



The Reel

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
www.rscdslondon.org.uk

No. 252

Registered Charity number 1067690



MAY TO AUGUST 2005

OUR DEM TEAM WINS THREE CUPS

James Fairbairn reports on the Newcastle Festival

"Competition does raise standards", so averred Lesley Martin, the adjudicator at this year's Newcastle Festival on 12th February 2005. Scottish Country Dancing is not generally considered a competitive activity, but the Festival organised by Newcastle Branch in its 21 years of existence has engendered increasing competitive interest from all over the country. This year a record 11 groups from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Leeds, Manchester, London, Bristol and Newcastle itself, converged on Gateshead to try to impress Lesley with their style and panache (or should that be 'controlled abandon' – a phrase attributed to Miss Milligan?), attempting to combine beautiful feet with precise covering, exquisite phrasing, helpful hands, poise, flight, dip, turnout, consistent third positions and even cheery smiles (to prove that they're actually enjoying it).

There are two open dance competitions, one for all-women teams and one for mixed teams, thereby forcing the various groups to grub around for at least four men who can be trained up, drilled, cajoled and threatened towards something approaching the women's standard, at least for the day. No easy task, readers, as the London women will tell you. Angela Young, the Dem Class teacher, had been leading the effort in the weeks before and led her team to Newcastle, where she danced in the women's team and played the piano for the mixed team.

strathspey? – though some teams reversed the order.

In fact the 21 teams (counting women's and mixed) danced a total of 31 dances making the adjudicator's task seemingly even more difficult. In her comments Lesley mentioned that slick or complex dances are not necessarily those that will best show off a team's abilities. She noted that most of the dances chosen were modern where the devisors have been concerned to create a dance that flows. She would like to have seen more of the traditional dances culled from 18th century sources and published in the earlier Society books, with simple figures but perhaps with awkward turns and changes of direction, requiring skill and anticipation to deal with in an apparently effortless and elegant fashion.



Chris Twinn



Chris Twinn

The choice of dances is up to each team, one strathspey and one reel or jig, published by the Society, each to be danced four times through. Our women's team danced *Mr Robert H Mackay* and the reel *Portnacraig*, while the mixed team danced *Gang the Same Gate* and the reel *Back to the Fireside*. We decided to dance the strathspeys first, as that seemed presentationally to be the right order – whoever finishes a dance set with a

immediately after the last team has danced. Our women looked good, they said they felt good, Angela asseverated they *were* good, so there was palpable disappointment when they were not even placed. Lesley announced each team by its number on the programme rather than its name so there was a bit of a delay while everyone checked to see which team corresponded to that

(Continued on page 2)

**Anniversary Garden Dance
in costume at
Polesden Lacey**
See page 4

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society London Branch will be held at St Columba's Church (Lower Hall), Pont Street, London, SW1 on **Friday 17th June 2005**. Tea will be served at 6 p.m. and the meeting will commence at 7 p.m. There will be dancing after the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Approval of minutes of the 2004 AGM.
3. Business arising from the minutes.
4. Report on year's working of the Branch.
5. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts.
6. Appointment of Honorary President and Honorary Vice-Presidents.
7. Appointment of Officers and Committee of Management.
8. Appointment of Auditors.
9. Motion submitted in advance (see page 7).
10. Any other business.

Note: Nominations for the appointments at 6 and 8 above will be taken from the floor at the meeting.

(Continued from page 1)

number. The winners were team No. 5, Leeds, with Aberdean Airyhall Dancers 'A' and Corryvrechan coming in second and third. Oh, well, it is to some extent a matter of taste and we would have to wait for the results at the end of the day to find out which aspects of our dancing had failed to please.

On to the mixed competition. Could the London men concentrate for eight times 32 bars and at least lift us into the placings? We danced tenth and while we waited, watched some beautiful performances from the likes of Edinburgh Branch, Newcastle and Alba (from Glasgow), who danced with great seriousness and appeared not to put a foot wrong, culminating with a neatly executed all-round poussette in *The Gentleman*. Impressive. What could we do?

Our mixed team comprised Catriona Stewart, Joan Desborough, Anna Twinn, and Alice Stainer dancing respectively with James Fairbairn, Simon Wales, Henry Nolan and Chris Twinn. They walked smartly into the arena feeling comfortable with each other and their dances and exuding what was meant to pass as an air of quiet confidence, though it covered up inevitable nerves: after all, the audience at Newcastle is both knowledgeable – and critical.

The little bell rang and the first chord sounded. Bow and curtsy with heads up and a smile across at one's partner. Then, almost disaster. A long gap before the up note to lead into the first step. James and Treemie as first couple defied the law of gravity for a long split second as they leaned forward in anticipation. (It turned out that Angela's foot had slipped off the pedal of the piano!) But, just in time, before they joined Isaac Newton's apple, the note came and they were off, crossing the set with eye contact, giving a firm right hand and casting two places as twos and threes stepped smoothly up together. We were well away into *Gang the Same Gate*, any nerves were calmed and everyone began to enjoy dancing with each other. There was no hesitation in the attack of *Back to the Fireside*. It flowed, its figures were conjured up and converted into new ones, people smiled at each other, and, lo, as the bottom three couples turned right hand and danced into place on the last bar, the lines on the sides were straight, even on the men's side. By the warmth of the applause, the public seemed to like it and we felt that we had danced well. But had we danced well enough?

Lesley Martin arrived on the floor to give her judgement. All the teams waited in anticipation and then, the bombshell; there had been a mistake in the results of the women's competition and in fact team No. 6 were first equal with Leeds! It took a moment for us to realise that that was us, London. Our women had done it again and topped the lists. That joy was only increased when Lesley, after announcing third and second places in the mixed, Edinburgh Branch and Newcastle RSCDS (Team 1), uttered the welcome words, "And the winners are team No. 10" – London again. Moreover, our mixed team had scored more points than the women and so also won the Rose Bowl for the highest points in any competition on the day. And, readers, not one of the London men let even a ghost of a smirk cross his face. In fact, this was a repeat of the result in 2002 when both the women's and mixed teams came first and also took the Rose Bowl.

The last competition of the day is the display where in eight minutes teams of up to 30 dancers give emphasis to figures, spectacle and entertainment value. London, with 18 dancers, and nine other teams entered and all were good

to watch. The winners were hosts Newcastle, a result we felt was well deserved.

There are also two under-sixteen competitions at Newcastle. We hear so much about the aging population of Scottish country dancers, but with five under-sixteen teams entered, and many youngsters also dancing in the open sections, the number, enthusiasm and skill of the children at Newcastle, boys and girls, let us think that the future of Scottish dance is assured for at least another generation. The Dem Team is doing its bit, too. Joshua and Zoë Hill go to regular classes and Jeff and Mary Robertson bring their grandchildren to Saturday classes in London all the way from Worthing. Beth Fairbairn came along with the London team to Newcastle and was tapping her little six-month-old feet to the music and clearly longing to join in. These things get passed on; her father James learned from his parents.

In the evening the true, social, spirit of Scottish country dance surges to the fore as the tensions and dramas of the day fade and everyone comes together in a joyous and convivial evening of dance. This year it was once again Colin Dewar and his band who provided powerful, uplifting music for a community of close to 200 enthusiastic dancers who 'reel'd, set, crossed and cleekit' (to misquote Burns). No one actually 'coost her duddies tae the wark' but it was noted (those London men again) that there seemed to be an informal competition going on among some of the women (not the London women, of course) as to who could dance in the shortest skirt. No names; no pack drill.

The Newcastle Festival is a great celebration of Scottish country dance and we are grateful to Newcastle Branch for organising it year on year. One of the moving spirits behind the Festival is John Cass and it was fitting that he was presented with a Branch Scroll at this year's Festival to recognise his contribution to what is now a key event in the dance calendar.

James Fairbairn

ANNIVERSARY GARMENTS

The range of garments sporting the Branch anniversary logo is still available.

Order forms are available from Jeff Robertson on tel: 01903 530750 or 020 7730 9633, from 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 £8 Ladies Tees£10
Polo Shirts .. £14 Sweatshirts£15

The present range is offered in White, Black, Green and Navy and is available in the following sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL (smaller sizes may be available on request).

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 design is in blue, with a gold crown and silver lettering on the darker garments. (See *The Reel* 250 back page, lower right.)

Please continue to support your Branch in its anniversary year.

Jeff Robertson

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Patron - H.M. The Queen



HEADQUARTERS:

12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7AF.
Tel: 0131 225 3854; Fax: 0131 225 7783,
e-mail: info@rscds.org,
www.rscds.org.

LONDON BRANCH

Hon. President

Mary Stoker

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

Mary Barker, Stella Booth, Ellen Garvie,
Jenny Greene, Marie Jamieson,
John Laurie, Rosemary Tilden.

Chairman:

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31 Kensing Road, London SE10 0LL.
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Hon. Treasurer:

Simon Wales,
Flat 6, 86 Worcester Rd, Sutton,
Surrey SM2 6QQ. Tel: 020 8643 0952.
e-mail: simon_wales@talk21.com

SUB-COMMITTEES

Children:.....Rachel Wilton, Angela Young

Classes: Margaret Shaw,
Margaret Catchick (Day School),
Lindsay Merriman, Owen Meyer, Moira Strutt

Dances: Peter Knight, Davinia Miln,
Cherry West

Demonstrations: Jeff Robertson,
Gaynor Curtis*, Angela Young

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

Open-air Dances: ... Moira Strutt, Simon Wales.

Membership: Owen Meyer

Bookstall: Ian Anderson*

Central Council of Physical Recreation:.....

Marie Jamieson*, Simon Wales

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

Southeast Group:..... Peter Knight

Combined Societies: Peter Knight,
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:

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

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

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

BRANCH MATTERS

We have just come to the end of this significant 75th Anniversary year. All the functions have been very well attended from the Ball in October to the Children's events.

The Burns' Supper and Ceilidh again attracted a large number of dancers, many of whom had been present on previous occasions. Our last dance of the year had members of all the Clubs using the Hall at St. Columba's for their dances. We were pleased to welcome many who don't usually attend Branch functions.

The Saturday Children's class held at Pont Street once a month has been going from strength to strength, and we hope that once it becomes a regular feature more children will attend. The Family and Children's dance held in March had participants from other forms of dance as well as Scottish, which made the afternoon most enjoyable.

With the summer nearly upon us, we have two more dances in this Anniversary year; the May dance to which a number of clubs have been invited and the garden dance at Polesden Lacey in June. To make this a bit of fun and to round off the year, we are inviting dancers to dress up in the fashions covering the 75 years of the Branch's existence.

It hardly seems three years since I was writing my first Branch Matters and this will be my last. I would like to thank my fellow officers and members of the committee over these three years for the help and support they have given me. In particular, to Rachel Wilton for the imaginative programme of events we have enjoyed during the 75th celebrations. We have tried to include all the dancers who have enjoyed Scottish Country Dancing at the different functions we have arranged.

My thanks to Daniel Capron, who is leaving the Committee after three years as Editor of *The Reel*; also to Peter Knight and Margaret Shaw, who have looked after Dances and Classes — difficult and demanding jobs. The Branch is grateful for their hard work during their time on the committee.

Last but not least, I thank all the members who have given me support and encouragement as Chairman over these last three years. I consider it a great honour to have held this office during the 75th Anniversary of this great Branch.

Owen Meyer

DEMONSTRATIONS

As usual, the period around Burns' Night was particularly busy with performances at Phyllis Court, Kneller Hall, Founders Hall and the Savoy Hotel. Thanks to all the dancers and musicians.

In February, in addition to the Destinations 2005 weekend at Earls Court, the team once again travelled to Newcastle for their annual festival at Emmanuel College, Gateshead where we had a spectacular result. Please see the front page and website for details. Congratulations to the team and well done!

In March, there were performances at Morley College, Richmond Caledonian Society where the ladies' new costumes were approved wholeheartedly, and the Branch Children's Dance.

Our sincere thanks as always go to Angela, Gaynor and Sandra for their contribution towards the success and smooth running of the class.

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

Jeff Robertson

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Edinburgh

To: The President, Mary Stoker,
RSCDS London Branch

Greetings from the Management Board

As the London Branch comes to the end of a very successful year of events to celebrate its 75th Anniversary, the members of the Board send you their best wishes. We are indebted to your Branch for all it has done for Scottish Country Dancing in the southeast of England, and further afield, even worldwide with your regular publication of *The Reel*. We hope you have a very happy President's Anniversary Lunch and that it will mark the beginning of the next 25 years promoting the Society's objectives in your area.

Best wishes to all your members and especially those who work hard to ensure the Branch continues to provide good teaching and social events in London on behalf of many dancers.

Stewart Adam (RSCDS Chairman)
Elspeth Gray (RSCDS Secretary)
Peter Clark (Member of the Board)

THE REEL

After three years as Editor I have decided to stand down, and after five years on the Committee I am not standing for re-election. But I am delighted that Wilson Nicol has agreed to be the new Editor. He will be well known to many readers as an active contributor to the work of both London Branch and the Society, having been Chairman of the Branch and a founder member of the Society's Management Board.

One of my achievements as Editor was to introduce colour into *The Reel*; so I am pleased that the Committee have decided that next December's issue will have colour front and back pages like *The Reel* 250. Please let Wilson have any good colour photos you may take for this issue.

I should like to thank all those who contribute to the success of *The Reel*, in particular John Reeve, who lays out each edition and arranges the printing; Owen Meyer, who as well as being Chairman and Membership Secretary arranges for *The Reel's* distribution; and the members of the Publicity Subcommittee, Jeff Robertson, Meryl Thomson, Rita Marlow and Lindsay Merriman, each of whom plays an important part. I also thank all our readers, without whom the whole exercise would be pointless!

Daniel Capron

FROM THE SECRETARY

Congratulations to Jeremy Hill. His dance Westminster Reel has been accepted for publication in the Society's Book 45 later this year.

The Society's **Annual Conference Weekend** will take place in Perth 4-6th November 2005, the Annual General Meeting being on Saturday 5th.

Medal Test Assessors. The Society's Medal Tests for young people are now up and running and we are looking for potential assessors. I can supply details on request (see page 2 for my address etc). The first criterion is to be an RSCDS qualified teacher of 5 years' standing.

Pamela Ellam

NEW MAGAZINE

We have just received this letter from Society
HQ. - Ed.

In order to prepare for the new members' Magazine, the editorial board need input from Branches, Affiliated Groups and members. The first edition will be published in August. We need material ideally by the end of April, but don't worry, if your idea does not get in, there will be two a year and Issue 2 will be out in January. All material should be sent to:

mag.editor@rscds.org
or by post to

**The Magazine Editor, RSCDS, 12 Coates
Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7AF.**

We are looking for:

1. **Your ideas:** anyone with any ideas for an article, please send them in.
2. **Correspondence:** If you would like to write a letter to the editor for publication, please do so — we would like to encourage a healthy and constructive correspondence column.
3. **Pictures:** If you have a good photograph — preferably digital — please send it to us if it illustrates something significant and newsworthy from your area.
4. **Information about all schools** — day, weekend, summer, winter, etc. — from September 05 till December 06. The diary will publish details 18 months ahead.
5. **Reviews:** If you would like to be on our list of reviewers of dance books and CDs, please let us know.
6. **Overheard:** if you hear something amusing at a class or a dance and it is related to SCD, please let us know. They can be anonymous, but must be amusing!
7. **Charity:** has your group done something significant to help other people? Let us know.

Finally, we want to know what *you* want to read about. Please send in your ideas so that the magazine can truly be a magazine for all members.

Best regards,

Jimmie Hill, Editor.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (SERTA)

Many thanks to those who have contributed their thoughts and expressed their willingness to take part — we will be contacting you all to arrange a meeting in the summer to progress this.

Simon Wales

CCPR 'ON SHOW'

ALBERT HALL
24th September 2005

Thanks to all those who have volunteered to make up the RSCDS Southeast Branches team for this exciting show. Once we have the rehearsal venues organised we will be contacting you all direct. We are still in need of more volunteers — contact Simon Wales a.s.a.p. (see page 2).

In the meantime please publicise this amongst your friends and family — the show needs an audience as well as performers! Booking for tickets opens 1st May 2005. Contact the Albert Hall on 020 7589 8212 or visit www.royalalberthall.com.

Simon Wales

BRANCH DANCES

DANCE

Saturday 21st May 2005
7.00 - 10.30 pm

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

Diamond Jubilee	31-3
Gang the Same Gate.....	36-4
Lauderdale Lads.....	Duthie
Newton Park.....	London
The Duchess Tree.....	Drewry
College Hornpipe.....	20-12
Autumn in Appin	31-5
The Weathercock	Leeds
Clutha.....	31-2
Major Ian Stewart.....	36-4
Staffin Harvest.....	4 for 78-3
John of Bon Accord	33-5
The New Rigged Ship.....	9-7
The Lea Rig.....	21-5
Blooms of Bon Accord	Drewry
Schiehallion.....	Thurston
The Dundee City Police Jig	Mitchell
Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh	39-7

Admission £7.50 members, £8.50 non-members,
£2 children, but members' children free.

OPEN AIR DANCING

Saturday afternoons
3rd and 10th September 2005
2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Kensington Gardens

(by the bandstand, near the Round Pond)

Nearest underground stations: Queensway and
High Street Kensington

Dancing to the music of **Kafoozalum**

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

DANCE

Saturday 17th September 2005
7.00 for 7.15 - 11.00 p.m.

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1
David Cunningham and his Band

St Andrew's Fair	5 SCDs 1982-2
The Sailor.....	24-4
Up in the Air	20-2
Miss Mary Douglas.....	10-11
The Summer Assembly.....	35-8
The Gentleman.....	35-5
The Wee Cooper of Fife.....	Foss
The Montgomeries' Rant	10-1
Miss Gibson's Strathspey.....	Leaflet-18
The Earl of Mansfield	Leaflet-5
The Reel of the Royal Scots.....	Leaflet-27
Pelorus Jack.....	41-1
The Lea Rig.....	21-5
John of Bon Accord	33-5
Culla Bay.....	41-2
Quarries Jig.....	36-3
Westminster Reel	45-1
Argyll Strathspey	35-3
Miss Hadden's Reel	23-5
The Duke of Perth.....	1-8

Evening/Highland Dress
(price in next issue)

FOR SALE

Gents kilt, waist 32"-36". Leather sporran,
socks, leather belt, kilt pins and sgian dubh. £30.
Tel: 01932 761323.

75th Anniversary

Garden Dance at Polesden Lacey



Date: Saturday 11th June 2005

Place: Polesden Lacey, Great Bookham,
Surrey, from 2.00 - 6.00 p.m.

Band: Craigellachie



As part of our
75th Anniversary
celebrations, this
year we invite
dancers to come
to the dance
DRESSED IN
FASHIONS
FROM THE
LAST 75 YEARS



Bring your family, bring a picnic and join in the fun

Good Hearted Glasgow.....	Knapman
The Virginia Reel.....	Collins
Monymusk	11-2
The Cumberland Reel	1-11
Neidpath Castle.....	22-9
The Dashing White Sergeant	3-2
Ladies' Fancy.....	13-12
The Reel of the 51st Division	13-10
The Rakes of Glasgow	11-11
Eightsome Reel	2-12
The Wild Geese.....	24-3
Gang the Same Gate.....	36-4
Johnny Groats' House.....	18-1
The New Rigged Ship.....	9-7
The Braes of Breadalbane.....	21-7
Machine Without Horses	12-12
The Birks of Invermay	16-2
The Montgomeries' Rant	10-1
Follow Me Home	38-6

Note: These dances are comparatively
simple - specially chosen to encourage the less
experienced dancers or new people who might
be in the crowd.

Admission to the dancing: £5 (£4 in advance).
Dancing children £1. Young children free.
Tickets (and map if requested) in advance from
Jeff Robertson, 57 Beaumont Road,
Broadwater, Worthing, W Sussex, BN14 8HE.
Please enclose a 6" x 4" s.a.e. Cheques payable
to RSCDS (London Branch).

Admission to the grounds extra, payable at the
gate: adults £5, children £2.50, family £12.50.
Free to National Trust and NTS members.
If wet, meet in Howard of Effingham School
Sports Hall, Lower Road, Effingham.
Please note: no outdoor shoes may be taken into the
sports hall.

If the weather is doubtful on the day, phone
Rachel Wilton after 10.30 on 020 8858 7729.
Anyone requiring transport from Leatherhead
station to Polesden Lacey or Howard of
Effingham School, or who can offer a lift,
should contact Moira Strutt, tel: 020 8748 6711
by 28th May.

SOUTH EAST DANCE DIARY 2005 - 2006

It's that time again. Time to collect the data for
the next South East Dance Diary. Time to send
out 110 letters; time to process the usual 80
replies; time to put together details of 350
dances. So would branch and society secretaries
please let us have the information by the end of
June. The period covered by the printed version
is September 2005 to August 2006. The London
Branch website can also include dances after
August next year; so let us have those details as
well where you have them. Please would you
reconfirm any of the coming season's dances
that are already on the Branch website: www.rscdslondon.org.uk. We would like the
information in the well established form which
seems to meet the requirements. That is:

Day; Date (dd, mmm yy); Venue (town - and
hall as well if this is somewhere special); Band,
recorded or type of event (e.g. a day school);
Contact name and telephone number, plus email
and website addresses if available.

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

Please send details for the Diary to Anne
King at the address given below; or send them
by email to diary@rscdslondon.org.uk; email
messages will be acknowledged once received.
The Diary is provided by the London Branch
free of charge. It will be distributed with the
September issue of *The Reel* to all London
Branch members in the London area. Others,
including any who may subscribe to *The Reel*
but do not live in the London area, can get a
copy by sending a large s.a.e. to the Editor
(address bottom of page 1).

Input by the end of June, please.

John & Anne King

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

SOUTHEAST CLASSES LIST

London Branch will again be publishing free of
charge the list of classes on offer in the
southeast. Please send or confirm details of your
class, venue, day, time, standard and contact
name and telephone number to:

Simon Wales, Flat 6, 86 Worcester Road,
Sutton, Surrey, SM2 6QQ
or email simon_wales@talk21.com.

This list is distributed in the same way as the
Dance Diary, and the information is also posted
on the Branch website, so please make sure the
information we have on your class is up to date.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Dance dates for next season 2005-06

29th October Children & evening -	Kafoozalum
17th December	Craigellachie
14th January	Burns' Supper - Invercauld
25th March.....	Children & evening - David Hall
13th May	
Musicians Day School playing in the evening	
10th June	Polesden Lacey - Craigellachie

CLASSES

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

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

Summer term ends in the week beginning 9th May 2005. All enquiries about classes to Margaret Shaw, 020 7329 2847.

LADIES STEP DANCING CLASSES

Sunday 22nd May 2005

10.45 a.m. - 12.45 p.m. and 2.00 - 3.45 p.m.

Teacher: **Joan Desborough**

Musician: **Wendy Desborough**

NEW VENUE: Kings Langley Scout Hut, Kings Langley, convenient from M25 (plenty of parking spaces) or by train from Euston Station.

Further details from Joan Desborough,
tel: 01442 826629.

GENERAL CLASSES

18th May to 29th June

7.00 - 9.00 p.m.

All dancers are welcome to come along to Marlborough School, Sloane Ave, London SW3.

7 Wednesdays, 7 teachers, 7 musicians

RSCDS members £4 (non-members £5)
per evening.

Enquiries to Margaret Shaw, tel: 020 7329 2847.

MUSICIANS' WORKSHOP

Advance Notice

The Musicians' Workshop at the Day School on 15th October 2005 will be led by Ian Muir from Prestwick. Ian formed his own band, The Ian Muir Sound, in 1984, a band very popular at Scottish country dances. He has broadcast on BBC Scotland's *Take the Floor* every year since then and made several recordings of Old Time, Ceilidh and Scottish Country dance music. He has been senior accordion tutor at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow for nine years and has tutored privately for 20 years.

He will be covering areas such as traditional and modern tunes, tempos, style of playing, repertoire and technique. This is an opportunity for all musicians to widen their knowledge and understanding of playing Scottish music for dancing. The workshop will run from 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to stay for the evening ceilidh, and contribute a ceilidh item, but there will be no opportunity to play for the evening dancing.

Further details and application forms from Rachel Wilton (see p.2).

DAY SCHOOL

Advance Notice

Saturday 15th October 2005

Lady Margaret School, Parsons Green, SW6.

Teachers: **David Hall** (London)

Margo Priestley (Edinburgh)

Musicians: **James Gray** (Edinburgh)

David Queen (Ribble Valley)

Musicians' Workshop:

see notice on right for further details.

Evening Ceilidh

Scottish Measure

Classes to suit everyone. DON'T MISS IT!

Full details in the next *Reel*.

RSCDS BOOK 45

An opportunity for holders of a Preliminary Certificate, Full Teacher's Certificate, those working towards units for the Teacher's Certificate and teachers to go through the dances in Book 45.

Monday 5th September

7.00 - 9.30 p.m.

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

Enquiries to Margaret Shaw, tel: 020 7329 2847.

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Children's Corner

CHILDREN'S DAY

19th March 2005

WERE WE TIRED! From 10.45 a.m. onward children and parents arrived; there was a class of older children with Angela Young and Jean Harrison, of younger children with Grace and Jeremy Hill, followed by a pizza and ice cream lunch, and then came the dance – with Angela calling and Green Ginger playing. The children and adults danced and danced. In between times came the Mark Elie Dance Foundation girls with street dancing, and later the Belgravia School of Dance to offer demonstration and participation, and the afternoon finished with four young people and a piper demonstrating the highland fling and sword dance – full marks for stamina for everyone and thanks to a vice-president, members of Committee and friends who did all the work to make the day run smoothly.

The next Children's Day for your diary:

Saturday 29th October 2005

But if you can't wait till then come to classes – Where? St. Columba's Church, Pont St. SW1
When? Saturdays 14th May, 18th June, 9th July.
What time? 10.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
How much? £2.00

Make a day of it – visit the museums, St. James' Park and other sights of London. Further information Rachel Wilton (see p. 2).

MEDAL TEST RESULTS

The new RSCDS Medal Tests were used by London Branch for the first time. The teachers were particularly pleased with the Introductory Grade. All the children did very well, achieving a credit, while those with * achieved a distinction.

Well done to all the children, and a big thank you to the teachers who prepared the children so well, and to the adults who spent the day at St. Columba's supporting them, and to the Committee members who looked after them all.

Cambridge Children's Scottish Dance Class

Introductory

Amelia Cant
Alice Groser
Emily Kidd
Hettie Stevens
Agnes Taylor
Ellie Thompson

Grade 2

Oliver Bates
Astrid Burden
Hester Cant
Lydia Farrer
Polly Ray
Rachel Taylor
Emma Vallis-Booth
Elliot Walker
Rebecca Walsh

Clapham Scottish Dance Group

Introductory

Emily Hill
Frances Lewthwaite
Katherine Lewthwaite
Isobel Macauslan
Louise Macauslan
Zoe Shipley

Grade 2

Gabrielle Barnes
Beth Duncan
Kyra Fraser
Jessica Horne
Katie Lang

St. Johns Children's Class

Grade 1

Philip Cresswell
Rebecca Hall
Hannah Nutsford
Katie Jones*

Grade 2

Kerri Boncey
Maddie Burrows
Amelia Draffin

Upland Scottish Dancers

Introductory

Stephen Dawson*
Amy Moughton*
Charlotte Johnson*
Katie King*
Florence Moore*
Danielle Reynolds*
Chloe Ricketts*

Grade 2

Annie Clements
Nancy Moore
Ayo Olojo-Oluwo
Lauren Purchase
Lucy Thomas

Grade 3

Roya Saeednia
Claire Dawson*
Poppy Simpson*

Grade 4

Chloe Allison*
Rebecca Worrell*

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

It's Saturday and up at the crack of dawn to take my grandchildren, Casey and Phoebe, on the big train excursion up to Pont Street for their Scottish Country Dance class. It is a big adventure for them, picnic on the train, London taxi to Pont Street (no black cabs where we come from), and recently they have been more adventurous and tried the upper deck of the number 52 bus from Victoria (Knightsbridge, Harrods, etc.).

The classes started from humble beginnings in the upper hall (where doting parents and grand-parents outnumbered the children) but the word has spread, numbers have now grown and last time we were dancing in the main hall.

In Angela, we have a top-notch teacher, she is wonderful with the children and they in turn try to give their best. Jean's music is inspiring, as usual and gives the class a magical quality. Recently Grace and Jeremy Hill have swelled the teaching and musician ranks to cater for the tots in the entrance area.

As each class has gone by, we have been looking forward to them more and more, and the children now have their own dancing shoes; first of all Phoebe with her ballet pumps and then Casey with his gillies.

Having travelled all the way in to London there is plenty of opportunity to round off the day. A favourite for lunch is the Pizza Express in Beauchamp Place and afterwards, visit the local Museums, Harrods or Peter Jones (avoiding the china and glassware departments), the Palace, St. James Park or even Hamleys.

A day well spent, and much appreciated by the children. Thanks to Angela, Jean, Rachel and all the other helpers.

FAMILY WEEKEND

7th - 9th October 2005

South Beach Hotel, Troon, Ayrshire.

Cost £217.00 per room for 4 people

The weekend is planned for dancers and non dancers, with a mixture of Scottish Country and ceilidh dances so that adults and children will dance together. Non-dancers will have free time during class time but one adult and one child in each family group will be expected to go to the classes.

What an opportunity to meet other dancing families, make new friends and enjoy the Ayrshire coast!

Further details and application forms from RSCDS HQ, Branch Secretary and the Society website (see page 2).

BILL IRELAND MEMORIAL FUND

The Branch has received a number of generous contributions to the fund set up in memory of Bill Ireland, for which we are extremely grateful. If anyone else should wish to contribute, it is not too late – please send donations to the Branch Treasurer.

This money has been set aside specifically to fund scholarships to young dancers attending summer, winter or youth schools or taking their teaching certificates.

Anyone who wishes to make an application for funding should contact the Branch Secretary in the first instance.

MANAGEMENT BOARD REPORT

Working groups have been set up, mainly from within the MB. Headquarters staffing will be considered; a Management Review working group will consider the effectiveness of the new management structure, which has now been in place for two years, and identify any gaps between old and new; an examinations review panel has been set up; members' database, membership recruitment, website and working in partnership with other organisations all have working groups which report back to the Management Board. The website group are considering development work and responsibilities; the work on the members' database has included an initial audit, moving on to discussion about how it will be used and how to make it 'safe'.

Muriel Johnstone has produced a substantial rewrite of the Manual chapter 'a guide for musicians'. This very comprehensive and useful document, invaluable to teachers and musicians, will available as a separate publication.

The video recording of all the MacNab dances, in which many Branches were involved including London, is now for sale and proved to be a popular purchase at Winter School. Marilyn Healy has been appointed as the new Archivist for the Society. An exploration of Branch files has brought up many Branch Newsletters that could be made available for reading in a members' room at Headquarters.

Members will be pleased to hear that there will be no change to subscriptions and affiliation fees at the moment. There was a query about the effect on NOT raising the subscription on membership numbers.

The new magazine, with London Branch member Andrew Kellett as part of the editorial group, has production dates of August 2005 and January 2006.

Suggestions at the Youth Co-ordinators' forum at the AGM that younger people should be enabled to join the Management Board and the Education and Training Committee by having a place reserved have been considered, but there are no plans to change the constitution at the moment – however nominations of young people for any committee would be welcomed. This is now the time for candidates to be nominated for the Management Board and Management Committees. Anyone who is a member of the Society is eligible to stand, and people stand down each year so there are always spaces; nomination forms are available from Headquarters or Branch Secretaries.

It was reported that 500 children will have taken part in the Children's Medal Tests by the end of the year, and the Spring Fling welcomed 50 young people to enjoy dancing in Edinburgh – next year it will be in the South.

Many members may already know that Eileen Watt, whose contribution to the work at Headquarters and Summer School has been considerable over 17 years, will retire at the end of the fourth week of Summer School – however we hope we shall still meet her on the dance floor!

Reports of the Management Board meetings are on the website (www.rscds.org) often found under 'what's new', and also sent to Branch secretaries.

Rachel Wilton

FOR SALE

Man's kilt, Douglas, made by Morrison's of Edinburgh, length 24", slim-medium fit. Also matching day jacket, chest about 38". Sporrans. Belt. Offers please. Tel: 01243 783578.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 17TH JUNE 2005

Motion submitted in advance

The Constitution of the London Branch should be amended as follows:-

IX LOCAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

3.g) Remove

Appointment of one of the Committee as Local Association Representative on the Executive Council of the Society, and any nomination by the local Association for one of the six elected members on the Executive Council of the Society.

and replace with

"g) Appointment of Local Association delegates to the Society's Annual General Meeting."

XI REPRESENTATION IN THE SOCIETY

1. Remove

The Local Association, in General Meeting, shall appoint one of its Committee members to represent the Local Association on the Executive Council of the Society..... governing document of the Society.

2. Remove

The Local Association, in General Meeting, may nominate one of its members for election as one of the six Members of the Executive Council of the Society who are elected annually by the Society in General Meeting... ..The Society's General Meeting.

3. Remove

Subject to any restrictions on numbers and any procedures contained in the Society's constitution, the Committee of the Local Association shall nominate a delegate or delegates to attend a General Meeting of the Society... ..governing document of the Society.

and replace with

"1. 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 an appointed 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".

There are two reasons behind these proposed changes.

First, to update the Constitution because the Society now has a Management Board instead of an Executive Council. Local Associations (Branches) no longer appoint a representative to the Executive Council, nor can they nominate someone to stand for election to the Executive Council.

Second, to make our AGM rather than the Committee responsible for appointing the Local Association's delegates to the Society's AGM. This will make the process more transparent to members, and it will enable any member to put himself or herself forward as a delegate thereby encouraging participation in the Society's affairs. If these amendments to the Constitution are approved, the Rules should also be amended as follows:-

REPRESENTATION IN THE SOCIETY

Remove

24. In the event of more than one nomination being made at the Annual General Meeting for the Local Association Representative on the

Society's Executive Council and for the nomination of one of the six elected members, a ballot of the members attending will be arranged.

and replace with

"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."

The existing paragraph 25 should be re-numbered 26.

Proposer: **Andrew Kellett**

Seconder: **Wilson Nicol**

MEMBERSHIP

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

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR REEL?

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

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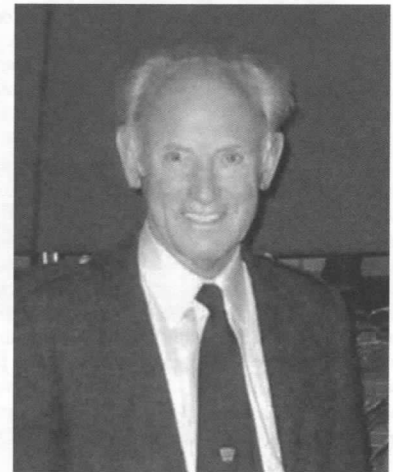
Please state your Branch when ordering.

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

OBITUARY

DEREK HAYNES

Dancer, Teacher and Dance Deviser



RSCDS

Derek died suddenly from a heart attack on 4th April 2005. He was 72.

Derek was brought up in Liverpool where he started dancing in 1953. He was well known as a solo highland dancer and country dancer, taking part in various Highland Games and Festivals. In 1954 he joined the Liverpool Branch of the RSCDS and gained his Teacher's Certificate in 1958. He had his own style of teaching and expected a high standard from his pupils, but was keen to stress that dancing should be fun.

In 1962 Derek moved to North Lancashire where he lived, first with his parents, then his wife, Maureen. He taught many classes locally and throughout the UK, as well as Day and Weekend Schools in Europe, and further afield on tours of Australia, Canada, Japan and the USA. He attended Summer School regularly, both as a student and teacher. Only last February he and Maureen attended Winter School in Pitlochry.

Derek was also well-known as a deviser of dances. The Society published several of them – Neidpath Castle (1963), Miss Gibson's Strathspey (1979) and The Clansman (1984). He also produced several books of his own dances, The Carnforth Collection, which were sold in aid of The Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

In November 2003 he was awarded the Society's Scroll of Honour for his contribution to Scottish Country Dancing.

Away from Scottish dancing Derek was a keen cyclist and hill walker. He and Maureen walked regularly in the Lake District and on the hills near their home, and more recently in the mountains of Austria.

One of my lasting memories of Derek is of him dancing with Jennifer Wilson in the Younger Hall at St. Andrews (Summer School) with Bill Ireland singing *Port-à-Buel* (mouth music). It always brought the house down!

Derek will be sadly missed – we have lost another dancing master.

Jenny Greene

A DANCE FOR RUTH

Those who knew Ruth Simpson will be pleased to hear that, in addition to the sun of £334 raised at the dance in January in her memory, the full amount received by the Amersham Cancer Research UK from all the other Scottish Dancing events brought the total up to £577.

John Reeve

THE FIRST BRANCH SECRETARY

Tom Bazalgette was the first Secretary of the London Branch, and was born in Edinburgh of Scottish and French extraction in 1907. He organised the first Branch Dance held on Tuesday 29th April 1930 at the Duke of York's Headquarters in Chelsea. In those days to launch successful events patronage was essential, and the early dances had the Duchess of Atholl as patron.

The original dance programme in my possession still retains its delicate shade of glazed cream paper after 75 years. The Secretary was also the Master of Ceremonies. It includes no less than six foxtrots just to reassure that it was conscious of modern trends. At the 75th Anniversary Ball last October, I think Petronella was the only dance which mirrored in the original programme. The tickets were a shade of lavender, though the one I have is now slightly faded.

Programme.

A short demonstration will precede each dance.

1. Fox Trot.
2. Cumberland Reel.
3. Fox Trot.
4. Petronella.
5. Waltz.
6. Eightsome Reel.
7. Fox Trot.
8. Strip the Willow.
9. Waltz.
10. Round about Hullachan.
11. Fox Trot.
12. Speed the Plough.
13. Waltz.
14. Scottish Medley.
15. Eightsome Reel.
16. Fox Trot.
17. Dashing White Serjeant.
18. Waltz.
19. Polka.
20. Fox Trot.

John Peel.

M.C. - - Mr. T. N. BAZALGETTE.

The announcement that there is a Car Park on the site was for those who were privileged enough to own a car at the time.

In 1935 the Secretary received a letter from Princess Mary, the daughter of King George V and Queen Mary, saying she desired the Prince of Wales (her brother and later Edward VIII and Duke of Windsor) to improve his Scottish dancing skills. She made the request that the Branch should arrange lessons to be held at the Prince's private residence. Once a month on a Friday, several cars awaited at 6 p.m. in the forecourt of Victoria Station, and the members of the London Branch boarded for the drive down to Fort Belvedere. Very congenial sessions with

refreshments followed. One such soirée had a new hitherto unknown guest. She was an American. Halfway through the evening the Prince of Wales asked the Secretary to invite her to join the Eightsome Reel. He did so. But her reply was a curt "No thanks", with the comment that she did not intend to make a fool of herself. After the reel had finished the Prince came up to the Secretary with a face as black as thunder and demanded why his guest had not joined them in the dance. He had requested his guest be asked to participate. The Secretary explained that he had carried out the instruction, but that Mrs Simpson had declined.

After this evening the soirées became less frequent until finally they ceased. Things were changing at 'The Fort', and the British public was about to be introduced to the Prince's guest whom hitherto they had been unaware existed.

The London Branch had a demonstration team from its earliest days, and Tom Bazalgette was a member of it. Their first foreign visit was a weekend in St. Malo, Brittany, at the invitation of a local group. The recent Entente Cordiale visit you hosted reminded me of the old Gallic connections. The Bretons have a strong Celtic tradition of dancing, music and bagpipes, and an affinity to all things Scottish.

After the Second World War because of work and family commitments his contact with the London Branch diminished, though he was always keenly interested in the Society and was a Life Member. He continued his dancing into his early seventies, when sadly low blood pressure made him unable to maintain balance.

Scottish Country Dance Society

THE LONDON BRANCH

will hold

A DANCE

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— on —

TUESDAY, APRIL 29th, 1930

at the

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KINGS ROAD, CHELSEA

7.30—11.30

Station - - Sloane Square.

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CAR PARK.

Scottish Country Dance Society
THE LONDON BRANCH

DANCE

AT THE

Duke of York's Headquarters Mess,
Kings Road, Chelsea.

Sloane Square Station.

On TUESDAY, APRIL 29th, 1930.

7.30—11.30

CAR PARK.

3/6

Including refreshments.

He died in London in 1994 and was buried in Edinburgh where his life's story had begun 87 years earlier.

Stanley Morris

ST. COLUMBA'S DANCERS

When dancing at St. Columba's on a Monday evening one may be surprised to learn that the group is officially called 'St. Columba's Young People's Social'! Many dancers now refer to it as 'Pont Street Mondays' but the preferred title is 'St. Columba's Dancers'

These socials began in 1940 and were formalised at an AGM on 7th October 1941. In these now faraway days the dancing was followed by community singing in 'camp fire'

style. Over the years games including table tennis were sometimes on the agenda but by the mid 50s the whole evening was given over to Country Dancing. Up until about 1960 Dashing White Sergeant and Eightsome Reel were on the programme every week with the frequent appearance of The Duke of Perth, Hamilton House and Monymusk. The repertoire is now much larger.

There is no beginners' class as such but step practice takes place once a month. Dancing to 78s gave way in the late 1950s to EPs and LPs. Now we dance to CDs by all the top bands, with live local bands six times a year.

Each evening ends with an epilogue - a reading, a prayer and a hymn - to send us on our way and remind us who we are and whom we serve.

John Laurie

The success of Monday evenings at St. Columba's is due to the legacy of hard work and dedication of John Laurie who, for 35 years, acted as both MC and Convenor. Now, as Convenor Emeritus, John continues to give invaluable help and advice to the current team of MCs, the committee and me.

Bob Harman

PONT STREET PARTICIPATORS' DANCE

Saturday 19th March 2005

This was a joint venture by no less than six of my favourite organisations – London Branch, the Chelsea Reel Club, the Little Ship Club, the Highland Club, the Monday night dancers at St. Columba's and the Clans. As I have many happy memories of dancing with each of these groups, one of the pleasures of the evening for me was seeing so many familiar faces, including some I had not seen for years.

Each group had contributed dances to the programme, and MC(s) to introduce their dances to the dancers. The result was a very enjoyable programme, with many popular dances and a few less well-known ones, which had a special significance for one of the organising groups. I realised how lucky we are to have such a wealth of MCing talent (see photo on right).

Bucks fizz when we arrived, an Anniversary cake, and decorations including the impressive banners of the Clans and the Highland Club all contributed to an atmosphere of celebration.

Daniel Capron



Owen Meyer

Above, left to right. The MCs:

Peter Knight, Denise Haugh, Tom Symington, Robert Morgan, Moira Strutt, Peter Forrow, Jim Cook, Roger Waterson.

Left: Mary Stoker cuts the Anniversary Cake.



Owen Meyer

THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON

The 'Clans' was founded in 1898 – largely to provide a counter attraction to the rowdy Hogmanay celebrations which were giving London Scots a bad name at that time! There were several regional associations but this was the first open to all Scots, and its Hogmanay Balls soon set a pattern for other societies. The original objects of the Association, to organise concerts and gatherings to foster Scottish sentiment and kinship, to encourage the wearing of Highland dress, and the maintenance of Scottish traditions and customs, and to assist Scottish charities prospered. Weekly dances alternated between the Upper and Lower Halls at Pont Street. Major events in the early days were the Burns Night Concerts in the Royal Festival Hall, and at the Royal Albert Hall, and prestigious annual dinners with over 500 in attendance. The Clans actively supported the Royal Caledonian Schools at Bushey, and the Royal Scottish Corporation who cared for needy Scots in London.

The Clans continue to meet as a social dance group in the Upper Hall at Pont Street at 7.00 p.m. each Tuesday from October to May. Talk/walk throughs are given where needed. Newcomers with an understanding of basic steps and formations are always welcome.

THE LITTLE SHIP CLUB

The LSC was started by Peter Knight in 1971 at the premises of The Little Ship Club in the City of London, where a very good hall was available for a nominal sum. It was started to give "Reelers" who went to Wandsworth Reel a larger repertoire of dances instead of the usual 8 or so dances.

In the "Good Old Days", dancing with buffet supper and wine was provided for £1 per head!

When the Club was demolished for re-development in 1980, the dancers moved to Holy Trinity Church Hall, Brompton. A buffet couldn't be provided, so everyone took their own picnic supper (which continues today). With wine included, the price was £2.

When this hall was altered to make room for offices, The Club had two years at the Mothers' Union Hall in Tufton Street before moving to St. Columba's.

In about 1981 a St. Andrew's Night Ball was held at Crosby Hall, which became an annual event. When that was no longer available, we had our Ball at Wandsworth Town Hall until last year, when we were invited by the Hurlingham Club to join with them at their splendid new venue.

THE LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

The London Highland Club – *Cairdeas nan Gaidheal*, or Fellowship of Highlanders – was founded in 1923 as somewhere for young Gaelic-speaking Highlanders who were living and working in London to meet on a Friday evening, to chat in their own language and perhaps to have the edge taken off the pain of their homesickness. The social events run by the Club would include ceilidhs – traditional Highland ceilidhs, that is, with the company taking turns to sing songs and tell stories – and whist drives and sometimes dancing. The Club used to meet in the premises of the Royal Scottish Corporation in Fetter Lane, but a central aim was for it to acquire its own premises in which to meet. Gradually however, particularly after the watershed of the Second World War, things changed. The idea of acquiring permanent premises became out of reach, and the Club broadened out so that English-speaking, and even English, people of Highland descent and sympathies were invited to join. Scottish Country Dancing became the central social activity of the Club, as it remains today; but we still cherish the old Highland traditions, and in particular sometimes hold ceilidhs, especially on Friday evenings.

THE CHELSEA REEL CLUB

One of the more memorable figures and leaders in the world of Scottish dancing was Hugh Foss. His mathematical brain was applied both to code breaking at Bletchley Park during the war and to writing Scottish dances such as J B Milne, Airie Bennan and Earlston Loch which are still popular today.

He is also remembered as the founder of the Chelsea Reel Club, when he was one of a group of friends who were dancing together in the mid 1930s. These occasions appeared to be informal dances held regularly in private houses but were sufficiently structured that they issued a programme and kept a record of the dances they did each evening. There were typically only 7 or 8 dances each evening so they presumably were intended as instruction and practice evenings.

The first recorded dance was on 22nd November 1934 and the programme was:- Eightsome, Highland Schottische, Dashing White Sergeant, Glasgow Highlanders, The Nut, Foursome, Strip the Willow.

By January 1935 these informal dances became weekly events and in March 1935 the dancers decided to form themselves into a club to start the autumn season of dancing

Hugh Foss took an active part in the club until 1956 when he moved to Dalry, Castle Douglas. One of the last events he personally organised was a dancing weekend in April 1970 in Castle Douglas at which the programme contained 18 of his own dances.

Membership of the club was initially limited to 100 to ensure everyone knew each other and new members had to be proposed and seconded by existing members. The limit of 100 was reached by the third year in 1938 and a waiting list was subsequently established.

Dancing was held every week on a Thursday and the Thursday appointment has persisted to the present day. The tradition of dancing regularly to live music has also persisted to the present day.

A particular social high point was reached in December 1957 when the Chelsea Reel Club was specifically mentioned by name by the agony aunt of *The Daily Telegraph* as a suitable club she could safely recommend for an intelligent young woman. We are still a safe and suitable club for intelligent young women to join.

The Chelsea Reel Club has been particularly fortunate in the dedication and endurance of its committee members and officer holders. For the past 27 years there have been just three long-serving honorary secretaries, Maureen Bebb, Penny Potter and now Ruth Hewlett. And Ian Adams served as chairman for 26 years from 1966 to 1992. The present chairman is Jim Cook.

The Committee has decided to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the first meeting of the Chelsea Reel Club with a special dance at St. Columba's Church Hall on 17th March 2006.

Robert Freer

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ROSEMARY TILDEN

Honorary Vice-President Rosemary Tilden introduces herself to those who do not know her



Rosemary Tilden

My first introduction to Scottish Country Dancing began way back in the late 1940s when my sister was asked by her boy friend (subsequently her husband) to join him for some Scottish Country Dancing run

by Dr David Imrie (father of Celia Imrie, the actress) in a T.A. hall in Guildford. I was asked to join them. This was the start of over 50 years of Scottish dancing for me; my sister gave it up once she was married and had children. As I was working in London at that time I joined the evening classes run by the Society, where I was taught at different levels by Bill Ireland, Innes Russell, Mary Stoker, Alex Westwood, and others. Then in 1960 an invitation came to join the Committee.

My first assignment was to assist Alastair Ross, the originator of the Weekend Schools, in their organization. These were then held in November of each year at Bisham Abbey, on the banks of the Thames, near Marlow, a wonderful old house with galleried dining hall and panelled ballroom – absolutely marvellous for a 32-some! It also had a wonderful bath, nearly big enough for a set – you needed steps to get into it! I can well remember having to allocate people to dormitories – up to eight in a room, possibly with another bedroom leading off it. This is when I became known as the lady with the black book! I kept a note of all the dancers' likes and dislikes and those who snored! It was very sad when the CCPR decided in 1979 to build on a new block including a large sports hall about the size of a football pitch and separate sleeping accommodation. The whole atmosphere changed and soon after we were told politely that we could not hold our annual weekend schools there.

Organizing weeklong holidays and weekend schools at Lodge Hill, Pulborough, Sussex from 1960 to 1964 was another very enjoyable role, in which I made so many good friends.

I then had a break from the Committee and dancing altogether when I went abroad for six months in 1965. On my return I changed job and moved to London to live. I went back to classes and in 1970 rejoined the Committee, taking on various roles, including being on the Classes Sub-Committee, Weekend and Day Schools (Bisham Abbey 1971-79, Easthampstead Park, Fanhams Hall, and Hogmanay at Missenden Abbey) and also on the Demonstration Class Sub-Committee for a short time. I also assisted Alex Westwood and others in the production of the four Scottish entertainments staged by the Demonstration Class and others, at Rutherford School, NW1 in 1972 entitled a Tour of Scotland, West Hampstead School in 1973 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Society, at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School in 1980 to celebrate the Branch's Golden Jubilee, and in 1983 at the Stanhope Theatre to celebrate the Society's Diamond Jubilee. All were very successful and bring back very happy memories.

I resigned from the Committee in June 1980 having decided to move out of London (which I subsequently did in 1983, to Oxfordshire) as I felt I would not be able to take on any regular commitment living so far out. As I was still commuting to London, I carried on attending classes so kept in touch with everybody. Then in 1985, to my surprise, I had the great honour to be invited to become a Vice-President. Although now not attending classes in London, I still go up for dances and especially enjoy the children's dances and seeing all my friends. I hope to continue to help in any way I can as long as I am able to travel.

Rosemary Tilden

CHISWICK DANCING

The Old Alliance.

The Chiswick group always try to do something different and fun at the end of each term. I thought you might like to know about things past and things to come. On the 20th March we had a Scottish Dance Party called The Old Alliance, that's the link Scotland had with France at the time of Mary Queen of Scots. As several people who come to Chiswick have French connections we thought this might be appropriate. People really entered into the spirit of things and arrived sporting striped tops, neckchiefs and berets with sporrans decorated with tricolors, even in one case a string of onions! Perhaps the star of the show was Davinia Miln (right) who arrived dressed as a French maid. It was great fun and we have many pictures to prove it.



Kay Senior

A Midsummer's Night's Dream

So what are we going to do at the end of the Summer term? Well we are fortunate in having the beautiful Chiswick House on our patch and we have managed to obtain permission to dance on the lawns at the back of the house.

So on 10th July from 6 p.m. onwards we will be gathering with our red checked tablecloths and shareable food to enjoy a picnic together. We will have a live musician and will no doubt get around to dancing by about 7 p.m.

Now, officially it is meant as a club outing, but the park is of course open to the public and if you happen to be the kind of person that always has dance shoes to hand, well no one can stop you joining in. We will be dancing a simple programme so if you have friends that you want to introduce to Scottish Dancing, what better setting could they have to watch (or even to join in). We will not be making a charge that evening so....

If the weather is unkind we will be dancing in Our Lady of Grace parish centre at the Chiswick High Road end of Duke's Avenue, W4.

Kay Senior

IMPRESSIONS OF JAPAN

My head is still buzzing with sights, sounds and happenings! I feel very honoured & privileged to have been invited to teach at the 20th International Weekend of the RSCDS Tokyo Branch at the end of January, along with fellow teacher Rachel Wilton and musicians Dave Hall and Judith Smith.

Every part of our visit was carefully orchestrated by the committee, led by Shigeko Igarashi, Chairwoman, and Tom Toriyama, who is well known to many dancers in the UK through attendance at Summer School and as the deviser of *Dancing in the Street* (Book 42). From the minute we emerged at Tokyo airport until going through the departure gate at Kansai airport, someone was there to meet, greet and generally look after us. Tickets appeared as if by magic for trains and buses and for entrance to famous sights we went to see. We even had our own personal sightseeing guides in Tom and Noko Kasuga.

The actual weekend was on the outskirts of historic Kamakura, on the coast, about one hour from and almost due south of Tokyo. There were about 130 dancers attending (all Japanese except two) and I was very impressed with their ability: they listened intently, watched and then did exactly what was asked of them! The standard of dancing was high and teaching was very rewarding. I was overwhelmed by everyone's kindness and generosity during our visit. Noko had kindly recorded various phrases in Japanese and our attempts to use them seemed to be much appreciated.

After the weekend, Rachel, Dave, Judith and I stayed on for varying lengths of time. Rachel and I were lucky enough to stay until the following Thursday. On Sunday night there was a 'sayonara party' in the home of Ken and Noko Kasuga in Tokyo where we stayed overnight. The next day was the journey from Tokyo to Kyoto, which was the capital of Japan for over 1,000 years. We travelled by bullet train (shinkansen) – a great experience. Tom and Noko had planned our itinerary well and we spent the rest of that day and the next two days in visiting various interesting and beautiful sights without once suffering from 'temple fatigue' (apparently it would take five years to visit all the temples and shrines in Japan!).

On our last evening, we taught a class for the Kansai White Heather Dancers, who were also very keen and quick to learn. This was followed by an enjoyable supper in a local German bar, with Tom and the teachers of the Kansai group, where as far as I could make out, only the beer was German, the food definitely being Japanese.

My impressions of Japan include: the kindness and generosity of the Japanese dancers, their high standard of dancing and the way they picked up everything so quickly; the polite culture; the way we were looked after throughout our visit; sunshine and warmth in Kamakura followed by bitterly cold wind then snow in Kyoto; the lift that travelled diagonally between floors at the hotel in Kamakura; drinking green tea in the bamboo wood in the grounds of a shrine; heated toilet seats in the hotel bedrooms; at least 15 trains including shinkansen and sight of a train which travelled suspended from a monorail; taxis with automatic doors; much lovely, interesting and tasty food; the army of ladies in pink uniforms who cleaned the shinkansen; the Golden Temple and Himeji Castle; karaoke at the 'sayonara party'; and last but not least, sleeping on the 43rd floor of the hotel near Kansai airport and eating breakfast on the 54th floor.

All in all it was a wonderful experience!

Ann Dix

See picture at the bottom of page 13.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Dance Programme - Have we got it wrong?

Hemel Hempstead

Dear Daniel,

SCD is one of the most therapeutic medicines known to us. Feeling low, feeling lonely, even sometimes when feeling tired – the remedy is the same. Go SCD! A doctor friend once told me that he sometimes received a patient's concerns with 'Have you ever tried SCD?' Such is its power! History doesn't record whether the RSCDS gained many members this way yet it does flag up the fact that those of us who already know the fun and happiness of SCD wish to share our enthusiasm with those that don't! And with as many as possible!

The number of people enjoying SCD worldwide or even in the UK is not really known because many dancers are not necessarily members of *Jeannie's family* but belong to affiliated groups, non-affiliated dance groups, Caledonian clubs, or are reelers, or people that just like to ceilidh dance or those being taught Scottish dancing in schools and in Adult Education classes. But nevertheless the feeling amongst the SCD fraternity is that the average age is going up and the numbers are coming down. This is not due to any disillusionment but simply through the natural passing of time on our lives. Newcomers are, in fact, regularly seen and you will agree, I am sure, that they are always made most welcome by other dancers. But we do need to keep them.

With SCD being so enjoyable, why is it then that the newcomers don't always stay? Having spoken to a number, I believe it is because of the dances we now tend to put on our dance programmes. Formidable is an understatement. From social dancing we have moved to mental challenges. The complexity of dance after dance that we are now doing is only suitable for experienced dancers with a detailed knowledge of patterns, figures, formations and the ability to link quarter or half movements together.

Are we therefore, by our selfish actions in making up such *exciting* dance programmes, full of more and more difficult dances, in danger of alienating the very people we need to keep to secure the future of The Society and SCD as a whole? If this is really perceived as a problem, as I am led to believe it may be, what can we do to stem the tide of disillusioned newcomers? Do we need, collectively for instance, to find a way forward in the preparation of programmes and by identifying dances on programmes as *easy* or *difficult* and by being more considerate in the programme structure for all dancers, not just a select number? In short, shouldn't we be taking care of *everybody* by making up friendly programmes – the future of SCD may depend on it!

Happy dancing,

Stephen Webb

80th Birthday

Perth

Dear Editor,

Your wee note of Branch Anniversaries (Issue 251, p.12) prompted me to let you know we have just had our 80th birthday. Our first meeting was held on 23rd February 1925 and Miss Milligan always maintained we were third to be formed in the Society after Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Yours sincerely,

Beatrice A. Nairn

Perth and Perthshire Branch,
Secretary/Treasurer (1970-91)

Congratulations and best wishes to Perth and Perthshire Branch on their Anniversary! — Ed

New blood

Chiswick

Dear Daniel,

It is essential that we spread the RSCDS net far and wide. Scottish Dancing, as the converted know, is a wonderfully enjoyable experience. Selfishly we 'oldies' seem reluctant to share this pleasure. It is essential that we constantly have new people (particularly the younger generation) joining our ranks. Once a year at Pont Street the London Branch put on a highly popular well-attended ceilidh night that teems with young people. Then they are allowed to slip out of the net and are never seen again until the same event the following year. I know ceilidh dances, as such, are frowned on in some quarters, but surely this is a way of reaching out to the young people we so desperately need. I know we won't be able to 'convert' them all to 'proper' dancing but we could at least try! May I suggest that at the ceilidh we announce that we will be mounting a similar event that will be a mixture of simple dances and ceilidh dances?

At that event (which I'm sure will pay for itself and reap rich benefits in terms of 'converts') there should be plenty of follow-up information about classes for beginners and the times and places when groups meet in the various parts of London. Don't let's be toffee-nosed about the purity of the dance, let's use all means possible to recruit and then we have material to work on.

Kay Senior

Chiswick group

Dem team costumes

Richmond, Surrey.

Dear Sir,

Richmond Caledonian Society has enjoyed demonstrations by the London Branch of the RSCDS for several years, and 16th March 2005 was no exception. We were treated to a variety of dances and some Highland dancing, but the surprise of the evening was the appearance of the ladies in their new outfits. All our members and our guests approved wholeheartedly of the costumes, which we felt flattered the ladies and complemented the gentlemen's more traditional attire.

Yours sincerely,

Glen McNeill

Chairman, Richmond Caledonian Society,

Teachers' Association

Hove, Sussex

Dear Daniel,

I read Jimmy Hill's article in *The Reel* with some interest.

About twenty years ago a number of teachers, under the leadership of Marie Jamieson, started to form an Association. For several years they met about twice a year for mutual assistance and discussions. These meetings proved to be extremely useful. Unfortunately it proved difficult to raise two sets as the majority of teachers in the area were not interested in being involved and eventually the meetings ceased. Whilst expressing good luck with forming an Association, I fear that unfortunately those who would benefit most are unlikely to be involved.

All best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

John W. Mitchell

Booking Dances Ahead

Hemel Hempstead

Dear Daniel,

I cannot let John Marshall's letter in Reel 251 go unanswered.

First, I agree with him on one point at least. One should try to dance with people on the far side of the hall and Top Set syndrome is anti-social. (How to stop it is another matter: suggestions?)

Thereafter, I disagree totally with everything in John's letter. Booking dances in advance does not prevent a small group from dancing together: they will book each other all the time and will find it even easier to exclude outsiders. If everyone behaves as John suggests and arrives early and books partners for the whole evening, the result will be the very one he says he dislikes – namely, anyone who turns up without a partner and without knowing many people (apart from the first one or two) will end up with no partners or a choice of latecomers – assuming these have not pre-booked their dances before they arrived, as some do. The Top Set syndrome will have been replaced by the Early Arriver syndrome.

I don't know what evidence he has that men benefit from pre-booking. I would have thought that if men were in a minority – as they usually are – it would be the women who would have more incentive to pre-book. I admire and applaud those who refuse to do so.

Pre-booking also leads inevitably to double-booking with all the associated embarrassment for both parties. But my real objection to advance booking is the loss of spontaneity. Carry it to its logical conclusion and you know before you set foot on the dance floor who will be your partner for each dance. I have heard that there are people who pre-book by e-mail weeks beforehand. Why not take it a stage further and 'dance' virtually, without leaving your armchair – you will save the travel, the cost and the sore feet. Dance organisers wouldn't need to hire halls or live bands or spend hours preparing refreshments or dealing with grumbling caretakers.

Seriously, though, I suspect that many people are attracted to Scottish Dancing because they love order and predictability, qualities lacking in many other forms of popular dancing. But too much emphasis on this can easily destroy enjoyment for many, particularly newcomers. If John Marshall succeeds in persuading the Society to endorse pre-booking then I for one will seek my entertainment elsewhere, amongst the many varieties of dancing where pre-booking is thankfully unknown.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Mason

More modern minds and manners

Cupar, Fife

Dear Daniel,

Regarding the controversy about booking dances (or not), wouldn't it be simpler if those who wished to join in the dance just walked onto the dance floor with or without a partner. Sets would easily be formed and those who wanted to choose partners could still do so.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Roberts
RSCDS teacher, Cupar

NEW RECORDINGS

RSCDS Book 10 – David Hall and his Scottish Dance Band (CD047)

Music for Quadrilles – Keith Smith and Green Ginger

Scottish Tradition: Clutha, New Scotia Quadrille, Quadrille Country Dance, The Queen's Quadrille, The Jubilee Quadrille.

Regency: The Duke of Kent's Waltz, The Pavilion Waltz, Paine's 1st Set of Quadrilles, Paine's 12th Set of Quadrilles, Hart's Lancers Quadrilles. (KSCD 012)

These two ensembles are very different in line-up and consequently the overall sounds are also dissimilar.

David and Ian Hall play accordions with Judith Smith on fiddle and double tracked double bass. Gillian Cummins plays piano while Gordon Young is the drummer.

On the Quadrilles CD Keith Smith and Meryl Thomson play violins with Ian Thomson on violin for the Scottish tracks and viola on the Regency ones. Cas Sloan plays piano.

The common link is that all ten players are at the top of the Premier league.

David's CD is a real cracker. The band excel themselves in the strathspeys which have an indefinable warmth but let not that remark detract from the jauntiness of the jigs and reels. Recording quality from David Cunningham's studio also deserves a special mention.

Did you know that Clutha is a quadrille? I didn't until I read the extensive notes by Jimmie Hill on their history which accompany this CD. Full instructions for the quadrilles are included. From the opening bars of Clutha to the end of the Lancers I was absolutely stunned by the playing of the quartet. Perhaps it will inspire more people to take up this form of dancing. Keith Smith doubles up as sound engineer.

The Assembly Players are a trio based in Lanarkshire. Nicolas Broadbridge plays accordion and his son Aidan the fiddle. Pianist is Brian Prentice. They play Scottish Ceilidh Dances on 'Doon the Brae' (APCD 401). Dances include Dashing White Sergeant, Gay Gordons, Postie's Jig and The Eightsome Reel. I like this one a lot. Loads of lift and drive. I suppose there is a 'first' for many tunes. On this CD it is My Love is like a Red Red Rose in jig time – but it works. Hope they do another Scottish CD soon.

Simon Howie's latest CD (SHIEL CD022) has a fine well played mixture of Scottish music including the Gay Gordons, Barn Dances and Waltzes. But 6x32 of the River Cree and the tune

Right:
Part of the group at the Japanese weekend with the RSCDS Tokyo Branch. (see *Impressions of Japan* on page 11).

From left to right back row: Ann Dix, Rachel Wilton, Judith Smith, David Hall and Tazuko Nakata, Branch secretary. In front Chinami Kanematsu, a Branch Committee member and Tom Toriyama



for The Express in a 32-bar sequence will not appeal to purist dancers. They could perhaps be persuaded to record a CD of country dances for country dancers.

More and more CDs of a nostalgic nature are coming on stream. Dancing Memories Volumes 1 and 2 (LEGACY 31 and 32) have 36 tracks by 23 different bands, a fiddler, and two solo accordionists all gleaned from 78s, EPs and LPs from the 1940s to 1980s. No full length dances but some great listening music.

Favourite Scottish Dance Music by Jimmy Blue (CFIRST 02) is taken from two LPs of 1971 and 1972. Not all the LP tracks have been transferred to disc which is a pity given that the CD is only 55 minutes.

Scottish Heartbeat (SHIEL CD021) covers more recent recordings from Shielburn with 15 tracks by leading Scottish musicians and singers. An ideal gift to introduce friends to our music.

Back to the nostalgia. Some fine Scottish songs in English and Gaelic can be found on our The Best of Alasdair Gillies (BELTONA 105).

Anyone who requires further details of the tracks on these CDs can contact me on 020 7286 1923.

John Laurie

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RSCDS Tokyo Branch

HIGHLAND FLING

A story review – and warning to us all

You may have been fascinated, as I was by a ballet called *Highland Fling*, wondering whether this was a highland gathering for ballet dancers or the RSCDS's latest membership recruitment drive. The only way to answer this was to go and see for myself. And this is what I did!

A funky, funny and irresistibly infectious ballet is how the present revival of Matthew Bourne's 1994 *Highland Fling* was described in the press. Set in Scotland, the story revolves around James, a young Glaswegian, who wears the kilt throughout the ballet. The story begins on the eve of his wedding to Effie, whom we see at a stag night and with a hen party at the same nightclub. Unlike the original two-act ballet on which it is based, *La Sylphide*, that debuted in 1832 in Paris, it is set in modern times in an inner city in Scotland. The story can best be described as a classic romantic tragedy. James has a secure relationship with fun loving Effie, yet his feelings for her are tested when, whilst in a inebriated state in the loo of the nightclub, he is visited by a sylph – a beautiful ethereal winged fairytale of a woman – from another world, who is attracted to him.

James's chums and Effie's girlfriends dance and party away the night at the club, unaware of James's confused feelings. James at this point does not really believe in this apparition, but when occasions arise the sylph appears to him and slowly he begins to fall in love with her, not just her but the idea of her (this as I see it is a metaphor for life itself!) There are some lovely ballet sequences on the morning of the wedding as the partygoers are recovering from their hangovers and James tries in vain to catch this beautiful creature. It soon becomes apparent that the sylph can make herself visible to James alone. Unable to share his discovery or feelings with his friends he is racked in his mind as to what to do.

Unaffected, the preparations continue for the wedding and at this point we see some delightful Scottish highland ballet dance movements as all enjoy the celebrations. James wearing gillies, interestingly laced, pirouettes and points his toes beautifully throughout. The sylph appears again and James tries to follow but his friends, believing him crazy, can't stop him as he goes to the window and just briefly catches her on his hand. One of his friends grabs the winged sylph from him and throws it back out through the window. James is drawn to follow and despite nearly being saved by his friends falls below to the ground.

In Act 2 James now having chosen his destiny (much to the confusion of his mortal friends) has condemned himself to search for his beloved, in that mystical world of the sylphides. Various lovely dance sequences follow until he is reunited with her at last. It is here Matthew Bourne departs slightly from the original story line with dramatic effect.

James wants the sylph for himself as a mortal. So, he decides to sever her wings from her body so she will always be with him. The dramatic red of the blood against the pure white of the sylphide's dresses is alarming. He has made a terrible mistake. The dream that he had come to love with all his heart dies in his arms – he is mortified by the terrible thing he has done and much anguish through dance follows. The other sylphides chase James and hunt him and strike him down for him to die too!

This final act finishes with Effie and her new

Continued in next column

DANCE EVENTS

SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

and Bourree Bellifontaine et Avonnaise
Garden Dance
Saturday 14th May 2005
2.00 p.m. to 5.45 p.m.
York House Gardens,
York Street, Twickenham
MC Peter Knight

Programme: Strathspeys:- Sugar Candie, Neidpath Castle, The Gentleman, John McAlpine, Margaret Parker's Strathspey. *Reels:-* Duke of Perth, The Sailor, Nice to See You, The Earl of Mansfield, The Royal Yacht Britannia, The Piper and the Penguin. *Jigs:-* Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The Machine without Horses, Quarries' Jig, Follow Me Home, The Jubilee Jig, Pelorus Jack, plus some Bourree and Ceilidh Dances.

Entrance Free. Further information from Denise Haugh, tel: 020 8946 8572, denisehora@aol.com.

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husband James's best friend (who always fancied her) sipping their hot chocolate at bedtime dressed sweetly in their tartan dressing gowns in a tartan covered room with James outside in the cold, now a sylph himself, flapping desperately at the window to be let back into the secure and mortal world he had so foolishly left on a whim!

The clever use of popular Scottish music such as *I love a lassie* and a musical excerpt from *Brigadoon* together with bunny rabbits and even an answer to that age old question bring the story into today's world in a most humorous and delightful way.

Highland Fling has been playing in February and March to packed audiences, at Sadler's Wells and provincial theatres, following on, as it does, from Matthew Bourne's male *Swan Lake*.

Stephen Webb

JERSEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING WEEKEND

20th Anniversary

Saturday & Sunday 28th & 29th May 2005

7.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.

Jersey College for Girls, Le Mont Millais.

Saturday 28th May 7.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.

Ball programme:

Maxwell's Rant 18-10
Miss Hadden's Reel 23-5
The Double Diamond Strathspey Goldring
Johnnie's Welcome Home 32-1
Off She Goes in the North 18-8
From Scotia's Shores... Leaflet 8
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan Goldring
The Weathercock Leeds
Bruce's Men Scotia Suite
Cramond Bridge London
The Chequered Court 42-3
Sark Bridge Carlisle
The Dancing Master Drewry
Ship of Grace McAdam
Speirs Bruce – the Pole Star Scotia Suite
The Silver Thistle 44-10
Macfarlane's Lantern Priddey
Hooper's Jig Misc.2
A Trip to the Netherlands 32-6
Lomonside Attwood
The Tolsta Rant Braeside

Sunday 29th May 7.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.

Dance Programme:

The Wind that Shakes the Barley Duthie
Miss Milligan's Strathspey Leaflet 19
Side By Side Goldring
Milton's Welcome 33-8
Culla Bay Dix
The Kelloholm Jig Leaflet 12
Starlight 44-1
Locheamside Drewry
Waggle O' the Kilt Cosh
A Castle in the Air 43-9
Lady Peak's Strathspey Drewry
Coats Land Scotia Suite
The Beekeeper's Medley Skye Collection
Scotch Mist Drewry
Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran Drewry
The Waternish Tangle Skye Collection
The Three Sisters Drewry
The Piper and the Penguin Scotia Suite
Pelorus Jack 41-1
Fair Rosamund Attwood
The Sailor 24-4

Cribs will be provided for all dances on the programme.

Contact: Mrs. Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey, JE3 9GB.

Tel. 01534 854459 or Mr. Alan Nicolle, 88, La Ville du Bocage, St. Peter, JE3 7YT. Tel. 01534 484375, email alan_nicolle@yahoo.co.uk.

'Scottish Dancing for All'

LINLITHGOW SCOTCH HOP 2005

Wednesdays 13th July - 10th August at 7.30 p.m.
in association with the STDT.

16th Season of lively, friendly fun with great Scottish Dance Bands held in the unique setting of Linlithgow Palace, birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots and 20 miles west of Edinburgh.

Wide ranging programme of dances, all called or shown. Alternative venue for bad weather.

Tea and Walkers Shortbread.

Tickets at the door £6/£5. Under 12 years, free.

Season tickets available.

General information telephone 01506 844600 or 842896. www.scotchhop.co.uk.

DANCE EVENTS (continued)

MACLENNAN SCOTTISH GROUP

International Dance Festival
28-29th May 2005

Saturday 28th May 7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

International Folk Dance with our international and local guests.

Sunday 29th May 2.00 - 5.30 p.m.

24th International Dance Festival with performances by Latvian, Slovak, Cornish, Morris and Scottish dancers, all with live music.

Venue for both events: Langley Park Boys' School, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham, Kent. (Rail: Eden Park Station from Charing Cross). Licensed bar, refreshments, stalls. Tickets and programmes for each event: Adults £5, Senior citizens £4, Children £2. Family £12. From Jennifer Rutherford, tel: 020 8295 1273, email: jrutherford@freeuk.com. Website for all events www.msg.org.uk.

RSCDS BRIGHTON BRANCH

15th Annual Summer Ball

Saturday 18th June 2005

7.00 - 11.30 p.m. (Drinks 6.30)

Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove.

Ian Muir & the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Grand March, Cramond Bridge, Joie de Vivre, Kinfauns Castle, The Piper and the Penguin, The Roselath Cross, The Wishing Well, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Machine Without Horses, The Land of the Heather Hills, Red House, Pelorus Jack, Culla Bay, Festival Fling, The Moffat Weavers, Glasgow Country Dance, Tomalena, Gothenburg's Welcome, Neidpath Castle, Ray Milbourne, Mairi's Wedding. *Extras:* The Bees of Maggieknockater, Mrs Stuart Linnell, MacDonald of the Isles.

Tickets £18 (non-dancers £10) including supper and wine from Ray Archer, tel: 01273 684417 or email: secretary@rscds-brighton.org.uk.

THE TARTAN JIGSAW

(on behalf of RSCDS Croydon)

are holding an open-air dance

Sunday 5th June 2005

2.30 - 5.30 p.m.

Caterham School, Harestone Valley Road, Caterham CR3 6YA.

Admission: £2/children free.

Enquiries to Maggie Westley, tel: 020 8647 9899; westley3148@tiscali.co.uk.

HERTSMERE REEL CLUB

(formerly Elstree and Boreham Wood Reel Club) celebrates its 40th Anniversary with a special dance on Saturday 18th June 2005.

Old members and friends will be most welcome at Tilbury Hall, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, at 7.30 p.m. on that day.

Enquiries to Mary Fouracre, tel: 020 8367 4201.

MEDWAY & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION

Day School and St. Andrew's Dance

Saturday 19th November 2005

Rainham School for Girls, Rainham.

Contact: Lynda MacGowan, tel: 01795 476274, email: tclmac@blueyonder.co.uk.

Autumn Dance

24th September 2005

St. Mary's Island Community Centre.

Chatham Maritime.

Tickets: £6.50 plus 'bring a plate of food'. Contact: Kate Penny, tel: 01634 716644.

SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS

Sunday 4th September 2005

Beating Retreat at Hertford Castle grounds
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Free entry and dancing for all, bring a picnic lunch and have an enjoyable afternoon.

The Bedford Pipe Band and the

Silver Cross Band will be playing for our entertainment and dancing.

Saturday 19th November 2005

Annual Ball

Hertford Castle Hall

8.00 p.m. until Midnight

Sandy Nixon and his Scottish Dance Band

Programme details later.

Tickets Secretary: Mrs. Maureen Ainsworth.

Tel: 01279 434342

Publicity Officer: John Brace. Tel: 01438 717420.



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 7th May **Stradivarius**

Saturday 4th June **Craigellachie**

Summer Ball 19.00 - 23.30

Saturday 3rd September **Craigievar**

President's night Baked potato supper
19.00 - 23.00

Saturday 8th October **Dalriada**

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.

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Saturday 4th June 2005

Summer Ball

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1.

19.00 to 23.30

Craigellachie

Programme: Ray Milbourne, Haste to the Wedding, St Columba's Strathspey, Shiftin' Bobbins, Rothesay Rant, Silver Strathspey, Round Reel of Eight, Pelorus Jack, Ship of Grace, Dashing White Sergeant, Posties Jig, Trip to Bavaria, Hooper's Jig, New Scotland Strathspey, The Plantation Reel, McLeods Fancy, Duchess Tree, Scotch Circle, Quarrie's Jig, Drumelzier, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Duke and, Duchess of Edinburgh.

Tickets: (Including refreshments)

LHC Members in advance £ 9.00.

Non Members in advance £11.00.

All classes on door £12.00.

Highland or evening dress preferred.

All enquiries to Frank Bennett 020-8715 3564,

e:fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk

or Roger Waterson 020-8660 5017.

HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball

Saturday 14th May 2005

7.00 - 11.00 p.m.

Heston Community Association Hall

George Meikle & The Lothian SCD Band

Programme: Shiftin' Bobbins, The Flying Spur, Butterscotch & Honey, The Wee Cooper of Fife/ The Cooper's Wife, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Wisp of Thistle, Scott Meikle, Whigmaleeries, Mrs. Milne of Kinneff, Hooper's Jig, The Plantation Reel, Mairi's Wedding, The Dancing Master, Twa Bonnie Lassies, Father Connelly's Jig, The Montgomerie's Rant, The Bonnie Lass o' Bon Accord, Pelorus Jack, The Founders Reel, St. Margaret's Loch, Bonnie Anne, The Sailor. *Extras:* Equilibrium, The New Rigged Ship, The Irish Rover.

Tickets £13/£7 non-dancers & juniors purchased by 7th May (£14/£8 on door numbers permitting) including refreshments. Licensed Bar. Highland/ Evening dress preferred. Contact: Denise Smith, tel: 0208 715 9521. Further details on our website www.hestonscottish.co.uk.



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH

Autumn Social

Saturday 8th October 2005

7.45 - 11.45 p.m.

Normandy Village Hall

Bring and share refreshments. Dancing to tapes.

Christmas Social

Wednesday 28th December 2005

7.45 - 11.45 p.m.

Finchampstead Memorial Hall

Bring and share refreshments. Dancing to tapes.

Day School & Music School

Saturday 11th March 2006

Courtmoor School, Fleet.

Application forms available December 2005.

For Autumn and Christmas Socials contact:

Valerie Frazer, tel: 01252 843001.

HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball

Saturday 5th November 2005

Craigellachie Band

Programme and details in the next issue.

Enquiries: Margaret Wallace, tel 020 8560 6160, e-mail: margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk.



FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Autumn Ball

Saturday 12th November 2005

7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

White House Community Centre,

The Avenue, Hampton, Middx., TW12 3RN.

Robin Ellis SCD Band

Tickets (including supper) £12.00.

Details from Ticket Secretary,

Jean Althorp, Tel: 01932 783921,

www.felthamscottish.fsnet.co.uk.

ADVERTISING YOUR DANCE?

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

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Dancing most Mondays, 8.00 p.m. to 10.15 p.m., Sept to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details/map: www.geocities.com/absdc or Anne, tel: 01235 204155.
- ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY** meets Wednesdays 8.15 - 10.15 p.m. September to May at Abraham Cowley Unit Hall, St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey. Details from Jane Warner, Tel: 01483 763606.
- ALDRINGTON (HOVE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meet every Tuesday 8.15 p.m. to 10.30 p.m., September to June. Details from John Steer, 57 Hangleton Road, Hove, E. Sussex BN3 7GH. Tel: 01273 416893.
- BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB** meets Tuesday evenings, September to May. Garden dances June and July. Contact: Linda Godbold, Alize, Shootersway Lane, Berkhamsted HP4 3NP. Tel: 01442 866651, www.berkhamstedreelclub.org.
- BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.** meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth. Newcomers and Beginners 7.15 to 8.45 p.m. Improvers/Advanced 9.00 to 10.30 p.m. Weekly children's classes. Technique class by invitation - alternate Wednesdays. Details from Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Rd, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX. Tel: 01202 698138.
- BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS.** Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details from Ray on 01273 684417 or Bill on 01273 731927. Website: www.rscds-brighton.org.uk
- BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 7.30 - 10 p.m. at Balfour Junior School, Balfour Road, Brighton. Details from Carol Catterall, tel: 01273 564963.
- CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details from Rhoda Finch, 20 Redcrest Gardens, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2DU. Tel: 01276 681820.
- CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.** Classes for all grades. Details from Alison Gundy, 92, Devonshire Mews, Devonshire Road, Cambridge, CB1 2BB; tel 01223 303603.
- CHELSEA REEL CLUB** meets twice a month from October to March in St. Columba's Church (Upper Hall), Pont Street, SW1. Beginners welcome. Instruction given. Dancing to live music. Details from Ruth Hewlett, Tel: 020 8749 5471.
- CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS** Advanced class Mondays 7.30 - 9.30 pm. General class Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30 pm. Bettridge School, Cheltenham. Also a Beginners class. Details: Margaret Winterbourne Tel: 01242 863238.
- CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing most Friday nights 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. from October to end May, at St Andrew's Church Hall, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN. Tel: 01242 528220, e-mail mbsteel45@aol.com.
- CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING** in the Upper Hall at St Michael & All Angels Church corner of The Avenue and Bath Rd. W4 (nr Turnham Green tube), Sundays 7.30-9.30 p.m. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details Tel: 020 8743 9385 (afternoons).
- CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details: Mrs Pip Graham, 57 Milton Mount Ave, Pound Hill, Crawley, W. Sussex RH10 3DP. Tel: 01293 882173.
- CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.** Branch class - all grades, incl. beginners, with technique: Purley (Fri). Other classes in the area: Beginners: Reigate & Selsdon (Tues), Genc: Reigate (Mon), Purley (Alt. Tues), West Wickham (Fri), Advanced: Coulsdon (Wed), Reigate (Thurs). Further details: Tel: 01737 551724.
- EALING SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thurs. 8 - 10 p.m. September to May at St Andrew's Church Centre, Mount Park Road, Ealing, W5. Details from Rena Stewart, 56 Meadvale Road, Ealing, W5 1NR. Tel: 020 8998 6149.
- EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets every Wednesday, 8.00 pm at Warren Hall, Wanstead, London E11, from September to May. Details from John Tanner, Tel: 020 8504 1632. www.efsa.org.uk, e-mail: john@efsa.org.uk
- EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dance classes, including beginners, (September to March). Many other activities including frequent informal dances. Details from Brian Burgess, 72 Seymour Avenue, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 2RR. Tel: 020 8786 7452.
- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00 p.m., September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details from Mrs Annette Owen, 47 Beauclerk Green, Winchfield, Hook, Hants RG27 8BF. Tel: 01252 845187.
- FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. September to mid July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Instruction by Mrs Margaret Henderson. Details from Heather Nolan. Tel/Fax: 01474 256549, e-mail: Heather@nolan75.freeserve.co.uk. Website: www.felthamscottish.fsnet.co.uk
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** dance on alternate Saturdays at various venues in the Fleet, Hampshire area, from 7.30 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. September to May. Full details from Earl Spencer, 24 Park Hill, Church Crookham, Fleet, Hants GU52 6PW. Tel: 01252 691922.
- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at the Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in term time. Details from Mrs M B MacKenzie Ross, Blythe Muse, Misbourne Avenue, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 0PD. Tel: 01494 874604.
- GREAT MISSENDEN: THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00 p.m. Oldhams Hall, Church Road, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs N. Merrick, 2 Hillbeck Way, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8LT.
- GUILDFORD SCDC** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford most Mondays at 8.15 from September to April. Teacher Paul Plummer, contact on 01483 236946.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept. - June from 8.00 - 10.00 p.m. in Elderkin Hall, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF. Tel: 020 8870 6131.
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday at 8.00 p.m. at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00 p.m. Details from Phil Bray, 25 St. Olams Close, Luton, Beds LU3 2LD. Tel: 01582 617734.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Classes Wednesdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., Orley Farm School, South Hill Ave, Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Sheena Henderson, 92a Kenton Road, Kenton HA3 8AE. Tel: 020 8907 6581.
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8-10 p.m., September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30 to 11.00 p.m. Tilbury Hall (URC), Darks Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.
- HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to July, tuition followed by social dancing. Also monthly Saturday dances and ceilidhs. All at Heston Methodist Church Hall. Details from Mrs Rosemary Mitchell, Tel: 01784 254401.
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP.** Thursdays 7.30-10 p.m. at Trinity Primary School, La Grande Route de la Trinité. Details from Helen McGugan tel/fax: 10534 854459 or Alan Nicolle email: alan_nicolle@yahoo.co.uk, tel: 01534 484375.
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** meet Wednesdays September to June at Holy Trinity & St. John's C. of E. Primary School, St. John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7.00 to 8.00 p.m. General 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. Tel: 01843 869284.
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Some major functions held at other London venues. Details: adverts in *The Reel* or contact Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG. Tel: 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096.
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8.00 p.m. at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courrier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, tel: 01628 628372. www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk
- MAIDSTONE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday 8.15 - 10.15 p.m. at The Grove Green Community Hall, District Centre, Grove Green, Maidstone. Details from Peter Green, 65 Willington Street, Bearsted, Maidstone ME15 8JR, Tel: 01622 737649.
- MARKET HARBOROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesday 7.30-10.00 p.m. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, "Lazonby", 9 Little Lunnun, Duntun Bassett, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 5JR. Tel: 01455 209446.
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing Thursdays 8.00 to 10.15 p.m. at St. Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Miss Kate Penny, 133 Broom Hill Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3LQ. Tel: 01634 716644
- MID SUSSEX CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Events throughout the year at various venues. Members of SASS. Classes held before St. Andrews/Burns. Contact Mike Roberts, Bodimans, Two Mile Ash, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 0LA. Tel: 01403 732408, e-mail: mike_roberts@which.net.
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS.** Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details from Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Blechley, Milton Keynes. MK3 5LP. Tel: 01908 378730, e-mail: jan@jange.f9.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. from September to May at Roecroft School, Stotfold. Informal Saturday Dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds. SG17 5AL. Tel: 01462 812691.
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dancing 7.45 - 10.00 p.m. most Wednesdays at Methodist Church Hall, Crayford. Beginners welcome. Details: Bill MacFarlane, 26 Lewis Road, Istead Rise, Northfleet, Kent DA13 9JD. Tel: 01474 832801.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 7.45-10.15 p.m. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Classes Mon eves at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details Mrs. P. J. French, 20 Beaumont Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent, BR5 1JN. Tel: 01689 873511.
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Gordon Lloyd, 47 Begbroke Cresc., Begbroke, Oxford OX5 1RW. Tel: 01865 375799.
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Rita Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Tel: 0118 975 7507. www.scottishdancingreading.org.
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00 p.m. from mid September to end of May. All welcome. For information contact 020 8977 4304.
- SANDERSTEAD SCOTTISH DANCERS.** Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, South Croydon. Details: Joyce Patrick, tel: 020 8657 6138.
- ST. ALBANS & MID HERTS CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing most Fridays from October to March. Group meets at Homewood Road U.R. Church Hall, Sandpit Lane, St. Albans at 8.00 p.m. Details from Mrs I. Smallwood, 26 Gresford Cl, St. Albans, AL4 0UB. Tel: 01727 760878.
- ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON).** The Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB. Tel: 020 8540 1755.
- ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.** Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Sept to May, 7.15 to 10 p.m. Admission free except for six 'Band Nights' when tickets cost £6 inc. supper. Beginners welcome and there is step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details from Bob Harman, tel: 020 7630 1639 (day) or 020 8642 7192 (eve), e-mail smallpipes@aol.com.
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Penelope Fisk, Sunnybank Cottages, 15 Maidstone Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3BY. Tel: 01732 457327.
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from September to May 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., at the Sheen Lane Centre, SW14. Details from Brian Cresswell, 16 Cole Rd, Twickenham, Middx TW1 1EZ. Tel: 020 8892 0471.
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00 to 10.15 p.m. throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details from Terry Boorman, 15 Old Farm Road West, Sidcup, DA15 8AG. Tel: 020 8302 2974.
- SOMERSET BRANCH RSCDS.** Classes at Monteclefe School, Somerton: Beginners & others Mon. 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Experienced dancers Thurs. 7.45 - 9.45 p.m. Children Sats: 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon. Ladies Step Classes monthly Fri 8 - 10 p.m. at Kingsdon. Details from: Sheila Barnes, Tel: 01458 223596.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ. Tel: 01305 265177.
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Fridays, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near the hospital). Tuition 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Anne Chandler. Tel: 01702 294645.
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS.** Classes in Hertford. Sept to May. Demonstration (alternate) Mon 8 pm, St Johns Hall, Inter/Adv Tues 7.45 pm, Bengoe School. Beginners Thurs 7.45 pm. Bengoe School. Dances 2nd Friday each month 7.45 - 10.45pm. Details: Mrs Maureen Ainsworth, tel: 01279 434342 or John Brace, tel: 01438 717420.
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15 p.m. at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details from Brenda Hinton, Tel: 01273 595017.
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday at 8 p.m. September to mid June at St. Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details from David Horwill, 32 Wolsley Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY. Tel: 01932 784866.
- THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON** meets at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1, every Tuesday from October to end of May for Scottish Country Dancing, 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Tom Symington. Tel: 020 7834 7151 or 020 7828 6792.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners. General and Advanced classes on Mon, Tues, Thurs, 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., at St. Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details from Mrs Eileen Orr, 10 Oaklands Road, Groombridge, TN3 9SB. Tel: 01892 864531.
- WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** hold weekly adult classes for, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs Maggie Westley, 56 Mount Park, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4PS. Tel/Fax: 020 8647 9899, e-mail: mwestley@bibra.co.uk.
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Class at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey (adjacent to Bushey Golf and Country Club). Thursdays from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., Details from Stuart Kreloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford, Herts WD17 4GE. Tel: 01923 492475.
- WAVERLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Winchester, every Thursday from September to the end of June, 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details: Mrs Pat Mumford, tel: 02380 252570.
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Mondays 8.00 p.m. Dance Class. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details from Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford. WD19 5HF. Tel: 020 8421 0470.
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., Club night (all abilities) Wednesday 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., Both evenings take place at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details from Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ. Tel: 01264 363293, e-mail wendy@mumford.com.
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from Mrs Rita Gorrie, 14 Coleridge Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 6DH. Tel: 01621 854006.
- WOKINGHAM:** St. John's SDC meet every Thurs 8 - 10.15pm Sept to May at St. Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Tel: Sue Davis 01344 774344, 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne. Also Children's Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, tel: Deborah Draffin 01344 776831.