



# The Reel

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
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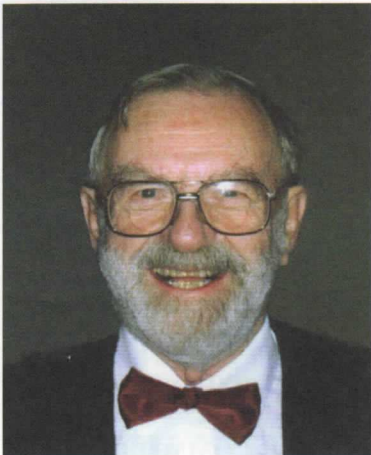
No 254

DECEMBER 2005 TO FEBRUARY 2006

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

## LONDON BRANCH AWARD

The London Branch Executive Committee is pleased to announce the bestowal of a Branch Award on Ian Anderson



Iris Anderson

Ian Anderson, a life member, first joined the Society through the London Branch in 1951 since when he has been continuously in the forefront of activities supporting Scottish Country Dancing. His earliest association was as a member of the much sought after Demonstration Class from 1952 to 1962 during which time in 1957 he led a team of dancers from the Class to Holland on a hectic round of performances. He was a member of the Branch Executive Committee from 1956 to 1976 and again from 1988 to 1996.

In those earlier days after the war, the Branch ran highly popular monthly Members' Dances at the Royal Scottish Corporation Hall in Fetter Lane. Ian ran those from 1956 to 1976, selling tickets by post (obligatory in those days), arranging refreshments with outside caterers, and being the MC at every dance but one during that period. He was involved in the changeover from the RSC, Fetter Lane to St Columba's Hall in Pont Street following the *Farewell to Fetter Lane* dance in 1973. In addition he ran Weekend Schools at Pulborough at Easter from 1965 to 1968 and a Hogmanay weekend in 1966.

Latterly, Ian has been promoting the Branch through sales in the Bookstall, which he has run since 1988. It is not all mail order, for he transports his 'shop' to dancing events throughout the year. Most of the work he does on his own, but he is helped by his wife Iris, who takes some telephone calls; she also plays a major role in the Branch as Archivist.

*Our congratulations to Ian*

## OUR DANCERS ON SHOW AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL



Alan Thrower

### *Our President writes:*

This auspicious occasion was an exhibition of movement and dance celebrating 70 years of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR). It was truly a kaleidoscope of colour and form. The Scottish Country dancing display by dancers from the London Branch and from Branches in the South East of England was popular with the large audience. The sheer size of the arena at the Albert Hall is daunting to any group of performers, so Angela Young, the SCD producer, earned much deserved congratulations and appreciation for her expert use of the space, and for her imaginative choreography. The Scottish Country Dancers were more than equal to the occasion and really deserved their enthusiastic reception.

Mary Stoker

Read the full report of the Albert Hall Extravaganza on page 2.

### *Also in this issue:*

- P6. Dancing at Summer School
- P6. Playing at Summer School
- P8. Obituaries: Brian Hamilton, Jo Wilson, Muriel Gibson, James Senior.
- P9. St. Columba's at 50.
- P10. London Branch Day School 2005.
- P10. Entente Cordiale Part 2.
- P11. Francis Peacock, dancing master of Aberdeen.
- P13. London members abroad.
- P13. Family dancing in Troon.
- P14. Robin Ellis' 50 years of playing for SCD.

.... and much more!



Alan Thrower

Issue No 255 will be with UK based members by 18th February 2006 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent to the Editor, Wilson Nicol, 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS, tel: 020 8763 4173, email: editor@rscdslondon.org.uk, to arrive by **14th January**. (Issue No 256 will arrive by 13th May 2006).

## The Extravaganza

On Saturday 24th September the Central Council for Physical Recreation celebrated the 70th anniversary of its foundation with a mass display by members of its Movement and Dance Division: a varied programme which lasted more than three hours and included 27 different items.

Prominent among these was a splendid display of Scottish Country Dancing, promoted by the South-East Branches and performed by 52 dancers drawn from those Branches and from other groups in the area. Rehearsals were funded by a grant from the Jean Milligan Fund and by generous contributions from the Croydon, London, Oxfordshire and Tunbridge Wells Branches. Lorna Ogilvie was the Society's representative at the event. Simon Wales was the linkman between Headquarters, the CCPR and the S.E. Branches Co-ordinating Committee, and Angela Young was teacher and choreographer for the display. Sandra Smith and Jean Harrison provided music for rehearsals and Neil Esslemont piped for the actual display.

The dances performed were *The Duke of Atholl's Reel*, *12 Coates Crescent*, *Fifty Years On* and *Nice to See You* – at first glance not a very showy group, but what was really impressive was the choreography which used these dances to fill the whole space of the arena (as few others did) and changed orientation almost magically from couples dancing round the room, into a six-spoke wheel on one axis, into another on a different axis – with changed partners – and finally into three facing three for the last dance which finished with small circles melting into one large circle for the last eight bars. A challenging routine, to which the dancers responded confidently, holding the floor patterns well and covering excellently in their lines. Neil Esslemont, the London Branch piper was resplendent in full Highland dress and earned a special cheer as he marched off.

There was a rich variety of movement and dance on display in the rest of the programme, with participants of all ages from 6 to 76. Outstanding for me was an immensely moving performance by dancers in wheelchairs or carrying other often severe handicaps, supported by a team of devoted and inspiring helpers. At the other extreme was a large team from the Bromley Valley Gymnastic Centre, performing breathtaking somersaults and feats of balance in tall pyramids to two fizzing tunes from *Chicago*. Filling the whole floor were 40 to 50 ladies from the Fitness League, elegant, beautifully co-ordinated and with lines covered throughout, to a big-band recording of *Tuxedo Junction*.

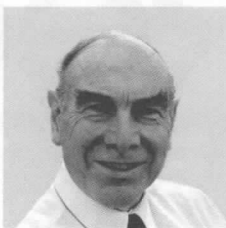
On the whole I found the music disappointing. Inevitably most of it was taped - no great harm in that, though it did mean that any live music made a special impact, for instance our piper, a strong fiddle band playing for a medley of Irish dances, and an unusual four-piece band (accordion, drum, trumpet and tuba!) playing for three Serbian circle dances. On tape we occasionally heard real tunes played on real instruments and these went down well, but for one of my generation it was sad to see so many of these lively groups performing to thumping, synthesised music. Is this really the only dance music of today? If so, aren't we the lucky ones, with our stimulating tuneful music and our hundreds of good, real tunes having both melody and form.

Nevertheless, the overriding impression was one of vigour, energy, and the joy of music and movement fused together. There were 850 performers of all types and ages who had attracted an audience which filled practically every seat in the Albert Hall. Dance of whatever form is life-enhancing, as we all know, and it was good to see Scottish Country Dancing playing a significant part in the wider scene of this splendid pageant.

**Dennis Tucker**

Secretary to S.E. Branches  
Co-ordinating Committee

## EDITORIAL



Many of our readers are familiar with the modern dance The Dancing Master written for Bill Ireland on his retreat from teaching the London Demonstration Class. It led me to

think about the earlier days of dancing. Dancing has been a general hobby of Scots (and others) since around 1700, first among the gentry and subsequently extending to the rest of the population. How did they learn the dances and how to dance in those days? The answer in most cases was from Dancing Masters! One of the first and most famous was Francis Peacock centred on Aberdeen in the second half of the eighteenth century. He is the subject of our first article in the Dancing Master Series. In London at the beginning of the nineteenth century we had Thomas Wilson who taught a wide range of dance types including Scottish. Throughout that century there were many around Scotland – the Lowe family in Perthshire, Scott Skinner in Aberdeenshire, D G MacLennan in Edinburgh, James Neill and Dancie Reid in Angus, the Adamsons in Fife, George Maxwell in East Lothian, and the Muir family in Lanark to mention but a few. They taught both gentry and ordinary folk but in separate classes, the fees for the former being higher than for the latter. All taught etiquette of dancing and were very strict that the rules were followed in their classes and finishing balls. It appears that figures and timing were more important than accuracy of footwork. Dance is a continually developing art form and this was reflected in the teachers' repertoires, which covered a wide range of dance type and moved with the times. Most of the teachers were musicians (fiddlers) and were expected to play for their own classes dancing and playing simultaneously – there was not the benefit of canned music in those days! Most had bands, usually family members, to play for local balls. Bands thought nothing of walking or cycling home ten miles or so after the ball: few could afford wheeled horse transport. At the start of the twentieth century Dancie Reid led Reid's Orchestra which was the 'Jimmy Shand' of its day in Scotland.

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, *The Scottish Country Dancer*.

Membership applications and enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Owen Meyer, 50 Bunby Road, Stoke Poges, Bucks SL2 4BP. Tel: 01753 643461.

## 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, Owen Meyer, Rosemary Tilden.

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e-mail: wiltonrachel@hotmail.com

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W Sussex, BN 14 8HE.  
Tel: 01903 530750.  
e-mail: jtr@ctg.co.uk

#### Hon. Secretary:

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e-mail: lonsec@yahoo.co.uk

#### 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

**Youth:**.....Andrew Kellett, Malcolm Ferris Lay,  
Angela Young

**Classes:**.....Lena Robinson,  
Malcolm Ferris Lay, Moira Strutt,  
*Day School:* Margaret Catchick,

**Dances:**..... Rachel Wilton, Margaret Catchick,  
Lindsay Merriman, Moira Strutt, Cherry West

**Demonstrations:**... Jeff Robertson, Angela Young,  
Joan Desborough\*, James Fairbairn\*

**Publicity:** ..... Jeff Robertson, Rita Marlow\*,  
Lindsay Merriman, Wilson Nicol,  
Moira Strutt, Meryl Thomson

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

**Membership:** ..... Owen Meyer\*

**Bookstall:** ..... Ian Anderson\*

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

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

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

**Combined Societies:** ..... Rachel Wilton

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

\*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

### Website

www.rscdslondon.org.uk

### Objects of London Branch

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

- preserving and furthering the practice of traditional Scottish Country Dances;
- providing or assisting in providing instruction in the dancing of Scottish Country Dances;
- promoting the enjoyment and appreciation of Scottish Country Dancing and Music by any suitable means.

## BRANCH MATTERS

### Chairman's Message

It has been a busy 3 months – starting with a dance to David Cunningham's excellent music, then the Royal Albert Hall performance, the Entente Cordiale return visit, the Day School, the Family dance; a group of delegates enjoyed a weekend in Perth, representing the Branch at the Society's Annual General Meeting: read all about it in the following pages.

Classes have got off to a good start, thanks partly to the very accessible information on our website maintained meticulously by Meryl Thomson, but there is always room for more dancers at every level.

I hope you have all enjoyed reading your new magazine, *The Scottish Country Dancer*. The next delivery, direct from Headquarters in Edinburgh, will be in January and the editorial board are very happy to receive contributions – it is YOUR magazine and it is delivered world wide – if you are a member and have not received a copy please contact Owen Meyer (see page 2).

You will all be ready to dance the evening away to the excellent music of Craigellachie on December 17th, and, once the festive season is over, come back to St. Columba's to our Burns Night and Ceilidh Dance – a wonderful opportunity to bring non-dancing friends and family to join the fun of dancing. In March we have a programme of dances to appeal to the less experienced, but with David Hall and his band playing the music will be so good dancers of all abilities will enjoy themselves.

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

Rachel Wilton

### Website

The Branch website is packed full of information for both the experienced and inexperienced dancer. It continues to give information on Branch activities as well as classes, dances and Musicians' workshops in the SE of England. Our links page provides a section with links to many SCD groups worldwide as well as a section with useful links to all aspects of music and dance.

New this year is the addition of cribsheets for all Branch dances. You can visit the Branch Dances page and download a cribsheet in PDF format for each dance. Another new feature is the "Forms and Fliers" page. Here you can view application forms for Branch events and download publicity fliers for Branch classes and dances.

Our aim is to provide a vibrant and informative site. Any feedback is welcome, just contact Meryl at [webmaster@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@rscdslondon.org.uk) with suggestions.

### Committee Affairs

The London Branch Committee next meets on 8th December, 2005, then 30th January, 2006

For business reasons Roman Ryczkowycz has resigned from the Committee. We are sorry to miss his professional contribution to the work of the Committee.

### Constitution

The London Branch Constitution will shortly be posted on the Branch Webpage, [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

Any member who would prefer to have a paper copy should contact the Branch Secretary, Pamela Ellam.

## THE SOCIETY AGM IN PERTH

5th November 2005

Over 600 members from all over the world attended the Ball on Friday night dancing to the music of Colin Dewar and his Band with a programme compiled by the Japanese branches. On Saturday morning members joined in discussions on various topics or attended a class taken by Branch member David Hall, accompanied by the excellent Gillian Cummins and Judith Smith.

Stewart Adam chaired the 76th AGM of the Society in the afternoon. Members were saddened by the recent death of Muriel Gibson, a well loved and dedicated Secretary of the Society and latterly one of the Vice-Presidents. Seven members were awarded the Society's Scroll of Honour for outstanding work to Scottish Country Dancing over many years: four from overseas Branches, and the three from the UK, Bruce Frazer (Borders), Jessie Harper (South Argyll) and Johan MacLean (Glasgow), received their Scrolls from the Vice-President.

The convenors reported on progress, particularly the introduction of the new twice a year magazine 'Scotland Country Dancer', which has replaced the bulletin.

The temporary staff shortage at HQ will soon be resolved. Richard Turnbull presented a healthy set of Accounts but warned of complacency.

A motion proposed by the Banffshire branch, to lower the age of candidates taking Units 1 and 2 (the old Preliminary) part of the teaching certificates from 18-16 to encourage young candidates generated a lively discussion, but it was decided that the minimum age would remain at 18 as at present, in line with educational guidelines in Scotland.

Lawrence Boyd was elected the new Convenor of the General Purposes and Finance committee, taking over from Richard Turnbull. The current London members on the Management Board, having served their 3 years, retired but Jeff Robertson, our vice-chairman was elected to serve for three years.

The meeting closed with Stewart Adam thanking members of the various committees and reported that the Board is considering the problem of the declining number of members. He said that we must be tolerant of the different styles of dancing. The next AGM will be held in Aberdeen next November.

The less formal Saturday evening dance had excellent music provided by Marian Anderson and her Band and was hosted by the Newcastle Branch.

Many thanks to the staff at HQ for organising the weekend.

Owen Meyer

## NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

The new magazine, 'The Scottish Country Dancer', has been well received worldwide and the editorial board is collecting material for future issues.

A 'technical committee' will be formed from the Education and Training and the Membership Services Committees for dealing with enquiries on dances and techniques.

CDs of Books 6,15,16 and 28 are now available and also of the Children's Medal Test Dances.

John Wilkinson has been appointed Schools Director Designate: he will work with Linda Gaul, the present Director, for the year 2005/6, and then succeed her.

The Summer School Committee is considering ways of ensuring that every dancer is in a class that corresponds with their ability, after the analysis of the Dancing Proficiency Assessment questionnaires showed a large majority wanting some way to be found to grade classes.

Members will be saddened to hear of the death of Miss Muriel Gibson, secretary of the Society for 13 years until 1988; she had a phenomenal knowledge of the Society from the largest Branch to the smallest affiliated group and her integrity, energy, efficiency, loyalty, enthusiasm and total commitment to all she had undertaken made an abiding impression upon Society members. A great memory when you dance 'Miss Gibson's Strathspey'.

With thousands of dances available worldwide, the less experienced dancer is faced with a daunting repertoire – even locally. This has been cited as one of the reasons the Society may be

losing members. The Membership Services Committee (MSC) at Headquarters is planning a 'Core Repertoire' of 100 to 150 of the more universally popular dances which it is hoped would form a substantial proportion of all Branch programmes. This would limit but not preclude the number of local or abstruse dances. The MSC is seeking comments, and nominations from members of dances for potential inclusion. Contact the Society secretary, preferably by email to [msconvenor@rscds.org](mailto:msconvenor@rscds.org)

It has been decided that the Society will not hold an official Day of Dance every year. Notwithstanding, the Conseil International de la Danse will be holding a Day of Dance on Saturday 29th April, 2006. Branches may decide to observe this day. More details on the Society website and on [www.unesco.org/ngo/cid](http://www.unesco.org/ngo/cid)

Rachel Wilton

### BRANCH BADGES

As part of the Branch 75th Anniversary celebrations it was decided to create a new Branch Badge.

This new badge is based on the rectangular *Reel* masthead logo and is available in a smart enamel and polished finish. These are modestly priced at £3.50 and are available from Jeff Robertson on 01903 530750, 020 7730 9633 or [jtr@ctg.co.uk](mailto:jtr@ctg.co.uk) or from Ian Anderson at the Branch Bookstall on 01420 84599 or [bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk).

Please continue to support your Branch.

Jeff Robertson

### BRANDED GARMENTS UPDATE

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

Order forms are available from Jeff Robertson on tels: 01903 530750, 020 7730 9633 or [jtr@ctg.co.uk](mailto:jtr@ctg.co.uk), or from the Branch Website [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://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 logo will be as above, with a gold crown and silver lettering on the darker garments.

Please continue to support your Branch.

Jeff Robertson

## BRANCH DANCES

### BURNS' SUPPER AND CEILIDH DANCE

Saturday 14th January 2006  
7.00pm - 11.00p.m.

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1  
**The Invercauld Scottish Dance Band**

Come and enjoy a traditional Burns' Supper with haggis (including a splash of whisky), neeps and tatties, piped in and addressed in the immortal way. There will be ceilidh dancing with an experienced caller and inspiring music from the band. This is a great chance to share with your friends and family the fun of Scottish music and dancing.

Admission: £9.50 for RSCDS members,  
£12.00 non-members,  
including a glass of wine and supper.

Tickets in advance (send S.A.E.) from Rachel  
Wilton, 31, Kensing Road, London SE10 0LL.  
Tel. 020 8858 7729

E mail wiltonrachel@hotmail.com  
(a pair of tickets would make a wonderful  
Christmas present!)

### DANCE

Saturday 25th March 2006  
7.00 p.m. - 10.30 p.m.

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

Good Hearted Glasgow .....	Knapman
The Reel of the 51 <sup>st</sup> Division .....	13-10
Monymusk .....	11-2
Jessie's Hornpipe .....	8-9
Mairi's Wedding .....	Cosh
Wind on Loch Fyne .....	Dunedin
Hamilton House .....	7-10
Rakes of Glasgow .....	11-11
The Eightsome Reel .....	2-12
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig .....	5-8 2-3
The White Cockade .....	5-11
Sugar Candie .....	26-9
The Machine Without Horses.....	12-12
The Dashing White Sergeant .....	3-2
Fair Donald .....	29-4
Strip the Willow .....	1-7
The Robertson Rant .....	39-8
The Duke of Perth .....	1-8

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

### SUBSCRIBE TO THE REEL

If you are not a member of the  
London Branch order your copy of  
*The Reel* from

Rita Marlow, 17 West Farm Close,  
Ashted, Surrey KT21 2LH,  
tel: 01372 812821,

e-mail: rusmar.ashted@virgin.net.

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

### BOOK OF LONDON BRANCH DANCES

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the London Branch, a collection of dances which had previously appeared separately in *The Reel* has been published. The book costing £4.50 to members (and £5.00 to non members) is now on sale. Get your copy from the Branch Bookstall, Tel 01420 84599.

## DEMONSTRATION TEAM

The demonstration class started the season with its usual busy programme of events including the Epsom Caledonian Club Garden Party in August and appearances at Kensington Gardens and the Regent Business College in September.

The Team participated in the Branch Day School Ceilidh on 15th October to much acclaim, and appeared in Dance Around the World at Cecil Sharp House the following day. It was rather nice to see Dave, Judy and Emily Hall at the Day School. At the time of writing we are looking forward to the Branch Children's Dance, Morley College, the Branch Christmas Dance and a plethora of Burns Suppers.

Angela's teaching and choreography go from strength to strength and she continues to keep us all on our toes. Her enthusiasm and encouragement are most welcome. Our thanks also to Sandra Smith, the class musician.

I am delighted that James Fairbairn has agreed to become the next Class Convener following an interim period where we will be working in parallel. As part of the greater exercise, Gaynor is stepping down and Joan Desborough has kindly offered to undertake some of the secretarial duties. Our sincere thanks are due to Gaynor, our tireless organiser, for her considerable efforts over the past few years. Reading through the files I can see just how much she has been doing in the background, which few see and appreciate.

Our best wishes go to Maureen Campbell and we hope for a speedy return to the class following her knee operation. Best wishes also to Heather Battson who has moved to Scotland with her new job.

Publicity material for the class is available on the Branch website and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who has good quality recent pictures of the team in action.

We are always keen to welcome dancers with a high standard of technique, a wide knowledge of dances, and an ability to respond quickly to instructions, so anyone interested in joining the team please get in touch with me on tel: 01903 530750 or 020 7730 9633, email jtr@ctg.co.uk.

**Jeff Robertson**

### BRANCH BOOKSTALL

*At your service*

*Books and CDs for Scottish Dancers*

Mail order from Ian Anderson,

104 Whitewall Lane, Alton,

Hants GU34 1QR.

Tel: 01420 84599

e-mail: bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk

10% reduction on RSCDS  
publications and recordings bought by  
members.

Please state your Branch when  
ordering.

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

## YOUTH SECTION

### Spring Fling 2006

31st March - 2nd April  
A weekend of Scottish Dance for  
16 - 35 year olds in Newcastle

- ★ Organised by young people for young people
- ★ Classes for beginners and for experienced dancers
- ★ Optional classes
- ★ Social dancing in the evenings

More details on the website: www.rscds.org  
or contact Andrew Kellett (see above).

Young dancers in the London area may apply to the Branch for a subsidy to help meet the cost of the weekend.

### Children's Corner

*Visit by Pudsey Bear*

Kafoozalum provided the music for our first children's dance of the season on 29th October. Everyone joined in enthusiastically, encouraged by Angela Young's helpful instructions for the dances. Special guest was Pudsey Bear, who accepted the proceeds from the raffle on behalf of the BBC's Children in Need Appeal and joined members of the Branch demonstration team in leading the children through "A Jig for Pudsey Bear".

### Children's Classes

Saturdays 10th December 2005, 14th January,  
4th February and 11th March 2006.  
10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

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

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

£2.00 per child (including drink)  
Adults welcome to stay

### Children's Medal Tests

Saturday 4th March 2006

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

Teachers are most welcome to enter their pupils for the RSCDS Medal Tests for Children. The day is organised by London Branch and we do our best to make it a relaxed and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

If you would like more information, including details of the syllabus, please get in touch with Andrew Kellett, 22 Chestnut Drive, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 4EN.  
Tel 020 8301 1403.

### Children's Day

Saturday 25th March

St Columba's Church Hall, Pont St, SW1.

Class: ..... 11.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
(Admission £2.00)  
Lunch will be available (£1.00).

Children's Dance: ..... 2.00 - 4.30 p.m.  
**David Hall and his Band.**

Admission £2.50 (whole day ticket £5.00)  
Details, including programme, will appear in the next issue of *The Reel*.

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

## 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	7.15 - 9.15	St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1	Gaynor Curtis / Ken Martlew
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	7.15 - 9.15	For details contact Jeff Robertson, 01903 530750	Angela Young / Sandra Smith
GENERAL (Central)	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30	St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1	Jeni Rutherford

Spring term commences in the week beginning 9th January and ends in the week beginning 20th March. The half term break is in the week beginning 13th February. All enquiries about classes to Lena Robinson 020 7584 2476.

### STEP DANCING

Joan Desborough is continuing Step Dancing Classes in The Scout Hut, Kings Langley into 2006 to live fiddle music by Wendy Desborough. The dates are Sundays 22nd January and 4th June. *Please note change of dates.* Classes will be 10.30-12.30 and 1.45-3.45 and will continue the theme of Jenny Greene's ladies' step dances. Joan will welcome anyone who wants to come and try step dancing. Further details from Joan Desborough, telephone: 01442 826629.

### HIGHLAND CLASSES

Thursdays 12th January 2006, 16th February and 16th March.

7.00 - 9.00 p.m.

Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London WC2.

Teacher: ..... **Malcolm Ferris-Lay**  
 Musician: ..... **Sandra Smith**

Further details from Malcolm,

Tel: 01279 425081

or email: malcolm@williamsonmagor.com

### WHICH CLASS?

For those wondering which dance to attend, the following guide may help:

#### Elementary

Suitable for those with little or no experience of Scottish Country Dancing, as basic steps and formations plus simple dances will be taught.

#### Popular

For those with a confident knowledge of steps and formations such as Allemande, Poussette, Set and Turn Corners, Reels of Three, Rights and Lefts and Double Triangles. Other formations will be introduced and a wide selection of dances taught.

#### Technique

A reasonable standard of performance and a good knowledge of all formations will be expected. This class will be devoted to improving performance and understanding of all dances.

#### General

For dancers of all ages and abilities.

Lena Robinson

### TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Many thanks to those who have expressed an interest in this - there will be an inaugural meeting on Saturday 14th January 2006 in the Library at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1 starting at 2 p.m.. This meeting will decide the scope and remit of such an organisation and start the development process.

This meeting is open to all teachers who would like to participate and who have ideas on the many facets of teacher support and continuing development.

Please let Simon Wales know (by email preferably, at [simon\\_wales@talk21.com](mailto:simon_wales@talk21.com)) if you will be attending, or alternatively if you would like to be kept informed and cannot make this date.

### Teaching Exam Pass

James Fairbairn who lives in the Oxford area has passed his Teacher's Certificate at St Andrews Summer School this year.

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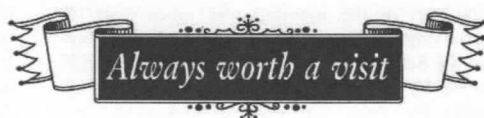
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## 'TRUSTY FIERES AND GUDE-WILLIE WAUGHTS'



Mens Highland Class — Argyll Broadswords

Stephen Webb

It is a truism of attending the annual RSCDS Summer School at St Andrews, especially in your customary week, that each year you fear it won't be the same and can't possibly be as good as last; and then of course, it is. Totally different, of course, but yet reassuringly the same, as you slip comfortably (on the first day, anyway, before the agony sets in...) into the

familiar routine whilst being assailed by this year's fresh impressions. There is always an element of continuity: the recognisable regulars, the structure of day and week, the welcome breakfasts; but also of change: new personnel, new schemes to encourage beginners to dance over new ground, coax a bit more effort out of weary limbs and facilitate the social aspect. Change and continuity: a bit like the tradition of

Scottish Country Dancing itself in fact.

Thus it was that as usual I approached this year's course with a mixture of excited anticipation and just such apprehension. I didn't think that this year could match last. Because of course as ever, I loved every minute. I am often asked if I still learn anything at Summer School and I always answer

somewhat hotly, not least because if you think that you have learnt all there is to know about Scottish Dancing, you must surely be not only horribly arrogant, but also woefully ignorant. There is always something to learn, or at the very least revise, in order to exorcise the bad

(Continued on page 7)



Recitation from Elizabeth Bennett at the Ceilidh

Stephen Webb

## THE MUSIC MAKARS

Those dancers who go to Summer School in St Andrews can't fail to have noticed that there are some people around who never turn up at dancing classes. They usually have name badges like everyone else but closer inspection reveals that they have added a stave of music or a few notes and the mention "Musician". Some years ago the RSCDS started to run a course specifically for musicians for one of the four Summer School weeks. Demand was such that it soon became two weeks (Weeks 1 and 3).

Who are these "musicians" and what do they do? They come in various shapes, sizes, nationalities and degrees of competence. There are accordion ladies, big sturdy Englishmen, delightful retired Scotsmen or women; fiddlers come packaged as a superbly competent, classically trained Japanese lady, a traditional Scottish fiddler, a "Geordie" grandmother who doesn't read music and plays by ear, or an earnest ex-pat Scotswoman who took up the fiddle late in life and "tries very hard". Add to these a sprinkling of pianists, Scots, English, American, experienced at straight piano-playing but fazed by the new challenge of vamping, plus a dashing young bass player from New Zealand, a Dutch flautist and an English saxophone-playing professor – and there you have the motley crew who virtually lived in the Party Room at University Hall for one week this summer. A cliquish lot, they often end up eating together too and if you eavesdrop near their table you will hear discussions about such matters of importance as *lead notes*, *transposing*, *slurring*, *C7 chords*, *that G natural in the last bar* ....

In Week 3 more than a dozen of these would-be dance band leaders and class musicians



Linda Grant

experienced the joy – and sometimes the anguish – of playing and learning under the leadership of Angela Young, Gordon Simpson and George Meikle (although the tutors might like to question who of the teachers and taught suffered more!) By 9.30 every day they were all there tuning up and trying out the music. The first part of the morning was given over to practising the tunes the whole group had to play on the Saturday evening. After a very welcome break for coffee (or for frantic colouring in of notes for those not able to sight-read fast enough, or for frenzied transposing of scores for those with awkward instruments), the class divided up according to instrument and each

tutor took a group where points specific to that instrument were discussed and pieces played applying particular techniques. Unlike dancers, musicians have no choice between activity and sloth after lunch, as it was back to the grindstone (millstone?) in small *ensembles* (e.g. two fiddles, two accordions and one pianist) to work on tunes (one each of reel, jig and strathspey) to be performed on Thursday in the Common Room. From about 4 p.m. freedom and relaxation were allowed to beckon officially, but more than one musician went off to his/her room to practise some more. One swot was even heard to boast that she had woken early so had gone down to practise at 7 a.m. in the Music Room! Such is

## ST. ANDREWS 2005

habits that creep in gremlin-like. I tend to choose the New Book class precisely so that at the very least I learn a totally new repertoire to keep the brain stimulated; and the new dances can sometimes be quite a challenge as any of you who have tried *Preston Mill* or the *Fairbridge Reel* will be aware! But there is always some new experience to be had. This year for example, I had Jenny Greene as a Country teacher, when I have been accustomed to her Step classes, and a new Step teacher, Pat Clark, who taught some of her own dances, and whose class was beautifully accompanied by Duncan Brown's violin; another novel experience, and one which afforded me a new and gratefully-received sensation of lightness and grace as I clod-hopped through the dances! Such modifications of the *status quo* change your perspective and ensure you don't get too comfortably complacent even or, heaven forbid, bored.

Being selected for the country demonstration of *Napier's Index* and *The Saltire Strathspey* from Book 45 in the Younger Hall on Thursday night tutored by the inimitable Janet Johnston, brings a mixture of feelings. One realises it is a great honour, and mindful that the practices are always instructive and nearly always fun, but it does mean the regretful sacrifice of lazy afternoons on the West Sands to the attainment of absolute precision in set-and-link and six-bar reels. I was also in the Ladies' Step

demonstration, about which we all felt particularly nervous as we were performing Pat's own composition, 'The Way tae Fife', and were anxious to do justice to it and her. Yet somehow, although I appreciate and enjoy Ladies' Step, it never compares in spectacle to Highland. The aspiration of a professional dancer is of course to make something horrendously difficult look blissfully easy, and the irritating thing about Ladies' Step is that it often looks unimpressively simple, but is actually terribly hard, and if you doubt this, gentlemen, you are invited to go along to Joan Desborough's step workshops and find out for yourselves!

One of the things that always strikes me about the Friday evening Ceilidh (apart from the obvious 'Thank God I don't have to dance tonight!') is the global element. We all have this much-loved hobby in common that brings us together, but during the Ceilidh we revel in our cultural differences through samples of native song and dance. In Week Four, for example, we were treated to an Australian Bush Dance, reminiscent of a wild and lusty Irish set dance, as well as Russian and Ukrainian solo dances. Simultaneously the occasion bears witness to the extended appeal that Scottish culture possesses, Lena Okolovitch from Russia giving a spirited rendition of a Burns song.

A new venture this year was the open-to-all

pre-prandial drinks venue known as 'the gathering-place'. I was asked by a slightly incredulous colleague if I knew *everybody* at Summer School, and somewhat guiltily recalled how I had felt as a first-timer when confronted by people who said hello to somebody on every corridor we frequented. It can sometimes seem like everyone in the world is rushing off to a drinks party apart from you, hence the introduction of the gathering place.

There is, of course, much more to be said: of the riotous (well, RSCDS-style!) evening conventions in the Younger Hall and Common Room, in which you get to visit the little-visited outer reaches of the dance books; of the splendid luxury of perpetual accompaniment by talented live musicians; of the informative episodes of stooing for the Preliminary and Full Certificates, vitally important in nurturing the next generation of teachers; of the impromptu chats over bacon and eggs with dancers from Outer Mongolia... well, almost... But I have not room to do all that justice here. I would like to finish by registering my grateful thanks to London Branch for the generous award from the Bill Ireland Memorial Fund that enabled me to attend Summer School this year, and to meet and dance with so many 'trusty fieres' once more, as well as partaking in the odd 'gude-willie waught' of course. 'Till next year!

Alice Stainer

## THE MUSIC MAKERS

the obsession of those on the Musicians' Course that experiences were compared about inability to read a book in bed at night because there were no longer words on the page but five black lines with dots, or the fact that some rooms seem to have been decorated with wallpaper covered in notes.

Why do they do it? Given the average age of the participants, there may be some truth in the notion that old dancers neither die nor fade away – they become musicians! Certainly there is real pleasure in playing all day and dancing every evening as being both a dancer and a musician is enriching for both activities. However, the danger is that one gets distracted by the music ("Ah, they're not playing

12342341", or "Good grief, they've kept the lead note in" or "Oh, what a clever arrangement of Mendelssohn's Wedding March") and forgets to dance when required. By Friday the more reticent are at last saying "Yes, I am enjoying myself". But the previous evening at a little drinks party in the Director's sitting room they have been heard to say that the atmosphere resembles the Syndrome of Stockholm [in which hostages end up siding with the hostage-takers] since they are bonding together through shared suffering and at the end of the week will probably finish up even loving the jailers!

In spite of everything, the "jailers" were indeed lovable – so knowledgeable about Scottish Dance music and such wonderful musicians themselves. Among never-to-be forgotten moments: Gordon pacing round the room from musician to musician first playing along with the others while lending an ear to individuals, then using his bow to conduct the group to keep the pace going with such energy and vitality, George's tales of how as bandleader he conveys his instructions to the other musicians, and Angela on Friday afternoon down on her knees in Victory Memorial Hall trying to tie the pianist's foot to the piano-stool to cure a persistent over-use of the pedal. In fairness to Angela, it's probably best to draw a veil over the interpretation the pianist put on this strange behaviour!

The hard work is rewarded when the moment comes to play for social dancing, and a room full of dancers (or, best of all, the Students' Union crammed full) moves to the sound of "our" music. But you really feel you've made it when at the party later in the evening, someone shouts "Eightsome Reel" and you play along with the others scattered around the room, five pianists at three pianos in corners all turning their backs on each other – yet it all comes together and a great

dance is had by all.

Angela, Gordon and George are to be thanked for working us so hard but giving us so much fun also. It would be great if there were such demand that there was a Musicians' Course all four weeks... Then more and more people would be able to experience the Syndrome of St Andrews.

Diane Sarran

### SUMMER SCHOOL 2006

Application forms for dancers and musicians will be available on the Society website [www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org), or from the Secretary at the beginning of 2006 for the Annual St Andrews Summer School comprising four separate weeks from 16th July to 13th August.

Once you have read the two articles on the 2005 Summer School you will want to keep a week or two free in your diary to join around 800 dancers and musicians from around the world. This is a unique event to enjoy the social activities, the classes, and to appreciate the best in dance music. There will be crèche facilities or children's activities provided at the University Sports Centre. There is a range of scholarships available from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund. In addition, all members under 21 and full time students up to the age of 25 attending the school on either a residential or non-residential basis are entitled to a £50 discount.

We also have our own Bill Ireland Memorial Fund Scholarships which will be for young people between 16 and 25 to attend the Society's Schools and to help young dancers in taking their teaching certificates. The Branch secretary can provide more details.

### 75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATING MUSICIANS

Last February we had to postpone our 'Celebrating Musicians' workshop and dance; this has now been arranged for

Saturday 13th May 2006

The workshop, led by David Cunningham whose band played for our September dance, will be held all day at Lady Margaret School, and then David, with all the musicians, will travel to St. Columba's to play for the evening dance.

Put the date in your diary for a wonderful evening's dancing.

## OBITUARIES

### BRIAN HAMILTON

Brian Hamilton died in hospital on 21st September 2005 at the age of 74. Brian's interest in music and dance began in his youth. He was a keen English country dancer during which time he met his wife, Patricia, leading to their marriage in 1956. Brian played accordion for English dancing in the late 1950s, and in the early 1960s began to play for Scottish in Flora Argent's Band. In 1964 he and Patricia founded the Brian Hamilton Band in which they played literally side by side until they retired in 2000.



The Brian Hamilton Band with Graham on drums and joined by fiddler Peter Macfarlane

Stephen Webb

### JAMES SENIOR

#### Dancing with Confidence

Mr Senior was born in Pittlessie, "the other side of Cupar". In those days, more than 80 years ago, there was only one wireless in the village. Mrs Senior was very fond of the singing of John MacCormack, so every Monday she would take the young James along to Sandy Clark's cobbler's shop to listen to Radio Athlone. But James didn't care very much for singing, he was much more interested in the various tools and equipment of the cobbler's trade which he found all around him. That was how a lifelong love affair with shoes began.

So it came about that at 14 James was apprenticed to Mr Faichney for six years, starting with the princely wage of 10/- (shillings) a week, rising eventually to 28/6 (28 shillings and six pence — £1.42p in today's money).

Having finished his arduous apprenticeship, Mr Senior became manager at Norwells of Perth earning £3.5s.0d + commission. It was at this time that he became involved with Scottish Country Dancing through Miss Milligan. "Now," said Miss Milligan, "I can help you, and you can help me." The requirement was to make dancing 'pumps'. Why the name 'pumps'? Well, Mr Senior explained that the shoes were all hand-made, no machines then. After they were finished on a 'turned pump last' they had to be turned right side out.

In 1944 Norwells sent him to St. Andrews. Right after the war Country Dancing was all the rage and by 1960 he was able to set out on his own leasing premises in Market Street, which he was soon able to buy, concentrating on the high quality, and made-to-measure shoes, as well as dance shoes.

Mr Senior's contribution to the dance was recognised in 2002 by the RSCDS, which conferred their highest award on him, the Scroll of Honour. This, in turn, led to a dance devised specially for him, "The James Senior of St. Andrews Strathspey", and a song was also composed, entitled "Mr James Senior of St. Andrews".

In 2001 Mr Senior decided he would retire. He sold the dancing shoe side of his business including his factory in Glenrothes, but retained a retail shop in South Street St Andrews to help his daughter.

Throughout the world, there must be literally hundreds of happy feet; thanks to Mr. James Senior!

*Adapted from an earlier article in St Andrews in Focus, July/August 2004*

Brian was a perfectionist.

He made great efforts to seek out, often obscure, originals for non-Society dances. One MC told me that the first time she was MC at a dance, Brian Hamilton was playing and was as always helpful and supportive. Others will have their own memories of this fine gentleman.

His funeral was held at Breakspear Crematorium in Ruislip on 3rd October. There was a very large attendance with the London Branch well represented. The esteem in which he was held by other musicians was evidenced by the number of musicians and bandleaders present. During the service Ian Muir played four of Brian's compositions on the accordion – a fitting tribute indeed. Brian's life apart from his devotion to music was a full one, being a great sportsman. His activities included, fishing, cricket, tennis and golf. He was, above all, a family man who involved his two sons in his sporting activities. Thus after the funeral, the family invited friends to join them at Northwood Golf Club of which Brian was a member.

Our sympathies are extended to Patricia, Ian, Graham and their families.

John Laurie

I would like to thank all those who were able to attend Brian's funeral, and also the many people who sent cards and letters. Brian would have been very gratified to know the high regard in which he was held. The warmth of feeling expressed has been a great comfort to the whole family at this difficult time.

Pat Hamilton

### JOSEPHINE WILSON

Jo as she preferred to be called, died from Pancreatic Cancer on 23rd February 2005 after many months of illness. She had been a member of the London Branch for many years, long before I met her in 1989. She had started Scottish Dancing in her home town of Beverley in East Yorkshire in her teens, and this she continued through her career as a nurse; firstly at Birmingham where she did her training at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, then later at Aberdeen where she obtained her first nursing appointment, later qualifying as a midwife. She went on a two-year exchange visit in the 1960s to the USA still dancing almost every week in New Jersey, Denver and Philadelphia. She later returned to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. At this time she danced in the Birmingham Branch demonstration team. On moving to London where she was at Hillingdon, Central Middlesex and at Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital where she was in charge of the Intensive Care Unit for babies. In London she started dancing with The Ealing Scottish Country Dance Club run by Frances Stamp, and then the London Branch. With persuasion from Frances she gained her Teaching Certificate under the guidance and instruction of Mary Stoker. This enabled her to help Frances with the teaching at Ealing until Frances died when she took over the running and teaching of the class.

Ian Wilson

### LIEUTENANT COLONEL MURIEL GIBSON

Muriel Gibson of *Miss Gibson's Strathspey* fame died in October at the age of 92. She had been in failing health for some time. We in the Society knew her as Secretary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society from 1975-1988 during which time she made an enormous contribution to the Society's development and expansion. Miss Gibson's knowledge of the Society from its largest Branch to its smallest affiliated group was quite phenomenal. Her professional advice was sought by office-bearers and members alike. She retired on the 75th Anniversary of the Society when John Drewry wrote a dance in her honour *The Colonel is a Lady* with music by Bill Clement. But it is *Miss Gibson's Strathspey* written by Derek Haynes that appears more frequently on dance programmes. During her tenure of office in the Society the RSCDS recognised and appreciated Miss Gibson's many qualities. Her integrity, energy, efficiency, loyalty, enthusiasm and above all her total dedication and commitment to the work of the Society made a lasting impression.

Her love of Scottish music and dancing was but one of her many interests. She had a distinguished career in the Women's Royal Army Corps serving in Africa, Italy and Germany during the war. Later, she was one time secretary of the Scottish National Party and of the Russian Ballet Group as well as being personnel director in Ferranti the electronics company.

In brief, her life centred around promoting at home and abroad the study and celebration of all things Scottish.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Traditional Dances

Hove, Sussex

Dear Wilson,

Mervyn Short is correct in asking for all Clubs and Associations to include more of the easier dances in their programmes. This does not imply exclusion of all difficult dances; there is room for a mixture. Unfortunately many organisations ask members to suggest their favourite dances, resulting in an unbalanced programme. At the other extreme on occasion programmes have proved to be too simple with the result that the programme has been completed, including the extras, with an hour to spare. It is also essential to know your target audience. On several occasions each year I organise an evening for inexperienced dancers, with simple dances each of which has to be demonstrated and walked through.

Elsewhere in the *The Reel* there is a plea to use more 'traditional' dances. There is more than one way of interpreting 'tradition'. Dancing is an art form that is continually evolving. Country dancing commenced nearly 500 years ago and has continually evolved. The recently devised complicated dance is a continuation of this 'tradition'. In that sense all Scottish country dances are traditional.

Are traditional dances those that do not incorporate new figures? Surely not. The ladies chain and balance-in-line were not traditional country dance figures, they both originated in the quadrilles. New country dances were devised to incorporate these non-traditional figures.

Or does 'tradition' mean going back to the origins of country dancing and performing dances in the manner intended by the original devisors? Many of the early dances died a natural death and if revived today would be unlikely to be popular. Surely any variation on the original intention of a devisor is a break in tradition. Unfortunately, it would be difficult to find any dance republished within the last 100 years which has been revived in its 'traditional' form. Many have been republished with different music, traditional figures have been replaced by new ones invented during the last century, the pattern of dances has been altered and dances have been truncated. The RSCDS is responsible for most of these changes and effectively created a completely new style of Scottish country dancing, better suited to the age in which we live. Long may this continue with our support; however, does the 'tradition' only date from 1923?

Excluding dances devised in the last eighty years, is there any dance in the current repertoire which is now performed in accordance with its original instructions?

Yours sincerely,

**John W. Mitchell**

### Fan Mail

Hemel Hempstead

Dear Wilson,

Some ball and dance programmes with encores and extras proceed apace, with little time even to catch a breath, couple this with the warmth being generated by all this dancing and it is easy to realise why we are seeing a resurgence of the fan.

For some, it has been sufficient to fan oneself using the dance ticket and on occasions even battery operated fans are to be seen. But, folding hand fans are also now being used by ladies (and sometimes gentlemen) to keep cool! These original style fans, it would seem, are

coming back into fashion!

Asking a lady for a dance is the beginning of a delightful responsibility and a social opportunity, which will last right up until she is escorted back to her seat. Is she confident to dance the dance, if not, she needs some guidance both before and possibly during the dance. Sometimes, the man will equally need that guidance. Putting ones partner at ease is important – she is to enjoy, one hopes, the dance with her partner. Thus, it is essential to be able to communicate with each other during the execution of the dance and this, not to the detriment of other dancers in the set by say, shouting directions. The use of eyes and hands can be the most effective means of communicating. However, a degree of flirtation will inevitable creep in. Use eye contact wherever possible, a smile at the right time and a guiding hand have always been part of enjoying the dancing.

So gentlemen, when approaching a lady who is holding a folding fan to ask her for a dance do be warned this could also be an act of flirtation as it could reveal much more than simply saying, isn't it hot!

In polite circles in the 18th and 19th Century, speaking to a gentleman wasn't as easy as it is today and so the fan, when held by a lady, became the recognised way of telling a gentleman how she felt about him!

Some examples:

Looking closely at the picture on the fan:

*"I like you"*

Running her fingers through the fan's ribs:

*"I want to talk to you"*

Letting the fan rest on the right cheek:

*"Yes."*

Quickly and impetuously closing the fan:

*"I'm jealous"*

Resting the fan on her lips:

*"I don't trust you"*

So be alert and miss not the language of the fan – it may be important! But seriously, I do wonder whether we shall really see ladies using the fan as a way of subtle conversation again – perhaps even just for fun?

**Stephen Webb**

*(Discover more about the messages that fans can impart by visiting The Fan Museum in Greenwich, London)*

*See also the fan on the back page*

### Dance Programmes

Hampton Hill, Middlesex

Dear Wilson,

Choosing the last dance in a programme requires some thought to make it easier for everyone to be on the floor for the last dance. A dance requiring the participation of four or five couples could lead to three or four couples being left out. Fortunately, this difficulty does not occur too frequently. Recently I was at a dance with five couples at the end of a line for Mairi's wedding. This meant that the fifth couple had to stand for two sequences before joining the dance and unless the fourth couple had cooperated might not even have had a turn as first couple. Although this arrangement is better than not dancing at all I wonder whether the MC shouldn't make three sets of three rather than a four and a five couple set.

What do other dancers think?

Yours sincerely,

**Bernard R. Bligh**

## ST. COLUMBA'S AT 50

It is probably true to say that when thinking about Scottish Country Dancing in central London, one's thoughts turn immediately to St. Columba's Church of Scotland in Pont Street, dancing home of the RSCDS London Branch, The London Highland Club, The Scottish Clans Association of London, The Chelsea Reelers and, of course, St. Columba's Scottish Country Dancers.

The first church to be built on the site was known as St. Andrew's Scottish National Church, eventually changed to St. Columba's and the foundation stone was laid on 3rd May 1883. That building was destroyed by enemy action on the night of 10/11th May 1941. The current beautiful building was designed by architect Edward Maufe, who also designed Guildford Cathedral. Her Majesty The Queen laid the foundation stone of the new St. Columba's in 1950 and as Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, opened the church on 4th December 1955. (As Honorary Regimental Colonel, Her Majesty paid a further visit in 1956 for the dedication of the London Scottish Regiment Memorial Chapel).

Fifty years later to the day, and to mark this very special anniversary, there will be a commemorative service on 4th December 2005 at which the Rt. Rev. David Lacy, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, will preach. The service will be followed by a celebratory lunch in the lower hall, the area I think, with which most dancers are familiar. Sheila Nicoll writes in the Church Magazine "The event will mark the launch of our special appeal – the Kirk Session has set the ambitious target of raising £250,000 to be spent on the fabric of the church so that we can pass the legacy of the beautiful building we have inherited to future generations. It may sound a lot of money but when the church was rebuilt, £90,000 was raised in 90 days – and that was worth a lot more than £250,000 these days".

On Monday 12th December St. Columba's Scottish Country Dancers will hold a Ceilidh to celebrate both the 50th anniversary of the church and their own 65th anniversary as well, when all are welcome. Dancing will be to David Hall's Band and John Laurie will MC – a double guarantee for a fun packed evening. The programme will include Piping, Highland Dancing, Singing and possibly a few surprises too. All this for £6 including supper, a glass of wine and a slice of birthday cake.

Do join us on 12th December and should you wish to make a donation for the upkeep of what is surely the spiritual home of Scottish Country Dancing in London, please send it to: The 50th Anniversary Appeal, St. Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD.

**Bob Harman**

Convener, St Columba's Scottish Country Dancers

Chislehurst, Kent

Dear Wilson,

Having just received my copy of Book 45, I was sorry to see that the original tune for the dance *The Dream Catcher* has not been included.

Should anyone require a copy of what I suppose might now be called the *original* original, I shall be happy to send them one on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

**Robin Ellis**

## THE LONDON BRANCH DAY SCHOOL 2005

On the morning 15th October, the sun shone, my shoes were in my bag, and I was doubting my sanity. Why had I signed up for the Full Day? The thoughts running through my head were, maybe I could just slip off early, or at any rate I definitely wouldn't be staying for the Ceilidh. How wrong I was.

The moment I arrived at Lady Margaret School I was reminded why I had signed up: the London Branch greet everyone with such a warm welcome and after a cup of coffee and a chat I was really looking forward to the day ahead.

In the morning I attended the Green Class – Response to the Music – this turned out to be an outstanding class. To spend a morning in the company of two such talented young men as David Hall and James Gray, as they helped us grasp an understanding of why the matching of the music to the dance, the phrase, and the step, are all so important, was a great privilege. Through the step practise and dances which David taught, we were able to experience how the music could hinder or ease the flow, David gave us some particularly good examples

using dances which had unusual or awkward phrasing. James, with apparent ease, played whatever tricks David demanded of him. The morning just flew by.

Lunchtime and the sun was still shining so we were able to enjoy not only an excellent lunch in good company, but also a stroll in the garden and some retail therapy at the Branch Bookstall.

In the afternoon I attended the Blue Class – Aim High – and once again we were so very fortunate as we had Margo Priestley as our teacher with James on the piano. Margo, with great aplomb, got the 'after lunchers' moving and in no time at all we were skipping up and down the room trying our best to improve our steps using the hints and example Margo put before us.

We danced *Scotland* trying to maintain our improved footwork in jig time and then *Stoorie Miller* with our improved strathspey steps. The final dance of the afternoon was a Drewry dance called *The St Nicholas Boat*, which despite being 48 bars long, we all really enjoyed, and we left the class on a high note.

Although I did not participate in the Highland Class I did watch and I know from my friends that they enjoyed David Queen's teaching and felt much more confident in their Highland Steps after only one hour of his teaching. I did also peek in on Angela teaching from the new London Book and that was also being very well received.

But the true Stars of the Day were the Members of the London Branch Committee and their many helpers who organised and administered the day. An enormous amount of effort is required to stage such an event and they did it so well. The catering was of course, as usual, outstanding.

Thank you and Congratulations ..... and then there was the Ceilidh, and yes, I was still there ..... but that's another story.....

Irene Edgar



Ceilidh item: "Two Irish Dancers", Andrew Nolan and Elaine Davis, from the Dem Class

Michael Nolan

## ENTENTE CORDIALE Part 2



Rachel Wilton, Chairman London Branch, and Fanny Moureauxnery, Chairman Paris Branch, with David Hall and Band

Stephen Webb

The return Entente Cordiale dance was held at Fourqueux just outside Paris on 24th September. Rachel Wilton with a sizable British contingent represented the London Branch. It was a happy affair with the occasion certainly living up to its name. The hospitality shown to the visitors was unsurpassed – the hall was nicely decorated, the music was superb from David Hall and the food was so delicate it was a treat to just gaze upon let alone eat it. And of course it was served with copious quantities of vin rouge. With a coach laid on to and from the hall every detail was taken care of. Undoubtedly, a memory not to be forgotten in a hurry.

Stephen Webb

Was it chance that the Paris leg of the Entente Cordiale celebrations slipped into 2005 when the British are celebrating the 200th anniversary of Trafalgar, and the French, Napoleon's victory at Austerlitz? National sensitivities, if any there were, evaporated in the dancing on Saturday 24th September at Fourqueux in St-Germain-en-Laye.

David Hall with *père et mère* and Judith Smith struck up before more than a hundred expectant dancers – French from all over France, British and a sprinkling of others. Ann Dix, radiant as ever, acknowledged the assembly's acclaim of *Vive La Danse*, the opening dance, and later the *Strathspey, Montparnasse*.

There was a cross-Channel feel to the programme with *Westminster Reel* and *Porchester Hall* featuring alongside *Seagreen* (Brodie Book-Carlyle-Robespierre) and another dance involving *la guillotine*. The latter brought a few brave souls onto the floor. Not I (Book 28/12). One has to draw a line somewhere – and I draw it after *la baratte* and before *la guillotine*. If a firm stance is not taken, the French will soon have taken over all the formations (as well as our utility companies) and we will be left with footwork and warm-up routines! In typical French style there were refreshments and chic canapes at the interval with not a teapot in sight.

Dancing went on until the wee hours of the Sabbath when delighted dancers departed into the damp darkness, some to participate in optional events later that same morning.

Peter Fyfe



Mary Stoker, Branch President, with Margo Priestley and David Queen

Stephen Webb

### BOSWELL DANCES

An extract from the *Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides* by James Boswell.

Saturday 2nd October, 1773.

In the evening the company danced as usual. We performed, with much activity, a dance which, I suppose, the emigration from Sky has occasioned. They call it *America*. Each of the couples after the common involutions and evolutions, successively whirls round in a circle, till all are in motion; and the dance seems intended to shew how emigration catches, till a whole neighbourhood is set afloat.

We danced to the musick of the bagpipe, which made us beat the ground with prodigious force. I thought it better to endeavour to conciliate the kindness of the people of Sky, by joining heartily in their amusements, than to play the abstract scholar.

## FRANCIS PEACOCK — Aberdeen Dancing Master c.1723 - 1807

The year 2005 marks the two hundredth anniversary of the publication in Aberdeen of the *Sketches Relative to the History, Theory, but More Especially to the Practice of Dancing*. The author was the Aberdeen dancing master, Francis Peacock.

Precise details of

**SKETCHES**  
RELATIVE TO THE  
**HISTORY AND THEORY,**  
BUT MORE ESPECIALLY TO THE  
**PRACTICE OF DANCING;**

AS  
A NECESSARY ACCOMPLISHMENT TO THE  
YOUTH OF BOTH SEXES;

TOGETHER WITH  
REMARKS ON THE DEFECTS AND BAD HABITS THEY  
ARE LIABLE TO IN EARLY LIFE; AND THE  
BEST MEANS OF CORRECTING OR  
PREVENTING THEM.

INTENDED AS  
HINTS TO THE YOUNG TEACHERS  
OF THE  
ART OF DANCING.

BY  
**FRANCIS PEACOCK,**  
ABERDEEN.

Aberdeen:  
Printed by J. Chalmers & Co.  
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1805.

Francis Peacock's place of origin and early life are not available, but it seems increasingly likely that he was from England. Durham, York and West Ham are possibilities, but all require more investigation. The record of his life in Scotland begins on 17th January 1747 when the Magistrates and Council of Aberdeen appointed him "to be sole dancing master within the burgh during his good behaviour". In fact, he proved to be a model citizen and for the next sixty years, he pursued a very successful career as a dancing master in Aberdeen where Peacock's Close, off the Castlegate, remains today as a lasting reminder of his long and happy association with his adopted town.

Much of the content of Peacock's book is

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derived from other writers on the subject of dance. Locke Weaver and Gallini are quoted extensively. Their views on the benefits of learning to dance harmonised perfectly with Peacock's own. His principal aim as a teacher of dancing was to develop in his pupils an ability to move with dignified and confident elegance. He considered this

to be an asset not just in the ballroom, but in life generally. "The graceful and elegant ease which it (dancing) gives to the generality of those who practice it with attention, are apparent to every one of true discernment", he says.

The real significance of the *Sketches* is that, unlike other similar contemporary treatises, it focuses additionally on aspects of dancing which are uniquely Scottish. For example, Sketch V is devoted entirely to the Highland Reels, "the national dances of Scotland", and provides the first recorded descriptions of Scottish dance steps. In the Reels, danced by three or four dancers, the reel figure is alternated with solo stepping i.e., the Threesome and Foursome Reels. Peacock tells us that he learned the Reels by observation of the Highland students attending the University of Aberdeen; he admired their dancing ability.

He identifies ten Reel steps, names them (in anglicised Gaelic) and describes each one of them in detail, beginning with the Kemshoole or Forward Step.

In view of his personal philosophy of dance, it's not surprising that Francis Peacock's favourite dance was the Minuet because it required from its performers an elegant carriage and a graceful management of the head, arms and hands. The technical demands of the Minuet probably explain its declining popularity in the ballroom, a circumstance greatly regretted by the Aberdeen dancing master. Although he makes no reference to the Country Dances in *Sketches*, it is confirmed by one of his pupils, Alexander Jaffray of Kingswells, that Mr. Peacock practised country dancing once a



**TULLOCHGORUM**  
For blith and cheery we's be a'  
And mak a happy quorum  
And dance till we be like to fa'  
The reel of Tullochgorum.  
Engraving taken from Thomson's Select Melodies etc.

week. Owing to the growing popularity of the Country Dances in Scotland during the second half of the eighteenth century, their inclusion in his teaching repertoire was inevitable. The Kingswells pupil, who did not share his teacher's enthusiasm for the Minuets and left his classes after three months, still considered him to be "an excellent master but stern and severe when a dull pupil came under his hands".

The success which Francis Peacock enjoyed as a teacher of dancing is very evident from the number of patrons who subscribed to his book; their names are listed in the last few pages of the *Sketches*. The most eminent of them is Jane, Duchess of Gordon, to whom Peacock dedicated his book. Admired for her beauty, wit and intelligence, she exercised considerable social and political influence in Edinburgh and London. When at home, Gordon Castle, her favourite place to relax was under an old elm tree, the Duchess Tree, which was the inspiration for Scott Skinner's fine pastoral air and for John Drevry's popular strathspey.

Francis Peacock died on 26th June 1807 in his eighty-fourth year. By then he was a highly respected resident of Aberdeen where, during his long life, he had not restricted his talents and energies to the teaching of dancing; his many musical, artistic and charitable activities are all well recorded. At the time of his death, *The Aberdeen Journal* summed up his accomplishments and achievements as follows: *In short, on every proper occasion, Mr. Peacock never failed to shew himself a useful citizen, and a good man.*

Alastair MacFadyen



Jane, Duchess of Gordon, meeting Robert Burns in Edinburgh

Irvine Burns Club

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## LONDON MEMBERS ABROAD

### Dancing in Provence (France)

#### WHEN, WHY and HOW

Having danced for several years in Anglophone Africa as well as in the Pacific, I wanted to continue dancing once I retired to Provence.

The RSCDS Directory indicated groups in Valence, Montpellier, Grenoble, etc., but nothing near enough to me for weekly visits. So some local friends (Nicole Guilloteau and Dian Breuleux) helped me set up a group in Carpentras, near Avignon. We found very suitable premises at the *Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture* (MJC), a building with a good dancing floor owned and maintained by the Carpentras municipality.

Advertisements were placed in the local press, the local Franco-British association was helpful, videos were shown, meetings held; and *voilà* we had some 30 people interested and I held the first class in 1997.

#### EVOLUTION

As in all clubs, people come and go. Nonetheless there are important differences compared with anglo-saxon clubs...

When the French arrive, they greet one another by the method of *faire la bise*. Down here we do it three times, in Paris only twice. And if you consider that each female must kiss every other female three times, and each male must do the same to each female, and (luckily) men just shake hands with one another, but then there are the little chats... thus I have to plan for fifteen minutes of *politesse* before we can get started! So we seldom start on time.

People like to talk during the teaching, so the teacher has to exert the right amount of discipline (the iron fist in the velvet glove). Finally it is very social and congenial atmosphere and people enjoy it that way.

Up to this summer we have 23 members (Scots, English, Irish, German, Danish, American and of course the French).

Next season Shellagh Whyte (also a London Branch member) will be in charge.

Dancers holidaying or passing through the *midi* are encouraged to contact us.

#### DEMONSTRATIONS

Once a certain level of competence was reached, we started giving demonstrations here and there. These are often at weddings, generally involving a Scottish bride or bridegroom, or at charity functions and old peoples' homes. At a recent wedding held in a large chateau we demonstrated in front of guests from America, Ethiopia, Scotland and France, since the bride was Franco-Ecossaise, the bridegroom Ethiopian, both living in Chicago. Some local French *provençal* dancing was also demonstrated, and following this contact we hope to have some new members next year. Even deep rural France is experiencing globalisation!

#### SCHOOLS

Some local schools have asked us to teach their pupils SCD. The children then demonstrated their newly acquired skills at the end-of-year garden fêtes. The RSCDS teaching pack "Dance Scottish" was very useful to me, and because the classes went well some schools want to continue next year.

#### A SCOTTISH DANCING PRE-REQUISITE?

A little French girl, 6-7 years old, asked me when I was explaining the various Scottish dancing dress traditions (kilt, sporrans, shoes, etc - all of which I was wearing), "Do you have to wear glasses to dance Scottish?" (I wear glasses).

Jean-Claude Mellor

Carpentras Scottish Country Dance Group

## FAMILY DANCING WEEKEND IN TROON

I was surprised to find out that this the first such event! Scottish dancing being such a social and inclusive activity, it seems so natural for families to do it together and have the kids join in. While regular classes are often hard to fit into a busy London child's schedule, a whole weekend is a great way to get them up to speed.

The RSCDS family weekend in Troon was brilliant in every way. Great location - a charming hotel (which graciously welcomed our dog and cat as well), located right next to the beach (which the dog most enjoyed). Plenty in the way of activities (such as golf!) and tourist attractions. We happened on the first Stewart king's castle in Dundonald but there is so much more both in the way of scenic beauty and historic sights, Ayrshire being the birthplace of both Robert the Bruce and Robert Burns! Admittedly, a weekend in Scotland is a bit of a trek from London with kids (plus a dog and a cat) but it was well worth it - dancing in Scotland made the event that much more special for us.

The weekend was superbly organised and the programme flowed flawlessly. Andrew McConnell who taught the classes on Saturday and Sunday mornings was charming and most efficient in achieving that a whole lot of aimlessly wandering little feet (starting age 3) eventually ended up more or less in the right place at the right time. Kenny Thompson provided lovely live music - always a real treat for children's dancing.

Being busy and disorganised, we fell down on the packing slightly, and none of my children had dance shoes. My boys solved this by dancing barefoot and their small sister in smart hard-soled shoes. She put these shoes to good use at her first pas-de-basque practice, propelling herself enthusiastically up in the air and landing on her brother's shoeless foot. Despite being poorly equipped, the children were quickly swept up in the excitement.

Ceilidhs were organised for Friday and Saturday nights. We missed the Friday one as the trip from London took quite long, but I'm happy to report that the Saturday ceilidh was great fun. It took place in a local hall and was open to local families as well. The dances were walked and the children managed very well by then. It was a lovely evening - the only small disappointment was due to our slightly late arrival, the kids very sad to hear that they missed their favourite dance, *A Reel for Jeannie*.

The weekend is a lovely memory for all of us, including Bagel the beagle and Jennie the tabby. I hope the event will be a regular feature in the RSCDS diary, and would certainly recommend it to families with children. Many thanks to Pam and the organisers, Andrew and Kenny, and RSCDS Youth Director Sue Porter.

Katalin Tischhauser

(helpfully assisted in writing this article by  
Thomas, Marcus and Sabrina)

## A HEALTHY PASTIME

Miss Kathleen Ashworth of Weymouth (right) recently celebrated her 90th birthday at the South Dorset Caledonian Society Dance Group evening attended by about 70 dancers: Kathleen herself danced every dance on the programme. She has been an enthusiastic Scottish Dancer for the past 40 years and still dances and teaches regularly at our local class. She is an inspiration to us all, usually dancing three nights a week and also attending many Saturday evening dances in the area. We all wish Kathleen many happy returns of the day and many more happy dancing years to come. Scottish Country Dancing is a proven therapy for a long and happy retirement!

Valerie Scriven

## THE INVERNESS HIGHLAND BALL

Once again plans are well ahead for our formal ball on Saturday, 22nd April 2006.

Those of you who ventured north in 2004 were, it seems from your correspondence, highly delighted with the event. The cost of the ticket was invested back into the evening ensuring that you received value for money. The proceeds from the raffle and this year's dance (same programme as ball) raised £480, which was donated to the Highland Hospice.

Having held our first ball in 1994, we decided at the outset that the programme would be made up of old and new favourites that did not need too much concentration. There are, however, three new dances, details of which will be sent out with tickets, all of them are fun to dance and quite easy.

In 2004 there were a number of first time dancers to the ball. It was great to see them and we look forward to welcoming them again along with their friends. We also look forward to seeing again dancers from Germany, America, Canada and Ireland and from anywhere else. You are all welcome. However, there has to be an exception, namely numbers. Last year we opened the doors to 374 dancers. This year we will be able to manage 400 but that has to be the limit. Tickets are available now from Mrs M. Ross, 60 Drummond Road, Inverness, Tel: 01463 234680.

As you were aware last year we were treated to marvellous music from Colin Dewar. His careful selection of tunes and tempo was an experience dancers still talk about, so why change it. Colin's back with a 5-piece band and also the possibility of the evening being recorded for CD release.

The Highland Scottish Country Dance Group welcomes London Branch of the RSCDS as it does all other branches.

We are also pleased to mention that EasyJet are flying Luton-Inverness, Bristol-Inverness, Belfast-Inverness, BA-Gatwick, Heathrow-Inverness. If booked early there are very very cheap rates available. GNER also run a very good service direct from King's Cross calling at Peterborough, York, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Stirling, Perth, departing King's Cross 1200 hours arrives Inverness 2010. If booked early there are very very cheap rates available. There are new Travelodges (2), Travel Inns (2) and a Holiday Inn Express along with plenty of B&Bs available in the City of Inverness.

Rob Sargent  
Chairman

Highland Scottish Country Dance Group



## “ARE ALL SETS READY?”

50 years of playing for Scottish country dancing

It is difficult to believe it is 50 years since I first played for Scottish dancing. In those days I was merely the class pianist. A couple of years earlier I had been introduced to Scottish dancing. However I soon realised that I was just as interested in the music as the dancing. Being by then a young, impoverished university student, the extra income was most welcome. It was in the late '50s when on one of his regular visits to London I had an unexpected opportunity to sit in with Jimmy Shand and his band. That night I decided that playing for dancing was for me, playing the accordion in my own band. So I bought an accordion and taught myself to play it. I played solo for a few years until in 1965 I met up, by chance, with a drummer Tom Furlong, a pianist Margaret Wall and a young accordionist Frank Reid, thus a band was born. As there were very few musicians in the area and Scottish dancing was at its height, bookings came very quickly. After a few years Margaret moved away and a little later Frank went to form his own band. However replacements were found and we continued uninterrupted. For the last 20 years there has been little change with John Stevens or Catherine Lowe on second box, Eric Eunson on keyboards. Some five years ago Tom Furlong, my drummer for 35 years, retired due to ill health and his place was taken by John Rayfield. We have managed to find fiddlers and even bass players when the budget allows. The great majority of our playing is in the southeast although for some two decades we made many trips abroad. As most of us are what is euphemistically called 'senior citizens' we now restrict ourselves to about 25 miles from home. Fortunately there are plenty of local societies requiring our services. Almost all our playing is for Scottish country dancing, as it is this that we like best, although Catherine and I do occasionally play for classes. Many years ago we made some recordings and I have also tried my hand at composing. To date I have some 120 tunes in my collection about 15% of which have been published.

We often get asked what was our most memorable occasion. Was it the two-week tour of USA, 15 gigs in 14 days or was it playing on our Caribbean cruise? Actually, no. As far as I was concerned it was one cold snowy February day when we all thought that we were to enjoy an evening at home in front of the fire. At about 9.00 that morning the phone rang, it was John Laurie in a bit of a panic- it was the RSCDS ball that night and the scheduled band was snowbound somewhere in Scotland – could I help? About an hour later and after many phone calls I had a band together and reassured John. A quick check of the programme. – all straight forward! About 2.30 the phone rang again: it was Owen Meyer. “I hear you are playing for the Ball tonight. Did you know we have a demonstration?” I know the RSCDS dems of old, from the days when I was their class pianist. Continuous from start to finish and with many changes of tempo and usually some odd length sequences: a band nightmare. Well, this one was no exception. Knowing that many bands more famous than us had ground to a halt in hopeless confusion in previous years, what hope had we? Well, we got through without a hitch although I don't know who was more relieved, the band or the dancers. [Editor: Yes, I know, I was Chairman then, telling the assembled dancers that their favourite band from north of the Border was snowbound. Robin and his band did us proud – they were so good, many dancers thought it was the Scottish band and that I was

## NEW RECORDINGS

RSCDS Book 16. Bobby Crowe and his Band (CD049)  
RSCDS Book 45. George Meikle and the Lothian Band (CD048)  
St Bernard's Waltz. Marian Anderson's Band (HRMCD 102)  
Early Days. Jim Berry and his Band (Thistle 104).

Bobby Crowe's CD was issued as a cassette some years ago. He has made more recordings for the Society than any other band. This re-issue is a very welcome addition to the growing number of RSCDS CDs now available.

The Book 45 CD is George Meikle's first recording for the Society and I hope it will not be the last! This recording was made on a Roland electronic accordion tuned to mimic completely his acoustic box.

Marian Anderson's CD has her own very individual bouncy sound. She plays a goodly number of lesser-known tunes which clearly adds to the appeal of this recording. The disc contains Joe MacDiarmid's Jig, Sandy's New Chanter, Flowers of Edinburgh, Hooper's Jig plus 12 tracks of ceilich/old time dances.

Jim Berry's CD was originally issued in the early 1970s, and contains The Hollin Buss, Ellwyn's Fairy Glen, Roxburgh Castle, MacDonald of Sleat, plus 8 various tracks. It has a nice tight sound, and it is interesting to note that the 8x32 Jig and Reel sets begin and end with 64 bars of the original tunes. This format is now out of fashion with most bands but was the norm for McBains, Jimmy Shand and Jim MacLeod.

### As promised for your Christmas Listening

Another Early Days CD first issued in 1973 is by the Strathearn Dance Band with Hamish Reid on accordion and his brother Stewart on fiddle (Thistle 105). (Stewart is still playing and is on the CD for Book 45 mentioned above.) In 1973 I wrote in Reel No 122 "...This is a really superb record...another of my Desert Island Discs." Over 30 years on and I say it again.

An Evening with Friends Volume 5 (NOR CD 0105) is by the ever popular Danelaw Band led by Robert Whitehead with 20 tracks including Postie's Jig + Encore and two very useful 8x32 reel sets.

Danelaw's fiddler, Roddy Matthews latest CD (BM 004) has a fine supporting cast and 15 tracks of superb music mostly for listening rather than dancing.

Sailing for Pictou is the evocative title for Caerketton's latest CD (CAER 032). They are, perhaps, a folk band rather than a dance band with guitars, mandolin, etc. but the fiddle is in the capable hands of Stewart Musk whose roots are in 'our kind of music'.

Scotland's Tenors – Caledon (RECD 549) once again entertain with a dozen Scots songs – some old, some new – with thrilling piano accompaniment by Michael Barnett

Many readers over a certain age will remember with affection The White Heather Club on TV in the late '50s to mid '60s. Now the sound can be heard on two CDs (Legacy 29 and 30 CD). They bring a tear to the eye. Artistes include Robert Wilson, Andy Stewart, Jimmy Shand, Ian Powrie and many more.

Many 'solo' albums which we hear are not really solo because there is as often a rhythm section. Muriel Johnstone's latest CD – The Masters of the Tradition (SSCD 18) – is a real solo album. Muriel plays a Steinway B piano. 13 tracks of Scottish tunes, mainly from the great fiddlers of the 1700 and 1800s, are played with a tremendous passion and energy that is difficult to put into words. Many of the tunes will be familiar to dancers but, again, some started life unconnected to the dance and are presented in their original form. Buy this one and you will not be disappointed. Love it; enjoy it!

As always anyone wishing further details of track listings, etc can call me on 020 7286 1923.

John Laurie

The Editor apologises for a misprint in John's article in the previous issue on Her Grace the Duchess of Atholl. She died in 1960.

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The band in 1970 (above)...  
...and in 2005 (right, page 15)

just leg-pulling!]

The band's 40th anniversary was celebrated earlier this year (2005) when we held a dance to which we invited representatives from all the groups for whom we still play and some of the musicians who had been members of the band in years gone by. 120 dancers and a 10 piece band – an occasion to remember!

Have I enjoyed the last 50 years? Most definitely, “Yes!” I wouldn't have missed it for anything. One of the nicest feelings I know is playing at a Scottish dance, be it large or small it doesn't matter – so long as it is good!

Robin Ellis



## DANCE EVENTS (continued)



### 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

Friday 16th December ..... **Frank Reid**  
Christmas Dance 7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

Saturday 7th January ..... **Craigievar**  
1st Burns Night of 2006 7.00 - 11.00 p.m.

Friday 13th January AGM Followed by dancing

Saturday 4th February ..... **Sandy Nixon**  
Annual Ball 7.00 - 11.30 p.m.

Friday 17th February ..... St. Valentine's Night  
Live and recorded music

Saturday 4th March ..... **Music Makars**  
Full details of our Summer Ball on 3rd June will be included with our next Reel advert.

*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](http://www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk) for the latest news and programmes of our dances.

#### London Highland Club

Annual Ball

Saturday 4th February 2006

St Columba's Church, Pont Street

19.00 to 23.30

**Sandy Nixon**

*Programme:* The Last of the Lairds, Garry Strathspey, Gates of Edinburgh, The Dancing Master, Summer in Assynt, Scotch Circle, Hamilton House, MacDonald of the Isles, The Sailor, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, St Columba's Strathspey, Peat Fire Flame, Grand March and Buchan Eightsome Reel, Ship O' Grace, The Nurseryman, A Trip to Bavaria, Dalkeith' Strathspey, The Weathercock, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Schiehallion, New Rigged Ship, Round Reel of Eight, Drumelzier, Mairi's Wedding.

Dances will not be walked through at this dance  
Tickets: (including finger buffet refreshments)  
LHC Members in advance £11.00. Non Members in advance £13.00. All classes on door £14.00.

Highland or evening dress preferred.

All enquiries to Frank Bennett 020 8715 3564, email: fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk or Roger Waterson 020 8660 5017.

#### RSCDS SOUTH WALES BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 25th February 2006

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

The Recreation Centre, Bridgend.

**Scottish Measure**

Tickets, including buffet supper:

£16 RSCDS members, £17 non-members, £9 juniors and spectators.

Further details from: Irene Williams, Waverley,

Maes Ermin, Mathry, SA62 5HF.

Tel 01348 837532

email: williams@mathry.freereserve.co.uk.



### RSCDS BERKS, HANTS, SURREY BORDER BRANCH Christmas Social

Wednesday 28th December 2005

7.45 - 11.45 p.m.

Finchampstead Memorial Hall

Bring and share refreshments, dancing to tapes.

Contact: Jan Douglas, tel: 0118 9781125.

#### Day School and Music School

Saturday 11th March, 2006

Courtmoor School, Fleet.

*Teachers:* ..... **Janet Johnston** (Stirling)

..... **Eric Finlay** (Ayr)

..... **Alan Davis** (Berks)

*Pianists:* .... **Robert Mackay** and **Ken Martlew**

*Music Workshop:* ..... **Nicol McLaren**

Contacts:

Dancer's Workshop: Diane Hoskins 01628 639 699

Musician's Workshop: May Sloan 01428 604 868

#### Day School Social

Music provided by Day School Musicians

Tickets in advance only.

Contact: John Douglas, tel: 0118 978 1125.

#### Saturday 20th May, 2006

May Ball

**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

At Emmbrook School, Wokingham.

Contact: John Douglas, tel: 0118 978 1125.

#### Saturday 17th June 2006

Summer Open Air Dance

South Hill Park, Bracknell

Contacts: Fiona Allison, tel: 0118 9789181,  
or Sheila Jupp, tel: 01344 773371.

#### ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Day School

The Holt School, Wokingham

Saturday 22nd April 2006

*Teachers:* ..... **Anne Carter,**

**Maureen Haynes, John Sturrock**

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

**Chris Oxtoby, Caroline Sloan**

For further details and application forms contact:

Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, St Johns,

Woking Surrey, GU21 3QB.

Telephone: 01483 721989.

#### Weekend School

29th September - 1st October 2006

Dillington House, Somerset

*Teacher:* ..... **Jimmie Hill**

*Musician:* ..... **Robert Mackay**

For booking contact: Dillington House, Ilminster,

Somerset, TA19 9DT Telephone 01460 258613

email: dillington@somerset.gov.uk

website: [www.dillington.co.uk](http://www.dillington.co.uk)

#### MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB

Highland Ball

Saturday 25th March 2006

7.00 - 11.00 p.m.

Desborough School, Shoppenhangers Road,

Maidenhead SL6 2QB.

**The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band**

Please note change of date and time

*Programme to be announced.*

Tickets from Alan Pfeiffer. 64 Wavell Road,

Maidenhead, Berks SL6 5AD.

Tel/fax: 01628 633928, Mob: 07956 233 536.

An SAE would be appreciated.

Visit our website at [www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk](http://www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk)

### WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Caledonian Ball

Saturday, 25th March 2006

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Parmiter's School, Watford, Herts WD25 0UU.

**The Karl Sandeman Band**

Details from Dr. John Crowder,

tel. 01923 225522

[john@drcrowder.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:john@drcrowder.fsnet.co.uk).

### WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball

Saturday 25th February 2006

7.30 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.

Eastman's Hall, Kodak, Harrow View,  
Harrow HA2 6QQ.

#### The Craigellachie Band

*Programme:* Hooper's Jig, The Blooms of Bon Accord, The Gentleman, The Immigrant Lass, Lochalsh Reel, Culla Bay, The Cooper's Wife, The Dream Catcher, Pelorus Jack, Gavin's Reel, Queen's View, Swithland Woods, Quarries' Jig, Festival Fling, Foxhill Court, The Dancing Master, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, New Scotland Strathspey, The Diamond Jubilee, The Duke of Perth.

Contact: Mrs Patricia Hamilton, 7 Boldmere

Road, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex

HA5 1PJ, tel: 020 8866 2841, email:

[patricia@craigellachie.demon.co.uk](mailto:patricia@craigellachie.demon.co.uk).

### GUILDFORD SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Spring Dance

Saturday 6th May 2006

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Normandy Village Hall

**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

Programme and details in next issue.

Enquiries: Catherine Smith, tel: 01483 502422

email: [crsmithgg@aol.com](mailto:crsmithgg@aol.com).

### SUSSEX ASSOCIATION OF SCOTTISH SOCIETIES

Charity Ball

Saturday 11th March 2006

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Lewes Town Hall, Lewes, East Sussex

**Ian Muir & the Craigellachie Band**

*Programme:* Grand March; Cramond Bridge; Quarries' Jig; Rose of the North; The Starry Eyed Lassie; St Columba's Strathspey; The Immigrant Lass; The Cuckoo Clock; The Gentleman; Roselath Cross; The Kelpie of Loch Coruisk; Anniversary Reel; The Dream Catcher; Midnight Oil; The Montgomerys' Rant; The Belle of Bon Accord; Bratach Bana; Spiffin'; Sea Green; The Recumbent Stone; Seton's Ceilidh Band.

Tickets: £11.00 in advance only

plus bring refreshments for yourself

Contact Mrs Carol Catterall, tel: 01273 564963

Website: [www.ids.unet.com/sass](http://www.ids.unet.com/sass).

### CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Spring Dance

Saturday 1st April 2006

7.30-11.00 p.m.

Pates Grammar School Main Hall

**Alan Ross and His Band (Scotland)**

Programme to be issued December.

Contact Barry Steele, tel: 01242 528220

for further information.



## DANCE EVENTS (continued)



**BERKHAMSTED  
STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB**  
Highland Ball  
Saturday 14th January 2006  
7.30 p.m. – midnight  
Ashlyn's School, Berkhamsted.

### The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

*Programme:* The Luckenbooth Brooch, J.B. Milne, Moment of Truth, The Aird of Coigach, Genfinnan Gathering, The Glasgow Highlanders, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Polharrow Burn, The Silver Tassie, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Old Tyme Medley, Bonnie Anne, Capetown Wedding, Pelorus Jack, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Swithland Woods, The Peat Fire Flame, C'Est L'Amour, Rest and be Thankful, Cherrybank Gardens, The Duke of Perth.

Admission by Programme – £18.00, inc. dinner.

No bar – BYO drinks (soft drinks provided).

Details and tickets from: Mrs Linda Godbold,  
'Alize', Shootersway Lane, Berkhamsted,  
HP4 3NP, tel: 01442 866651,  
email: lindagodbold@hotmail.com.

Highland Ball Practice: Potten End Village Hall,  
Saturday 7th January 2006

2.00 - 5.00 p.m. £3 on the door.

### Advance Notice for your Diary:

Saturday 3rd February 2007  
Highland Ball

Ashlyn's School, 7.30 - midnight

### Sandy Nixon and his Scottish Dance Band

For more details see our website:  
[www.berkhamstedreelclub.org](http://www.berkhamstedreelclub.org).

### HIGHLAND SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

The Highland Ball  
Saturday 22nd April 2006  
Starts 7.30 p.m. prompt  
Sports Centre, Bught Park, Inverness.

### Colin Dewar and his 5-piece Scottish Country Dance Band

*Programme:* Gay Gordons, St Bernard's Waltz, Mrs MacLeod, Hooper's Jig, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, The Reel of the 51st Division, White Heather Jig, St Columba's Strathspey, The Piper and the Penguin, The Kelloholm Jig, Butterscotch & Honey, Robbie Over the Waves, The Inverness Highland Ball, The Bees of Maggieknockater, The Duchess Tree, The Sailor, Cadgers in the Canongate, Highland Ladies, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, A Trip to Bavaria, Cherrybank Gardens, The Montgomerie's Rant, Shiftin' Bobbins. *Extra:* Pelorus Jack

Tickets £21.50 including Dinner. Dress Formal.  
Please send stamped addressed envelope to: Mrs  
Mary Ross, 60 Drummond Road, Inverness.

Tel: 01463 234680. Tickets limited to 400.

Last day of availability: Saturday 8th April 2006.

Make cheques payable to:

HIGHLAND SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP  
All dances will be called with encores for  
popular ones

There will be no bar this year. If required please  
bring your own refreshments.

### THE TARTAN JIGSAW BALL

Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon, Surrey  
Saturday, 15th July 2006  
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

### Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band

Details later.

### RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Day School and Dance  
Saturday 18th February, 2006  
Headington School, Oxford, OX3 0BL

*Teachers:* ..... **Janet Johnston** (Stirling)  
**Jim Stott** (Aberdeen)  
**Dennis Tucker** (Oxford)  
*Musicians:* ..... **Ian Muir, Jeremy Hill,**  
**Judith Robertson.**

Tickets for the whole day £20. Morning or  
afternoon session £7.50. Evening dance £10.50.

Music for the evening dance provided by

**Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band.**

*Details:* Gordon Lloyd, 47 Begbroke Crescent,  
Begbroke, Oxford OX5 1RW, tel: 01865 375799.

### RSCDS BATH BRANCH

New Year Informal Dance  
Saturday 7th January 2006  
Camerton Village Hall

### Peter & Edna Russell with Jimmy Coleman.

Tickets £8.50 from June Hall, Top Floor Flat,  
141 Wells Road, Bath, BA2 3AL.

### Annual Ball

Friday 24th February, 2006  
Guildhall, Bath.

### The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Tickets £20 from June Hall, Top Floor Flat,  
141 Wells Road, Bath, BA2 3AL.

### End of Season Informal Dance

Saturday, 29th April, 2006  
Conygre Hall, Timsbury.

### Hugh Ferguson Trio

Tickets from June Hall, Top Floor Flat,  
141 Wells Road, Bath, BA2 3AL.

### JERSEY SCOTTISH DANCE WEEKEND

Bank Holiday Weekend  
Saturday 27th May and Sunday 28th May 2006  
Jersey College for Girls Hall,  
Le Mont Millais, St. Helier.

### Sound Company

£25.00 for two nights. It is advisable to book  
travel and accommodation early. Brochures from  
Jersey Tourism Tel.01534 500700 or visit their  
web page.

Contacts: Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a  
Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel/Fax 01534  
854459 or Alan Nicolle Tel.01534 484375 or  
email: alan.nicolle@yahoo.co.uk

### HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball  
Saturday 4th March 2006  
7.30 to 11.30 p.m.

Harpenden Public Hall, Harpenden, Herts.

### Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

*Programme:* The Reel of the Royal Scots,  
Jennifer's Jig, Kilkenny Castle, The Rothsay  
Rant, Polharrow Burn, MacDonald of the Isles,  
Swiss Lassie, Old Nick's Lumber Room, Mrs  
Milne of Kinneff, Maxwell's Rant, Meeting of  
the Waters, The Moray Rant, Pelorus Jack,  
Johnnie Walker, Goodhind Reel, St. Columba's  
Strathspey, The Nurseryman, Miss Johnstone of  
Ardrossan, James Gray, The Dream Catcher, The  
Kelpie of Loch Coruisk, The Montgomerie's  
Rant.

Tickets £13 including Supper. Tickets and  
enquiries: Val Owens, tel: 01727 863870,  
email: tvowens@beeb.net,  
website: [www.HSCDC.org.uk](http://www.HSCDC.org.uk)

### WEST MACS

Charity Ball  
Saturday 22nd April 2006  
North London Collegiate School, Edgware.

### Craiggellachie Band

Programme and other details in the next issue.  
Enquiries to Judy Snook 01923 774789.



### CHELSEA REEL CLUB

70th Anniversary Ball  
Friday 17th March 2006  
7.00 for 7.15 - 11 p.m.

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

### Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

Piper: Michael McGlashan; MC: Jim Cook

*Programme:* Joie de Vivre, The Sailor, John  
McAlpin, Seton's Ceilidh Band, The Music  
Makars, Wind On Loch Fyne, The Starry-Eyed  
Lassie, The Irish Rover, Grand March, Ian  
Powrie's Farewell To Auchterarder, The  
Clansman, The Gentleman, Muirland Willie,  
Polharrow Burn, The Robertson Rant, Quarries'  
Jig, Duke Of Perth. *Extras:* A Trip To Bavaria,  
Neidpath Castle, White Heather Jig.

Tickets (including reception drink, supper, wine)

£25 from Jim Cook, tel: 020 8948 5637 or

Ruth Hewlett, tel: 020 8749 5471,

email: r\_hewlett3@hotmail.com.

State if vegetarian.

Highland evening dress preferred.

### Practice Night, Thursday 2nd March 2006

7.30 p.m.-10.30 p.m., St. Columba's.

Wine & Cheese Supper, Live Music,

MC: Jim Cook.

### ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Annual Ball  
Saturday 25th March 2006  
Abingdon, near Oxford.

### Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

Programme and details, see February *Reel*, or in  
early December on [www.geocities.com/absdc](http://www.geocities.com/absdc)  
Anne Barnes: tel: 01235 204 155.

### HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

58th Annual Ball  
Friday 6th January 2006  
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree, WD6 3PJ

### The Craiggellachie Band

*Programme:* Lady Sophia Lindsay, The Hazel  
Tree, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, The Earl of  
Mansfield, Junnifer's Jig, The Rose of the North,  
The Piper and the Penguin, Hooper's Jig, S-  
Locomotion, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan,  
Father Connolly's Jig, Anniversary Reel, Pelorus  
Jack, St. Columba's Strathspey, The Lochalsh  
Reel, Aird of Coigach, The Dream Catcher, The  
Irish Rover, The White Heather Jig, The  
Gentleman, Ray Milbourne, Fisherman's Reel.

Tickets £15 including refreshments  
(juniors and non-dancers £7.50) available from  
Jim Henderson, tel: 020 8954 2586,  
email: jimhendersonuk@aol.com

### 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!

## Even more DANCE EVENTS

### RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH

Weekend School  
Sat/Sun 4th – 5th February 2006  
Richard Pate School, Cheltenham

Teacher: ..... **Rachel Wilton**  
Musician: ..... **Ken Martlew**

Details: Margaret Winterbourne,  
tel: 01242 863238.

### RSCDS CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH ANNUAL BALL

Saturday 14th January 2006  
Croydon High School for Girls  
**Robin Ellis and his Band**

MC George Ferrier / tbc

*Programme:* Grand March, Cramond Bridge, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, The Martram, The Montgomerie's Rant, The Nurseryman, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, The Royal Deeside Railway, Tribute to the Borders, Flowers of Edinburgh, Major Ian Stewart, The Corian Strathspey, Maxwell's Rant, The Happy Weekend, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Pelorus Jack, The Irish Rover. *Extras:* Swiss Lassie, The Byron Strathspey.

Tickets £13.50 Branch members, £14.50 non-members, from: Pauline Cashmore, 17 Sylverdale Rd, Croydon CR0 4LD.

Come and enjoy a weekend of Dancing at the Cumberland Hotel, Eastbourne.

**Friday 11th to Sunday 13th November 2005**  
We welcome back Dennis Tucker from Oxford as our teacher.

Price: £94 branch members, £97 others (+£4 single room supplement if required).

Application forms: Pauline Cashmore, 17 Sylverdale Rd, Croydon CR0 4LD.

### RCHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Burns' Supper and Dance  
Saturday 21st January, 2006  
6.15 - 11.00 p.m.

St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road,  
Teddington.

**Finlay Forbes**

Tickets £22.50 to include wines.

Details from Mrs Jean Jacob, tel: 020 8977 4155.

### Another DANCE FOR RUTH ?

Those who so enjoyed the "Dance for Ruth" held over the 2005 New Year have asked if there is to be a repeat. There will indeed be one, again at Weston Turville, Nr Aylesbury, on the afternoon of **Monday 2nd January 2006**

Please register your interest with Linda Dorman, tel: 01296 660265 so that full details can be sent.

This is a special issue of *The Reel* with more colour and more articles.

Please let us know what you think about its contents. Have we got a good balance between information and interest? Is it an advantage to have pages in colour?

Please write to the Editor – this is your magazine and we need your feedback.

## From the Archives of *The Reel*, December 1955 THE TARTAN SASH

There was considerable discussion some time ago in the Press and elsewhere about the correct method for ladies to wear the tartan sash, and the following extracts from letters to various people from the Lord Lyon King of Arms, the authority on all matters of ancient customs, will perhaps clear up some points. Extracts in inverted commas are exact quotations, but wherever possible the Lord Lyon's wording is used.

In the first place the wearing of a tartan sash is not ancient, but probably arose in the nineteenth century in order to express the wearer's Scottish association when wearing dress not otherwise distinctively Scottish. Most old prints, however, show the sash worn over or brooched up to the right shoulder, not the left; the exceptions are the cases of Lady-Chiefs, wives of chiefs and colonel's wives, who wear it on or over the left shoulder. Other ladies should not wear the sash in this manner.

Considerable variety is noted in the exact method of fixing the sash over the shoulder and bow-tied on the hip, or brooched up to the shoulder as the man's plaid is to his left shoulder. The Lord Lyon is aware of a wish to have one of these distinctions made applicable to followers (*Senclith*) of a clan, as distinct from those who are members by right of their surname. He considers this a reasonable subject for further consideration, but is unable to give a definite decision at present. It is comparable with the variety of ways of wearing the man's separated plaid in the eighteenth century—over either shoulder and buckled there or over the shoulder and tied with a bow or buckled at the hip. It is known that some significance was attached to the various methods but it is very difficult now, particularly on account of the proscription of highland garb in 1746, to determine what forms of wear have which significance.

The authority for wearing the sash on the left shoulder, which is quite modern, may have been derived from those few existing prints of ladies entitled to wear it in this way. More probably, however, it is "simply a derivation from the bagpipe playing and kilted women monstrosities of the past thirty years, who of course wore plaids in man's fashion, as they did the rest of the man's highland attire."

Related questions are also discussed in the Lord Lyon's letters. Should there be any difference in the mode of wearing the sash between married and unmarried women? No, no more than there is a distinction between bachelors and married men, at least in the matter of the plaid or *arisaid*. There were distinctions in regard to the headdress, but that is a different matter.

Is there any distinctive form of wear for a woman "who wears her husband's tartan?" Again, no; the comprehensive rule about right shoulders, except in certain cases, still applies.

The Lord Lyon is dogmatic with regard to the tartan one wears: "One wears the tartan of the clan to which one belongs, which is primarily indicated by the name one bears, and that tartan only." Similarly for a follower of a clan, the tartan of that clan only. In the case of a follower and for members of septs of a clan, the hunting tartan should be worn, where this exists; and the dress tartan should be worn only by those actually bearing the name of the clan by birth or marriage. Even if many clans are represented by one's forbears there is only one clan to which one belongs now and, therefore, one tartan to which one is entitled; any other notions are

founded on ignorance of the concept of the clan as a family, and a unit. And if one has no claim by either surname or following? Then Scots should wear the Caledonia, Jacobite, or Government tartan (one of the Black Watch setts); and for others than Scots, Childers Universal is available. This is a "tartan" invented by an English Secretary of State for War for regimental use; although spurned by Scottish regiments it is employed by some overseas regiments.

Four years ago the Lord Lyon recommended to the Aboyne Games Committee what he considered the most suitable of the ancient forms of dress for women to wear at Highland Gatherings. This is now compulsory at Aboyne and some other Games, and consists of a tartan skirt, laced front corsage over it white undergown with elbow sleeves and a detached plaid belted at the waist. It falls into line with the dress of agricultural women of western Europe; quite naturally since agricultural and crofting life is the very basis of highland civilization. Highland versions, however, have their own marked distinctions from those of other countries; even in the highlands there are different versions with special significance attached. As with the sash, the significance is now obscure, but the reasons for the variations should, if possible, be found and laid down. "It is not in a single uniformity but in the... special significance of certain variations... that larger interest, variety and beauty can be preserved in a manner perpetuating the national, provincial and social heritage involved in the dress, as well as in the dances themselves."

On traditional grounds the Society discourages the use of non-traditional costume; it would be meaningless to strive to find the exact details of a traditional Scottish dance and then perform it in, say, Austrian costume. These notes may help dancers to know what is considered the correct traditional costume, and help to reverse the situation where, in the Lord Lyon's words "girl dancers masquerade in men's highland dress, complete with sporrans and *skean dhus*, and the public gets the idea that this is what women wore, which is a complete error; and also the result is the disuse of the kilt by men, as young lads are declining to wear it."

**NOTE:** The Edinburgh Branch of the Society has adopted for demonstration wear the manner of wearing the sash described as "brooched up to the shoulder" — the right shoulder, of course. Without claim or comment we give the following descriptions of what they have done. It attempts to follow the manner of wearing the sash depicted in old prints, and may be described as akin to the man's wearing of the plaid.

The sash used is about twenty-inches by two yards. This is perhaps double the width and half a yard shorter than the average sash as worn round the body today. One end is pinned or buttoned centrally across the back of the waistband, the fringe and perhaps a few inches only hanging down below this level. The free end is taken up to the right shoulder, gathered there and brooched with the usual type of shoulder brooch, and the remainder hangs freely back over the shoulder. It is not tight between waist and shoulder, in fact a good guide is to pull it tight to the top of the head when fitting, and then lower this point to the shoulder. The free end hangs below the waist again, but is of course able to flow out behind the dancer when she is in motion.

## OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

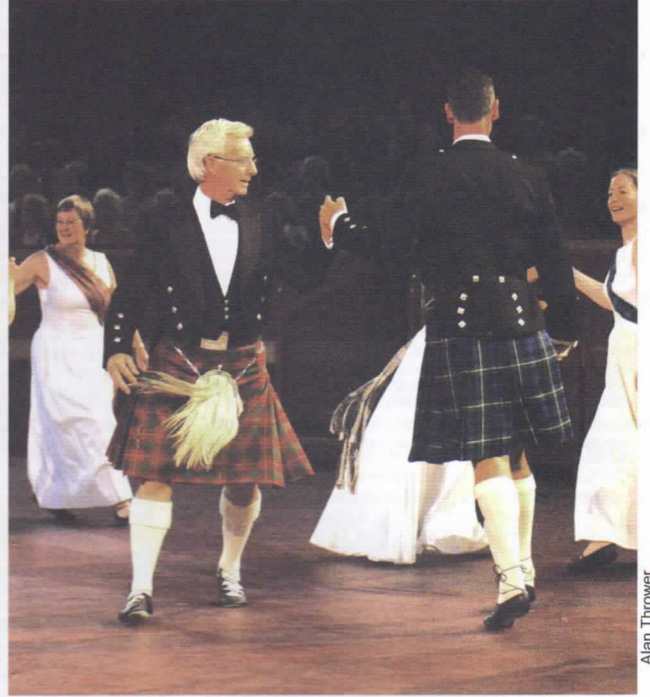
- ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Dancing most Mondays, 8.00 p.m. to 10.15 p.m., Sept to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details/ map: www.geocities.com/absdc or Anne, tel: 01235 204155.
- ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY** meets Wednesdays 8.15 - 10.15 p.m. 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.
- CHELTHENHAM BRANCH RSCDS** Advanced class Mondays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. General class Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Bettridge School, Cheltenham. Also a Beginners class. Details: Margaret Winterbourne Tel: 01242 863238.
- CHELTHENHAM 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 bestelce45@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.** Branch classes - general, incl. beginners, with technique: Purley (Fri). Advanced/very advanced (Wed) Coudston. Other classes in the area: Beginners: Reigate & Selsdon (Tues), Gen: Reigate (Mon), Purley (Alt. Tues), West Wickham (Fri). Advanced: 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 6419.
- 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 Pam Black, Tel: 0208 894 9399, e-mail: pamjblack@aol.com
- 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 Julia Anderson, 54 Little Green Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8TB. Tel: 01252 726138.
- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays 8-10 pm end of September to May. Details: Mrs 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), Darkes 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 CALEDONIAN SCD GROUP.** Contacts: Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel/Fax 01534 854459; Alan Nicolle Tel: 01534 484375 or e-mail alan.nicolle@yahoo.co.uk; or Mrs. Brenda Gale Tel: 01534 862357.
- 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 Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, tel: 01628 628372. www.maidenheadscottdancing.org.uk
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday 7.30 to 10 p.m. at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details from Jane Masters, 251 Robin Hood Lane, Blue Bell Hill, Chatham, Kent ME5 9QU Tel: 01634 864007.
- MARKET HARBOUROUGH 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 Lunnon, Dunton 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 David Anderson, 8 Tindal Close, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 0LB. Tel: 01444 244854, email: madaanderson@hotmail.com
- 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, Blethley, 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 Rocoft 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 evgs 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.scottdancingreading.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, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, tel: 01883 627797 or gwood@iee.org.
- 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 (evgs), e-mail: smallpimp@aol.com.
- ST. JOHN'S SDC WOKINGHAM:** meet every Thurs 8 - 10.15pm Sept to June at St. Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Tel: Sue Davis 01344 774344, 2 Larkswood Dr, Crowthorne. Also Childrens' Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, tel: Deborah Draffin 01344 776831.
- ST. NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS,** Luton meet every Wednesday, September to July 8.00 - 10.00 pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road, Luton, Beds. Contact: Pat Hamilton, tel. 01462 671156 or Sheila Harris, tel. 01525 875060.
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00 to 10.00 pm. 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 pm. at the Sheen Lane Centre, SW14. Details: Donald Miller, 39 Lauderdale Drive, Richmond, TW10 7BS. Tel: 020 8940 8573.
- 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** Beginners and General Class at Keinton Mandeville School Mon. 7.30-9.30 pm. Experienced Thurs. at Monteclefe School, Somerton 7.45-9.45 pm Children's Class Charlton Mackrell Reading Room 2.30-4.00 pm Sats. Highland class Kingsdon Village Hall 2.00-4.00 pm Sats.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30 to 10.00 pm. 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, Bengeo School. Beginners Thurs 7.45pm. Millmead School. Dances 2nd Friday each month 7.45 - 10.45pm. Sele School. Details: Mrs Maureen Ainsworth, tel: 01279 434342.
- 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 Colin Simpson, 21 Culverden Avenue, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9RE Tel: 01892 532712 (eve) 01732 377407 (work).
- 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 Club at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1BJ. Thursdays from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., Details from Stuart Krelloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford, Herts WD17 4GE. Tel: 01923 492475, email: skrelloff@alum.mit.edu.
- 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.

... AND MORE PICTURES



Stephen Webb

Above: Taking the lead, dancing Ladies Fancy at St Andrews



Alan Thrower

Right: More excitement at the CCPR "On Show" demonstration at the Royal Albert Hall, 2005



Stephen Webb

Near left: Sir Joshua at Polesden Lacey following in his father's footsteps

Far left: Sir Jeremy, aged 5, on Hadrian's Wall set to conquer.



By kind permission of The St Andrews Citizen

Right: London Branch members at St Andrews Summer School



Left and Below: Young French dancers from the Carpentras Scottish Country Dance Group [see page 13]



Right: Janice Jones, secretary of the RSCDS Milton Keynes Branch, holds the fan to good effect at the RSCDS AGM Ball

[see "Fan Mail" letter on page 9]



Stephen Webb