



The Reel

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
www.rscdslondon.org.uk
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No 259

MARCH to MAY 2007

BRANCH DANCE

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1
Saturday 24th March 2007
7.00 p.m. - 10.30 p.m.

The Invercauld Scottish Dance Band

Good Hearted Glasgow.....	Knapman
The Sailor.....	24/4
Seann Triubhas Willichan.....	27/9
Espie McNab.....	MMM 1/14
The Dashing White Sergeant.....	3/2
The Belle of Bon Accord.....	Drewry
Scottish Reform.....	3/1
Monymusk.....	11/2
The Eightsome Reel.....	2/12
Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel.....	Gr. 7
Round Reel of Eight.....	27/7
The Wind on Loch Fyne.....	Dunedin 1
The Hollin Buss.....	24/8
Mairi's Wedding.....	Cosh
The Robertson Rant.....	39/8
The Machine Without Horses.....	12/12
Cape Town Wedding.....	39/4
The Reel of the 51st. Division.....	13/10

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

COMBINED SOCIETIES DANCE

A joint event with Chelsea Reel Club, Little Ship Club, London Highland Club, St. Columba's Dancers and the Scottish Clans Association of London.

Saturday 12th May, 2007
7.00 p.m. - 10.30 p.m.

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1.
Nicol McLaren and the Glenraig Band

Joie de Vivre.....	39/2
The Royal Yacht Britannia.....	43/3
Monymusk.....	11/2
The Craven Jig.....	L.2006/1
Shifftin' Bobbins.....	Clowes
Gang the Same Gate.....	36/4
Airie Bennan.....	Foss
Jean Martin of Aberdeen.....	L.2006/2
La Tempête.....	2/1
Seton's Ceilidh Band.....	Fordyce
Bratach Bana.....	Drewry
Wisp of Thistle.....	37/4
The Wild Geese.....	24/3
The Clansman.....	32/8
Margaret Parker's Strathspey.....	31/3
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder.....	Hamilton
Belle of Bon Accord.....	Drewry
The Montgomerie's Rant.....	10/1

Admission £7.50 members of all participating groups; £8.50 non members, Children £2.00, members' children admitted free

BURNS NIGHT CEILIDH



Bob Harmon pipes in the haggis, carried by Denise Haugh (above) after which Jeff Robertson moves in for the kill (below)

Jerry Reinsein



Jerry Reinsein

Last year, I dipped a toe into the waters of the Burns Night Ceilidh slightly worried about my lack of experience amongst seasoned experts. I was so impressed by the warmth of the welcome, the skill of the band and the clarity of the calling, however (not to mention my first taste of haggis) that I returned this year. It was even better second time around. The dances were explained clearly and tricky bits walked through so that everyone could join in – which we did with gusto.

Of course I'd forgotten how hot it gets if you're as unfit as me, but that made me doubly impressed by the chaps in full Scottish costume, including heavy velvet jackets, who didn't even break into a sweat. The food was also a major personal highlight. Thank you RSCDS – and see you next year!

Sandra Lawrence

THE WEBSITE

The Branch website (www.rscdslondon.org.uk) continues to provide up to date information on all the Branch's activities. The site now has a search facility and the recent addition of a feedback form. The front page was redesigned last year so that at a glance people can see current news items and details of what's happening in the coming months.

The site continues to offer the SE Dance Diary and there is now a Diary submission form to send in your Group's dance event information more easily. The Dances pages have programme details and cribs for each dance throughout the year and the Classes pages now have more in depth information too on each class. The forms and fliers page contains Branch documents for people to print out, while the bookstall pages show what's available on the CD and booklet front.

We hope the website will continue to offer an interesting and informative service. Any comments/suggestions can be sent to Meryl Thomson at website@rscdslondon.org.uk.



Stephen Webb

A Tam o' Shanter look-alike in the guise of Iain Gray at the Weston Turville Charity Dance on 28th December 2006 (£303 was raised for the Ian Rennie Hospice).

Issue No 260 will be with UK based members by 5th May 2007 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent to the Editor, Wilson Nicol, 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS, tel: 020 8763 4173, or preferably by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk, to arrive by 7th April. (Issue No 261 will arrive by 1st September 2007).

The opinions expressed in *The Reel* are the opinions of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the RSCDS, nor of the Branch.

BRANCH AGM

Friday 15th June, 2007.

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held at St Columba's Church (Upper Hall), Pont Street, London, SW1 on Friday 15th June 2007. Tea will be served at 6.00 and the meeting will begin at 7.00 p.m. There will be dancing after the meeting. This is the annual opportunity to participate in and contribute to the work of your Branch and Society.

Please make an effort to attend to ensure your views are heard. Any member may propose a motion for consideration at the AGM. These must be signed by the proposer and seconder and be sent to the Branch Secretary (see column 3) to reach her by 24th March. Any topic may be raised under 'Any Other Business' but decisions can only be taken on motions. The agenda, including any motions submitted in advance, will appear in the next issue of the Reel.

You may like to consider standing for the Committee or nominating someone. Nominations for the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer and eleven ordinary members of the committee must reach the Secretary by 24th March. Nominations must be signed by the proposer and seconder and by the nominee, all of whom must be members of the Branch. If necessary, a postal ballot paper will be sent to Branch members with the May issue of *The Reel*.

The present office holders and Committee members, and the dates on which they joined or last rejoined the Committee are as follows:

Chairman	Rachel Wilton	1993
Vice-Chairman	Jeff Robertson	1999
Secretary	Pamela Ellam	2000
Treasurer	Simon Wales	2003

Margaret Catchick 2003; James Fairbairn 2006; Andrew Kellett 2005; Stewart Murray 2006; Wilson Nicol 2005; Lena Robinson 2005; Moira Strutt 2004; Meryl Thomson 2002; Angela Young 2000; Rosalind Zuridis 2006.

All of the above are eligible for re-election.

If you have any queries about the AGM please contact the Secretary, Pamela Ellam.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Our 'Christmas Cracker' with The Ian Muir Sound providing wonderful dancing music, was a cracker indeed – an excellent start to the festive season. An early Burns' Night brought in friends, families, neighbours, those with experience, less experience and no experience dancing to Frank Reid's uplifting music, fuelled by a sumptuous haggis supper prepared once again by expert Denise Haugh and her team.

The next dance has programme and catering provided by the two classes at Marlborough School; this dance was very successful last year and we hope you will be there to support them and enjoy dancing to the Invercauld Scottish Dance Band this year. Then in May we continue with the venture started in our 75th anniversary year when all six groups who dance at St. Columba's contribute to the programme and the MCing; this time Nicol McLaren and the Glenraig Scottish Dance Band will be playing for us – another treat! (see page 1.)

A view has been expressed that we are not organising enough dances for dancers – what is your opinion? Meryl has added a 'feedback' section to the website; paper, pen and a box are provided at Branch dances for you to make comments – let us know what you think about anything to do with the Branch. Another forum is the AGM – as usual there will be a delicious tea, followed by the meeting where you can have

your say, or stand as a Committee member, and afterwards DANCING, what we are all here for!

Thank you to those who volunteered to help when needed; if you would like your name added to the list of helpers, please let one of the Committee know

There are many places to dance and go to class – don't forget the Classes list and the Dance Diary; there is still time to apply for Summer School and The Spring Fling, and Day Schools abound!

See you at least at some of these. Happy Dancing!

Rachel Wilton

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

AGM: At the first meeting after the AGM, the new Chairman, Irene Bennett, extended a warm welcome to everyone, and particularly the new Management Board members who were allocated to the various sub committees and working groups. In order to streamline voting at AGMs it has been agreed that, in future, delegate cards would be issued at registration, rather than being sent to delegates beforehand. Following positive feedback from the display at the AGM, the tartan committee are negotiating with a manufacturer for the production of a range of handbags sporting the new society tartan.

House Matters: All Board members have received Trustee Induction packs outlining their legal responsibilities. A proposal to create a visitors' area at Headquarters is being considered and the staff structure at Headquarters is under review.

Scottish Issues: Letters advising of Dance Scottish week, 10 - 15th September 2007 have been sent out to Branches (see page 4).

Website: The first phase of the website review is now complete and Branches have been informed of the new login name and password to access the members' area. These keywords are shown on the address sheet accompanying this issue of *The Reel*.

Donation: Maureen Haynes had made a donation in Derek's name, to be used towards something to do with young people.

Jeff Robertson

COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

The London Branch Committee next meets on 29th March and 24th May; the convenors meet on 8th March. Items for discussion should be sent to the Secretary, Pamela Ellam at least two weeks before the meetings to ensure inclusion on the Agenda.

EDITORIAL



In the 1950s and 60s the dancing scene was dominated by the two Hughs – Hugh Foss in the London Branch and Hugh Thurston first in Bristol Branch and then in Vancouver Branch. Both were mathematicians from Cambridge and both gave us a heritage of many lovely dances. I have included an edited version of the obituary written for Hugh Thurston by Rosemary Coupe in Vancouver because of Hugh's huge contribution to the Society. I remember him well having shared a room with him at St Andrews Summer School many years ago.

Wilson Nicol

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY



Patron - H.M. The Queen

HEADQUARTERS:

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www.rscds.org

LONDON BRANCH

Hon. President

Mary Stoker

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

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SUB-COMMITTEES

Youth:.....Andrew Kellett, Angela Young

Classes:..... Moira Strutt, Lena Robinson,
Stewart Murray

Day School: Margaret Catchick,

Dances:..... Rachel Wilton, Margaret Catchick,
Angela Young, Stewart Murray

Demonstrations: James Fairbairn, Angela Young,

Publicity:..... Jeff Robertson, Rita Marlow*,
Wilson Nicol, Meryl Thomson, Rosalind Zuridis

Open-air Dances:... Simon Wales, Jeff Robertson.

Membership:.....Owen Meyer*

Bookstall:.....Ian Anderson*

Central Council of Physical Recreation:.....
Marie Jamieson*, Simon Wales

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

S E Branches:..... Andrew Kellett, Simon Wales

Combined Societies:..... Rachel Wilton

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

*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

Website

www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Objects of London Branch

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

- 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.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

The Branch children's class will be held on Saturdays 24th February, 24th March (see Family Day below), 14th April, 19th May, and 9th June, 10.30 - 11.30 a.m. at St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1.

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

£2.00 per child per class (including drink).
Adults welcome to stay. Newcomers always welcome.

The Branch is also running a class in Aston Clinton, near Aylesbury, Bucks
Mondays 4.15 - 5.15 p.m.

Teacher:..... **Joan Desborough**
For details of this class please contact
Ann Robertson on 01296 630682.

FAMILY DAY

Saturday 24th March
St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1
11.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Children's Class (Admission £2.00)

All children welcome to join with children from the Branch class. At the same time there will be a special gentle introduction to Scottish Country Dancing for the grown ups to help them join in at the afternoon dance.

- 12.45 p.m.: Lunch (£1.00) will be provided for all dancers.
- 2.00 - 4.30 p.m.: Dance with the **Invercauld Band**

(Admission £2.50 including light refreshments)
Dances will be chosen from: Cumberland Reel, The Highland Fair, The Highland Reel, Jig for Mrs Dunn, Johnny Groat's House, Leap Year, Petronella, Rabbie's Reel, Reel for Jeannie, Round Reel of Eight, The Barmkin, The Dashing White Sergeant, The Dhoon, The Flying Scotsman.

Whole day ticket £5.00

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

LONDON BRANCH SUMMER GARDEN DANCES

This year sees a break with a series of 27 years of garden dances at Polesden Lacey. Instead, the Branch Garden Dance will be at Harrow School in north London. The idea of a garden dance was proposed by one of our vice-Presidents, Stella Booth and her husband, Howard. They saw the croquet lawn at Polesden as an ideal location for Scottish country dancing and arrangements were made for the first such occasion on 31st May 1980.

Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate and the dance had to be held indoors at the local Howard of Effingham School. Stella persevered and the next year and many subsequent years it was held on the lawn in glorious sunshine. We are grateful to Stella for all the work behind the scenes which enabled us to enjoy many picnic dances there. There are many happy memories of Alex Westwood as MC and McBains and the Craiggellachie Bands providing such great entertainment that even the worms in the lawn were charmed and joined in the fun! Some ten years ago, the playing of croquet there was revived and from then on the Branch has had to be content with the Walnut lawn which alas is not as smooth! Despite that, the joy of the dancing and the location continued unabated.

SPRING FLING

30th March - 1st April 2007
Cheney School, Headington, Oxford
A weekend of ceilidhs, classes, dances and parties for young dancers led by exciting teachers and musicians.

For details: email: springfling@rscds.org,
check out the website: www.rscds.org/springfling
or contact: alice_stainer@hotmail.com

Spring Fling is an annual event organised in a different venue each year. It's never been held as far south as Oxford before, so for young dancers in the London area this could be your best chance to experience this fantastic weekend of dance and fun. To help you London Branch is offering a generous subsidy to members under 25 or who are full time students. Do get in touch with Andrew Kellett on 020 8301 1403 or through the Branch website (www.rscdslondon.org.uk) if you are at all interested.

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to some generous donations the Branch has been able to set up a Youth Scholarship Fund in memory of Bill Ireland. The scholarships are to support young dancers attending summer, winter or youth schools or taking their teaching certificate. Anyone who wishes to apply for funding should contact the Branch Secretary

CHILDREN'S MEDAL TESTS

Children at classes around London are practicing hard for the RSCDS Medal Test on 3rd March at St. Columba's. If you are a Scottish Country Dance teacher with young pupils who would like to enter, please get in touch with Andrew Kellett (020 8301 1403). It may just be possible to squeeze them in, but no promises at this late stage. There will be another chance to take the Tests next year.

SUMMER GARDEN DANCE

Harrow School
Saturday 30th June 2007

After 27 years of dancing in the grounds of Polesden Lacey, we have been informed by their management that for operational reasons they are unable to accommodate us this summer.

We are pleased to announce that alternative arrangements have been made and that we will now be staging this event in the grounds of Harrow School on the afternoon of Saturday 30th June 2007.

Unfortunately this revised date is not suitable for Craiggellachie, our resident band of many years, and we wish to record our thanks for their contribution to the success of our summer garden dance over the years.

However, we are delighted to confirm that David Hall and his Band have kindly agreed to play for us and we look forward to a great afternoon.

Our grateful thanks go to Iain Farrell, Director of Studies at Harrow School, for his kind support and enthusiasm.

Although further details will be given in Reel 260, please note the date in your diary and come along and enjoy the afternoon in an exciting new venue.

Jeff Robertson

NICOL McLAREN

plays for the May dance

The Glencraig Band, named after Bandleader Nicol McLaren's working collies Glen and Craig, was formed in 1983. In 1989 they recorded their first cassette for the Dick Webster Cancer Fund, and also made their first "Take the Floor" broadcast. To date they have recorded three CDs and made twelve "Take the Floor" broadcasts as well as being guest presenter on that programme on several occasions. Annual gigs include St Andrew's Night in Bahrain, and New Year's Eve in The Spittal of Glenshee, Shetland is his "second home" which he visits at least twice a year for Up Helly-aa in January and The Shetland Accordion & Fiddle Festival in October. Nicol, an agricultural Sales Specialist with Dalgety, is also Chairman of The National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Clubs.

He started playing the accordion at the age of nine, when his father bought an old 48-bass Bell piano accordion from a junk shop in Stirling. It was his Uncle Alex who first gave Nicol the inspiration to be a band leader. On the opening night of The Biggar Accordion and Fiddle Club, the family was part of the huge crowd in The Clydesdale Hotel when Alex asked his wee nephew to have a tune. Alex then said he would put a bunch of "no-hopers" around him to see if he could make a band out of them. The "no-hopers" were Ian Powrie on fiddle, Jim Johnstone on second accordion, Bobby Brown on piano, Robin Brock on bass and Bobby Colgan on drums. Nicol came off the stage feeling about ten feet tall, and determined to lead his own band one day.

Nicol is also a keen dancer, and has composed a number of Scottish Dance Tunes.

SUMMER SCHOOL

22nd JULY - 19th AUGUST

Applications should have been in by 1st February but late applications will be considered if there are vacancies. 800 dancers from around the world will gather at St. Andrews during the four weeks to enjoy the dancing, the music, the social events, and the surroundings. There is a welcome for all, from beginners to advanced dancers. Application forms for dancing classes and musicians' courses are available on the Society's website.

Scholarships are available and there is a discount for members under 21 and full time students under 25. We also have our own Bill Ireland Memorial Fund Scholarships for young people between 16 and 25 to attend Summer School and to help young dancers in taking their teaching certificate.

A pilot for Level 1 of a revised version of the Dancing Proficiency Assessment will be offered at Summer School 2007. This 'new' qualification will have the full validity of the 'old' Assessment it is intended to replace. For information please contact HQ or the website www.rscds.org.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE REEL

If you are not a member of the London Branch order your copy of *The Reel* from
Rita Marlow, 17 West Farm Close,
Ashted, Surrey KT21 2LH,
tel: 01372 812821,
e-mail: rusmar@ntlworld.com

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

CLASSES

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

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher / Musician
ELEMENTARY	Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3	Rachel Wilton / Jean Harrison
POPULAR S.C. DANCES	Wednesday	8.00 - 9.30	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3	Lindsey Rousseau / Ian Cutts
TECHNIQUE	Wednesday	7.15 - 9.15	St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1	Gaynor Curtis / Ken Martlew
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	7.15 - 9.15	<i>For details contact James Fairbairn, 01865 512308</i>	Angela Young / Sandra Smith
GENERAL	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30	St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1	Jeni Rutherford

Term starts week beginning 8th January 2007. Half term week commencing 19th February. Term ends during the week beginning 19th March 2007. Summer term commences week of 16th April and finishes week of 14th May (no half term in this term)
Enquiries about classes: 020 8748 6711, or email classes@rscdslondon.org.uk.

SHETLAND DANCE WORKSHOP

Sunday 18th March 2007

10.30 - 12.30 and 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, NW1

Leader: **Mats Melin**

Musician: **Ian Robertson**

Admission for the whole day £15.

Bring your own lunch or eat out.

Wear comfortable clothing, low-heeled shoes and a happy smile. You can find out more about Mats, Ian and what to expect from Shetland Dancing in the article below. If you want more details call Andrew Kellett on 020 8301 1403 or email kellett@nascr.net

Mats Melin was born in Sweden and from 1995 worked professionally with dance in Scotland, including a stint as Traditional Dancer in Residence for the Shetland Islands. He co-founded the dynamic Scottish performance group "Danna" in 1999 and was commissioned to choreograph for the Northlands and St Magnus Festivals. He is currently working as a dance teacher and lecturer at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. As dancer, choreographer and researcher, Mats is superbly qualified to lead our Shetland Dance workshop on 18th March where he will be joined by Ian Robertson with his fiddle. Ian is making a very welcome return to playing at a Branch event. With Sound Company he appeared at the Shetland Accordion and Fiddle Festival for several years, so he too has a real affinity with Shetland's traditional dances and music. It's seven years since Mats and Ian delighted us with a wonderful Shetland workshop. This re-run will be just as good. Don't miss out.

Shetland has a very rich music and dance tradition. Up until about 1900 most dancing took place in croft houses. Each community had one or two houses, usually the homes of the local fiddlers, that served as dance venues. The principal dance was the reel, which varied in form from place to place but had the common structure of all reels in that it was a two part dance: one part "dancing" steps on the spot, the other part a travelling figure known as "reeling". In Shetland there were two-couple, three-couple and four-couple reels with several local variations. The most common figure was a figure of eight in a three-couple reel with the men chasing after their partners.

Since about 1900 Shetland has seen many influences on its dance tradition from both mainland Scotland and Norway. Couple dances, set dances and quadrilles were introduced, and dancing moved from croft houses to village halls. Norwegian polkas appeared, and set dances such as Foula Reel, which was certainly influenced by both Scottish and Scandinavian movements. Today the most popular dance on the Shetland dance scene is the Boston Two-Step which has taken over from the Shetland Reel, but polkas, reels and quadrilles will all feature in the workshop on 18th March.

STEP DANCING

Joan Desborough is continuing Step Dancing classes in the Scout Hut, Kings Langley into 2007 to live fiddle music by Wendy Desborough. The date for your diary is Sunday 29th April, 2007. The class will be 10.30-12.30 and 1.45-3.45. Joan will welcome anyone who wants to come and try step dancing. Further details from Joan Desborough, Telephone: 01442 826629.

SUNDAY TECHNIQUE CLASSES

25th February* and 25th March**

11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Band Hall, Coram's Fields, 93 Guilford St, London WC1

Nearest underground: Russell Square.

On street parking available

Teacher: **Philippe Rousseau**
Musicians: **Barbara Manning*, Ian Cutts****

Cost £6.00. local establishments available for lunch. Further details 020 8748 6711.

Email: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

TEACHING CERTIFICATE

The following have passed the RSCDS Teaching Certificate Part 1 – Unit 1:

Bevan Marchand, Elizabeth Marchand, Rosamund Rawlings, Catherine Smith, Brian Sweeney and Jenny Sweeney. We wish them well in their endeavours to complete their Teacher's Certificate.

BRANDED GARMENTS

A range of garments including Tee Shirts, fitted Ladies Tees, Polo Shirts and Sweatshirts is available sporting the Branch logo. These garments are offered in a range of colours and sizes and children's sizes are also available.

Order forms are available from Jeff Robertson on tel: 01903 530750; 020 7730 9633;

jtr@ctg.co.uk, or from the Branch website: www.rscdslondon.org.uk.

These quality garments are modestly priced as follows, postage and packing being charged at cost as appropriate:-

Tee Shirts	£9
Ladies Tees	£11
Polo Shirts	£15
Sweatshirts	£16

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

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

Jeff Robertson

SOUTH EAST REGION

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

An Apology – the article about the Workshop held last September was written by Christine Hastie and not Mike Johnson as printed.

However Mike is in charge of the list of participators so if you are a teacher or leader of a group, or hold a Teachers' Certificate Part 1 and would like to be included next time information is sent out about the Association, please let him know on tel: 01491 873026, or email: mikejohnson@waitrose.com

SUNDAY IN RICHMOND?

The Course leading to the Teachers' Certificate Examination is well under way; a conscientious, hard working group of prospective teachers are meeting regularly in Richmond, tutored by Ann Dix, with Ken Martlew as musician.

Sunday 3rd June is the day for the Examination of Units 3 and 5, the teaching elements, and we shall need at least 16 people to be a volunteer class all day. The candidates each have to teach for 20 minutes or 30 minutes – we would like enough dancers to be able to keep changing over so that no one is tired. It is an interesting and worthwhile exercise; you don't need to come for the whole day, you might even decide to do the exam yourself one day – some London dancers who 'volunteered' at St. Andrews said how much they had enjoyed it, and how much they had learned! We shall provide lunch and you can meet new people. Please send your name to Rachel Wilton. Contact details on page 2.

SCOTTISH DANCING IN LONDON

10th to 15th September has been designated 'Dance Scottish Week'

London Branch will advertise where you can dance every night that week. Would you like your group to be included? Would you like to organise an event especially for that week? Further information from the Secretary (address page 2).

BRANCH BADGES

The Branch Badge is based on the rectangular *Reel* masthead logo and is available in a smart enamel and polished finish. These are modestly priced at £4.00 and are available from Jeff Robertson on 01903 530750, 020 7730 9633 or jtr@ctg.co.uk or from Ian Anderson at the Branch Bookstall on 01420 84599 or bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk.

Please continue to support your Branch.

Jeff Robertson

MINI CRIB, MAXI USE

Charles Upton's Minicrib needs no introduction, having become a ubiquitous primer for those attending Scottish Country Dances. The alternative source of condensed dance instructions, Pilling, also has its fans, especially those with good visual memories, but Minicrib's text-based summaries are arguably more user-friendly, particularly for those setting out on their dancing careers and although each event needs someone to produce the relevant cribs, the software on the website (www.minicrib.care4free.net/index.htm) that Charles has developed makes this task extremely quick and simple. The real benefit of Minicrib is that it now includes around 3,000 dances, nearly four times as many as Pilling.

So what were the genesis and evolution of this invaluable system?

As a young man, Charles Upton began dancing where he still dances today – in the Wirral. He recalls his introduction to Scottish dancing and being fascinated by the music, the energetic approach of his fellow young dancers and the apparently endlessly changing patterns and formations. Charles and his wife (who still dance together every week) took something of a break from dancing when their children came along but later took it up again in 1975, when the Deeside Caledonian Society (the Dee being the river that separates England from Wales) moved its meetings to a local hall. The programmes were entirely SCDs and they had to digest many new dances as well as relearning the older ones.

Charles became particularly interested in the construction and the different progressions of the various dances. He began to make notes on cards for every dance that he encountered so that he could have a mental recap of a dance before getting up. There was, and still is, no recapping at Deeside dances. As Charles says, "you either had to know the dance, check with the Green Book or in my case check the dance card or otherwise sit it out". Occasionally he came across crib sheets that were incomprehensible (to him at least) – the type where the bars are omitted and the entire dance reads almost as one sentence. He began to formulate his own cribs so that he could make up crib sheets for his own use – in a highly abbreviated form (for the sake of easy typing) and which he called a "Minicrib".

Later he bought a computer and began to use it for recording his cribs (about 100 by this time). He found that when consulting the printed crib sheet at the dances, other dancers would crowd around him so as to remind themselves of the next dance. He was soon making and distributing copies in advance to his dancing friends (the number of whom, not surprisingly, increased rapidly!). Ultimately the copying and circulating of the crib sheets reached unmanageable proportions and his initial solution to this problem was to distribute floppy discs containing all the cribs. This first "published" version was issued in 1994. Queries then began to arise and some recipients pointed out errors and ambiguities as well as regional variations for some of the dances. Based on this feedback, the cribs were gradually expanded and clarified: today's version was the eventual result. Charles points out that the cribs are not as "Mini" as they used to be!

The issuing of discs was not without problems because of frequent requests for updates. So in early 2000, Charles took the courageous step of putting the Minicrib database onto the Deeside website, so as to allow users to update their copies whenever they wished. But this did not lead to the hoped-for decrease in the work involved. More and more comments, criticisms

and especially, requests for additional dances, began to flood in. Last year he received from one correspondent a list over 400 dance cribs, none of which were previously in Minicrib! The work currently occupies around two hours most evenings and although over 3,000 dance cribs are now included, he still receives emails about missing dances. The large number of such requests has meant that he has had to adopt some rational criteria for deciding which to include. He tries to wait until he receives several different requests for a dance crib before adding it, as this is a good indication that a dance is likely to appear on future programmes.

Originally a computer novice, Charles became familiar with Word's AutoText facility and used this to develop the Minicrib system. He was assisted by a dancing friend who is also a computer programmer and who developed the software which now provides a range of functions. The current version allows a user to prepare a crib sheet either by selecting the dance titles individually or even more quickly by simply pasting a list of titles. It also allows selective (and extremely powerful) searches, allowing one to find, for instance, all 2-couple dances which feature "set and rotate". The cribs can be formatted in a single column or in 2 columns (which allows more cribs to be included on a page). Users can also add and retrieve their own dance cribs.

There are a number of other problems that he is working on but Charles has one final concern. Pointing out that he is well past his "sell-by date", he wonders what will happen to Minicrib when he hangs up his ghillies. Any volunteers?

Stewart Murray

OVERSEAS VISITOR REVEALS THE SECRET OF GOOD DANCING

Stephen Webb writes,

At this year's Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club's Christmas Ceilidh dances were interspersed with party pieces. One such was a recitation reminiscent of Pat Batt, written and delivered by Ann Kendall an RSCDS Life Member who started dancing at the age of nine in Wallington Surrey and now for the past 26 years has been living in Alberta, Canada and dances in Edmonton. Ann was staying with her sister and brother-in-law and had come to attend the BSRC 55th Annual Highland Ball. Ann has kindly given permission to publish her clever poem entitled *Learning Scottish Country Dancing*.

First we learn skip change of step –
Hop-step-close-step, hop-step-close-step.
Turn your feet out, point your toes –
Soon you'll know just how it goes.
Don't forget to make a "T" –
Passing feet we must not see!
Slowly now we walk it through,
Then to music we must do.
Next it's pas de basque we learn,

Used to set and two hand turn.
We watch the teacher and we quake –
Much more practice this will take.
Third position with your feet,
Try it out to get the beat,
One-two-three and one-two - three –
Two beats are not enough, you see.
Now a jeté with your toe,
Not too high and not too low.
The class has got it all just so,

Now we are all set to go.
The dancing has hooked us, the music it calls.

All over the world Scottish dancing is done.
Wherever you go, you will find that it's fun.
New Zealand or Scotland, Vancouver or Maine,
The people are friendly, the dancing's the same.

The first two verses were written initially to be accompanied to the music of Mairi's Wedding.

The entire poem will be posted on the London Branch website. Go to www.rscdslondon.org.uk, navigate your way to The Reel then to Reel Extracts.

WEST MACS CHARITY BALL

WHAT IS WEST MACS?

It is a charity Ball for Scottish dancers that has raised some £17,150 for Scottish charities since its formation in 1976, with £6,350 being raised in the last six years.

Prior to the 1970s Scottish societies in and around London generally subscribed to The Royal Caledonian Schools. There were a number of individuals in the Middlesex area who felt that other charities should also be supported. From this small seed was planted the idea we now know as the **WEST Middlesex Association of Caledonian Societies**.

Initially the Greenford, Harrow, Hampstead, Ruislip, Ealing and Wembley societies agreed to run a joint charity ball on an annual basis. The current participating societies are Greenford, Harrow, Wembley Watford and Hayes.

Each society has two members on the committee and a different society hosts the event each year, while the others organise the door, raffle, preparation of the hall, etc. The hosts choose the charity and organise the catering. The raffles play an important part in the proceedings, thanks to the generosity of companies who respond to requests for prizes, and a large number of prizes are donated by dancers. The final total available for donation is greatly enhanced by these raffles.

Tribute must be given to Bill Merrick, Nettie Merrick, George Workman and John McMenamin, whose vision and hard work made the West MACS Ball an annual event on our dancing calendar, together with many others who have organised and run these balls over the years. For those who come to dance with us, take pleasure from the fact that you do it FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN YOURSELVES and wish us a further 30 years of continuing support for Scottish charities.

Clive White

WESTON TURVILLE CHARITY DANCE

We wanted to say 'Thank you' to all those who supported us in Weston Turville on 29th December. We held a Scottish dance in aid of the local Ian Rennie Hospice and raised £308. One third of this was raised by the raffle organised by the ladies of Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club. The major attraction was the music played by Ian Robertson who we are pleased to say lives in the next village and has started to raise the next generation of Scottish dancers with his wife Anne, running a children's class on a Saturday morning to which their two children, Jennifer and Thomas attend. Jennifer danced for us at our Burns afternoon in January 2006, and people have already asked if she will be there again in 2007. Thomas told us he could only do a little but I am sure that the music and dancing are in the genes.

Linda & Roger Dorman

RURAL DANCIES IN EASTERN SCOTLAND

Introduction

Throughout the 19th and even into the 20th century many itinerant dancing masters were plying their trade throughout the Scottish rural countryside. Their names are legion in the East of Scotland: Dancies Neill and Reid in Angus and Perthshire, Dancie Carnegie of the Mearns, Professor Bucks of the Borders, the Adamsons from Fife and many others. Significant and esteemed contributors to the dancing scene, whether in the villages, or visiting the grand houses and castles, they were deeply embedded in the social fabric of their times. Each of them seems to have established a territory for himself, either in the Borders, the Lowlands or the Highlands. They would set up house somewhere in the centre of their territories and from there they would travel, either on foot or by bicycle or, latterly, by car, and teach dancing, deportment, etiquette and often also music, to both children and young adults.

The careers of rural dancies give us a revealing snapshot of the evolution of dancing in Scotland from the 1850s to the 1940s. At the start of this period in Scotland generally the indigenous, traditional Scottish reels were danced alongside the country dances which had emanated from England. The quadrilles, popular in the early part of the century, were now represented mainly by the Lancers. The new and rather shocking circling couple dances had started flooding into ballrooms around 1850, just around the time that the Dancies were most active. Between 1844 and 1900 there arrived in quick succession the polka, the polka mazurka, the highland schottische, the barn dance and the veleta, all to great acclaim from the young and from those thirsty for novelty.

Although by the 1870s the reels and the country dances were consequently losing popularity, this process was much more accelerated in the towns than in the country: by 1900 very few country dances were on urban dance programs. In 1893 Cosmo Mitchell, an important Aberdeen dancing master, frequently had dancing exhibitions without a single country dance on them and within a few years he would be offering jazzy American imports such as the Foxtrot, the Aeroplane Waltz and the Motor Polka!

However, in rural districts reels and country dances were popular right up to the start of the 1914-1918 war and in the Highlands and Western Isles reels in particular very often remained the favourites. We can see that the teaching of these dancies was therefore influenced by their living in a near-Highland rural area. They had a country audience still linked to old traditions, very attached to reels and step dances and also fond of country dances. Therefore they went on teaching these dance forms much longer than their urban contemporaries, although the modern fashions eventually percolated down to them from the towns. They lived through a period of great changes and we see them performing a balancing act, gradually accommodating the new for their younger clientele whilst maintaining loyalty to old traditional forms: their athleticism and musicality enabled them to cope with everything the dancing world threw at them! They were respected and significant members of their communities: they promoted civilized behaviour and, because of their peripatetic life-style and deep involvement with all levels of Scottish society, they helped to strengthen social bonds.



Miss Annie Shand, a principal Society pianist at pre-war Summer Schools who published a book of alternative tunes for Books 1-7, standing with Dancie Reid, August 1935

Two Angus and Perthshire Dancies

James Neill travelled to villages within a radius of 15-20 miles from his home in Forfar, dividing his year up amongst the regions and following a regular pattern of visits. Whatever the distance he seems to have returned home each night! He held both public and semi-private classes: the former for country folk and the latter for upper-middle class pupils: the age of the youngest was about five and the oldest probably in their early twenties. He also had an extensive practice amongst the great county families, teaching, for example, the future Queen Mother at Glamis Castle and three generations of the Atholl family at Blair Castle. He was also a fine violinist and gave regular classes in this instrument. His musical reputation was such that he was frequently asked to supply orchestras and bands for aristocratic parties and balls. Thus one such request from a Pitlochry lady in December 1907:

"I am having a servants' dance in Fishers' Hotel here on the 31st December: there will be thirty people or so there. Can you send a band that night?"

James Neill's passion was for Highland dancing with its perfectionism and intricate stepping: the Foursome Reel, (often called the "Scotch Reel"), the Reel of Tulloch, along with the Highland Fling and other bravura solo dances, were an important part of his repertoire. Nevertheless, he taught much else alongside these "High" dances: a few traditional country dances such as Petronella, the Flowers of Edinburgh and Speed the Plough, and also social dances such as the Lancers, la Tempête, The Dashing White Sergeant and La Russe.

Thus one of his girl pupils from the Glamis estate: "He cycled the six miles to Glamis once a week with his fiddle on his back. I remember he taught us the Highland Fling and also the Sword Dance and he had a class of between 30 and 40. He also taught us the Lancers and the Quadrilles and we got a maypole dance when we had to go in two around the pole and pleat the ribbons. It was very pretty."

Neill's teaching was strict and he was a stickler for etiquette, whether he was teaching the village children or the offspring of the grand houses. He insisted on decorum during classes and especially at balls. Girls had to curtsy and boys to bow and a mad scramble to grab a partner was absolutely forbidden!

However, he did seem to have had an enlightened, compassionate approach to his students. He wrote thus about teaching the young:

"There is only a certain time that we can secure the attention of children... after that you may punish them but that will not be progress. Good results are produced not by long hours but by method."

Dancie Reid seems to have started working around 1890 and he continued until his death in 1942. Since he had been taught by James Neill, their teaching methods and repertoires have many similarities.

Travelling out from his home in Newtyle, Reid taught the towns in his territory in the winter and the surrounding countryside districts in the summer, using a bicycle in his younger years and only later graduating to a car. He seems to have taught dancing for the first four evenings of each week, filling the remaining evenings with musical engagements.

Reid is considered to be one of the last great fiddler-dancers since he could play with stunning virtuosity whilst simultaneously dancing or demonstrating. His fame was considerable and he nurtured many of the fine fiddlers in Angus and Perthshire and, moreover, later in life, he had his own popular band: in 1938, for example, he gave a series of concerts for the BBC. Reid's Orchestra was the prototype for the later Jimmie Shand!

Reid's dance repertoire was similar to Neill's in that he taught Highland reels and step dances such as the Highland Fling, square dances such as the Lancers and also country dances. However his range was different from Neill's: he taught more country dances including Blue Bonnets, Scottish Reform and My Love She's but a Lassie Yet. He also, moreover, introduced new dances, such as the waltz and polka, presumably due to the fact that he was teaching for another 20-odd years after Neill's death, by which time these modern couple dances were all the rage.

Dancies, however popular, still needed to do their marketing and this took the form of end-of-term "Finishing Balls" where parents could admire their children's accomplishments. Girls wore patent leather slippers fastened with a strap around the ankle and boys sported patent leather dancing shoes and white gloves: the whole evening was characterized by formality and strict etiquette.

The programme would offer social dances, such as the polka, interspersed with bravura performances by the pupils of dances such as Seann Truibhais, the Foursome Reel, Ladies Hornpipes and Sword Dances. The earlier informant from the Glamis estate described such an event: "But the highlight of it all was the Finishing Ball where we all got dressed up in lovely dresses and big bows of ribbon in our hair and sashes to match our dresses and all took part in the Grand March"

Dancie Reid, as befitted his more recent status, did start teaching waltzes and polkas and by the 1920s was also introducing the Foxtrot, the Washington Post and the Tango!

However, Reid's career took a novel turn when he encountered Miss Milligan the founder of the SCDS. Clearly enthused by her vision, he threw himself into the work of the Society, assisting with the revival of old country dances, providing music for balls and teaching Highland and step dances at the summer schools. Society Bulletins record that his orchestra played for dances at the Younger Hall in 1933 and 1936 and the Society's announcement of his death in 1942 was full of warm accolades. He had provided an invaluable link with the past and the old dance forms.

Rosalind Zuridis

OBITUARY — Hugh A Thurston, 1922-2006



As a very young Englishman during World War II – obviously a mathematical whiz kid – he worked as a cryptographer deciphering the messages of the Italian navy and later the Japanese armed forces. His friendship with Hugh Foss (a leading codebreaker at Bletchley Park) must have dated from that time, and likely Foss sparked his interest in Scottish dancing with its intricate patterns. Later, Hugh Thurston dated his interest in Scottish dancing as starting in 1943.

Hugh Thurston took his PhD at Trinity College, Cambridge. While there, he likely joined the Cambridge Reel Club, and he would have met fellow Cambridge mathematician and dance historian Tom Flett, whose *Traditional Dancing in Scotland* was eventually published in 1964. Then for some years in the 1950s Hugh lived in Bristol.

While still in his early 30s, Hugh amassed a huge amount of information on the historical background of the dances, and in 1954 he published *Scotland's Dances*. The foreword was written by Hugh Foss, OBE, who by this time was Chairman of the London Branch of the RSCDS. This book, still in print, is typical of Hugh Thurston in several ways. It takes a careful analytical approach to the history of dancing in Scotland, probably the first book to do so. It presents information in meticulous detail, listing

the sources, for example, of dances currently popular. Finally, the book covers the whole gamut of Scottish dancing, from reels, Highland dances, and Hebridean dances to country dances.

By 1956, Hugh had moved to Boston, becoming the first editor of the Boston Branch newsletter *The Tartan Times*. He came to Vancouver in 1958 to take up a position in the Department of Mathematics at UBC, and lost no time in founding the West Point Grey Scottish Country Dance Club. He befriended Mary Isdale MacNab and taught her dances with great enthusiasm. In 1961 he first issued his own remarkable dance magazine, *The Thistle*.

Above all, the 55 issues of *The Thistle* show Hugh's erudition and the breadth of his interests. He writes with authority not only on Scottish country dancing, but on Serbian, Bulgarian, Scandinavian, Portuguese, and Irish dancing, and on New England contra dancing. Other articles show his detailed knowledge of music.

Hugh's attitude towards the RSCDS was complex. He combined great personal respect for Miss Milligan with a critical attitude towards the work of the RSCDS in reconstructing old dances. Various *Thistle* articles pointed out misinterpretations by the RSCDS editors, often showing the reader the difference between the dance as originally written and the dance as arbitrarily re-written by the RSCDS. When Miss Milligan visited Vancouver in 1963, she intended to take Hugh to task but after discussions with him she announced "Dr. Thurston and I have agreed to disagree!" Hugh was such a marvellous, intelligent charmer that he charmed even her! And he was most likely right, as usual. From Vancouver, Hugh Thurston kept in touch with Hugh Foss who took a broad-minded, often humorous approach to contentious issues, yet remained a committed member of the RSCDS.

Hugh's own interest in traditional reels may have led him to compose his best-known dance, "Schiehallion". There did seem to be a place for a reel with a definite chorus and a choice of figures

(rather than setting steps) for the verses, and this is how Schiehallion was first presented: the chorus as we know it (half a grand chain and Highland schottische, and repeat) and a repertoire of a dozen or so figures for the dancers to choose from.

It turned out, however, that dancers did not want to choose their own figures, so Hugh chose the four figures that seemed most popular, put them in what seemed a good order, and began to teach (and eventually to publish) the dance in this form.

The term "Schiehallion" is now best known to dancers as applied to the "Schiehallion reels" which end the dance. Hugh preferred to call this figure a "reel of eight," and stressed that it was not really his original figure, but essentially the same as the reels in the traditional Axum Reel.

The main figure in the only Hugh Thurston dance published by the RSCDS, "The Last of the Lairds," is also traditional in origin, based on the cross-over reels found in dances like "Maxwell's Rant." (Hugh Foss described the dance as "Maxwell's Rant cubed.") Given Hugh's ambivalence towards RSCDS editors, it is ironic that the RSCDS Publications Committee chose to alter "The Last of the Lairds" so that all three couples are moving on bar 32 and again on bar 1 at the beginning of the next repetition. This to Hugh was the mark of a poorly conceived or poorly reconstructed dance. He certainly would not have agreed with the Committee that "the ending shown above is more satisfactory," as the note in *Book 22* says he did.

In the early 1970s, Hugh and Nina moved away from Scottish country dancing towards folk dancing in a broader context. A sabbatical year spent in Turkey further spurred their interest in international dancing.

(This is a shortened version of the article by Rosemary Coupe which first appeared in the *White Cockade, The Vancouver Branch Magazine, December 2006*. The full version will be posted on the Branch website, www.rscdslondon.org.uk. Click on *The Reel*, then on *Reel Extracts*)



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Pictures around

All at the 9th December 2006
except where noted



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2



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7



8



11

1. Patricia and John Reeve with three past Chairmen:- Wilson Nicol, Owen Meyer and Simon Wales, all enjoying warming-up before dancing.
2. Hon Vice-President Rosemary Tilden joins Henry Nolan in lines across with Pete the Feet.
3. The Dem Team in action.
4. Ian Muir (accordion), Derek Hamilton (piano) and Gordon Simpson (fiddle), our excellent Christmas Cracker Band!
5. Jimmy (Santa) McIntosh at LHC 16th December entering into the spirit of the occasion.
6. Wilson; man of many talents.
7. Lindsey Rousseau, a concise and delightful MC.
8. Henry Nolan and Vice-President Rosemary Tilden.
9. Anne and John King enjoy the warm up.
10. The Dem Team in more action.
11. John receives his Award from Mary.
12. Ann Kendall (*see Overseas Visitor.. Article on page 5*)
13. The Knot is danced in style in *Miss Gibson's Strathspey*.
14. Jim Cook and Marion Pierson take the lead at Chiswick's Kilts & Posh Frocks Ball on 10th Dec. 2006.
15. John Reeve, Ken Halse and Alastair Cuthbertson must be auditioning for a festive role at the Berkhamsted Sherry and Mince Pies evening on 19th December 2006.

All pictures by Stephen



12



13

and the dances

6 A Christmas Cracker dance
were stated



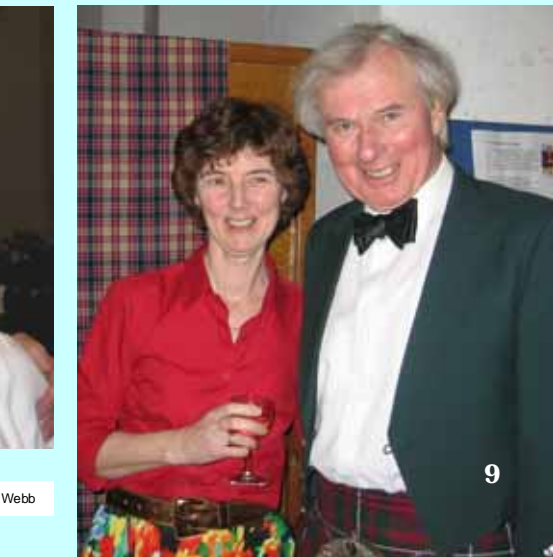
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15

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Peter Luke

Tring

Dancing Shoes and Demonstration Dresses Worcester Park

Dear Wilson,

I would like to reply to points raised in two letters in *The Reel* 258. Janet Bowles asks where to buy wide fitting dancing shoes. They are made by St. Andrews' Shoemakers (formerly James Senior), and can be made to measure.

Jean Taylor criticises the new outfits worn by the ladies in the Demonstration team. My daughter, Catriona, has just been accepted for the team and I think the outfits she is wearing are smart and practical. The tops are much easier to wash and iron than a white dress. Separates are also easier to adjust if an outfit has to be borrowed. Catriona is barely 5 feet tall, and has not yet got her own outfit. A borrowed dress would have required considerable alteration.

Times move on. When I first started dancing 30 years ago the ladies in the team had stiff upswept hairdos on formal occasions. We are both very glad this is no longer the case, as Catriona's hair is so heavy she would have great difficulty keeping it in place.

Regards,

Elizabeth Bennett.

Logo

Perth

Dear Editor,

Having read your comments about the Society's new logo, I wholeheartedly support your views. I am disappointed that the new logo has been foisted on us. I personally fail to see what was wrong with the previous one. It does not follow that because the logo is 25 years old, it has to be updated.

We are honoured to be the 'Royal' Scottish Country Dance Society, so why should the 'crown' form such an insignificant part of the new logo? Does our Society not merit uppercase letters?

'Dance' as used in the logo is the imperative of a verb and can only be followed by a noun or an adverb. 'Scottish' is an adjective and must be followed by a noun. The 'strapline' of our logo – Dance Scottish – is therefore grammatically incorrect and meaningless.

I know that my views are shared by other members.

Christian M Catto

That Logo

Perth

Dear Wilson,

Your editorial in the last Reel prompted me to express my total agreement with your sentiments on "change".

I can do no better than send you this copy of the letter which I sent to my own Branch Newsletter on receipt of the last Society Magazine:

"I write to express my disgust at the 'New' Society Logo. Our recognisable Crown of Dancing Shoes is now merely a blob above 'rscds'. We are justly proud of our Royal status and equally proud that we are Scottish and these, as well as the remainder of our title should have capital letters and not be demoted to the lower case. As for 'Dance Scottish' – are we to be told what this unfinished phrase means? As it stands, it does not make any sense."

Beatrice A. Nairn
Perthshire Branch

Why are you wearing 'baffies'

Edinburgh

Dear Wilson,

The interesting and informative article in *The Reel* 258 about *The MacLennans: Dancers and Pipers*, by Alastair MacFadyen, reminded me of an occasion in 1950.

The International Festival of Ballroom Dancing was held in Edinburgh that year. The Festival organised competitions in many dance forms including both Highland and Scottish Country dancing. I entered my Perth team, the Gowrie Group. Having danced in the competition, my partner, Elsie Goodall and I stood at the back of the hall watching the other teams. An elderly gentleman approached Elsie and asked her why she was wearing her 'baffies' with evening dress. In reply my partner said she was wearing her dancing pumps. 'But surely,' continued the gentleman 'you should be wearing an evening shoe when in evening dress'. Elsie explained that she could not dance her steps correctly in evening shoes. 'Ah well, lassie, you cannot be dancing them correctly'. On enquiry I learned that this gentleman was none other than D.G. MacLennan, Edinburgh's foremost dancing master during the first half of the 20th century.

Of interest, the four adjudicators at this competition were Miss Milligan, Mrs Florence Lesslie, Mr Bill Murray, and probably Miss Allie Anderson. My team did win the competition!

Many years later on reading D.G. MacLennan's book *Highland and Traditional Scottish Dances* which he published in 1950, I found that he had very clear views on footwear for dancing: 'another matter that should be discouraged is the wearing of solo dancers' stage pumps – heel-less and thin-soled. These 'slippers' (baffies) were never worn by anyone in the ballroom as they are bad for flat feet and fallen arches.'

The late Lord James Stewart Murray when attending the 25th Anniversary Ball of the Perth & Perthshire Branch in Blair Castle told me of his being taught Highland Dancing by Dancie Reid, so I asked him if he wore dancing pumps like those I was wearing. He replied scathingly, 'I have never worn these!' He was wearing his evening dress buckled shoes.

Bill Clement

Strathspey Tempo

London

Dear Wilson

I was interested in the letter about the tempo for Strathspeys in *The Reel* No. 258. On one occasion I looked in the music section of a Strathspey for a metronome speed for that dance and could not find one.

As an older dancer I find it more tiring to dance slowly. I get very cold during slow Strathspeys especially if they are 8x32 in length. For demonstration purposes it can look very elegant at the modern slower speed, but in general I prefer to dance at a faster pace.

Of course the dances should not be raced through, but I think there can be a faster place for most dancers to enjoy their dancing. I found the recent London recording of *The White Rose of Scotland* to be particularly slow.

Yours,

Irene Spooner

Dear Wilson,

I read the article about Peter Luke with interest, but I thought there was a lot missing. I first met Peter, an accomplished dancer, when I was a teenager in Reading. Peter used to participate in our Saturday morning Highland dance classes, which I believe he found more frustrating than the social country dancing at St. Andrews Church on a Wednesday evening. He was also involved in demonstrations for two Reading teams then and continues to be a stalwart member of the St. Andrews team.

I remember celebrating Peter's 30th birthday (how old I thought he was at the time, yet now I would love to be so young!). Peter has continued to dance in Reading and is often on the organising committee of St. Andrews. I know that Peter also belongs to the MacLennan and Argyll Scottish Groups. In the past he has been a member of the London Branch committee. I expect I have missed some things too.

Peter is a great enthusiast and not only does he dance with friends, but is often found talking to and dancing with newcomers, an example we should all follow. This year, 2007, will mark Peter's 70th birthday and we will be celebrating in Reading at the local club Ceilidh. It was coincidental that I appeared in the photo with Peter stirring memories of my younger dancing days.

Do you have any personal memories of Peter? If so please e-mail me at joandes@freeuk.com

Yours sincerely,

Joan Desborough

A Stone's Throw

London

Dear Wilson,

You state on page 2 of *The Reel* 258, that Oxford is 'a stone's throw from London'. When you throw a stone 55 miles, how do you avoid hitting passing flights of pigs?

Yours in admiration,

Daniel Capron

The Society's new logo

London

Dear Wilson,

While I appreciate the hard work of Jim Healy and others in redesigning the Society's logo, there are a number of mysterious features of the new logo.

There is a case for keeping the old logo and presenting it proudly. There is also a case for a new image to express the Society visually in the 21st century. It is hard to see the case for showing the old logo as a small blob in a corner of a new logo.

Why are the letters RSCDS in lower case? This is not consistent with usual conventions in English, with usage by the Society (e.g. on the cover of *Scottish Country Dancer*) or even with the next line of the logo, where the words 'Dance' and 'Scottish' are capitalised. The fashion for using lower case indiscriminately has long passed, being associated with e.e.cummings, who died in 1962.

'Dance Scottish' is an interesting slogan. What language is it? Although composed of English words, it does not seem something any English-speaking person would ever say. 'Scottish' in this context presumably means 'Scottish forms of dance'. It is odd for the Society, which has the specific aim of promoting Scottish country dancing, to promote other Scottish forms of dance, such as Highland and ceilidh dancing, on an equal footing.

I prefer the logo on the top right corner of the front page of *The Reel*, and it could easily be adapted for use by other branches.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Capron

BANDS

KAFOOZALUM COUNTRY DANCE BAND

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Scottish Dance Band (3 or 4 piece) for Dances, Ceilidhs, Reels, Weddings & Parties. Contact **Lilian Linden**: Tel: 01252 629178, Mobile: 07879 633766, e-mail: lilian.linden@virgin.net. CDs £12 each (+ £1.00 UK p&p) www.invercauldband.com.

BARBARA MANNING (Violin/Piano)

KEN MARTLEW (Piano)

Two-piece band for Scottish Country Dancing. Have piano/amplification. Tel: 01442 261525, e-mail: KenMartlew@aol.com

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Contact: Mike McGuinness Tel: 020 8398 6799
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SOLOISTS

PETER JENKINS

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

KEN MARTLEW

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

FIONA MCGEE

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

NEW RECORDINGS

RSCDS Book 27 – Frank Thomson and his Scottish Dance Band (CD057)

Tarry A While – The Deirdre Adamson Quartet (DACD 0629) *Tarry A While, The First of September, Crathes Castle, Georgie's Jig, Cadgers in the Canonage, Culla Bay, The Dancing Master, The Fisherman's Reel, Sugar Candie, The Earl of Mansfield, Johnnie Walker, Ben's Delight, Butterscotch and Honey, The New Rigged Ship.*

The Faculty of Actuaries - David Cunningham (JHCD001) *The Faculty of Actuaries (4x32 Jig and encore), The Westminster Reel, The Glasgow Highlanders, The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.*

Frank Thomson's CD, his first for the Society is an absolute winner: a fulsome sound from a 5-piece band which includes Judi Nicolson on fiddle and Dennis Morrison on piano. Definitely a 'best buy'. (There are some very good originals tunes in Book 27. It is a pity we do not often see the dances on programmes).

This new CD by Deirdre is her sixth recording of full length country dances and is as ever of a very high standard. Again, a fulsome tight sound with just the right tempos. There is a lot here of interest to us in the southeast. Two dances by Ann Dix – *The First of September* (devised for Dave and Judy Hall's wedding with Sandy Nixon's tune) and *Culla Bay*. Frank Reid's original for *Culla Bay* is followed by Ian Muir's most excellent strathspey dedicated to Barbara Manning. Also good to see *The Dancing Master* recorded here. Thanks, Deirdre.

Local interest continues with David Cunningham's CD. The dance *The Faculty of Actuaries* was conceived by Ian Farr, a fellow of the Faculty to celebrate its 150th Anniversary and has been published in leaflet form with an

originals tune composed by Jeremy Hill. The tune is a real stormer and we get 'double rations' in the encore. The other dances were chosen to represent major cities where the Faculty practises. As most of you will know, the *Westminster Reel* was devised by Jeremy. I have enthused many times about David Cunningham's playing and I do so here again. He is without question one of Scotland's best country dance musicians. Here he plays accordion, piano and bass with Ian Adamson on drums.

Take your Seats. Southeast based Craigellachie Band led by Ian Muir have released a CD **Take your Seats (CBCD08)** which is a bit different from their earlier recordings. There are some seven tracks for old time/ceilidh dances and just to remind us how good they are at country dances there are two 8x32 reel sets and two 8x32 jig sets not tied to any particular dance. Add to the mix an accordion duet by John Browne and Ian and a fine fiddle solo by Keith Anderson, and the end result is an excellent CD. So, take your seats or, better still, take the floor!

John Laurie Tel: 020 7286 1923.

MUSICAL NOTES

I am sure you all enjoyed the music at the Christmas dance at the beginning of December. Good live music provides the 'lift' which makes dancing so pleasurable without being tiring. While I was talking at the interval to the fiddler Gordon Simpson in Ian Muir's trio playing that evening, he enthused at the feedback they were getting from the dancers. 'It makes our music so meaningful and enjoyable for us when dancers respond in this way'. On meeting him previously – at the St Andrews Summer School – and commenting on the fine tone of his fiddle, he said it was an 1806 Matthew Hardie. I'd heard that name before: Angus Fitchet had composed a tune 'Lament for the Matthew Hardy' for Ian Powrie's fiddle lost in a car accident. So who was Matthew Hardie? As luck would have it, there is currently an exhibition at the Royal Academy of Music in Marylebone Road, NW1 featuring *Violins of the Scottish Enlightenment*. The curator, David Rattray, himself a violinmaker and restorer, is an expert on Matthew Hardie and, by prior arrangement, is happy to talk to visitors to the exhibition on the several Hardie instruments on display. For those interested in Scottish music, David Rattray has

recently published a book '*Violin Making in Scotland 1750 – 1950*' details of which can be found at bvma.org.uk and will be reviewed in the next Reel. Matthew Hardie was born in Jedburgh in 1754, and he became an outstanding violin maker, sought out by students who appreciated not only his fine craftsmanship, but also his company as an educated man.

Wilson Nicol

REVIEW OF BRANCH CD

The CD includes all 13 dances published by the London Branch in their 75th Anniversary book of dances, played by seven different soloists or bands, all of whom will be well known to dancers in the south of England and further afield. I was truly entertained by this recording.

The variety of instrumentation means that there is something for every palate, ranging from an excellent piping solo by Neil Esselmont through the evocative fiddlers' gallery sound of Green Ginger to the 5-piece sound of David Hall's band. With further lively music from Frank Reid's band, the Invercauld band and Kafoozalum and a driving set of tunes on the fiddle and piano from Judith Smith and Angela Young to finish, the CD is a rare mixture.

It goes without saying that the tempos are rock solid throughout. Congratulations to Angela Young and John Laurie on producing and coordinating the disc. An examination of the clear and comprehensive sleeve notes reveals that there is very little overlap between the line-ups of the different bands, and that has to be a good sign for the health of Scottish dance music in this part of the world. Roll back the carpet and try the London Reel!

Karl Sandeman

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DANCE EVENTS

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Formal Dance

Saturday 10th March 2007

Reigate School, Pendleton Road, Reigate.

Dewhurst Band

Programme: Maxwell's Rant, The Luckenbooth
Brooch, The Byron Strathspey, The Plantation
Reel, The Bees of Maggicknockater, Margaret
Parker's Strathspey, Fraser's Favourite, The
Dancing Master, The Gentleman, Catch the
Wind, The Blue Mess Jacket, Airie Bannan, The
Dancers' Wedding, Lady Peak's Strathspey,
Hooper's Jig, J. B. Milne, The Robertson Rant,
The Montgomerie's Rant.

Tickets £11 at the door.

Enquiries to Alister Reid, tel: 0208 393 6732

RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

Spring Picnic Dance

Saturday 21st April 2007

Corfe Mullen Village Hall, Wareham Road,
Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset.

Caber Feidh

Tickets £8 plus your picnic supper.

Details: Margaret Robson, tel: 01202 698138

WEST MACS CHARITY BALL

In aid of

Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded

Saturday 21st April 2007

7.30 to 11.30 p.m.

North London Collegiate School, Edgware, HA8 7RJ

The Craigellachie Band

Programme: Ray Milbourne, The Flying Spur,
John McAlpin, Anniversary Reel, Napier's
Index, St Columba's Strathspey, Fisherman's
Reel, The Wee Cooper o' Fife, S-Locomotion,
The Piper and the Penguin, Aird of Coigach, The
Hazel Tree, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Dagmar's Fancy,
Home Farm Jig, Festival Fling, The Flower o'
the Quern, My Heather Hills, The Plantation
Reel, The Dream Catcher, The White Heather
Jig, Bratach Bana.

Tickets £15 including refreshments from

Jim Henderson, Tel: 020 8954 2586,

email: jimhendersonuk@aol.com

RSCDS MILTON KEYNES

Annual Ball

Saturday 10th March 2007

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Lovat Hall, Newport Pagnell,
North Milton Keynes

Robert Whitehead & The Danelaw Band

Enquiries and tickets at £14 each

from Jan Jones, tel: 07877 153259

jange@verybusy.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL WEEKEND COURSE

Budapest, Hungary

Friday 27th April - Tuesday 1st May 2007

Teacher:.....**Eric Finley**

Musician:.....**Andrew Lyon** (piano)

David Cunningham and his SCD Band

Further details and application forms available

from Gábor Turi, 1021 Budapest, Szécher út 56.

ball@bstk.hu or turig@bstk.hu

or on-line at www.bstk.hu/en

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DANCE EVENTS (continued)

Club de Danse Écossaise de MONTPELLIER, FRANCE

-o-

SPRING BALL

Weekend of 16/17 June 2007

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The Craigellachie Band

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MacLENNAN SCOTTISH GROUP

26th International Folkdance and Music Festival
26th - 27th May 2007

Saturday 26th May

7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

International Folk Dance with our international
and local guests

Sunday 27th May

2.00 - 5.30 p.m.

International Folk Dance Concert

Venue for both events: Langley Park Boys'
School, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham,
Kent (Rail: Eden Park Station from Charing X).
Licensed bar, refreshments and stalls Tickets and
programmes for each event: Adults £6, Seniors
£5, Children £3, Family £14. £1 discount for
weekend ticket for both events from
Jenifer Rutherford: tel: 020 8295 1273
email: festival@msg.org.uk
website: www.msg.org.uk

RSCDS BATH BRANCH

Annual Ball

Friday 23rd February, 2007

The Guildhall, Bath

Hugh Ferguson and the Dalriada Band

Tickets: £20 from June Hall

Top Floor Flat, 141 Wells Road, Bath, BA2 3AL

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Annual Ball

Saturday 24th March 2007

7.30 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.

The Guildhall, Abingdon, near Oxford

Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

Programme: Grand March leading into Johnnie
Walker, Maxwell's Rant, The Laird of Milton's
Daughter, The Flower of the Quern, The
Recumbent Stone, EH3 7AF, The Dream
Catcher, General Stuart's Reel, The Duchess
Tree, Pelorus Jack, Bratach Bana, Grumpy
Gentleman, St. Columba's Strathspey, The
Highland Rambler, Napier's Index, Miss
Milligan's Strathspey, The Piper and the
Penguin, Jennifer's Jig, The Belle of Bon
Accord, Mairi's Wedding.

Tickets: £15, includes supper seated in medieval
Rousse Room, Vegetarian meal on request.

Licensed Bar. Ample free parking nearby.

Contact: Rena Fowler, tel: 01865 361129.

See www.geocities.com/absdc.

THE THISTLE CLUB'S FIRST DANCE!

7.30 p.m. on Saturday 14th April 2007

St Mary Magdalene Church Hall,

Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes

Chris Oxtoby

Enquiries and tickets £5 (shared supper)

Jan Jones 07877 153259, jange@verybusy.co.uk



ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Day School

Saturday 21st April 2007

Edgbarrow School, Sandhurst Road
Crowthorne, RG45 7HZ

Teachers:.....Eric Finlay, Lynda Hughes,
Sam Schad

Musicians:.....Jean Harrison,
Robert Mackay, Judith Smith

For further details and application forms contact

Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, St Johns,

Woking, Surrey GU21 3QB.

Telephone: 01483 721989

Weekend School

Dillington House, Somerset

5th - 7th October 2007

Booking now open. Contact: Dillington House,

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Telephone 01460 258613,

email: dillington@somerset.gov.uk

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ASHDOWN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Annual Spring Ball

Saturday 31st March 2007

Beacon Community College,

Crowborough, East Sussex

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

For further details contact Michael Copeman

Tel 01892 655971

email michaelcopeman@aol.com



BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB

Spring Dance

Saturday 19th May 2007

7.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.

Boxmoor Playhouse, St John's Road,

Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead

The Silver Cross Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Hooper's Jig, General Stuart's Reel,
MacDonald of the Isles, Posties Jig, The Reel of
the Royal Scots, The Rose of the North, The
Dundee City Police, The Baldovan Reel, Seann
Truibhas Willichan, Bratach Bana, Ian Powrie's
Farewell to Auchterarder, Muirland Willie, Miss
Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Dream Catcher, The
Montgomery's Rant, The Belle of Bon Accord,
A Trip to Bavaria, The Cooper's Wife, Rest and
Be Thankful, Gang the Same Gate, The
Luckenbooth Brooch, The Duke of Perth.

Admission by Programme - £7.50

Bring & Share Supper. Licensed Bar

£1.00 Corkage Fee if you bring your own drinks.

Details and tickets from: Mrs Linda Godbold,

'Alize', Shootersway Lane, Berkhamsted, Herts

HP4 3NP. Tel: 01442- 866651

email: Lindagodbold@hotmail.com

For more details see our website:

www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

Advance Notice: The Highland Ball 2008

is on Saturday 9th February 2008

GUILDFORD SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Spring Dance

Saturday 5th May 2007

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Normandy Village Hall

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Enquiries: Catherine Smith

tel: 01483 502422 or

e-mail: crsmithgg@aol.com



CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB

Spring Ball

Saturday 28th April 2007

7.30 - 11.45 p.m.,

Yateley Manor School, Reading

Road, Yateley, Camberley,

GU46 7UQ

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Hooper's Jig, Cramond Bridge, The
Gentleman, The Chequered Court, West's
Hornpipe, Eileen Watt's Strathspey, The
Luckenbooth Brooch, The Highland Rambler,
The Dream Catcher, Follow Me Home, The
Music Makars, The Grand March & Ian Powrie's
Farewell to Auchterarder, Mrs Macpherson of
Inveran, The Rose of the North, Joie de Vivre,
The Anniversary Reel, Gang the Same Gate,
Major Ian Stewart, The Plantation Reel, Sugar
Candie, Jennifer's Jig, Reel of the Royal Scots,
Extras: Swiss Lassie, The Wild Geese.

Tickets (including supper) £14.50, cheques

payable to Camberley Reel Club. Dress Formal.

Please order vegetarian option before 24th April.

Tickets: Ivan Cresswell, 20 Cove Road, Fleet,

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preceding month.

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CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Spring Dance

St Edward's School, Charlton Kings

Saturday 24th March 2007.

7.30 to 11.30 p.m.

Hugh Ferguson and the Dalriada Band

Programme: Tambourine Reel, The Grumpy
Gentleman, St. Columba's Strathspey, Lady
Sophia Lindsay, Greeting from St. Ninians, The
Iona Cross, Iain Stewart Robertson, Culzean
Castle, The Gentleman, The Recumbent Stone:
Jim Johnson's Reel, Campbeltown Loch, Indian
River Strathspey, Caddam Wood, Lost in
Edinburgh, Margaret Parker Strathspey, The
Chequered Court, Culla Bay, Broadford Bay,
Mairi's Wedding.

Admission £8.00 per person.

American Supper - Savouries only please.

THE CHICHESTER & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Spring Supper Dance

Saturday 14th April 2007

7.30 - 11.15 p.m.

The Assembly Room, North Street,

Chichester, PO19 1NB

Kafoozalum Country Dance Band

Programme: Campbell's Frolic, The Baldovan
Reel, The Falkirk Lass, General Stuart's Reel,
My Heather Hills, The Dream Catcher, Inverneill
House, Midnight Oil, Miss Milligan's Strathspey,
The Reverend John MacFarlane, McFarlane's
Lantern, The Plantation Reel, The Flight of the
Falcon, The Belle of Bon Accord, Portnacraig,
Aird of Coigach, The Gentleman, Fisherman's
Reel, Seton's Ceilidh Band, The Reel of the
Royal Scots. *Extras:* The Dundee Whaler,
Fraser's Favourite.

Tickets £10 members, £11 guests.

Enquiries, tickets and cribs from Gerry Mason,

tel: 01243 371680.

e-mail: gerry@gamason.free-online.co.uk

DANCE EVENTS (continued)

There is one more Dance Event on the back page



HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION
Annual Ball
Saturday 19th May 2007
7.00 - 11.00 p.m.
St. Hilda's Church Hall
Stanwell Road, Ashford,
Middx, TW15 3QL

George Meikle and the Lothian SCD Band
Programme: The Mongomerie's Rant, Spiffin, The Cashmere Shawl, The Irish Rover, The Wee Cooper of Fife, Mrs. Milne of Kinneff, The Mill of Haldane, The Dancing Master, St Margaret's Loch, The Piper and the Penguin, The Wild Geese, Trip to Bavaria, Mrs. Stuart Linnell, The Bonnie Lass o' Bon Accord, Mairi's Wedding, Postie's Jig, Sugar Candie, The Fisherman's Reel, Follow Me Home, The Dream Catcher, The Flying Spur, Shiftin' Bobbins. *Extras:* The Sailor, Scott Meikle.

Tickets £14.00/£7.50 non-dancers and juniors purchased by 12th May (£15.00/£8.50 on door numbers permitting) including refreshments. Licensed Bar. Highland/Evening dress preferred. Contact: Denise Smith, tel: 0208 715 9521. Further details and map on our website www.hestonscottish.co.uk.



MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB
Dancing with Supper Interval
Highland Ball
Saturday 17th March 2007
7.00 p.m. - 11.00 p.m.

Brigidine School, King's Rd, Windsor SL4 2AX
Please note change of venue and earlier starting time

Frank Reid and his Scottish Dance Band
Programme: Happy Returns, The Starry Eyed Lassie, The Bees of Maggie Knockater, Minister on the Loch, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, The Queen's View, The Belle of Bon Accord, James Gray, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Dream Catcher, Chequered Court, The Black Mountain Reel, Scott Meikle, Milton's Welcome, St Columba's Strathspey, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Gavin's Reel, The Flying Spur, White Heather Jig, Bratach Bana. *Extras:* West's Hornpipe, Blooms of Bon Accord, New Scotia Quadrille, Wild Geese.

Tickets £14.50 including Supper.
Bring your own wine - soft drinks provided.
Dress Formal
Tickets from:- Alan Pfeiffer, 64 Wavell Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 5AD.
Tel / Fax 01628 633928. Mobile 07956 233 536.
An SAE would be appreciated
Visit our website at:
www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk

RSCDS BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH
35th Anniversary Ball
Saturday 19th May 2007
7.30 to 11.30 p.m.

Dame Alice Harpur School,
Cardington Rd, Bedford
Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band
Programme: Maxwell's Rant, The Wind on Loch Fyne, Glen Mor, Ray Milbourne, The Rose of the North, Seton's Ceilidh Band, The Plantation Reel, Bonnie Stronshiray, Major Ian Stewart, Caddam Wood, The Bees of Maggie Knockater, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Culla Bay, Pelorus Jack, Mairi's Wedding, The Gentlemen, MacLeod's Fancy, Celtic Cross, Glen Clova, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder
Tickets £15.00 inc. dinner, from: Alex Lawton,
9 Willington Rd. Cole, Beds MK44 3TH/

JERSEY SCOTTISH DANCE WEEKEND
Bank Holiday Weekend
Saturday 26th May and Sunday 27th May 2007
Jersey College for Girls Hall, Le Mont Millais,
St.Helier
Sound Company

Saturday Ball programme:
7.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.
The Royal Deeside Railway, Oriel Strathspey, The Rakish Highlandman, The Bypass, The Blue Mess Jacket, Muirland Willie, The Kilt Maker, Christie's Strathspey, Lady in Red, Inimitable Derek, My Friend Joe, The 51st Travellers, The Beekeeper's Medley, Karin's Strathspey, Hairy Mary, The Craven Jig, The Duchess Tree, Polharrow Burn, Miss Allie Anderson, Elizabeth Hunter's Strathspey, Swiss Lassie.

Sunday Dance Programme:
7.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.
Maxwell's Rant, St.Andrew's Gardens, By Dundonald, Trip to Bavaria, Roaring Jelly, Cape Town Wedding, Davy Nick Nack, Georgie's Jig, The Sauchie Haugh, The Glenalmond Gamekeeper, The Ship in Full Sail, The Moray Rant, The Anniversary Tensome, MacDonald of the Isles, The Saltire Society Reel, The Immigrant Lass, Brunette d'Ecosse, Eileen Watt's Reel, Jennifer's Jig, Neidpath Castle, Currie Mountain.

Cribs will be provided for all dances on the programme. £25.00 for two nights
It is advisable to book travel and accommodation early. Brochures from Jersey Tourism Tel.01534 500700 or visit www.jersey.com.
Contacts: Helen McGugan. La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel/Fax 01534 854459 or Alan Nicolle Tel.01534 484375 or e-mail: alan_nicolle@yahoo.co.uk

RSCDS BRIGHTON BRANCH
Summer Ball 2007

Saturday 16th June
Reception 6.30 p.m. and Dinner 7.00 p.m.
Dancing until 11.15 p.m.
Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, BN3 4AH
David Hall and his Band

Programme: Grand March followed by Hooper's Jig, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Byron Strathspey, Major Ian Stewart, Crossing The Line, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Spiffin', The Reel of the Royal Scots, Autumn in Appin, The Dancing Master, John of Bon Accord, St. Columba's Strathspey, The Rotheray Rant, The Cuckoo Clock, The Minister on the Loch, Father Connelly's Jig, Anniversary Reel, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, White Heather Jig, Mairi's Wedding. *Extras:* The Bees of Maggie Knockater, The Piper and The Penguin, Neidpath Castle.
All dances recapped. Highland dress preferred.
Tickets £18 (including supper and wine) from Bill Power, 84 Holmes Avenue, Hove, BN3 7LD. Tel: 01273 731927, email: secretary@rscds-brighton.org.uk



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER BRANCH
Saturday 19th May 2007
May Ball

Music by Neil Copland
At Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP
Programme on website - www.rscds-bhs.org.uk
Contact: Margaret Williams, tel: 01256 320015

Saturday 16th June 2007

Summer Open Air Dance
At South Hill Park, Bracknell RG12 7PA
2.00 - 5.00 p.m.
Contact: Fiona Albinson, tel: 0118 9789181.



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming attractions to be held at St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1
Fridays: Upper Hall 7.30 - 10.30 p.m.
Saturdays: ... Lower Hall 7.00 - 10.30 p.m. unless otherwise stated
Saturday 3rd March **Stradivarius**
Friday 30th March Winter Friday Recorded music
Saturday 14th April **Green Ginger**
Friday 20th April Spring Ceilidh Recorded music
Saturday 5th May **Karl Sandeman**
Saturday 2nd June **Craigellachie**

Summe r Ball.

Full details in The Reel 260
All dances will be talked or walked through on request
For further details contact: Frank Bennett on 020 8715 3564, e-mail fb_lhc@blueyonder.co.uk, or Roger Waterson on 020 8660 5017. You can also telephone our "Dial-a-Programme" service on 020 8763 8096 to hear our programme, or leave a message. Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening. Please visit our website at www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk for the latest news and programmes of our dances.

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Day School
Saturday 17th March 2007
Walthamstow Hall School
Sevenoaks TN13 3UL
Teachers: **Mervyn Short, Joan Desborough, Allison Russell**
Musicians: **Robert Mackay Peter Jenkins; Barbara Manning**
Evening social dance with **Peter Jenkins**
Contact: Pat Davoll, tel: 01732 866557, e-mail: pdavoll@aol.com

Spring Dance

Saturday 21st April 2007
Matfield Village Hall, Matfield, Kent TN12 7JX
Recorded Music
Programme: The Laird of Milton's Daughter, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, Staffin Harvest, Mrs Stewart's Jig, The Recumbent Stone, The Duchess Tree, The Last of the Lairds, Swiss Lassie, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Major Ian Stewart, Shiftin' Bobbins, Airdrie Lassies, Meg Merrilees, Land of the Heather Hills, The Alewife and her Barrel, The Craven Jig, Bonnie Stronshiray, The Dancing Master, The Montgomerie's Rant, Neidpath Castle, Macleod's Fancy, The Reel of the 51st Division.
Contact: Sandra Ranson, tel: 01892 524022 email: sandranson@hotmail.com



HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB
Annual Ball

Saturday 3rd March 2007
Harpenden Public Hall
7.30 p.m.
Craigellachie SCD Band
Tickets £15 including supper (students aged 16-21 yrs £10). For programme details visit our website at www.hscdc.org.uk.
Tickets and enquiries: Val Owens 01727 863870 email: tvowens@beeb.net

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SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

It will soon be one year since I first came to Scottish Country Dancing at St. Columba's Church in London: it's not difficult to fall in love with SCD. I was very lucky to be introduced to Rachel Wilton and Lindsey Rousseau and joining their classes which are very social events combined with high standard teaching.

However, my first encounter of SCD goes back a few years. It was when I watched a video of the Royal Family dancing the Eightsome Reel. Happily, I was able to admire the music and the dances on several more occasions. I eagerly attended popular workshops and



demonstrations held in my home country, the Czech Republic. The uniqueness of SCD seems to attract an enthusiastic interest amongst different age groups, which is well deserved.

As a primary school teacher I was keen on the idea of introducing SCD to the younger generation and this didn't take long. My new colleague had just returned from Scotland so we soon organized lessons for our pupils from the 21 Primary School in Plzeň, The Czech Republic. The fact that they started at 7.00 in the morning didn't put them off at all and we managed to put on a few successful shows at various venues.

Recently, my former English teacher Rudolf Joska and I organised an SCD workshop at the grammar school Gymnázium Zlín – Lesní čtvrt' in the Czech Republic. Teenage students were initially introduced to background information on SCD, basic steps and finally were able to enjoy dancing. Happy faces and growing interest made the afternoon special for all of us. I hope and look forward to sharing my knowledge an enthusiasm on many more occasions.

Renata Stankova



WATFORD & WEST
HERTS SCOTTISH
SOCIETY
Caledonian Ball

Saturday 31st March 2007

7.30 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.

Parmiter's School, High Elms Lane,
Watford, Herts WD25 0UU

The Karl Sandeman Band

Programme: The Bees of Maggie Knockater, The De'il among the Tailors, The Silver Tassie, The Machine without Horses, Nottingham Lace, Moray Rant, The Cooper's Wife, The Reel of the 51st Division, St. Columba's Strathspey, The Pines of Pitlochry, Polharrow Burn, *Grand March into Culla Bay*, Napier's Index, A Trip to Bavaria, Neidpath Castle, The Diamond Jubilee, The Lochalsh Reel, Autumn in Appin, Quarries' Jig, Indian River, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Irish Rover. *Extras:* The Flower of the Quern, The Sailor, Shiftin' Bobbins.

Tickets £15 (including supper)

Tickets and further details from Dr. John Crowder 28 Devereux Drive, Watford WD17 3DE, tel: 01923 225522.

Tickets@WatfordScottish.org.uk
www.WatfordScottish.org.uk

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A CD not to be missed – it would make an ideal present for any Scottish dancer or musician.

Available from the Branch bookstall (see page 11) for £12 or buy the book and CD together for just £15 plus postage.

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