

Evening dance with ceilidh items and music provided by

Nicol McLaren and the musicians

Classes to suit everyone

Prices:

Class	RSCDS members	Non-members
Morning only	£10.00	£11.00
Afternoon only	£12.00	£13.00
All day (excl. dance)	£22.00	£24.00
Evening dance (with ceilidh items)	£7.00	£8.00
Lunch	£9.50	£9.50

Full details in *The Reel* 293

Celebrating 85 Years of the Branch

Tickets are now available to purchase for the dance on 31 October 2015 to celebrate 85 years since the foundation of the London Branch. Tickets, priced £25.00 for RSCDS members (£28.00 for non-members) will be on sale at Branch events; application forms are also available to download from www.rscdslondon.org.uk or else please contact Anna Twinn, 11 Henry's Avenue, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 9RB.

APPLY NOW!

rscds
London Branch

Dance with a difference 85 years On
Saturday 31 October 2015
6.30 - 11.00pm
St Columba's Church,
Pont Street, London, SW1X 0BD
Dancing to
Lan Muir and the Craigellachie Band
Evening dress / kilt preferred, thirties style if possible

Programme

<i>The Happy Meeting</i>	29/9	<i>The Duke of Atholl's Reel</i>	16/3
<i>All for Mary</i>	75th/1	<i>Mrs Hamilton of Wishaw</i>	23/9
<i>Autumn in Appin</i>	31/5	<i>The Westminster Reel</i>	45/1
<i>Miss Mary Douglas</i>	10/11	<i>Miss Milligan's Strathspey Leaflet 19</i>	
<i>Culla Bay</i>	41/2	<i>The Dancing Master</i>	75th/13
<i>Fraser's Favourite</i>	Leaflet 7	<i>None so Pretty</i>	19/1
<i>Mrs. Stewart's Jig</i>	35/1	<i>MacDonald of the Toles</i>	C'forth 2/7
<i>Anna Holden's Strathspey</i>	42/2	<i>Major Ian Stewart</i>	35/4
<i>The Earl of Mansfield</i>	Leaflet 5	<i>The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh</i>	39/7

Doors open at 6.00pm
Welcome drink 6.30pm, Dancing 7.00pm
Finger buffet 8.30pm, Dancing 9.30-11.00pm

London Branch Membership

The annual cost of RSCDS membership through the London Branch is:

- £22.00 (£18.00 RSCDS subscription plus £4.00 Branch fee) for members who choose to receive *The Reel* in electronic format only, **irrespective of where they live**,
- £24.00 (£18.00 RSCDS sub + £6.00 Branch fee) for UK-based members who receive *The Reel* through the post,
- £30.00 (£18.00 RSCDS sub + £12.00 Branch fee) for European-based members who receive *The Reel* through the post, and
- £33.00 (£18.00 RSCDS sub + £15.00 Branch fee) for members in the rest of the world who receive *The Reel* through the post.

Discounts apply of £9.00 for members aged 12-17, £4.00 aged 18-25 and £3.50 for each of two members living at the same address. Members of other branches can become 'second members' of the London Branch by paying the appropriate Branch fee.

London Branch membership benefits include reduced rates at Branch events and receiving *The Reel*, while RSCDS membership includes the biannual publication, *Scottish Country Dancer*, and 10% discounts on items from the RSCDS shop.

Membership forms can be downloaded from the Branch website. Membership applications and enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989 or membership@rscdslondon.org.uk

WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT

The RSCDS and the London Branch continue to see the importance of supporting the teachers, musicians and dancers of the future. As such, funds are earmarked for scholarships, for young people (up to the age of 25) to attend RSCDS residential schools as a dancer or as a musician; and for any member attending Summer School with a view to taking the RSCDS Teaching Certificate. London Branch also has funds available to support any

event promoting Scottish country dancing among young people. We are a charity and 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 our Secretary, Margaret Catchick, via secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk



1. **Watford Ceilidh, 21 February 2015:** Ceilidh band Quicksilver, led by Mike Ruff, on stage in the Dame Fuller Hall, Watford (featured in the film of Alan Bennett's *The History Boys*) as Malcolm Ferris Lay assists with the Orcadian *Strip the Willow*.

2. **The Madrid Iberian Gathering Weekend, 6-8 March 2015:** Guests waiting to process in to the evening dinner at Melia Barajas Hotel (see p12).

3. **Branch Spring Dance, St Columba's, 21 March 2015:** Elaine Wilde MC on the stage with Kafoozalum (see p6).

4. **Tea Dance, St George's Church Hall, Newbury, 15 March 2015:** Jenny Robertson talks about the good causes, alongside the band comprising family members Ian and Tom Robertson, and Judith and Ian Muir (see p12).



5. Michael Nolan, Chiswick SCDC Chairman and Elaine Davies (Spring Fling 2015) with Hounslow Mayor, Councillor Corinna Smart. She was also presented with a framed copy of a new dance, *The Borough of Hounslow*, to commemorate the Borough's 50th Anniversary year.

6. and 7. A full hall of dancers showing great energy in *Shifin' Bobbins* and style in *Bill Little's Strathspey*.

8. Very Advanced class dancers in class on Saturday morning, 18 April.

9. The afternoon optional classes included one in birling, entered into with enthusiasm by all present!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sociability, Dance Programmes and Recaps

Dear Jeremy,

I agree with Stephen Webb on p12 of *The Reel* 291 that unduly complicated dance programmes reduce the sociability of SCD. This is not just because the dancers are too busy concentrating on the figures to interact with each other. If every dance on a normal length programme has to be recapped, it cuts the time available for conversation between dances, and it also makes it difficult to help newcomers. At some clubs there is hardly time to return to one's seat before the next dance is called.

Homework is not the solution. The problem is not just the increasing number of dances. It is also the increasing complexity of the figures involved. Why does *The Swirl* have a twiddle on the end? It flows much better without this embellishment. As Stephen says, the majority of dances on most programmes are well-known to experienced dancers. For several years medical problems have made it difficult for me to dance every dance on the programme, so I have to sit one out from time to time. Some dances are physically too demanding and automatically go on my 'to avoid' list, which also includes any unfamiliar quick time dance, the crib for which is not easily digestible. Why struggle with unknown dances when there are more than enough old favourites to choose from? As a result I end up dancing about 50% reels and jigs, and 50% strathspeys, rather than the one-third reels, one-third jigs and one-third strathspeys of a normal programme. This could be an ideal formula for a 'Golden Oldies' dance.

Chris Hood suggests on p7 of the same issue that ceilidh dancing may be the future of SCD. Although it is certainly a good way to get young people involved, we must not lose sight of the purpose of our Society. If we lose the elegance of RSCDS-style dancing, all the work of Miss Milligan, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich and their successors will have been wasted. Complex dances have their place – in dance demonstrations. The majority of dances on a normal programme should be within the capacity of an average dancer.

Yours sincerely,
Elizabeth Bennett
Worcester Park

Taken with a pinch of snuff

Thank you to Peter Knight for drawing my attention to a somewhat unexpected reference to in an article in *The Field* on snuff. The tastes of Queen Charlotte (1744–1818) were reflected in her being known as 'Snuffy Charlotte', but it was her granddaughter, Princess Charlotte Augusta of Wales (1796–1817), who, on being asked to call a dance at a Royal Juvenile Ball in her grandmother's presence, did so with the words:

"What a Beau my Granny was,
What a Beau was she!
She took snuff, and that's enough,
And that's enough for me."

You might recognise the name from the dance recorded as *What Beau my Granny was* in RSCDS Book 14, dated as 1796, and with an original tune of the same name. That tune has words from an English ballad that end, rather than start, with the words "What A Beau My Granny", so it would appear to have been a different dance. Perhaps the Princess was simply showing her knowledge of popular culture!

Jeremy Hill

Dear Jeremy,

Stephen Webb's letter in *The Reel* 291 certainly struck a chord with us. When we started as total beginners in the mid-1990's we never, as far as we can recall, went to any dance or ball where recaps were given. It was usual to learn the dances beforehand, and so we became accustomed to taking a good look at the crib and generally having a talk-through, and sometimes even a walk-through for ourselves, on the morning of the dance so we felt well prepared for the evening's dancing. We still follow this practice to this day and still find it of great benefit. We do appreciate that other dancers may not share this opinion, but it works for us. It is also a way of keeping the brain exercised as well as the feet!

Recaps are useful in their place, e.g. at a dance that is aimed at attracting new or less experienced dancers, but, at a formal event, we feel recaps can disrupt the flow of the evening. We feel that if you stand up for a dance that is unfamiliar, without having previously had a good look at the instructions, a brief recap is not going to be all that helpful, unless you happen to have a photographic memory (but this is purely our own opinion from our own experience).

From our perspective a programme that consists of well-known, well-loved dances, with perhaps just one or two unusual ones, is far more attractive than a programme that would require us to study it to degree standard, both before the event and even at the event. We have been at dances where even with recaps and walk-throughs the dances still go awry, and dancers are missing alternate dances in order to prepare for the next one. This does not make for a very sociable evening. In fact, we do look at the programmes and the bands and, where there is a choice of events on the same night, we do make our choice based on band and programme.

So, please may we have more social dance programmes and fewer programmes that require a marathon effort of study!

Best wishes,
Trisha and Mick Rawlings
Oxford

Dear Jeremy,

Although I agree with much of what Stephen Webb says, I can't think of anything more boring than doing the same limited range of dances week in, week out. Twice a year, one of our local organisers puts on a dance where 2/3rds are unknown to most of us. I admit I almost always grumble to her when I see the programme for the first time, but I can't remember when I last missed one! For me, the ideal programme is one where I know the majority of dances, but where there are four or five that are either new or a bit more challenging. In case you need reminding, our medical profession keeps telling us that if we are to slow down the incidence of dementia as a nation, we must not only keep our bodies fit, but also our brains! Something that Scottish dancers on the whole are very good at.

Kind regards,
Brian Wood
Leominster, Herefordshire

Norah Dunn

6 December 1913 – 31 March 2015

Sad news came of the recent passing of Norah Dunn, a mainstay of the Helensburgh Branch since 1943, where she had been Hon President since 1968. She taught at Summer School from 1967, was an examiner from 1974, served on the RSCDS Executive Council for many years and was awarded the Society Scroll in 1989.

Should dancers ever have to sit out?

Dear Jeremy

We have all been at a dance where the right number of dancers to make up the final sets on the dance floor cannot be found. A call for more dancers, a search of the kitchen and elsewhere in the building fails to elicit the missing dancers, and three, or even four, couples have to return to their seats and watch, rather than dance. Watching in itself has its rewards: observing others dancing in a variety of styles can be quite edifying, and, of course, actually listening to the music being played by the band – so often the dancer's mind when dancing merely hears the beat sufficient to get through the dance, with the finer points of tune, harmony and musical emphasis being lost in the anxiety of the occasion.

Should dancers ever have to sit out? I contend they should be included whenever possible, and encouraged to stay on the floor rather than sit down due to lack of numbers. But how can this be possible? Various options do exist. It is true though, that these don't always result in the couples finishing in original positions!

1. A 'seven couple set' is created at the bottom of the hall, comprising two joined up sets, one of three couples and the other of four. In this arrangement, the first three of the seven couples stay in a three couple set, and borrow the standing out top couple every second time through, to be their 4th couple. The fourth of the seven couples starts as 1st couple in a four couple set. After one turn, the couple that started fifth of seven becomes the 4th couple in the first set. This is often known as 'begging and borrowing'. This is preferable, I feel, to dancing eight times through in a three couple set, where transitions become awkward and the dance just tiring, or the loss of fun created by a stop-start/rest-dance approach, which is sometimes seen.
2. Making a five couple set for a dance for three couples in a four couple set, where the 4th and 5th couples dance the dance once through from top position, and the 4th couple stay in second position as 5th couple is in first position (see Jane Robinson's letter in *Scottish Country Dancer* No 7 p27 on added benefits of this approach).
3. A 5th couple stands ready to swap into a four couple dance (or 6th couple in a five couple dance): each time the dancing couple gets to the bottom they step down, and the standing couple steps up. This approach could be adopted in square/triangular sets with a new couple changing in and out every time, but is not really recommended, as concentration and alertness is needed, all the more when joining from the sidelines, and enjoyment can be lost through lack of flow.
4. Five couple dances such as *Earlston Loch* and *Airie Bannan* can have a further two (or even four – not recommended) couples added at the bottom and the dance started with first, third, fifth (and seventh) couples.
5. A two couple dance can be danced in a three couple rather than a four couple set. All couples dance the dance through twice, with the starting 1st and 2nd couples able to dance as top couple an extra time each.

In setting out these options I hope clubs may be encouraged to acquaint their dancers with them, and hence give them confidence to take on a variation on a theme for the benefit of others, and to ask MCs to be brave and not take the non-inclusive approach of, "Sorry, you will need to sit this one out"!

Best wishes,
Stephen Webb
Berkhamsted

NEW RECORDINGS

Strictly Scottish – Corryvreckan live in concert available on CD at £12.00 plus £1.20 p&p from Erica Archer on 01275 472634, erica.archer@virgin.net or www.corryvreckan.org.uk

Tracks include: *Sailor's Hornpipe*, *Wilkinson Sword Dance*, *The Black Mill* and various medleys, the songs *Peat Fire Flame* and *The Dark Island*, and other listening tracks.

Corryvreckan in Bath have been presenting evenings of Scottish dance and music over many years, and recently released a recording of the 2011 performances. For anyone who attended one of these evenings, I am sure it would make an excellent memento of the evening. Many of the sets of dance music are medleys or specific arrangements, including music for dancing on and off in some cases, and made specifically for the dances performed, which for the most part are not identified, so they can't really be considered generally useful as dancing tracks.

Instead you can sit back and enjoy excellent entertainment, along the lines of listening to a ceilidh, with a mixture of dance music, piping, singing and recitation. The musicians comprise Corryvreckan members and friends, excellent musicians from all over the country. They combine to create a well-knit band sound, with all parts audible, though some may miss having a drum. Several get solo spots, including Chris Oxtoby and Ann Stonehouse, leader and fiddler respectively of the Strathallan Band. I particularly enjoyed Chris' innovative arrangement of Shetland tunes, finishing with the classic *Calgary Fiddlers' Welcome to Shetland* and Ann's playing of Marie Fielding tunes, both accompanied by Martin Cairns. Elsewhere, George Maybury's pipes come across particularly well, with the band backing, and I also enjoyed Andrew Telford's baritone. Altogether a great evening!



Tribute to William Hannah – Luke Daniels, Neil Ewart, Ian Carr and John Paul Gandy, published by Greentrax Records, available to download for £7.99 from iTunes, emusic.com, or on CD at £11.69 from Music in Scotland (01631 719 001) or other online sources.

Tracks: *Eightsome Reels* (not the complete dance), Jigs, Reels (*Duke of Perth* 4x32R), *Strathspeys (The Glasgow Highlanders)*, *The Dashing White Sergeant*, sets of Waltzes etc.

A significant gap in my knowledge of the history of Scottish dance music has been plugged with the recent acquisition of this recording of music as played by William Hannah. Those with piles of dusty 78s may already be familiar with this melodeon virtuoso of the 1920s, who was at the forefront of recording Scottish dance music, and also in the development of the instruments used by Jimmy Shand and other more recent and familiar names.

Born in 1891 in the mining community of Blackburn, West Lothian, Hannah served in the First World War in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and was a Home Guard Lieutenant in the Second World War, during which time he saved several lives by disposing of a live grenade. He was later injured by a bomb, and was awarded the MBE in 1944. He died in 1961.

In peacetime he divided his time between being head postman in Bathgate and travelling the country on his motorcycle to record for Columbia and Parlophone, and play for dances. At least once he drove to London to play – can anyone fill in the gaps on that story?

Here, Luke Daniels, perhaps better known for Irish-style and contemporary box playing, has painstakingly recreated arrangements from Hannah's many wax cylinder recordings and combines with fiddler Neil Ewart, pianist John Paul Gandy and guitarist Ian Carr to re-create a style highly evocative of the inter-war years. Daniels plays a Wilkinson Excelsior, the melodeon favoured by Hannah, which he found in a loft and had restored. All the musicians play their part, with Ewart's *portamento* and Gandy's *glissandi* contributing to a classic dance band sound we rarely hear now.

As with the CD above, try as I might to present this as a CD for dancing, the tracks are best treated as for listening, though you could have some fun with dancers by choosing *The Dashing White Sergeant*, starting without a chord, turning into a jig after 64 bars, and speeding up towards the end; or *The Glasgow Highlanders*, starting with two chords, but no lead-in note, and finishing 16 bars short of 4x32! But throughout I found myself smiling at the joy of the music, some great waltzes, and a wonderful *Boston Two Step* to what is described as the original jaunty 2/4 hornpipe by Luke Cavendish Everett. Great fun!

Jeremy Hill

BOOKSTALL

Up to date information on the Branch Bookstall is on the Branch website, www.rscdslondon.org.uk
Look out for the Bookstall at future Branch events. You can contact Daniel Capron at bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk 74B Thurlow Park Road, London SE21 8HY, or on 020 8670 6918.

Musicians' Day London April 2015

This year's Branch Musicians' Day took place alongside Spring Fling events – to the advantage of both. The workshop attracted 18 musicians including Spring Fling participants, most of whom were able to stay and play for the evening dance.

Led by Jim Lindsay, the workshop focused on band technique and presentation. Rehearsing a complete evening's programme in the time available meant that we worked hard during the day under Jim's skilful leadership. Comments and corrections were delivered positively and professionally, on all sorts of aspects, including matching tunes to the dance, getting lift into the next tune, phrasing and the correct rhythm.

Jim's arrangements included creating sets that

built to a climax, for example his set for *Sleepy Maggie* finished with the tune *High Road to Linton*, arranged to include a drum solo. The impact of the drum solo on the dancers was stunning – initial disbelief and worried faces when the melody stopped, followed quickly by enthusiasm when we picked up the tune again. The reactions of the dancers during the evening made all the work worthwhile.

Thanks to the Branch for organising the workshop, and the team of Branch stalwarts in the kitchen who looked after us very well, with a hearty lunch accompanied by suitable banter.

Colin McEwen

BANDS

M C Scottish N S
Country B A I N Dance
M C B A I N S
Band

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or Tel/Fax: 020 8546 0075 (business hours)

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

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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 Derekdixie@aol.com

THE RED RIVER BAND

We are now taking bookings for Scottish country dancing. Having played at informal ceilidhs, weddings, birthdays and Burns' Suppers for decades, we've started to take on dance programmes for local Scottish dance groups. We're happy as a three- or four-piece band. Please contact Edward Bunting on edward.bunting@btinternet.com, 020 8883 1703 or 07748 942768.

KAFOOZALUM COUNTRY DANCE BAND

Music for Scottish country dancing anywhere, anytime. For further details and availability, please telephone Peter Jenkins on 020 8581 0359, peter@kafoozalum.co.uk or our Ceilidh website at www.kafoozalum.co.uk

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If you are not a member of the London Branch, you can order copies of *The Reel* from Wilson Nicol at reelsubscriptions@rscdslondon.org.uk or 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS.

For individual subscribers we now offer electronic subscription for £4.00 for four issues, and, for hard copies sent by post, rates are £6.00 if resident in the UK, £12.00 for other European residents and £15.00 if resident elsewhere. There are special rates on request for bulk orders. Remittances in sterling please, payable to RSCDS (London Branch).

CLUB AND OTHER NEWS

Marvellous Mirth in Madrid

It was the first weekend in March, and it did not have a very promising start: arriving at Gatwick, I had to queue to drop off my suitcase, bulging with kilt, jacket and all the other Scottish dancer's accoutrements. The prim woman behind the counter looked at me and asked where I was flying to. "Madrid", I said. After studying my passport, she put a MAD sticker on my luggage. Why be so judgemental, I thought? However, when I arrived at my destination, I found out that we were all judged the same. But if you expected the 21st Iberian Gathering to be a pandemonium of lunatics, you'd be sorely disappointed. It was a very sane, friendly and jolly meeting of about 170 Scottish dancers from Spain, Portugal, Scotland, England, and quite a few other countries. Indeed, there were participants from as far afield as Vancouver and Abu Dhabi.

The Gathering took place in a four-star hotel, conveniently situated near the airport, and its organisation was faultless. It was mainly thanks to The Schiehallion Group of Madrid, who made sure that everything proceeded smoothly and everybody was happy. The large ballroom with wooden floor easily accommodated all the 20-plus sets for the Friday night dance, the Saturday night ball, the two enjoyable morning classes and the afternoon walks-through. The organisers really went to town to get the best: Jessie Stuart from Keith was an inspiring teacher, getting the most from all the participants with various degrees of dancing experience; we were introduced to interesting dances such as *Findlater Castle* and *The Dowry Bride*. She also MC'd the evening dances with remarkable clarity. First-class music was provided by Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie band – not only for the evening dancing, but for the morning classes, too. The Saturday evening ball started with a Grand March to live pipe music. Fancy finding a piper in Spain! The programme included a challenging new square

dance medley, *The Iberian Gathering*, devised by a Schiehallion Group member, Fiona Pérez.

Admittedly, for us non-Iberians the time schedule was slightly disconcerting. The Spanish people seem to be living in a quite separate time zone. The evening dancing did not start until 9.30pm, with the finish at 1.00am. Add to it the après-dance socialising and your bed time shifts to near three o'clock in the morning. But the ample and delicious breakfasts and dinners kept us fortified to face the excesses of the Spanish time scales and still be fit for the morning class.

The afternoon walk-throughs were very helpful, especially for the less experienced dancers. We dancers were expertly and very efficiently prepared for the evening programme by the two ladies who are the teachers of the Madrid Schiehallion Group: Susana Page and Fiona Pérez. Last year Susana was awarded the RSCDS teacher's certificate and this has been a very positive contribution to the Madrid Scottish dancing scene. I extended my stay by a few more days and was able to join the group's regular Tuesday meeting. There were 18 people, all very keen to dance, in spite of a floor hardly suited to Scottish dancing. Indeed, the dance studio was primarily meant for flamenco dancers, and the deep traces of their stamping heels marked the surface all over the place. But, in spite of these adverse conditions, both Susana and Fiona managed to make a success of several dances that evening.

Next year's Iberian Gathering is going to take place in Jerez in southern Spain and I am already contemplating travelling there, hoping that it is going to be as successful as the one in Madrid this year that I enjoyed so much. Even though I am generally very forgetful, I do not think I am going to forget easily this excellent Madrid event!

Dal Sudwell

The Place to be!

Sunday afternoon – well, these days for dancing it has to be a Tea Dance. Yes, but this one with a difference, of course tea and cakes and excellent homemade cakes at that, including the proverbial chocolate sponge! Why different? Fund raising is a great excuse for a dance and this one raised a princely £968. Those coming, and we numbered about 80, were very generous and at a weekend too where *Comic Relief* had figured highly in the giving calendar. What was surprising with the numbers was that the 15 March was also Mother's Day! The venue was the excellent St George's Church Hall in Newbury – so light and bright with a good wooden floor to dance on.

What's it all about, you may ask? Devotees of *The Reel* will recall the photo and article in issue 285 by Jenny Robertson on fundraising for her church youth trip to build homes in Mexico for the homeless. Over Easter next year, Jenny will be going again to support Project ReBuild, this time with her brother Tom (who many of you will know is an accomplished drummer, often to be found playing alongside his dad, Ian).

At the Tea Dance, treating us to sublime playing were three exponents of SCD music each often found playing solo, yet put together they are greater than the sum of their parts. Ian Muir (now RSCDS Director of Music), Judith Muir and Ian Robertson (her brother), and this combination made for a great line up where crafting lively balanced sets of music for us to dance to was simply second nature – it was also clear, watching them interact, that they enjoyed playing together. A warm social atmosphere prevailed with friends coming to the event from as far as 70 miles away!

The dance programme, compiled and MC'd by Ruben Freemantle, included a selection of popular dances and one fun dance, new to me, *Gallagher's Rant*, a particular favourite in the Newbury area. Many words of thanks and appreciation were said by Jenny and the organisers, but, as in so many situations like this, it is us dancers who really hold a feeling of thanks within us, which, although it is reflected in our applause, never seems quite sufficient for the effort and work put in to organising such a generous helping of what we like best – Scottish country dancing!

Stephen Webb

News from RSCDS Headquarters

- Recent HQ meetings have continued to consider the financial situation, in light of declining membership. While they continue to consider ways to increase membership, the Board has concluded that a complete re-think on structure is necessary. Board members will be looking, therefore, at alternative ways for the Society to operate, and the Chairman will address this issue in a forthcoming column in *Scottish Country Dancer*. He will also address the possibility of an increase in membership subscription;
- Work is progressing on the transfer of RSCDS to a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). The Board approved the resolution for the transfer, and the inaugural meeting of the new CLG was held on 28 February;
- Plans are in hand to recruit a replacement for Elizabeth Foster, Secretary/Executive Officer, who will retire in June 2015;
- A dedicated page on the website is planned for the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund (JMMF), with application form, guidelines, and information about the fund;
- It is hoped that the new *Dance Trad* pack, a follow-on to the *Dance Scottish* pack and a companion to *Jigs and Reels*, will be ready for July 2015. The schools' accreditation scheme has generated a lot of interest and is growing;
- The Board agreed by a majority to the formation of a Youth Branch;
- Experienced tutors have been invited to express interest in being considered as examiners;
- It is hoped that DuK, winners of the new music competition in 2013, will now commence recording in July 2015;
- Book 49 will be available in July 2015. It includes 12 brand new dances for dancers from intermediate to advanced level. The book features new formations that have never previously featured in RSCDS dances including *The Rose* and *The Celtic Reel*. The accompanying CD for Book 49 has been recorded by Jim Lindsay and includes five additional tracks not connected with the Book, including selected dances from *Miss Milligan's Miscellany* not previously recorded by the RSCDS and some listening tracks. Subject to Board approval, it is hoped also to film the dances, as well as those from Unit 2;
- The possibility of releasing music of the Book 49 dances in 8, 16 and 24 bar phrases is being investigated, for the benefit of teachers with no recourse to live music, possibly to be released as digital downloads;
- The 3rd Edition of the Manual is now available in electronic format from the RSCDS shop, the first RSCDS publication available in electronic format. Other publications and recordings in electronic format are anticipated over the coming months. The Manual is also available on an RSCDS-branded memory stick;

- Due to resourcing constraints, work on volume 2 of the Imperial dances has been postponed until Summer 2016. Other publications for release over the next eighteen months or so include: a revised and expanded *Index to Formations and Movements*, the next edition of the combined A5 books (books 25 to 30) and further CDs of the recordings of the remaining unrecorded *Miss Milligan's Miscellany* dances;
- The booklet for Unit 2 Prescribed Dances has been updated in line with Standard Terminology and is now available from the shop. The list of dances has not changed;
- Teaching notes for books 46, 47, 48 and *Queen's Diamond Jubilee Book* have been updated and are available on the website;
- Spring Fling 2016 will be held in Edinburgh, and, in 2017, it will head back to Europe with central Germany as the likely location;
- The UK Youth Workshops are becoming popular and it is hoped to identify locations outside the UK to organise others. In the meantime, plans are under way for Oxford (21 November) and Perth later this year, with Newcastle and Manchester in 2016.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FUTURE RSCDS LONDON BRANCH EVENTS

Except where noted, events take place:
 Venue: St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD
 Time: Evening dances 7.00 – 10.30pm (doors open at 6.30pm)

SEASON 2015-16

- Saturday 12 September: New Season Dance
George Meikle & The Lothian Band
- Saturday 17 October: Day School and Dance
 (see p7)
- Saturday 31 October: RSCDS London Branch 85th Anniversary Celebration Dance (see p7)
The Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band
- Saturday 12 December: Christmas Dance
Dave Hall & His Scottish Dance Band
- Saturday 16 January: Musicians' Ceilidh
 Workshop led by **Ian Robertson**
- Saturday 16 January: Burns' Ceilidh Dance and Supper
Ian Robertson and the Musicians
- Saturday 19 March: Combined Societies' Dance
Ian Muir of Prestwick
- Saturday 16 April: Spring Dance
Ian Robertson and his Band
- Wednesday 1 June: Summer Wednesday Dance
 Band/Musicians: to be confirmed
- Saturday 11 June: AGM (6.45pm) & End of Season Dance (7.30pm). Band: to be confirmed

For further details see future editions of *The Reel* and www.rscdslondon.org.uk

RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

50th Anniversary Ball
 Sunday 23 April 2016
 7.00 – 11.15pm
 Minstead Village Hall SO43 7FX
Marian Anderson and her Band
 Minstead is situated just after the end of the M27
 More information to follow

That evening the watchword was – FUN!

The flyer advertised it as: "It's Not Over Scottish Ceilidh Dance. Caller: Malcolm Ferris Lay" and was organised by Watford Scottish Ceilidh, part of Watford & West Herts Scottish Society. Anyone knowing Malcolm would have known to expect a fun evening, as his laid-back approach is to be 'not too serious'.

Malcolm had a number of old chestnuts up his sleeve, beginning with Bill Forbes' favourite *A Highland Welcome* and including *Cumberland Square Eight* and *The Dhoon*. During the interval we were treated by Salsa Tropicana to an informal demonstration of Cuban salsa dancing led by group leader, Michael Wright. We were then invited to have a go where it was clear that feeling the rhythm and hip movement were essentials to achieving good salsa moves!

The Eightsome Reel followed and then *The Dashing White Sergeant*, *Virginia Reel*, *Scottish Waltz* and the evening ended with a 20 minute continuous Orcadian *Strip the Willow* – I took some photos rather than taking part, but felt quite exhausted just watching everyone having such fun. There was not a dancer's face that was not smiling from beginning to end! Well that's what it's all about, isn't it? Having FUN!

Stephen Webb

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Afternoon Summer Dance
 Saturday 29 August 2015
 Davenport House Lawn, Headington School, Oxford OX3 0BN
 (indoors if wet)
Recorded music

Annual Ball
 Saturday 24 October 2015
 Headington School, Oxford OX3 7TD
 Ample free parking & on the London to Oxford bus route. Bus stops near to the school.
The Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band
 Contact Trisha Rawlings, 01869 340830 or trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com
 Full details in next issue or from www.rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk



ISLE OF WIGHT WEEKEND SCHOOL

19-21 February 2016
 Shanklin, Isle of Wight
 Teachers: **Anne Smyth, Antoine Rousseau**
 Class Musicians: **Robert Mackay, Ian and Judith Muir**
 Band: **The Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band**
 Contact Catherine Packwood-Bluett, 01980 621322 or catherinepb@hotmail.co.uk
www.craigellachie-band.co.uk/isle_of_wight.html

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Midsummer Magic
Open Air Picnic Dance
 Sunday 21 June 2015
 5.30pm – Dusk (9.00pm)
 Chiswick House Grounds, London W4 2QN
The Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band
 Tickets in advance only
 Tickets: Members £13.00, Non-members £15.00, Non-dancers £5.00 from: tickets@chiswickscottish.org.uk
 Please bring your own picnic and water
www.chiswickscottish.org.uk



THE ZURICH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

will be holding a
Weekend course and St Andrew's Night Ball
 28 – 29 November 2015
Teacher: Pat Houghton
Musicians: Ian Robertson and Muriel Johnstone
 Contact Irene Münger, Grenzsteig 13, 8802 Kilchberg, Switzerland or secretary@zscdc.ch
 Details can be found on the website: www.zscdc.ch/november15



CAN YOU HELP?

The Reel is very fortunate in receiving excellent material from a wide range of contributors. The Editor is very grateful for the support of various people in editing, preparation and reviewing to create the issue you see, but could always use more assistance, for example in editing photos. Some technological knowledge would be useful. If you think you might be able to help in some small way, please contact editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

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



Summer Ball

Saturday 6 June 2015
 7.00 – 11.00pm

Marian Anderson and her Band

Programme: The Bees of Maggielknockater, John of Bon Accord, City of Belfast, Miss Hadden's Reel, West's Hornpipe, Monymusk, Argyll's Fancy, Maxwell's Rant, Drumelzier, Father Connelly's Jig, Swiss Lassie, The Gardeners' Fantasia, Torridon Lassies, Nice to See You, The Duchess Tree, Macleod's Fancy, Cadgers in the Canongate, Autumn in Appin, Midnight Oil, The Reel of The Royal Scots

Ball Tickets:

- Including finger buffet refreshments
 - * LHC Members in advance £16.00
 - * Non Members in advance £18.00
 - All classes on the door £20.00
 - * Advance booking price is only available on orders received by midnight 3 June
- For tickets contact: Frank Bennett on 020 8715 3564 or fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk

If you have highland dress, you are invited to wear it
 For further details, contact Catriona Bennett on 020 8544 5558 or cmb84scd@gmail.com
 Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening.

Scottish Country Dance Weekend

June 19th - 20th 2015
 at
 St. Mary's Church Centre,
 Peterborough PE1 1TT

Friday 19th June
Social Dance to Ian Slater
 with Bring & Share Supper & raffle in aid of charity

Saturday 20th June
Two classes taught by Graham Donald and Sue Ronald
 with musicians Marion Turnock and David Page & Debbie Hammond

Buffet Supper at 6 pm
 followed by
Social Dance to the School Musicians

Application form and further details from:
Amanda Peart, Weekend Co-ordinator,
2 Deeping Road, Baston,
Peterborough PE6 9NP
 Tel: 01778 560433 email: amandapeart@thesundayclass.org.uk
www.peterboroughrscds.org.uk
 with support from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund

JERSEY CALEDONIA SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP

Scottish Dance weekend
 Friday 11 – Saturday 12 September 2015
 Venue: Town Hall, St Helier JE4 8PA
 Tickets £35.00 for both nights

Ian Robertson

Thursday pre-Ball practice £5.00
 Event will coincide with the International Air Display
 Contact Joy Carry, 01534 862205 or jcchanjoy97@gmail.com
 Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@gmail.com
scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com

**RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/
SURREY BORDER BRANCH**



Branch Ball

Saturday 16 May 2015

Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP

The Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Joie de Vivre, The Cumbrae Reel, The Braes of Tulliemet, Last of the Lairds, Milton's Welcome, Argyll Strathspey, Gothenburg's Welcome, The Ladies of Dunse, A Summer Meeting, The Dancing Master, The Rutland Reel, The Silver Tassie, The Nurseryman, Polharrow Burn, Scarborough Castle, Links with St Petersburg, Back to the Fireside, Neidpath Castle, Miss Allie Anderson, The Deil among the Tailors

Contact Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

Afternoon Tea Party

Sunday 5 July 2015

2.30 – 5.30pm

Normandy Village Hall, Glazier's Lane,
Normandy GU3 2DD

Ian and Judith Muir

Contact Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831

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

**HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH
ASSOCIATION**

Annual Ball

Saturday 14 November 2015

Nicol McLaren and the Glencaig Band

Full details in the next issue

Contact Margaret Wallace, 02085 606160 or

margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk

www.hayesscottish.org.uk

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Summer Dance

Saturday 11 July 2015

6.30 – 10.30pm

St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road,

Teddington TW11 9HF

Chris Oxtoby

Programme: Hooper's Jig, Glastonbury Tor, The Blue Mess Jacket, Torridon Lassies, The Plantation Reel, The Gentleman, James Gray, The Castle of Mey, The Cashmere Shawl, Ramadan-ce, The Bees of Maggiecknockater, Linnea's Strathspey, Nottingham Lace, Links with St Petersburg, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, The White Heather Jig, The Fireworks Reel, Cherrybank Gardens, Blooms of Bon Accord, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets £12.00 in advance only

All dances, except the first and last, will be recapped

Bring-and-share buffet (ready to eat, please)

Soft drinks will be provided

Contact Frances Campbell Colquhoun,

020 8943 3773 or frances18ed@gmail.com

www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk

SOUTH EAST DANCE DIARY

The diary is available through the Branch website at www.rscdslondon.org.uk and is regularly updated. If you don't have internet access and would like a hard copy of the latest version please send an SAE to Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW.

All societies in the South East are invited to submit their functions for inclusion in the diary by emailing Caroline Hamilton at diary@rscdslondon.org.uk or by post to the above address.

**ARGYLL SCOTTISH
DANCING GROUP**



Weekend

Friday 2 – Sunday 4 October 2015

Dillington House, Somerset

TA19 9DT

Dancers' Weekend School:

Teachers: Muriel Johnstone, Duncan Brown

Musicians: Robert Mackay, Judith Muir

Musicians' Weekend School:

Led by Ian Muir

For booking contact Dillington House,
01460 258613 or Dillington House, Ilminster,
Somerset, TA19 9DT

For further information and brochure:

Email dillington@somerset.gov.uk

Website www.dillington.co.uk

www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk

**BERKHAMSTED
STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB**



Day School

Sunday 15 November 2015

9.30am – 5.00pm

Abbot's Hill School,

Hemel Hempstead HP3 8RP

Teachers: John & Ruby Wilkinson

Live Music

Classes for all levels of dancers

For details of this and other events please email

events@berkhamstedreelclub.org

or visit

events@berkhamstedreelclub.org



OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB. Dancing most Mondays, 8–10.15pm, Sept–June at Northcott Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details: Morag Liddell, 38 The Holt, Abingdon, OX14 2DR, moragian@sky.com or www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15–10.15pm Sept–May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Val Clack, 01932 845869 or www.addlestonscottish.org.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB meets in Potten End Village Hall, HP4 2QG. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15pm Sept–May, Sat. gardens June/July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Gerard Elliott, 10 Dinmore, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 0QQ, 01442 832753 or www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS. Technique Class, alternate Mondays, starting on Monday 8 September 2014, 8–10pm Finchampstead Memorial Hall, RG40 4JU. General Class, every Wednesday, starting on Wednesday 10 September 2014, 8–10pm, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church Hall, Frimley, GU16 7AA. Teacher: Mervyn Short. Details: Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at St Andrew's Church Hall, Millhams Road, Kinson, Bournemouth, BH10 7LN 7.30–10pm. Alternate Wednesday Technique class, by invitation. Details: Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Road, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX, 01202 698138

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 www.rscds-brighton.org.uk

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

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 8pm at St Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Janette Walton, 32 Moulsham Lane, Yateley, Hants GU46 7QY, 01252 875511

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for all grades. Details: Lindsey Ibbotson, 07977905291 or lindsey.ibbotson@gmail.com

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY Scottish country dancing and other events. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8pm from Sept–June. Details: Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or www.camscotsoc.org.uk

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

CHELLENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30–10pm from October to end May, at St Andrew's URC, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN, 01242 528220 or mbsteale1945@aol.com

CHELMSFORD: SANDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets on Monday evenings 8–10pm at Springfield Park Baptist Church, Springfield Park Road, Chelmsford, CM2 6EB. Beginners welcome. Details: Esther Wilkinson, 01206 240132 or ewilkin@gmail.com or www.sandonscotdance.org.uk

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meet on Sundays 6–9.15pm, Sept–June, in the Upper Hall at St Michaels & All Angels Church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Road, London W4 1TX (turn right out of Turnham Green tube station, 70 yards). Check www.chiswickscottish.org.uk for beginners and experienced dancers' start times and all activities. Details: Heather Nolan, 01784 256549 or secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk

CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets Thursdays 8–10pm Sept–June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details: Mrs Lee Pratt 01403 269439 or chrisp@fastnet.co.uk or www.crawleyscdc.btck.co.uk

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH. Branch classes in Coulsdon: General, incl Beginners with technique (Fri); Advanced & Improvers (Wed) 8 – 10pm St Andrew's Church, Woodcote Grove Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2AJ. Details: Ian Tucker, 01306 741690 or ian.tucker.at.home@gmail.com or www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Club night Mondays (all year) 8–10pm at Christchurch Parish Hall, Wanstead Place, Wanstead, E11 2SW. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or angelaross87@hotmail.com or www.efsa.org.uk

EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION General dancing Mondays, 7.30 – 10pm, Tweddle Hall, St Andrew's URC, Northey Avenue, Cheam, SM2 7HF. Teacher: Pauline Cashmore, 020 8686 9362. Details: Dorothy Pearson, 01737 551724 or pearson2902@tiscali.co.uk

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8pm, Sept–end of April at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details: Pippa Peatman 01256 703909 or p_peatman@yahoo.com or www.fscdc.co.uk

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30–10pm, Sept–May. Details: Morna Partridge, 01252 711992 or morna.partridge@btinternet.com

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays from

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- Sept–June. Beginners 7.30pm, General 8.15pm. Details: Celia Stuart-Lee, 01753 884217 or info@gxscottish.org.uk or www.gxscottish.org.uk
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8–10.30 p.m. Details: Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF, 0203 078 0018
- GUILDFORD SDCDC meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford, GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8pm from Sept–June. Details: 01483 456091 or www.gscdc.org.uk
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Tuesdays Sept–June from 8–10pm in The Parlour, 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 8pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8pm. Details: Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts AL3 5RE, 01727 863870
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Classes Wednesdays 8.15–10.15pm, St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details: Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner, HA5 3QR, 020 8428 6055 or www.harrowscottish.org.uk
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Fridays 8–10pm, Sept–July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, 020 8560 6160
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB. Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30–11pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 0208 440 3236 or margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS meet Wednesdays Sept–June at Holy Trinity & St John's C. of E. Primary School, St John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7–8pm. General 8–10pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent, 01843 869284
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP. Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinity, ;;;; JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or icchanjoy@gmail.com Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@gmail.com or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB meets regularly at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: adverts in *The Reel*, Catriona Bennett, 33 Pains Close, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1BY, cmb84scd@gmail.com or 020 8544 5558 or www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB meets Thursdays 8pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL, 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday 8pm at St Piran's School, Gringer Hill, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7LZ. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372 or maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP meets every Wednesday 7.30–10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details: Dick Barford, 55 Northumberland Road, Maidstone ME25 7JG, 01622 685984
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing Thursdays 8–10.15pm 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, 01474 822919
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB meets every Monday evening from September – June at 8.15–10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details: Mrs Jane Whittington, 5 Coldharbour Rd., Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AE, 01474 359018
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS. Mixed ability class Mondays 8–10pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5LP, 01908 378730 or jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB. Dancing most Wednesdays during school term, 8.15–10.15pm from Sept–May at St Thomas' Church Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, SG6 4DZ. Informal Saturday dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds SG17 5AL or 01462 812691
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dancing 7.45–10pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 9JN, 01634 254451
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday 8–10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners'/Improvers' Class every Monday 8–10.15pm at St Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. 'Young at Heart' class on Mondays 2-4 pm at St. Johns Church Hall, Lynwood Grove, Orpington BR6 0B Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or hadyndavies@gmail.com
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS. Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET, 01869 340830
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY. Dancing at St Andrew's URC, Lendon Road, Reading, RG1 5BD from 8–10pm, Sept–May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st & 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Margaret Spiceley 0118 978 7181 or sascd01@gmail.com or www.scottishdancingreading.org
- REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets most Mondays 8.15–10.15pm, Sept–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 8pm from mid Sept. to end of May. Details: 020 8943 3773 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP. Dancing Tues 8pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. 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. Details: Denise Haugh, 020 8392 2920 or dhaugh200@btinternet.com or www.stcolumbasdancers.org
- ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM meet every Thurs 8–10.15pm Sept–June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Sue Davis 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne, 01344 774344 or alan.suedavis@gmail.com Also Children's Class Sats 9.30–11am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT hold weekly classes for all levels of dancers on Monday evenings from 7.30–9.30pm at Collingwood School, Springfield Road, Wallington, SM6 0BD. Details: Maggie Westley, 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157, or westley.maggie14@gmail.com
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB meets every Tuesday from Sept–May, 8–10pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Mrs Josephine Ellis. 26 Byng Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8EJ or josephine@ellismp.plus.com
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday from Sept–May, 8.15–10.15pm, in Barnes. Details: Sheena Clarke, 07954 350899
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Wednesdays from 8–10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin, 48 Eastbrook Road, Blackheath SE3 8BT, 020 8856 4522
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing at St Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30–10pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Fridays, 7.30–10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30–9pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS. Classes in Hertford, Int/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Hollybush School, Hertford SG14 2DF on 21 & 28 April, 5, 12 & 19 May. Details: Martin Hirst, 01992 412833 or sehscds@hotmail.com. For Demonstration class contact Anne Nutt 01992 550923
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday at 8pm from Sept–June at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY or www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS. Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8–10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8–10pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9AL. Details: George Daly, 1 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5UE, 01892 534512 or www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY. General and Beginners'/Improvers' Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey, WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8–10pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford, WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Wednesdays 8–10pm Sept–June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dance Class Mondays 8pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, WD19 5HF, 020 3078 0018
- WIMBLEDON. St Andrew Society (London): Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8pm at Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1SB. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3JB, 020 8540 1755 or araffan@googlemail.com or www.standrewsoclondon.netne.net
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS. Classes Tuesdays 8–10pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8–10pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ, 01264 363293 or wendy@mumford.com
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Wednesday 8–10pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Alex Daniel, 01621 855548 or alexsdaniel@aol.com



Above, from left: the members of Green Ginger, Ian and Meryl Thomson, Cas Sloan, with Jimmie Hill providing a historically informed perspective on dances for SERTA (see p7).

Right: St Columba's Church Hall full to capacity for the London Branch Musicians' Dance on the Saturday night of the Spring Fling weekend (see pp 3, 6 and 11).



CREDITS

Many thanks to all who contributed, including the following for providing photos for this edition:

From Elaine Davies: p1 (top), p3 (top and bottom)
 Mike Greenwood/RSCDS: p1 (bottom), p8 (8), p9 (7 and 9), p16 (right)
 Stephen Webb: p2 (AK), p6, p8 (1, 2 and 4), p16 (top)
 From Jeremy Hill: p2 (JH)
 From Samantha Burton: p3 (SB)
 Jerry Reinstein: p8 (3)
 Michael Nolan/Chiswick: p9 (5)
 Andrew Nolan: p8 (6)

Thanks also to Stephen Webb for additional reporting and co-ordination.



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