



The Reel



Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
Formed 1930 www.rscdslondon.org.uk Registered Charity number 1067690

Issue 318

£1.50 DECEMBER 2021 TO FEBRUARY 2022

Scottish country dancing -
For fun, fitness and
friendship

London Branch Dances



COVID-19 Forecast



With the ever-changing situation regarding events being postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19, the status of London Branch events, including dances and classes, might change from those stated in *The Reel*. We therefore ask readers to check the Branch website www.rscdslondon.org.uk and the Branch's eUpdates for up to date information on all Branch classes and dances.



Christmas Dance

Saturday 11 December 2021

7.00 - 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street
SW1X 0BD

Marian Anderson and her
Scottish Country Dance Band

EH3 7AF	8x32 J
Jessie's Hornpipe	8x32 R
Delvine Side	8x32 S
Jennifer's Jig	8x32 J
The Earl of Mansfield	4x48 R
Sands of Morar	8x32 S
The Hollin Buss	8x32 J
Autumn in Appin	4x32 S
The College Hornpipe	8x32 R

Gothenburg's Welcome	8x32 J
Midsummer Common	8x32 S
The Rutland Reel	8x40 R
The Dancing Master	Sq 96 J
Margaret Parker's Strathspey	8x32 S
Polharrow Burn	5x32 R
The Nurseryman	8x32 J
Miss Eleanor	3x32 S
Sleepy Maggie	8x32 R

Admission includes seasonal refreshments
and a glass of wine

RSCDS Members £20, non-members £23
full time students (with card) and
spectators £11

Children (under 16) free

Tickets available on the door - cash or card
All dances will be recapped

Crib available at www.rscdslondon.org.uk



Celebrating the London Branch's 90th Anniversary in style at Allum Manor
Hall on Saturday 16 October 2021 (reports and pictures inside)

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

In This Issue

Branch Matters (pp2-5)

Chair's report, Project 23, dances, editorial,
classes listings, Fetter Lane reminiscences

Fancy a new CD? (p6)

Latest review from Jeremy Hill

The Story behind the Dance (p7)

Sleepy Maggie by Meryl Thomson

90th Anniversary Ball (pp8-11)

Reports and pictures

Around the dancing world (pp12-13)

The Argyll Scottish Dancing Group,
Hammersmith Reelers, two retiring ladies

Day School reports (p14)

Lives Remembered (p15)

We remember Gordon Patterson and
Julian Mason

Inside the RSCDS (pp16-17)

Youth Services Committee, 2021 Autumn
Gathering, Doris Young, "In My Opinion",
Sheila Barnes remembered

Branch Committee Report (p18)

Clubs and Societies (pp18-20)

Forthcoming events and listings

Where is This? See p12...



Issue 319 should be with UK based members by 26 February 2022 unless delayed in the post. However, due to the current situation with COVID-19 there may need to be a last minute change to the schedule. Please check the latest situation on the London Branch [website](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk).

Contributions for *Reel* 319 should be sent to arrive by and preferably in advance of Sunday 16 January 2022 by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

The opinions expressed by contributors in *The Reel* do not necessarily reflect the official position of the RSCDS, or of the Branch.

From the Chair: Joanne Lawrence



Well, what a difference a few weeks can make! Whilst caution is still essential, London Branch has had a joyful return to dance with old friends and new, meeting in increasing numbers since the first tentative dance steps and, COVID-19 careful, reunion hugs at the Open Air dancing in Kensington Gardens.

After more than a year of no new activities to report or photographs to share, *The Reel* Editor, Simon Wales, has been spoilt for choice with accounts and images of multiple events vying for space in this first edition since dancing resumed. Dancer numbers have been good throughout, including the uplifting New Season Dance, a fun and friendly Autumn Wednesday and a glorious 90th Anniversary Ball. Classes have been gradually increasing in size and we had the successful Day School at the end of October.

For a traditional artform, there is always something new and different in Scottish country dance. New dances, new people, new possibilities. We celebrated 90 years of the Branch's history with a competition to devise a new dance and Lizzy Conder's winning entry, *London Nine-O*, was danced with enthusiasm and pleasure at the 90th Anniversary Ball. We have been delighted to welcome newcomers to the Branch classes and look forward to welcoming more as the Park Walk Beginners and Improvers class restarts in November. We congratulate the new teachers who successfully completed the recent seRTA teachers' course and who are now poised to support the next generation of dancers in London and the south-east. 'Project 23', the Branch project to develop greater opportunities for younger dancers in London (see report below), welcomes thoughts and suggestions from members and friends of London Branch.

The present is looking good, the future is hopeful, but we would not be here without the generations of people who have invested so much into the life of the Branch since it began in 1930. Voluntary organisations such as ours grow and flourish due to the willingness of their members to join in, take on different tasks (some small, some large, all important) and work with each other to support the activity that brings so much to all our lives. New helpers are always welcome and longstanding supporters appreciated. I could not write this column without recognising the contributions of Margaret Catchick (Day School organiser 2003 - 2021, but also Classes Convenor, Secretary and then Chair) and Jeni Rutherford (Mixed Ability Class teacher 2002 - 2021), who are stepping down this season after two decades of invaluable service to the Branch. Thank you both.

Project 23: Joanne Lawrence



It is no secret that RSCDS London Branch has a generation gap with few dancers or musicians below the age of 50. We are not alone in this, we know that other Scottish dance groups face the same challenges, and it was not always thus, many London Branch members remember a flourishing Scottish country dance community

with dances every Saturday night and a wide range of midweek activities. However, recruitment faltered from the 1990s onwards and, whilst beginners' classes continue, young people who might otherwise be attracted to Scottish country dance classes, may be deterred by the age profile of current class members; children's class members have nowhere to go once they hit their teen years; and younger dancers can be reluctant to attend Saturday night dances when only a few younger dancers may be in the hall.

And yet, we all know that Scottish country dance is a fabulous activity for all ages, intellectually and physically stimulating as well as a wonderful social outlet. So, what can we do? Earlier this year the Branch management committee agreed that a sub committee, composed of Joanne Lawrence, Margaret Moore and Simon Wales would lead a relaunch of youth activities within the Branch, drawing in established dancers and musicians as 'founding members/ambassadors'. We have named this 'Project 23' with the objective of developing a workable plan and achieving a critical mass of dancers and musicians by the RSCDS centenary in 2023. Careful planning and funding will be vital to make this happen and to support the group through the early years of building the community.

As an initial step we held a focus group in October, which was facilitated by Alexandra Cran-McGreehin. Participants included current London Branch members plus others with an interest in learning more about Scottish country dancing and its music. We are grateful to Alexandra, to the focus group members (Saskia Frisby, Beth Fairbairn, Adam Brady, Tria Lawrence, Libby Anderson, Maya McCourt) and to those who could not attend but who provided separate input (Jamie Walker, Peter Folley and Adam Ray plus Sheena Henderson, Margaret Moore and Simon Wales). The team generated some excellent ideas regarding location, frequency, costing, style and more. All these will be developed in the coming weeks.

We will build upon a constructive initial conversation with Society Chairman and Chairman Elect, Lorna Ogilvie and William Williamson, and have been encouraged by the interested and positive responses from dancers and musicians in other Branches and clubs. We know that we need to make contact with young people through many different routes, perhaps graduate recruitment organisations, social groups in major London employers, University dance societies whose members may move to London after graduation, and more. We also know that we do not have all the answers and are grateful for any input: contact chair@rscdslondon.org.uk with any thoughts.

NB Thanks to the creative talents of Thelma-Jane Robb for the logo.

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE
SOCIETY



Patron: H M The Queen
Chairman: Lorna Ogilvie

HEADQUARTERS
12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF
Tel: 0131 225 3854
info@rscds.org www.rscds.org

LONDON BRANCH

Hon. President
Rachel Wilton

Hon. Vice-Presidents
Mary Barker, Jenny Greene,
Danielle Reinstein, Jerry Reinstein,
Rosemary Tilden

Chair
Joanne Lawrence
72 Hollowell Road, Northwood,
Middlesex HA6 1DS Tel: 07747 617953
chair@rscdslondon.org.uk

Vice Chair
Jim Cook
59 Larkfield Road, Richmond-upon-Thames
TW9 2PG Tel: 020 8948 5637
vicechair@rscdslondon.org.uk

Hon. Secretary
Mel Rowland
21 Lambeth Court, Frogmore,
Wandsworth SW18 1HN Tel: 07769 038669
secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

Hon. Treasurer
Simon Wales
24 Cornwall Close, Maidstone ME15 8HY
01622 761753
treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk

Committee

Classes.....Jenny Kendrick
Dances..... Margaret Shaw
Communications..... Joanne Lawrence
..... /Mel Rowland
Demonstration Team Elaine Davies
Other roles Margaret Moore
..... George Potts, Thelma-Jane Robb

Non-Executive roles

Hon. Archivist..... Rachel Wilton
FamilyJenny Kendrick
Membership & Subscribers .. Gaynor Curtis
The Reel Edward Bunting, Simon Wales
The Reel Business Editor.... Jeff Robertson
Webmaster Meryl Thomson

www.rscdslondon.org.uk

www.facebook.com/RSCDSLONDON

@LondonRSCDS

[YouTube.com/RSCDSLONDONBRANCH](https://www.youtube.com/RSCDSLONDONBRANCH)



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.

Membership and *The Reel* Subscription

As a member of RSCDS London Branch, you enjoy the following benefits: reduced rates at London Branch classes, dances and events; four issues per year of *The Reel*; 10% discount on items from the RSCDS online shop and two issues per year of the RSCDS magazine *Scottish Country Dancer*. Members wishing to pay by direct debit may now do so by completing a payment mandate either by clicking on the appropriate link in the table to the right of this text (for electronic *Reel* readers) or by going to www.rscdslondon.org.uk/membership-page

Membership may also be purchased by Credit/Debit Card or PayPal or by cheque payable to RSCDS London Branch by going to the same page. New members should also complete the membership application form on the London Branch website. Membership/subscription enquiries and cheque payments should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989, membership@rscdslondon.org.uk Any reader who receives a paper issue of *The Reel* may send their email address to Gaynor Curtis and receive an electronic copy too at no extra charge. Those receiving an electronic copy are asked not to pass this on, unless it is to someone they feel might like to help support the Branch by becoming a member or subscribing.

The current rates for RSCDS membership through the London Branch are as follows:

Membership category	Junior 12-17 years	Young Adult 18-24 years	Adult 25 years +	Adult Joint (2) 25 years +	2nd Branch	<i>The Reel</i> only (subscription)
Electronic (<i>eReel</i>)	£14	£20	£24	£40	£4	£4
<i>The Reel</i> by post (UK)	£16	£22	£26	£44	£6	£6
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Europe)	£22	£28	£32	£56	£12	£12
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Rest of the World)	£25	£31	£35	£62	£15	£15

Burns Ceilidh Dance

Saturday 15 January 2022

7.00 - 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street
SW1X 0BD

Caledonian Reelers
with MC James Fairbairn



A great opportunity to enjoy with your friends and family a traditional Burns Supper along with the fun of Scottish music and ceilidh dancing.

Dances will be a selection of all the usual favourites including:

Gay Gordons, Canadian Barn Dance,
The Dashing White Sergeant,
The Eightsome Reel, Virginia Reel
and Strip the Willow (Orcadian style)

All dances will be walked through
No experience necessary

Admission includes haggis supper
(vegetarian option available)
with a glass of wine

RSCDS Members £17, non-members £21
full time students (with card) and
spectators £9
Children (under 16) free

Tickets available on the door - cash or card

The Reel Advertising Rates

In black and white, but including colour logo: £6 per column centimetre.
In full colour: £8.50 per column centimetre (three columns per page).

All advertisers receive a complimentary copy of *The Reel*.

Send Forthcoming Events adverts to
Willie Lawrence at:
danceads@rscdslondon.org.uk

Other adverts and enquiries on pricing to
the Business Editor, Jeff Robertson, at:
businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk

Winter Wednesday Dance

Wednesday 16 February 2022

7.00 - 10.00pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street
SW1X 0BD

David Hall

St Andrews Fair8x32 J
The Sailor 8x32 R
Up in the Air8x32 S
The Barmkin Sq 88 R
Sandy o'er the Lea.....8x32 S
Mrs Stewart's Jig.....8x32 J
Mrs MacLeod..... 8x32 R

The Flowers of Edinburgh..... 8x32 R
Napier's Index.....8x40 J
The Byron Strathspey..... 3x32 S
Kendall's Hornpipe 8x32 J
Largo Law8x32 S
The Brudenell Jig8x32 J
The Dashing White Sergeant 32 R

Extras:

Hamilton House8x32 J
Ladies' Fancy.....8x32 J
Flowers of Dunbeg 5x32 R
Petronella..... 8x32 R

Admission includes light refreshments

RSCDS Members £12, non-members £14
full time students (with card) and
spectators £7
Children (under 16) free

Tickets available on the door - cash or card
All dances will be recapped/walked through

Crib available at www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Future Dances

Summer Wednesday - 1 June 2022

End of Season - 11 June 2022

South East Dance Diary

The diary on the Branch website is regularly updated, and all societies in the South East may submit details of their functions.

For a hard copy, please send an SAE to
Caroline Hamilton.

Email diary@rscdslondon.org.uk or by post
to Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road,
Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW.

Apology from the Editor



Apologies to Karin Feldner whose article in *Reel* 317 was printed with some text missing. You may have spotted that the paragraph above the first picture finished mid-sentence, and below,

we print the missing text with the subsequent two paragraphs. This happened after the proofreaders saw the draft so the fault is mine alone.

I have often visited friends in London and had heard about the many dance opportunities through Jim Cook from the RSCDS London Branch. He also provided me with my first copy of *The Reel*. In Chiswick and Wimbledon I had met Iris, who told me that she went dancing almost every evening and invited me to come over for a whole week of dancing. Back home, I told my fellow dancer Anett about it. The idea of a week of sightseeing and dancing in London was quickly born, and two other dancers from Hamburg, Ellen and Gero, joined us.

For the planning we used my connection to Iris to fill the evenings with dancing. She suggested and organised two Burns Dinner Dances, a Tea Dance and five group evenings and generously offered to drive us to most of the events. What was left for us was to plan sightseeing during the day. And so, in January 2019, we departed on our first dance trip to London.

On the evening of our arrival, Iris picked us up at our hotel for the first time. We clarified the seating arrangements in the car for the rest of the week: the long-legged Gero got the passenger seat in the front and we three ladies snuggled in the back. The search for the right seat belt was always a challenge and caused a lot of laughter.

New Home Wanted

Ladies Kilt - virtually unworn Size 14
Sinclair tartan ladies kilt (green) plus
enough Sinclair dress tartan (red) to
make a kilt - free to a good home.
Contact Sara Ribbins: 0118 947 3207 or
sara@ribbins.co.uk

London Branch Classes



Set yourself a fun challenge join a Scottish country dance class

We have classes for...

The London Branch runs a large number of classes throughout the year. Some of these are regular classes during term-time; others are specialist classes in advanced technique and classes for young people.

All classes are now bookable on-line, and credit cards are taken on the door. London Branch will be monitoring government guidance on COVID-19 and will run classes accordingly. Check www.rscdslondon.org.uk as the latest position may change.

Park Walk Primary School

Park Walk, London SW10 0AY

Spring Term 2022

Weeks 1 - 5

Wednesdays 12 January - 9 February
7.00 - 9.00pm

Half-term Wednesday 16 February

Weeks 6 - 10

Wednesdays 23 February - 23 March

Beginners and Improvers

with teacher Davinia Miln

An introduction to basic steps and formations for new dancers while supporting others to develop their technique and general dancing skills

Technique Class for Intermediate and Advanced Dancers

Weeks 1 - 5

Wednesdays 12 January - 9 February
7.00 - 9.00pm

Half-term Wednesday 16 February

with teacher Simon Wales

A technique class for dancers who have a good working knowledge of the steps and formations and who are looking to develop their technique, confidence, style and enjoyment of the dance

Weeks 6 - 10

Wednesdays 23 February - 23 March

with teacher Pat Davoll

End of Term Party: 30 March 2022

with MC Pat Davoll

Class fee: £7 per class for RSCDS members
£9 per class for non-RSCDS members

Underground: South Kensington, Sloane Square

Free on-street parking available after 6.30pm (Chelsea match days 10.00pm) in nearby streets

Buses: 11, 22, 19, 49, 328, 319, 345 Park Walk is in the [Ultra Low Emission Zone \(ULEZ\)](#)

No entry into the school before 6.40pm
No smoking or vaping on school premises

Contact: Jenny Kendrick:
classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

St Columba's Church

Upper Hall, Pont St, London SW1X 0BD

Spring Term 2022

Wednesdays 12 January - 30 March
2.30 - 4.30pm 11 weeks

Half-term Wednesday 16 February

Mixed Ability

A social class suitable for dancers with at least some knowledge of basic steps and formations - visitors welcome

Class fee: £10 per class to recorded music

Underground: Knightsbridge, Sloane Square

Buses: 19, 22, 137, 452, C1

Pont Street is in the [Ultra Low Emission Zone \(ULEZ\)](#)

For details contact Jenny Kendrick
classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Richmond

Richmond Library Annexe, Quadrant Road,
Richmond TW9 1DH

Spring Term 2022

Wednesdays 12 January - 23 March
7.30 - 9.30pm 10 weeks

Half-term Wednesday 16 February

Beginners and Improvers

with teacher Judith Jones

An introduction to basic steps and formations for new dancers while supporting others to develop their technique and general dancing skills

Class fee: £6 per class to recorded music

Underground/Train: Richmond

Buses: H37, 65, R68, R70, 110, 190, 371,
419, 490

Contact: Jenny Kendrick:
classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Families in London Dance Scottish

The Family Class is taking a break for now. Please direct any requests for children's activities, eg birthdays/ceilidhs to Jenny: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk



Coram's Fields

Band Hall, Coram's Fields,
93 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1DN

Sundays 27 March and 8 May 2022

11.30am - 1.30pm

Technique Class for Advanced and Very Advanced Dancers



Teachers

Mervyn Short
27 March

Joan Desborough
8 May

and musicians to be confirmed

A class aimed at advanced and very advanced dancers who are able to perform and execute all steps and formations to a high standard of dancing and assimilate instructions quickly

Class fee: £9 per class for RSCDS members
£10 per class for non-RSCDS members

Underground: Russell Square

Free on-street parking available

Coram's Fields is in the [Ultra Low Emission Zone \(ULEZ\)](#)

For details contact Jenny Kendrick
classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Representing the Branch

The demonstration team will resume its activities shortly.

To this end, we are looking for more volunteers of a competent standard to join the team, benefit from superb teaching, and be prepared to volunteer for events in and around London - we even have the occasional weekend trip to festivals such as The White Rose Festival in Leeds. The class fees contribute to the costs, but expenses are available for performances.

Please contact Elaine Davies on demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk if you are interested and would like more information.

Memories of Fetter Lane: Branch President, Rachel Wilton

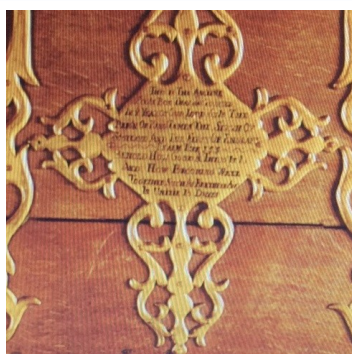
When I started dancing at St Columba's in the 1980s, I discovered very quickly that each group - the London Highland Club, the Scottish Clans Association of London and the Reel Club - had its own style and those of us who just loved dancing adopted the style of the night and had a wonderful time.

But every now and again 'Fetter Lane' was mentioned - where all the dancing used to take place and all the best fun was to be had.

The Royal Scottish Corporation can be traced back to the union of the crowns in 1603 when Scots followed King James VI to London. Some prospered, some did less well, and were not eligible for parish relief. Benevolent merchants and craftsmen contributed to a 'Scots-box', a fund for the less fortunate to draw on.



Scots-box and Royal Charter on display in Scotscore HQ in City Road



The Royal Scottish Corporation was in St Ann Blackfriars 1673 - 1782, then 7 Crane Court 1782 - 1927 and Fleur de Lys Court, 9 Fetter Lane 1927 - 73. In 2005 it became known as Scotscore and is still a lifeline for many. In 2018 - 19 the charity helped 1014 clients. It is the oldest Scottish charity operating outside Scotland and it is estimated that the organisation has helped about a million first and second generation Scots since it began as the Scots-box.

The Royal Scottish Corporation Hall was used by London Scottish groups to welcome and support young Scots away from home - eg London Galloway Association, London Angus Association, and not only with dancing. There were whist and beetle drives, drama groups, and coach trips out of London. In 1932 the London Highland Club established themselves at Fetter Lane, the Scottish Reel Club in 1953, then the Scottish Clans Association of London and the RSCDS London Branch. Bill Ireland remembers (*The Reel* 237) a postwar building in a sad state, with patched walls and a heating system of dubious efficiency. Peter Forrow describes a large Victorian

building which compared to St Columba's was indeed more opulent. The large hall was downstairs in the basement and occupied two floors in height. It was narrower and shorter than the Lower Hall at St Columba's but not by much. I remember that we still had three sets wide but not so many in length. In those days sets were smaller in width and length.

Robert Ferguson (*The Reel* 249) suggested "if there was a recognisable focal point for the Branch activities in the early years, it was Fetter Lane" so having looked at the history, thanks to London Metropolitan Archives, I asked the dancers.

Pat Brown, Scottish Clans Association of London:

"I started going to the Clans at Fetter Lane with my parents on a Saturday afternoon. From there I joined Jack McConachie's highland class. I remember going along and down some steps to the Great Hall. Mr Brown (no relation) was the caretaker and Mrs Brown watched the coats. If she liked you, she would read your tea leaves in your interval cup of tea. I went to Friday night ceilidhs run by Ian Simpson around 1944; the programme would include dances like the *St Bernard's Waltz*, *The Lancers*, *Petronella*, *The Eightsome Reel*, *Scottish Reform*, all repeated in the second half. The music was mainly from Flora Argent on the piano, her husband on the drums and sometimes a box player. My husband piped for *The Eightsome* and some of the dances."

Anne and Sandy Walker:

"Sandy and I met at Fetter Lane. He had come down from Scotland for the day to arrange to take a Boys' Brigade pipe band to Denmark. He saw an advertisement for a dance in the evening at Fetter Lane and decided to come along. I usually went with a group from work, so we met. The band was McBain's and I can still picture them on the stage. People used to go and get the next day's newspaper hot off the presses. On another occasion, Sandy won a tea caddy in the raffle which we still have to this day. We were married two years later. Happy days!"

Jenny Greene:

"The Hall was about the size of the Lower Hall at St Columba's with a wooden floor that was good for dancing. It was used by various Scottish societies in London for meetings, functions and of course, dancing! Groups that used the hall were the Clans, The Highland Club, the RSCDS, and the Reel Club - this was the most popular and liveliest!! The bands were Stan Watts, Flora Argent, Brian Hamilton, Frank Reid, and of course McBain's. Dances were held on Fridays and Saturdays and sometimes midweek - they were most enjoyable and great fun."

Paddy Black:

"I gradually moved from dancing in East Ham and Leytonstone to Fetter Lane in the early 1960s. I remember several Scottish groups - the Lewis Society of London met in the small room upstairs where Jack McConachie held his classes.

I remember concerts as well as dancing, visits to the Three Tuns and also to Mick's café for a drink and to purchase the Daily

Telegraph for the following day. I remember wild dancing - this how Peter Forrow describes this particular manoeuvre - top man danced to the bottom of the set, birlled the top man in that set and got back to the top in time for his turn. Next time it was the waiting top man in the bottom set who hurtled to the top set in the line, birlled that man and got back to his own set, in time to dance with his partner. You only had 32 bars to do it - we were a lot younger and fitter then! I also remember an MC saying - if you want to muck about, the Lyceum is just down the road!"



The Three Tuns pub in Fetter Lane

Graham Cattell, London Highland Club:

"I remember a two-storey house with the main hall being in the basement, minor meeting rooms and offices were on the middle floors and Harry Simpson used a room for his class."

Ian Muir, Craigellachie Band:

"Fetter Lane was before my time, so I never played there although McBain's talked about the dances there. I was always slightly envious that it was before my time as I had the sense that the surroundings were more opulent than St Columba's."

Joan Nesbitt:

"Watching the AGM online reminded me that as a child I used to go to Fetter Lane every Christmas for the party during the 1950s. My aunt was a member of the Caledonian Club or maybe it was the Highland Club which met weekly on a Tuesday. Latterly, I went dancing there as a teenager. My aunt was the one I followed into Scottish country dancing. I recall the Hall with clan shields all around the ceiling and the big man in a kilt who led the Christmas party and meeting friends from the Caley School in Bushey."

(Peter Forrow says that the Scottish Clans Association of London had their own room upstairs and the staircase to the upper floor was decorated with clan crests).

Bob Harman:

"I was encouraged along by my sister, but in 1955 I discovered Jack McConachie who taught highland dancing in the Burns room - *The Eightsome Reel* and *The Foursome Reel* to the pipes. I also met my wife there!"

John Carswell:

"A wonderful atmosphere, always crowded but even more crowded when McBain's played. Programmes included *Corstorphine Fair*, *Bonnie Anne*, *Angus MacLeod*, *Waverley*. Bands included Frank Reid and Flora Argent."

Anyone with further pictures or memories is encouraged to send them to Rachel, the Branch archivist.



CD Review: Jeremy Hill



Friday Fun Night at the Stagger Inn: Ewan Galloway CD (£12) and book (£10) or £20 for both, available (plus P&P) from ewan-galloway.sumup.link/

Welcome to the Stagger Inn (6x32R - a round the room dance), The 'Inn' Strathspey (3x32S), The Barmoids' Jig (5x32J), The Young Accordion Man (8x32R), Tiger Two Step, Ewan's Midnight Medley (2x32S+2x32R), Demo Dandy Dancers (4x32R), Da Trowie Reel (3x(16S+16R)), Stagger Dream (3x40S), 2AM Jig (8x32J), Last Orders (8x32S), Staggering Hame (3x32J)

Ewan Galloway continued to be active right the way through lockdown, and his latest release builds on the success of the Stagger Inn, a Friday night online entertainment that has attracted hundreds of individuals every week, for 'uplifting and spirited music that covers a wide range of styles and is presented in a remarkable relaxed and friendly manner'.

This spirit and style shine out from the CD that Ewan has put together - another example of multi-tracking providing a remarkable simulation of a band sound, with no practical compromise. The CD accompanies a book of dances and original tunes that have been composed this year by a wide-spread group of contributors. The dance devisers include Sarah Horne, Lucy Mulholland, Amanda Peart, and Jim Stott (who also contributes a tune!), and Sarah and Amanda provided much of the support in bringing the project together. There is great variety in the dance contributions, with round the room dances and medleys in the mix.

Musically, there is the lively touch throughout that those who know Ewan's playing have come to expect, based on

some great source material in the original tunes. His own tune for the *Tiger Two Step* (Tiger being Ewan's cat) is *Derek's Birthday Surprise*, a lively two-step written for fiddler and long-time collaborator Derek Hamilton, and another of Ewan's tunes, *The 'Reel' Dandy Dancers*, leads off a set of 'whizzy' reels that finishes with *Dunaskin Glen* (by Ian Muir of Prestwick).

Elsewhere, there are lead tunes by Marian Anderson and Robert Whitehead, and a good mix of traditional and other modern tunes in support. Another set I particularly enjoyed was for the 8x32 strathspey *Last Orders*, where the original comes from Bill Ewan. Bill is Ewan's regular pianist in the band, and, after playing a tune a day on Facebook during lockdown, produced a very personal selection for a CD that raised over £1,500 for the British Heart Foundation.

The final word on the album comes via Ian Robertson, with three of his tunes making up the set for *Staggering Hame*. Like the other dances in the book, this dance, by Jane and Brian Rose, has not had a full test run during lockdown - you are encouraged to adapt if you find anomalies! With this music to support, what more encouragement do you need to gather some friends together when you can, and give the dances a try?



Bands

IAN ROBERTSON AND HIS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE BAND

Solo, duo or trio available for Scottish country dances, classes, weddings, ceilidhs and reeling events. Contact Ian Robertson on 01296 630682 or ibrobertson@btinternet.com

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

For Scottish country dances, ceilidhs, weddings and reeling. Any size of band from one to five. Despite moving to Scotland, still interested in gigs in the south, particularly Friday/Saturday combinations. Tel 07860 104653 or reel@frankreid.com

CALEDONIAN REELERS

Well established three-piece SCD band, consisting of accordionist, fiddler and drummer. Caller/piper can also be supplied. Available for RSCDS dances, ceilidhs, weddings, reeling. Anywhere, anytime for your function. Please contact Derek Chappell 01206 764232/ Mary Felgate 07866 757401 for further information, or derek_chappell@aol.co.uk

Playing in Wing: Colin McEwen



The 13th Musicians' Workshop at Wing Village Hall took place on Saturday 4 September 2021. The tutor was Ian Robertson, on fiddle and accordion, and we worked on the tunes to play for the afternoon social dance.

There were eight players, on fiddle, keyboard, accordion, concertina, plus a drummer.

Ian started the workshop refreshing band basics and generally tightening up on a number of items. The session included aspects of bandsmanship, such as adapting 32 bar tunes to 40 bar dances, and the importance of looking up from the music as often as possible.

I am fascinated by tune names and what lies behind them. Ian included *MacPherson's Lament* in one of the sets. This tune was composed by James MacPherson, a notorious outlaw, on the night before he was executed on 16 November 1700 - an unusual story behind the tune.

It was really good to get back to playing for dancing and I enjoyed the day.

Thanks to Ian Robertson for creating the sets and leading the day, to Jan Jones and the Thistle Club for organising and hosting the event and to the other musicians for their friendly approach and being fun to be with.



Ian Robertson and his trusty accordion

Letter to *The Reel*

Reminiscences from afar

I always enjoy keeping in touch with London and *The Reel* although I moved 400 miles North 40 years ago. Issue 317 was very nostalgic for me with both the photo of Fetter Lane and John Laurie and I wondered whether readers might be interested to hear how I started and indeed continue a long and happy involvement with Scottish country dancing?

In February 1964, having finished University, I went to the Monday evening social at Pont Street through a connection with my grandmother's friend to a member of St Columba's Youth Fellowship. Having been a keen ballet dancer up to the age of 15 I absolutely loved it and had a marvellous time. I was hooked! So, I went to the socials at the Inter-Varsity Club near the Albert Hall and the Saturday Reel Club at Fetter Lane. That is where I eventually met my husband, John, dancing to the likes of Flora Argent and her three piece band amongst others, with Jimmy Findlater as MC. I wonder if anyone still remembers them?

John Laurie took over from Graham Ferguson as MC at Pont Street and became a close friend attending our wedding and christenings of our children. I eventually joined the RSCDS in 1966 so that I could attend the Demonstration Class where I had a very stimulating time with Bill Ireland until I married and went to East Africa.

End of story? No! We danced on a Monday at St Columba's, Dar es Salaam but in bare feet and on the verandah, after which it took three or four days for John's kilt to dry out!

Back to the UK and finally to Linlithgow in 1978 where we have been closely involved with the local affiliated group and various other projects and are now looking forward to the Club starting again in October.

I would like to wish all dancers a safe and healthy return to dancing after this extraordinary time of COVID-19.

Janet Carswell, Linlithgow

The Story behind the Dance: Meryl Thomson



A series of articles from Meryl Thomson delving behind the history of some of our dances and their music. Under the spotlight this issue is *Sleepy Maggie* which is on the Christmas dance programme.



Sleepy Maggie - a popular dance throughout the UK

This dance was published in RSCDS Book 11 in 1936. The source for the dance is stated as Bowman MSS c. 1755-1760. The Bowman manuscript currently resides in the Laing collection in the Edinburgh University Library and is a small notebook containing descriptions for some 122 dances. Many of these dances are typical of those found in the 18th century and use the standard figures such as turn corners and partner, hands round, hands across, dance reels of three on the sides and lead out at the sides. The book does not contain music and is signed by an Alexander Bowman. Whether this gentleman was a dancing master or merely a collector of dances is unknown. Hugh Foss in his book *Scotland's Dances* points out that there is not a pousette in any of the 122 dances. Other dances in the collection include *The Moudiewort*, *Inch of Perth*, *The Cadies Lady*, *Collichur*, *The Bawk*, *The Braes of Balluder* and *Invercauld's Reel*. The dance, number 76 in the collection, and called *Sleepy Maggy*, has the instructions - 'Hands round sett cast off, right and left hands across, and dance round sett cross partners & Reel' (sic.)

The tune, variously known as *Sleepy Moggie* when published in English collections, and often *Sleepy Maggie* in Scottish ones, seems to have remained popular throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. Other names include *Small Coals An' Little Money*, *Small Coals And Ready Money*, and *To The Quick*.

The first published version in England appears to be in the c.1751 6th volume of John Johnson's *A Choice Collection of 200 Favourite Country Dances*. He also republishes it in his *24 Country dances for 1752* (see below).

Sleepy Maggy

15

First Man set to the 2^d Wo. turn. 1st Wo. the same with the 2^d Man. 1st Cut. lead down the Middle up again and cast off. Right and Left at Top.

The dance does not bear much relation to the version found in Bowman. Published in London, William Campbell's version in his *17th Book of New and Favorite Country Dances and Strathspey Reels* from 1802 is called *Sleepy Moggie*, to which is attached a very stereotypical dance. Thomas Wilson in his *Companion to the Ballroom* of 1816 gives the opportunity to try three different dances to the same tune, two as 16 bar dances and one as a 32 bar dance (see below).

SLEEPY MOGGY (Old Scotch)

Allegro

SINGLE FIGURE (Each strain repeated)
Set & change sides with the 2^d Cut: set & back again. lead down the middle up again & allemande.

OR THUS The 1st Cut: cast off at the same time the 3^d Cut: set & lead up then the 3^d Cut: cast off & the 1st Cut: set & lead up. & whole pousette.

DOUBLE FIGURE (Tune played twice thro' with repeats)
Swing with right hands round 2^d Cut: then with left set & turn corners. lead thro' the bottom right & left at top. half pous with 3^d Cut: & turn your part.

Scottish versions include the tune called *Sleepy Maggy* in James Oswald's *Caledonian Companion* of 1750 and Alexander McGlashan published it under the same name *Sleepy Maggy* in Edinburgh in his c.1786 *Collection of Reels* but with expanded variations to the tune. The tune which appears in RSCDS Book 11 is taken from Gow's *Repository of the Dance Music of Scotland* c.1799, although Robert Bremner's version from 1749-1760 is also mentioned (see below) which is more elaborate with trills and runs in the notes.

Sleepy Maggy

Paul Cooper, historical dance researcher for regencydances.org, mentions a couple of occasions where the dance *Sleepy Maggie* appeared on the programme at Balls in England and Scotland. The 1810 Princess of Wales's Grand Ball featured it as the second dance of the night and the Aberdeen Journal for the 30 June 1800 reported that it was the second dance at a recent Duchess of Gordon's Ball. Read more about Paul's research into what was being popularly danced (a lot of Scottish dances feature) during the early nineteenth century at www.regencydances.org/paper050.php#moggie

Basically, *Sleepy Maggie* is a good example of a great tune which was published in England, Scotland, Ireland and Northumbria within a fairly short period, staying much the same musically, due to its simplicity, while any number of different dance figures were attached to it depending on the publisher.

We invite you to come along and dance the Bowman/RSCDS version of *Sleepy Maggie* at our Christmas Dance, while revelling in its strong and driving tune.

Kensington Gardens

After an enforced break, we were pleased to be able to offer two sessions of open air dancing in Kensington Gardens on 21 and 28 August 2021 - our first events after lockdown. A great way to re-start in the open air, live music, impeccable MCing and meeting new and old friends.

We are grateful to James Fairbairn for masterminding the events, and to him and Jim Cook for MCing. Frank Reid played for one and Dave Hall and Ali Forbes for the second.

The weather was none too promising for the first session, but that did not dampen the spirits of those present. Fortunately, the weather was better for the second and we had a great turn out.

A splendid start to the season!



A slightly damp and chilly 14 August...

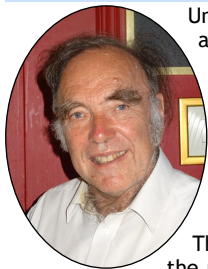


... and a much brighter 21 August!



Branch 90th Anniversary Celebration Ball

On 16 October 2021, we held our long awaited final celebration of our 90th/91st anniversary, with the Celebration Ball at Allum Manor Hall to the splendid music of Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band. Many thanks to Margaret Catchick and her team for the meticulous organisation (and re-organisation) of this event which was truly a fitting way to mark this momentous anniversary. Jim Cook and Marian Morris report.



Unlike my train, which arrived on time at Elstree station, I came to attend the RSCDS London Branch 90th Anniversary Ball which was running one year late... courtesy of COVID-19!

The first thing I see on the pavement upon leaving the station is the start of Elstree's Walk of Fame which highlights stars of the screen who are depicted within stars on the pavement leading to the nearby film studios. A large display relating to Barbara Windsor makes me wonder if the 'Carry On...' films were made here? But as the world emerges from the pandemic, 'Carry On Dancing' is the theme of today.

The previous afternoon, a squad of people had descended on Allum Hall to decorate the stage and the walls. Now the day of reckoning had arrived. A big thank you must go to Margaret Catchick who masterminded the operation originally planned for 2020 and revamped for 2021.

George Ferrier was stationed outside and played the bagpipes to set the scene and welcome attendees. Tickets were collected, coats removed and it was time to pick up and imbibe a glass of bubbly whilst everyone met friends from pre-COVID days of 18 months ago.

Dancers were allocated to sixteen tables of eight at one end of the hall, leaving plenty of room for four rows of dancers to dance in the main body of the large wooden floored hall.

The occasion was graced by William Williamson, RSCDS Chairman Elect, who treated the assembly to words of welcome. He delivered a message from Society Chairman, Lorna Ogilvie who was unable to attend, and presented a certificate to the Branch.

Then the magnificence of a six piece band - Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band - struck up to warn the dancers of the impending start of the dancing scheduled for 7.00pm.

The first dance was *Miss Hadden's Reel* with minimal *pas de basque* so that legs, some of which had not danced for 18 months, could be warmed up. Yours truly was honoured to MC the start of the proceedings, followed by Rita Marlow who took over halfway to bring us up to the interval.

Each table was summoned in turn to visit the hot meal buffet to select their main courses. (I chose the chicken.) Then, whilst everyone was eating, Branch Chair, Joanne Lawrence, rose to thank everybody for attending and also those who had helped prepare for the occasion. In particular the 90th Anniversary sub-committee, comprising Margaret Catchick, Rachel Wilton, Simon Wales, George Ferrier and myself, were thanked.

Sadly, at the last moment, after all his hard work, Simon Wales was unable to attend the Ball, having been immobilised by a painful trapped sciatic nerve. He was wished a very speedy recovery.

During the summer's Branch online AGM, a Branch Award to Stephen Webb had been announced in recognition of his services to *The Reel* Editorial Team and his idea of co-ordinating a 90th Anniversary New Dance competition. But, being an online meeting, the actual face to face presentation of the certificate was deferred to the occasion of the intended 90th Anniversary Summer Garden Dance. However this event had to be cancelled because of COVID-19. So there was a further deferment until tonight. Therefore Stephen was, at long last, presented with his framed certificate by Joanne!

Regarding the aforementioned 90th Anniversary New Dance Competition, (see next page) the assembly applauded Lizzie Conder for devising the winning entry now entitled *London Nine-O*, an excellent name suggested by Betty Arrol of Ruislip. This would be walked through, danced and enjoyed by all during the second half. We shall obviously see more of this lively flowing dance.

Dessert and coffee followed these words and dancing resumed with Lindsey Rousseau acting as MC for the next segment before I took over again. Eventually, the evening came to a close with the ever popular *The Montgomeries' Rant*.

The ticket indicated 'Carriages at 11.30pm'. But, after helping with the packing up, I retraced the Walk of Fame back to the station where my carriage arrived at 11.56!

It is pleasing to learn that many emails of congratulation have since been received by Margaret on behalf of all concerned. Here are some extracts. Thank you one and all!

"Congratulations to you and your committee in organising such a successful evening. I know how much work you personally put into the event. It worked brilliantly! It was lovely to see everyone dressed up and dancing."

"What a lovely evening we had at Allum Hall. A lot of thought, hard work and consideration went into the event to ensure we all had a good time. In normal times it would still have been a big ask but coping with the after effects of a pandemic made it even more challenging."

"I would like to congratulate you and your team for organising a wonderful evening to celebrate 90 plus years of London Branch. Everything was perfect - the hall, the programme, the band, the food. I think everyone must have thoroughly enjoyed dancing with friends again. A truly great evening."

"What a great Ball it was yesterday. Please pass on my thanks to all involved. It was a fantastic dance."

"We just wanted to say how much we enjoyed the Ball on Saturday. It was a lovely evening and very well organised - the music, food and company made it!"

"Thank you for organising such a splendid Ball last weekend. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, as did our guests and table-mates. We could see that you had gone to such trouble to organise the ball and got the Allum Hall looking celebratory."



George Ferrier's inimitable piping confirmed the venue (Google Maps went rogue 100 yards from the hall, sending a posse of cars into densely-parked side roads with no turning places). Inside, the trauma of the last two years was dispersed (at least temporarily) as friends greeted friends (with hugs) and dancing shoes emerged from what had been, for some, a very long hibernation.

Conversation flowed easily around the decorated tables, lubricated by sparkling wine. In the hall and corridors, a gallery of old photographs prompted a myriad comments: "do you remember...", along with "when was that?" or "where was that?" and "isn't that So-and-So - we looked so young then!" The formal introductions over (Chairman-elect William Williamson conveying RSCDS greetings to its first-born Branch outside Scotland), the dancing began.



William Williamson raising a glass to toast London Branch

With 128 dancers present, there was no shortage of partners and, with the tables cleverly sited at the back of the hall, no shortage of room to dance. The joyful playing of a six-piece Craigellachie Band lifted people from their initial tentative steps in *Miss Hadden's Reel* ("how do I make my feet move?") to flying down the hall by *Miss Allie Anderson* (just four dances in) and to gliding by *The Gentleman*. Skilful MC'ing and a cooperative band meant we made up the post-dinner delay (the caterers were less used to considering the demands of a full dance programme).

It was an evening of firsts; the first public airing of Lizzy Conder's winning dance *London Nine-O*, the first time I had heard Ali McCan accompany not one, but two dances on the tin whistle (*Twice Blessed* - not yet a dance, though perhaps it should be!) and (*Triple Happiness*) the first time for eighteen months that some people had danced without a computer screen in front of them. Three-dimensional partners are a joy!



Organisers George Ferrier, Margaret Catchick, Rachel Wilton, Jim Cook and a picture of the absent Simon Wales



A warm welcome from piper George Ferrier, and Sarah Shaw on the door



Best foot forward...



Stephen Webb receiving his Branch award during the interval enjoyed by table 16



We Have a Winner: Stephen Webb



From early conversations on my competition proposal with the then Branch Chair, Jim Cook until the trialling of the shortlist of three specially devised dances on 11 September 2021 at St Columba's Church, well over two years elapsed; this competition was designed to be done and dusted by 15 June 2020 but then, COVID-19 appeared from over the horizon. Because I had in 2011 masterminded *The Berkhamsted Diamond Collection*, Jim invited me to take control of this project. My first step in this journey was to set out the details and get committee approval, these were initially publicised on the website and a few weeks later in *Reel 310*. Many questions followed but the answers were always to be found by returning to the competition details. By the closing date of 1 March last year, the dedicated email address that Meryl Thomson had especially set up, had received an impressive 35 entries from 23 entrants, with 51 suggested dance names and these came from past and present London Branch members from places as diverse as Toronto, Western Australia, Edinburgh, Oxford as well as more locally. As coordinator I had decided not to know who any of the entrants were and this was achieved by using anonymous DDC references where the dance name and deviser was removed on receipt from the description by Meryl.

My task was to ensure that all descriptions were in accordance with RSCDS terminology, made sense and presented in an easily readable form. Where there were questionable issues, I returned to the deviser to see if they wished any amendment, some took this up. I had invited three RSCDS non-London Branch judges with impeccable credentials to independently (unknown to each other) mark the dances but strictly within the competition rules. Besides the description they were sent an MP3 prepared by Meryl of each of the tunes proposed by the entrant but told that no account can be taken of the music in the marking. Marking involved imagining each of the 35 dances and comparing them - the reader will agree this was an enormous task to be undertaken and for which I am most grateful personally and on behalf of London Branch to Wendy Mumford, Bill Zobel and William Williamson. I produced a spreadsheet with all the marking and arrived at the final shortlist by early last May.

There then was a tantalising lull, as the world slowly became vaccinated and restrictions eased sufficiently to organise a trialling morning. No dance can be assumed to work without it being first danced by experienced dancers. Of course, this was the last step to find a winner. The three dances were danced, each was videoed and all present (which included 12 Branch committee members and officers) voted on what they saw and the highest total scoring dance, which was a reel devised by Lizzy Conder, named the winner. The dance name *London Nine-O*, submitted by Betty Arrol, was

chosen as the most appropriate by the committee. Finally, a new tune composed by John Renton, given the same name, accompanies this dance.



Dance trial dancers, along with the Branch President, Branch Chair, musician Barbara Manning, and competition organiser, Stephen Webb

London Branch gives grateful thanks to all involved in this competition thus allowing it eventually to be completed.

Other details associated with this dance can be found on the London Branch website and Strathspey Server.

London Branch hopes that you will in the future enjoy dancing the 32-bar reel, *London Nine-O*.

London Nine-O

32-bar Reel for 3 couples in a 4-couple longwise set

Bars	Description
1 - 8	All dance a three-couple allemande beginning from the side lines with all men dancing diagonally across the set on bar 1 with flight and women having danced slightly up their side of the set. As 1st couple meet they rotate to face the men's side and take allemande hold. Bars 2-8 are as a standard three-couple allemande, finish 3,2,1.
9 - 16	1st couple lead up to the top of the set and cast to 2nd place on their own side. 1st couple giving right hands, turn to finish in second place on their own sides facing out. 2nd couple step down on bars 11-12.
17 - 24	3rd, 1st and 2nd couples dance a chain progression for three couples to finish 2,1,3.
25 - 32	2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance six hands round and back.

Repeat, having passed a couple
Devised by Elizabeth (Lizzy) Conder
14 March 2020

Tune: London Nine-O
by John Renton of Inveraray



Deviser Lizzy Conder dancing *London Nine-O* with Gerry Elliott



Jen Robertson and Mervyn Short turn effortlessly out of allemande hold



Branch Chair Joanne Lawrence



Former Chair Andrew Kellett leading Pat Davoll



Anna Hall and Dave Hall



Ladies in blue – Anna Twinn, Margaret Catchick and Joan Desborough



Marian Morris and Peter Knight all smiles



Davinia Miln and Joan Blake pass in a swirl of skirts



Emily Hall, Mick Aylward and Judith Rousseau dance crown triangles, with Caroline Hamilton and Robert Morgan behind



Grace Hill, Marshall Christie and Joan Nesbitt



Lindsey and Judith Rousseau glide down the middle



Rachel Wilton and Mick Madigan, with Lindsey Rousseau behind



William Williamson and Jane Rose, with Jeremy Hill behind



Anna Hall, Emily Hall and Caroline Hamilton



End of an era for The Argyll Scottish Dancing Group...

The Argyll Scottish Dancing Group held its final weekend school at Dillington House on 1 - 3 October 2021. Dancer Katy Kendall, and musician Edward Bunting report on its great success.



The Argyll Scottish Dancing Group's last weekend school at Dillington House was held in October 2021, when, in spite of COVID-19 and petrol shortages, a lively and highly accomplished group of dancers and musicians gathered for a final fling. We kicked off with a joyous dance on the Friday evening to great music from Ian and Judith Muir. Some of us had been dancing regularly throughout the previous 18 months, when permitted, but some had not, so were thrown into the deep end somewhat - however, you would never have known it!

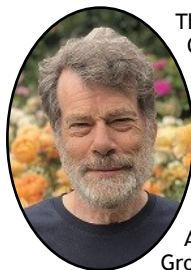
We dancers delighted in having Andrew Nolan, down from Edinburgh, as our teacher for Saturday and Sunday mornings, with Judith as the class musician.

Judith had stepped into the breach magnificently at very short notice when Robert Mackay (who had played frequently in the past) had to pull out a few days before the event. Andrew taught wonderfully, pacing the classes perfectly and took us through an interesting and varied set of dances, with plenty of laughter and a great sense of satisfaction at accomplishing a particularly tricky dance with a certain panache. The focus on covering was very pleasing; as well as being essential to good dancing, it also helped to revive connection and teamwork after such a long period of enforced isolation and distancing. Very generously, he decided to ignore our footwork on the final morning, as some legs and feet were beginning to wobble - or perhaps that was just me!



Andrew Nolan and Judith Muir delighting the dancers

The Saturday evening dance was enhanced by Ian and Judith being joined by all the musicians from Ian's classes playing together with a satisfying richness, keeping us aloft and in flight as the midnight hour approached. Weekends such as this make ever clearer the importance of the connection between dancers and musicians and how good it feels when it is there.



The weekend of 1-3 October 2021 saw the renewal of live workshop playing for a class of nine players and their tutors, Ian and Judith Muir. For this we had to thank the Argyll Scottish Dancing Group, one of whose committee was playing in the class. Having begun with dancing on Friday evening, we met next morning in an upstairs studio with big windows and the light of a glorious autumn morning. It felt so right to strike up Angus Fitchet's brilliant reel, *J B Milne*.

The course was basically about providing lift and drive for dancers. Looking at the eight-bar sections of which tunes are composed, Ian showed us how there is a subtle way in which they subdivide into phrases, and the way we articulate these provides the logic and meaning of the tune, as well as the drive and energy for the dancer. Next, he drew our attention to the 'uneven' style of jig playing - other words to describe it might be 'pointed' or 'lively' - which is characteristic of Scottish music. It might be hard to define, but every player needs to get good at it.

We looked at various points concerning the arrangement of music. A crescendo, introducing drama; a clear daylight break at a change of tune; pizzicato to bring in a sense of mystery; and counter melody, the gold standard of the arranger's trade. Somehow, we got through the whole programme by teatime, and when evening came, it was exhilarating to play it all again for those lovely dancers. One exercise was to work out which had been the hardest tune that weekend. On Sunday morning, we talked about this. Regardless of instrument, the verdict was unanimous, *Scott Meikle*. There were various reasons, but the choice was the same.

When I got home from the weekend my copy of Scottish Country Dancer had arrived, with an article by two New Zealand musicians, Katherine and Andrew Uren: 'The Challenge of Playing for Scottish Country Dancing'. At the 2017 - 2018 Wairarapa Summer School, Andrew had attended Judith and Ian's musicians' course. He decided to take with him a suitably agile instrument, the C Clarinet. And there, in New Zealand, he came across a tune that was particularly tricky for that instrument - *Scott Meikle*!

When I got home from the weekend my copy of Scottish Country Dancer had arrived, with an article by two New Zealand musicians, Katherine and Andrew Uren: 'The Challenge of Playing for Scottish Country Dancing'. At the 2017 - 2018 Wairarapa Summer School, Andrew had attended Judith and Ian's musicians' course. He decided to take with him a suitably agile instrument, the C Clarinet. And there, in New Zealand, he came across a tune that was particularly tricky for that instrument - *Scott Meikle*!

When I got home from the weekend my copy of Scottish Country Dancer had arrived, with an article by two New Zealand musicians, Katherine and Andrew Uren: 'The Challenge of Playing for Scottish Country Dancing'. At the 2017 - 2018 Wairarapa Summer School, Andrew had attended Judith and Ian's musicians' course. He decided to take with him a suitably agile instrument, the C Clarinet. And there, in New Zealand, he came across a tune that was particularly tricky for that instrument - *Scott Meikle*!



Musicians' course attendees keeping the dancers aloft and in flight

Hammersmith Reelers Recognise Perthshire Band's Loyalty: Colin McKay

On an overcast July day, Perthshire farmer Willie Simpson stopped haymaking to receive a gift from an appreciative group of London-based Scottish dancing enthusiasts, Hammersmith Reelers, in recognition of his band's contribution to the Reelers' enjoyment of their dance evening on their annual visit to Scotland.

Knowing Willie's liking of the national drink, he was presented with a silver quaiich sourced by one of the Reelers and mounted on a wooden plinth with a specially engraved inscription. Willie was also given a pictorial card depicting the locations visited, listing some of the dances performed and the names and photos of the Reelers.

Besides Willie playing the fiddle, his band included James Coutts (accordion) and Malcolm Ross (drums) and the Reelers gave Willie a cheque to be shared with the band in any way he thought appropriate.

Both these musicians live outside Perthshire and so made a supreme effort on the night of the dance to leave work early, change into formal dress, gather their instruments and tech equipment into Willie's car, set the sat nav for some way-out place and hope for the best. They never failed to arrive on time to the relief of the MC.

Altogether, from 1998, the band performed on 21 consecutive years at 18 different venues spanning the length and breadth of Scotland, up to 2019 until COVID-19 intervened in 2020. Sadly, work for bands dried up and Willie decided to hang up his fiddle, although he was hoping to come to play for the Reelers one final time in 2021 until COVID-19 intervened again.



Carol and Colin Mackay with Willie and Jean Simpson at presentation on 22 July 2021

Where is This?

Answer to 'where is this?' on p1: *Cramond Bridge*, a dance from the *London Jubilee Book 1979*, devised by Valerie Farr (née Crammond and married to Bill Farr of McBain's band) with music by Frank Reid. Do you have any dance name related photos? Email: editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

Two Retiring Ladies...

Two long-serving servants of the Branch have recently announced their retirement from active service. The Branch is deeply indebted to Jeni Rutherford and Margaret Catchick for their years of service, which will be marked by a presentation at Jeni's last class on 15 December, and in Margaret's case at the Day School on 30 October.

Jeni Rutherford



Jeni started dancing in 1984, encouraged by a couple of friends who danced. She took her Preliminary Certificate in 1991 at St Andrews. She was already in charge of teas and catering for Monday Nights at St Columba's when John Laurie asked her to take over the short class which preceded the main event. She did both for around six years.

She was a founder member of Columcille, a small informal display team which danced at charity events for ten years from the late 1980's and was on the Branch committee in the early 1990's.

In 1994 she studied for the Full Certificate with Susan Nedderman in Cambridge.

From 1997 until 2001 Jeni lived in Jerusalem. While she was there, she established a class in the Church of Scotland, which, we understand, is still running. Jeni danced with The MacLennan Scottish Group from 2002 for seven years.

In about 2002 Jeni offered to take on the RSCDS Wednesday General Class. Initially for just a few weeks until the end of the summer term and then as permanent teacher which has lasted nearly 20 years.

Jeni regards herself as being incredibly fortunate having a class of friendly and supportive members for such a long time.
Ian Rutherford

I joined this class taught by Jeni about twenty years ago and stayed so long because of the friendly caring atmosphere. We begin with a good warm up and then go straight into dancing. Step practice is rare. Many of the class members are older, and some frail, so energy is kept for the dances. Jeni always has three, four and five couple dances ready and will dance herself if required - no-one is allowed to sit out.

Before most dances we have a brief account of the origin of the dance and the music which is always appreciated.

At the tea and biscuits break, there is a friendly roll call, and anyone missing for two or more weeks is gently investigated. The group has a very welcome caring network feel which was very apparent with emails and Zoom calls during lockdown.

Jeni will be a very hard act to follow, but there is a need for a daytime relaxed class for those who do not want to go out at night.
Rona Black

I have been attending Jeni's class for about 10 years. It is a fun and friendly group, and Jeni keeps things light, and is seldom stern. As someone who has on a couple of occasions filled in when Jeni has been unable to be there (using her prepared plan), I can testify to the amount of work and attention to detail she puts into preparing for the class.
Roy Southall



Jeni showing her needlework skills with the banner she made for the MacLennan Scottish Group, which is still proudly carried at their performances (see below) with Jeni centre stage flanked by Simon Wales and Henry Nolan



Margaret Catchick



Margaret has worked tirelessly for the Branch ever since she came onto the committee. She is a superb organiser and has been Classes Convenor, Secretary and Chair of the Branch. She has organised 20 annual day schools in succession, all to great acclaim and has spread her enjoyment of dance far and wide.

She excels at the fine details, and nothing is overlooked. The postponed 90th Anniversary ball was a triumph, coping along the way with organising, un-organising and re-organising such an event was no mean achievement.

A keen dancer of other styles of dance, Margaret joined the Branch class run in north London by Deborah McLachlan and joined the Branch committee in 2003.

Margaret, like Jeni, has danced with the MacLennan Scottish Group and has taken part in many adventures abroad.

Margaret is a frequent visitor at events run by the many clubs and societies around north-west London, and is well known throughout the Society at large.

Simon Wales



Margaret (above) with the flowers presented to her by London Branch Chair Joanne Lawrence at the 90th Anniversary Ball and (below) with a gift from the Branch at the Day School



I write this the morning after the successful 2021 London Branch Day School. When reflecting on these annual events, one automatically thinks of the organiser Margaret Catchick. This is not surprising as Margaret has been managing these events since 2003! In front of me, I have yesterday's duty roster spreadsheet, prepared by Margaret and one appreciates the size of the jigsaw which is the Day School organisation. So, our thanks must go to Margaret for arranging all these successful events for us all.

In parallel, Margaret was Branch Chair for three years and also took on the massive task of 90th Anniversary Event organiser.

We recall the highly successful 90th Anniversary Tea Dance at the London Scottish Regimental HQ on 1 March 2020, then COVID-19 struck, causing the delay, and then cancellation, of the planned Summer Garden Dance and the deferment of the 90th Anniversary Ball to 16 October 2021. Thank you, Margaret, for coping with the disappointment of cancelled events and then redoing the same job twice with regard to the Ball and yesterday's Day School, major events which took place only two weeks apart!

After this period of concentrated activity, this morning the clocks went back an hour. So let us hope that Margaret could spend an extra hour in bed with a cup of tea and bask in the knowledge of her successes. Three cheers for Margaret.
Jim Cook

Mixed Ability Class

from Krystyna Vargas



I was in the 'mixed ability' group and with a trio of excellent instructors and musician: Mervyn Short for the morning class and Alice Stainer in the afternoon both accompanied by Jeremy Hill on the piano. Good teachers always understand what their learners need. Dancers at this level know the basic figures and steps but their execution often needs to be addressed. Timing, transitions, foot positioning and extensions can all become a bit messy.

Both teachers focused on refining our dancing skills, starting with posture: Mervyn described this as 'alignment'. Much work was done on improving the *skip change*, *travelling step*, *pas de basque*, *allemande*, *poussette*, *set and link*, *hello-goodbye setting* and transitions. The *poussette* and *hello-goodbye setting* always present a challenge.

We were inspired by our teachers' beautiful modelling of the steps. I will always remember the perfect *pas de basque* and *skip change* as Mervyn and Alice glided across the dance floor. Jeremy's accompaniment added to their faultless execution and there seemed to be a natural understanding between the instructors and the musician. Our practice was accompanied by such dances such as *Lady Dumfries*, *Gaelforce Wind* and *Lord Macdonald's Reel*.

At the end of a hard-working day, our reward was the praise of our teachers. Perhaps we shall not immediately be able to emulate them but we certainly made some improvement. A fantastic day.

I am sure I was not the only one to have felt apprehensive about returning to dancing and attending this year's Day School. Would there be fewer dancers? Lots of restrictions? Was it a good idea to take part? None of these concerns turned out to be true. I left at the end of the day feeling what a splendid day it had been: life began to feel normal again.



Alice Stainer putting the mixed ability class through their paces

Musicians' Course

from David Page



From the outset, the emphasis was on pleasing and lifting the dancers, assembling a framework of carefully selected tunes matched to the characteristics of each dance and playing crisply at steady tempi. Rather than simply translating the 'dots' into sounds we found ourselves adding counter-melodies, playing in parts, using solos and syncopation where appropriate - devices to be used sparingly to enhance variety. Original tunes could be replaced for the last turn by more attractive alternatives when available, and exact adherence to the score took second place to the flow of melody, for music written for the fiddle can occasionally present challenges for the piano or the accordion - and vice versa.

Lunch was of the usual high standard and by the end of the afternoon we had worked through the evening's repertoire, learned what a 'skittery felty' was... and I had found a new Bechstein grand on which to unleash Muriel Johnstone's magnificent strathspey tune *Earl Gaddis!*

With Simon Wales as MC the evening social was well attended by an enthusiastic company of dancers, and entertainment included highland and ladies' step dancing, tap dancing, songs, Hilaire Belloc's poetic cautionary tale of *Matilda* and a stunning accordion solo from Jim Lindsay. Thanks to all who made it possible, in particular Margaret Catchick and her team.

To be rehearsing with at least a dozen fellow musicians, including an especially strong cohort of fiddlers, under the friendly direction of Jim Lindsay in a small and acoustically perfect concert hall in St Helen's School was to forget the dreich morning and the motorway miles and begin to pick up the threads laid aside for well nigh two years, not only in the art and practice of playing for dancing but in meeting friends in person rather than on screen.



The musicians working hard under Jim Lindsay's guidance



The beginners and newcomers class keeping Mervyn Short on his toes



Fiona Mackie's very advanced class



Jim Lindsay (right) and the band keeping the dancers uplifted...



David Queen and Tony Ellam limbering up



A full house for the evening dance brought the day to a close



A Lovely Smiley Gentleman from Patsy Patterson

Gordon Patterson

19 February 1934 - 2 October 2021



Gordon was born in Sunderland, County Durham, but aged six months was taken to Kenya, where he lived with his parents, and was schooled until the age of eleven. As soon as the war in Europe was over, his father arranged for Gordon to come to Ashville College, initially evacuated to the Hydro hotel in Windermere, then back to Harrogate.

Gordon was a long-time member of the RSCDS having learnt to dance in Nairobi, Kenya where he lived with his parents. He was taken to a 'Ladies Evening' where an *Eightsome Reel* was announced and he did not know how to dance it, so determined not to be in that position again, he enrolled in the Nairobi Branch of the RSCDS, and attended classes. He had done some American square dancing, but found Scottish country dancing far more rewarding and so began his quest to perfect his dancing. When posted to Aden, he was able to dance with the RSCDS in the RAF's air-conditioned Officers' mess. Another posting took him to Entebbe, Uganda, and again he was immediately snapped up to dance in a team for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on her visit to Uganda in 1959.

Back in Nairobi he danced in competition teams at the festivals held biannually and adjudicated by Scottish teachers flown out to Kenya for the purpose. It was at one of these festivals, in May 1963, that he met Patsy, who was dancing in a successful school team. That evening they danced together and found out that they lived just a few hundred yards from each other, and that Godfrey Hick, Patsy's dad, worked for the same airline as Gordon, and was known to him.

The following year Patsy came to London, to university and, as a result of Africanisation, Gordon followed in the summer of 1965, and they went to St Andrews Summer School together. Gordon then became a member of the London Demonstration Team led by Bill Ireland, and so commenced Gordon's many trips abroad, as well as attendance at dances held at The Royal Scottish Corporation, Fetter Lane. He followed Andrew Rankine's Band around the country making many friends.

He was a member of the very successful competition team the 'Harcourt Reelers' for many years through the late sixties. Later he joined Patsy's team the 'Hampton Hoppers' subsequently renamed 'The Strathreelers'. From the early 1970s this team settled into regulars Ian McLennan-Brown, Irene Nicholson, Joan and Geoff Desborough, Ann and Malcolm Dix and Patsy and Gordon. Wendy Kellet also participated when one of the regular ladies was unable to dance.

As the Strathreelers, we competed (and won) at the Richmond Highland Games, Harpenden Highland Games, Slough Festival, Birmingham Highland Games and the much-coveted Cousins Gold Rose Bowl in the Edinburgh Music Festival.



Gordon (left) with the other members of the Hampton Hoppers at Richmond

Success at Richmond brought a request from Don Ross for a spot at his Burns supper at the Centre Airport Hotel, where we found ourselves dancing to a Scots Guards piper. This resulted in a request from the Scots Guards to dance at a Royal Variety Performance, for the Prince of Wales. We were also asked to put together the Scottish section of the EFDSS festival in the Royal Albert Hall which had four performances over two days.

Now known to Duncan Beat, director of music at Kneller Hall, we were asked to dance at the Military Musical Tattoo at Wembley Stadium, and other displays at Cliveden, Buckinghamshire. We had already danced at these functions as part of the London Demonstration team and Bob Murphy's Argyll Dancers.

In the early 1970s Gordon also served on the London Branch committee. He led the demonstration team to a wine festival in Zelona Gora, Poland, the 1973 trip to Portugal, was part of the team on two separate Belgium trips and a trip to Llangollen.

In 1998 the Pattersons bought their bungalow in Wells and were invited by Erica Archer to dance with the prestigious Corryrechan team. Retirement brought more time to dance abroad so there were dancing holidays with Marian Anderson, trips to RSCDS Winter School, a six-week trip to New Zealand including their Summer School, a wonderful TAC summer school on Vancouver Island and another to Halifax. The very special trip led by Atsuko and Bill Clement to Japan remains a highlight.

Nearer home there was a trip to Vienna and Budapest with Ron Wallace accompanied by Muriel Johnstone, also Jette's 'fooling around in Belgium' taken by Dave Hall with Angela Young on piano, some very enjoyable trips to Lyon and Paris, and from there to Munich with David Queen the following weekend.

Keeping active has been a very important mantra for someone who suffered with osteoporosis and an underlying blood condition, which was diagnosed in October 2003. He fought these to the end and after a short stay in the Royal University Hospital, Bath he succumbed to pneumonia. RIP lovely smiley gent, Gordon Patterson.

A Dancer and Walker from Jan Jones

Julian Mason

1 March 1951 - 31 October 2021



With his tan suede or red ghillies, Julian was Scottish dancing at home and abroad for over 40 years. Davinia Miln and Gill Lumbus remember the good and long-lasting friendships developed in their early days of dancing with Julian as part of a large group of dancers who regularly gathered at a local pub after an evening of dancing

Julian wrote letters for *The Reel* 261 (rscdslondon.org.uk/the-reel-archives/) airing his views on strathspeys: "I see strathspeys as a 'breather' between more energetic reels and jigs" - his most hated dance being *The Gentleman*, and regarding photographers at dances: "Am I alone in finding the use of cameras, both still and video, at dances increasingly irritating?" Stephen Webb's reply in *The Reel* 262 included a cheeky photograph of Julian dancing *The Robertson Rant* with a beaming smile!

Since the 1990's Julian was a member of the Caterpillar Walking Club often taking the lead. When asked to guide a dance group for an afternoon stroll it turned into a nine mile hike which was not hugely appreciated! One New Year's Eve holiday Julian appeared with a piece of coal in his mouth as a celebration of 'first footing'! Julian was determined to help navigate the flight of 29 locks at Devides on a Kennet & Avon Canal trip only to be thwarted by a barge carrying Bath stone for the restoration of Windsor Castle stuck under a bridge. He returned to work and the depleted crew negotiated the whole flight!

Julian's first in history from Cambridge, together with his accountancy skills and passion for theatre and music, made him an excellent trustee of Historia Theatre Company. (historia25.wixsite.com/historiatheatre/) Founded by Kate Glover Price in 2003, this puts on new plays inspired by history.

Julian was an accountant by profession and fellow London commuter, Stephen Webb "enjoyed many a controversial chat with him when he liked being a devil's advocate just to be mischievous".

An active participant in the RSCDS International Branch, Julian's observations and comments could focus the committee to further discuss the wording of the constitution or reflect on previous practices.

Julian met his future wife, Kerstin Lankuttis, at a London Barn Dance contra dance in 2004 and they married in July 2010. They moved to Maybole in Scotland in March 2014. Together they enjoyed canoeing on and swimming in the sea, and warm ocean dips featured in their extended stays in Portugal - as did good food accompanied by good wine or a refreshing beer!

Inside the RSCDS

What does HQ do for me? This is a question often asked, and especially so when there is less apparent benefit from the membership subscription. £18 of each £26 individual member subscription goes to HQ, to fund the Society. Apart from a few staff most of the work is carried out by committees of elected volunteer members - Youth Services, Education and Training and Membership Services - overseen by the Management Board. Over the course of the last few issues, *The Reel* has reported on the work of each these committees.

For all the latest Society news and updates please visit www.rscds.org/blog/important-rscds-updates



RSCDS HQ: 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF



Congratulations to the following who recently passed RSCDS Teaching exams run by serTA.

- Caroline Catter (Oxfordshire)
- Jan Collings (London)
- Christine Jeffery (Oxfordshire)
- Murrough Landon (London)
- Inga Vickery (BHS Borders)
- Sarah Whillis (BHS Borders)

on passing their Units 1,2 & 3 (Part 1)

- Virginia Colenbrander (London)
- Kate Thomson (BHS Borders)

on passing their Units 4 & 5 (Part 2)

We wish them all happy future teaching!



The successful candidates and tutor Jane Rose and musician Judith Muir

Youth Services Committee: Joana Stausberg



What do we do and for whom?

This autumn brings you more news about our new virtual dance lifestyle. Malin, Abbie and Philippa

are working on a virtual dance display, and by the

time this issue arrives, you should be able to see the result on the RSCDS website: www.rscds.org

We are also looking for contributions to this year's virtual festival on the theme of 'Ceilidh: dancing and beyond'. Pick your favourite ceilidh dance from the Aberdeen Virtual Spring Fling creations, form a display around it and send in your video to info@rscds.org. Everyone was invited to vote on their favourite video during Global Youth Week, from Sunday 28 November to Sunday 4

December. Winners will be announced before Christmas.

For the centenary year, we will publish a free children's booklet on Scottish country dance. Peppared with quizzes, colouring-in pages and lots of pictures, it aims to introduce children to the world of Scottish country dancing. The ideas of what to include keep coming, and it is a fun process to think of the best way to present music, key formations, RSCDS history and dancing worldwide.

Since this is my last column as convenor, I would like to thank the office staff, my co-convenors, management Board members, the Dance Scottish at Home team and the committee for their ideas, support and many interesting, friendly conversations.

I wish the new convenor and committee all the best for their work - keep up with the enthusiasm and engaging projects!

The above first appeared in *The Scottish Country Dancer* in October 2021.

RSCDS Autumn Gathering: Simon Wales



What a joy to be travelling to Perth for an actual Autumn Gathering and AGM weekend! The anticipation of seeing friends from around the world, discussing, dancing, debating, dining ... and having fun!

The actual meeting lasted about 75 minutes, and this year all the voting was done in advance. There were dances on Friday and Saturday evenings (250 - 300 dancers together, despite the challenges presented by the post COVID-19 environment), classes, workshops and discussions for all - and, most importantly, a chance to make new friends and renew old friendships.

For the 2020 AGM, London Branch had been asked to devise the Saturday night ball programme and to MC it, in recognition of our 90th Anniversary. Jim Cook and I duly performed that function this year, with the marvellous Jim Lindsay and his Band playing. Many of us in London enjoyed his music at the evening dance of our recent Day School.

There was no election for Chair this year, as Lorna Ogilvie has another year to go, with William Williamson as chair

elect. Lizzy Conder (who features elsewhere in this *Reel*) is the new Treasurer.

The successful candidates to fill the vacancies on the various committees are:

Management Board: Andrew Nolan, Helen McGinlay and Simon Wales

Education and Training: Convenor Elect: Deb Lees. Members: Ellie Briscoe and Lorna Valentine

Membership Services: Andrew Smith, Julie Grainger, Maureen Daniels and Paul McKnight

Youth Services: Convenor: Philippa McKee. Member: Linda Williamson

There was also a tough decision to take on increasing the Society share of subscriptions from £18 to £25 given the serious financial position in which the Society finds itself following the cancellation of Summer and Winter Schools. London's position was to reluctantly agree to this (having spoken against the decrease two years ago, but even we did not predict a global pandemic).

The 2020 Society Scrolls of Honour were presented to: Fiona Miller, Marilyn Watson, Ruby Wilkinson, Angela Young and the 2021 Scroll recipient, Hugh Ferguson, had received his at a local event.

Doris Young



Doris Young, also known to London Branch members as the mother of our former chair, Angela Young, has recently retired from her 50 years long teaching of young dancers in Aberdeen. Teams under her expert tuition have received much acclaim and many prizes at festivals such as Newcastle and Aberdeen, where it was not unusual for the Airyhall Dancers to make a clean sweep of all the age categories.

Aberdeen Branch made a presentation to her and the tune below was specially written for her by Gordon Shand, a family friend, entitled *Here's to Mrs Young*. London Branch would like to wish Doris a long and comfortable retirement in that warming shawl, cup of tea in hand!

Here's To Mrs Young G.Shand

“In My Opinion”: Ian Muir



As I write this article, I will have been retired from the post of RSCDS Music Director for a year whilst on 16 October 2021 Craigellachie played for the London Branch's 90th Anniversary Ball as a six piece band for the first time since lockdown. It therefore seemed appropriate to reflect on the last seven years which have probably been the most challenging in all of the years that I have been playing Scottish dance music.

As the Society's Music Director, I was able to bring my education and teaching experiences to bear and although the remit of the Music Director is broad, three areas dominated my tenancy in the post. Education - and by that I include the Summer School Musicians' Course, music resources on the Society's website; Preparing music for the Society's planned publications, digitising the Society's CDs and making them available on-line via i-tunes, Spotify etc; and lastly copyright - a very grey area but, with the growth of social media and posting on-line, one that was needing some clarity and guidance from the Society.

If I had to single out one area, though, it would have to be the Summer School Music Courses. The very first Music Course that I ever taught was for the Cambridge Branch back in the mid 1980s. It was meant to be jointly delivered by myself and Nan Fleming-Williams who had returned to live in the UK from Malta. Many will remember Nan and McBain's Band which she led for many years. Sadly, her husband, Brian, died two weeks before the course and Nan naturally withdrew as the main tutor. 'Baptism of Fire' doesn't really describe the experience that followed! From a supporting role I became 'the' tutor, but it was a fantastic experience and led to many other music courses which have now become so popular throughout the Scottish dance scene. Incidentally it was at this course that I first met a very young Judith Robertson!

Educational thinking and teaching have always been a passion, so being able to apply this to playing for Scottish country dancing seemed natural. The premise behind the material (tunes and dances) that provides the structure for my music courses is that every tune, tune type, set of tunes, have teaching points that sit behind them and my aim is to 'unpick'

what is uniquely 'Scottish' about the music and the style in which it needs to be played. The development of the Summer School course led to an increase in the numbers attending and I was so lucky to work with Judith Smith and Gillian Stevenson (fiddle), and Bill Ewan (keyboard) as part of the team. Musicians from all walks of life and from all over the world attended and the Saturday night dance in Younger Hall was always exhilarating. It was just wonderful to see how the musicians themselves became energised by the experience. As this course focused on playing in an ensemble, I also instigated a Class Musicians' course which dealt with the very different skill set needed to play for class.

Sadly, my last Summer School course was cancelled due to the pandemic and with the emergence of Dance Scottish at Home I was keen that there should be some musical input into the weekly newsletter. It seemed that a Podcast might be the best way to achieve this although I had no idea in the early stages as to what this might really entail, or how many people would listen. The subsequent numbers indicated it was indeed a good choice. The challenge was that with social distancing and lockdown, how would musicians, play and engage with each other? Inspired by Peter Wood's 'Tunes in the Hoose' we were able to invite individuals and bands to contribute tracks and items whilst modern technology enabled us to mix, edit and assemble this new material. The enthusiastic response from fellow musicians and a willingness to contribute either as individuals or with their bands was inspiring. There were of course the other regular features of quizzes, interviews, Album of the Week and pieces focussed on other aspects of Scottish dance music. In all I produced and edited 25 Podcasts and am indebted to all who contributed and were so willing to

share their experience and talents. To replace the cancelled Summer School music course, I also instigated three on-line collaborative projects involving musicians from all over the world - the first two with Dance Scottish at Home and the third in association with the Berks/Hants/Surrey Border Branch. If you haven't seen the resulting videos, then these are still available on Craigellachie's YouTube channel: youtube.com/channel/UCb_RauAL9PZCDFaEAb6l5Sw/videos

Having retired from the Music Director post I thought a rest would be the order of the day but with the on-going lockdown and Craigellachie's programme of on-line concerts and collaborations, that this did not happen was not a surprise! The commitment of the band members to prepare the material on their own and record their tracks in isolation was huge and the positive response from the dancing public and enthusiasts from all over the world is testament to this. I would like to thank Graham, Ali, Keith and John for their commitment to this enterprise and of course Judith who had to put up with me disappearing after an early breakfast and only emerging for sustenance until sometimes very late in the evening. Her patience and support were and are immeasurable.

So, what of the future? We all hope that dancing and playing will return to as near normal as is possible but acknowledge that this may take some time. I would like to throw down the challenge to Branches, clubs, societies, teachers and musicians to continue to embrace the technologies that have emerged through the pandemic in order that we do not miss any opportunity to widen our influence, share our expertise and keep those who may not, or cannot, return to dancing or playing immediately, engaged with our wonderful hobby.



Ian Muir (right) with the Craigellachie Band at the London Branch 90th Anniversary Ball on 16 October 2021

Lives remembered: Sheila Barnes, RSCDS Somerset Branch President

Somerset Branch President, Sheila Barnes, died peacefully in August this year. Sheila and her husband Harold started the Somerset Branch more than 30 years ago and were joint recipients of the RSCDS scroll. Their contribution to Scottish country dancing in Somerset and previously in Bedford was wonderful.

Sheila had not been teaching or dancing for some years but was always very interested in everything that the Branch was doing.

Somerset RSCDS will always be grateful for Sheila's dedication, teaching, friendship and support.

The above first appeared in *The Scottish Country Dancer* in October 2021. Many dancers in the London area will remember Sheila and Harold from their time dancing in the south-east when members of Bedford Branch RSCDS.



Sheila Barnes seated next to the then Society Chairman, Andrew Kellett with members of Somerset RSCDS

Branch Committee Report: Branch Secretary, Mel Rowland



At our latest Committee meeting held on 8 October 2021 we had plenty to celebrate at the start of a new season of dancing. The New Season Dance attracted over 60 dancers and there was a fantastic atmosphere as we all enjoyed dancing at St Columba's for the first time in over 18 months; classes have resumed at Park Walk, Richmond and St Columba's with cashless payment now available, and, last but not least, the judging of the Dance Deviser Competition has taken place under the co-ordination of Stephen Webb. The tone of the Committee meeting was very much one of optimism with the main agenda items focusing on Branch strategy and planning for the future of the Branch.

Reports from the Branch officers and sub-committee convenors followed by sub-committee reports, the members then turned their attention to the first agenda item. This was a review of the final arrangements for two important events in the Branch calendar - the 90th Anniversary Grand Autumn Ball and the Day School (both which will have taken place by the time you read this and are reported on in this *Reel*). The Committee acknowledged the hard work undertaken by Margaret Catchick in overseeing these events and the contribution of the 90th Anniversary committee.

The second main agenda item focused on a discussion of the Branch strategy. Recently appointed Chair, Joanne Lawrence, presented an update on 'Project 23' which aims at investing in the relaunch of a youth wing of the Branch. In particular, young dancers and musicians aged 17 - 35 will be targeted. Committee member, Thelma-Jane Robb, has already developed a distinct visual image for the project. A fuller report on 'Project 23' is provided on p2 and more information will be shared as the project progresses.

Now that we are able to meet and dance together once more, there are new opportunities for members to become involved in shaping the life of the Branch and the meeting ended with a lively discussion on how this might be managed. In addition to the main committee roles, there are a number of bite-sized tasks which make a valuable contribution to the running of the Branch that volunteers could take on. These include lending a hand with social media or helping out at dances or the Day School to name just a few.

To learn more about these opportunities contact: secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

Forthcoming Events

RSCDS BRISTOL BRANCH
60th Anniversary Ball
Saturday 12 March 2022
7.45 - 11.30pm

Wine reception 7.00pm
BAWA Leisure Centre, Bristol BS34 7RF

Colin Dewar and his Scottish Country Dance Band

Tickets £40 including buffet supper from Margaret Chambers tickets@rscdsbristol.info

Forthcoming Events

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH
Burns Night Supper and Dance
Saturday 29 January 2022
7.00 - 11.30pm

Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson,
Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 6LZ

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Programme to be published on our website

Tickets £16 including haggis supper
Contact: Helen Houghton-Carr,
07531 469213 or

events.rscdsxfordshire@gmail.com
www.rscdsxfordshire.org

(note our new website address)

Day School and Dance
Saturday 19 February 2022
Headington School, Oxford OX3 7TD
Ample free parking and on the London to
Oxford bus route

**Teachers: Deb Lees, Eric Finlay,
Alice Stainer**

**Musicians: Jeremy Hill, Ken Martlew,
Barbara Manning**

Tickets: Whole day and evening £30
Morning or afternoon £11 each

Evening dance £16 7.00 - 10.30pm
including finger food buffet

Chris Oxtoby and the Strathallan Band

Programme: The Findlay's Jig, Catch the Wind, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, James Gray, Shifftin' Bobbins, Radcliffe Square, The Starry-Eyed Lassie, Cherrybank Gardens, The Montgomerie's Rant, Good Hearted Glasgow, The Reverend John MacFarlane, Sugar Candie, Welcome to Ayr, The College Hornpipe, The Flower of Glasgow, The Wild Geese, The Reel of the Royal Scots

Dances will be recapped
Applications available from our website

Contact: Helen Houghton-Carr
07531 469213 or
events.rscdsxfordshire@gmail.com
www.rscdsxfordshire.org
(note our new website address)



READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH
DANCING SOCIETY

Annual Ball
Saturday 5 February 2022
7.30 - 11.30pm

The Abbey School, 17 Kendrick Road,
Reading RG1 5DZ

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Programme: Hooper's Jig, Bratach Bana, John Drewry, Linnea's Strathspey, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Shifftin' Bobbins, The Gentleman, Farewell to Balfour Road, J.B. Milne, Cherrybank Gardens, The Irish Rover, EH3 7AF, The Earl of Mansfield, The Wind on Loch Fyne, Torridon Lassies, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Deer Friends, James Gray, Orpington Caledonians, The Minister on the Loch, The Falls of Rogie

Tickets £22 including reception drink and
supper with a glass of wine

Contact: Gill Coulson, 52 Montague Close,
Wokingham RG40 5PH 0118 962 9075 or
sasdc01@gmail.com
www.scottishdancingreading.org

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY
& REEL CLUB
Valentine Dance
Saturday 12 February 2022
7.30 - 11.00pm



Chiltern Hills Academy, Chartridge Lane,
Chesham HP5 2RG

Sandy Nixon and his Band

Tickets: £15 (advance booking only)
Bring and share buffet (please bring finger
food on disposable plates)

Booking: event@berkhamstedreelclub.org
or www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH
Day School

Saturday 23 April 2022
9.45am - 4.45pm

Reddings Community Centre, North Road
West, Cheltenham GL51 6RF

Advanced and General classes

Teacher: William Williamson

Musician: Ian Robertson

Charges: £6 per class

Soup and cheese available 5.00 - 6.00pm £5
Evening Dance 6.30pm - 9.30pm

£10 (daytime participants £8) including
refreshments

Evening Musician: Ian Robertson

Contact: Hilary Foulkes 07974 103256 or
tickets@rscdscheltenham.org

More details on website:

www.rscdscheltenham.org



WATFORD &
WEST HERTS
SCOTTISH
SOCIETY



in association with RSCDS HERTS & BORDERS

Caledonian Ball

Saturday 19 March 2022
7.30 - 11.30pm

Allum Hall, Allum Lane, Elstree WD6 3PJ
Close to Elstree and Borehamwood station

Ian Robertson and his Band

Programme: The Findlay's Jig, John of Bon Accord, City Of Belfast, The Machine Without Horses, The Rutland Reel, The Paisley Weavers, The Weathercock, Midsummer Common, Major Ian Stewart, Polharrow Burn, Macdonald of Keppoch, Napier's Index, Catch the Wind, Montparnasse, Glastonbury Tor, Neil M Grant, Castle of Mey, The Flower O' The Quern, Pelorus Jack, The Irish Rover

Includes welcome drink / bring your own
food

Contact: tickets@watfordscottish.org.uk
www.watfordscottish.org.uk

www.rscdscherts.org
www.facebook.com/WatfordScottish

ST COLUMBA'S DANCERS

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



Dancing on Monday evenings
7.15 for 7.30pm

Band Nights 2021 - 2022

6 December 2021 - Calum Mitchell
24 January 2022 (Burns Night) - Frank Reid
7 March 2022 - Ian Robertson
4 April 2022 - Chris Oxtoby
23 May 2022 - Craigievar

Entrance fee on Band Nights: £10
(£12 on Burns Night)

Recorded music on other Monday evenings
Charge only for tea and biscuits in the interval

Contact: Willie Lawrence:

stcdconvenor@gmail.com
www.stcolumbasdancers.org

Forthcoming Events

HARROW & DISTRICT
CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

New Year Ball

Friday 7 January 2022
7.30 - 11.30pm

Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree WD6 3PJ

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Programme: Hooper's Jig, The Falls of Rogie, MacDonald of the Isles, Joie de Vivre, John of Bon Accord, Midsummer Common, Major Ian Stewart, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Cherrybank Gardens, The Dancing Master, A Capital Jig, The Rutland Reel, Slytherin House, Farewell to Balfour Road, Swiss Lassie, Montparnasse, Best Set in the Hall, Glastonbury Tor, City of Belfast, The Reel of the Royal Scots

Tickets, including refreshments, £22 if paid by 31 December and £24 thereafter
Juniors and non-dancers half price
Advance booking only, please
Contact Mick Madigan, 07754 501590 / 020 8863 5306 or
ms_madigan@btinternet.com

Spring Dance

Saturday 26 March 2022

Ian Muir (Prestwick) & Bob Parsons



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY
BORDER BRANCH

Christmas Social

Thursday 30 December 2021
Dancing to recorded music
7.30 - 10.30pm

St Paul's Parish Rooms, Wokingham RG41 1EH

Bring and share refreshments

Tickets on the door

Contact: Deborah Driffin:

news-deborah@rscds-bhs.org.uk

Day School

Saturday 12 March 2022

Venue TBC

Teacher: Rachel Shankland,

Class Musician: Ken Martlew

Musicians' Day School: Susan MacFayden

Evening dance with Day School musicians

Contact: Fiona Albinson

secretary@rscds-bhs.org.uk

Spring Ball

Saturday 21 May 2022 7.30 - 11.30pm

Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Contact: Christine Knox

wednesday@rscds-bhs.org.uk

www.rscds-bhs.org.uk



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

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



Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 - 10.30pm
Unless otherwise stated

4 December 2021: Christmas Dance
with **The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band**

8 January 2022: New Year Dance
with **Craigievar** 7.00 - 11.00pm

5 February 2022: Annual Ball
with **Ian Muir (Prestwick)** 7.00 - 11.00pm

Interval refreshments to be confirmed

These dances are all due to take place, but
for any developments, please check our
website: www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so
please come along and join us for an
enjoyable evening

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY
DANCE CLUB

Kilts and Posh Frocks Ball

Friday 17 December 2021

7.00 - 11.00pm

Doors open 6.30pm

Sacred Heart Hall, Edge Hill,

Wimbledon SW19 4LU

Ian Robertson and his Band



THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE
HIGHLAND BALL

Saturday 5 March 2022

7.00 - 11.00pm

Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside,

Benson, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 6LZ

Ian Muir (Prestwick)



Programme: Catch the Wind, Major Ian Stewart, Macdonald of the Isles, Muirland Willie, Staircase to Styria, Wishing Well, Gothenburg's Welcome, Schiehallion, Deil among the Tailors, Farewell to Balfour Road, Glastonbury Tor, Sugar Candie, The Dancing Master, Trip to Timber Ridge, Slytherin House, Postie's Jig, Minister on the Loch, Mairi's Wedding. Extras: Follow Me Home, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Pelorus Jack
Tickets £20 (students £15)
including supper from:

Anna Senkiw:

highlandball2022@hotmail.com

ISLE OF WIGHT
Weekend School
Friday 18 - Sunday
20 February 2022



Teachers: Diane Rooney and Mervyn Short
Class Musicians: Robert Mackay,
Ian Muir and Judith Muir

Band for Evening Dances:

Ian Muir and The Craiggellachie Band

Further information from
Catherine Packwood-Bluett, 01980 621322 or
iowsdwe@hotmail.com
www.craiggellachie-band.co.uk/
isle_of_wight.html

Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

To update your information in Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations contact editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

If you require your information to also be changed in the SE Classes Listing on our website please contact

Jan Collings seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk or call on 07803 923036.

If you wish to cancel, or pay by bank transfer, please contact treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Dancing most Mondays,
7.45-10.00pm, Sept-June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, near Oxford.
All welcome. Details: secretary@ascdc.org.uk or
www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY Meets Wednesdays
8.00-10.00pm Sept-May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet
KT14 7NF. Details: Val Clack, 01932 845869 or
www.addlestonscottish.org.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB Meets in Potten End Village Hall,
HP4 2QG. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15pm Sept-May, Sat. gardens June/
July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8.00pm, Beginners
Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Dawn Dorman, Hill End Farm, Gorbambury,
St Albans, Herts AL3 6AR, 07710 460623 or www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS Wednesday General Class:
Sept-May, 8.00-10.00pm St Mary's Church Hall, Park Road, Camberley,
Surrey GU15 2SR. Teacher: Mervyn Short. Beginners: Five Wednesdays
starting 20 October (not 10 November) at St Mary's as above. Monday
Advanced class: Sixteen Mondays from 13 Sept-April, 8.15-10.15pm at St
Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham Without RG40 3BA.
Details: Fiona Albinson, 01189 789181 or www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS Meets at The Scottish Hall, 80/82
Shelbourne Road, Charminster, Bournemouth BH8 8QZ every Wednesday
morning, 10.00am-12 noon. Details: Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links
Road, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX, 01202 698138 or
margaret.brscds@ntlworld.com

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS Classes for beginners, intermediate and
advanced, country and highland, adults and children.
Details: Rod Burrows, 01903 783053 or chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk or
www.rscds-brighton.org.uk

BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets Thursdays
7.45-10.15pm at Moulsecoomb Hall, Brighton. Details: Carol Catterall,
01273 564963 or www.bhscdc.org.uk

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB Dancing every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Paul's Church
Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Jackie Cresswell, 01252 616289 or
info@camberteyreelclub.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY Scottish country dancing and other events.
Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8.00pm from Sept-June. Details:
Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or www.camscotsoc.org.uk

CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS General class/Club Night Mondays 7.30-
9.30pm with a separate Beginners' Section fortnightly at St Luke's Church
Hall, St Luke's Place, Cheltenham GL53 7HP. Details: Lesley Taylor, 07712
578622 cheltscdssec@gmail.com

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY Dancing Friday nights 7.30-10.00pm at
St Andrew's UR Church, Montpelier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP.
Details: John Marshall, duracellbunney@tiscali.co.uk
www.cheltenhamscottishsociety.org www.jockjigging.webador.co.uk

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets on Sundays 7.00-
9.30pm, Sept-June, in the Upper Hall at St Michael & All Angels Church,
corner of Woodstock Road and Priory Avenue, London W4 1TX (turn right
out of Turnham Green tube station, 70 yards).
Details: www.chiswickscottish.org.uk or secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk

Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

Continued from p19

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH Branch class in Coulsdon: General, including Beginners with technique Fridays 7.30 -10.00pm Coulsdon Methodist Church, Brighton Road, Coulsdon CR5 2BE.

Details: Mary Courtney, 020 8651 0704 or www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Club nights: Mondays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at Christchurch Parish Hall, Wanstead Place, Wanstead E11 7SW; Thursdays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at St John's Parish Hall, High Road, Buckhurst Hill, IG9 5RX. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or angelaross87@hotmail.com or www.efsa.org.uk

EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION General dancing Mondays, 7.30-10.00pm, Tweddle Hall, St Andrew's URC, Northey Avenue, Cheam, SM2 7HF. Teacher: Pauline Cashmore, 020 8686 9362
Details: Dorothy Pearson, 01737 551724

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, Sept-end of April at Memorial Hall, Babbs Mead, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7EE. Details: Anne Lester 01252 782927 or lesteranne@ymail.com or www.fscdc.co.uk

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY Dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.00pm, Sept-May. Details: Anne Lester 01252 782927 or lesteranne@ymail.com or fleet.rscds-bhs.org.uk

GERRARDS CROSS AND CHALFONTS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD on Tuesdays in term time from Sept-June, 7.30-10.00pm and also in Little Chalfont Methodist Church Hall, Chalfont Avenue, Little Chalfont HP6 6RD on Thursdays from 2.15-4.15pm. Visitors and beginners welcome. Details: Roger Stubbs 01494 873063. Website under development.

GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. Meets at Greenford Community Centre (Johnson Hall), 170 Oldfield Lane South, Greenford UB6 9JS. Fridays 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Janet MacPhail 020 8560 7670 or enquiries@greenfordcaledonian.net

GUILDFORD SDC Meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from Sept-June. Details: 01420 362530 or www.gscdc.org.uk

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB Meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Details: Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts AL3 5RE, 01727 863870 or HSCDC.org.uk

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Also a variety of other activities. Details: Sheena Henderson, mail@harrowscottish.org.uk or 07719 985025 or www.harrowscottish.org.uk

HERTSMERE REEL CLUB Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 0208 440 3236 or margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB Meets regularly at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB Meets Thursdays at the Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Road, Wendover HP22 6HF. Beginners' class 6.45-8.00pm, Social Dancing 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Liz Mitchell, 07947 000368 or lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com or www.lucyclarkscottish.org

MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB Meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Piran's School, Gringer Hill, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7LZ. Last Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372 or maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk

MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP Meets every Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details: Dick Barford, 55 Northumberland Road, Maidstone ME25 7JG, 01622 685984

MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION Dancing Mondays Bredhurst Village Hall, 1.30-3.45pm; Thursdays Brompton-Westbrook School, Gillingham ME7 5DQ, 8.00-10.00pm. Beginners welcome. Details: Lyn Sutton-Jones, 07831 154038 or www.medwaycaledonians.co.uk

MID SUSSEX SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP Mixed Ability Group meets every Tuesday in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre BN6 9UY 7.45-10.30pm. Details: franbramham@hotmail.com

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 or jange@verybusy.co.uk

NORWICH RSCDS Dancing on Mondays from Sept-May/June at the Dance & Drama Studio, Sewell Park College, Constitution Hill, Norwich NR3 4BX. Beginners from 7.00-8.15pm and general dancing 8.20-9.30pm. Details: Sue Petty on 01603 741639 or secretary@rscds-norwich.org.uk

Credits: Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of *The Reel*, including the following for providing photos:

p1: Cramond Bridge - Calum McRoberts licensed under Creative Commons Licence. p2: Joanne Lawrence - from herself. p3: Caledonian Reelers - Simon Wales (SDW); Simon Wales - Petar Petkovic. p4: Mervyn Short - from himself; Joan Desborough - Stephen Webb (SJW). p5: Fetter Lane pictures from Scotscare website. p6: Jeremy Hill - from himself; album cover - from Ewan Galloway; Colin McEwen - from himself; Ian Robertson - from himself. p7: Meryl Thomson - from herself; Kensington Gardens - SDW and Joanne Lawrence. p8: Jim Cook - SJW; Marian Morris - from herself; William Williamson - Alternative Images. p9: Ball pictures - Alternative Images; Stephen Webb - from himself; Dance triallers - from SJW. Centrefold - Alternative Images. p12: Katy Kendall - from herself; Andrew Nolan and Judith Muir - Gaynor Curtis; Edward Bunting - from himself; Musicians - from Ali McCann; Hammersmith Reelers - from Colin Mackay. p13: Jeni Rutherford - from herself; MacLennan Scottish Group - from SDW; Margaret Catchick - Jerry Reinstein; with flowers - Alternative Images; with Joanne Lawrence - SDW. p14: Dayschool - SDW. p15: Gordon Patterson - from Patsy Patterson; Julian Mason - from Kerstin Lankutiss. p16: 12 Coates Crescent - RSCDS; Joana Stausberg - from herself; serTA candidates - Brian Rose; Doris Young - from Angela Young and Graham Berry. p17: Ian Muir - from himself; Craigellachie Band - from Ali McCann; Sheila Barnes - from Somerset RSCDS. p18: Mel Rowland - from herself.

The Reel is printed by Kall Kwik, Hemel Hempstead www.kallkwik.co.uk/hemel 01442 247777 sales@hemel.kallkwik.co.uk

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 Paul's, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or hadyndavies@gmail.com or www.orpingtonscottishdancing.com

OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Margaret Spiceley, 07985 962781 or secretary.rscdoxfordshire@gmail.com or www.rscdoxfordshire.org

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading RG1 5BD from 8.00-10.00pm, Sept-May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st & 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Duncan Barnet, Flat 4, 8 Western Elms Avenue, Reading RG30 2AN 0118 956 9289 dbarnet@waitrose.com or www.scottishdancingreading.org

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets most Mondays 8.15-10.15pm, Sept-May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm from mid-Sept. to mid-June. Details: 07802 442435 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk

SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP Dancing Tues 8.00pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, South Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@гна.com

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD
St Columba's Dancers meet most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10.00pm. Admission free except for Band Nights when a charge will be made. Details: Willie Lawrence, 07798 640551 or stcdconvenor@gmail.com or www.stcolumbasdancers.org

ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM Meets every Thurs 8.00-10.15pm Sept-June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Kate Thomson, 0118 9860681 sec.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com
Also Children's Class Sats 9.30-11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831

SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin, 48 Eastbrook Road, Blackheath SE3 8BT, 020 8856 4522

SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY Dancing Fridays, 7.30-10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808 or graham.easton@btinternet.com or www.seess.org.uk

SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS Classes for all standards, in Hertford, Tuesdays in term time. Monthly dances Sept-June, in Ware, usually second Friday. Sunday afternoon Family Dances once a term. Details: Douglas Hedley, 07980 405152 or sehscds@hotmail.com or www.sehscottishdance.org/news

SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Dancing every Thursday at 8.00pm from Sept-June at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY or www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8.00-10.00pm and advanced classes Thurs 8.00-10.00pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Rd, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9AL. Details: George Daly, 1 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells TN2 5UE, 01892 534512 or www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY Beginners/Improvers Class at Nascot Wood Recital Hall, Nascot Wood Road, Watford WD17 4YS Mondays from 8.00-9.30pm and General/Beginners Class at All Saints' Church Hall, The Green, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3HJ Thursdays from 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Krelhoff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or reel@watfordscottish.org.uk

WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Dance Class Mondays 8.00pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW, 020 8866 2378 or info@wdsa.co.uk

WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS Dancing at Radipole and Southill Community Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 9SS. Thursdays, 7.00-10.00pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177

WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS Classes Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Road North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover SP10 3NQ, 01264 363293 or wendy@mumford.com

WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Audrey Kennedy, 01376 513567 or amkennedy148@gmail.com



The Reel is provided as part of the membership benefits of RSCDS London Branch or through a subscription to the magazine.

If you are not already a member or subscriber, please consider joining the Branch or subscribing to the magazine to help support RSCDS London Branch.

Details of membership and subscription options can be found on page 3 of this magazine.

You can subscribe for as little as £4 a year.