



The Reel

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

No. 249



SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2004

LONDON BRANCH IS 75

In the nature of things, very few people are left who can remember much of the early days of the Branch. One of these, perhaps the only one, is Ellen Garvie, who provided much of the information below, based partly on her late father's recollections. James Garvie was certainly involved in the early days, and Ellen since the war up to the present day, but the official records of the Branch for the years before 1945 have been lost. Fortunately, both James and Ellen wrote down what they remembered.

London Branch was formed in 1930 when there were only thirteen other branches, all in Scotland. The Society was seven years old and had just published Book 6. There were other dancing organizations around in London in the thirties, among them the Chelsea Reel Club and a Scottish Country Dance Club, some of whose members were founder members of the new Branch. Members of the SCD Club were behind publication of the Border Book, but nothing is known of the SCD Club after 1939. The Chelsea Reel Club is still alive and well, along with the London Highland Club, attracting adherents to different styles of dancing.

For some years, Branch membership never exceeded 100 but a high proportion of them turned up for classes and informal dances, which they preferred to call 'parties'. Until 1945, programmes were mostly selected from Books 1 to 12, the present-day fashion for devising new dances not yet having taken off, and the music was all provided by a Miss Kaye, a very inspiring pianist whose first name is not recorded. At one time Marjorie Sandison (Sandy) was the only teacher, and she left us in 1953 to form what is now the Croydon Branch.

The war cut the Branch activities down to just one dance a month (not even that during the blitz), which sometimes attracted as few as eight dancers or, with luck, sixteen. Or fifteen, which created a problem for the M.C. A few classes were run in suburbs.

After 1945, activities expanded rapidly. The new SCD book was the Victory Book (not originally called book 13). Branch membership was 5/- a year (25p). You could become a life member for as little as thirty bob (£1.50), but this was too good a bargain and has been abolished. Membership rose to around 1,000 and has stayed over 800 ever since. It is impossible to name all the people (teachers and others) whose enthusiasm and hard work started London Branch and kept it going, but some names are widely known. Mary Stoker and Bill Ireland made many friends and admirers when teaching around the world, and at the St Andrews Summer School, as did Isobel MacLennan (Mac) in earlier times. Irene Stewart (before and after the war), Alastair

Ross, Ted Shank and Ronnie Ryall are perhaps the charismatic names from the early days that most will remember, and those in later years would include Jenny Greene, Andrew Kellett, Owen Meyer and John Laurie, all of them tireless workers. And two more, seemingly with us over almost this entire period: John Armstrong, who does not dance much these days but still swims three times a week, and the late Alex Westwood, who made a legacy to the Branch.

It has long been recognized that Committee members are there to work, not just to take decisions. In the early days, they went round the classes, collecting fees and subscriptions, selling dance tickets, and delivering *The Reel* and the annual SCD book to save postage. Nowadays, each main activity is delegated to a sub-committee, some of whose tasks are undertaken by other volunteers. Harry Draper was Branch Secretary, an unsung job, for 24 years. Several Branch Committee members have given their services to HQ, as members of the Management Board and other committees and as Examiners for the Society's teaching certificates, as well as representing London in the Society's AGMs. Andrew Kellett, another of the Branch's pillars, is currently on the Management Board [as are Rachel Wilton and Wilson Nicol—Ed.]

Invisible but necessary management tasks have been carried out by the Committee. A carefully worked-out Constitution was adopted early on, and this was borrowed as a model for new branches, but it has now been superseded due to the Society becoming Royal and then becoming a charity, followed by the branches. The laws on Data Protection and VAT have caused problems. The Committee has fostered regional cooperation with other organizations, such as holding a common Ball and compiling and publishing diaries of classes and dances over a wide area. A Branch website was created.

In an area when members travel up to 60 miles for an event, attendance at the Branch AGM was sometimes perilously close to zero until free tea and an informal dance were added, these incentives being sternly limited to those attending the AGM. This custom still prevails and still works, the free tea being provided by the President, assisted by the Vice-presidents.

One of the best-known names in London was Hugh Foss, widely known and still remembered for devising and publishing many very ingenious country dances. For him, the music was the basis of the dance, not something tacked on afterwards. He taught in London in the thirties and was involved in the very early days of the Branch (also in the Chelsea Reel Club) and after the war became a very active committee member. He was largely responsible for initiating a news-



Jeff Robertson and Gaynor Curtis model the Anniversary sweatshirts (see announcement on page 3)

sheet to be called "The Reel", and for writing most of what was printed in the first issues.

The Reel was started in 1952 as a members' bulletin about Branch classes and dances, initially printed on two sides of one A4 sheet. It was distributed six times a year free to London Branch members, and for 2 (old) pence a copy to anyone else interested. These days there are up to 16 pages, four times a year. Several hundred copies of each issue are distributed by post, in addition to those sent to London Branch members. Management of this is a vast task, of which only the end-product is visible.

The Reel was started to serve a more immediate purpose than the annual Bulletin from Headquarters, and it still does, though *Newsbrief* now does a similar job for HQ. As Hugh had hoped, *The Reel* gradually came to be used in other ways, carrying news of dances, classes and day and weekend schools of other organizations as well as the Branch. These others included, as they were formed, the eight Branches and over 70 affiliated groups now in the south-east, some of them outgrowths of the London Branch. *The Reel* thus became a cohesive force for Scottish dancing over a wide area, matching Jean Milligan's insistence that we are all one family.

The Reel began printing readers' letters, some of them good-humoured and some not, debating such subjects as the compilation of dance programmes (on which every dancer thinks he is an expert, while most are not), how to begin a certain reel of three, how a lady should wear her tartan sash and what kind of dress she should attach it to. It printed new dances, many by Hugh or by John Drewry, including one for the Branch Jubilee in 1980. It was called the Jubilee Line, and thus predated the London Underground line of that name. Also book reviews, record reviews (much appreciated by dancers who rely on records but who cannot find them in local shops) and advertisements by bands and solo musicians offering their services. There is even a children's

(Continued on page 2)

section. A random glance at recent issues finds pertinent advice from musicians, from a physiotherapist and from a chiroprapist, and announcements and reports of events in Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, Inverness, Zürich, Canada, USA, New Zealand and of course Headquarters.

The large membership and the advertising power of *The Reel* enabled London Branch to embark in the fifties on what were then brave innovations, such as weekend and one-week schools (under £3 in the early days for a residential weekend in a former abbey, including full board and tuition but no heating) though these are no longer regular events due to the increasing cost of suitable venues. Guest dances enjoyed bands from Scotland, including Jimmy Shand's (700 dancers at 7/6 in 1952, hundreds turned away). There is or was open-air public dancing in parks and squares in London, accompanied in Holland Park by screeching peacocks who clearly did not enjoy the music; Anglo-Scottish dances in Cecil Sharp House; annual dances in the grounds of Polesden Lacey, a National Trust stately home in Surrey; specialized classes for men's highland and ladies' step dances and for children, as well as classes and day schools for musicians; a Bookstall whose stock-in-trade is carted to dances by its noble manager, currently Ian Anderson, and which shows a useful profit for the Branch funds; publication of dances and music and even a cookery book when these were all the rage. A luxurious Ball was held in the Hyde Park Hotel in 1952 and annually for a while in various grand places. This tradition is being revived for the Branch's 75th anniversary.

In the fifties and sixties there were 13 Branch classes a week, monthly dances limited to 140 members, and several guest dances a year with 300 or 400 dancers. The classes ranged from beginners' to advanced, plus a demonstration class (by invitation and in some years by audition) and a Certificate class. That last noble endeavour (which most teachers would choose *not* to teach, but which Frances Stamp taught for 20 years) trained students for the Society's teaching certificates, and Jean Milligan (right up to the year before her death) or another Headquarters Examiner would come to London most years. A day school was usually arranged to take advantage of this visit. In this way, many young members, their new qualifications hailed in *The Reel*, went back to their suburbs or beyond and set up their own classes. The Branch thus acted as catalyst to the spread of expert teaching.

One result of this spread is that although Branch membership has stayed up, the eleven general-purpose Branch classes a week of the fifties in Central London have slowly dwindled to five, plus the demonstration class. This may be partly due to people's reluctance to use public transport late at night. Attempts to decentralize the Branch classes received insufficient local support. In recent years a summer general class, with a different teacher for each session, has been added to the central London schedule. Attendance at Branch dances has also dwindled somewhat, but many more organizations are now running dances. The total dancing population in south-east England has probably increased enormously in those years, but is more thinly spread.

Since the war, the demonstration class has provided teams on request, with a pianist or piper, for outdoor and indoor events, as publicity efforts, in TV and film studios and as decoration for guest dances and summer park events. Of the many that taught it, starting with Mac, the late Bill Ireland deserves a mention for doing so for 40 years. Once it could provide 32 dancers from stock, so to speak, and did so in 1951, in and just

outside the new Royal Festival Hall during the Festival of Britain, accompanied by Peter Quinn, former airborne soldier, dancer and piper extraordinary. Now 8 or 16 is the norm. It has contributed to many international dance festivals in England, including several of those organized by the English Folk Dance and Song Society in the Royal Albert Hall. It has sent teams to compete in competitive festivals (and win).

London is well placed to provide teams of dancers for events on the continent, and many international teams have gone to France, Poland, Holland, Sardinia, and elsewhere, returning exhausted. In 1937, before there was a dem class as such, London Branch provided the first SCDS international team ever, for a trip to Brittany.

If there was a recognizable focal point for Branch activities in the early days it was the Royal Scottish Corporation Hall in Fetter Lane. All monthly members' dances were held here until it was demolished. Now the focus is on the hall of St Columba's church near Harrods, and the Branch is lucky (in common with other organizations having Scottish interests) to have the use of very suitable premises at reasonable cost. The Branch AGM is held here, as are many dances and ceilidh dances and a Wednesday afternoon class.

London Branch has been fortunate in nearly always having had live music for its events. From a single pianist in the thirties it can now call on highly expert bands from Scotland and from the south-east (McBain's known the most widely and for the longest time), and many fine pianists for classes. The importance of the pianist was recognized in the fifties when *The Reel* started printing the names of the class pianists as well as the teachers'. (One such, needing no printed music, could be found to have the Evening Standard on her piano, while playing faultlessly and most beguilingly. Let her be nameless.) Many of the musicians are dancers themselves, and friendships have formed across the footlights.

London has always had members at the Society's Summer School in St Andrews. One year, most of a 32-some on the beach consisted of London members. Many of these went in order to train for their teaching certificates or, if already qualified, to brush up their tired technique and learn the new book of the year. And to enjoy the very special atmosphere of St Andrews. Summer Schools in St Andrews will be forgotten by none who have been there, and they form a very powerful link with the rest of the SCD family.

The conclusion from this look at 75 years all of the above is that although the shape of things has changed enormously in 75 years, Scottish Country Dancing has never been healthier in London and the southeast in general.

Robert Ferguson

compiled from his own recollections, with help from Andrew Cockett and with much reference to nearly 250 issues of The Reel. These notes do not claim to be comprehensive.

Shielburn Associates

For ALL Scottish recordings –

At bargain prices!

10 CDs for £100 (post free - UK)

E-mail shielburn@aol.com

Tel: 0118 969 4135 Fax 0118 962 8968

1 Renault Road, Woodley
Reading RG5 4EY

Just listen to our own label releases!

<http://www.shielburn.co.uk>

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Patron - H.M. The Queen



HEADQUARTERS:

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

LONDON BRANCH

Hon. President
Mary Stoker

Hon. Vice-Presidents:
Mary Barker, Stella Booth, Ellen Garvie,
Jenny Greene, Marie Jamieson,
John Laurie, Rosemary Tilden.

Chairman:
Owen Meyer,
50 Bunby Road, Stoke Poges,
Bucks SL2 4BP. Tel: 01753 643461.
e-mail: owen@ameyer.fsnet.co.uk

Vice-Chairman:
Rachel Wilton,
31 Kensing Road, London SE10 0LL.
Tel: 020 8858 7729,
e-mail: wiltonrachel@hotmail.com

Hon. Secretary:
Pamela Ellam,
10 The Drive, Acton, London W3 6AA.
Tel: 020 8992 8178 / 020 8505 9507
e-mail: lonsec@yahoo.co.uk

Hon. Treasurer:
Simon Wales,
14 Blakes Green, West Wickham,
Kent BR4 0RA. Tel: 020 8777 8915.
e-mail: simon_wales@talk21.com

SUB-COMMITTEES

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

Classes:.....Margaret Shaw, Margaret Catchick,
Lindsay Merriman, Owen Meyer,
Caroline Sloan.

Dances: Peter Knight, Davinia Miln,
Cherry West.

Demonstrations: Jeff Robertson,
Angela Young, Gaynor Curtis*.

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

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

Membership: Owen Meyer

Bookstall: Ian Anderson*

Central Council of Physical Recreation:.....
Marie Jamieson*

Hon. Archivist: Iris Anderson*

Southeast Group: Peter Knight

Combined Societies: Peter Knight,
Rachel Wilton

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

*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

Website

www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Objects of London Branch

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

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

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

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

BRANCH MATTERS

With the start of this 75th Anniversary season, the Committee say thank you to Caroline Sloan for work on the Classes sub-committee and in particular in organising the Musicians' Day School over the past few years, and welcome Moira Strutt. Her experience of dancing all over the London area will bring a fresh insight to the Branch.

Despite reasonably good weather, it was disappointing to see so few dancers at Polesden Lacey. We must give a great deal of thought to this Open Air dance if it is to recapture the popularity it enjoyed some years ago.

The AGM was attended by some 40 members to hear that the Branch had held its own in these difficult times, with good attendances at the Pont Street dances. The Christmas and the Burns' Supper and Ceilidh dances were particularly well attended. There was much discussion as to how we see ourselves as a Branch. Is there enough publicity to attract new dancers and ultimately new members, and do the classes meet the needs of Scottish Dancers in London? As usual, the perennial problem of children's dances and activities merited a lot of discussion. There were a few solutions put forward which will be looked into by the committee.

We are very grateful that we were able to commission the history of the Branch 'London is 75' from Robert Ferguson and Andrew Cockett. No one is more qualified than Robert for his depth of knowledge about the Branch, particularly of the period immediately after the War. This time was the peak of popularity of Scottish Country Dancing when the dances and classes were filled to capacity. During this period Robert was one of the stalwarts of the Branch fulfilling over the years most functions needed for a very successful Branch. He eventually served as President for a few years in the 1970s, until pressure of work intervened. Andrew joined in 1975 and thereafter rose up the ranks, was influential in Branch matters for a number of years eventually serving as Chairman at the beginning of the 1990s. We are fortunate to share in their experiences of this part of the Branch's history.

Now to this important year ahead. Our Anniversary year starts with the Weekend School in Cirencester. This is oversubscribed and there is a waiting list. There is tremendous interest from our French friends in the Paris Branch and beyond for the opening dance of the season on September 18th. There is also a waiting list for tickets for the Hurlingham Ball on October 30th.

We hope that all the functions for this anniversary year will enable all our members and friends to have a year to remember.

Owen Meyer

SUBSCRIBE TO THE REEL

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

Rita Marlow, 17 West Farm Close, Ashtead, Surrey KT21 2LH,
tel: 01372 812821,
e-mail: rusmar.ashtead@virgin.net.

Subscription rates have been increased as from *Reel* 249. The annual cost for individual subscribers is £4.50 if resident in the UK, £5.00 for other European residents and £7.00 if resident elsewhere. There are special rates for bulk orders. Remittances in sterling please, payable to RSCDS (London Branch).

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER



Moira Strutt

I only started Scottish Country Dancing in the early 1990s at Richmond Caledonian Society. They were most welcoming and by the end of that first evening's session I had laughed so much I was hooked. The evening's final dance was Trip to Bavaria: every time I reached a corner I managed to lose seven other people. I soon learned that 'cast' had nothing to do with knitting or fishing. Starting dancing by just joining may not be the best way to do it and leaves significant gaps to be filled later, but it was fun. Ignorance led to some rash moves and, not knowing what I was letting myself in for, I accompanied a group from there to my first Social Dance after five weeks (not a good idea but everyone was very kind) and attempted Summer Tuesdays after 3½ months. I am still a member of Richmond Caledonian but club nights are the same nights as RSCDS classes and I have yet to find a way to be in two places at once.

I have been dancing in various places in the South and for a number of years was secretary of the Scottish Clans Association of London — which predates the RSCDS by some 25 years having been founded in 1898. During that time I was heavily involved with organising three dances, including the Centenary Ball, as well as leading the weekly winter Tuesday evenings. Again there was a steep learning curve but it meant I learnt a wide selection of dances.

I started at the deep end but thanks entirely to the kindness and tolerance of other dancers am still dancing! In my turn I have tried to help newcomers in the hopes that they too will enjoy themselves and want to come again.

Moira Strutt



WEAR THE ANNIVERSARY LOGO!

The new range of garments sporting the Branch anniversary logo is now available and examples may be seen in use at a venue near you.

Order forms are available from Jeff Robertson on tel: 01903 530750, 020 7730 9633 or jtr@ctg.co.uk, or from the Branch Website at www.rscdslondon.org.uk.

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

Tee Shirts	£ 8	Polo Shirts	£14
Ladies Tees	£10	Sweatshirts	£15

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

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

On light garments the logo will be as above, with a gold crown and silver lettering on the darker garments.

We hope you will take this opportunity to support your Branch in its anniversary year.

Jeff Robertson

EDITORIAL

To mark the 75th Anniversary of the Branch the masthead of *The Reel* (at the top of page 1) has been changed, to include the Anniversary logo and give prominence to the Branch website address. This is the first major change to the masthead since issue 40 in 1957.

I should like to remind readers that opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the author, unless otherwise stated, and may not be shared by the Committee or the Editor. One aim of *The Reel* is to promote discussion of issues of interest to Branch members and other dancers.

The Committee have proposed that in future *The Reel* should not normally publish new dances. In the past *The Reel* has printed a number of new dances, including some well-known ones like Mairi's Wedding, but there are now many other ways of making new dances available, including of course the Society's books of dances. Moreover it is felt *The Reel* is not the most appropriate place to publish dances. It is better to present them in a book — see below.

Daniel Capron, Editor

LONDON 75th ANNIVERSARY BOOK OF DANCES

We are in the production stages of a new book of dances of significance to the London Branch to mark our 75th Anniversary. The book will include the original music where it is available or suitable tunes where it is not. It is hoped that the book will be available for the start of the season or shortly after.

We hope to include the following dances:

Miss McLean of Inverness	4 x 32 S
Bydand	8 x 32 S
Tom's Friends	4 x 32 S
White Rose of Scotland	8 x 32 S
Golden Harvest	4 x 32 S
First of September	4 x 32 R
Nacton Hall	8 x 32 R
Jubilee Line	8 x 48 R
All For Mary	8 x 32 R
London Reel	8 x 32 R
Argyll is My Name	8 x 32 J
The Dancing Master	3 x 32 J
The Merry Uplanders	6 x 32 J

The majority of these were first published in *The Reel* and many have not been published elsewhere. They include such devisors as John Drewry, Roy Goldring, Hugh Foss and Ann Dix.

We are indebted to Stephen Webb for the original idea, to Jim Cook for much of the original research, and to John Laurie for subsequent suggestions.

Simon Wales

ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Join us and thrive, we're 75!

BRANCH DANCE

Saturday 18th September 2004
Celebrate the Entente Cordiale!

7.00 - 11.00 p.m.

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

Green Ginger

Joie de Vivre	39-2
Happy Returns.....	Misc. 2
Porchester Hall.....	London 1989
C'est l'Amour.....	34-1
None So Pretty	19-1
The Belle of Bon Accord	Drewry
Le Papillon	Ch. 2
The Gentleman	35-5
La Tempête.....	2-1

La Russe	Misc. I
Ladies' Fancy	13-12
Brunette d'Ecosse.....	Dix: Reel Friends 2-11
The Westminster Reel	London 1989
Frog in the Middle*.....	Misc. II
The Silver Tassie.....	Leaflet 1
Vive la Danse	Dix
Adieu Mon Ami	24-11
The Montgomerie's Rant	10-1

*N.B.: This was a French choice!

We shall be joined by dancers from France for a joint celebration, including

Paris Branch's 20th Anniversary.

Admission £7.50 members,
£8.50 non-members.

Anyone willing to accommodate French visitors on Saturday 18th September for this event please contact Lindsay Merriman, tel: 020 8693 2182, e-mail: lindsaymerriman@hotmail.com.

75th ANNIVERSARY BALL

Saturday 30th October 2004

7.00 for 7.30 - midnight

The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gdns, SW6.

Craigellachie 5-piece Band

The Machine Without Horses.....	12-12
Petronella.....	1-1
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	Leaflet
The Starry-Eyed Lassie	23-11
Sugar Candie	26-9
Miss Mary Douglas	10-11
Cramond Brudge	London 1979
Pelorus Jack	41-1
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh	39-7
Tribute to the Borders.....	Leaflet
Fraser's Favourite	Leaflet
Miss Milligan's Strathspey.....	Leaflet
John of Bon Accord.....	33-5
The Last of the Lairds	22-5
Earlstoun Loch.....	Foss
Culla Bay.....	41-2
Argyll's Fancy	Graded 23
The Duke of Perth	1-8

Tickets £38.50; includes a formal three-course meal. Highland dress/black tie.

Accommodation is available at £70 pppn at the Travel Inn, Putney Bridge, which is 10-15 minutes from the venue.

Tickets in advance only.

Apply Peter Knight, 518 Queens Quay, Upper Thames Street, London EC4V 3EH,
tel: 020 7329 2847,
peterknightqueensquay@yahoo.co.uk.

Dancers from other celebrating Branches will be with us at the

BRANCH DANCE

Saturday 13th November 2004

7.00 - 10.30 p.m.

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

Kafoozalum

Machine without Horses.....	12-12
Miss Ogilvie's Fancy.....	20-8
Red House	7-2
Maid of the Mill	21-11
Glasgow Highlanders	2-3
Flowers of Edinburgh.....	1-6
Old Nick's Lumber Room.....	26-6
Dundee Whaler.....	Clowes
Buchan Eightsome Reel	21-8

Scottish Reform.....	3-1
Braes of Mellinish	25-12
Lady Susan Stewart.....	5-9
New Rigged Ship.....	9-7
Foursome Reel & Reel of Tulloch	3-11
Triumph.....	1-2
Duchess Tree	Drewry
Argyll's Fancy	Gr 23
The Montgomerie's Rant	10-1

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

CHRISTMAS DANCE

Saturday 11th December 2004

7.00 for 7.15 - 11.00 p.m.

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

David Hall

The Wild Geese	24-3
Maxwell's Rant.....	18-10
Margaret Parker's Strathspey.....	31-3
Major Ian Stewart	35-4
The Saltire Society Reel	Leaflet Book 28
The Gentleman	35-5
Airie Bannan.....	Foss
The Sailor	24-4
Mrs Milne of Kineff.....	Leaflet Book 20
Cadgers in the Canongate	9-10

The Reel of The Royal Scots	Leaflet Book 27
The Bees of Maggie Knockater	Drewry
Gang the Same Gate	36-4
The Earl of Mansfield.....	Leaflet Book 5
Quarries' Jig	36-3
The Byron Strathspey	Drewry
Milton's Welcome	33-8
Autumn in Appin	31-5
Follow Me Home	38-3
Mairi's Wedding.....	Cosh

Admission £9.50 members, £10.50 non-members, £2 children, but members' children admitted free.

OPEN AIR DANCING

Saturday afternoons 4th and 11th Sept. 2004

2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Kensington Gardens

(by the bandstand, near the Round Pond)

Nearest underground stations:

Queensway and High Street Kensington.

Kafoozalum

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

CHILDREN'S CORNER

GRADED TESTS

This year we are planning to use the RSCDS Medal Tests which go up to Grade 5 but also include an Introductory Award which is intended for young children in their first year of dancing. The halls at St Columba's Church, Pont St. SW1 have been booked for Saturday 12th February 2005.

If you are interested in taking part or want more information please contact Rachel Wilton: tel. 0208 858 7729; e-mail wiltonrachel@hotmail.com.

CHILDREN'S DAY

Saturday 13th November 2004

Classes

11.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

St. Columba's Church, Pont St. SW1

Teachers: Grace Hill, Angela Young
Musician: Jeremy Hill

Lunch will be available between classes and the dance.

Family Dance

2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Celebrate our Anniversary with 75 cakes and candles!

Band: Kafoozalum

There will be a mixture of ceilidh and easy Scottish Country dances. All dances will be walked through and are suitable for everyone. Children, bring your family and friends. Light refreshments provided.

Admission: class £1.00, dance £2.00.

Further information: Rachel Wilton.

ANNIVERSARY EVENTS IN 2005 FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 15th January 2005 Burns Night
This will follow the pattern of the last two Januarys' very successful events. There will be a Burns' Supper with all the traditional features like piping in the haggis, followed by ceilidh dancing to **Frank Reid's Band**. All dances will be called, so everyone can take part. Tickets £9.50 members, £10.50 non-members in advance from Peter Knight (see bottom of first column).

Saturday 19th March 2005 Afternoon: Children's Event
Evening: Pont St. Participators' Dance, Band: **Green Ginger**

Saturday 16th April 2005 President's Lunch. All senior members of the Branch are invited to this.

Saturday 21st May 2005 Dance: We welcome dancers whose groups advertise in *The Reel* and all southeast dancers. Band: **Invercauld**

Saturday 11th June 2005 Garden Dance. Band: **Craigellachie**

BRANCH CLASSES

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

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher / Musician
ELEMENTARY	Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3	Rachel Wilton / Jean Harrison
POPULAR S.C. DANCES	Wednesday	8.15 - 9.45	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3	Lindsay Rousseau / Ian Cutts
TECHNIQUE	Wednesday	7.30 - 9.30	St. Barnabas' & St. Phillip's School, Pembroke Mews, W8	Gaynor Curtis / Ken Martlew
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	7.15 - 9.15	For details contact Gaynor Curtis, 01483 721989.	Angela Young / Sandra Smith
GENERAL (Central)	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30	St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1	Jeni Rutherford

Autumn term starts in the week beginning 20th September 2004 and ends in the week beginning 29th November 2004. The half term break is in the week beginning 25th October. All enquiries about classes to Margaret Shaw, 020 7329 2847.

WHICH CLASS?

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

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

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

Technique – a high standard of performance and a thorough knowledge of all formations will be expected. This class will be devoted to improving performance and understanding of all dances.

General – for dancers of all ages and abilities.
Margaret Shaw

NEW BOOK SESSION

To go through the dances in Book 44.
Open to everyone who holds a Preliminary or Full Teacher's Certificate or teaches a class on a regular basis.
Wednesday 15th September
7.15 - 9.15 p.m.
Upper Hall, St. Columba's Church, Pont St, London SW1.
Enquiries to Margaret Shaw,
tel: 020 7329 2847.

HIGHLAND CLASSES

Thursdays 14th October,
25th November and 2nd December.
7.00 m - 9.00 p.m.
Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London WC2.
Teacher: **Malcolm Ferris Lay**
Musician: **Sandra Smith**
Further details from Malcolm,
tel: 01279 435081,
or email: malcolm@williamsonmagor.com.

LADIES' STEP DANCING CLASSES

Sunday 21st November with **Joan Desborough**
and Sunday 13th March with **Jenny Greene**
10.45 a.m.— 12.45 p.m., 2.00—3.45 p.m.
Musician: **Jean Harrison**
The Guide Hall, Wallington Green,
Wallington, Surrey.
Further details: Margaret Shaw,
Tel: 020 7329 2847.

If there is sufficient demand, a further class will be arranged in May 2005.

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

A further step forward in your Scottish Country Dancing

Saturday 16th October 2004

Lady Margaret School, Parsons Green, SW7

Continuing our break from tradition, classes this year will again be themed, encouraging the enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing through the understanding of movement and interaction. Classes will be divided as follows:

Morning: 10.30 - 12.30

"Formations: phrasing and covering" - Improving fluency of dancing to achieve teamwork – a class for experienced dancers

Teacher: **Patrick Chamoin**

Musician: **George MacLennan**

Or: "Ready – and! – are we ready?" – A class dealing with anticipation and awareness within the dance – suitable for all abilities

Teacher: **Helen Frame**

Musician: **Jeremy Hill**

Afternoon 14.00 - 16.00

"Light and Shade and Seamless Transitions" – Concentrating on the textures within the dance and the smooth transition from one movement to another -suitable for more experienced dancers

Teacher: **Helen Frame**

Musician: **George MacLennan**

Or: "Feet and Hands: the use of body language" – The aim of this class is not only to work on the accuracy of steps but also on posture and the use of hands – suitable for all abilities

Teacher: **Patrick Chamoin**

Musician: **Jeremy Hill**

Lunch: 12.30 - 14.00

A baked potato and pudding lunch may be purchased. There are also facilities inside and out for packed lunches as well as pubs and cafes in the local area.

Optional Extras: 17.00 - 18.00

After tea, served from 16.00, there will be two optional classes to choose from.

These are: **Highland Steps for Scottish Country Dances** – Teacher: **Malcolm Ferris Lay**
Ceilidh – Teacher: **Alistair Aitkenhead**.

If you do not wish to do anything too active you may prefer to enjoy some free time before the evening ceilidh. The choice is yours.

Musicians' Workshop

Led by **Keith Smith**, this will take place in both the morning and afternoon sessions. This year the course will concentrate on discussion and demonstration of playing for Scottish Country Dancing. Due to the teaching nature of this course, numbers will be limited and preference will be given to musicians new to playing for Scottish Country Dancing.

For more details and an application form for the Musicians Workshop please contact Rachel Wilton, 31 Kensing Road, London, SE10 0LL, enclosing a stamped s.a.e., Tel: 020-8858-7729; E-mail: wiltonrachel@hotmail.com.

Evening Ceilidh: 18.30 - 21.30

This will follow the Day School and we anticipate much entertainment and fun. Dancing will be to the music of **The Karl Sandeman Duo**. Tickets are available in advance and on the door.

For an application form for the Day School containing further details, please contact Margaret Catchick, 141 Kenmore Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 8PB, enclosing a stamped s.a.e. Tel: 020 8907 2754; E-mail: margaretcatchick@hotmail.com. Application forms are also obtainable at the branch dance, or from your class teacher.

DON'T MISS IT

SPRING FLING

The weekend after Easter saw around sixty Scottish Country Dancers, aged between 16 and 35, descending on Cambridge for the Spring Fling. This year the RSCDS youth school was hosted by a committee of young RSCDS dancers from Cambridge, supported by the Cambridge Branch, who superbly organised accommodation, venues and the entertainment over the weekend.

The school was attended by dancers from UK, USA, Germany and Australia. We enjoyed a day and a half of energetic and imaginative teaching from Debbie Lees and Duncan Brown, beautifully accompanied by Angela Young and Dave Hall. In addition to the classes there were two evening dances, drinks at the Cricketers pub, parties at Trinity College, tours of Cambridge.

A highlight for me was the mix of people of different ages, dancing experience and home branches who attended the weekend and the willingness of everyone to mingle, make friends and dance together. It proved a great opportunity to begin to build a community of young dancers.

Overall the Spring Fling was good fun and a wonderful chance to meet new people. I would strongly recommend it.

Our special thanks go to Dr Ron Nedderman for sponsoring the event in memory of his wife Susan.

Kate Sweeney

It is hoped that next year's youth weekend will be held in April in Edinburgh. All those who attended Spring Fling will be notified, it will be on the website and Branch secretaries will be informed. If you missed it this year, make sure you don't miss it next year!

Rachel Wilton

RSCDS London Branch Accounts 2003 - 4

	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET	2004/5 BUDGET
	£	£	£	£
Membership	6,992	-4,720	2,272	2,000
Classes	7,569	-10,990	-3,421	-3,000
Dances	8,275	-6,595	1,680	1,000
Publicity inc The Reel	7,748	-8,011	-263	-500
Dem Team	2,671	-3,949	-1,278	-500
Children	708	-1,154	-446	-400
Bookstall	2,639	-2,271	368	350
75th anniversary events	0	0	0	-500
Donations including tax refunds	1,911		1,911	200
Interest / charges	801		801	500
Dividends	1,276		1,276	1,300
Gain on investments sold	300		300	0
Sundry income/ admin costs		-460	-460	-400
TOTAL CHARITABLE	40,890	-38,150	2,740	50
Write off book stall stock		-350	-350	
Write back debtors	493		493	
Auditor and meeting expenses		-630	-630	
GRAND TOTAL	41,383	39,130	2,253	

I have tried, in these summary accounts, to present the figures in a more comprehensible way compared to that used for the statutory accounts. By showing the income and expenditure by committee and comparing that with next year's budget (which is broadly in line with last year's) it is easier for all to see the financial picture as the committee sees it through the year.

Overall the Branch had another successful year in financial terms. The profit of £2,253 for the year includes £2,108 of earmarked donations and related interest so the operating profit of the Branch for the year was £145.

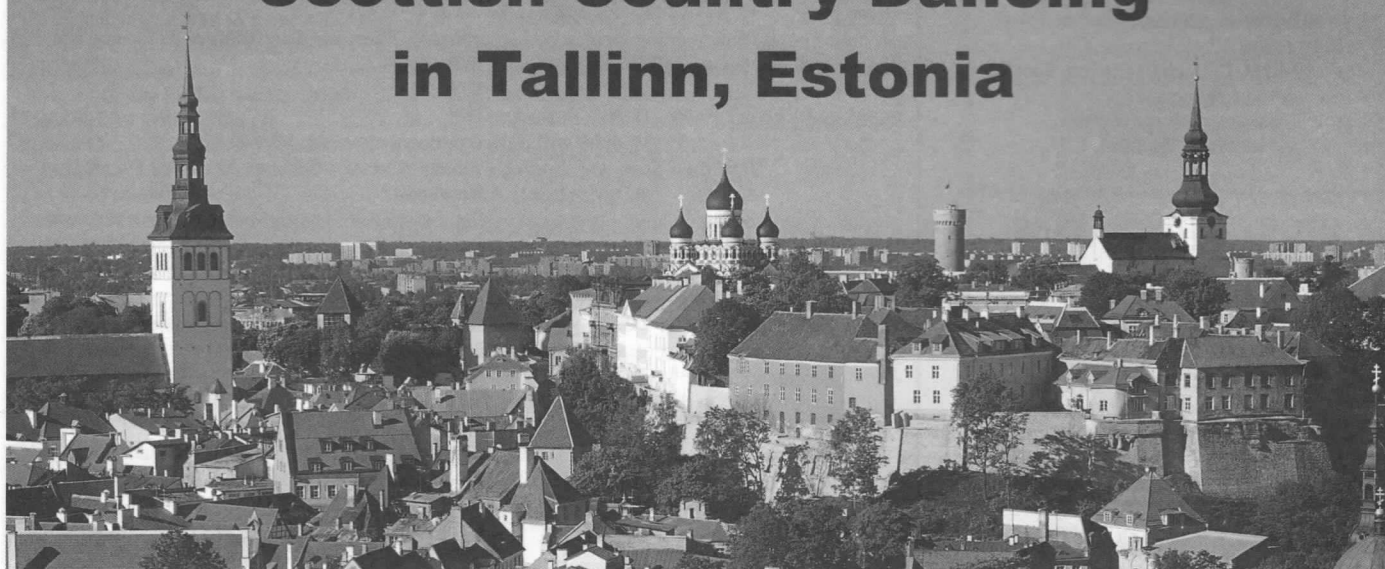
The debts on *The Reel*, subject of great discussion last year, have been brought so much under control that we actually brought in £493 of sums previously written off.

Classes remain broadly in line, and a couple of loss making classes have been dropped. Dances have been so successful this year that their budget has been increased from last year, although still less than this amazing performance!

In recognition of the fact that the Dem Team's work has become much more promotional, its expenditure budget has been increased, but it is recognised that more effort must be put into increasing the level of good fee-paying performances.

Simon Wales
Honorary Treasurer

Scottish Country Dancing in Tallinn, Estonia



Personally escorted holidays with Scottish Country Dancing for 2005: Tallinn, Estonia in April, Easter at Cheltenham in March, and Crieff in June. Other personally escorted holidays for 2005: Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Bruges, Norwegian Coastal Voyage & Rail, New Zealand, and the Chilean Fjords & Antarctica. For **FREE** colour brochures and further details please contact Richard and Dawn Furlong, Furlongs Travel, PO Box 44, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 4TQ.

Telephone 01580 240240. www.furlongs.co.uk ABTA V0086. ATOL 3710.



MANAGEMENT BOARD REPORT

12th June 2004

The Board were pleased with the completed building work at Headquarters where the basement now has proper storage facilities for stock and archives, two meeting rooms, upgraded toilet facilities and a kitchen area — call in and see the result if you are in Edinburgh!

Further consideration was given to providing a structure that would enable members who felt unable to be Branch members owing to their geographical remoteness and/or the transient nature of their jobs, to take part in the voting process. This will be finalised at the meeting on 4th September.

Membership Services reported that Book 45 will be made up of 10 dances selected from the 30 sent in by Branches; the Manual will be ready for the A.G.M.; a co-ordinator of the editorial board for the magazine which will replace the Bulletin and be produced twice yearly has been appointed; it has been suggested that a course for M.C.s should be provided, possibly at Summer School.

Education and Training reported that the response from Branches on the proposed new examination structure had been mainly positive; revisions will be made as a result of the consultation and will be ready for the meeting on 4th September. Five potential U.K. examiners have been approached. The setting up of a Teachers' Association will be topic for 'The Floor is Yours' at the Conference Weekend.

The reports of the Management Board meetings are sent to Branch secretaries and then put on the Society website (see page 2). Application forms for the dances, class and workshops at the Conference Weekend which this year is being held in Perth from 5th - 7th November are available on the website or from Headquarters.

Rachel Wilton

HEADQUARTERS CONSULTATION

Not many members of the Society are interested in headquarters affairs as shown by the recent consultation when only 2% of London Branch members responded. It is a fact of life that most members see the 'Society' as their Branch. Nevertheless, HQ is the Society and the Branches are independent bodies licensed by HQ to promote the Society aims and objectives. Branches are groups of members of the Society. The Society is governed by a Management Board assisted by three Management committees, and their members have to be elected in rotation for a period of three years.

The HQ consultation whose London results were published in the May issue of *The Reel* was about who would vote in the elections and on motions put to the Society's AGM. It was not about changes in the organisation of the Society. Two extremes were cited by the Management Board to draw comments from members and Branches: Branch based voting, and one man one vote (omov). Judging by the responses — not just from London — it is clear that the Management Board did not adequately clarify this point. Many assumed that one man one vote meant the abolition of the Branches: not so. Branches are the life-blood of the Society. They are where members meet and dance and as such generate a loyalty which is stronger than that to the Society in Edinburgh.

The choice put to members and Branches

should have been explained as referring to the voting regime only. Should all members have a vote on HQ matters or should voting be in the hands of the Branches? Under the new management system, nominations for the management committees come from members, not the Branches, and the question was whether the voting power should be in the hands of members or Branches.

It is said that members would not have the necessary background to exercise a realistic vote. That is patronising, to say the least — neither have many Branches (committees). It was said that many would not vote: in actual fact there are Branches which don't vote either. It was argued that it would cost extra money to extend the vote to all members. Surprisingly the Management Board has discovered that compared to the existing mailing system of HQ publications, it will be possible to mail all members individually with two publications a year at no extra cost. Bang goes the cost argument! There was the red herring of pressure groups controlling the Society under omov: that could just as easily happen with the present Branch controlled voting through the cooperation of several large Branches. There was the further red herring that a member-based constitution would politicise members; but are not Branches just collections of members? It is patronising to suggest that Branches make better quality decisions than individuals: again Branches are just collections of individuals. The Management Board at a recent meeting decided that Branches would continue to hold the voting powers, and that matter has now been concluded.

There are other just as important issues facing the Society and these are in general being addressed by the Management Board. One of these issues is the recent decline in membership. There have been pleas from Branches to relieve Branch members of being Members of the Society, or to lower the subscription for fewer publications, or to have special rates for families, senior citizens and young people. So far, all these have been resisted although discussions are still ongoing. Changes in Charities legislation are placing further burdens on the Society: these take up staff and management time and cost money.

However, the salutary message is if it hadn't been for the Society most of you would not be enjoying Scottish Country Dancing today. Being a member of the Society is a small price to pay for that life-long pleasure. The annual amount is not much more than the cost of an evening's dancing, much less than a good meal out, and comparable to the cost of travelling to the dance! It is churlish for a Scottish Country dancer not to be a member of the Society set up to protect and promote their pleasure.

Wilson Nicol

Not to be missed

A Measure of Scotch

A lively and colourful celebration of Scotland's music, dance and song by the children and adults of the Hiel' and Toe Club With guest artists including the Bedford Pipe Band and P/M Sandy Walker

**Exciting toe-tapping music and songs*

**Lively dancing*

Saturday 16th October, 3.00pm and 7.30pm, at The Alban Arena, St. Albans.

Tickets £8.00 (concessions £5.00)

For information, telephone 01582 769607

DEMONSTRATION TEAM

The team has just come to the end of another busy summer term. We performed on grass yet again at Poldsen Lacey, outside for the second year in succession, and the gourmet picnic was appreciated by all. Also in June we had a select afternoon at Dolphin Square, which was greatly appreciated by the immediate and exclusive audience. There was a team at the Finchley Carnival, and the White Rose Festival at Leeds also in July proved most enjoyable. This might even become a repeat item.

The Team is looking forward to performing at St Ursula's Conference, Roehampton and the Epsom Caledonian Club Garden Party in August, and Kensington Gardens and the Entente Cordiale celebrations in September.

The end of season dinner was held at Da Mario's, where we thanked Sandra Smith for the music and Gaynor Curtis for organising us so well. Our thanks had already been given to Ann Dix and Joan Desborough at the last class for their teaching, encouragement and support.

Congratulations to Dave and Judy on the birth of Emily Wynne Hall on 7th June. Congratulations also to Sam and James Fairbairn on their recent move to Oxford and the news of their baby daughter due on 17th August.

Our best wishes go to Fiona and Martin Evans on their move from London to the Wirral and at the time of going to press, congratulations to Fiona and to Helen Ives on the imminent birth of their babies.

Congratulations to Robyn Kirk on achieving her degree and also for receiving a distinction for her concert in June, it has been good to see her back at class recently.

The new season of classes begins in September at Wornington Road and we are delighted to welcome Angela Young as the new Class teacher.

Publicity leaflets and fliers are presently under review and the website is being enhanced with improved links, keywords and current images.

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

Jeff Robertson

ADVERTISING YOUR DANCE ON PAGES 14/15?

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

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR REEL?

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

ST. ANDREWS ACCORDION CLUB

(Walton-on-Thames)

Playing together for pleasure. The club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Scottish, folk and other traditions.

All standards welcome.

Contact: Anna Crawford,

Tel: 01932 244466.

SUMMER TUESDAYS

'What dreadful hot weather we have! It keeps me in a continual state of inelegance.' Jane Austen, letter, 18th Sept 1796.

If Jane Austen visited St Columba's on a Tuesday evening in summer, she would wonder why so many people were dancing themselves into such a state of inelegance. Why on hot summer evenings go in search of heat and humidity?

The answer is that the dancing is so enjoyable that you hardly notice how hot and sticky you are getting. A number of factors make these evenings some of the best of the year for Scottish Country Dancing. One is the excellent MC, Graham Hamilton. Summer Tuesdays have had several different MCs since they were founded by Jimmy McIntosh nearly fifty years ago (see *Reel* 229 for details), but today it is hard to imagine Summer Tuesdays without Graham. It is he who produces the consistently good programmes, which include old favourites and less familiar dances but none you would want to miss. His cheerful confidence inspires us to take on challenging dances with only a brief reminder, and with success!

The dances attract enthusiastic, expert dancers from all over south-east England — from as far away at Southampton. A dancing friend of mine does not go away in summer, so as not to miss a single Tuesday! They set a high standard of dancing, combined with tolerance for the inexperience and memory lapses of others. It is rare for sets to 'collapse' and few people sit out at any time.

The dress code is 'anything goes' and part of the amusement of the evening is seeing what clothes people choose to wear.

It is remarkable too that every Tuesday a different team of volunteers takes on the challenge of providing refreshments for 100+ people, and consistently provide delicious food.

The band is another key factor in any dance. The usual band for Summer Tuesdays is Frank Reid's, and they provide music to make you want to dance, and create a party atmosphere every time. When Frank is away, Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band are a worthy replacement, and Graham Hamilton combines being MC with playing the drums.

The combination of MC, dancers and band create an atmosphere of mounting pleasure and excitement, as the evening progresses and the music becomes more and more frenetic.

Summer Tuesdays continue each Tuesday at St Columba's from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. until 21st September.

Daniel Capron

LONDON BRANCH — THE LATE 50s AND EARLY 60s

My memories of these years are of working with a wonderfully gifted blind pianist — Sam Mason. If he was given early notice of the class programme he would produce the correct Braille music and played with such feeling that he inspired the dancers to give of their best. Sam's hearing was very acute to make up for his loss of sight. I used to meet him and accompany him to the school. He recognised my footsteps and would turn towards me hastily folding up his white stick. He was very much part of the class and could be seen trying out the steps as he sat at the piano. Sometimes he would say "They are dancing well tonight." He had an endearing sense of humour. For example, one of the class with an affected accent was wont to speak about the Caledonian Ball. Sam secretly christened her 'Blue Blood'.

The late Bill Ireland had a class at the same school on the same night as me, so after class we would accompany Sam to his bus stop. The first time we were very careful to avoid the verb 'to see', however we need not have bothered because Sam jumped on the bus calling out cheerily "See you next week" and shot up the stairs!

Sadly Sam died in 1962 so there are many members of London Branch who never knew him. That's why I thought it was opportune to bring him to their notice.

Mary Stoker

A TRIP TO PAU



Preparations all over, Easter weekend 2004 was finally here. About 200 people travelled to Pau from near and far. France, of course, Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland, Belgium, Monaco, Luxemburg, Sweden, Germany, New Zealand, Hawaii, Sweden, Tom and his ladies from Japan. Have I forgotten anywhere?

Some arrived in brilliant sunshine and were able to appreciate the lovely setting straight away. Others arrived in a violent hailstorm that started just as they got off the train. Thus started the 'Hide and Seek' of the mountain views. When would we be able to catch the promised glimpse of the Pyrenees? All were ready to meet old friends in a different place — and to make new ones. Such is the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

The first class started on the Saturday afternoon. I think we were all impressed by the beautiful room and its scenic outlook. We could see the surrounding hills but were the Pyrenees in sight? — not yet. More familiar faces — Ann Dix and Jennifer Wilson. Good warm up to start as Ann put us through our paces.

On Saturday evening four coaches took us out to the country for a traditional Béarnais meal. It was in an old farm — but dinner was not a rustic affair. The scattered flower petals on the table were very pretty and the chef's proud display of the roast lamb still on its spit was greeted appropriately.

Back to the coaches. Could we really dance after all these delicacies? No singing — on my coach, anyway. Many were dozing. However, back at the Palais Beaumont the musicians tuned up. Keith Smith and Green Ginger. If we had thought dancing was beyond us, their music persuaded us otherwise.

It seemed very early on Sunday morning as we listened to a short talk, by Ginette Dalleré, on the historic links between Scotland and Pau. This was before our second class. (Still no sign of the Pyrenees)

We were honoured that during the weekend Ann Dix presented not just one, but two brand new dances that she had created, "Vive la Danse" for Paris Branch 20th anniversary and "Montparnasse" for two of our members. Ann's clear instructions in all the classes were appreciated by all and it was only rarely necessary for translations into French, or Japanese — which intrigued the rest of us.

A family photo was taken after this class

and then we sat down for lunch in a room next to the ballroom. Big windows, beautiful view (our eyes strained into the distance — nothing!)

After this some people went on a walking tour of the town, to the picturesque little chateau where Henry IV was born, past the birthplace of the ordinary Frenchman who became the king of Sweden, etc. Others found the shops more inviting. There were those who preferred a siesta.

At 6 o'clock our pied (bag)piper, Bob Harman, led us through the town. As he passed each of our hotels we fell in behind him, all dressed in our glad rags ready for the evening's ball. We stopped the traffic.

"Local wine and cheese tasting" — a formal name providing a good excuse for apéritifs. Not too many, though, — had to remember the dances. Then we sat down for dinner. "What's this by my plate?" Something red — tied up with a touch of tartan. — A Basque beret! I don't think anyone present will forget the sea of red that swept around the room as people donned their new headgear, each in her/his own fashion, to the backdrop of a sunset approaching the same colour. (Was that the Pyrenees in the distance?... No).

Our special Paris Branch scroll was presented to René Vergé by Jean Martin. Delicious dinner, although I'm not sure about the jam jars of ? served to the vegetarian musicians!

On with the dance. Keith Smith and Green Ginger, now Basque impersonators, got us going. Surprise! Genuine Basques to watch, dancing to their own music. Back to our wonderful music again, time was getting short, all these people I hadn't danced with yet.

It's funny how short the walk was from hotel to Palais Beaumont and how long it seemed in the other direction.

Monday morning, last class. Jennifer Wilson had us in stitches with her whimsical tunes during the warm up. Such a pleasure, always, to dance to her music.

Lunch, last look out to the far beyond — as far as possible anyway.

Marie-Solange, we don't believe your story about the amazing sight of the Pyrenees from the ballroom — but it doesn't matter.

Colin Anderson

REELING ON THE QUAIS DE SAÔNE

Dance instructions in Japanese! That was the challenge set to a group of 18 assorted French, Swiss and British dancers in Lyons on 8 April. Tom Toriyama was leading a group of 18 Japanese dancers on their way to Pau for the Paris Branch weekend and was asked to teach two of his own dances in his own language to start the evening off. Now we knew what it felt like to be taught in a truly foreign tongue. Fortunately, the familiar vocabulary of Scottish Country Dancing has been adopted by or adapted into Japanese and certain words and phrases – reel of three; cast; set – were instantly recognisable and provided a clue as to what was to happen next. Other dances were taught in English and French, and the power and effectiveness of demonstration as a primary teaching tool was dramatically illustrated: show me, and I'll do it.

Christiane Orgeret, the secretary of the Lyons group (Groupe de Danses Ecossoises, La Chanterelle www), had had the happy idea to organise a special evening in honour of Tom's group's visit to Lyons and this gathering of 36 dancers from opposite ends of the globe perfectly illustrated the international nature of Scottish Country Dancing and the goodwill that exists among dancers from different countries. In a lovely dance studio overlooking the River Saône, Christiane, her daughter Raphaëlle and others each taught a dance in the course of the evening. The peripatetic and ubiquitous Jim Cook deftly put across Fire in the Rye, which, with the 'right' music, was danced with gusto, twice. After the dancing and an



exchange of small gifts, Lyons being the gastronomic capital of France (and therefore of the world), the group repaired to one of the many restaurants in the rue Mercière nearby, where, in elegant surroundings, and with much delight to the palate, we put back some of the calories expended earlier in the evening.

James Fairbairn

London Branch are holding a weekend school 28-30 January 2005 with Ann Dix and Rachel Wilton as teachers. Another opportunity for people of different customs and culture to get together and communicate through the international language of dance.

It will be held in Kamakura, one of Japan's historical cities (see Kipling, *The Great Buddha at K*). The musicians will be Dave Hall and Judith Smith. Cost £200. More details from Tom Toriyama: Tomtori@aol.com.

BRANCH BOOKSTALL

At your service

Books and CDs for Scottish Dancers

Mail order from Ian Anderson, 104 Whitewall Lane, Alton, Hants

GU34 1QR. Tel: 01420 84599

e-mail: ian.g.anderson@ukgateway.net

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

Please state your Branch when ordering.

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

MEMBERSHIP

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



We are happy to supply
The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
with hand-made
pure wool worsted kilts and skirts
at very special prices

Please send for our fully illustrated Highland Wear or Skirt Making Brochures



STATION ROAD • PITLOCHRY • PERTSHIRE PH16 5AF
Tel: 01796 472722 Fax: 01796 474266

SCOTTISH NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY

1 Lakeside, Earley,
Reading, Berks, RG6 7PG.

or

0118 966 6006 (phone)
kelpi@sndc.co.uk (e-mail)
www.sndc.co.uk (http://)

*When you have a
choice, choose*

S.N.D.C.

For your Scottish Dance needs



THE SCOTTISH DANCE SHOE COMPANY

87 NEWCHURCH ROAD, RAWTENSTALL
ROSSENDALE, LANCASHIRE BB4 7QX.

TEL: 01706 224272

FAX: 01706 602346

E-MAIL: SALES@SCOTTISHDANCESHOE.CO.UK

Visit our website address at:
www.scottishdanceshoe.co.uk

Manufacturers and suppliers of superior
Quality Scottish Dance Pumps
and Ghillies with our
exclusive impact-absorbing insole.

Mail order specialists
Speedy reliable service
Personal callers welcome by arrangement

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



DRESSED by SCOTLAND

P.O. Box 23027, Edinburgh EH7 5YA
Tel/Fax: 0131 467 7508

e-mail: alasdair@dressedbyscotland.co.uk
www.dressedbyscotland.co.uk

Call the above number for a free catalogue and see what **Dressed by Scotland** is offering *The Reel* reader and members of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. With a helpful and knowledgeable voice at the other end of the telephone, **Dressed by Scotland** can discuss what you want in the form of your outfits for ladies and gentlemen for day or evening wear.

PETRONELLA

Mail order only from
181, Bourn View Road, Netherton,
Huddersfield HD4 7JS.

Telephone 01484 661196

Kilts, Blouses, Skirts,
made to measure.
Pins, brooches, sashes,
dancing shoes.
Records, cassettes, books.
Price list on request

**"More people are afraid of
speaking in public than they
are of dying"**

Does this sound familiar?
Are you working towards your
certificate?
If so
performance coaching could be for you

anne carter
07876 566126
anne@carter-boyes.demon.co.uk

MUNRO COMPETITION SHOES

For Quality and Value

Designed by a Dancer for a Dancer
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING SHOES
HIGHLAND DANCING SHOES
LADIES COUNTRY DANCING SHOES
NON-SLIP SOLES AVAILABLE

Leaflets and Prices available
from

MARIE CHAPLIN-GARRETT

20 WOODHALL CLOSE,
CUCKFIELD, Nr HAYWARDS HEATH,
WEST SUSSEX RH17 5HJ

Telephone: 01444 456807



THE TARTAN CUPBOARD

How can we help you?

We offer a full customer service on:
Clan Shields/Badges/Ties/Scarves
Ladies Sashes

Mens Kilts/Jackets made to order
Sporrans/Sgian Dubh/Belts/Kilt Pins
Hose/Garter Flashes

Why not visit us at Greenwich
and browse.

SHOP OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
11.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
or telephone for details
- Price List available.
Mail Orders Welcome.

2a Greenwich Market, Greenwich,
London SE10 9HZ
Telephone: 020 8858 0038

THE TARTAN CENTRE



Mill Street, Stowupland, Stowmarket,
Suffolk IP14 5BJ

KILTS

Made by hand in SCOTLAND.
More than 800 authentic pure wool
worsted tartans to choose from.

ALWAYS IN STOCK

Dress jackets and Dress sporrans,
Tweed jackets and leather sporrans,
kilt hose, Montrose belts,
Sgian Dubh and Kilt pins.

FOR THE LADIES

Kilt skirts, dance sashes and brooches.

We maintain a good in-stock service
of dancing ghillies and pumps.

Please write for our brochure,
or better still, why not phone us

PAUL & JACKIE YELDHAM

Phone 01449 612203 Day or Evening
www.the-tartan-centre.co.uk

MAIL ORDER
CALLERS VERY WELCOME

MUSICIANS INSURANCE SERVICES



(incorporating PETER JENKINS & CO)

A special 'ALL RISKS' policy to
cover instruments, P.A., Records,
tapes, etc., Available to RSCDS
members and non-members alike.

Public liability insurance arranged
for bands and individual musicians,
dance clubs, classes and teachers

Travel insurance for
dancers and musicians

Please phone for a quotation -
you may be pleasantly surprised.

Musicians Insurance Services
312 High Street, Harlington,
Hayes, UB3 4BT.

Tel: 0845 345 7529 or 0845 345 PLAY
Fax: 020 8564 9063
enquiries@musiciansinsurance.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shouters!

Highgate, London

Dear Daniel,

At a recent Pont Street dance I was victimised by what I can only describe as a 'shouter'. We were dancing Flower of the Quern which I know perfectly well, dancing as a woman, but as I was dancing as a man on that occasion I had a few micro-hesitations. My first slight hesitation had the effect of smoke to a smoke alarm on a man in our set in a brightly coloured kilt. From then on he kept up a loud but imperfect stream of instructions.

This letter is to tell all shouters or would-be shouters that this sort of behaviour is totally counter-productive. When I dance a dance I know, I follow a detailed 'crib' in my head and as I dance I 'read it off'. This is especially tricky if I have to convert it as I go to the 'mirror' (man's) version and requires great concentration. If someone interrupts this with comments, especially 'fortissimo', I am totally lost. It'd like trying to do mental arithmetic (say 4x32) from a reflection in a mirror with someone shouting other numbers in your ear. Not easy. Not possible!

The shouter will not shout the full RSCDS instructions nor even give as comprehensive a version as Pilling. He erases your own personal mental crib and substitutes only certain bits. Thus you are doomed to dance to a very imperfect standard and thus he is vindicated. Your subsequent hesitation, confusion and rotten dancing bolster his conviction that he was right to interfere in the first place.

So may I say "shouters, please stop!" A quiet word or, preferably, pointing are all that is needed in most cases.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Woodman

The naked truth

Hemel Hempstead

Daniel,

A survey recently conducted for a well-known whisky company found that most Scotsmen wear nothing below their kilts. It found that 69% of kilt wearers prefer to "go *commando*"! However, this normally depended on what the outing was. Thus it was, that at weddings one approach would prevail whilst, at rugby matches the other was adopted. Dancers were not mentioned!

For me, as a dancer, awareness of such matters came early. In 1977 I was truly fortunate to have attended a talk on *appropriate dress for men* at St. Andrews Summer School given by the then chairman Duncan Macleod (for whom the dance *Macleod's Fancy* was inscribed), a much respected man of high standards and military bearing, when he revealed all to us.

Many years later, on the way to St. Columba's Church for a dance, I was confronted outside Harrods by three female Japanese tourists who blocked my way and invited me to also reveal all. They obviously were very keen to check out all the sights of London and discover the Scot's secret, which is only second to that of the Loch Ness monster. Naturally, I responded to their cheeky question "Is anything worn under the kilt?" with an equally established cheeky answer, "No, it is all in perfect working order". Not fully satisfied with this response they tried to take a peek. I had to apologise, explaining that I had to be going on my way, as one can catch a cold standing around!

Kind regards,

Stephen Webb

The 60s and now

Pinner, Middx

Dear Editor,

I have been reflecting on the main difference between the London Branch in the 60s and at the present time, and this seems to be the numbers game. Far fewer people attend dances and classes. In times gone by dance tickets were in great demand and were often sold at classes. Now dancers turn up on the night and purchase a ticket at the door.

Porchester Hall on so-called Guest Dances was packed and so of course was the Seymour Hall when Jimmy Shand and his Band was invited.

Has the enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing waned because of so many other delights on offer? What should be done to rekindle the enthusiasm? It would be helpful to have comments on this.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Stoker

Hon, President, London Branch

OBITUARIES

Jim MacLeod

Jim MacLeod died on 24th May aged 76. Jim, with his band, was at the forefront of Scottish music for over 50 years with countless stage shows throughout the UK, radio broadcasts, TV shows and visits to Balmoral Castle.

He recorded some 30 LPs and 11 videos. He will be remembered best in London for the visits to play for the Branch at Porchester Hall in the 1960s and '70s. His band recorded two albums in collaboration with the Branch. The first in 1979 for our Golden Jubilee dances and again in 1989 for the Diamond Jubilee.

Jim will be much missed but the memory lingers on as we still listen and look at his many recordings.

Our sympathy is extended to his wife Kathleen and their family.

John Laurie

Bruce Fordyce 1925-2004

Bruce was perhaps best known in Scottish Country Dance circles worldwide as the deviser of the dance and composer of the music "Seton's Ceilidh Band". He was involved with the formation of the Wellington/Hawkes Bay Association of SCD Clubs in 1953 that later led to the formation of the NZ SCD Society then the NZ Branch of the RSCDS. The following year (1954) he was a member of the organising committee for the first Summer School in NZ held at Napier Boys' High School.

Scottish Country Dancing was not Bruce's only interest. He was a self taught musician, keen tramper and model railway engineer. Though he retired from the dancing scene for many years his wife Mary continued and recently Bruce returned and once again entered wholeheartedly into activities attending club nights, balls, weekend and day schools and also summer schools where he was known to party into the wee small hours especially with the musicians.

Bruce was still devising dances and composing music in recent months.

As requested by Bruce a set of Hawkes Bay dancers danced Seton's Ceilidh Band to the music of Peter Elmes, John Smith and Lynne Scott as a special farewell at his funeral.

Reprinted from Kiwi News, May 2004, with thanks to New Zealand Branch.

THREE YEARS OLD (NEARLY) AND STILL GROWING FAST



Dem team dancing at Chiswick

Two years ago I wrote an article about a fledgling Scottish Dance group that had started up in Chiswick. Today I can write about an extremely friendly and flourishing group that has an equal number of men and women, and has 'matured' to a point when experienced dancers, who now come to dance with us, comment on the amazing progress we have made and now come and dance with us regularly.

I don't know all the factors that make us so successful, but I am sure the most important is our team of extremely talented and dedicated teachers, which includes James Fairbairn, Davinia Milne, Jerry Reinstein and Lindsey Rousseau, with Pauline Cashmore and Jim Cook helping out on the odd occasion. We have evidence for that from one of our members who recently returned to her home in Prague and sought out a group there. She said they thought she was a 'professional' because she was such a brilliant dancer! On her postcard to us she said it was "thanks to the excellent teachers at Chiswick".

We are brave enough to venture out into the wider dancing world these days. Some of our stalwarts have just been to the Tartan Jigsaw Ball, have booked 3 tables for the RSCDS 75th Anniversary Ball (that's 30 people), and about 12 of us are going up to Summer School at St Andrews this year. Besides that, we visit other groups on a regular basis, like the wonderfully friendly Hayes Group that dances on a Friday.

We do a lot of other things together. We recently ran a charity stall to raise funds to support a children's hospice for which Davinia ran in the London Marathon (and completed the course)! And we have just had a Gourmet BBQ to finish the dancing year. We are even planning holiday dancing in various Cotswold villages.

Our biggest do of the year has always been our Christmas Dance, our "Kilts and Posh Frocks". Because our regular hall only takes 60 at a squeeze it has until now been by invitation only. So many people, hearing we had such a great time, have begged to be invited so this year we have decided to 'go public' and are hiring a magnificent hall in Richmond. Why not come and join us? Entry will be by ticket only (none on sale at the door, to give our 'honourable doorkeeper' a rest). Please phone me on 0208 743 9385 or Richard on 0208 994 2959 or better still come and dance with us on a Sunday (see back page for details) and so be sure of your tickets. Please also see our advert on Page 14 (in the middle column). The programme as you will see is pleasantly non-taxing!

Kay Senior

DANCERS IN THE RAIN

We have often met friends at the airport when they visit us from other countries, but not with boards sporting back-to-front letters, making little sense to British folk. It was on such an occasion that Bob and Meg Harman and Brian and I were at Heathrow, Terminal 2, on a pleasant Tuesday evening in early July to meet a flight from Moscow. We were there to welcome, and then to drive to their lodgings, four of our young Russian friends (the fifth had arrived earlier) from Krasnodar with whom we spent such an exciting time last year.

Fiona Grant from Bristol and her friend Ilona from Krasnodar, had arranged for a small group of the Kuban Scottish Dancers to attend the Summer School at St. Andrews. Contact between Fiona and Margaret Lugg enabled the dancers to stop in the London area, thanks to the generous offer from Margaret of turning her home into a hotel for a few days!

This is an account of how our group (which collectively comes under The Tartan Jigsaw banner) entertained the Kuban Scottish Dancers.

Wednesday 7th July dawned bright and breezy. Gillian Goodwin, Christine Gush and Margaret, took Larissa and Olga, while Brian and I took Anton, Sasha and Dimitri up to London. On the journey they were quiet but noting many things. Comments were made however on the wide variety of our ethnic population. Their command of English was excellent, which was just as well as our Russian was non-existent.

Both cars arrived safely at the London Scottish Regimental Headquarters, courtesy of Bob. From there we proceeded to 'a must do' when in London, a visit to the London Eye. Great excitement as our turn arrived and we all stepped into a 'car'. The ride was very successful. Questions were asked: "Where was Buckingham Palace, Number Ten, St. Paul's Cathedral?" Afterwards, we took a leisurely walk back to London Scottish HQ to enable photos to be taken of Westminster, The Houses of Parliament, The Abbey, etc.

When we arrived back for lunch, Jim Cook was there. Surprise and pleasure at recognising another face from last year produced delighted hand shakes all round and then Cherry West arrived and it happened all over again! After a wonderful buffet lunch and a look around the HQ's museum, with the help of a member of staff who could speak Russian, we left for the Underground to Monument.

Jim Cook explained a little about the history of the Monument, which they seemed to understand. As the sun had gone and a few spots of rain were in the air, and it was also very windy, we quickly walked to St. Paul's, which was partly shrouded due to a cleaning programme. The Russians knew about the 'Whispering Gallery'. As the weather was actually doing what the forecasters said, we caught a bus to Trafalgar Square. Just as well we did as the heavens opened and it poured. Trafalgar Square was being prepared for an open air opera that evening but they were having a lot of trouble with the monsoon rain. Not quite sure what to do for the best we tramped down the stairs into the Crypt at St. Martin's in the Field for the cup of tea! There, it was decided to get



Left to right: Sacha, Anton, Dimitri, Olga and Larissa

back to Bob's and pick up the cars to go home. In the evening, when we had all dried off, we met at Margaret's and she took us to her local Chinese restaurant for a tasty meal.

Thursday started dry with a little sunshine. The plan was for Wendy Mitten and Gillian to collect and drive our young friends to Brighton, where they would meet Bob, Meg, Brian and me at the pier. By now it was raining!! We all met up, brollies, waterproofs in full use and, undaunted, we walked along the pier. As far as we could make out the Russians had never seen a pier before, and to see all the slot machines and fairground rides, dodgems and roundabouts was interesting for them. Seagulls provided a certain fascination; I don't recall seeing seagulls when we were in Russia last year. They also thought the couple of young men who went swimming in the sea (remember it was raining and the sea was a little choppy) quite crazy, but so did we! After a walk round The Lanes they had to do as the Brits and have a Fish and Chip lunch – a big hit!

It was still raining after lunch so we went to see the Brighton Pavilion. That intrigued them, being such an architectural oddity in England. The shop at the Pavilion seemed to be to their taste and they bought a few things. Bob and Meg took Sasha, Anton and Olga and Brian and I took Larissa and Dimitri to our homes to give them a typical English meal.

On the way home the weather improved and we stopped at Box Hill to show them the wonderful view of the English countryside. It couldn't have looked better, the rain had cleared and the early evening sun was shining. Our two young guests were very appreciative of its beauty; needless to say their cameras were in use.

Friday – Train to Victoria Station where we all met Meg, and Marion Milligan joined us too. A look at Buckingham Palace was requested so we walked there and then across to Wellington Barracks and watched the guards being inspected and the band practising. A gentle stroll through St. James' Park, where the ducks, geese and squirrels provided much amusement to Olga and Larissa, and on to Horseguards. We arrived just as they were about to Change the Guards so, as it was not too crowded, we all had a wonderful view of the pageantry. Trafalgar Square was around the corner and as it was dry and sunny they wanted to see it in better conditions than last

time. We then went into the Café at the National Gallery for lunch.

Afterwards, we walked to Embankment and into the gardens where there was a children's orchestra playing. That seemed unusual to them, to have musical events outside, maybe they have only ever thought of orchestral music to be played in theatres. We showed them Robert Burns' statue and then onto the boat for a river trip to Greenwich.

The Queen was at the Tower re-opening Tower Hill, and our boat was held up at Tower Pier for about half an hour waiting for Her Majesty, then the River Police decided we could go and, as we did, the Queen got into her river boat, guarded by her barge men dressed in their finery – more pageantry!

And so to Greenwich – past Cutty Sark where 'Meg's tail' was pointed out – they have studied Burns! On up the hill to the Observatory and to the Meridian Line, much amusement and interest. Everyone enjoyed

looking around the museums and trying to get everyone together to leave was quite difficult.

We travelled on the Dockland Light Railway and eventually got to Victoria Station where we said 'goodbye' to Marion. In the evening we met up at Margaret's, each of us bringing an item of food, casseroles, rice and various desserts, English cheese and biscuits were washed down with wine and beer and a Russian tippale made with honey and chillies 'Nemiroff' – real fire water!. We ate al fresco but went indoors when it got dark. The Kuban dancers had brought a video of a show they took part in at their Palace of Culture. All kinds of dance to cater for young and old from tap and modern to Scottish and ballroom.

Saturday started bright and sunny and at coffee time we all met at Gillian's house for a brief run through some of the dances for the evening Ball. Alister and Molly Reid arrived in their wonderful old Rolls – it was gleaming in the sun and the roof was down. The Russians loved it! Sadly, it started to rain and we went to the Sportsman for lunch so our Russian friends could see an English Public House; they chose fish and chips for lunch!

The evening of the Tartan Jigsaw Summer Ball arrived and, after a special introduction by Clem Wilson, our Kuban Scottish Dancers were in demand all evening. They enjoyed themselves immensely, as did we all.

Sunday came all too soon and we met at Wendy's house. We started with Bucks Fizz and then on to a 'Brunch'. Black Pudding was closely investigated then eaten with gusto – we never told them what it was! Sad goodbyes were said from Wendy and Chris then, Margaret, with Gillian, and Brian and I took them up to Victoria Coach Station to catch their 4 o'clock Megabus to Bristol. The bus left on time and the four of us felt a wave of sadness to have sent them on their way so quickly; so we did the only thing possible and had a cup of tea and reminisced over the events of the past week. We came to the conclusion that we all had had a most wonderful time, and were sure that Sasha, Anton, Dimitri, Olga and Larissa had enjoyed their brief glimpse of the South East of England.

Penny Fee

NEW RECORDINGS

RSCDS Book 44 - Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band (CD046)

Dancing Forth Too, Pete Clark, fiddle, Doreen McKerron piano, with cello and flute (EB CD002)
Dancing Forth, Castle Wynd, Eilidh Maclain, St Margaret Queen of Scotland, Corstophine Fair, Rose of Glamis, Brian's Bairs, The Queen's Jubilee, The Honeycomb, Breezby, Edina's Pride, That Sinking Feeling, Have a Bashie, Melville Castle, Strictly Scottish.

Dashing White Sergeant, Ian Hutson Scottish Dance Band (HRM CD101)

Petronella, Rory o'More, Mrs MacLeod, Captain White, Eightsome Reel, and a further 14 tracks of mostly old time dances.

Book 44 is Robert Whitehead's first recording for the Society—indeed the first from a band resident in England. It is a real stormer. You can hear all the individual instruments with son Graeme on second accordion, some excellent fiddle playing from Roddy Matthews, Anne Thomson (Rutherford) on piano and David Ashbridge on drums. But one can also hear a certain tight togetherness. I just love it. The strathspeys are an absolute delight — just beautiful, especially the slow air Crathes Castle.

Dancing Forth Too (it could equally have been *Two!*) is Edinburgh Branch's second CD. On this occasion they decided to 'produce a new out-of-the-normal style of dance music' and it has certainly paid off. Pete is, as many readers know, one of Scotland's finest fiddle players and Doreen is one of the doyens of Edinburgh's pianists. This is indeed a fine recording with a good variety of tunes, many by Doreen and a good handful by Pete. There are also two tunes by Wilson Nicol from the London Branch Book of Tunes. Congratulations to Edinburgh Branch. Instructions for all the dances are included. They are not all brand new. I well remember Corstophine Fair being very popular in London back in the 1960s and '70s.

Ian Hutsac's first recording is another one high up on my list of 'goodies'. Nice steady tempo throughout the country dances and the old time. Although the CD is titled *The Dashing White Sergeant* they do not play it but suggest that Mrs MacLeod is also suitable for DWS; likewise Petronella for Circassian Circle. It makes the purists' hackles rise. However, it takes nothing away from the excellent musicianship of this 6-piece band. Mention must be made of the Eightsome Reel. Most bands tend to play well known traditional tunes for it but Ian has chosen the original plus eight tunes all from Shetland. A refreshing change from 'Trad'. Buy this CD and enjoy.

Sorry about a slip up in *Reel 248*. I said that Neil Barron was to record Book 5—it should have been Book 15. Book 5 is already on CD by Kenny Thomson and The Wardlow Band.

John Laurie

VIDEO REVIEW

Two videos produced by The Red Thistle Dancers of San Francisco.

They are probably aimed at those who have just started Scottish Country dancing but would also be helpful to anyone doing their Preliminary and Teachers' Certificate. Steps and formations are danced in jig, reel and strathspey time, and are shown up to time, in slow motion and are walked through. Good use is made of the pause button to illustrate accurate positions and phrasing. Dances have been chosen to show these formations, RSCDS dances and others.

The standard and accuracy of the dancing is good on the whole and it shows an easy, happy style. The dancers appear in a variety of dress, informal for showing steps and formations (some may be surprised at the men wearing shorts rather than the kilt), more formal for showing a complete dance. The use of different coloured T-shirts for each couple is one of the good ideas, showing the track of each couple.

The music, fiddle, piano and percussion, provided by local musicians is lively and gives a good sound. Original tunes are used for the dances and a limited number of tunes for the steps and formations. The voice of the commentator is pleasant and gives clear explanations.

It was good to see *The Reel of the 51st Division* danced in a 5-couple set, all of whom were men! This is how it would have been danced originally by the soldiers of the 51st Highland Division.

There are always slightly different ways of doing things but these videos would be a good resource to offer to dancers who like to do some of their learning at home as well as at class as well as a useful reference for qualified teachers.

Jenny Greene and Rachel Wilton

The videos can be obtained from Brenda Burnell, 208, Moseley Wood Gardens, Leeds, LS16 7JE.

Part 1 £11.50 and Part 2 £14.50 including postage and packing.

BANDS

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

Broadcasting band for Scottish Country Dances, Reeling, Ceilidhs and Weddings. Any size of band from one to seven with PA to match from 100 to 2000 watts. Particularly interested in any ideas for expansion of ceilidh market. The Granary, Park Lane, Finchampstead, Wokingham, RG40 4QL. e-mail: reel@frankreid.com. Tel/Fax: 0118 932 8983.

THE INVERCAULD SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

3-piece Scottish Dance Band for Dances, Balls, Ceilidhs, Reels, Weddings and Parties. Please contact Lilian Linden on Tel: 01252 629178. Mobile 07879 633766. e-mail: lilian.linden@virgin.net. CDs £12 each (+ £1.00 p&p in UK).

M C B A I N S
Country Dance
M C B A I N S
Band

Contact: Mike McGuinness Tel: 020 8398 6799 or Tel/Fax: 020 8546 0075 (business hours)

THE FOREST DUO

North London Band: Accordion / Fiddle / Piano / Drums. Versatile, experienced, affordable, references. Availability check: Peter Boyce, tel: 020 8360 4287.

BARBARA MANNING (Violin/Piano) KEN MARTLEW (Piano)

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

SCOTCH MIST CEILIDH BAND

Internationally acclaimed 5-piece Scottish Ceilidh Band with a suitable line-up for Scottish Ceilidhs, Reeling and Highland Balls for Clubs. M.C./caller available if required. See us, hear us and contact us on our website www.scotchmistuk.co.uk or telephone Bandleader Chris Ransom on 01843 821446 for further details.

THE HIGHLANDERS

Scottish Ceilidh and Reeling band consisting of professional musicians; includes PA sound system with monitors, etc. Musical line-ups: From 3-piece to 8-piece, with MC/Caller available whenever required. Recommended for Reeling, Balls and Ceilidh Events such as weddings, private and corporate parties, etc. Excellent client references. Please contact Bandleader: Donald Ross. Tel: 020 8203 0626 or 020 8203 5076, e-mail: info@LawsonRoss.co.uk. www.thehighlanders.co.uk.

KAFOOZALUM COUNTRY DANCE BAND

Music for Scottish Country Dancing anywhere, anytime. For further details and availability, please telephone Peter Jenkins. Phone/fax: 020 8581 0359, e-mail: peter@kafoozalum.co.uk or visit our Ceilidh website at www.kafoozalum.co.uk.

SOLOIST: PETER JENKINS

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

SOLOIST: KEN MARTLEW

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

SOLOIST: FIONA MCGEE

harpist for functions, weddings etc. 07814 135281.

Come Scottish Dancing in Majorca

with

Robin Ellis and his band 19th – 26th February 2005

For full details please contact:

White Hart Parade Riverhead
Sevenoaks Kent TN13 2BJ

Tel: 01732 460666

Fax: 01732 459243

travel@billingtontravel.com

BILLINGTON
TRAVEL



DANCE EVENTS

ASHDOWN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Charity Dance

for The Hospice in the Weald Appeal,
Tunbridge Wells
Saturday 18th September 2004
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Beacon Community College, North Beeches,
Crowborough, East Sussex.

Sandy Nixon and his Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Jennifer's Jig, Cramond Bridge, Cashmere Shawl, The Bees of Maggie Knockater, Royal Yacht Britannia, MacDonald of the Isles, Wild Geese, The Earl of Mansfield, Scotch Mist, Midnight Oil, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Moffat Weavers, Ray Milbourne, Dundee City Police, The Gentleman, The Recumbent Stone, Band's Choice, Blue Mess Jacket, The Cuckoo Clock, Land of the Heather Hills, Flying Spur, Bauldy Bain's Fiddle.

Tickets (in advance only) £8.50 (child / spectator £5) plus please bring a plate of food.

Contact Michael Copeman, tel: 01892 655971
email michaelcopeman@aol.com.

Advance Notice:

Annual Spring Ball

2nd April 2005

Beacon Community College, Crowborough with
Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Dance Band.

ST. NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS

Annual Dance

Saturday 13th November 2004 at 7.30 p.m.
Icknield School in Luton

Sandy Nixon and his Band

Cost £11 (includes supper). Further details and tickets from Maggie Garrett, tel: 01582 665526.

SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS

Sunday 5th September 2004

Beating Retreat at Hertford Castle grounds

2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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

The Bedford Pipe Band and the
Silver Cross Band will be playing for our entertainment and dancing.

Saturday 20th November 2004

Annual Ball

Hertford Castle Hall
8.00 p.m. until Midnight

The Ian Muir of Prestwick Band

Programme details later.

Tickets Secretary: Mrs. Maureen Ainsworth.

Tel: 01279 434342

Publicity Officer: John Brace. Tel: 01438 717420.

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 23rd October 2004

7.30 - 11.45 p.m.

Benson Parish Hall

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Shiftin' Bobbins, Mrs. Stewart's Jig, The Braes of Breadalbane, Fraser's Favourite, Miss Mary Douglas, Glasgow Country Dance, The College Hornpipe, Airie Bennan, Autumn in Appin, The Happy Meeting, Joie de Vivre, The Clansman, From Scotia's Shores We're Noo Awa', The Black Black Oil, The Argyll Square, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, The Reverend John Macfarlane, The Minister on the Loch, Major Ian Stewart, The Reel of the Royal Scots.

Tickets £13.50 (non-dancers £6.50) from
Gordon Lloyd, tel: 01865 375799.



FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Autumn Ball

Saturday 13th November 2004
7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

White House Community
Centre,

The Avenue, Hampton, Middx. TW12 3RN

Dancing to Robin Ellis SCD Band.

Programme: Postie's Jig, The Sailor, The Byron Strathspey, The Snake Pass, Miss Johnston of Ardrossan, New Scotland Strathspey, The Diamond Jubilee, Foxhill Court, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The Dancing Master, Whigmaleeries, The Bonnie Lass o' Bon Accord, The Bees of Maggie Knockater, Caddam Wood, Corian Strathspey, The Irish Rover, MacDonald of the Isles, Seton's Ceilidh Band. *Extras:* Duke of Perth, Butterscotch and Honey, Anniversary Reel.

Tickets (including supper) £11.00.

Highland Dress or Evening Suit

Details from Heather Nolan, Tel: 01784 256549.

Heather@nolan75.freemove.co.uk,

www.felthamscottish.fsnet.co.uk.

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Winter Ball and Candlelight Supper

Saturday 8th January 2005

Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre

Lothian Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Cramond Bridge, The Milltimber Jig, Sugar Candie, Black Mountain Reel, Quarries' Jig, May Yarker's Strathspey, The Montgomerie's Rant, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Gang the Same Gate, The Royal Yacht Britannia, The Round Reel of Eight, The Bees of Maggie Knockater, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Scott Meikle, Major Ian Stewart, The Gentleman, The Plantation Reel, Good Hearted Glasgow, The Wind on Loch Fyne, Follow Me Home.

Tickets £18.00 from Margaret Catchick,
tel: 020 8907 2754.

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Kilts and Posh Frocks

Christmas Ball

Sunday 12th December 2004

7.00 for 7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

Richmond Adult College,

Parkshot Centre, Richmond

David Hall

Programme: Dashing White Sergeant, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Shiftin' Bobbins, Butterscotch and Honey, Pelorus Jack, J B Milne, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Highland Rambler, The Robertson Rant, Fisherman's Reel, Joie de Vivre, The Sailor, The Gentleman, St Andrew's Fair, Round Reel of Eight, Sugar Candie, Follow Me Home, General Stuart's Reel, Mairi's Wedding.

Tickets £8 in advance only from Kay Senior
0208 743 9385 or Richard Dodwell
0208 994 2959.

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Autumn Dance

Saturday 20th November 2004

7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

Reigate School (Woodhatch), Pendleton Road,
Reigate.

The Invercauld Band

£10 including buffet. Details: Mike Harding,
tel: 01737 553875.

NEW FOREST SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS

Christmas Ball

Saturday 18th December 2004

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Brockenhurst College

The Craigellachie Band

MC Ron Watson

Programme: Pelorus Jack, Bauldy Bain's Fiddle, Butterscotch and Honey, Famous Grouse, Odd Couple, Celebration Strathspey, Immigrant Lass, The Montgomerie's Rant, Moray Rant, Argyll Square, Maxwell's Rant, Corian Strathspey, Hot Toddy, The Piper and the Penguin, Bonnie Stronshiray, Georgie's Jig, Togetherness, Mrs Milne Of Kinneff, Glayva, Peat Fire Flame.

Tickets £13 (includes supper - BYO wine) from
Ted Widdows, Bartley Manor Cottage,
Brockishill Rd, Bartley, Southampton SO40
2LN, or clairewickens@waitrose.com.

RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH Christmas Dance

Saturday 11th December 2004

Ceol na h'Alba

American Supper. Tickets £8.50

40th Anniversary Ball

Saturday 12th February 2005

Craigellachie

Tickets £14 including Supper

Venue for both events: Boumemouth School for
Girls, Castle Lane, Boumemouth.

Details: Margaret Robson. Tel: 01202 698138.

RSCDS BRIGHTON BRANCH

Beginners' Wee Ball

Saturday 20th November 2004

7.00 - 11.00 p.m.

Brighton & Hove High School, Montpelier Road

Green Ginger

Tickets in advance please (£8 including buffet
supper, BYOB) from Bill Power, 84 Holmes
Avenue, Hove, BN3 7LD. Tel: 01273 731927 or
email: secretary@rscds-brighton.org.uk
For programme see www.rscds-brighton.org.uk.

RSCDS CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH

Annual Dance

Saturday 23rd October 2004

7.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.

Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge.

Karl Sandeman and his Band

Programme: Hooper's Jig, Inverneill House, Lady Glasgow, Gothenburg's Welcome, West's Hornpipe, Sugar Candie, Alex Doig's Jig, Flowers of Edinburgh, Autumn in Appin, The Reel of the 51st Division, St Andrew's Fair, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloch, Sandy O'er the Lea, The Diamond Jubilee, Merry Lads of Ayr, Glasgow Country Dance, The Tocher Band, Wind on Loch Fyne, The Wild Geese, The Montgomerie's Rant.

Tickets £10.00. (shared refreshments) from
Roderick McLachlan, 32 New Road, Sawston
Cambridge CB2 4BW. Tel: 01223 834163.

Mo Dalton and friends invite you to a Ceilidh
(Scottish Dancing Thro' the Ages) on Saturday
6th November at Kemsley Community Hall, Nr
Sittingbourne, 7.30 - 11.30 p.m. Dancing to
Robin Ellis and his Band. Supper, Bar &
Raffle. Tickets £12.50, from Mo Dalton, 42
Holmside Ave, Minster on Sea, Sheerness, Kent
ME12 3EY. Tel: 01795 583189. Proceeds to charity.

DANCE EVENTS (continued)

RSCDS CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH

Day School for Dancers and Musicians

Saturday 12th February 2005

Netherhall School, Gunhild Way, Cambridge.

Teachers (Dancing): **John Sturrock**

Ruby Wilkinson (Ladies' Step)

John Wilkinson (Highland),

Teacher (Music): **David Hall**

Musicians: **Barbara Manning**

Ken Martlew, Sheena Sturrock

The Day School will finish with an Evening Dance at Netherhall School.

Full details and application forms from the Branch Secretary, Roderick McLachlan, 32 New Road, Sawton. CB2 4BW. Tel: 01223 834163, email: rmlachlan@waitrose.com.

www.rscds-cambridge.org.

ST JOHN'S SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Annual Ball

Saturday 20th November 2004

7.30 - 11.45 p.m.

Emmbrook School, Wokingham.

Frank Reid and his Band

Programme: Swiss Lassie, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Anniversary Reel, Peggy's Strathspey, The Chequered Court, Minard Castle, Culla Bay, 50 Years On, Milton's Welcome, Farewell to the Highlands, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich, Findlater Castle, Old Nick's Lumber Room, Balmoral Strathspey, The Reverend John Macfarlane, Milltimber Jig, The Gentleman, The Earl of Mansfield, Lothian Lads, Neidpath Castle, Pelorus Jack, The Montgomeries' Rant. Extras: West's Hornpipe, MacLeod's Fancy, Bob Wilson's Jig.

Tickets £14 (s.a.e. please) from Sue Davis, 2 Larkwood Drive, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 6RL, tel: 01344 774344.

Half-day School for Beginners

Saturday 13th November 2004

2.00 - 5.00 p.m.

St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham.

Teacher: **Alan Davis**

Cost £5. Contact Sue Davis, details above.



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDERS BRANCH

Autumn Social

Saturday 16th October 2004

Carnation Hall, Winkfield.

Recorded music, dances recapped, Bring plate for finger buffet. Contact Peter Stogden, tel: 01483 236213.

Christmas Social

Wednesday 29th December 2004

Church Crookham Hall (new venue)

Bring plate for finger buffet.

Contact: Jan Douglas, tel: 01189 781125.

Day School for Dancers and Musicians

Advance Notice

Saturday 12th March 2005

Courtmoor School, Fleet.

Teachers: **Janet Johnston,**

Eric Finley, Margaret Williams

Musicians: **Robert Mackay, Ken Martlew**

Contact: Valerie Frazer, tel: 01252 843001.

Musicians' Workshop led by

David Cunningham

Contact: May Sloan, tel: 01428 604868.

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming attractions to be held at St.

Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1

Fridays: Upper Hall 7.30 - 10.30

Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 - 10.30

Unless otherwise stated

Saturday 4th September **Craigievar**

President's Night with jacket potato supper,

7.00-11.00

Saturday 2nd October **Dalriada**

Friday 29th October **Hallow'een Party Night**

Saturday 20th November **Caber Feidh**

Friday 26th November **St Andrew's Night**

Saturday 18th December **Frank Reid**

Christmas Dance, 7.00-11.00

Saturday 8th January 2005 **Karl Sandeman**

Haggis, Neaps and Tatties supper, 7.00-11.00

All dances will be talked or walked through on

request. For further details contact: Frank

Bennett on 020 8715 3564, e-mail fb.

lhc@blueyonder.co.uk, or Roger Waterson on

020 8660 5017. You can also telephone our

"Dial-a-Programme" service on 020-8763 8096

to hear our programme, or leave a message.

Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so

please come along and join us for an enjoyable

evening. Visit our website at:

www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk.

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Annual Ball

Friday 7th January 2005

The Craigellachie Band

Come and join us in our excellent new venue,

Allum Hall, Borehamwood, WD6 3PJ.

Programme and further details in next issue.

Enquires: Jim Henderson, tel. 020 8954 2586.

RSCDS BRISTOL BRANCH

Day School and Evening Dance

Saturday 13th November 2004

Teacher: **Jimmie Hill**

Musician: **Gordon Simpson**

Evening Dance with

Hugh Ferguson and Dalriada SCD Band

Details from Sara Jackson, tel: 0117 973 4914.

HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball

Saturday 6th November 2004

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

West London Academy, Bengarth Rd, Northolt.

The Craigellachie Band

Programme: Cramond Bridge, Kilkenny Castle,

Pelorus Jack, The Lochalsh Reel, The Moray

Rant, The Pines of Pitlochry, Ray Milbourne,

The Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord, Joie de Vivre,

Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Hooper's Jig, The

Duchess Tree, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, Airie

Bennan, The Byron Strathspey, Clutha, Father

Connelly's Jig, Foxhill Court, Mrs MacPherson

of Inveran, Ian Powrie's Farewell to

Auchterarder. Extras: A Trip to Bavaria, The

Belle of Bon Accord, Cape Breton Island.

Tickets, £14 (including buffet) from

Margaret Wallace, tel: 020 8560 6160.

Email: margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk.

ISLE OF WIGHT WEEKEND SCHOOL

18th - 20th February 2005

Teachers: **Rachel Wilton, Duncan Brown**

Musicians: **Robert Makay, Hugh Ferguson**

The Dalriada Band

For an application form please send s.a.e. to

Frances Packwood, 16 Churchill Road, Cowes,

I.o.W. PO31 8HH.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT

Are pleased to announce their

New Year Ball

Saturday 8th January 2005

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Wallington Public Hall, Stafford Rd,

Wallington.

Green Ginger

Details: Maggie Westley, tel: 020 8647 9899

email: mwestley@bibra.co.uk

or Gill Russell, tel: 01372 812821

email: rusmar.ashtead@virgin.net.

READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

is holding its annual day school on

27th November 2004

At Thameside School, Reading.

Teacher: **Rachel Wilton**

Musician: **George McLennan**

Cost £6.50 for the afternoon school.

£6.00 evening dance, £12.00 for both.

Contact Janet Wright, tel: 0118 972 2945

or email stasec.f2s.com.

SANDERSTEAD SCOTTISH DANCERS

St Andrew's Dance

Saturday 27th November 2004

7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill,

South Croydon.

Robin Ellis and his Band

Tickets £12, including supper with wine, from

Joyce Patrick, tel: 020 8657 6138.

Email: joyce.patrick@tiscali.co.uk.

THE SILVER COLLECTION From The Leicester Branch RSCDS



This collection has the music for ten dances devised by members of the Leicester Branch of the RSCDS. The collection also includes the music and instructions for five leaflet dances devised by members over the years to celebrate people and events.

With one or two exceptions the original tunes have been composed specially for this collection and recorded by **David Cunningham**. David's careful selection of additional tunes enhances the whole experience.

There is also a book available separately containing instructions for the dances and the music for the original tunes to complement the CD.

The Silver Collection is priced at:

The Book alone	£3.50
The CD	£12.00
The Book and CD	£15.50
P & P	£1.50 (UK only)

Copies of the CD or the book or both may be ordered by post, telephone or email from the Hon.

Secretary:

Mrs Doris Buchanan Tel: +44 (0) 116 241 5857

9 Alcester Drive email:

Leicester. LE5 6LB doris.buchanan@virgin.net

Cheques should be payable to RSCDS Leicester Branch.

Visit www.leicesterrscds.org.uk for sound bytes of the original tunes.

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB. Dancing most Mondays 8.00-10.15 p.m. Sept to June at the Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. All welcome. Details and map see www.geocities.com/abcd or from Anne, tel: 01235 204155.
- ADDESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15 - 10.15 p.m. September to May at Abraham Cowley Unit Hall, St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey. Details from Jane Warner, Tel: 01483 763666.
- ALDRINGTON (HOVE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday 8.15 p.m. to 10.30 p.m., September to June. Details from John Steer, 57 Hangleton Road, Hove, E. Sussex BN3 7GH. Tel: 01273 416893.
- BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB meets Tuesday evenings, September to May. Garden dances June and July. Contact: Linda Godbold, Alize, Shootersway Lane, Berkhamsted HP4 3NP. Tel: 01442 866651.
- BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH R.S.C.D.S. meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth. Newcomers and Beginners 7.15 to 8.45 p.m. Improvers/Advanced 9.00 to 10.30 p.m. Weekly children's classes. Technique class by invitation - alternate Wednesdays. Details from Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Rd, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX. Tel: 01202 698138.
- BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details from James on 01273 737498 or Carol on 01903 207493. Website: www.rscds-brighton.org.uk
- BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Thursdays 7.30 - 10 p.m. at Balfour Junior School, Balfour Road, Brighton. Details from Carol Catterall, tel: 01273 564963.
- CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details from Rhoda Finch, 20 Redcrest Gardens, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2DU. Tel: 01276 681820.
- CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH R.S.C.D.S. Classes for all grades. Details from Roderick McLachlan, 32 New Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4BW. Tel: 01223 834163.
- CHELSEA REEL CLUB meets twice a month from October to March in St. Columba's Church (Upper Hall), Pont Street, SW1. Beginners welcome. Instruction given. Dancing to live music. Details from Ruth Hewlett, Tel: 020 8749 5471.
- CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. from October to end May, at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN. Tel: 01242 528220, e-mail mbsteele45@aol.com.
- CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING in the Upper Hall at St. Michael & All Angels Church corner of The Avenue and Bath Rd. W4 (nr Turnham Green tube), Sundays 7.30-9.30 p.m. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details Tel: 020 8743 9385 (afternoons).
- CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details from: Dick Gray, 6 Bunting Close, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5PA. Tel: 01403 264071.
- CROUCH END SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS meet Wednesdays 8-10 p.m. Sept to July, at Union Church, Weston Park, London N8. On bus routes W3, W5, W7 and 41. Small friendly group, all stages welcome, instruction given. Tel: (evgs) 020 8348 0473.
- CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH R.S.C.D.S. Branch class - all grades, incl. beginners, with technique: Purley (Fri). Other classes in the area: Beginners: Reigate & Selsdon (Tues), Gen: Reigate (Mon), Purley (Alt. Tues), West Wickham (Fri), Advanced: Coulsdon (Wed), Reigate (Thurs). Further details: Tel: 01737 551724.
- EALING SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Thurs. 8 - 10 p.m. September to May at St. Andrew's Church Centre, Mount Park Road, Ealing, W5. Details from Rena Stewart, 56 Meadvale Road, Ealing, W5 1NR, tel: 020 8998 6419.
- EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets every Wednesday, 8.00 pm at Warren Hall, Winstead, London E11, from September to May. Details from John Tanner, Tel: 020 8504 1632. www.efsa.org.uk, e-mail: john@efsa.org.uk
- EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dance classes, including beginners, (September to March). Many other activities including frequent informal dances. Details from Brian Burgess, 72 Seymour Avenue, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 2RR. Tel: 020 8786 7452.
- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00 p.m., September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details from Mrs Annette Owen, 47 Beauclerk Green, Winchfield, Hook, Hants RG27 8BF. Tel: 01252 845187.
- FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. September to mid July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Instruction by Mrs Margaret Henderson. Details from Heather Nolan. Tel/Fax: 01784 256549, e-mail: Heather@nolan75.freereserve.co.uk. Website: www.felthamsctish.fsnct.co.uk
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY dance on alternate Saturdays at various venues in the Fleet, Hampshire area, from 7.30 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. September to May. Full details from Earl Spencer, 24 Park Hill, Church Crookham, Fleet, Hants GU52 6PW. Tel: 01252 691922.
- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at the Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in term time. Details from Mrs M B MacKenzie Ross, Blythe Muse, Misbourne Avenue, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 0PD. Tel: 01494 874604.
- GREAT MISSENDEN: THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Thursdays 8.00 p.m. Oldhams Hall, Church Road, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs N. Merrick, 2 Hillbeck Way, Greenford, Middlesex UB8 8LT.
- GUILDFORD SDCDC meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wildemere Road, Guildford most Mondays at 8.15 from September to April. Teacher Paul Plummer, contact on 01483 236946.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTTS' ASSOCIATION Dancing on Tuesdays Sept. - June from 8.00 - 10.00 p.m. in Elderkin Hall, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF. Tel: 020 8870 6131.
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday at 8.00 p.m. at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00 p.m. Details from Phil Bray, 25 St. Olams Close, Luton, Beds LU3 2LD. Tel: 01582 617734.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Classes Wednesdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., Orley Farm School, South Hill Ave, Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Sheena Henderson, 92a Kenton Road, Kenton HA3 8AE. Tel: 020 8907 6581.
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Fridays 8-10 p.m., September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB. Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30 to 11.00 p.m. Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.
- HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to July, tuition followed by social dancing. Also monthly Saturday dances and ceilidhs. All at Heston Methodist Church Hall. Details from Mrs Rosemary Mitchell, Tel: 01784 254401.
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS meet Wednesdays September to June at Holy Trinity & St. John's C. of E. Primary School, St. John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7.00 to 8.00 p.m. General 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. Tel: 01843 869284.
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Some major functions held at other London venues. Details: adverts in *The Reel* or contact Frank Bennett, 12 Liffingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 BTG. Tel: 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096.
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday 8.00 p.m. at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courrier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, tel: 01628 628372. www.maidenhadsctishdancing.org.uk.
- MAIDSTONE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday 8.15 - 10.15 p.m. at the Grove Green Community Hall, District Centre, Grove Green, Maidstone. Details from Peter Green, 65 Willington Street, Bearsted, Maidstone ME15 8JR, Tel: 01622 737649.
- MARKET HARBOUROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY. Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesday 7.30-10.00 p.m. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, "Lazonby", 9 Little Lunnun, Dunton Bassett, Luttermore, Leics LE17 5JR. Tel: 01455 209446.
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing Thursdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. at All Saint's Church Hall, Frindsbury, Rochester, Kent. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Tim Law, 44 Haig Ave, Chatham. Tel: 01634 409976.
- MID SUSSEX CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Events throughout the year at various venues. Members of SASS. Classes held before St. Andrews/Burns. Contact Mike Roberts, Bodimans, Two Mile Ash, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 0LA. Tel: 01403 732408, e-mail: mike_roberts@whicb.net.
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS. Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details from Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bleckley, Milton Keynes. MK3 5LP. Tel: 01908 378730, e-mail: jan@jange.f9.co.uk.
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB. Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. from September to May at Rocrcroft School, Stotfold. Informal Saturday Dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds. SG17 5AL. Tel: 01462 812691.
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dancing 7.45 - 10.00 p.m. most Wednesdays at Methodist Church Hall, Crayford. Beginners welcome. Details: Bill MacFarlane, 26 Lewis Road, Istead Rise, Northfild, Kent DA13 9JD. Tel: 01474 832801.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday 7.45-10.15 p.m. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Classes Monday eves at Chislehurst Village Hall. Details: Mrs V.J. Vincent, 2 Keith Cottages, Lusted Rd, Downe, Orpington, Kent BR6 7JY. Tel/Fax: 01959 575750.
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS. Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Gordon Lloyd, 47 Begbroke Cresc., Begbroke, Oxford OX5 1RW. Tel: 01865 375799.
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY. Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Rita Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Tel: 0118 975 7507. www.scotshdancingreading.org.
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00 p.m. from mid September to end of May. All welcome. For information contact 020 8977 4304.
- SANDERSTEAD SCOTTISH DANCERS. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, South Croydon. Details: Joyce Patrick, tel: 020 8657 6138.
- ST. ALBANS & MID HERTS CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing most Fridays from October to March. Group meets at Homewood Road U.R. Church Hall, Sandpit Lane, St. Albans at 8.00 p.m. Details from Mrs I. Smallwood, 26 Gresford Ct, St. Albans, AL4 0UB. Tel: 01727 760878.
- ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON). The Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB. Tel: 020 8540 1755.
- ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Sept to May, 7.15 to 10 p.m. Admission free except for six 'Band Nights' when tickets cost £6 inc. supper. Beginners welcome and there is step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details from Bob Harman, tel: 020 7630 1639 (day) or 020 8642 7192 (evgs), e-mail smallpipes@aol.com.
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Penelope Fisk, Sunnysbank Cottages, 15 Maidstone Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3BY. Tel: 01732 457327.
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday from September to May 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., at the Sheen Lane Centre, SW14. Details from Brian Cresswell, 16 Cole Rd, Twickenham, Middx TW1 1EZ. Tel: 020 8892 0471.
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00 to 10.15 p.m. throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details from Terry Boorman, 15 Old Farm Road West, Sidcup, DA15 8AG. Tel: 020 8302 2974.
- SOMERSET: BROADWAY SCOTTISH DANCERS meet on Fridays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. at Ashill Village Hall near Ilminster. Social dances: January, March, June, September, December. Details from Michael Cross, Tel: 01458 252001.
- SOMERSET BRANCH RSCDS. Classes at Monteclefe School, Somerton: Beginners & others Mon. 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Experienced dancers Thurs. 7.45 - 9.45 p.m. Children Sats: 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon. Ladies Step Classes monthly Fri 8 - 10 p.m. at Kingsdon. Details from: Sheila Barnes, Tel: 01458 223596.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset. Wednesdays. 7.30 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ. Tel: 01305 265177.
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Fridays, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near the hospital). Tuition 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Anne Chandler. Tel: 01702 294645.
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS. Classes in Hertford, Sept to May. Demonstration (alternate) Mon 8 pm, St Johns Hall, Inter/Adv Tues 7.45 pm, Bengoo School, Beginners Thurs 7.45 pm, Bengoo School, Dances 2nd Friday each month 7.45 - 10.45pm. Details: Mrs Maureen Ainsworth, tel: 01279 434342 or John Brace, tel: 01438 717420.
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB meets Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15 p.m. at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details from Brenda Hinton, Tel: 01273 595017.
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday at 8 p.m. September to mid June at St. Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details from David Horwill, 32 Welsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY. Tel: 01932 784866.
- THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON meets at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1, every Tuesday from October to end of May for Scottish Country Dancing. 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Tom Symington. Tel: 020 7834 7151 or 020 7828 6792.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS. Beginners, General and Advanced classes on Mon, Tues, Thurs, 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., at St. Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details from Mrs Eileen Orr, 10 Oaklands Road, Groombridge, TN3 9SB. Tel: 01892 864531.
- WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION hold weekly adult Classes for, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs Maggie Westley, 56 Mount Park, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4PS. Tel/Fax: 020 8647 9899, e-mail: mwestley@bibra.co.uk.
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Class at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey (adjacent to Bushey Golf and Country Club). Thursdays from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Stuart Kreloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford, Herts WD17 4GE. Tel: 01923 492475.
- WAVERLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Winchester, every Thursday from September to the end of June, 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details: Mrs Pat Mumford, tel: 02380 252570.
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Mondays 8.00 p.m. Dance Class. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details from Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford. WD19 5HF. Tel: 020 8421 0470.
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS Classes Tuesdays 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., Club night (all abilities) Wednesday 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., Both evenings take place at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details from Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ. Tel: 01264 363293, e-mail wendy@mumford.com.
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Wednesday 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from Mrs Rita Corrie, 14 Coleridge Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 6DH. Tel: 01621 854006.
- WOKINGHAM: St. John's SDC meet every Thurs 8 - 10.15pm Sept to May at St. Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Tel: Sue Davis 01344 774344, 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne. Also Childrens' Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, tel: Deborah Driffin 01344 776831.