



# The Reel



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**WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## LONDON BRANCH AWARDS

The London Branch is pleased to announce that Ian and Meryl Thomson have been nominated to receive Branch Awards at the Christmas Dance on 19 December. Citation on page 3.



Ian Thomson

The 80th Anniversary Calendar is being included in this Reel for UK members and subscribers. If the calendar is missing it can be downloaded from the Branch webpage [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk).

### Dr Ellen Garvie

It is with regret that we report the death in October of Dr Ellen Garvie, one of our Vice-Presidents, in her 90th year.

Jenny Greene represented the Branch at the funeral in Inverness on 2 November.

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## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Branch Dance

Saturday 19 December 2009

6.45 for 7.00 - 10.30pm

St Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1X 0BD

**Ian Muir of Prestwick & his SD Band**

Jig to the Music	Reel 263
The Flowers of Edinburgh	1/6
The Braes of Breadalbane	21/7
The Chequered Court	42/3
The Music Makars	33/1
Miss Florence Adams	38/7
Miss Allie Anderson	Leaflet
Tom's Friends	London 75th
The De'il among the Tailors	14/7
The Nineteenth of December	27/2
The Sailor	24/4
Sugar Candie	26/9
A Trip to the Drakensberg	38/8
The Clansman	32/8
Gang the Same Gate	36/4
A Capital Jig	5/2009
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	3/2006
The Montgomerie's Rant	10/1
Admission £15.00 members, £16.00 non members	
Reception drink and refreshments provided. Those with Highland/evening dress are encouraged to wear it.	



## BURNS' SUPPER AND CEILIDH DANCE

Saturday 16 January 2010

6.45 - 10.45pm

St Columba's Church Hall, Pont St., SW1 0BD

**Frank Reid and his Band**

This is a great chance to share with your friends and family the fun of Scottish music and dancing. The programme will include Gay Gordons, Britannia Two Step, Circle Waltz, Dashing White Sergeant, Canadian Barn Dance, The Eightsome Reel, Swedish Masquerade, Cumberland Reel, St Bernard's Waltz, Virginia Reel, Boston Two Step, Strip the Willow and many others.

Admission, including supper,  
£9.50 for RSCDS members,  
£12.50 non members.

Tickets in advance (SAE please) from Jeff Robertson, 31 Alinora Avenue, Goring-by -Sea, West Sussex, BN12 4NA, [jtr@ctg.co.uk](mailto:jtr@ctg.co.uk)

**(a pair of tickets would make a wonderful Christmas present)**

## WINTER WEDNESDAY

*New for Anniversary Year*



Branch Dance

Wednesday 10 February 2010

7.00 - 10.00pm

St Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1X 0BD

**The Strathallan Band**

Espie McNabb	MMM1
Maxwell's Rant	18/10
Rakes of Glasgow	11/11
Kendall's Hornpipe	Gr 22
The Sailor	14/4
Byron Strathspey	Drewry
Round Reel of Eight	28/7
Joie de Vivre	29/2
Flowers of Edinburgh	1/6
The Birks of Invermay	16/2
Mrs Stewart's Jig	35/1
The Reel of the 51st Division	13/10
The Dream Catcher	45/9
The Montgomerie's Rant	10/1
Admission including light refreshments £7.50 Members, £8.50 Non Members. £2 Children, but member's children admitted free.	

Issue No 271 will be with UK based members by 13 February 2010 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent preferably by email to [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk). Postal contributions should be sent to Wilson Nicol, 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS to arrive by **16 January 2010**. (Issue No 272 will arrive by 1 May 2010).

The opinions expressed by contributors in *The Reel* do not necessarily reflect the official position of the RSCDS, nor of the Branch.

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As we approach Christmas we look back at our busy season so far.

In addition to Kensington Gardens and the Open House event we also ran a successful Ceilidh evening in Merton as part of our Dance Scottish Week and then the start of season September dance with Gordon Shand and his Scottish Dance Band.

We held another successful Day School with four themed Dance Classes, a Musicians' Workshop, a range of optional classes and to top it all, a ceilidh. A huge thank you to our organiser Margaret Catchick, and her many, many helpers for all their hard work.

We had another full day of dancing in November with a children's class in the morning and family dancing in the afternoon led by Angela Young. Our thanks to Jean Harrison and Kafoozalum for their music and to our MC Simon Wales for the evening dance.

We look forward to our Christmas Dance on 19 December with Ian Muir of Prestwick and his Band all the way from Scotland; what an excellent start to the Festive season.

Congratulations to the two recipients of this year's Branch Awards for their sterling work over the years and particularly their contribution to our website transforming it into the shining example much praised by all. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Our 80th Anniversary year is almost upon us and I do hope that all our members will participate in some aspect of the celebrations. Do make sure that you get your tickets for our Anniversary Ball on 30 October. Our thanks to the Sub-Committee who will be co-ordinating the various activities and events.

On behalf of the Branch Committee I would like to wish all members and readers a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2010.

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Dance.

**Jeff Robertson**

## RSCDS AGM 2009 in Perth

The Annual General Meeting itself deals with both those items which are constitutional formalities and those of more interest. This is a summary of the interesting items.

The Society's finances attracted considerable question and debate. On the positive side the books show a surplus for the year of about £25,000, compared with last year's loss of about £115,000. However, Glasgow Branch pointed out that money had been used from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund and took the view that the real surplus is only about £1,000. There was also concern about rising staff costs in a climate of falling membership.

The election results showed that both of the London Branch candidates were successful. Andrew Nolan was elected to Education & Training and I (Colin McEwen) was returned unopposed to the General Purposes and Finance Committee (GP&F). There was no candidate for Convenor-Elect of GP&F which does not bode well for the future.

The annual subscription was confirmed at £15 plus Branch subscription.

The revised constitution had attracted a proposed amendment from Leicester Branch, to clarify that trustees could only be forcibly removed for the purposes defined in the legislation. This amendment was supported by London Branch and was carried by an overwhelming majority. The amended Constitution was then also carried by a very similar majority.

The Questions and Answers session earlier in the day covered a very wide range of topics.

There were a number of examples of lack of communication and associated frustration. Alex Gray and the HQ team accepted there is still a way ►

## LONDON BRANCH AWARDS

### Citation for Ian and Meryl Thomson

Ian and Meryl met through their playing of classical music, but they both had broad interests in music and for 30 years they have been involved in Scottish Ceilidh, English Barn and Historical dancing. For the last 15 years they have played for Scottish dancing so they have a good background and understanding for their organisation of the London Branch website. Additionally, Ian is a master of IT with the skills necessary to organise a website using the most appropriate technology. It is fortunate that Meryl is at home during the day to regularly maintain the Branch website. When they took over the website it was rudimentary. Since then their principle has been to focus on keeping the content useful and up to date. As the web became more popular and the website grew, it was necessary to develop the structure to accommodate many additional features. The success of the Branch website lies in the detailed planning which Ian undertook in the initial years and in the meticulous maintenance under Meryl's control. The site is being used ever increasingly as more and more information is added. Details of Branch classes, dances with dance cribs, photo galleries, news and stories. *The Reel* archive and the SE England Dance diary are just part of the information maintained on the site. Meryl also created the artwork for the Branch 75th Anniversary book, and currently produces all the Branch event flyers, and cribs for dances. The website is much used because of the ease of navigation and the helpful links to other sources of information – all the result of careful planning and dedicated maintenance. The Branch is very fortunate to have Ian and Meryl in charge of their most important communication tool. They also manage the websites for other Scottish Country Dance groups in the area.

► to go but urged Branches to meet HQ halfway.

Advertising and publicity were discussed and Liz Fraser hopes to create a bank of suitable material that Branches can then adapt to suit their local or specific needs (contributions welcomed).

Difficulties over Public Entertainment Licences (PEL) were raised and it turned out that a number of delegates had experience to bring to the Society. Alex Gray hopes to set up panels of expertise which Branches can draw on (this is another example of where HQ can help with central resources).

All very well, I hear some people saying, but what about the dancing? I had decided not to go to the formal Ball on the Friday night but those who went enjoyed it. I did go to the Saturday dance and it is certainly an experience to see so many people enjoying their dancing - which is what the Society exists to support and deliver.

**Colin McEwen**



## EDITORIAL

We would like to say how pleased we are to have so much interesting copy for *The Reel*. It does however pose problems – primarily cost. Like all good organisations *The Reel* has a budget which restricts us to 20 pages and also requires us to stay below the 100gm postal rate band limit. We could reduce the size of the print but already it is at the limit for easy reading. Some articles have therefore to be carried over to subsequent issues and we apologise for that. Nevertheless, please keep the interesting reports and articles coming!

**Wilson Nicol**

## ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY



Patron - H.M. The Queen  
President – Dr Alastair MacFadyen  
Chairman – Alex Gray

### HEADQUARTERS:

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www.rscds.org

### LONDON BRANCH

**Hon. President:**  
Mary Stoker

**Hon. Vice-Presidents:**  
Mary Barker, Stella Booth,  
Jenny Greene, Marie Jamieson,  
John Laurie, Owen Meyer, Rosemary Tilden.

### Chairman:

Jeff Robertson,  
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### Vice-Chairman:

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London, W7 3QU  
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Simon Wales,  
Flat 6, 86 Worcester Rd, Sutton,  
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Tel: 020 8643 0952.  
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### SUB-COMMITTEES

**Youth:**..... Angela Young, Elaine Davies  
**Classes:** .... Margaret Catchick, Gillian Bloomfield,  
George Potts, Marjory Reid, Margaret Shaw  
**Dances:** ..... Jeff Robertson, Margaret Catchick,  
Margaret Shaw, Angela Young, George Potts,  
**Demonstrations:**.. James Fairbairn, Angela Young  
**Publicity:** ..... Michael Nolan, Wilson Nicol (Reel),  
Rita Marlow\*(Reel Distribution),  
Meryl Thomson\*(website)  
**Open-air & Picnic Dances:** ..... James Fairbairn,  
Jeff Robertson, Jerry Reinstein  
**80th Anniversary Events:** ..... Angela Young,  
Margaret Catchick, Andrew Kellett,  
Michael Nolan, Rachel Wilton\*, Simon Wales  
**Membership:** ..... Gaynor Curtis\*  
**Bookstall:** ..... Ian Anderson\*  
**CCPR:** ..... Marie Jamieson\*, Simon Wales  
**Hon Archivist:** ..... Iris Anderson\*  
**S E Branches:** ..... Rachel Wilton\*  
**Combined Secretary:** ..... Jeff Robertson

\*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.

## 80th ANNIVERSARY

### LONDON BRANCH 80th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND SCHOOL FOR DANCERS AND MUSICIANS

7-9 May 2010

Swanwick, Derbyshire

Teacher: ..... **Graham Donald**

Musician: ..... **Andrew Lyon**

Musicians Workshop Leader: ..... **Nicol McLaren**

RSCDS London Branch invites you to join us at our Weekend School to celebrate 80 years of Scottish country dancing and music.

Our Weekend Away is different from other dance weekends – in addition to the Workshop for dancers to be taken by the excellent teacher Graham Donald and highly regarded musician Andrew Lyon, we are holding a Musicians' Workshop to be led by the superb musician and band leader Nicol McLaren. The music for the Saturday night dance will be provided by Nicol and the Weekend School musicians.

The cost of the Weekend (from Friday evening to and including Sunday lunch) is £195.00 per person to include full board in en-suite accommodation and mid-morning and afternoon refreshments.

Spaces are limited so please apply early to secure your place.

For further details and an application form please contact Margaret Catchick, 01494 772305 or email: [margaretcatchick@hotmail.com](mailto:margaretcatchick@hotmail.com).

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch costs £19.00 per annum for UK based members (£19.50 for Europe; £21.50 elsewhere). There is a discount of £3 for members aged 18 to 25 and for each of two members living at the same address. For members aged 12-17 there is a discount of £7.50. 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 bi-annual dance publication, *Scottish Country Dancer*.

Membership applications and enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, St. Johns, Woking GU21 3QB, tel: 01483 721989.

◀ October and the highlight of the year, our 80th Anniversary Ball – held in the impressive wood panelled, 1930s Assembly Hall of Hammersmith Town Hall. Champagne, dinner, music and dancing in excellent surroundings – this promises to be a fantastic event! For further details and advance tickets, please contact Rachel Wilton.

Also in October we have our annual Day School – keep watching *The Reel* for details of teachers and musicians.

November brings our second Family Day to celebrate St. Andrews Night, with an evening dance for all including beginners and less experienced dancers. Then, in December our Anniversary year comes to a close with our Christmas Dance.

Full details of locations and prices can be found on our special 80th Anniversary Calendar, and on the website. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating with you in 2010!

**Angela Young**

80th Anniversary Sub-Committee Convenor

Next year, 2010, sees the 80th Anniversary of the RSCDS London Branch – a time to dance and celebrate with each other, as well as an excellent opportunity to publicise our Branch activities and encourage others to take up this fun and social way of keeping fit and healthy. As mentioned in the last edition of *The Reel*, there will be events throughout the year – we've planned at least one every month and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at all of these.

We launch the anniversary celebrations with our annual Burns Supper on the 16 January – ready to celebrate with existing Branch members and attract newcomers to a night of ceilidh dancing to the music of Frank Reid and his band, traditional refreshments of haggis, neeps and tatties with a glass of wine, as well as the traditional address to the haggis by one of our Branch Vice-Presidents – John Laurie. Bring along friends and family, dancers and non-dancers and start our celebrations in style. For more details or advance tickets, please contact Jeff Robertson.

February sees a new event – a mid-week dance during half-term week. As well as attracting those who attend our combined classes at Marlborough School, this is also aimed at dancers who work in London and cannot attend our Branch Saturday evening dances. Refreshments will be provided and Winter Wednesday guaranteed to warm you up on a chilly February night with good dancing and a glass of mulled wine. For more information, please contact Margaret Catchick.

March is the time for the youngest and oldest members of the Branch to celebrate with the first of our Family Days – and it's also time for the first of our Birthday Cakes! The class, lunch and dance will give plenty of opportunities for children and adults alike to celebrate. Then in the evening, it's the London Pont Street Participator's Dance – a time to "Mingle in March". For more information, please contact Angela Young.

April is a perfect time for Afternoon Tea – so join us for the 80th Anniversary Tea Party. As well as sparkling wine, tea, light refreshments and birthday cake, there will be short entertainment items, and music will be provided by Green Ginger. This is open to all, there is no charge and we would really like to see you there. However we do need to know numbers and ask you to apply for invitations, which we will then post out. To attend please apply for a tea party invitation by Saturday 27 March to Stewart Murray, London Branch Secretary (see page 2 for email address).

In May, London Branch is off to Swanwick for our 80th Anniversary Weekend School. Dancers and Musicians – you're all welcome. Excellent dance teaching will be provided by Graham Donald, to the music of Andrew Lyon – and musicians will be in the extremely capable hands of Nicol McLaren. Application forms and further details are available from Margaret Catchick.

We're going to Dance through the Decades in June – with a programme made up of dances from the last 80 years. Then in July we'll be celebrating with our 80th Anniversary Picnic Dance. The venue for this will be advertised in the next Reel.

August and September see our Annual Open Air Dancing events in Kensington Gardens – these are free and open to all. Bring your friends – adults and children are encouraged to join in; there is always a great atmosphere at these afternoons.

September also sees our Dance Scottish Week events with Taster Evening, Ceilidh, Youth Workshop and Branch Dance. ▶

### THE LONDON BRANCH 80th ANNIVERSARY BALL

*Preliminary announcement*

Saturday 30 October 2010

Hammersmith Town Hall

with its fine sprung floor and superb wood panelled interior

Drinks at 7.30 for 8.00pm dancing.

Carriages 1.00am

**The Craiggellachie Band**

Tickets: £40.00 per person includes champagne and dinner. Come and join everyone attired in their finery celebrating a special anniversary in this magnificent London hall.

Look out for further details in future Reels

**It is not too soon to put the date  
in your diary**

## ANNIVERSARY FUND APPEAL

We want to be looking forward in our 80th Anniversary year as well as celebrating our past, and we also want all our members to feel that they can be involved in the events that mark the Branch's Anniversary. That is why we are setting up a special Anniversary Fund and inviting all our members and supporters past and present to contribute. The Fund will be used to establish a Schools Project with the aim of taking Scottish Country Dancing into more schools in the London area.

Every year the Branch is asked to provide teachers to take occasional classes in London schools. We cannot always accept because the number of teachers with the necessary training and skills is limited, and the shortage of teachers also means that we have to curb our ambition for pro-actively seeking opportunities to promote Scottish Country Dancing in schools.

How far the Project will extend will depend on how much money we can raise. We need funding for training teachers, ensuring that they have the proper authorisations to teach children, providing them with materials (including music) and expenses, plus publicity and administration.

To get the scheme off the ground we need your support. Our Anniversary Appeal Fund will provide a legacy to a future generation of dancers and will demonstrate that after 80 years London Branch continues to look forward towards a bright future for Scottish Country Dancing. Please send your Anniversary Appeal donation to the Branch Treasurer (address on page 2, column 3). If you pay sufficient UK tax, you can Gift Aid your donation, which means that we can claim the tax back. Please include a note with your payment declaring that you pay sufficient UK income tax, and let the taxman know on your next tax return. Every little helps – please assist us to foster interest amongst young people for the activity which has given many of us a lifetime of pleasure!

### Email addresses

For those readers who have an email address, our Membership Secretary would like to make sure we have your up to date version. Please email it to [membership@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:membership@rscdslondon.org.uk) so that we can improve our communications with members (and ensure we comply with the Data Protection Act).

# BRANCH CLASSES

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

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher / Musician
BEGINNERS	Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Davinia Miln / Jane Ng
IMPROVING YOUR SOCIAL DANCING	Wednesday	8.00 - 9.30	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Rachel Wilton / Ian Cutts
TECHNIQUE	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Maureen Campbell / Ken Martlew
GENERAL	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30	St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD	Jeni Rutherford
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	For details contact James Fairbairn, 01865 512308		Angela Young / Sandra Smith

**Term starts week commencing 4 January and ends week commencing 15 March. Half term is week commencing 8 February. Wednesday evening classes cost £65 for ten week term (£60 for Branch members). For members and non-members each half term costs £35. The cost per session is £8. Newcomers are not charged the first class they attend.**

**The term for the General Class will commence on Wednesday 6 January and end on 24 March 2010. Half term is 17 February.**

## HIGHLAND CLASSES 2009-10

Teacher: **David Hall**

Thursdays 7.15 - 9.15pm

on 10 Dec, 14 Jan, 11 Feb, 11 March

St. Michael & All Angels Church (Upper Hall)  
Corner of The Avenue and Bath Road, W4 1TT.  
(very close to Turnham Green Tube Station).

## BRANCH YOUTH WORKSHOP

On Saturday 19 September 2009, 19 members of the RSCDS Youth Group gathered in St. Columba's Church for the second Youth Workshop to be held in London. Dancers came from as far north as Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dunfermline, and more locally from London, Colchester, Hove and Oxford. One dancer came from Munich for the event. Angela Young put us through our paces and music was provided by Sandra Smith and Gordon Shand.



Stephen Webb

The idea of the workshop was to focus on footwork and technique with a John Drewry dances theme in order to choreograph a display for the Branch dance in the evening.

The display began with *The Flowers of Edinburgh*, then went into *Fifty Years On, Strathmore, The Royal Yacht Britannia* and finished with *The Duke of Perth*. Considering we had a very short amount of time to learn the dances and remember the choreography our performance went very well and was well received. Well done to Angela for getting us through it and thank you to Gordon Shand and his Band who played for us in the evening.

The afternoon was an opportunity to catch up with dancing friends old and new. It also provided the opportunity for members to discuss some issues pertinent to the Youth Team as a whole.

The dancing afternoon was rounded off with a pizza meal before going back to the Branch dance in the evening.

The workshop was again a success, I really enjoyed myself and I'm looking forward to London Youth Workshop 2010.

Lindsay Wilkins, Glasgow

## LADIES' STEP DANCING

with **Alice Stainer**,

on Sundays 21 February and 16 May,  
at the Oddfellows Hall, Richmond,  
(minutes from Richmond Station).

Details will be on the Branch website, or contact Margaret Shaw, on 020 7329 2847.

## SUNDAY ADVANCED TECHNIQUE CLASSES

Band Hall, Coram's Fields

93 Guilford Street, WC1N 1DN

11.00am-1.00pm

Sunday 29 November 2009

Teacher: ..... **Mervyn Short**

..... **Peter Jenkins**

Sunday 13 December 2009

Teacher: ..... **David Hall**

Musician: ..... **Barbara Manning**

Sunday 24 January 2010

Teacher: ..... **Angela Young**

Musician: ..... **Keith Anderson**

Sunday 28 February 2010

Teachers: ..... **Philippe & Lindsey Rousseau**

Musician: ..... **David Hall**

Sunday 28 March 2010

Teacher: ..... **Joan Desborough**

Musician: ..... **Keith Anderson**

Nearest underground station: Russell Square.

Cost: £6.00. Free on-street parking available

Local establishments available for lunch.

Further details from

Margaret Catchick on 01494 772305 or

email: [classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk).

## WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT!

The RSCDS and the London Branch offer scholarships mostly to young people (up to 25 years) to attend RSCDS Residential Schools as a dancer or as a prospective teacher or as a musician. In addition any member can apply for a scholarship to attend Summer School with a view to taking the RSCDS Teaching Certificate. London Branch also has funds available to give support to any event promoting Scottish Country Dancing among young people.

Don't be shy about asking for assistance. We are a charity and we are here to help you improve your skills and enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing, and to support you in passing on your enthusiasm and knowledge to the next generation. If you think you might benefit from a scholarship pick up the phone or drop an email to any member of the Branch committee, or you could start with our Secretary:

[stewart.murray@btinternet.com](mailto:stewart.murray@btinternet.com)

or [youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk).

There are events happening all year round such as Spring Fling, Winter and Summer Schools.

Think about it.

*We want to help*

## COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

During the coming months, the London Branch Committee will meet on 3 December, 4 February and 25 March. Suggestions for items to be discussed should be sent to the Secretary at least two weeks before the date of the meetings.

## FOCUS ON YOUTH

### Children's Classes

The Branch Children's Class continues on Saturday mornings - 12 December, 23 January, February (date tbc)  
10:15 - 11:30am

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

Teacher ..... **Angela Young**

Musician ..... **Jean Harrison**

Newcomers are always welcome!

### Family Day - 27 March

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

11:30am - 1.00pm Children's Class  
followed by lunch for all dancers  
2.00 - 4.30pm Dance to the music of

### Dave Hall.

Dances will include: Cumberland Reel, Dashing White Sergeant, The Dhoon, Espie MacNabb, The Flying Scotsman, The Honeymoon, Le Papillion, Petronella, Reel for Jeannie, Round Reel of Eight.

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

For more details please contact  
Angela Young on 07976 353 608.

### Medal Tests

The Branch will be contacting teachers to enter their pupils for the RSCDS Medal Tests and to arrange a suitable date. They are a good way of encouraging and rewarding young dancers and we aim to make the test day as relaxed and enjoyable as possible. If you would like more information, or would like to enter children for the Medal Tests please contact Angela Young on 07976 353 608.

## CHILTERN CHILDREN'S SCOTTISH DANCE CLUB

The Chiltern Children's Scottish Dance Club now meets on Wednesdays in Aston Clinton, near Aylesbury, Bucks. There are classes in both Scottish Country Dancing and introductory Highland Dancing with teachers **Joan Desborough** and **Ann Robertson**. All age groups are welcome from 'wee ones' to teenagers.

Details from Ann on 01296 630682.

## SUMMER SCHOOL 2009

### 'To Teach is to Learn Twice'



Alice Stainer

Stephen Webb

So pronounced the French moralist and essayist Joseph Joubert in his celebrated *Pensées* (1842); and it seems an apt motto with which to launch an account of my experience of learning to teach Scottish country dancing at Summer School this year, after the RSCDS saw fit to sponsor

me – for which I'm tremendously grateful. I've lost count of the number of times that Andrew McConnell has asked me "are you taking the course this year?" so I admit to a certain satisfaction when I encountered him in a corridor in Week 4 and was able to answer the habitual question in the affirmative. His delight was in its own way an encouraging endorsement. Admittedly this was an undertaking to some extent overdue, for various complicated reasons; but the upshot of this procrastination was that I approached it this year feeling very much that the time was ripe, which made me feel both relaxed and determined. The truism is that good teachers are born, not made; but the RSCDS course optimistically seeks to instil in its candidates the techniques to become a competent teacher of beginners in just two weeks. So here goes...

Instructed by Anne Taylor (of Broadford Bay renown), and supported by the hugely experienced and knowledgeable Heulwen Hall as our pianist, my class was composed of personnel of differing ages, nationalities, levels of experience and, to be frank, abilities. However, such diversity was minimised in the face of our common plight and we very much bonded as a group; it was a camaraderie that was to support us through the inevitable dull, tiring or testing moments in working towards passing a dancing exam at the end of the first week, and a teaching exam requiring us to demonstrate our ability to teach a step, an exercise, a formation and then a sixteen-bar phrase at the end of the second.

There was besides a great benefit to be gained from our differing dancing 'upbringings', as we brought to the melting-pot different techniques to consider adopting - Reg, for example, with a strong background in English country dancing, taught us some simple but memorable warm-up dances - and, just occasionally, those not to... It became clear that what we were really learning were effective methods of communication; most of us had an instinct for what we needed to demonstrate or explain, but successful execution proved harder than one might have anticipated.

The terminology of country dancing can tempt you into all sorts of fatal verbal tangles, and simple exercise or demonstration techniques proved much more effectual than labyrinthine descriptions. Along the way, there were inevitable moments of great hilarity, such as the ebullient Iris's saucy illustration of the phrasing of a Grand Chain: 'Hello, Hello, oh, Hellooooo!'

I'm not going to pretend that it was uniformly fun and games. There were times during the last days when the level of mental and emotional – not to mention bodily fatigue, was simply overwhelming; when I swear that if I had had to endure one more back-to-basics practice lesson on skip-change I would have thrown in Scottish Country Dancing and taken up Salsa instead. But these are all part of what a reality TV show would dub 'the journey', and sure enough we did nonetheless arrive at our destination. It was a great thrill to receive the letter through the post, and to know that I had successfully vaulted the first hurdle.

But of course this is not really the end. I conclude here with a revision of the sentiment with which I began – 'to teach is to learn twice' –

which seems more applicable to the ongoing process of becoming a qualified RSCDS teacher. Joubert's formulation is perhaps too measured, too finite, as if the learning ends with the course and subsequent qualification; but the late-nineteenth-century librarian and educationalist John Cotton Dana offers a more open-ended version: 'who dares to teach must never cease to learn'. As Unit 4 looms, and, dimly, Unit 5, I reflect that this course primarily furnishes you with the equipment to begin the journey; if I want to progress, I must take those techniques and use them to acquire new ones through practice, trial and error, and the advice of my mentor. I fully anticipate it, however, to be a journey that will continue as long as I teach Scottish Country Dancing.

Alice Stainer

## LADIES' STEP DANCING Tripping the Light Fantastic?

It is true that in a shoot-out between Highland (or Men's Highland as it is somewhat anomalously called in this PC climate dominated by female Highland Dance champions) and Ladies' Step dancing, the latter can all too easily come off worst. It boasts few of Highland's pyrotechnics, lacking the frisson of danger that comes from dancing over the swords for example, and seeming to express an outdated idea of femininity, all simpering skirt-holding and sappy submissiveness. In fact it is one of those infuriating art forms that frequently looks much easier than it is to execute, as it actually requires significant balance, control and pedal dexterity. Correctly performed, it can be the embodiment of grace, elegance and, yes, a kind of strength.

Unfortunately, you rarely get to witness this, as the harsh truth is that it is a dying art. Jenny Greene gave her class at St Andrews this year a stark warning that its position in mainstream dancing formats such as Summer School is under threat and that it was our responsibility to fight for its continued presence if we thought it of due importance. Yet it is a bona fide component of our dancing heritage. For those of you who confess to a certain ignorance in this direction, it dates from the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, with visible roots in both country and ballet; although significantly more soloistic, there are dances written for couples, trios and even larger groups. Revived almost single-handedly in the 1950s by Tibby Cramb when she came into possession of the nineteenth-century Hill manuscript of obscurely-notated step dances, it now enjoys a somewhat precarious existence, despite the composition of modern dances within the tradition – and this is where this class comes in.

I certainly don't pretend to be an expert; but taking advice from various respected exponents of step dancing, I am hoping both to introduce newcomers to and re-acquaint old timers with its delights and challenges, aiming to learn two dances at each of three sessions during the year. There is a surprisingly wide variety within the repertoire, ranging from dances that display a close relationship to Highland to those of a more lilting style in a waltz tempo; so hopefully something to suit all tastes. The steps vary in difficulty and as the branch website aptly puts it, it can indeed sometimes seem like a 'tongue twister for the feet'. Yet beyond the pleasures of negotiating its own challenges, the pay-off in country dancing terms could be improved balance and a heightened awareness of the connection between brain and feet that might benefit both sexes. So I finish by bidding you all, men and women, converts and doubters alike, to

'Come, and trip it as ye go  
On the light fantastic toe.'

You might just surprise yourself.

Alice Stainer

## DANCE SCOTTISH

### Branch Dance

For our opening dance of the season we welcomed visitors from far and wide in the RSCDS dancing fraternity. Our visitors from Vancouver Branch had this to say:

We had the great pleasure of dancing on Saturday, 19 September to Gordon Shand and his Scottish Dance Band at Pont Street. Kay and I live in North Vancouver, British Columbia and dance with the Deep Cove Club, but we are no strangers to London as our son has lived here for the last three years. We are usually here once a year en-route to a holiday in Europe. This time, we had the foresight to include our dancing shoes in our luggage.

A check on the RSCDS London Branch website promised an opportunity to dance to Gordon Shand although we were arriving back from a hiking holiday in Italy earlier in the day. I had a list of the dances from the website but some were unknown to us and we tried and failed to find the dance instructions on the website. However, an email to Jeff Robertson got us the crib sheets and we spent a good part of the previous week swotting up the dances. My wife even understood *Golden Harvest* and managed to dance it flawlessly, but then she's a teacher back home.

Fortunately this time there were no delays in flights or at Gatwick and we got into London with time enough to get to Pont Street as the first dance started.

We must say we were made very welcome by the members of London Branch and dancing to Gordon Shand was a special treat. We managed most of the dances, we hope without too many errors, although *The Valentine* was not my best dance.

Armed with a Google map and instructions to follow the road behind Harrods we found St Columba's Church Hall fairly easily. Men in kilts and the opening chords of *The Jubilee Jig* confirmed we were in the right place.

We were spotted as newcomers and promptly welcomed and included in a splendid evening of dance and music. So many people introduced themselves and invited us to dance demonstrating the friendliness and sociability of Scottish Country Dancing – wherever you are.

This was the end of Dance Scottish Week and we were delighted to watch an excellent Demo by some of the young dancers who had been attending a workshop earlier in the day:

An interesting dance programme, lively music, very congenial company and even a free glass of wine! A most delightful evening.

Peter Richards and Kay Sutherland  
(pictures centre pages)

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE REEL

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

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

# South East Region Teachers Association (SERTA)

**The South East Region Teachers' Association (SERTA)** organises workshops for Scottish dance teachers. It is open to anyone who takes an SCD class, whether qualified or not, those with a dance teaching qualification and those taking teaching courses. If you wish to join the mailing list or have any queries, please contact me at [mikejohnson@waitrose.com](mailto:mikejohnson@waitrose.com), at 4 Gatehampton Cottages, Gatehampton Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9LX or on 01491 873 026.

The next workshop, led by David Hall, will be in Woodford on 18th April 2010.

Reports of our last two workshops appear below. Anyone who wants a copy of either Lynda Hughes' notes or Joan Desborough's list of dances containing highland steps or description of how to do the steps themselves should contact me.

**Mike Johnson**

## MUSIC AND THE DANCE

### A view from the stage

The SERTA afternoon session in September, led by Ian Robertson, was born from the response of "Could have been better." to the Sunday morning question from his wife, "Good night last night?" So the question asked was, "What can we do to make it better, create a better atmosphere, and what is the purpose of the dance?"

In order to get the discussion going we were split into groups to see how we would plan a dance. Following some lively seminar discussion we returned to plenary and swapped results, leading to more discussion on the number of dances per hour and finding the balance between dancing, social interaction, food and the band as a response to part three of the original question.

When planning a dance why do we have so many dances on a programme? The average seemed to be about six per hour leading to eighteen conversations started and none finished. Do we think about the standard of dancers? What about the mix between 8x32 strathspeys (which are long) and 3x32 strathspeys (which are favoured for being shorter, but then all too often repeated). Do we just repeat a formula which has worked in the past so that all that needs doing is to tick the right boxes? What do we do to stop people leaving early? Is it to do with the distance travelled, the availability of public transport, or a bad programme? Bands often travel much greater distances than dancers and it can be demoralising to see people leaving before the end when the band is working just as hard at the end of the night as at the beginning.

Atmosphere is compiled by a combination of factors including, venue, numbers, etiquette, dance tunes and MCs. Ian expressed a strong preference for playing in Public Halls as opposed to schools because they have a better ambient atmosphere. He also noted the general reduction in the numbers attending dances and whilst recognising the cost implications and other practicalities, suggested that clubs should consider joining together for bigger, more social gatherings.

Bandsmen are pretty good at coping with whatever is thrown at them, but sometimes the rush to form sets for the next dance before it is announced can create the sense of an over-hasty night which is less sociable for the dancers and less enjoyable for the band too. We shouldn't compartmentalise types of dance (country dance versus ceilidh, for example) as this puts people off who think they don't have the expertise to cope. It's all country dancing and should be fun. Dress code is interesting as Ian was once asked

by a friend, "What's the difference between a Ball and a dance?" Ian's view is that the distinction is now very rarely observed, with dress code and the other aspects of formality implied by "Ball" often lacking. Tunes and MCs also play their part in creating atmosphere. Bands prefer to have a stage so that they can see what's going on and the MC should be there as a link between the dancers and the band so in preference should have no other responsibilities on the night (and in Ian's view should not dance whilst on duty). They are also there to ensure the smooth running of the evening and can help by giving confirmation of any unusual sequences, two chord starts, etc... Most bands take great pride in getting things right, but everyone is human and mistakes can happen.

During the session and to illustrate a point Ian had us all on the floor learning and dancing the *Pride of Erin Waltz*. The result of this being a very social interlude whereby we all spoke to our partners. Yet another point to bear in mind when organising a dance. I'm sure I have not covered all that was discussed but it was a very thought provoking afternoon which raised more questions than answers.

**Alex Harvey**

## Warm-up Workshop at SERTA

In April, we were privileged to have our morning session led by Lynda Hughes, an experienced Scottish Country Dance teacher and retired physiotherapist.

To quote Lynda, "The reason we do warm ups is to prepare the body for future activity. SCD is a fairly vigorous form of dance and is especially hard on the lower limbs. By preparing the body, we can help to prevent injury and improve muscle function."

She explained that, by increasing the temperature the contractile strength of the muscle is increased as is the speed of contraction and relaxation. Nerves will conduct more rapidly, connective tissue becomes more pliable and tissue respiration is improved. Warm-ups should not only improve the efficiency of muscles and connective tissue, they should be used to prepare the joint movements before they are used to dance. Warm-ups improve performance by up to 50% thus aiding prevention of injury. They can also help improve posture, balance, co-ordination and other aspects of the body's performance in dance. She stressed that warm-ups should not be an add-on to a class but an integral part of it and should be fun.

The most common injuries appear to involve the knee joints, calf muscles, Achilles tendon, ankle joints and feet. It is therefore important that warm-ups are designed to pay particular attention to these areas. One needs to remember that, although warming up may reduce the risk of injury, there is no guarantee that injury will not occur.

Warm-ups need to be planned and Lynda asked us to think **JAM** when doing so: **J** - joints, **A** - aerobic, **M** - muscles. All these need to be covered. She suggested that the warm up period should last for 10-15 minutes and be followed by a dance that did not contain slip step and with a minimum number of pas de basque steps. Avoidance of pas de basque and slip step is even more important at the beginning of a dance programme since many dancers will not have warmed up as thoroughly. Exercises should be done in a no-weight-bearing (NWB) situation. The aerobic part of the warm-up should be followed by a series of movements to involve foot, ankle, knee and hip. Warm up before

stretching, stretch slowly and without bounce.

A warm/cool down is advisable. Static stretching is effective in preventing muscular soreness following exercise. Muscular soreness is caused by the build-up of waste materials such as lactic acid in the muscle fibres. It can be greatly alleviated by static stretching, allowing these products to be removed by the blood. A warm down, which should consist of at least five minutes static stretching, also allows the heart rate to return to normal. The most effective is a two minute hold followed by a minute's rest. It is wise to include all muscle groups in the warm down and it should be done to gentle music.

As well as our bodies, she exercised our brains, but was kind enough to provide us with a hand-out to aid our memories. We are indebted to Lynda for sharing her expertise with us, for putting us through our paces, for providing us with interesting material to put into practice and for making it fun.

**Jean Simpson**

## DIGITAL MUSIC

During the April SERTA afternoon session David Ambrose provided us with a comprehensive review of the application of digital sound to SCD. We learned something of the theory of sound and its transition to digital storage, and how, practically, to record, store, edit and retrieve music from CDs, cassette and vinyl onto the home computer. We were introduced to freely available and low cost software readily available on the internet. He discussed and demonstrated the pros and cons of playback from the laptop, iPod or MP3 player plugged into the regular class amplifier. He reminded us of the need to keep original recordings in order to comply with royalty and copyright legislation.

David had done his research, and prepared his subject in great detail. I (and one or two others) have to confess that some of the techno-jargon left me a trifle bewildered but fortunately I can go back and review it in slow time as the whole presentation can be viewed on line by following the Links page at [www.sandonscotdance.org.uk](http://www.sandonscotdance.org.uk)

Just as I was musing on my lack of technical knowledge and understanding, David provided a wake up call in leading us through *The Inimitable Derek*, a lively dance that soon brought oxygen back to our brains. Then it was back to the guts of the presentation: the demonstration of downloading and editing the music, how to upload an LP or cassette into a digital file, to split and save individual tracks from that file, to use the time clock on the editing software to stop and start the music mid-track, just as one did with the revolutions counter on the tape deck. With practise one can extract and save as a separate file the particular bars of a track needed to teach a specific aspect of the dance, and can vary the speed of the track on the computer for teaching a dance for the first time, or for less able dancers. I would like to have explored further the potential to join tracks from different dances to produce medleys, and cutting an 8 times through track to 6 times through but will need to do this in my own time. David showed that quite clearly the software is freely available, and useable by the enthusiastic home computer buff.

Digital technology will not replace the luxury of a class musician playing live music and responding to the immediate needs of the class and the teacher at a specific time in the lesson. But just as live bands were first recorded to vinyl, and records gave way to tape, CDs and minidisc, David showed us the music game continues to develop and we can expect much broader applications in the future as more and more teachers make use of digital sound.

**Robert Morgan**

## Highland Steps in Country Dances

This was the theme of the morning session of the South East Region Teachers' Association (SERTA) workshop held in Hemel Hempstead on 27 September. Joan Desborough led the session, ably accompanied by Ian Robertson who delighted us with music played on accordion and fiddle. Joan chose her theme of 'Highland Steps in Country Dancing' as it is a subject close to her heart – she was a competitor in highland dancing long before she began country dancing. She believes strongly that dances which have highland steps in them should not be allowed to disappear and that dancers who feel they don't know what to do, should be encouraged to 'have a go'. She told us that, although highland steps are more stressful to the body than country dancing and strathspey is worse than reel time because of the hopping, it is not necessary to dance anything complicated. Keep it simple and don't get tied down with detail: 8 bars of pas de basque in reel time, for example, are perfectly acceptable.

Without further ado, Joan warmed us up with a few exercises and then went on to teach us various reel time steps. She began with 'tulloch turns' (elbow grip), then progressed to steps consisting of 'pas de basque' plus 'balance', 'points' or 'cuts', followed finally by a simplified version of 'shake and travel'. Joan taught us with clear demonstrations, lots of encouragement and a sense of fun and before we knew it, we were into our first highland dance of the day, *Roundabout Hullachan*. We then went on to learn some highland steps in strathspey time; 'highland schottische', 'Glasgow Highlanders setting step', and the 'crossover' and 'rocking' steps. By the end of the morning we had also danced *Double Eighty* devised by Dulcie Bond, *The Glasgow Highlanders* and for our finale, the *Foursome*.

During the morning session, we discussed at what point it is best to introduce highland steps when teaching. From her considerable ▶

## RSCDS AT LONDON FÈIS\*

"The best ever" is how one participant described this September's London Fèis. The London Branch was undoubtedly central to that success.

It was the first time the RSCDS had attended since the launch of the yearly Scottish music and dance festival in 2007. Organisers wanted to try something new, with an eye on the obvious popularity of ceilidh dancing in the capital.

Having the experts onside proved a good move. After an impressive display at the Saturday ceilidh, the demonstration team coaxed even the most timid onto the floor by a combination of athletic footwork and gentle persuasion. No mean feat given the large mixed crowd: seasoned dancers from the Highland and Island Society rubbing shoulders with fiddlers, accordionists, guitarists, singers and their guests.

Earlier in the day, Angela Young had smoothed a few rough edges by leading a "playing for dancers" class in the oak-panelled rooms of Froebel College, Roehampton.

Fèis London aims to develop as an event involving like-minded London societies. We very much hope the RSCDS will join us again in celebrating Scottish music and dance in years to come.

Etienne Duval

\* **Fèis:** A traditional Gaelic arts and culture festival.

◀ experience Joan felt that children should be taught early on as they generally love a challenge and that with adult country dancers, one could often judge when they were ready for a new challenge and could then introduce one highland step per week. Joan emphasised again the need to keep things simple and that nearly everyone could find something they were happy to try so that they could enjoy dancing dances with highland steps. We certainly did – both the dancing and the music!

Ann Dix

## CENTENARY OF ST ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON) (Wimbledon And District Scots' Association)

This year this Society celebrates its centenary with a Ball on 20 March 2010, see the separate advertisement in this issue of this magazine. This is an unusual event for RSCDS Affiliated Societies and we are not aware of any precedent.

Alan White, a past Chief of the Society has written about the Society in a fine article in the October issue of the *Scottish Country Dancer* which members will already have read. We wish the Society continuing success.

## The Most Popular Dances

Iain Ross has once again listed the most popular dances in the SE England over the last year from over 100 events and nearly 2000 dances. Below is the list of top twelve dances (with their frequency in bold.) Those interested in the complete list should contact the Editor by email.

- 26 Mairi's Wedding
- 24 Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder
- 24 Pelorus Jack
- 23 Postie's Jig
- 22 The Belle of Bon Accord
- 22 The Montgomerie's Rant
- 21 Bratach Bana
- 21 Hooper's Jig
- 20 The Bees of Maggie Knockater
- 19 Anniversary Reel
- 19 MacDonald of the Isles
- 19 The Minister on the Loch

## SUCCESSFUL TEACHERS

At St Andrews Summer School, Alice Stainer passed **Units 2&3**, and Heather Battson, a former Branch member, passed **Unit 5**.

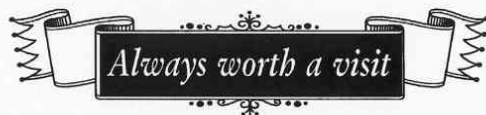
We wish them every success in spreading the joy of Scottish Country Dancing.



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# NEW RECORDINGS

**The Ruthven Collection** – Volume 2 - Colin Dewar Scottish Dance Band (RVC02)  
17 dances devised by Rob Sargent.

**Twistin' Tradition** - The Andy Kain Band (BRCD050)

The Duke of Perth, Riverside Jig(6x32), Shiftin' Bobbins, Tribute to the Borders, Orcadian Strip the Willow together with 14 old time/ceilidh dances.

Having reviewed about a dozen of Colin Dewar's recordings over the years, it is difficult to find anything new to say. Colin is without doubt one of Scotland's finest, and this CD proves once again that he has what it takes and a lot more. 10 of the originals are by Colin himself. I particularly like the reel *The Royal Scot*. A strathspey *The Braes of Dunvegan* has also made me sit up and listen, and listen again. It is said to be traditional but I think it has a modern feel about it. Does anyone out there know whence it came?

Andy Kain is an exceptionally fine fiddler and has Scottish accordion champion, Liam Stewart, by his side in the front row. They play an eclectic selection of dances in various genres and sound tremendous throughout. I just love the two 6/8 pipe marches (John D Burgess and Kenneth J MacLeod) for the *Eva Three Step*. Their *Tribute to the Borders* is also in the top flight!

At this time of the year we usually bring you some non-dancing CDs with Christmas presents in mind but this year they are thin on the ground. There is, however, one outstanding CD entitled *Songs of My Home* by baritone Richard Morrison who follows in the footsteps of his father, Peter (some readers may remember Peter who sang at a Branch concert in St Columba's in June 1987). Richard now mostly sings opera but on this CD we hear *The Rowan Tree*, *Ae Fond Kiss*, *Annie Laurie* and other Scottish favourites. There are two recent compositions; one by his father and one by Alastair McDonald who also plays guitar on some of the tracks. Piano accompanist is Gordon Cree. My only criticism is that the CD is only 36 minutes in length.

By the time you read this, the CDs for Book 7 (David Cunningham) and Book 17 (Neil Copland) will be available. The 2009 dances will be shared between the two CDs. I hear that Ayr Branch has a new book – 75th Anniversary Dances and CD by The Ian Muir Sound (522A018) but it has not yet reached me. There's also a CD by Marian Anderson for Belfast Branch – Diamond Jubilee Dances. Any queries please call me on 020 7286 1923.

**John Laurie**

## Chiltern Fiddle Rally 2010

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Further information from Ian Robertson  
on 01296 630682 or chilterntrad@aol.com

## THE PORTLAND COLLECTION

**Susan Songer and Clyde Curley**

This is a book of dance tunes used by musicians in the Portland, Oregon, area of the USA. It sprang out of a collection of tunes put together by Susan Songer when she started to play (on the fiddle) for Contra Dancing in that area in 1989. Later in the process she asked local musicians to suggest tunes, eliminated the tunes that were commonly available in other popular collections, and those that remained (318 in all) form the Portland Collection.

Susan Songer was helped in this project by Clyde Curley, also a musician in the Portland area, who plays guitar and mandolin. Clyde Curley has contributed an unusual feature of this book, which is a series of notes about every tune in the book, which I find fascinating. It's really nice to learn the background of a tune. Possible chords are given in the main body of the book, and sometimes alternate harmonies and arrangements are suggested in Clyde Curley's notes.

What about the tunes themselves? Well, there's a wide variety of types, but they're all good dance tunes. Some are tunes that the Scots, the Irish and the English would recognise (there's even a Playford tune included), but there are also locally-written tunes, and some cracking tunes from the Quebec region. I've been mining this book for tunes for the last couple of years, and I'm sure that I'll continue to do so. If you want to extend your dance tunes beyond the standard Scottish repertoire this is an excellent buy.

Two other good points; the tunes are arranged in alphabetical order of titles (why don't more people do this?), and the book is spiral bound so that it lies open nicely on a flat surface.

Such has been the success of the collection that there's now a Volume 2, which I expect I'll get in the future. The Collection is available from <http://www.portlandcollection.com>, and Amazon on <http://www.amazon.co.uk> from £33.76.

**Roger Swaine**

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## BRANCH MUSICIANS' WORKSHOP

(part of Branch Day School 17 October)

There was a good turnout for the Branch Musicians' Workshop led by Ian Muir which was held within the Day School on 17 October. Twelve musicians attended, including some from Cumbria, Rotherham, and Newcastle upon Tyne. Ian and the other musicians created a friendly and welcoming atmosphere from the start and we gelled together as a group very quickly.

Ian did not limit himself to just the music but also explained a number of other aspects of playing for dancing, such as his experiences playing in Shetland. Overall I found it hard work but very enjoyable, thanks to Ian's skill and encouragement.

Credit should also be given to the Day School team as a whole since the Musicians' Workshop is just part of the day and a lot of work goes into setting up the day, arranging lunches and car parking, etc.

If you play an instrument do come and join us at the next Musicians' Workshop – we can guarantee that you will not be bored!

Colin McEwen

## ON A WING AND A PRAYER

In a moment of unparalleled rashness Marion Turnock and I enrolled for a Musicians' Day Course with George Meikle despite the small print which included playing for the evening dance at Wing Village Hall, Milton Keynes, as a grand finale. A modest collection of music came whistling through the Internet – about a dozen dances, making a grand total of about fifty tunes to rehearse, some well-known but others less so; fortunately Marion had been to Musicians' Summer School and some of the dances had featured in that. There were nine of us in the ensemble which included a drummer and a viola player and our two electric pianos as well as the usual suspects on box and fiddle. Lubricated by tea and coffee and entertained by the odd wee story from George at strategic intervals, the day passed uneventfully in rehearsals until a halt was called at about four o'clock. Now then, Wing is by no means a mighty metropolis and a quick inspection of the two local taverns made it clear that we could not be fed until six, so we passed the time over a quiet drink and light conversation until dinner-time.

Have you ever spared a thought for the cross-eyed concentration going on up there on the stage whilst you're gritting your teeth and/or smiling down below? If you're a keyboard player you're reading one line of music – the melody – and, if you're on your own, harmonising by adding three lines of your own in an appropriate style, sometimes from sight... But if you're in an ensemble there'll be scrawls of chord notation and alterations everywhere to ensure harmony rather than discords. All this and the need to keep half an eye on the dancers – are they comfortable at this tempo? – tends to keep the mind alive after the manner of a three-dimensional crossword; then there's the little matter of keeping track of how many times through and remembering to play repeats... oh, and did we agree to play this one a conventional 1-2-3-4-2-3-4-1 or not? Luckily, George played half a dozen dances solo which enabled Marion and myself to take the floor for *Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran* and other light classics, but by the time eleven of the clock came round we had just about enough left for 'Auld Lang Syne' and a drive back to Leicester and Nottingham!

David Page

## Message from Lilian Linden in Jersey

Just a note to say that I have recently moved back with my family to Jersey, where I grew up, went to school and lived with my parents and worked for many years. My new address is: Norwood, Le Mont Cambrai, St. Lawrence, Jersey JE3 1JN. Telephone: 01534 789817, UK mobile 07879 633766, Jersey mobile 07829 722446, e-mail: lilian.linden@virgin.net and invercauldband@googlemail.com.

As many of you will know, I have for a long time enjoyed playing for SCD Classes and Day Schools, as well as playing for many years at St. Andrews for the RSCDS Summer School.

I am occasionally coming over to the UK to play with my band, the Invercauld Scottish Dance Band, and my band website [www.invercauldband.com](http://www.invercauldband.com) will show the dates and events when I will be playing. I hope also to play in Jersey.

I am dancing once again with my old Scottish dance class in the Island and it was lovely to receive a warm welcome back. The group holds an annual Scottish dance weekend, the next one being the end of May Bank holiday weekend, (see page 17 for full details of this event). I hope many of my friends will be able to come over then.

In any case, I hope you will all keep in touch with me and let me know if you ever come over to visit Jersey, as I would love to see you.

Lilian Linden

## DEIRDRE DELIGHT



Stephen Webb

Deirdre Adamson (pictured with me) made her fifth visit to St Albans on Friday 9 October to play at a musical evening organized by St Albans & Mid-Herts Caledonian Society.

Her programme included Scottish and international music which she introduced with good humour and played with great skill and style. She included pieces from her latest CD, as well as some of her own compositions.

The evening opened with the members of the Hertfordshire Box and Fiddle Club playing a selection of music including *The Aylesbury Fiddle Rally Anniversary March* by Ian Robertson.

Doug Adamson of Deeday Music said that Deirdre was celebrating 25 years as a recording artiste and she was marking this with her latest CD *A Tribute to Past Masters*, which includes tracks of music by Neil Gow through to Andrew Rankine, Jim Johnstone and Jimmy Shand.

Her dexterous virtuosity for the love of simply playing shone through every piece she played for us from *The Paso Doble* to *Polkas from Marches to Medleys*. The evening ended with Deirdre joining the Box & Fiddle Club members in a toe-tapping stramash of reels. I received many compliments from the guests on the success of the evening. I hope we shall see Deirdre again. Her playing is a treat not to be missed by lovers of accordion music.

Chris Walker

## NEW RELEASE



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Tel: 01463 235384

## Nelson Wallace 1961 - 3

It is with regret that we record the death of Nelson Wallace at Yarm, in his 100th year. Nelson danced in Croydon when he was Chairman of the East Surrey West Kent (now Croydon) Branch in 1961. Subsequently he danced in London for many years and was a life member of the Society.

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[www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk).

These quality garments – now with the new London Logo – are modestly priced as follows, postage and packing being charged at cost as appropriate:-

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

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

Jeff Robertson



- Summer School**
1. St Andrews, Summer School John Wilkinson hands over the reins for 2010-12 to Margo Priestley.
  2. Talented Ukrainians: Mariia Gvozdykova, Iryna Zhurakovska, Anastasiya Gavrylyuk, Olena Solontsova (L-R) dance an Irish dance to a Russian song, during a false fire alarm one evening  
(picture Andrew Nicol)

- Kensington Gardens**
3. Zoë and Jeremy Hill dancing *The Cumberland Reel!*
  4. London Branch Demonstration Team dance *The Byron Strathspey*.
  5. Iris, a visitor from Germany, joined the spectator dancing in Kensington Gardens.
  6. Long time dancing supporter, Valerie Twining.

- Dance Scottish Week**
7. Jeff Robertson shows that Scottish Country Dancing is fun for all ages in an Open House dance taster session!
  8. Branch Class Teacher Maureen Campbell helps out in a dance taster session.
  9. Two sets of the Demonstration Team dance a Half Poussette in *Neidpath Castle*.
  10. Chairman, Jeff Robertson and Vice-Chairman, Angela Young at the Open House initiative.





11



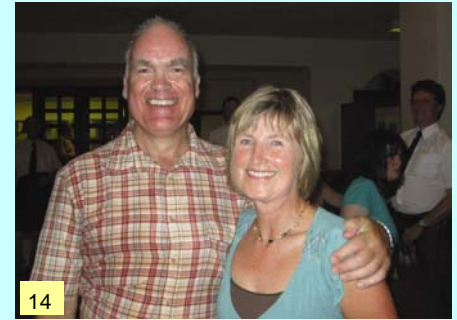
12



13



15



14



16

**Dance Scottish Week Branch Dance**

- 11 David Cordes leads– Marion Morris up the middle in *The Wild Geese*.
- 12 MCs James Fairbairn and Rachel Wilton join Gordon Shand and his band.
- 13 Andrew Nolan springs with style as he turns Natalie Maude.
- 14 London Branch welcomes visitors to London Kay Sutherland and Peter Richards from North Vancouver.

*Right:* Publicity Committee Member Michael Nolan demonstrates the London Branch Website.



17



8

**Dance Scottish Week Day School and Ceilidh**

- 15 London Branch demonstration team dance The Society's 1973 Jubilee Dances.
- 16 Dancing the tournée during Johan McLean's class.
- 17 Jeff our Chairman with class teacher Johan from Glasgow and pianist Robert from Edinburgh.
- 18 Johan and Robert discuss the music.



18

All pictures by Stephen Webb except where stated

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tunbridge Wells

## Let's Help the Re-cappers!

Dear Wilson,

Ann Dix's letter in Reel 268 was "spot-on"! As a 21st century dancer, I have always lived with the benefits of the internet and the iPod, and knowing that there are over 5000 dances out there I have never seen the point in even trying to memorise any one complete dance! My memory is reserved for retaining the individual figures or dance elements. Rudimentary maths tells me there must be a lot less of them!

I want to dance new dances and not just the old favourites [however good they are], and I want to be free of cribs. When I take to the floor I want to feel confident that I can perform all the elements required by that dance, even if I've never danced it before, and that the re-capper will give everyone the necessary sequences and links.

I can sympathise with the objections of musicians – they've done more preparation than the dancers, but at least they are probably being paid and they know they can get by with 4 or 5 hundred tunes – and they can have their cribs on the music stands! They need 30 seconds to shuffle paper in any case, and that's all the time a good recap needs!

It does, however, place a lot of responsibility on the re-capper, and from my experience at St Andrews, the Society already accepts the importance of the role.

More could be done however, by reviewing and expanding the descriptions of dance elements with the re-capper as the main focus. For him or her, brevity and absolute unambiguity of wording are the priorities, so the more elements that are named and taught the easier and quicker it is to re-cap. I find it strange that many complicated 8-bar movements such as "Tournée" have been standardised, but many 2- and 4-bar movements ignored. I personally have a blind spot about the opening 8 bars – if "Set and Rotate" can be defined, surely many others could be named and standardised?

My thoughts are that a continually updated internet "Element Dictionary" could be maintained by the Society to which both re-cappers and dance designers as well as teachers would refer. It would need day-to-day support and revision as new elements will be continually created by dancers and designers, and it must only reject a new suggestion on grounds of duplication. Possibly it already exists, but the Society seems focused on complete dance publication which is now better left to the designers themselves and existing internet providers such as Charles Upton and the Minicrib.

Led by a vibrant "tool-kit", Scottish country dancing will evolve naturally in a disciplined way without abandoning its past and traditions. Were the elements graded, then dances could be designed to a grade standard. This would allow new dancers to enjoy formal dances, knowing for sure that when they take to the floor they won't make a fool of themselves even if the dance is "brand new". From my own quite recent experience, I'm sure that would be attractive to flustered fledgling dancers.

Richard Walmsley

## SCOTSCARE

The Scottish Charity, ScotsCare, which helps Scots who live in and around London suffering hardship or seeking to rebuild or improve their lives is offering a designer shopping bag created by upcoming Scottish designer Jamie Bruski Tetsill. For more details see [www.scotscare.com](http://www.scotscare.com)

London

## Musicians' Workshop

Dear Wilson,

I should like to say thank you to the Branch for the RSCDS Musicians' Workshop led by Ian Muir at the Branch Day School. This was a wonderful opportunity to get to grips with some Scottish dance music. There was a good variety, at an approachable level for beginners. Ian Muir shared with us the benefit of his years of experience of playing for dance. I came away really feeling I had learned something, and now only had to put it into practice. It would have been wonderful for us to have mastered enough to play something together for the dance in the evening. In fact that was all that was lacking.

Would it be possible on another occasion to complete the process and play for the dance in the evening? There was a wonderful sense of a school full of dancers learning their dances in the rooms around us, we shared breaks with them. It would have been something to play for them to dance to at the end of their classes.

Charlotte McDonaugh

Reading

## The Future of the RSCDS

Dear Wilson,

In Reel 269 you posed questions about the future of the Society. I have some answers, plus one question that you did not ask.

**Q** Should the Society close down with a job well done? **A** No, there are still worthwhile tasks other than dredging up old manuscripts.

**Q** Should it concentrate on maintaining standards as a Teachers' Association? **A** There is a role for a Teachers' Association (for example TAC or some aspects of the ISTD) but again there are worthwhile tasks beyond being a Teachers' Association.

**Q** Should it expand its activities to embrace the modern dances and pursue a commercial course? **A** The Society cannot stand still. We have progressed beyond the attitudes of earlier times where recently composed dances were ignored, but there is still a long way to go. In terms of a commercial course, the harsh financial realities of today's world are very different to the 1920s or even the 1960s (reference the recent annual deficits of over £100,000).

Should the Society strive to maintain the atmosphere and approach typified by Summer School, or should it adopt a fully commercial approach and hold events at some soulless concrete sports hall conveniently placed by a motorway junction with jets overhead every few minutes from the nearby international airport as happens for commercial / business conferences?

And one question you did not ask: **Q** The West Lothian question for the RSCDS. Does the Society need to do more work on the balance between events within Scotland and elsewhere? **A** The recent Kaleidoscope event is in my opinion just a start – there is still more to do in this area.

One thing is very clear to me – we must take note of events on the wider stage, actively work on the options for the ways forward and then gain the full support of the membership to make whatever changes are needed to take the Society forward for the next generation. Otherwise there will be more financial crises as with the National Trust for Scotland and closure could become the only option.

Colin McEwen

London

## Day School

Dear Wilson,

I was lucky enough to be part of the London Branch Day School last weekend. It was a well-organised, happy occasion and there were lots of enthusiastic (and able) dancers there. The Branch is lucky that Margaret Catchick makes such a good job of putting it all together, attracting good teachers (yours truly excepted!) and musicians from afar and lots of customers too.

But, there was a revealing incident for me – I went in search of a cup of tea and hidden away I found four hard workers (Margaret, Peter, George and Lena) preparing food, drinks etc. Indeed, it is the second time this season I have witnessed the same team working slavishly in the background for the Branch. Without them, many of these functions simply wouldn't work at all. I just want to say a real thank you to the unsung heroes that enable the Branch to flourish, and for many of us to enjoy its activities.

David Hall

Orpington

## Day School

Dear Wilson,

What a wonderful day and evening we enjoyed at the London Branch Day School in Parsons Green on Saturday. It was lovely to meet old and make new friends. The teachers for the Mixed Ability classes were a delight and the time went all too quickly. We take our hats off to all the London Branch Committee for working so hard to organise such a seamless day, laying on such a delicious evening buffet and creating a unique ceilidh. It put 'Britain's Got Talent' well in the shade! Thank you to you all. It was a pleasure too to listen to 'Up In the Air'; not being musicians, we benefited from listening to Ian Muir's 'take' on social dances from a different point of view. It was enlightening.

Also in September I had the pleasure in taking part in two Dance Scottish Week events. One was organised by our excellent RSCDS teacher, Angela Campbell, for the Orpington & District Caledonian's Society's contribution to the annual Orpington Festival held in the town's Priory Gardens. The Society was invited to put on a dance demonstration and audience participation which was enjoyed by all. I then took advantage of a visit to Devon to join the Dance Scottish Week event at Bystock in Exmouth so ably organised by Vic and Sue Tyler, an event which took place to encourage newcomers to the joys – and pitfalls – of SCD. It was a wonderful afternoon, in a delightful setting and under superb leadership. I would encourage enthusiastic dancers to investigate dances and classes in venues in towns they are visiting. I have always been made to feel very welcome.

I am now looking forward to a Scottish Dance weekend to be held in November in Eastbourne, ably organised by Pauline Catchmore from Croydon RSCDS.

An ever-learning enthusiast,

Pam French

Chiswick

## Sprung Floors

Dear Wilson,

The ghillies and ballet pumps used by most dancers were designed for use at a time when most floors were sprung. Today sprung floors are the exception. Isn't it time for a redesign of SCD dancing wear to avoid more injury?

Jerry Reinstein

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (continued)

Eastcote

## Day School Delights

Dear Wilson,

Although I have been an avid reader of *The Reel* over the last forty years, I have never felt moved to write to you until now.

On Saturday 17 October I attended RSCDS London Branch Day School. What an excellent day! I had seen the advertisement for it in Reel no.269 and my decision to apply was reinforced by meeting three friends at the Open Air Dancing in Kensington Gardens who had been last year and were going again.

I was encouraged to attend The Open Air Dancing twice this year by my son-in-law Neil, the 'Pied Piper of Polesden', who was piping there. What fun we had! Old and young alike joined in. Even my granddaughter Iona aged two and a half managed the *Dashing White Sergeant!* Thanks to James Fairbairn for being the friendly caller on these two occasions.

The Day School was the first I have attended for many years, although my husband and I started learning SCD forty years ago when we attended the RSCDS beginners class taught by Alison Ferguson at Rutherford School near Baker Street. We then attended the Lucy Clark Club in Amersham, but as our two daughters grew up we found getting to dances more difficult. However our eldest daughter Fiona attended a children's class run by Derek Ivory in Ruislip, but when he moved away Fiona, closely followed by our younger daughter Amanda, took up Highland dancing with Janet Cook in Harrow. I decided to try it too, enjoying competing especially if there was a forty and over age group! So SCD took a back seat until we returned to the classes run by Harrow and District Caledonian Society. I still enjoy these, but sadly my husband decided his brain and knees could not cope anymore. He gave it up but I am determined that my brain will cope. I hope the knees will too!

So, well done RSCDS London Branch for putting on such encouraging and friendly events. Returning to the Day School, many thanks to Margaret Catchick and her band of helpers for a well-organised and enjoyable day. Thanks to Craig Houston and Deb Lees who were our teachers in the mixed ability group and the musicians Judith Muir and Jeremy Hill. It was so good to work hard on the steps as well as the dances. Thank you to Ian and Judith Muir for a delightful illustrated talk "Up in the Air" in the free time before the Evening Ceilidh. What a talented group of people; marvellous food, great dancing and lovely entertainment.

Gail Bignell

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available on the Branch Website.**

## Non-Scottish Tunes

Dear Wilson,

In his column, in the last edition of *The Reel*, John Laurie poses the somewhat rhetorical question: 'Are *Rory O'More* and *Dashing White Sergeant* Scottish?'

The tune *Rory O'More* is definitely Irish, although I do not have much more information about it.

The tune *Dashing White Sergeant* is English. It was composed in 1826, by Sir Henry Bishop (who also composed 'Home Sweet Home'). At least nine different longwise country dances have been devised and published with this tune. In 1826, Boulogne published a version, described as an 'English Country Dance', in his Ballroom Guide (he also described one of the three versions of *Petronella* in his guide as an 'English Country Dance', although *Petronella* has never been published in England). In 1850, a longwise version was published by J. Thompson and in 1862, another was published by Elias Howe, in the United States. In 1890, David Anderson published a longwise country dance to the *Dashing White Sergeant* and in the same volume included a dance for two men and four ladies titled *La Danse Florence* in the 'Swedish' formation devised by G.M.S. Chivers (see below). Over the years the tune *Dashing White Sergeant* came to be associated with the figures of 'La Danse Florence'. The dance later came to be performed round the room and the reels were then changed to reels with own partners. The *Highland Reel* (RSCDS Book XIII) is similar to the original dance as published by Anderson.

The formation of a man between two ladies, facing a similar couple, first appeared in the dance *Confesse* in the first edition of Playford's 'The English Dancing Master' (1651). Another dance in the same book *Greenwood* had a man between two ladies facing a lady between two men. In both these dances the facing trios were on the sides of a longwise set.

In 1822, G.M.S. Chivers published a book of 'Modern' Country Dances, in which he introduced several new formations. One of these formations, comprising a man between two ladies facing a similar trio, in lines across the room, he named as 'Swedish Dances'. The Swedish dances were performed down the length of the Ballroom, the dancers having a rest at the top and foot whilst turning to face the other way. The reels were performed, by the man with the lady on his left and the lady facing her.

There are many other examples of Scottish dances being performed to non-Scottish music, (several of our traditional Scottish Country Dances were originally published in Dublin). Likewise, some Scottish songs are set to non-Scottish Music; the most obvious example being *Auld Lang Syne*. As Burns recorded in his diary, he heard the poem *Auld Lang Syne* (first published in 1711, by James Watson in a book of Scottish poetry) being recited in a bar. He wrote his improved version down the following day. The tune to which 'Auld Lang Syne' is sung is part of the overture to the little known opera *Rosina* which was first performed in the 'Italian Opera House' in Covent Garden in 1788. The music was composed by William Shield, who was born near Gateshead in County Durham. William Shields an amateur violinist was originally employed by a boat builder on the Tyne. Felice Giardini heard him playing and persuaded him to move to London and join the Opera House Orchestra. In 1770, he was appointed 'Master of the King's Musick' an appointment he held until his death on 25 January, 1820.

Yours sincerely,

John W. Mitchell.

Hove

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Please continue to support your Branch.

Jeff Robertson

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (continued)

Bletchley

## George Meikle at the Thistle Club

Dear Wilson,

Andrew Patterson described the delight of a hundred dancers enjoying the fruits of George Meikle's labours to create a superb band from an assortment of musicians. I was equally amazed and delighted when I attended the recent Thistle Club dance in Wing Village Hall just south of Milton Keynes.

Like Andrew I have danced to most of the bands in the South East and many others elsewhere in England and Scotland. Dancing to George and the musicians was as enjoyable as the best of those bands. The atmosphere in a village hall was of course different to St Columba's but the enjoyment was no less. I am still amazed at the quality of the playing and would echo the thanks of dancers to George for his efforts that help to ensure we can continue to dance to high class live music.

I shall have to ask George how he finds the energy to travel, teach and coach and then play all evening. The Thistle Club dance coincided with his birthday so he should have been taking it easy. As it was he did not find time to enjoy a piece of his cake until he relaxed at 11pm before driving home.

Terry Orchard

## ST ANDREWS 2009

It was an exciting week with lots of international members in attendance including the furthest flung London Branch member – Andy Nicol. At the party after the ceilidh, sets were just embarking on a *Duke of Perth* to the music of John Renton and Andy Nicol when the fire alarm went off! Whilst outside waiting for the all clear from the fire Brigade the Ukrainian dancers did a demonstration on the grass (photo in centre pages). When the dance resumed the fire alarm went off again. On the third attempt *The Duke of Perth* was completed – after Jeremy Hill took over from Andy whose playing was obviously too hot!

Week four was a special week as it was the culmination of three years of commitment from John Wilkinson as Director of Summer School at a difficult time when University changes made it additionally demanding. His exemplary and popular organising of 12 weeks in total of Summer School was marked at the final Younger Hall Dance on Saturday 15 August 2009 with an entertaining speech by Helen Russell of all the adversities that John had coped with and the presentation of a gift along with a unique painting caricature masterpiece painted by Alistair Smyth showing the carefree John with the despairing Janet Johnstone and the sartorially elegant, but worst for wear, Robert Mackay looking on. The last dance was in part played for by a band formed from many of the course musicians – George Meikle, David Hall, Ian Hall, Ian Muir, Bill Ewan, Sheena Sturrock, Jim Lindsay and Pat Clark.

Olim Saltator

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Hemel Hempstead

## That Letter

Dear Wilson,

Almost an understatement but it does appear that the most controversial letter in a long time was that written by 'Peter Hoult' in Reel 265 entitled Musicians. I raise this as it has been brought back sharply into focus by Colin McEwen's Letter to the Editor in the last Reel.

In the London area Mr Hoult surprisingly is not known, at least not by that name, despite giving an address in London. It seems clear therefore from enquiries that Mr Hoult's letter was written under a non de plume. I just wonder why?

It has been suggested to me, that as Branch photographer, I challenge Mr Hoult to present himself to me so a photo can be taken to be published in *The Reel*. I guess we would all like to meet him to discuss his approach to having musicians, or not, and this is a way forward. How brave are you Mr Hoult? Come out of the shadows and be counted!

Yours, in anticipation,

Stephen Webb

Scotland

## Have we stopped thinking?

Dear Wilson,

Have we stopped thinking for ourselves? Are teachers leading us so much that we no longer have to think for ourselves? Even at the dances I go to nowadays, the dances are called so much, so that I never even look the dances up before I leave to go to the dance. I am sure that I am not the only one who never opens a book to look up the dance – I just rely on the walk through or the recap. Is this the way forward to encourage people to dance well?

Surely if we retained that dance in our head we would have more time to enjoy the dance and the partner we are dancing with, rather than hoping we are fourth couple and that by the time it is our turn we will know what to do. I believe that with practice the dances will be retained in our heads without the need always to be told what to do. Perhaps I may be wrong? What would I do if I turned up at a dance and the dances were not re-capped? I also wonder how my partners feel when they have done their "homework" on the dances, but I have not.

I can see that in the Beginners and Intermediate classes the need to assist and guide is more so, as in these classes the members have so much to take in, steps, formations, etiquette, as well as remembering their partners. But I would enquire if teachers really need to do the thinking for class members in the more advanced classes. Should it not be a case of telling the class the dance and allowing them to think how does it go, what are the tricky points in the dance (if any) and dancing it perhaps just once through to see how it goes then perhaps the teacher can pick out the points to highlight the areas to watch. This way perhaps we will start to think for ourselves instead of just always relying on the teacher/MC to tell us. (This is a general comment about classes and not a reflection on London Branch teachers)

The Branch has a shop, from which most books are available, I wonder if we have sold any of the dance books during the last few years? MiniCrib have the dance instructions online free of charge, is this affecting book sales? Are we flogging a dead horse publishing books?

What do other readers think?

Have Kilt Will Travel

Chingford

## What number are we?

Dear Wilson,

It was interesting to read Stephen Webb's comments on the pitfalls of counting longways sets. I agree with Stephen that counters need to be aware of these or else not place themselves at the top of the hall. I have noticed that some counters rush down the set preferring to get it over with quickly resulting in some dancers missing their number. Others only count the men who do not always pass the information on to their partner. It is not always the counter's fault as dancers want to socialise with their partners and may not hear their number as a result. Stephen listed many more problems in his letter. We certainly need an assertive and sensible counter with a clear voice and this can never be guaranteed.

I also go to English and American dances. Here, as Stephen noted, the practice of taking hands in circles of four or six (or could be eight) down the set works well. Everyone quickly knows their number. Latecomers soon spot where they can join in if the couple on the end of an incomplete set raises their hands in the usual manner. I would not agree with Stephen that this is less sociable because in my experience the joining of hands with others promotes a smile and perhaps a quick chat while waiting for instruction or the band to begin. This method would save time and eradicate faulty counting and frustration of dancers.

In some ceilidhs I have attended at festivals, dancers are often left to themselves to make up sets informally with natural leaders counting out a set. This anarchic approach works surprisingly well although it is a bit of a scramble!

I think the taking hands eight down the set is the most practical method. It would be interesting to see this given a trial run at Scottish dances.

Sally Jacobs

## John Linscott

John Linscott was first and foremost a sportsman. He taught and took part in a huge variety of sport through-out his life. He had a true sportsman's sense of fair play. He believed in enjoying life,



and sharing his enjoyment of it with others. To all this he brought a gentle charm, unforced affability and courtesy, and a self-deprecating sense of humour.

During his life, he expressed a great love of Scottish Dancing – to the extent that whenever he moved house, the garden had to be large enough for at least two sets! After obtaining his Teaching Certificate, he established classes in Eltham and Sidcup, and maintained a very high standard of teaching. His style of dancing was strong and masculine, and therefore it was a great tragedy when he was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident and could not achieve the high standard of dancing which he set himself. However, he continued his classes and had a popular following of students, only giving up two years ago when he was nearly eighty.

Gill Russell

## NAN SUMMERS



Nan Summers, who died earlier this year aged 93, was a teacher with the London Branch for many years, taking her first class in 1952 shortly after gaining her teaching certificate. She taught a range of classes until her retirement in 1967, but took a particular interest in newcomers to Scottish dancing. It is quite possible that some of today's dancers took their first tentative steps at the Beginners and Elementary classes which she taught at venues such as Barrow Hill Road in North London.

Nan was also an enthusiastic member of the Scottish Association for Wallington, Carshalton and District which, in the early 1950s, used to hold monthly dances with an unvarying programme of old favourites such as *The Duke of Perth*, *The Birks of Invermay* and a selection of old-time dances such as the *Valetta* and the *Pride of Erin Waltz*. It is even recorded that *The Dashing White Sergeant* would appear twice – once in each half! Having gained her RSCDS teaching certificate, Nan managed to persuade a reluctant committee to introduce dance classes for the more adventurous members and she started running children's classes in the school holidays while her husband, Dougal, taught the weekly adult's classes. These classes continued to flourish and today's members owe a great debt of gratitude to Nan who, almost single-handedly, introduced them to Wallington.

Nan and Dougal moved away from London in 1974 to live in Etrickbridge, near Selkirk. Following Dougal's death in 1983 Nan returned south to live in Sussex near her son, Ewen, eventually moving to Eastbourne where she died in February.

(Adapted from a tribute which was printed in the Wallington Scottish Association newsletter).

Andrew Patterson and Ewen Summers

## HAS WATFORD FINALLY CROSSED THE LINE?

This year the Watford Scottish Society has taken the bold step of breaking with the recent trend for booking accordion bands, by returning to Celtic tradition, where the fiddle is king for Scottish dancing. They have invited Australian musicians Catherine Fraser [fiddle] and Duncan Smith [piano] to play for their Caledonian Ball on 20 March 2010. This duo has been acclaimed for their performance at dances with attendances of 600 in the Southern Hemisphere but are less well known in the UK.

A gamble or a new departure? We shall see. We hope the superb sprung floor of Allum Hall Elstree, great new musical talent, and an interesting programme including "Crossing the Line", will persuade you to join us. See the advert on the next page.

If you want to find out more about the band visit [www.CatherineFraser.com](http://www.CatherineFraser.com)

Rose Kreloff

## SEHSCDS

### celebrates 50 years of dancing

The South East Hertfordshire Scottish Country Dance Society, founded in May 1958, has spent the last year celebrating its 50 years of dancing enjoyment. To commemorate its Jubilee the Society has published a comprehensive and well illustrated history written by one of its long serving members, Ann Kirby. The book recounts the activities enjoyed by the members – classes, dances, Annual Balls and of course the dancers, teachers and committees who made it all possible. The Society's excellent records of its activities over the years and extracts from its own 'Newsreel' from 1960 onwards have been used to enliven the book.

On several occasions the Society's dem team has taken part in events with Hertford's twin towns in France and Germany, both visiting Evron and Wildeshansen and hosting return visits by music groups. For 15 years the Society has worked with Hertford Town Council to put on a Sunday afternoon entertainment 'Beating Retreat' in the beautiful grounds of Hertford Castle, featuring a pipe band, the Silver Cross dance band, demonstrations and join-in dancing for up to 500 people who attend. The event provides very effective publicity for the winter programme of classes and dances. 50 years of dancing with a membership of around 100 is a considerable record, but the Society is aware of rising average ages and the need for further publicity to expand membership. The Society sprang up while Scottish dancing enjoyed a boom period coinciding with the White Heather Club television series. It is fascinating to realise how the Society has enjoyed not only dancing but also a real sense of community spirit.

The Society acknowledges its gratitude to one of its late members, Bernard Rangeley, for his bequest which supported the publication of the book.

A Brief History of the South East Hertfordshire Scottish Country Dance Society by Ann Kirby. Price £6.50 + £1.10 p&p from Ann Kirby, Molewood End, Molewood Road, Hertford SG14 3LT. Tel 01992 558634, email: [davidkirby231@btinternet.com](mailto:davidkirby231@btinternet.com)

## READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

Approximately 90 past and present members of Reading St Andrew's Scottish Country Dancing Society met at Chiltern Edge Community School, Sonning Common on the 10 October to celebrate the Club's 60th Anniversary. The music for the dance was provided by Chris Oxtoby and the Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band and they soon had the feet tapping in time to the music even if age meant dancing was not possible for everyone. Alan Davis, our Wednesday Class teacher was our MC. Past members travelled from north, south, east and west to be with us and it was great to see them all.

Our demonstration team received a tremendous round of applause after their medley brilliantly choreographed by Joan Desborough, but the shouts of 'encore' were not taken up! There was a splendid finger buffet provided by all, washed down with a glass of wine. Our chairman, Gordon Anderson proposed a toast to the success of the club and all present hoped we will arrange another get together in the not too distant future. The evening closed in the traditional manner with Auld Lang Syne when everyone got on the floor.

Rita Cane

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DAY SCHOOL/EVENING/SOCIAL EVENTS  
AND EXHIBITS  
Attended by request

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# DANCE EVENTS



## WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Caledonian Ball  
**Saturday 20 March 2010**  
 7.30 to 11.30 pm  
 Allum Hall, Allum Lane, Elstree, WD6 3PJ



### Dancing to Australia's CATHERINE FRASER and DUNCAN SMITH

Hooper's Jig, Maxwell's Rant, City of Belfast, Mary Erskine, The Dancing Master, Cherrybank Gardens, The Recumbent Stone, Macleod's Fancy, Argyll Strathspey, Quarries' Jig, Crossing the Line, *Grand March* into Mrs Milne of Kineff, John of Bon Accord, Muirland Willie, Sugar Candie, Kangaroo Paw, The Moffat Weavers, The Wind on Loch Fyne, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran, The Moray Rant, Postie's Jig, The Montgomerie's Rant.

Tickets include Buffet Supper: £16.00  
 Highland or Evening Dress preferred

Contact Jan on 07762 079083 or tickets@WatfordScottish.org.uk

A full Ball practice will be held on 14th March from 2.00 to 5.00pm at Allum Hall.

Please contact us if you wish to attend.

### CHRISTMAS SOCIAL DANCE Thursday 17 December 2009

8.00 - 11.00 pm, to the music of **Ian Robertson**

Bushey Centre, Bushey Country Club, High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT.

Please bring something to share in the interval. Cost £6.00 at the door – includes glass of wine

www.WatfordScottish.org.uk



### ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Annual Ball  
 Saturday 20 March 2010  
 New Venue: Steventon  
 Village Hall OX13 6RR

#### Ian Robertson and his Band

Programme and details: see February Reel  
 or tel. Carol 01235 527211 or 01235 511836



### ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Day School  
 Saturday 24 April 2010  
 Edgbarrow School,  
 Sandhurst Road  
 Crowthorne, RG45 7HZ

Teachers:..... **Paul Plummer,**  
**Raphaelle Orgeret, Jane Rose**  
 Musicians:..... **Robert Mackay,**  
**Judith Muir, Caroline Sloan**

For further details and application forms contact:  
 Gaynor Curtis 60 Bishops Wood, St Johns,  
 Woking Surrey, GU21 3QB. Tel: 01483 721989,  
 or explore our new website at  
 www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk.

#### Weekend School

1 - 3 October 2010

Dillington House, Somerset TA19 9DT.

Teachers:..... **Mervyn Short & Jessie Stuart**  
 Musician:..... **Robert Mackay**

Booking opens January 2010

For booking contact: Dillington House, Ilminster,  
 Somerset, TA19 9DT. Tel: 01460 258613

For further information and brochure:

Email dillington@somerset.gov.uk

Website www.dillington.co.uk.

#### ISLE OF WIGHT

Weekend School

19-21 February 2010

Teachers:..... **Eric Finley, Rachel Wilton**  
 Musicians:..... **Robert Mackay, Strathallan Band**

For further information contact Catherine  
 Packwood-Bluett 01980 621322 or  
 email: catherinelp@hugh-davies.co.uk.

### CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Annual Spring Dance  
 Saturday 27 February 2010  
 7.30 - 11.30pm

Pittville School, Albert Rd, Cheltenham, GL52 3JD

#### Iain MacPhail and his SCD Band

Programme: Grand March, Dancing Master, The Reel of the Royal Scots, The Blue Mess Jacket, Fergus McIver, Whigmaleeries, The Duchess Tree, The Cooper's Wife, A Trip to Bavaria, Culla Bay, Hooper's Jig, Iona Cross, Tribute to The Borders, Autumn in Appin, Peat Fire Flame, Spiffin, The Gentleman, Swiss Lassie, Weathercock, Singing Sands, Highland Rambler.  
 Tickets £13 from John Marshall, 17 Gratton Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BT.  
 duracellbunney@tiscali.co.uk

Cheques to CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY  
 with SAE please.

### HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball  
 Saturday 6 March 2010  
 7.30 to 11.30 pm

Harpenden Public Hall, Harpenden AL5 1PD.

#### The Craigellachie Band

Programme: The Last of the Lairds, The Reel of the 51st Division, Byron Strathspey, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Chevy Chase, The Robertson Rant, Fiddler On The Capstan, Dundee City Police, Glengary Homestead, Rob Roy, Nottingham Lace, The Blue Mess Jacket, Napier's Index, Iona Cross, The Other Left, Norwich Assembly, Goodhind Reel, Diamond Jubilee, Anna Holden's Strathspey, The Lochalsh Reel, Lady in Red, Mairi's Wedding.

Tickets £17 including Supper  
 Students (16-21) £10

Tickets and enquiries: Val Owens 01727 863870  
 email tvowens@btinternet.com

### OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE HIGHLAND BALL

27 February 2010

Highland Ball in Cambridge  
 with the **Ken Martlew Band**

St Bede's School, Cambridge, CB1 3TD.

Please contact cusr-committee@cam.ac.uk for  
 more details.



### BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND REEL CLUB

Annual Highland Ball  
 Saturday 20 February, 2010  
 7:30pm to midnight  
 Ashlyns School,  
 Chesham Road, Berkhamsted HP4 3AH

#### Marian Anderson's Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Good Hearted Glasgow, Maxwell's Rant, The Glasgow Highlanders, Inchmickery, The Triumph, Anniversary Medley\*, City of Belfast, Sueno's Stone, Kinfauns Castle, The Hazel Tree, The Sailor, Postie's Jig, The Fisherman's Reel, Cape Town Wedding, Torridon Lassies, Plantation Reel, Monymusk, Bonnie Anne, The Reel of the Royal Scots, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Widdershins\*, Mairi's Wedding. \*from the Club's Golden Book of dances

Admission by Programme -  
 £20 including sit-down supper.

No bar – BYO drinks (soft drinks provided).  
 Details and tickets from: Mrs Janet Halse, 1  
 Highcroft Road, Felden, Hemel Hempstead,  
 Herts HP3 0BU, tel: 01442 246381.  
 e-mail: janethalseuk@btinternet.com

*Great Venue, Sprung Floor,  
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#### Highland Ball Practice

Saturday 13 February 2010, 2:00 - 5:30 pm  
 Potten End Village Hall, Potten End,  
 Berkhamsted, HP4 2QG.  
 £3 on door

### HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Annual Ball  
 Saturday 2 January 2010  
 7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

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

#### The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Mrs MacPherson of Inveran, Inchmickery, Bonnie Stronshiray, The Blooms of Bon Accord, The Roselath Cross, The Robertson Rant, The Recumbent Stone, James Gray, Culla Bay, Equilibrium, John of Bon Accord, The Falls of Rogie, Quarries' Jig, Kinfauns Castle, Anniversary Reel, Father Connelly's Jig, The Belle of Bon Accord, Spiffin', Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The Irish Rover.

Tickets £17.00 (non-dancers and juniors  
 £8.50), including refreshments,  
 from Jim Henderson, Tel. 020 8954 2586,  
 email: jimhendersonuk@aol.com

### THE LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB Christmas Dance

Saturday 12 December 2009  
 7.30 - 11.30

Weston Turville Village Hall,  
 Weston Turville, Bucks HP22 5RW  
**Stradivarious SCD Band**

The programme is on our website  
 www.lucyclark.org.uk

Tickets £10 from Dick Field tel: 01494 562231  
 or order by email from tickets@lucyclark.org.uk.

### CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB

Spring Ball

Saturday 27th March 2010 starts 7:30pm  
 Emmbrook School, Wokingham, Berks RG41 1JP

#### The Frank Reid Band

Programme and details in next issue  
 Contact: Rhoda Finch 01276-681820



# DANCE EVENTS (continued)

## Club de Danse Ecosaise de MONTPELLIER, FRANCE

22nd ANNUAL BALL and OUTING  
Weekend of 12-13 June 2010 Dancing to  
**Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band**  
Dancing, eating, drinking, more dancing  
followed by the usual jolly seaside outing with  
even more eating and drinking.  
Rendezvous with sunshine and social warmth.  
Contact: William Whyte +33 467 868 919 or  
wlwhyte@btinternet.com  
Our photograph gallery plus the 2010 booking  
form is available on our website  
<http://dansecossaisemp.free.fr/>



## LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming attractions to be  
held at St. Columba's Church  
Hall, Pont St, London SW1 0BD

Fridays:	Upper Hall	7.30-10.30pm
Saturdays:	Lower Hall	7.00-10.30pm
		unless otherwise stated
Friday 27 Nov.....	St. Andrews Night	
Friday 18 Dec.....	<b>Frank Reid</b> Christmas Dance....	7.30 to 11.00pm
Saturday 9 Jan 2010.....	<b>Craigievar</b> New Year's Dance with Haggis Supper	7.00 to 11.00
Friday 15 Jan.....	AGM	
Saturday 6 Feb.....	<b>Sandy Nixon</b> Annual Ball....	7.00 to 11.00pm
Friday 12 Feb.....	St. Valentines	
Saturday 6 Mar.....	<b>Strathallan</b>	

All dances will be talked or walked through on  
request, except Christmas Dance  
and Annual Ball.

For further details contact: Frank Bennett on 020  
8715 3564, email [fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto: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

Saturday 6 February 2010  
Annual Ball

St Columba's Church, Pont Street  
19.00 to 23.00

**Sandy Nixon**

Programme: Details will be on our website  
by early December.

Tickets: (Including finger buffet refreshments)

LHC Members in advance £13.00.

Non Members in advance £15.00.

All classes on door £17.00.

Highland or evening dress preferred.

All enquiries to Frank Bennett 020 8715 3564,  
e: [fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk) or  
Roger Waterson 020 8660 5017.

## CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS

Biennial Ball

Saturday 9 January 2010

7.00 - 10.30 pm

Sanderstead URC Hall,

Sanderstead Hill, CR2 8DD

**Dancing to Robin Ellis**

Tickets £14.00 for members

£15.00 for non-members (including supper)  
in advance from

Dorothy Pearson 01737 551724

[www.rscdscroydon.org.uk](http://www.rscdscroydon.org.uk)

## JERSEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE WEEKEND

Bank Holiday Weekend

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 May 2010

**Dancing to Strathallan**

£30.00 per person for two evenings incl. supper.

*Saturday Ball Programme: 7.00 - 11.30pm*

De'il amang the Tailors, The Luckenbooth  
Brooch, The Pleasure is Mine, Inverneill House,  
The Kelloholm Jig, The Wind on Loch Fyne,  
The Bypass, Copycat Prelude, Fair Rosamunde,  
The Pump Room, Gothenburg's Welcome, The  
Valentine, Anniversary Reel, Iona Cross,  
Summer Wooing, Beach Dancer, The Three  
Sisters, The Reel of the Royal Scots, Pelorus  
Jack, The Flower o' the Quern, Swiss Lassie.

*Sunday Dance Programme: 7.00 - 11.30pm*

The Irish Rover, The Weathercock, Cape Town  
Wedding, Fair Ronny's Reel, The Watermish  
Tangle, City of Belfast, Sueno's Stone, The  
Dancing Master, Balmaha, The Fairbridge Reel,  
The Nurseryman, The Minister on the Loch, J B  
Milne, The Dream Catcher, Whigmaleeries, The  
Laird of Milton's Daughter, The Silver Tassie,  
The Silver Penny Farthing, Cutty Sark, Neidpath  
Castle, The Sailor.

Please visit the blog below for more  
information and recent updates

Contacts: Mrs Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La  
Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey, JE3 9GB Tel./Fax  
01534 854459 or Mr Alan Nicolle, 88 La Ville  
du Bocage, St Peter, JE3 7YT Tel 01534 484375  
email: [alan.nicolle88@googlemail.com](mailto:alan.nicolle88@googlemail.com)  
<http://scottishcountrydancingjersey.blogspot.com>



## RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER BRANCH

**Christmas Social  
28 December 2009**

Finchampstead Memorial Hall, RG40 4JU  
7.45 to 10.45pm

Bring and share refreshments,  
dancing to recorded music

Contact Peter Loveland 07747 112720 or  
Annette Owen 01252 845187

**Branch Day School - 13 March 2010**

Court Moor School, Fleet GU52 7RY.

Teachers: ..... **Maureen Campbell,  
John & Ruby Wilkinson**

Musicians for dancers: ..... **Robert Mackay,  
Ken Martlew, Judith Muir**

Music Day School: ..... **Ian Muir, Keith Anderson**

Contacts:

Dancer's Workshop & Dance:

Fiona Albinson 0118 9789181

Musician's Workshop:

Mervyn Short 07713 148192

**Branch Ball 15 May 2010**

Details of events on website –  
[www.rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://www.rscds-bhs.org.uk).

## REIGATE COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Formal Spring Dance

13 March, 2010.

**Strathallan Band**

Full details in the next Reel.

## WEST MACS CHARITY BALL

Saturday 28 April 2010

Bushey Meads School, Bushey WD23 4PA.

**The Craigellachie Band**

Programme and other details in the next issue.

Enquiries to Patricia Hamilton: 020 8866 2841

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

## MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB

Highland Ball

Saturday 27 February 2010

7.00 - 11.00pm

Brigidine School, King's Rd, Windsor, SL4 2AX

**Frank Reid and his Scottish Dance Band**

*Programme:* Mrs Stewart's Jig, John of Bon  
Accord, The Rose of the North, The Dancing  
Master, Falls of Rogie, St Columba's Strathspey,  
Plantation Reel, The Lochalsh Reel, MacDonald  
of the Isles, The Flying Spur: None So Pretty,  
Gang the Same Gate, James Gray, Mrs Stewart of  
Fasnacloich, S-Loocomotion, Scott Meikle,  
Muirland Willie, The Minister on the Loch, Old  
Nick's Lumber Room, Bratach Bana. *Extras:* The  
Music Makars, The Bees of Maggieknockater,  
Jennifer's Jig

Tickets £16.00 including Supper

(bring your own wine – soft drinks provided)

from Alan Pfeiffer, 64 Wavell Road, Maidenhead

Berks SL6 5AD. Tel: 01628 633928 Mobile

07956 233 536. [alan.pfeiffer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alan.pfeiffer@yahoo.co.uk).

An SAE would be appreciated. Dress Formal.

Visit our website at:

[www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk](http://www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk)

## RSCDS PARIS BRANCH

25th Anniversary Ball

Saturday 8 May 2010

In the impressive setting of the Cercle National  
des Armées, 8, Place St Augustin, Paris.

*Musicians:*

**Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith**

Full details and application form are available on  
the Paris branch website  
[www.rscdsparis.org](http://www.rscdsparis.org)

## RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH

Annual Ball

**Saturday 9 January 2010**

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham, GL52 3JE.

**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

Tickets £20 (including light refreshments)

Programme on website:

[www.cheltenhamrscds.btik.com](http://www.cheltenhamrscds.btik.com)

Day School

**Saturday 24 April 2010**

Richard Pate School, Cheltenham, GL53 9RP.

Teacher: ..... **Mervyn Short**

Details: Margaret Winterbourne,

tel: 01242 863238

email: [mj.winterbourne@btinternet.com](mailto:mj.winterbourne@btinternet.com)

## READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

Annual Ball

Saturday 7 February 2009

Elvian School, Southcote Lane, Reading RG30 2BB

**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

*Programme:* The Chequered Court, Scott Meikle,  
The Gentleman, Summer Wooing, The Dancing  
Master, Margaret William's Strathspey, The  
Ladies of Dunse, Festival Fling, Culla Bay, The  
Reverend John Macfarlane, Cramong Bridge,  
The Ship in Full Sail, Margaret Parker's  
Strathspey, Eileen Watt's Reel, The Starry Eyed  
Lassie, MacDonald of the Isles, James Gray,  
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Dream  
Catcher, Swiss Lassie. *Extras:* Miss Hadden's  
Reel, Happy Returns.

Tickets: £16 including sherry reception and  
supper with a glass of wine, from

Peter Luke. 5 Petworth Court, Bath Road,

Reading. RG1 6PH

Tel: 0118 957 6339

[www.scottishdancingreading.org](http://www.scottishdancingreading.org)

## DANCE EVENTS (continued)

### RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Burns' Night Supper & Dance

**Saturday 16 January 2010**

7.00 - 11.30 p.m.

Benson Parish Hall OX10 6LZ

**Ian Robertson and his Band**

*Programme:* Shiftn' Bobbins, EH3 7AF, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, The Plantation Reel, The Starry Eyed Lassie, Portnacraig, The Byron Strathspey, The Ladies of Dunse, Rockside, Pelorus Jack, Swiss Lassie, Scotch Mist, Les Noces D'Or, Butterscotch & Honey, Mrs Stewart's Jig, John of Bon Accord, The Minister on the Loch, The Reel of The Royal Scots.

Tickets priced £14 from: Trisha Rawlings,  
29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Oxon OX7 7ET.

Tel: 01869 340830

email: trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com

Day School and Dance

**Saturday 20 February 2010**

Headington School, Oxford, OX3 7TD

*Teachers:* ..... **Janet Johnstone,**  
**David Queen, Denis Tucker (Oxford)**

*Musicians:* ..... **Ian Muir, Judith Muir,**  
**Jeremy Hill**

Tickets: Whole day £23.00

Morning or afternoon class £8.00 each session.

Evening Dance £12.00

Music for the evening dance provided by

**Ian Muir and The Craigellachie Band**

*Evening Dance Programme:* Anderson's Rant, Lady Home's Jig, Lord Elgin's Reel, Polharrow Burn, Tayport Beauty, Radcliffe Square, The Wild Geese, The Byron Strathspey, The Reel of the Royal Scots, EH3 7AF, The Sailor, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, The Argyll Square, Portnacraig, Bill Little's Strathspey, Jennifer's Jig, The De'il Amang the Tailors

Details from Trisha Rawlings as above.

A new book of Scottish Country Dances by Mervyn Short with accompanying CD by Green Ginger. £16.50 inc. p&p, cheque payable to Mervyn Short. Available from: Mervyn Short, 11, Montgomeri Drive, Rustington, West Sussex. BN16 3TY

### RSCDS SOMERSET BRANCH

Events 2010

6 Feb Dance Long Sutton Village Hall.

Music by **Marian Anderson** and **Max Ketchin**  
7.30 - 11.30pm. £9 at door, American Supper.

6 March Day School for Dancers & Musicians  
at Keinton Mandeville.

*Teacher for dancers:* ..... **Mervyn Short**  
accompanied by **Andrew Lyon**

*Teachers for musicians:* ..... **Catherine Frazer,**  
**Duncan Smith** (from Australia).

Musicians to play in the evening from 7-10pm.

12 June Dance in Keinton Village Hall to Band

7.30 - 11.30pm. £9 at door, American Supper

18 Sept Tea-dance in Long Sutton Village Hall

2.30 - 5.30pm. Recorded music and easy prog.

Adults £4, children £2. To include a Cream Tea

4 Dec Dance in Keinton Village Hall

7.30 - 11.30pm. £9 at the door. American Supper.

### ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON) WIMBLEDON AND DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION

Centenary Ball

Saturday 20 March 2010

6.30 for 7pm; carriages 11pm

Wimbledon High School, Mansel Rd, SW19 4AB

**David Hall and his Band**

*For programme, see Reel 269*

Tickets including buffet supper

£27 (Spectators £18) in advance only.

Highland or evening dress preferred.

All enquiries to Elizabeth Bennett on

020 8715 3564, e: lizbennett@blueyonder.co.uk.

Profits from this event will be donated to

St. Raphael's Hospice.

### RSCDS BATH BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 13 February 2010

The Guildhall, Bath

**Hugh Ferguson and the Dalriada Band**

Tickets £25 from June Hall

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

Tel 01225 318906

### SUSSEX ASSOCIATION OF SCOTTISH SOCIETIES

SASS 40th Anniversary Charity Ball

Saturday 13 March 2010

7.30 - 11.30pm

Lewes Town Hall, High Street, Lewes,

East Sussex, BN7 2QS

**The Craigievar Band**

*Programme:* Grand March into Anniversary Reel; Napier's Index; Frimley Hall; Flight of the Falcon; Nottingham Lace; Celebration Strathspey; Immigrant Lass; Maxwell's Rant; Land of the Heather Hills; Fugal Fergus; Mrs Stuart Linnell; Forty Not Out; Pelorus Jack; The Recumbent Stone; Moray Rant; The Bees of Maggielknockater; The Peat Fire Flame; Cherrybank Gardens; Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan; Mairi's Wedding.

Tickets, in advance please,

£13.00 for Dancing without Catering

£26.00 for Dancing with Catered Buffet

(numbers before 31.01.10 please)

Contact Carol Catterall 01273 564963.

### WEMBLEY AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball

27 February 2010

7.30 - 11.30pm

Eastman's Hall, Kodak, Harrow View,

Harrow, HA2 6QQ

**The Craigellachie Band**

*Programme:* Hooper's Jig, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Moray Rant, The Bees of Maggielknockater, The Glenalmond Gamekeeper, John McAlpin, The Weathercock, The Sailor, Dagmar's Fancy, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Mairi's Wedding, S-Locomotion, Equilibrium, Scott Meikle, Foxhill Court, Major Ian Stewart, Plantation Reel, Wind on Loch Fyne, Spiffin', The Duke of Perth.

Tickets £16.00, and further details from:

Mrs Patricia Hamilton,

7 Boldmere Road,

Eastcote, Pinner, Middlx HA5 1PJ

Tel: 020 8866 2841

## OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

**ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Dancing most Mondays, 8.00 - 10.15pm, Sept to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details/map: www.geocities.com/abscdc or Rowena Fowler, 01865 361129.

**ADDESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY** meets Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm September to May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet, KT14 7NF. Details from Val Clack, 01932 845869. www.addlestonscottish.org.uk

**ALDRINGTON (HOVE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meet every Tuesday 8.15-10.30pm, September to June. Details from John Steer, 57 Hangleton Rd, Hove, E. Sussex BN3 7GH. Tel: 01273 416893.

**BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB** meets in Potten End Village Hall. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15 September to May, Sat. gardens June/July. Classes: Mondays 8pm: Intermediate and Advanced, Tuesdays 8.15: Beginners. Contact: Judy Roythorne, 1, Pine Close, North Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3BZ Tel. 01442 875496 www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

**BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS** meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth. Newcomers and Beginners 7.15-8.30pm. Improvers/Intermediate 8.45-10.15pm. 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. www.rscds-brighton.org.uk

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

**BURNS CLUB OF LONDON** holds lively meetings in central London, usually including live music, on second Monday of the month as well as a superb Burns Supper. Details: Jim Henderson 020 8954 2586, jimhendersonuk@aol.com.

**CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday 8pm 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 RSCDS.** Classes for all grades. Details from Tony Garrick, 29 Ilingworth Way, Foxton, Cambridge, CB22 6RY. Tel. 01223 510201. email: anthony.garrick@ntworld.com.

**CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Scottish Country Dancing and other events... Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8pm from Sept to June. Details www.camscotsoc.org.uk or Rachel Schicker 01223 364557.

**CHELTHENHAM BRANCH RSCDS** Advanced class Mondays 7.30-9.30pm. General class Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm. Bettridge School, Cheltenham. Also a Beginners class. Details: Margaret Winterbourne, 01242 863238.

**CHELTHENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing most Friday nights 7.30 to 10.30pm 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, mbstele45@aol.com.

**CHELMSFORD: SANDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets on Monday evenings 7.30-9.30pm at the Hayward School, Maltese Road, Chelmsford. Beginners welcome. Details from Esther Wilkinon, email: ewilkin@gmail.com or tel. 01206 240132. www.sandonscotdance.org.uk

**CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB.** Upper Hall at St Michael's & All Angels' church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Road (turn right out of Turnham Green tube) W4. Sundays from 27 Sep till 4 July with Xmas and Easter breaks. Midsummer Magic open air evening dance in Chiswick House grounds 11 July. Beginners class at 6.00 till 7.10. General class 7.15 till 9.20. Advanced dancers evenings with musicians twice each term. Tel 020 8743 9385 (afternoons only) / www.chiswickscottish.org.uk.

**CIRENCESTER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets most Wednesdays 8:00 - 10:00pm September to end June at the Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester. Details Mr A.E.L. Bush, Lake View House, Withington, Glos. GL54 4 BN. 01242890454, tmbush@btopenworld.com

**CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00pm 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 Coulsdon (Fri). Advanced (Wed) Coulsdon. Other classes in the area: Beginners: Reigate & Selsdon (Tues): Gen: Reigate (Mon); Advanced: Reigate (Thurs.). Details: Dorothy Pearson 01737 551724, www.rscdsroydon.org.uk

**EALING SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thurs. 8-10pm. September to May at St Andrew's Church Centre, Mount Park Road, Ealing, W5. Details: Rena Stewart, 56 Meadvale Road, Ealing, W5 1NR, tel: 020 8998 6419.

*continued on next page*

## OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS (continued from previous page)

- EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Club night Mondays (all year) 8.00 pm at Woodford Green Prep School, Glengall Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0BZ. Details: www.efs.a.org.uk or Lee Noble 020 8505 3032 leenoble@waitrose.com.
- EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** holds weekly adult dance classes for beginners and intermediate/advanced levels, (September to March), including informal dances. Details from Dorothy Pearson, 366 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon CR5 3BF. Tel 01737 551724
- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details from Mrs Annette Owen, 47 Beaulker Green, Winchfield, Hook, Hants RG27 8BF. Tel: 01252 845187.
- FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Tuesdays 8.00pm, September to mid-July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Details from Ann or Paul Brown, tel: 01784 462456 or mobile 07801 160643. Email: p@ulfbrown.co.uk
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.30pm, September to May. Full details from Vikki Spencer, 24 Park Hill, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 6PW. Tel: 01252 691922.
- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays 8 to 10pm, end of September to June. Details: info@gxscottish.org.uk or from Mrs B MacKenzie Ross 01494 874604.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- GUILDFORD SCDC** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from September to June. www.gscdc.org.uk or tel 01483 502422.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept.-June from 8.00-10.00pm 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. 020 8870 6131.
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00pm. Details from Phil Bray, 25 St. Olams Close, Luton, Beds LU3 2LD. Tel: 01582 617734.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St.Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner HA5 3QR. Tel: 020 8428 6055. www.harrowscottish.org.uk.
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8-10pm, September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.
- HERTSMAERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, 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 8.15 to 10.15pm. 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 01534 484375, alan.nicolle88@googlemail.com; or Brenda Gale 01534 862357. See blog: www.scottishcountrydancingjersey.blogspot.com.
- 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 7.00-8.00pm. General 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. 01843 869284.
- LEICESTER BRANCH RSCDS** meets Thursdays, Holy Cross Centre, Wellington St., Leicester. 4 classes - Beginners, Intermediates, Social, Advanced. 7.30-8.30p.m., followed by Social dancing until 10p.m. Also Tuesdays 1.30-3.45p.m. General class at same venue. Contact: Mrs. Pamela Hood 0016 2753886, ddjimps@talktalk.net.
- 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. 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096. www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8.00pm 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, 01628 628372. maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk.
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday 7.30-10pm 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 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, "Lazonby", 9 Little Lunnon, Dunton Bassett, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 5JR. 01455 209446.
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at St. Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 3HL. tel 01474 822919.
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB** meets every Monday evening from September - June at 8.15-10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details from Mrs Jane Whittington. 5 Coldharbour Rd. Northfleet.Kent.DA11 8AE, 01474 359018.
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS.** Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00- 10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. MK3 5LP. 01908 378730, jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. from September to May at Roecroft School, Stotfold. Informal Saturday Dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds. SG17 5AL. Tel: 01462 812691.
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dancing 7.45-10.00pm. most Wednesdays at Barmehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9JN. Tel. 01634 254451.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners/Improvers Class Every Monday 8.00-10.15pm at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Pam. French, 20 Beaumont Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent, BR5 1JN. 01689 873511.
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET. Tel: 01869 340830.
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00-10.00pm. September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Rita Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Tel: 0118 975 7507, www.scottishdancingreading.org.
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00pm from mid Sept. to end of May. For Information contact Marshall Christie 020 8977 5237 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk.
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP.** Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.co.
- ST ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON).** The Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB. or Elizabeth Bennett 020-8715 3564, lizbennett@blueyonder.co.uk. www.standrewsoc london.netne.net.
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns Nights' when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details: Denise Haugh 020 8879 6437.
- 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. Sue Davis 01344 774344, 2 Larkswood Dr, Crowthorne. Also Childrens' Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, Deborah Draffin 01344 776831.
- ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS,** Luton meet every Wednesday, September to July 8.00-10.00pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road,Luton, Beds. Contact: Pat Hamilton, 01462 671156 or Sheila Harris, 01525 875060.
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00-10.00pm 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 mid-September to May 8.30-10.30pm, in Barnes. Further info: Further info: Denise Haugh, 4 Burdett Ave, SW20 0ST, 020 8946 8572, email dhaugh200@btinternet.com..
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details: Pauline Cameron,7 Wayne Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 9TS. Tel 01689 838395.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30-10.00pm. 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 10.30pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details Mrs Edna Carroll, 01702 428974.
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS.** Classes in Hertford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Bengoe School, Hertford; Beginners Thurs 7.30pm. Millmead School, Hertford. Demonstration Alt. Mons 8.0pm. St John's Hall, Hertford. Details: Mrs Maureen Ainsworth, 01279 434342.
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details: Brenda Hinton, 01273 595017.
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday at 8pm. September to June at St. Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsley Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY. 01932 784866. surbitoncaledonian.co.uk.
- 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, 7.00-10.00pm. Details: Tom Symington, 020 7834 7151 or 020 7828 6792.
- THE SCOTS SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW SLOUGH & DISTRICT** meets every Wednesday (September to May) 8.00 to 10.15pm at Trinity ERC Hall, Windsor Rd, Slough SL1 2JA. Scottish Dancing and other social events. Details from the Sec: Carol Berry, tel:01628 620 072 or 01771 223 8165.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 7.30-10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8-10pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details: Sue Bush, 33 St Luke's Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9JH. Tel: 01892 615269, website: www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk.
- WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** hold weekly adult Classes for, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs Maggie Westley, 30 Stanley Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4LF. Tel: +44 (0) 20 8647 9899, website: westley3148@tiscali.co.uk. www.wallingtonscottish.org.uk.
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** General and Beginners/Improvers Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Krelloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE. 01923 492475, reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk.
- WAVERLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Winchester, every Thursday from September to the end of June, 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Pat Mumford, 02380 252570.
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Mondays 8.00pm. Dance Class. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford. WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Club night (all abilities) Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. Both evenings take place at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ. 01264 363293, wendy@mumford.com.
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from Maureen Manson, tel: 01206 210927.

## HOMECOMING BALL

Flying up to Edinburgh on 18 September from London to attend one function and to return the next day (in time for the London Branch Saturday Dance) I wondered whether this was the best use of time and whether the event would warrant this? Well I can tell the reader it was and it did!

Surgeons' Hall in Nicolson Street is close to The Royal Mile where I was staying and this by design allowed me the pleasure of a short stroll to it. Starting with a wine reception at 7.00pm meant walking with locals out shopping or returning from work. The streets were busy! Yes, you have guessed it; I was the only kilted man to be seen in the capital of Scotland out and about (I feel a letter coming on – but not now!). After a successful full hip replacement a few months ago and (thanks to all for your good wishes) entering such a named hall was very reassuring!

The ball was in The Quincentenary Hall, a modern very well appointed building with a large reception area, two dining areas where we later ate and an excellent wooden floor dance hall with bar. Arriving, I was warmly greeted by our Chairman, Alex Gray and his charming wife, Kate. The greeting party also included HQ staff Elspeth Gray and Craig Jackson with Pam Gillies, Convenor of the Membership and Services Committee. There was a happy buzz of expectation as friendships were renewed. Looking around I could see that there were many well-known faces. Past Chairmen Linda Gaul and Irene Bennett, Ruth Beattie – Chairman Elect and past SCD editor Jimmie Hill, teachers Anne Smyth, Patricia Houghton and the newly appointed Summer School Director Margo Priestley, to name but a few. There was also a very appreciative, sixteen strong group of Japanese dancers who had combined attending this event with a tour of Scotland! Besides me, the south-east was represented by Tommy Cooper, Irene Edgar and Ray Charman. Counting the lines I have to conclude that there was in excess of 150 guests there.

David Cunningham, leading a five-piece line up, which included our delightful Judith Smith on fiddle, didn't disappoint as he gave us the wonderful music we have come to expect from him. Although there were no, what one might call, dances associated with Robert Burns on the 20 dance programme I was pleased to hear that David did add a suitable flavour of Burns' music within some of his sets. Like all good balls and dances it had to end and with our farewells until the next time we took our happy memories away to be enjoyed time and time again. For myself yes, walking back past John Knox's House, I reflected that I was still the only kilt to be seen for a mile! A Royal Mile!

Stephen Webb



Chairman Alex Gray and Kate with Ruth Beattie (Chair Elect) sharing a happy moment at the RSCDS Homecoming Ball reception in Edinburgh on 18 September.

Stephen Webb



Stephen Webb

Left:

Kensington Gardens – a fine sunny August Saturday afternoon, an excellent MC, Simon Wales, great music from Kafoozalum, visitors to London, Branch Members, and passers-by were the ingredients for the fun afternoon of informal dancing that followed. The first dance seen here is *Gay Gordons*.

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## London Branch 75th Anniversary CD

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