



The Reel

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

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No 278

DECEMBER 2011 to FEBRUARY 2012

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



Shirley Cathcart

Angela Young

TWO MUSICAL FAMILIES UNITED

London Branch Chairman, Angela Young and nationally acclaimed keyboard bandsman and arranger, Graham Berry, were married on 21 October, at Craigiebuckler Church in Aberdeen. Ian Muir (Prestwick) and his band played for the reception at Maryculter House Hotel. The dance floor was packed for a ceilidh which did include the country dance *Airyhall Delight*, devised by Angela's mum, Doris. We wish the happy couple a long and happy marriage.

RACHEL WILTON

Ruth Beattie, RSCDS Chairman, presents
Rachel with the Society Scroll
(see page 2)



CHRISTMAS DANCE

Saturday 17 December 2011
7.00 - 10.30pm

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

**James Coutts
and his Scottish Dance Band**

It's Just for Fun	33/6
Red House	7/2
Wisp of Thistle	37/4
Major Ian Stewart	35/4
The Black Mountain Reel	Carnforth III/1
The Silver Tassie	Leaflet
Muirland Willie	21/9
Culla Bay	41/2
The Reel of the 51st Division	13/10
Best Set in the Hall	46/7
The Reverend John MacFarlane	37/1
Altshealach	23/2
The Chequered Court	42/3
Back to the Fireside	38/4
The Lea Rig	21/5
The Nurseryman	37/7
S-Locomotion	41/8
The Duke of Perth	1/8

Members £17.00, non-members £18.00
Reception drink and refreshments provided
Those with Highland / Evening Dress are encouraged to wear it.

BURNS SUPPER AND CEILIDH DANCE

Saturday 14 January 2012
6.45 - 10.45pm



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

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

Admission, including Burns' supper,
£11.50 for RSCDS members,
£14.50 non members.

All tickets to be purchased on the door.
Further information available from:- Peter
Knight: peterknightqueensquay@yahoo.co.uk

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



WINTER WEDNESDAY

Branch Dance

Wednesday 15 February 2012
7.00 - 10.00pm

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

Music by Dave Hall

Mrs Stewart's Jig	35/1
The Sailor	24/4*
The Wind on Loch Fyne	Dunedin
Napier's Index	45/8
Scott Meikle	46/3
Sugar Candie	26/9
West's Hornpipe	5 for 1965/3*
St Andrew's Fair	5 for 1982/2
The Piper and the Penguin	Scotia/6
Anna Holden's Strathspey	42/2
Machine Without Horses	12/12*
The Rev John MacFarlane	37/6
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	3 for 2006/2
The Reel of the Royal Scots	Leaflet*

*Also in Collins/Guide to SCD

Admission including light refreshments Members
£9:50 / Non-members £10,
Children £2, but members' children admitted free.



Issue No 279 will be with UK based members by 11 February 2012 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent preferably by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk. Postal contributions should be sent to Wilson Nicol, 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS to arrive by

14 January 2012. (Issue No 280 will arrive by 28 April 2012).

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

Rachel Wilton

Citation for a Society Scroll

Rachel has been an enthusiastic and dedicated servant of the Society for many years. She served on the Executive Council and Management Board for 13 years and on the London Branch Committee for over 15 years. As Classes Co-ordinator and later as Branch Chairman she ensured that everyone received a warm welcome, and as a teacher and dancer all over the world she has never failed to epitomise the social spirit of Scottish country dancing. She is a perfect ambassador for the Society, and she has inspired hundreds of dancers with a personality that projects fun and friendship.

AGM Report – November 2011

Once again, a large team of delegates, friends and supporters of London Branch travelled to the AGM meeting and conference weekend, held this year in Glasgow. As in recent years, the weekend contains much more than the AGM itself. There was, of course, the Ball and Dance held on the Friday and Saturday evenings respectively which provide the social focus for the weekend and opportunity to do what the whole exercise is all about – dance socially with our friends and make new ones. There were question time/themed sessions, Michael Nolan giving advice on PR aspects and the traditional Saturday morning dance class.

The meeting itself was very well run, chaired in an authoritative but sympathetic manner by the Society's Chair Ruth Beattie. The absence of the Society's President Alastair MacFadyen through illness was, sadly, one of a number of items of news on distinguished contributors to the Society to give us cause for some concern. On a brighter note, it was great to see Rachel Wilton honoured with a Society Scroll for all her work in support of Scottish country dancing; there were four other very deserving recipients spanning the globe from North America through to Australia.

The officer bearers, auditor and committee members were duly elected. Mervyn Short from the London area will sit on the Education and Training Committee for the next three years. I was struck though by the lack of nominees for these positions. This reflects a similar position in the Branch and it is worrying that, either through lack of interest or time, members do not feel able or willing to make the commitment to contribute to the work of the RSCDS in this more formal way.

• The Secretary, Committee Convenors and Treasurer gave informative updates on the work of the Society. Much of this is contained in the nicely produced Annual Review 2011 document. Highlights include:

- Work to update the Manual, and make it easily available on line;
- Successful organisation of the Summer and Winter Schools and Spring Fling;
- Initiatives to promote good teaching, train new teachers, revise the medal tests and generally maintain standards of Scottish country dancing worldwide;
- Improvements to the media and digital communications (including website) produced by the Society;
- New CD to go with the revised Collins book;
- Ideas to enhance the 90th Anniversary celebrations of the RSCDS in 2013; and,
- A sitrep on progress against the three year

Strategic Plan, now currently half way through its cycle.

In terms of finances, the Society is now in a very positive position, both in terms of its annual profit and loss figures and its overall balance sheet. That is to say, we are richer in terms of reserves than we have ever been, and our income in the foreseeable future appears able to meet projected expenditure. While all very satisfactory, there is a vital underlining challenge for the Society – its membership is continuing to fall consistently and the overall demographic make-up is skewed away from the young.

With one exception, the motions this year were non-contentious. Membership subscriptions were held at £15, a new committee to look exclusively at youth issues (including the annual Spring Fling event) was formed, and a minor editorial change was made to the constitution.

There was a longer discussion about the motion from Toronto about funding of examination centres. There was in essence broad support for the notion that central subsidy of the crucial work of training teachers was a good thing and that through the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund this was affordable. But, the details of how best to subsidise the process, particularly whether support to the candidate itself was more important than to the organising centres and whether satisfactory mechanisms already existed to do this, more strongly divided opinion. There was a sense that more work needed to be done to define precisely what the Centre should and could do to help, and how best this could be administered. There was serious discussion within the London delegation on this, Andrew Kellett spoke well in outlining our overall support for the thrust of helping train teachers while noting some of the problems with the motion as presented. The motion was defeated but I hope the Education and Training Committee will go away and address the important issues it raised.

Once again, it was a very enjoyable weekend, a worthwhile canter through the Society's business and an important part of maintaining the good workings of the Society's governance. While it was great to see a few sets of enthusiastic young dancers at the evening functions, enjoying the dancing and each other's company, their relatively small numbers combined with clear indicators of ageing membership and declining interest in running the organisation sharpened my concern that recruiting new members and cultivating their passion for all that Scottish country dancing brings is the central challenge - and that is true for us in London as much as anywhere.

David Hall

EDITORIAL



There is nothing like discussion to broaden one's understanding and knowledge of a subject. We are trying to stimulate discussion in *The Reel* but we must say that there is disappointment with the response to last issue's 'bait'. What we were hoping for was a mature and positive response addressing some of the problems.

Here is another interesting situation: although RSCDS published dances form only a small minority of all the dances available, they constitute the major part of the most popular dances in the South East of England programmes. Does this suggest that most of the non-RSCDS dances are just one month wonders or danced only local to their provenance? Are the most popular dances in other areas of the world likewise RSCDS biased?

Wilson Nicol

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Patron
H.M. The Queen



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Chairman – Ruth Beattie

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COMMITTEE

Elaine Davies, Wilson Nicol, George Potts,
Jerry Reinstein, Thelma-Jane Robb,
Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw, Elaine Wilde

Co-ordinators

Classes: Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw
Dances: Angela Young
Demonstrations: Elaine Wilde
Publicity: Marjory Reid
Youth: Angela Young

Non-Executive roles

Membership: Gaynor Curtis*
Bookstall: Ian Anderson*
Hon Archivist: Iris Anderson*
Webmaster: Meryl 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.

RSCDS MANAGEMENT BOARD

As usual the October meeting of the Management Board covered many different topics but it started with finalising details of the upcoming AGM at the beginning of November.

A new logo for use by Affiliated Groups had been designed and agreed by the Board, and there was a brief discussion of the report by a new group set up to discuss Affiliated Groups, and what the Society could do to help them and encourage their formation.

It was agreed at last year's AGM that £100,000 would be set aside as a Development Fund, and the Board has now approved the precise terms of reference and detailed rules to be followed when applying for money from this fund. Guidelines for applicants seeking funding from the Jean Milligan Fund were also submitted and approved, and all of these will be available from Headquarters.

The Executive Officer as usual gave a very comprehensive and detailed report on her work and the activities of the staff in HQ. A major point that arose from her report was the work undertaken by the development officer, who has been funded by Creative Scotland. It was decided that the Society would give some additional funding to enable her to consolidate her work, now that it is coming to fruition.

It was agreed that a decision was needed regarding the legal status of the Society to provide some financial protection for the Board Members, and the vote was overwhelmingly in favour of moving to a Company Limited by Guarantee.

The group working on developing material to emphasise the health benefits of SCD have developed a letter for distribution to health professionals, but are still working on developing a suitable poster for use in Doctors' surgeries – (there are questions, such as should male dancers be shown wearing a kilt or trousers!)

Membership Services committee reported regarding possible developments to the website, especially trying to solve the problem of trying to find items. As reported in the Scottish Country Dancer, an electronic version of the Manual produced by two overseas members is now available on the website.

There was discussion regarding the call for new dances for publication in 2013, and the overall strategy of producing books – should it be every one or two years? I suspect that any decision made will be altered by future Boards.

Part of the meeting was given over to receiving a report from the Media Development Officer, who was one month into his initial three month appointment. His initial brief is to develop a detailed set of recommendations, and this preliminary report explained some of the unexpected problems that he had already encountered. It is expected that the initial work will be completed in time for the next Board Meeting at the end of November.

And finally we had a slight change to the composition of the Board – Ross Robertson had taken on the temporary duties of Treasurer after the last AGM, when we ceased to have a Finance Committee. As the board has selected a new Treasurer who automatically becomes a Board member, and who will present the accounts at the AGM, Ross relinquished his post at the end of the meeting, and I would like to say that he has been a highly valued member of the Board.

Malcolm Brown

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It seems no time since I wrote my last message for *The Reel* but so much has happened since then – including my becoming Mrs Berry!

What a night we had on the 17 September with Jim Lindsay and his band – it was great to see so many there with fantastic music and a good standard of dancing. The numbers attending dances and the overall standard were among the things that stood out for me when I first attended London Branch dances, and to maintain that standard is tremendously important to me as Chairman.

The 17 September also saw the first Children's Class for the term with those who had sat Medal Tests receiving their certificates and medals. Their delight in dancing well, receiving good comments and feeling a sense of achievement gives hope for the Branch of the future.

Classes got underway at the new venue of Park Walk – thanks to those committee members who are attending and managing these each week. I'm sorry that due to my work in Salford I can't be there, and I really appreciate the Classes Committee's work at welcoming new dancers and class members.

The new Basic Skills class is a trial venture and we need your feedback on how that is going. The aim is to ensure that new dancers have a good grounding while more experienced dancers polish steps, formations and overall dancing technique to keep the standard of dancing in the Branch something we can all be proud of.

The Day School in October was well attended and went extremely well. Many thanks to Margaret Catchick for all her work in co-ordinating the day – finding teachers and musicians to inspire those attending, as well as making sure that the day ran smoothly.

On a personal note I look forward to seeing and dancing with you at our Dance Scottish Day in November and at the Christmas Dance.

Let's end 2011 dancing into 2012!

Angela

COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

During the coming quarter, the London Branch committee will meet on 17 February and 23 March, and there will be an additional meeting in March to compile a budget for 2012-2013. Suggestions for items to be discussed should be sent to the Secretary at least two weeks if possible before the dates of the meetings.

Branch Facebook

The Branch now has a new Facebook page which has details of all the Branch's events including classes and dances. There are also photographs of recent events. You can "like" the page by either going to the Branch website at www.rscdslondon.org.uk and clicking the "like" button on the right hand side of the front page, or search in Facebook for RSCDS London Branch and choose the page option (the old Facebook group is being archived).

Meryl Thomson

PHOTOGRAPHS

Readers are invited to submit photos of dancing events in the SE England for publication on the website and in *The Reel*. These should be sent as soon as possible after the event to both editor@rscdslondon.org.uk and website@rscdslondon.org.uk.

The name of the photographer should accompany each photograph so that due acknowledgement can be made.

Photographs should not be embedded in text.

COMPETITION

"LONDON OLYMPIC REEL"

With the London Olympics fast approaching, we are inviting readers to enter a competition to devise a simple, enjoyable, round the room dance to be called

"London Olympic Reel"

which we can use at dancing events during London 2012. The aim is to keep the dance simple enough for new dancers and visitors to be able to enjoy taking part in it at any of our events. There will be a small prize for the winner and the winning dance will be published in *The Reel*.

Why not make this a project for the Christmas/New Year holidays? Please send your entry along with your choice of music and your contact details to Marjory Reid at either vicechairman@rscdslondon.org.uk or 20 Hopwood Close, London SW17 0AG by 31 January 2012.

SOUTH EAST REGION TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING

25 SEPTEMBER 2011

SERTA's Hemel Hempstead meeting comprised two excellent workshops.

Marilyn Watson's session was in three sections – teaching an After School Club, typically 5-6 year olds; teaching Private Children's Classes – for children from age 4½ and teaching teenagers until University.

In each group the vital thing is to grab the children's interest with exciting, enjoyable classes, and variety. With School classes made-up easy dances are used with fun titles like *Dinosaur Jig*, *The Friendship Circle*, and the *Fairy Ring*. We enjoyed dancing these. End of year certificates and demonstrations at the School Fete provide incentives.

Private Children's Classes have the same routine as School Classes, beginning and ending with an easy dance, varying step practice, and correcting faults weekly to stop bad habits developing. Variety is added via step and Highland dancing, displays, and writing dances. This encourages teenagers to stay on until University. Thus Marilyn's message was think bigger than a weekly class, with parties, outings, running their own dance, helping with younger children's classes, etc.

Robert Mackay's talk on Music on Scottish Dancing was most entertaining with many musical examples. He ran through the nine rhythms commonly used in SCD, and gave several examples of ways the pianist can help the dancer.

Ways to improve the partnership between pianist and teacher were suggested, including checking that the piano position allows eye contact. The teacher should limit talking and bring the music in as soon as possible. (Robert has resorted to crosswords or Sudoku with garrulous teachers). Let the musician know the music required well in advance, particularly with new musicians, so they can get supporting tunes together. With so many more dances than formerly the musician cannot have all the dance/tune books, so give your musician the music with non RSCDS dances.

When making up a dance programme Robert advised talking to the musicians beforehand, and giving them the proposed programme for their comments.

Jane Rose and helpers kindly organised the refreshments for the day.

Next SERTA meeting is on 18 March in Purley, led by Anne Smyth. It is open to all who lead an SCD group whether qualified teachers or not.

Barbara Martlew

BRANCH CLASSES

Try the new Classes and have fun!

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher / Musician
BASIC SKILLS	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00	Park Walk, King's Road, Chelsea, London SW10 0AY	Teachers Davinia Miln and Rachel Wilton / Musicians Jane Ng and Ian Cutts
ADVANCED TECHNIQUE	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00	Park Walk, King's Road, Chelsea, London SW10 0AY	Teacher Pat Davoll Musician Ken Martlew
GENERAL DEMONSTRATION	Wednesday Tuesday	2.30 - 4.30	St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD <i>For details contact Elaine Wilde 01582 834815</i>	Teacher Jeni Rutherford Teacher Paul Plummer Musician Sandra Smith

Classes start on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 January 2012. Half term will be on Wednesday 15 February. Term will end on 21 March.

Wednesday evening classes cost £65.00 for ten week term (£60.00 for Branch members).

For members and non-members each half term costs £35.00. The cost per session is £8.00.

The term for the Wednesday afternoon class begins on 4 January, half term 15 February, and will end on 21 March 2012.

For further details regarding the Wednesday afternoon class please contact Jeni Rutherford email jrutherford@freeuk.com

SUNDAY ADVANCED TECHNIQUE CLASSES

Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RT
(minutes from Richmond Station)
(PLEASE NOTE – NEW VENUE)
11.00am - 1.00pm

Sunday 15 January 2012

Teachers: **Philippe & Lindsey Rousseau**
Musician: **Ian Thomson**

Sunday 25 March 2012

Teachers: **Philippe & Lindsey Rousseau**
Musician: **Angela Young**

Cost: £8.00 per session

Local establishments available for lunch.

Further details from Margaret Shaw
on 020 7329 2847

or email: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

HIGHLAND/STEP ONE DAY WORKSHOP

Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RT
(minutes from Richmond Station)
Sundays: 4 December 2011, 19 February 2012 and 1 April 2012

We will again be running a series of three one day workshops incorporating Highland Dancing in the morning and Ladies' Step in the afternoon.

The first of these Workshops, which will take place on Sunday 4 December 2011, will be taught by:

Highland: **David Hall**
Ladies' Step: **Joan Desborough**

All those attending the Workshop are welcome to stay for the whole day or come for either the morning or afternoon sessions.

The cost will be:

All day (RSCDS member) £18.00

(non-RSCDS member) £20.00

Half-day (RSCDS member) £9.00

(non-RSCDS member) £10.00

The Highland class

will commence at 10.30am

and run till 12.30pm (morning coffee at 10.00am). The Ladies' Step class will

commence at 2.00pm and run till 4.00pm.

There are local establishments nearby for lunch.

Contact Margaret Shaw on 020 7329 2847
or email: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Demonstration team update

The season has kicked off very well with our new teacher, Paul Plummer, giving us different challenges in the form of a changing/evolving repertoire, as demonstrated recently at the very successful London Branch day school in October. We have also added to the growing team numbers by welcoming David Massie back into the team and Alison Raisin as a new member.

In addition to us having to get our heads around new dances and dance forms Paul is making us work very hard on technique... yes, we too have to put in many hours maintaining and improving our dancing! Hopefully you will see the fruits of our continuing endeavours at the family dance on 26 November and Branch dance on 17 December.

Despite growing numbers the team is always happy to welcome new members, especially men currently. If you would like to join us, and consider that your dancing technique and stamina is up to it, please feel free to either talk with Paul or me when you see us at an event/dance or contact Paul on plummers5@ntlworld.com or me on 07779 202529, demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk

Elaine Wilde

BRANCH BADGES

The Branch badge is based on the rectangular Reel masthead logo which first appeared on issue no. 40, December 1957 - January 1958 when the annual subscription was 5/- and life membership was a mere £3 3s 0d.

These elegant badges are available in a smart enamel and polished finish and are modestly priced at £4.00. They are available from Jeff Robertson on 01903 245718 or email: businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk or from Ian Anderson at the Branch Bookstall on 01420 84599 or bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk

Please continue to support your Branch.

Jeff Robertson

Erratum

We apologise for confusing the captions in the golden oldie photos on page 12 in the last Reel. Photograph No 2 is the London Branch **Diamond** Jubilee dance at Porchester Hall 1990, and photograph No 7 is the **Golden** Jubilee Ball at Bloomsbury Crest Hotel 1980.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

Children's Classes

The Branch children's class continues on

Saturday mornings

18 November and 17 December

10.15 - 11.30am

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

Teacher: **Angela Young**

Newcomers are always welcome!

Family Day – Saturday 24 March

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

11.30am - 1.00pm

Children's Class

followed by lunch for all dancers

2.00 - 4.30pm

Dance to the music of **Dave Hall**

Dances will be chosen from:

The Barmkin, The Charlestown Chaser, Cumberland Reel, The Dashing White Sergeant, The Dhoon, Domino 5, Easy Peasy, Espie McNabb, The Flying Scotsman, It's All Right, The Loch Ness Monster, Le Papillon, Round Reel of Eight, The Waratah Weaver – as well as all your usual favourites!

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

For more details please contact Angela Young on 07976 353608, youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

LONDON BRANCH CHILDREN

In June members of the Branch Children's Class sat their Introductory and Grade One Medal Tests.

The children worked hard and all did extremely well, gaining good marks from the Medal Test Assessor Marilyn Watson.

Those who took the Medal Tests and deserve huge congratulations were: *Introductory* – Millie Bartop, Adelina Donaldson, Oran Lynch, Emily Peters. *Grade One* – Beth Fairbairn, Maddie Jones, Iona Lynch, Catriona Stewart, Andrew Ronayne, Thomas Ronayne.

BEGINNERS' DANCE

"Easy and Enjoyable"

Saturday 24 March 2012

7.00 - 10.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1 0BD

The Loch Ness Monster	Graded Bk 2/1
Johnny Groat's House	18/1
Lady Glasgow	MMMI/27
Kiss Under the Stairs	MMIII/18
The Flowers of Edinburgh	1/6
Seann Truibhas Willichan	27/9
It's All Right	Graded Bk 2/12
Neidpath Castle	22/9
Round Reel of Eight	27/7
Jig to the Music	Graded Bk 2/7
Corn Rigs	4/12
Braes of Breadalbane	21/7
Miss Hadden's Reel	23/5
Maxwell's Rant	18/10
Ca' the Ewes Tae the Knowes	16/8
The Wild Geese	24/3
12 Coates Crescent	40/5
The Reel of the 51st Division	13/10

Members £9.50 / non-members £10.50

More details in next Reel

FORTHCOMING DANCES

- 24 March: Afternoon Family dance
David Hall
- 14 April: Evening Spring dance
Combined Societies
Craigellachie
(hosted by The St Columba's Dancers)
- 19 May: Dance to the Musicians
with **Liam Stewart**
- 16 June: June Jig **Ian Robertson**

London Branch Returns to White Rose Festival

Venturing north to Leeds for the White Rose Festival, the pessimists in our group confidently predicted it would be a story of floods, transport hassles and spectacularly botched dances. Some of us had earlier memories of being stranded forlornly waiting for a taxi in the teeming rain in the middle of the night long after the Festival venue had been locked up. Others told their battle stories of trying to do some of the fiendishly complicated dances the Festival organizers have come up with in the past. Traffic jams, rail replacement buses and glitches in hotel bookings were expected to go with the territory as well. What else can you expect if you dare to go away for a summer weekend?

But if you like tales of woe you'll be disappointed to know that the worst that happened to the group was a bit of sunburn, minor blips in two of the dances and a couple of small transport glitches. The reception tent blew over twice and the band played the wrong tempo for one of the display dances, leading to a false start: apart from that, nothing much went wrong. No-one can guarantee sunshine or trouble-free travel, but much of the reason why it went so smoothly was the time and trouble put into planning the event by our Festival hosts and by those within our group who organized and prepared us (thanks to Elaine Davies, Marjory Reid, Anna Twinn and Angela Young for that).

The Leeds Festival is a fun event, more relaxed than the Newcastle Festival because it's non-competitive (so you don't get all those 'we was robbed' mutterings and complaints about opaque scoring systems) and for that reason truer to the spirit of Scottish country dancing. It's well worth supporting. My only suggestion for improvement would be for the organizers to put in more round-the-room dances and even some progressive ones (like Canadian Barn dance) to produce as much mingling as possible. Come to think of it, we should be doing more of that at Pont Street as well.

Chris Hood (Technique Class)

BLAKE KENDRICK'S SUMMER SCHOOL

Attending the RSCDS Summer School 2011 was a great opportunity for me because I was able to improve my Scottish dancing and meet dancers from all over the world.

I was in the intermediate class at the summer school. Each day in our classes I learnt how to do different dancing formations, e.g. diagonal rights and lefts. The people in my class were friendly and were very happy to dance with me. The classes were well taught and the teachers were happy to talk to us at the break, if we were finding anything difficult. I found that the classes helped me to improve my confidence and style when dancing, due to practising footwork and dances that I hadn't come across before, for example dancing a dance called *It's All Right*.

Usually in the afternoons we would have a walkthrough session to get to know the dances for the evening. Anybody from the classes could turn up to this session whether you're a beginner, intermediate or an advanced dancer. The dances would be walked through step by step and of course there was a musician in the room providing live music.

The evening dances at the university were fun and social. I made quite a few friends, and was being asked to dance by different people that I hadn't seen before. There was a live band which makes Scottish dancing a lot more fun. I also went to two dances at the Younger Hall, where the gallery upstairs meant that spectators can come and watch the dancing from a height. One night a highland dancing demonstration class did some highland dancing, and it was fun to watch and listen to the live band.

The live music really made a difference as it is much nicer to listen to than a CD player. It was good having the live band playing in the evening dances as you could see them all playing in front of your eyes. In our class we had two musicians (one for each class) one playing the piano and the other on the accordion. In terms of music in the classes the musicians provided a good rhythm for step practice.

The class teachers were very nice and understanding and helped you when you didn't understand something. The teachers taught the classes well by teaching things slightly differently each day. They were very experienced and explained clearly what we should be doing. I had two class teachers, Mary Murray and Fred DeMarse. Both teachers walked through dances step by step to make sure all the dancers in the class knew what they were doing, sometimes in the class we danced dances that we would be doing for the evening dance. Before we started we did a warm up to get our muscles ready for dancing, and just before the class finished we had some waltz time music and did a cool down to gently stretch the muscles after dancing.

To sum up I thought summer school was great fun and there were lots of nice people wanting to talk and dance with me. I am really looking forward to coming back next year for Summer School 2012. I found it a fun week doing Scottish dancing in Scotland. I also thought it was a chance to dress up and wear a kilt and look like a real Scottish dancer! At the end of the last morning class I thanked Fred de Marse (one of my teachers), and afterwards he said "Good job, keep it up Blake!"

I would like to thank the London Branch for sponsoring me at Summer School 2011.

Blake Kendrick

BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

The London Branch Day School took place this year on Saturday 15 October at Paddington Academy, a fairly new, large school with various halls suitable for dancing. The first advanced class was taught by Helen Russell, East Yorkshire, one of the most accomplished and well known teachers in the Society. From the warm up through to the cool down she expected us to dance to the best of our ability and with her guidance we did just that, with a focus on our use of arms! Helen taught challenging dances which had awkward little twists to them – *Open the Door to Three* and *Not I*, for example, but she was able to suggest ways in which to make the awkward movements more danceable. A petronella turn the 'wrong' way, to the left, is always tricky. We danced *Bonnie Ina Campbell*, a delightful strathspey and finished with *The Immigrant Lass*. I particularly liked the way she taught the Ladies' Chain so that the turns were on the sidelines – more symmetrical. Jeremy Hill's piano playing was a most enjoyable accompaniment; the tunes he chose were lovely to hear.

After a copious lunch, and glass of wine, we headed off to the sports hall for the afternoon session with Paul Plummer, and Keith Anderson on fiddle. Paul has a relaxed manner but demands that everyone tries hard to dance to a high standard, especially during a class. He chose dances which required thought, and agility too, to accomplish the often difficult transitions between the figures. This was particularly evident in *The Golden Pheasant* – a favourite with teachers! Paul's teaching points were most helpful, apposite and succinct and we enjoyed dancing *The Alewife and her Barrel*, *Auld Lang Syne*, *Haughs o' Cromdale* and *Links with St Petersburg*, especially to Keith's wonderful fiddle playing.

The final session of the day was entitled 'Dances from the Scottish Isles' led jointly by Paul and Helen with music from Phil Jones. They selected *The Foulfa Reel*, *MacLeod's Tables* and *The Duke of Edinburgh's Welcome to Shetland*. The unfamiliar steps and rhythms were quite challenging so late in the day, but it was an entertaining hour to finish a very enjoyable day. Many thanks to the teachers, musicians and Committee for their hard work in giving pleasure to so many people!

Maureen Campbell

KENSINGTON GARDENS

Although there were only two weeks of open air dancing this season, there was an excellent turnout of nearly 100 dancers on 3 September under bright sunshine with Kafoozalum playing and Lindsey Rousseau in charge. As Lindsey reported:

We really had a very good afternoon. There were around 90 dancers with even more joining in for Auld Lang Syne at the end. They were still smiling after ten sets danced the Eightsome! I think the weather helped.

On 10 September it was Dave and Ian Hall playing with James Fairbairn as MC. The forecast was dire which may have put some people off coming and it was intermittently overcast after starting in bright sunshine. The rain came down for about 15 minutes at three thirty but it cleared and we were able to get through the rest of the programme in the dry. There were fewer dancers and spectators than the week before but we still had five sets for the final Eightsome.

Neil Esslemont played his pipes at the start of each afternoon and for the display by the Demonstration Team.

NEW RECORDINGS



BANDS



Reel of the Puffins – Jim Lindsay and his Band (HRMCD 020)
The Berkhamsted Diamond collection – Sandy Nixon and his Scottish Dance Band (BERK 001)

Jim Lindsay's CD is in two words "just superb" and that is it! His set of 8 song tunes for *Seann Triubhas Willichan* features the excellent piano playing of Dennis Morrison. There are a further 8 song tunes in reel time for *The White Cockade*. (Some of these 16 tunes began life as dance tunes before being wedded to songs – but we will not go down that road here). Buy this CD and you will not be disappointed.

Sandy Nixon's CD is to accompany 17 new dances published for (in 2012) the Diamond Jubilee of the Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club. Again, a "just superb" CD to the distinctive sound of Sandy and his Band. I must say that the Strathspeys are on the fast side by today's RSCDS preferred tempo, an 8x32 set of pastorals is 7 minutes 27

seconds, and I just love it. This track has a nice swing to it.

There are also worthy of mention, two sets of traditional hornpipes: Miss Gayton's, The Chester, The Cambridge, The Victoria, and The Trumpet – stirring stuff. Of interest to us

Two superb new CDs

in this part of the world are original tunes by Ian R Muir, Ken Martlew and Ian B Robertson. It is not in my brief to comment on the actual dances but I must mention that the instructions and the music are well laid out. Music with 4 bars to a line is commendable. There are Pilling diagrams for all the dances and teaching notes for most of them.

Well done, Jane Rose, President of the Club and the many others involved in the project (See Jane's article on page 15).

John Laurie
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MUSICIANS' WORKSHOP

London Branch are delighted that Liam Stewart will be the tutor for our next Musicians' Day on

Saturday 19 May 2012

Previous Open Scottish Accordion Championship Winner, Liam recorded RSCDS Book 9, played for the London Branch 80th Anniversary Garden Dance in Kensington Gardens and is a regular at music festivals and dances all around Scotland. A professional music teacher by day, we're sure Liam will lead an exciting day of music making with plenty of helpful hints.

Please keep the date in your diary and watch out in the next Reel for details of how to apply for a place on the course.

For further information please contact Angela Young – chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk

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SCOTTISH DANCING SURVEYS

Some of our readers may have participated in a couple of surveys instigated by Raphaëlle Orgeret of Lyon. The results are very interesting, although not surprising. She has kindly agreed that we can display the charts on the Branch website to which you are invited to refer.

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WILL THE REAL IAN MUIR PLEASE STAND UP?

There may from time to time be some confusion in the music copyrighting department as to the composer of some fabulous Scots dance tunes by Ian Muir. An intrepid dance musician with a lust for travel would have had the chance to have expert tuition from each of the Ian Muirs, many miles apart, and to play their own superb tunes and arrangements, as well as traditional tunes woven carefully into the chosen "sets".

First up, was **Ian Muir of Craigellachie Band** from the south of England, well-known around the London area at Balls and Dances. The "Argyll Scottish Dancing Group" have an October Weekend School annually at Dillington House near Ilminster, Somerset, in unique and luxurious surroundings. Ian offered to run a Musicians' Course in parallel to the Dance Classes where his wife Judith was one of the dance musicians. This was the first time it has been done and was such a success that I hope it can be repeated. Starting on Friday night, the musicians joined the dancers or were spectators at the Social Dance. Ian and Judith Muir played as a duet for the dancing, full of musical variety and invention, a taste of the tuition to come. In view of the excellent meals we were being given, it was also as well to work off some excess calories.

Saturday morning and afternoon saw practising of all the sheet music for the Saturday evening dance. A dozen musicians were hard at work building up a unified Band "sound" under Ian's patient leadership. Some of the secrets and musical tricks from *Craigellachie* were revealed and great fun was had in mastering these. We practised in a modern "Studio" where you could have heard a pin drop, and very conducive to revealing every wrong note and misapplication of the rhythm, most of which Ian instantly spotted. There was a huge plate-glass window to the studio with a fantastic view into the distance across lush green Somerset countryside. Such was the concentration upon the sheet music that only the drummer had time to appreciate the spectacle.

Saturday evening, all the musicians and instruments crammed on to the stage of the dance hall and played their heads off for the dancers. With the extra noise and bustle it felt quite different to the studio practice. One of the more discerning dancers commented on the huge Band, "That was very impressive", which made our labours feel worthwhile and I think Ian was delighted by the results. Sunday morning, we were back in the studio to play tunes and arrangements in differing styles, such as a Shetland two-step, an Irish march and a Swedish waltz. The musicians were able to let their hair down as these tunes did not have to be performed later in public!

Second up, was **Ian Muir of Prestwick**, who flew down to the RSCDS London Day School at Paddington Academy on 15 October to tutor another dozen players in the skills of Scots music. It proved to be a bravura performance of teaching, playing and discussion, followed by Ian's virtuoso music solo, at the Evening Ceilidh.

For the first hour or so Ian did not play a note but let the musicians play themselves whilst he moved around the class to assess their level. He touched on every aspect of playing for dancing: invaluable advice reaching back into the history of some of the older bands. In due course he took up the superb 'borrowed' Hohner piano-accordion and played with us, giving us confidence to play louder but with "light and shade" and a range of dynamics. Ian explained how "sets" of tunes are built up to add enjoyment for the dancers. Towards the end of the afternoon was an intriguing Question and Answer Session

when Ian did his best to cover all the queries from dancers and teachers, concerning the relationship between music, musicians, and dancers. It was extremely wide-ranging in scope and the most unlikely topics were raised and aired, which Ian answered from his many years of experience. It was a real privilege to take part and be encouraged to progress to higher levels of musical performance.

Tom Cooper

MUSICIANS' DAY Wing Village Hall

My own Band died a few years ago when the other musicians departed for the great Bandstand in the sky, so these SCD-associated Musicians Days are a Godsend to continue my musical education. I spent a few days each at the "English" Folk Festivals at Sidmouth, Whitby, and Towersey in Oxfordshire, where there was plenty of opportunity to play with some outstanding musicians in the Sessions.

Jan Jones deserves our fullest praise for organising a repeat of the Musicians' Day at Wing Village Hall near Leighton Buzzard on Saturday 3 September. Next year, she says, Keith Smith has offered to run the Workshop. Last year, George Meikle set very high standards, and this year we were privileged to enjoy that master-player David Cunningham on his piano accordion. I don't know how she manages to get these Leaders of such class to travel so far to teach us. David brought along himself, suffering badly from toothache, and his son Scott, age 15, who plays a confident set of drums and was keen to show us what he could do. We were extremely lucky with this year's participants who came from far and wide, locally and from Nottingham, Rotherham, Somerset, London and the Midlands. Some were old hands but, encouragingly, out of 13 players, some were trying Scottish music for the very first time. They had come from other disciplines such as Light Music, Show Numbers, Jazz, Brass Bands, Morris dancing, or simply as Head of Music at a school. We found this out during the first hour when David asked us to introduce ourselves and justify why we were here on the course and what we expected to achieve. Always a tricky test. It was good to see a couple of flutes, also that long-lost essential ingredient of a Scottish Dance Band, the double-bass. Somehow electronic substitutes do not replicate the tone adequately.

We worked our way through music for the Evening Dance as David added all the "tips" he has discovered on style and best tempos for dancing. He illustrated how to play badly and how to play the same tune so that dancers just have to get up and dance. "Never forget that you are playing for the dancers. Just watch them and you will know if you are playing too fast or too slow. There are some virtuoso musicians in Scotland who can play for a concert, but you can't dance to them", explained David. It was all excellent stuff. Some of our participants had not heard it before: about the printed music just being merely a skeleton or guide as to what you actually do play at a dance. David said, on reflection, that although we were very good, he

would do what George Meikle had done, and play one or two of the dance-sets solo, as they were real finger-busters. We didn't even rehearse the "Flowers of Edinburgh" set.

After an evening meal at a local inn, we were ready for the Dance itself. I have to say that the Band was one of the best I have heard for some considerable time and I think that David and Scott must have been genuinely delighted by the sound of the music. Some of the musicians did join in the tunes where David was meant to be playing solo. As David remarked, "Ye all managed remarkably well, though I think it would have been even better if we had actually practised it".

Definitely a day to remember in every respect and an eye-opener for those who were new to it. I hope the dancers appreciated all the effort that had gone into everything.

Tom Cooper



Stephen Webb

HAMILTON HOUSE

Some years ago an enthusiast (with lots of breath) suggested a song to be sung to the tune of Hamilton House while dancing it!

First Woman:

Hey, partner, and how do you do?
I turn the other so snubs to you.

First man:

I do the same to the opposite two
While you make your way to the top.

Both:

Now two little threes set forth;
The girl looks south and the man looks north.
Turn your partner for all your worth;
When you reach the wrong side you must stop.
Threes balance again with zest;
The girl looks east and the man looks west.
Twiddle-de-diddle and please do your best
To be careful of squashing my feet.
Now, all of us, six hands round.
(The book says six, but it's twelve I've found)
Back to the right with a hop and a bound
And we're ready with luck, to repeat.

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SPARKLING 60th CELEBRATION REEL ANNIVERSARY

Issue No 1 of *The Reel* came out in September 1951, and the publication has been so successful that it is the longest running Branch magazine in the RSCDS. We all eagerly await each new copy, and 'I'll just check that in *The Reel*', is a frequently heard comment. We are grateful for its appealing, informative, personal, professional presentation that keeps us in touch. Little wonder it is read the World over.

Thus it wasn't just the bubbly that sparkled and fizzed at the first Branch dance of the Season on 17 September when we celebrated 60 Reel years. Well over 100 dancers hugely enjoyed the scintillating evening, including Malcolm and Helen Brown from York, and a newly wed young couple who joined us after their civil ceremony, and were hooked by the sparkling atmosphere.

The music lifted us all, and got those feet twinkling, thanks to superb playing from Jim Lindsay, daughter Ruth, and Graham Berry. Our four MCs – Rita Marlow, Wilson Nicol, John Laurie, and Andrew Kellett guided us expertly through a lovely dance programme.

As the corks popped at half time, several previous Reel editors transferred their dancing team skills to simultaneously expertly cutting the celebration cake. (picture on page 11)

We were treated to a brilliant dancing display by ladies of the London dem team, including all the gorgeous choreography that is Angela Young's hallmark. Angela was celebrating 21 years of teaching and playing for the Branch, and this was her farewell to teaching the team. Thanks Angela for doing so much for SCD.

It was also Caroline Hamilton's Birthday, and great to say a public thank you to her for sterling work on the indispensable Southeast Reel diary.

Thank you London Branch Committee for a very special evening, and for excellent catering

enhancing *The Reel* celebration.

Above all thank you to all the 60 years of Reel editors and publication teams. You do a fantastic job, and your efforts are highly valued. But as the current editor reminded us *The Reel* belongs to each and every one of us, so keep those articles coming in please!

Barbara Martlew

WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT!

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

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

andrew.kellett600@btinternet.com or
youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

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

Think about it.

We want to help

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch costs £19.50 per annum for UK based members (£20.00 for Europe; £22.50 elsewhere). There is a discount of £3 for members aged 18 to 25 and for each of two members living at the same address. For members aged 12-17 there is a discount of £7.50. Current members of other Branches can join London Branch for £4.50 per annum if they live in the UK (£5.00 in Europe and £7.50 elsewhere).

London Branch membership brings benefits including *The Reel*, while Society membership includes the bi-annual dance publication, *Scottish Country Dancer*.

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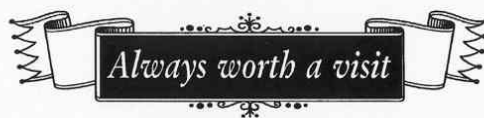
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BILL FORBES' DANCE WORLD

Dancing is something I have been involved with all my life. I come from a large farm near Buckie on the Moray Firth in Scotland. My parents were both musical – my Mother was a teacher and played piano; my Father was an excellent piper. We also had eight to ten farm workers who lived at the farm, sleeping in the 'Chaumer', which today would be known as a bothy. Some of them either played violin, melodeon, mouth organ, etc., so barn dances were a common occurrence, with dances such as *The Lancers*, *Quadrilles*, *The Eightsome Reel*, *Highland Schottische*, etc.

In the early 1950s I came down to live with my sister in Heston, Middlesex, to work for The Sperry Corporation on the Guided Missile Project. I missed the Scottish side of life so I took myself up to Fetter Lane, London on Tuesday evenings – it was The Clans Association. After a couple of months I got involved in their demonstration team, along with Ian Patience, another Buckie man.

In the late 1950s Sperry moved to Bracknell, Berks and I moved with them – that's where the dancing really took off. I met Ken Milnes who was a teacher in Bracknell and together we started the Bracknell Reel Club, which is still going well today. In the early seventies I moved to Reading, where I got involved in the Scottish National Dance Company (SNDC) with Colin Robertson who taught Highland dancing. Colin now lives in America. The SNDC used to hold day schools with excellent teachers. At one of them Anna Holden was the teacher, and she advised me to do my teacher's certificate. By this time I had already started the St John's Club at Finchampstead. In April 1977 I took my preliminary examination at Reading with Anna Holden. Then I took my finals at St Andrews, Scotland the same year. The following year I was appointed dance teacher at Maidenhead Scottish Club and after 30 odd years I still teach both Maidenhead and St John's. Needless to say both are excellent progressive clubs with great Annual Balls bringing bands down from Scotland. I also take a fortnightly class at Henley-on-Thames – so I don't have time to get old!

Looking back, the fun I've had with dancing beats everything. I taught Reading University Dancing Class for 12 years. The students were brilliant, mad and I was one of them! After all these years I still get Christmas cards from some of them from all over the world.

The professional side of dancing came to me through the Craigievar Demonstration Team. The Slough Arts Festival asked if I would enter a team for their dance competition, so I entered a Ladies Team. Surprisingly, to me, we won! ... "So, let's enter The Festival of Scotland in London" ... we won! After this we took things more seriously. We retired after 13 years unbeaten; dancing and competing all over the south. Without doubt the girls were unbeatable. Lots of teams tried – the London Demonstration team; Bath; Bournemouth. etc. I hope you don't mind if I say they weren't in the same class. The marks, usually low 90s: the best was *The Belle of Bon Accord* 96/100. There is a video of it somewhere; *The Starry Eyed Lassie* 95/100. I was so proud of them, and I had young girls wanting to join; the two Finlay sisters were bridesmaids in the third wedding in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. I myself have danced in dozens of demonstration teams all over Europe and lots of other parts of the World.

During the early days of my teaching, every now and again a pupil would ask if I would devise a dance for them or some relation, for a

special occasion. After I had devised some dances in leaflet form I was getting phone calls asking where they could get a copy, so I thought it was time to issue a dance book. Up to date I have five "Craigievar Dance Books" in print. Most of my dances have historical titles, as I love history and in Scotland we are blessed with some marvellous historical places, also dancing should be a challenge; a quick change of feet now and again, some of the old figures and formations that sadly are dying away. In Dunedin, New Zealand, a few years ago at Christmas they had a Bill Forbes Ball, I was highly honoured.

I was 90 years of age in August and I can honestly say I am one of the luckiest men in the world. My friends, lots of them, are without doubt the best in the world. When I needed medical help I was lucky enough to get the best, and I became friends with them. If you are getting on in years, don't worry! Your age is only a number. If you've just taken up Scottish dancing and it's not going as well as you would wish, don't panic – have patience. This is what I tell my class now and again. I am also a Robbie Burns fan, so I love poetry. Here is something you can learn! In our farm kitchen in Scotland there were a few poems hanging up on the walls. One was by Ella Wheeler Wilcox. It read:

"It is easy enough to be pleasant, when life flows on like a song / But the man worthwhile is the one that will smile / When everything goes dead wrong."

So I thought if Ella can write a poem, I'll have a go ...

"If you can't be the pine on top of the mound,
be a bush in the valley, but be
The best little bush for miles around
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.
If you can't be a highway, then just be a trail,
If you can't be the Sun, be a Star
It isn't by size that you will succeed or fail,
Just be the best of whatever you are."

Aye yours,

Bill Forbes

A BAND-AGE

In the immortal and slightly distorted words of Mr Oscar Wilde "To lose one band, Madam President, may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness."

Although I am heartily glad that so far no-one has levelled this accusation at me or the committee of Watford & West Herts Scottish Society, I can imagine that Lady Bracknell would not have been so tolerant.

Why all the fuss? Because ... we are currently on the third band for our 2012 Caledonian Ball, to be held at Allum Hall on 17 March 2012. The band which had originally agreed to play for us had recorded our function for the following week in their diary... Not a disaster as we were able to approach another which confirmed that they would be happy to play for us on the date. All was well until a couple of weeks ago when this second band realised that they were actually double booked for the night. Back to square one...

But finally third time lucky and we do have a band for our function. The much respected Chris Oxtoby and Strathallan have been booked. Surely this must be the end of the dramas? All's well that ends well? We shall see. We do hope you will be able to join us and share our enjoyment of their music.

Rose Kreloff

Bill Forbes - 90 Years Young

On Saturday evening 2 July 2011, Maidenhead Scottish Dancing Club and St John's Scottish Country Dancing Club jointly organised an evening celebration dedicated to a 'weel kent' Buckie Lad, Bill Forbes. He is something of a living legend in these two dancing clubs having had a connection with the Maidenhead club for more than four decades and has been its teacher close on three decades. We do not have precise dates, we just know that it has been a long and happy association! It has been established from the archives of St John's club, that Bill accepted an invitation to come and teach at that club on 5 May 1973.

The music was provided by the Craigievar Band, three of whom are Bill's relatives: Alistair Forbes, his nephew, wrote new tunes for some of the dances and the dance programme contained several dances which were devised by Bill himself. These dances are very popular and have given lots of pleasure to the Scottish Dancing fraternity especially in the BHS Borders Branch area.

A splendid two course meal was provided by members of both societies for around 90 members and guests and this was followed by Bill cutting a magnificent birthday cake made by St. John's member, Fiona Duncan.

Dancing recommenced with a demonstration performed by 8 members of St. John's club of three new dances devised to mark Bill's 90th birthday: *The Nonagenarian*, *I Can't Make It Any Easier*, and *That's All You're Getting!* devised by Ann Dix, John Fletcher and Peter Loveland respectively. Six members of the Maidenhead Club, appropriately attired, performed a well received Ceilidh item. The major highlight of the evening celebration was, however, the presentation made to Bill of a crystal decanter and glasses, with suitably inscribed phrases. We all have our own idiosyncrasies, and Bill is no exception to this. He frequently uses certain expressions when teaching two of which were inscribed on the whisky glasses: 'Never look back in dancing' and 'That's all you're getting!' It was a very joyful, high spirited evening which everyone hopes Bill will always remember with affection.

George Flett

TOO OLD?

So, you think you are getting too old to learn new dances – or perhaps too old to dance? Think again!

On 15 September Dorothy Start celebrated her 95th birthday dancing *The Dream Catcher*, one of her favourite dances. and she assures

me that at the age of 92 she enjoyed the challenge of doing a new dance but nowadays is a little more selective! Dorothy is a regularly attending member of the Tally Ho Dancers and also dances at Hertsmere, agreeing that dancing keeps her fit and mentally alert.

Moirra Strutt



Joan Marshall



London Branch Children's class show off their Medal Certificates.
Picture: Angela Young



At the Reel Anniversary Dance in September. Picture: Angela Young



Four editors celebrate at the Reel Anniversary Dance in September. L to R: John Laurie, Rita Marlow, Wilson Nicol and Andrew Kellett. Picture: Angela Young



The team who produced Berkhamsted Strathspey & Reel Club's Diamond Collection Book.
L to Rt: John Reeve, Ann Robertson, Stephen Webb, Jane Rose and Ken Martlew
Picture: Pete Williamson

Picture Pages



Jim Lindsay and his band at the Reel Anniversary Dance in September. Picture Angela Young



Orpington and District Caledonian Society celebrated the 25th anniversary of their class for Beginners and Improvers with a special Halloween Birthday Dance at St Paul's Church Hall.



Reel editors
 Jim Cook,
 John Laurie,
 Rita Marlow,
 Wilson Nicol,
 Andrew Kellett
 and Daniel Capron
 massacre the cake.
Picture: Angela Young



The Advanced Class at the October Day School at Paddington Academy. *Picture: Simon Wales.*



Debbie Lees
 persuading her class
 at the Day School.
*Picture: Simon
 Wales*



Musicians taking it all in from the maestro, Ian Muir from Prestwick. *Picture: Simon Wales*



October
 Day School:
 Paul Plummer
 teaches
 with
 Keith
 Anderson
 on the fiddle
*Picture: Simon
 Wales*

OBITUARIES

IAN POWRIE



Ian Powrie is one of Scottish country dance music's best-loved figures, with a band sound and fiddle style that were instantly recognisable. Born at Bridge of Cally, in Perthshire in 1923, Ian began

playing violin at the age of five. His father, Will, played melodeon and was well known on the Scottish country dance scene as The Angus Ploughman, but Ian's teachers forbade him to play Scottish music in favour of the classics.

Classical studies gave Ian command of his instrument and resulted in him making his first broadcast, playing solo violin on BBC Radio's Children's Hour at the tender age of twelve. The pull of traditional music, which he heard at spontaneous gatherings in houses and in the nearby fields on summer evenings, proved too much, though, and before long he was playing with his father's band.

After war service with the RAF, where he became a pilot and completed his training on the latest twin-engine planes in Canada, Ian returned to his father's farm at Bankhead, working in the fields by day and playing at dances with his father's band at weekends. Later he had his own farm near Auchterarder.

Presently, Ian took over the band, with his brother Bill on button box and sister Mary on piano, and made his first broadcast as a bandleader in April 1949.

The Ian Powrie Band, with Jimmy Blue replacing Bill and accordionist Mickey Ainsworth helping to create its signature sound, became a popular attraction, travelling all over Scotland.

The band got its first big break when Robert Wilson, whose Personal Appearance programme regularly featured Ian's band, recommended Ian to his recording manager, George Martin, leading to the record *Bothy Ballads for the Gay Gordons*, which became a best seller and when the band turned professional in 1960 it became one of the mainstays on BBC Television's iconic White Heather Club, appearing on eighty-six of its one hundred-show run. Ian also became musical director for entertainer Andy Stewart, branching out into pop music and touring Canada, New Zealand and Australia, where, in 1966, Ian started a business and decided to settle down with his family.

Once in Australia any thoughts of retiring from music disappeared and Ian became much in demand, both as a fiddler and as a judge of fiddle competitions in America and Canada.

In 1986 Ian returned to Scotland and continued to delight his many admirers with his fiddle playing. The London Branch had the pleasure of his music in November 1988 when he played with Bobby Crowe and his band in the Chelsea Town Hall. In 1999, at the age of seventy-six he decided finally to retire, still a master of his beloved Scottish slow airs. Ian died on the 5 October 2011.

PETER FYFE

Friends of Peter Fyfe were shocked to learn of his sudden illness and death in August, a few weeks after he and his wife Inés had celebrated their golden wedding. Peter was a keen member of both Guildford SCDC and Addestone & District Scottish Society, and regularly attended dances in the region, often accompanied by his niece Susana visiting from Madrid.

Glasgow born, he attended Glasgow High School then Glasgow University, graduating with an MA in Latin American Studies. This included studying Spanish, Portuguese and French and took him to Madrid for a year, Bordeaux for six months and also Lisbon. At Madrid University he not only acquired perfect Spanish but also a Spanish fiancée, Inés, a fellow language student. They married in her home town of Alicante three years later, but Peter had joined GKN after University so married life began in Birmingham and took them via Scunthorpe and Cardiff to London, where Peter's language skills were needed in the export division. This led to a two year posting to Peru in 1968, followed by a further year in Brazil before returning to the UK where they settled in Walton-on-Thames. Thereafter Peter's work involved much international travel but he remained rooted in Walton with his family and his carefully tended garden at their house "Highlands".

A successful fight against cancer interrupted Peter's career in his late fifties, and after a short return to work he took early retirement. Now he could dedicate himself to the hobbies and interests which occupied him for the next 12 years. He and Inés had already started Scottish country dancing at Addestone some years before, and typically Peter had gone at it with determination, not just to master it but to discover all there was to know. Never one to take things at face value, he delved behind RSCDS orthodoxy to understand better what had existed before. Travels to Spain and France took him into SCD clubs there, and spawned contributions to *The Reel*. With the same thirst for learning he explored stained glass, beekeeping, church bells, furthered his lifelong interest in art and history and extended his linguistic knowledge to Gaelic and Japanese.

His surviving family is a testament to his love for languages and travel: besides Inés, he leaves two sons, one in France with a Uruguayan wife, the other in Spain with a Spanish wife, and a multi-lingual granddaughter. His niece Susana writes: "Peter Fyfe was my uncle. He was the one who brought Scottish country dancing into my life. He used to take me to some of his dances and classes every year. For me it involved travelling from Madrid, but each time was special and he always made me feel so at home. Through him I have met wonderful people, and can now enjoy the excitement and the fun that SCD is and I shall always be grateful to Peter for this. He gave me all these things like a present... before leaving, and I shall miss him."

Colin Duncan

TED CLARIDGE

1925-2011



Father Christmas has died! Ted Claridge WAS Father Christmas to a now middle-aged generation. He made his annual appearance at every London

Highland Club children's party at Pont Street until 2004, when the LHC ran out of children. Every year and in every weather, into his 80s, Ted stood outside Tesco accompanied by wife Pat, as Mary Christmas, and collected money for charity. His large frame, white beard and genial disposition proved his existence to the children even though the grown-ups had another view.

Ted was born at Strathpeffer, near Inverness into an English family during his father's army posting. He was proud to be born Scottish. With his strong personality, Ted was a stalwart of many organisations. He was Secretary to the Festival of Scotland and also a president of the Scottish Reel Club which was active in London until 1990.

As a proud and keen Scottish dancer Ted attended dances in the South East. He was often seen returning home in the early hours on his moped, wearing his kilt – much to the bewilderment of the local constabulary.

Ted met his second wife Pat at Fetter Lane and they had 30 years together until his death. Away from Scottish Dancing Ted was very active in his community, particularly supporting young people whenever and however he could. He raised thousands of pounds through local projects, was made Mayor of Greenwich in 1991 and granted freedom of the borough. He was a larger than life character who will be remembered for years to come.

Linda Reid

IS THE RSCDS ANOTHER KING CANUTE?

How traditional are our old Scottish country dances? There are many instances of the version of country dances in the Society books being different from the original version in old manuscripts or books. Should we be worried?

As Hugh Thurston says 'Most original and correct versions do not suit today's speeds, steps and style – and unless the original is superior it is pedantic to insist on it. Dance is a living art and continuously develops so it is not surprising to find versions developing. If that is the case was the Society misguided in trying to 'fix' versions of dances? It is true that having a standardised version makes it easier to dance with different groups around the world. In a way the Society has been bypassed: it has published less than a thousand dances but others have compiled new dances in excess of 12,000. I rest my case: dance is a living art.

The Editor

TOM HALL the Scottish dance band leader:



Tom loved his music, in particular Scottish dance music. He was involved in Scottish dancing at university in Leeds in the 50s and, enthused by meeting Jack Delaney (one the best 2nd box players of his generation), the Scottish country dance band bug had been caught.

In Manchester he originally teamed up with his brother Ian in 1960. They formed "The Hall Brothers" with Tom on box, Ian on piano (and sometimes the other way round). Sister-in-law Heulwen soon joined on piano. They were to play together often over the following 50 years.

Tom was perhaps best known for leading The Rattray Band. Lifelong friends Hugh Ferguson on 2nd box and Laurance Beard on bass played with him in this format for over 30 years. Roy Bentley on drums and Peter Lawson on piano also made long-term contributions.

The Rattray Band was one of the most popular bands of the 1960s and 70s south of the border, especially in the Midlands and North West England. They appeared regularly each summer in Edinburgh's Princes Street gardens and provided the music for well over half of the memorable annual Scots' Night concerts in Manchester's Free Trade Hall.

I had the pleasure of playing quite regularly with Tom in latter years in the SE England often joined by Ray Milbourne or Ali Forbes on piano. He had put together a very comprehensive set of Scottish dance tunes and enjoyed listening to and talking about tunes and bands. He was generous in sharing his music folio; almost all my early band material was based on Tom's extensive collection.

'Lively', 'good to dance to' and with a real appreciation of the Scottish idiom is how I would describe the Rattray Band sound. Tom made a very valuable and much appreciated contribution to the Scottish country dance music scene and will be sadly missed by this community.

David Hall

The Most Popular Dances

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

Pelorus Jack	25
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INJURIES

I pulled a muscle last night in class,
I've a great big bandage to prove it.
It's not too bad if I keep it still
But it gives me hell when I move it.

It's rather lucky my twisted knee
Is almost entirely well,
But I'll have to look after the ankle
That has recently started to swell.

My instep is nearly better,
And the pain in my toe's getting less,
But the ligaments round the back of my heel
Are rather a nasty mess.

I had a few days of concussion,
An error in Postie's Jig -
It was only a hair-line fracture
But the bump was uncommonly big.

My shoulder has never been quite the same
Since my partner got out of hand
And twizzled me wildly in Hamilton Rant
And I ended up in the band!

Oh, it's lovely to do Scottish Dancing,
But to my eternal sorrow
I've decided it's just too rough for me
So I'm taking up Rugby tomorrow.

Pat Batt

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

London

Getting More Members

Dear Wilson,

Something needs to be done about recruitment, and increased numbers would ease the financial situation. We do not just need more young members, we need more male dancers of all ages. The RSCDS has always been female dominated, and the last thing we want is for it to be exclusively feminine. A typical turn out at my local club in Wimbledon is twenty ladies and a handful of men, all middle aged or older. It can be difficult to find anyone fit enough to move heavy equipment. The Branch demonstration team currently has 14 women and 4 men on its strength. The picture in Reel 277 of the 1977 team shows roughly equal numbers. The names on the list of the Upland Dancers medal test results are nearly all those of girls. I do not think the reason is that men and boys are expected to wear the kilt, as the majority do not seem to find this a problem, and it is not essential except for the dem team.

Highland dress appears to be very popular outside of dancing, especially for weddings and with the tartan army of Scottish sports fans. What then has caused this phenomenon in these days of equal opportunities, when girls can go out and play football or do active service in the armed forces? It may be a vicious circle. Lack of male role models at the top level may lead to lack of new male recruits. It may also be connected with the cutbacks to the Scottish regiments, as their members were always taught to dance.

A serious obstacle to recruitment is that people nowadays tend to expect instant results, and we cannot provide instant results. Dancing takes time and patience to master. I do not understand how someone can go to a Burns' Night, join in with and apparently enjoy the dancing, and yet not want to learn to dance properly. Maybe it is because there are so many other pressures on our lives today. Our dance form is also becoming more and more complicated, because the canon of dances has expanded exponentially in the last thirty or forty years. Many of these new dances contain difficult figures that would have been beyond the dreams of Miss Milligan. A lady once came along to the Wimbledon club. She had not done much dancing, and the first dance that someone attempted to get her through was a complicated, newly published one that was unfamiliar to most of those present. The result was a disaster, and she never came back. It is understandable that people will wish to invent new dances, particularly to commemorate special occasions. My daughter, Catriona, devised one for the Wimbledon Centenary Ball in March 2010. However, there is a limit to the number that most people can digest. It is not uncommon for only two or three dances out of a book of ten to become popular.

My solution to our Society's woes is therefore a back to basics campaign. The bulk of any programme should be well known and not overly complicated. A limited number of more difficult dances such as *The Dancing Master* may be included if they are marked as being suitable for experienced dancers only. This is not common practice at present, even though it would be helpful to both beginners and experienced dancers. Although I think beginners should not be expected to worry unduly about their footwork, they need to learn the two dozen or so basic figures. This is much less daunting than trying to remember thousands of individual dances, and should allow a dancer to perform most of a programme without undue difficulty. SCD is supposed to be a hobby, not a gymnastic version of Mastermind.

Elizabeth Bennett

HIGHLAND GATHERINGS

According to Ossian, the origin of Highland Gatherings is lost in the mists of antiquity; there is no written evidence of Highland competitions taking place prior to the 11th Century. The original objective was to hold a series of trials to test the speed and strength of Clansmen at a variety of activities. These trials were used to select men for different duties in the service of the Clan Chief, including different forms of fighting in the local battles which occasionally occurred. During the 12th Century the games tended to be combined with the compulsory 'wappin schwas', during which every man had to produce his weapons for inspection by the King's Officers. King Robert the Bruce eventually laid down the arms which each man should bear according to his station in life. The Highland competitions include: archery, athletics, swimming, cross country running, field events (jumping, discus and javelin) and the heavy events (shot putt, hammer, caber and weight) which gave a guide to the competitors' abilities. As the games became formalised, they developed from a local event for a Clan or District, to organised competitions between competitors from an ever expanding area.

Later years saw the addition of other forms of competition, such as the domestic arts – jam and cake making, husbandry, dancing and cycling. The dancing probably began as a social end to the day, before becoming competitive. The introduction of competition led to the formalisation of steps and figures to provide a standard on which judging could be based. The modern Highland Gatherings eventually emerged from such local competitions during the 19th Century.

John Mitchell

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hemel Hempstead

Music considerations in planning an SCD programme

Dear Wilson,

Devisers of dance programmes do not always give much thought to the music – the basis of dance. The topic was raised at two recent workshops: Robert Mackay at a teachers' meeting (SERTA) described musical faux pas he had encountered, and Ian Muir (of Prestwick) said in his discussion at the London Day School that no organiser had ever consulted him about a forthcoming programme.

With feet in both camps, I thought the subject deserved further consideration.

- Popular dances generally have great tunes – indeed some, e.g. *The Duke of Perth*, might never have seen daylight otherwise. They add a great buzz, but too many energetic reels together can lose impact.

- Ideally, the tunes should be as varied in style and character as the dances. Reels can be 2/4, 4/4 or hornpipe, and strathspeys vary even more, from schottische through crisp traditional to slow air.

- Obscure dances chosen for reasons of title significance, formation content, etc., are often included without a thought for the music. The band-leader can spend ages trying to track down a set tune, which may or may not be a good one. Some don't bother to search far; many substitute something else if they don't like it.

- Bands sometimes record tracks for named dances without regard for the original tune (or lack of one) indicated by the deviser. They really should state "suitable for" if it is not authentic – potentially a legal issue! So choosing a dance because you like the tune on your CD may be disappointing. I was once instructed to play the wrong tune for a well-known dance at no less than an RSCDS Branch Annual Ball because "it's what we are used to on our CD".

- Basic mistakes are easily made if a dance is misleadingly titled – e.g. *Kendall's Hornpipe* is a jig. I was recently given a programme with three consecutive jigs because of such oversights.

- Occasionally, most of the dance tunes in a programme happen to be in similar keys. It takes a musician to spot the problem, but dancers will be aware of an undefined tedium if it is not addressed.

- Different dances sometimes have the same lead tune – e.g. *The Eightsome Reel* and *The Deil among the Tailors*. One should avoid the clash, especially if the dances are closely wedded to the tune.

- Dancers have differing views about the right balance of Reels, Jigs and Strathspeys. A musician's input may be worth hearing.

- Musical considerations, likely encores, or what the band does best, may suggest a different running order.

These are only some of the quirks that might arise with the music in planning a dance programme. Simply adding "Consideration of the music" to the list of criteria for assembling your programme would be a start. Bands will generally just get on with what they are asked to do, making adjustments if necessary, and may simply not have the time to respond critically. However, it is a sensible courtesy to invite their comments on a forthcoming programme, especially if the leader is also a dancer. And please send them copies of relevant tunes from your obscure publications if possible!

Ken Martlew

New Zealand

Supporting Musicians

Dear Wilson,

Oh No, yet again the poor musicians are being maligned. Terpsichore Irata (Reel 277) finds it disturbing that they sometimes feature eight bars or so of a solo instrument. Personally, I sometimes wonder why they bother to play at all. Perhaps you could all hum in a rhythmic and constant manner and dance to that. An apiarist could probably teach bees to hum in eight bar phrases without any variation of tune or tone.

When the music for SCDing is so incredibly important, why on earth would we want our musicians to play the same way every time? I love the way the bands do different things (a technical term) with their music and feel it only adds to the enjoyment of the dancers. Any dancer who finds a change in musical sound destabilizing may be more in need of a shipwright (for better stabilizers) than a change in the bands' *modus operandi*.

If the bands are too inventive or unusual for you, PLEASE send them to us, we value our musicians and encourage them to "show off" all they like. Perhaps the Southern Hemisphere is just more stable.

Euterpe

London

Dance Programmes

Dear Wilson,

On the previous page the Editor has included an extract from my list of dances popular in the south-east over the last year.

They're from the Hamilton's email programmes and Summer Tuesdays, and I keep a record so that I can choose popular dances to teach the group that I run. With so many dances to choose from, I think it sensible to teach my dancers the ones they're likely to come across if they go to an event elsewhere.

What I've found over the years is that some event organizers like to pick dances that no other organizers are choosing. For example, of the 1839 dances at the 98 events last year, there were 185 dances that appeared but once.

If organizers are putting on events that will be attended only by those who go to classes run by that group, this doesn't create a problem. However my view of country dancing is that we should try to welcome newcomers, and this means providing programmes that will suit most dancers, not just the local cognoscenti.

I think organizers should look at what's generally popular, and choose programmes from a more limited range of dances. That doesn't mean doing *Pelorus Jack* all the time: there were 133 different dances on five programmes or more, plenty of scope there for variety.

Iain Ross

London N6

The Cairngorm Dancers

Dear Wilson,

Marie Jamieson whose obituary appeared in the last Reel was a founder member of the Cairngorm Dancers, and we had happy summer dances, and weekends at Hogmanay at different venues, and at Easter at Cobham Hall surrounded by a sea of daffodils.

A moment I treasure was years ago when the Cairngorm Dancers were asked to contribute an item at the Branch Ceilidh. Alex Westwood decided we would dance *Sloane Square* with a difference. Instead of giving hands we were to hand on umbrella or bowler hats. All should have gone well until Marie went the wrong way round the square. As we danced on shaking with laughter, Alex managed to sort us out so it was not a total shambles.

Mary Barker

Hemel Hempstead

Dance Descriptions

Dear Wilson,

Apart from the almost annual event of the RSCDS publishing dance leaflets or books of dances most branches or clubs wishing to commemorate an anniversary, generally of founding, are publishing such books. As a result there is proliferation of modern dances and of new tunes often to go with them. Is all this good or bad for the dance world? Some say we have too many dances and tunes already so why do we need more? Others say choice means the dancer can take it or leave it and the best will survive! Whatever your point of view on this, if a new dance is devised then it needs to be presented in an easily readable form.

Recently, I have been editing a book of dances for publication and it was important that not only each dance (by different devisers) should be consistent in description one with another but the dances should have clarity i.e. where was each dancer required to go and on which bar of music. Anyone today looking at a copy of *The English Dancing Master* of 1651 would be forgiven for not being too clear by what was meant by, 'First couple go down between the second. The third come up between the first. This forwards and back, to your places.' Read it several times and it becomes clearer though. Today, dancers simply colloquially know this as mirror or reflection reels of three for eight bars with first couple dancing in to begin.

The RSCDS however, in 1998 (now revised to 3rd ed.) published a book of 'Standard Terminology' for use in the description of Scottish country dances; it offered some guidance on how dance movements may be described (which should be read with *The Manual*). Under one of the clauses such a reel or any reel of three would be described in the same form. The first part states who is taking part and in the order they are at the start of the figure then, which direction they travel in ie across or on the sides. The next part says how the reel will begin and if not usual, how it will finish. So today, in accordance with the Standard Terminology such a reel above would be described as:

1-8 1st, 2nd and 3rd couples dance a reel of three on the sides. 1st couple dance in and down, 2nd couple dance out and up and 3rd couple dance in and up. All finish in original places.

By this logic all dance positions are unambiguously described. The enterprise that Jim Healy is currently engaged upon in unifying all RSCDS books of dance from Book 1 into A5 booklets is adopting this approach. I wish him well as only through a clear and consistent description can all dancers dance the same dance in the same way.

Dance descriptions need simply state; dance a knot or a poussette leaving the reader to refer to *The Manual* for the barring breakdown for any such figure. The RSCDS is also currently updating *The Manual* to include it is hoped such SCD figures as La Baratte, Schiehallion Reels (originally known as Reel of Eight), a Bourrel and even Rights and Lefts on the Diagonal for Three Couples.

A word of warning however, to any writers of books of dance: do please allocate sufficient time at the end for thorough proof-reading by several readers. Once a book is published it is too late!

Stephen Webb

THE BERKHAMSTED DIAMOND COLLECTION

How do you go about producing a book and CD of Scottish Dances?

A Diamond Anniversary lends itself to celebrations. Berkhamsted Club's main event will be our Diamond Ball in February 2012, however, our Diamond Collection is another highlight.

But exactly what is involved in publishing your own book of dances and accompanying CD?

Firstly, a proposal document was put to the committee; then the Club's AGM, as it involved a substantial financial undertaking. Both agreed. Stephen Webb who had initiated the project, became editor with Ken Martlew assisting. Members were invited to submit any dances.

Bands were approached and we were delighted when Sandy Nixon agreed, at a cost we could afford, having also recently been approached by Derek Hamilton of Bryansroom – everything seemed to have a serendipitous feeling about it.

A trial day was arranged. Barbara Manning was our excellent accompanist as we danced through the new dances. Stephen and Ken provided mark sheets for us to score and comment on the anonymous dances. 17 were chosen for the book to give a variety of jigs, reels, strathspeys, hornpipes and medleys, with a variety of 3/4C dances, 3C, 5C and square sets; luckily we had submissions from a variety of members, so balancing that was easy!

Then the design for the cover: fortunately, Ann Robertson (yes, wife of musician Ian!) became involved. We were impressed! Ann has terrific design talent and not only spent hours designing the book cover, CD cover and inserts, but also went on to draw all the diagrams.

Stephen and Ken then started writing the dance descriptions. They were armed with the latest RSCDS books and the Standard Terminology, but how best to describe new formations that had not been danced before? Should we have instructions or descriptions? Did the descriptions work? Did we need diagrams? Were the diagrams accurate? How thick should the lines be? How thick should the arrows be? Which type font should be used? All these points needed decisions and I will leave it to your imagination the number of discussions that took place. Thank goodness for emails and mobile phones!

Also included in our book (we think for the first time) are a full set of newly drawn Pilling Coding devised with the full approval of the Pilling Committee.

Ruth Beattie, Chairman of the RSCDS, mentioned there was a likelihood of an official logo for affiliated clubs such as ours. But would it be approved in time? Serendipity again! We are so pleased to show our support for the Society with this new logo.

Music from six other well-known musicians composed especially for some of our dances, arrived. Ken sat down to work on the arrangements; did we need arrangements? Ken was thinking of pianists in far-flung places but would these musicians prefer to arrange their own music?

Dance devisers were asked to approve their descriptions and confirm their Pilling Diagrams. Then the start of the proofing!!! This went on and on and on and on! You can *never* proof enough!

Marketing – decisions required about charges (there is a "going" rate!). Adverts and flyers needed drafting, designing then printing (arranged by John Reeve).

The CD recording date was arranged. Sandy had spent hours putting together "sets" for the music and the Band held several practices. Sandy is pleased with the finished product as we are! You can easily tell it is Sandy playing!

Final decisions about launching, P&P charges, Paypal account, order forms; I have only touched on the numerous decisions but the over-riding worry is still: will it sell?

Of course, there have been hiccups, a few major discussions (I won't say arguments!) and plenty of fun, but we have been lucky to have an experienced, diligent and cohesive team. We thanked our team on 17 October (*photo page 10*) but we also owe a debt of gratitude to many folk who have assisted us. If any other group is thinking of producing a book and/or CD we would be happy to pass on our knowledge. It is not a project to be undertaken lightly but our Club is very proud of its Berkhamsted Diamond Collection.

Jane Rose

From our Beginnings to the Present of the Schiehallion Group Madrid

When I visited London in May this year and danced at the *Musical May Branch Dance* I had the pleasure of meeting with Wilson, the Editor of *The Reel* and he invited me to write a follow-up piece from the two articles on SCD in Spain that appeared Reel 276. So, together with Marisol Martín, a founder member of our group, we have written this setting out our beginnings.

The Schiehallion SCD Group originated in Madrid in 1976, when a young Eileen Johnson, from Scotland, temporary resident in Madrid, had this idea. In those days, Scottish country dancing was practiced by members of the British community in Madrid, but their gatherings had a private nature. Eileen thought that she might get young people interested in learning SCD by presenting it to them as something connected with the Celtic music and dances so deeply rooted in Northern Spain. It worked!

Word spread and some young people joined to form a group, but even if they did so more out of curiosity than by genuine interest, the first year was very successful. With only 11 members and still no name, in June 1977 the group had the opportunity to take part in the festivities organized by the British Council on the occasion of Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee with the assistance of experienced Edinburgh dancer Brian Harry and London piper Charlie Galloway, both members of "Super London 2000".

Soon after that, the group was already able to organize ceilidhs and demonstrations at different colleges and schools and to perform at local festivities in various towns. On 30 November 1977, the group gave a performance before the British Ambassador in Madrid to celebrate St Andrew's Day.

Also in 1977, some of its members attended RSCDS summer classes for the first time, repeating the experience in 1979. Later on, the name Schiehallion was chosen for the group and it was registered as affiliated to the RSCDS.

In 1991, the Spanish city of Logroño was twinned with the Scottish city of Dunfermline, and the Schiehallion Group was invited to contribute with a performance to celebrate the event. In 1993, a few members of the Madrid group attended an international get-together for Scottish country dancers in Angers (France). It was then that they became aware of the existence of other groups scattered throughout the Mediterranean coast of Spain and Portugal, and the idea was conceived of getting to know these groups.

In Easter 1994, the Schiehallion Group organized a weekend of Scottish country dancing in Madrid inviting all the other groups in the Peninsula to participate. The turnout was massive and this gave birth to the Iberian Weekends, which are now held every year with the different groups in Portugal and Spain taking turns to host them (www.ipscdg.com). In 1996, the Schiehallion Group was invited again by

Logroño's council to dance in this city when in that year the twinning of Dunfermline and Logroño was confirmed.

In May 1999, the Schiehallion Group Madrid was registered as a non-profit organization whose only purpose is to promote and enjoy Scottish country dancing.

A very enthusiastic Fiona Pérez Peterkin is our only teacher since 2000 but currently the group faces difficult times, we meet every Tuesday in old premises in the heart of Madrid, we have in the past had experienced dancers but with constant comings and goings of newcomers it is not always easy to structure an evening of dancing to suit all. However, we keep dancing and loving it! And that's what counts, isn't it?

We are always very happy to welcome newcomers and visitors alike so if you are ever in Madrid on a Tuesday do come along and dance with us we meet from 19.30 until 21.30 in a church near a charming place called Plaza de Santa Bárbara where we shall go for a couple of beers afterwards!

email contact: schiehallionmadrid@gmail.com

Susana Page

(Schiehallion Group Madrid)

SURBITON FESTIVAL

The Surbiton and District Caledonian Society decided to take the opportunity of attracting new members by hiring a table at the Surbiton Festival on Saturday 24 September 2011.

This was a new venture and just how it might go was unpredictable. In order to save costs it had been agreed to share a table with the Kingston Group of the Ramblers' but fortunately an adjacent table was unoccupied and the opportunity was taken to spread out onto it.

The weather held good though sudden gusts of wind tended to whip any light objects or leaflets not weighted down right off the table. We were positioned near the foot of the stairs leading to the platforms of Surbiton station and were therefore guaranteed a steady stream of people past the table.

Valuable assistance was provided by a dedicated team of our members who stopped passers-by and gently persuaded them to at least consider trying Scottish country dancing. There was some genuine interest shown by a few and it is hoped that they will follow up our approaches and give us a try.

David Horwill

CELEBRATIONS IN ORPINGTON

On Monday 31 October, Orpington and District Caledonian Society celebrated the 25th Anniversary of their class for Beginners and Improvers with a special Birthday Dance at St Paul's Church Hall, Orpington. As this was also Hallowe'en the dress code allowed suitable costumes with both Silver and Sinister Black. Over 50 dancers enjoyed a rollicking evening with Robin Ellis and his Band, with a varied programme including Anniversary and Silver Dances and the Witches Brew. Angela Campbell was the master mind and MC. Angela has been involved with the class from the beginning and looked back to high and low points. We are now flourishing and are celebrating the 75th Anniversary of ODCS with a special Summer Ball on 16 June 2012 (between the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympics). If you were a member of ODCS and have moved away we would like to hear from you via "Orpington@kass.org.uk", as we have other celebrations. We would also welcome any old photos and reminiscences for a short history.

Roger Brown

(a suitably frightening picture appears on page 10)

DANCE EVENTS

Berkhamsted Strathspey & Reel Club Diamond Ball

Saturday 11 February 2012
7.00pm to 12.30am

Ashlyns School, Berkhamsted HP4 3AH
Sandy Nixon & his Scottish Dance Band

A Highland Welcome
Hooper's Jig
Gang the Same Gate
Joie De Vivre
Ocean Voyage*
Culla Bay

Champagne Reception
Piper
Highland Display

Cadgers in the Canongate

The Robertson Rant Berkhamsted Castle*
The Deil among the Tailors Inchmickery

Silver Roses*
The Triumph

Cape Town Wedding

The Buchan Eightsome John of Bon Accord

The Foundling* The Duke of Perth

The Reel of the 51st Division

Bonnie Anne

* dances will be
walked through

Seann Truibhas Willichan

James Gray

The Montgomeries' Rant

Dances Practice
Saturday
4 February
11am to 5pm

Tickets £25, includes dinner

Contact Mrs Janet Halse

Tel: 01442 246381 or

E-mail: events@berkhamstedreelclub.org

Full details: www.berkhamstedreelclub.org



WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY
Caledonian Ball
Saturday, 17 March 2012
7.30 - 11.30 pm

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

Dancing to Strathallan

Maxwell's Rant, Mrs Stewart's Jig, The Gardeners' Fantasia, The Reverend John MacFarlane, The Machine without Horses, The Duchess Tree, Airie Bannan, The Diamond Jubilee, City of Belfast, Broadford Bay, The Dream Catcher, The Snake Pass, Flowers of Edinburgh, John McAlpin, The Frisky, The Fireworks Reel, Follow Me Home, The Belle of Bon Accord, The Deil among the Tailors, The Reel of the Royal Scots.

Tickets at £19 include Buffet Supper and sparkling wine reception

Highland or Evening Dress preferred

Contact us: J.lplackett@gmail.com,

tickets@watfordscottish.org.uk

or on 07880 842370

www.WatfordScottish.org.uk

Ball practice Sunday 11 March 2012

2.00pm Allum Hall

Christmas Dance 22 December 2011

8.00 - 10.30pm

Bushey Centre WD23 1TT

Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Annual Ball

Friday 6 January 2012

7.30 - 11.30pm

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

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Bratach Bana, Airie Bannan, The Gentleman, The Piper and the Penguin, Equilibrium, The Gardeners' Fantasia, Macleod's Fancy, The Glenalmond Gamekeeper, Kinfauns Castle, The Cooper's Wife, Lady Sophia Lindsay, Bonnie Stronshiray, Father Connelly's Jig, The Plantation Reel, The Belle of Bon Accord, John of Bon Accord, James Gray, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, The Irish Rover, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder.

Tickets £18.00 (non-dancers and juniors £9.00), including refreshments, from Jim Henderson, Tel. 020 8954 2586, email: jwh698@gmail.com and Jan Alsop, tel. 07762 079 083, email: j.alsop@ion.ucl.ac.uk

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Annual Ball

5 May 2012

7.00 for 7.30 till 11.30pm

Impington Village College,

Cambridge CB24 9LX

(note new venue)

The Danelaw Band

Shared refreshments For tickets: ring Donald

Wilson 01954 210683 Details: on

www.camscotsoc.org.uk

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Annual Spring Dance

Saturday 25 February 2012

7.30 - 11.30pm

Pittville School, Albert Road, Cheltenham, GL52 3JD

Iain MacPhail

and his Scottish Country Dance Band

Programme: Grand March to the Pipes, Clutha, Pines of Pitlochry, Kilkenny Castle, Broadford Bay, Macleod's Fancy, The Minister on the Loch, General Stuart's Reel, The Cooper's Wife, The Dream Catcher, Fidget, * Johnnie Walker, Blooms of Bon Accord, Silver Strathspey, The Nurseryman, Mrs Stuart Linnell, The Singing Sands, Postie's Jig, Shiftin' Bobbins, Gang the Same Gate, Father Connelly's Jig.

Tickets £14 from John Marshall, 17 Gratton Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BT. duracellbunney@tiscali.co.uk Cheques to "Cheltenham Scottish Society" with SAE please.

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball

Saturday 3 March 2012

Harpenden Public Hall, Harpenden AL5 1PD

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme: The Reel of the Royal Scots, Chevy Chase, Bridge of Nairn, Inchmickery, Broadford Bay, The Dream Catcher, Torridon Lasses, The Dancing Master, Kilkenny Castle, The Lochalsh Reel, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Moray Rant, The Guests at Mairi's Wedding, The Iona Cross, Crossing the Line, Father Connelly's Jig, The Byron Strathspey, Napier's Index, Ray Milbourne, Equilibrium, The Blue Mess Jacket, The White Heather Jig.

Tickets £18 including supper

(Students 16-21 £12)

Ticket Secretary Val Owens 01727 863870

website HSCDC.org.uk.



ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Day School

Saturday 28 April 2012

Edgbarrow School, Sandhurst Road, Crowthorne, RG45 7HZ

Teachers: **Jimmy Hill,**

Sophie van Leersum, Ann Robertson

Musicians: **Robert Mackay,**

Ian Robertson, Caroline Sloan

For further details and application forms contact:

Gaynor Curtis: 60 Bishops Wood, St Johns, Woking Surrey, GU21 3QB Tel: 01483 721989

Argyll Weekend School

at Dillington House, Somerset

5 - 7 October 2012

Teachers: **Eric Findley, Maureen Haynes**

Musicians: **Robert Mackay, Ian Cutts**

Booking opens January 2012

For booking contact: Dillington House,

Iminster, Somerset, TA19 9DT.

Tel: 01460 258613/

For further information and brochure

email dillington@somerset.gov.uk

website www.dillington.co.uk

www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB

Spring Ball

Saturday 24 March 2012

starts 7.30pm

Emmbrook School, Wokingham, Berks RG41 1JP

Dancing to Craigellachie

Programme and details in next issue

Contact: Janette Walton 01252-875511

or tickets@camberleyreelclub.org.uk



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH

Christmas Social

Thursday 29 December 2011

St Pauls Parish Rooms, Wokingham RG41 1EH

7.45 - 10.45pm

Dancing to recorded music

Bring and share refreshments

Contact: Colin Duncan 01932 241615

Basic Teaching Skills Course (Unit 0)

Sunday 22 January 2012

Finchampstead Memorial Hall RG40 4JU;

10.30am - 5.00pm

Tutor: **Ann Dix** Musician: **Judith Muir**

This RSCDS course is for those who are already leading/teaching or are about to take on a group, but who do not wish to sit the RSCDS teaching exams. It can also be a useful refresher course for qualified RSCDS teachers who have not taught for a long time but who are about to do so.

Contact: Catherine Smith 01483 502422

Branch Day School

Saturday 10 March 2012

Court Moor School, Fleet GU52 7RY

Teachers: **Craig Houston,**

Helen Russell, Catherine Smith

Class Musicians: **Robert Mackay,**

Ken Martlew, Judith Muir

Musicians' Day School: **Muriel Johnstone**

Contacts:

Dancers; Catherine Smith 01483 502422

Musicians; Shirley Ferguson 01276 501952

Branch Ball

Saturday 19 May 2012

Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Contact: Peter Loveland 07747 112720

Visit our website on www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

DANCE EVENTS (continued)

ISLE OF WIGHT

Weekend School
17-19 Feb 2012

Teachers:**Jessie Stuart, David Queen**
Musicians: **Robert Mackay,**
.....**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

For further information contact Catherine
Packwood-Bluett, 07810 628328
or email catherinepb@hotmail.co.uk

JERSEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE WEEKEND

Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend 2012
Saturday 2 June and Sunday 3 June
Jersey Ladies College, Le Mont Millais,
St Helier, Jersey

Dancing both nights to
The Craigellachie Band

New: Friday night Class with walk-throughs (no
Saturday coffee morning)

Tickets: **£30.00** covers both nights and includes
buffet supper and glass of wine each night.
Our usual mix of old and new dances. For more
details and full programme see our blog or phone
Alan Nicolle: 01534 484375
email: alan.nicolle88@googlemail.com
<http://scottishcountrydancingchannelilands.blogspot.com>



MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB

Highland Ball
Saturday 25 February 2012
7.00 - 11.00pm

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

Frank Reid and his Band

Programme: Merry Lads of Ayr, The Zoologist,
Barbara's Strathspey, Jennifer's Jig, Crossing the
Line, Johnny Walker, The Ship in Full Sail, Mrs
Stewart of Fasnacloch, Miss Milligan's
Strathspey, The Hazel Tree, The Irish Rover, The
Lochalsh Reel, Links with St Petersburg, New
Scotland Strathspey, The Chequered Court, The
Royal Deeside Railway, Monadh Liath, Father
Connelly's Jig, Lady Sophia Lindsay, The
Minister on the Loch, Anniversary Reel, The
Reel of the Royal Scots. *Extras:* Lothian Lads,
West's Hornpipe.

Dress Formal

Bring Your own wine, soft drinks provided.
Tickets £18.00 including Supper from:
Jane Leach 16 Brudenell, Windsor SL4 4UR
Tel: 01753 869557

Please send a SAE with cheque if delivery to
home address required, otherwise tickets for
collection on arrival. Visit our website at:
www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Spring Formal Dance and Buffet
Saturday 10 March, 2012
7.30 - 11.00pm.

Reigate School, Pendleton Road,
Reigate, RH2 7NT

The Strathallan Band.

Tickets including buffet £15 at the door.
Enquiries to Wendy Mitton, tel 01737 766244.

WEST MACS CHARITY BALL

in aid of Alzheimer Scotland
Saturday 21 April 2012

Bushey Meads School, Bushey, WD23 4PA
Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band
Programme and other details in the next issue.
Tickets from Jim Henderson 020 8954 2586
email: jwh698@gmail.com

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION OF SCOTTISH SOCIETIES

Charity Ball
Saturday 10 March 2012

7.30 - 11.30pm
doors open at 6.45pm

Lewes Town Hall
High Street, Lewes BN7 2DE

The Craigievar Scottish Dance Band

£15.00 plus bring food for yourself
or £26.00 to include catering
tickets on sale from Mrs Carol Catterall
tel 01273 564963.

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Burns' Night Supper & Dance
Saturday 21 January 2012

7.00 - 11.30p.m.

Benson Parish Hall OX10 6LZ

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Anderson's Rant, Pelorus Jack, The
Flower of Glasgow, Back to the Fireside,
Ladies' Fancy, The Dream Catcher, Les Noces
D'Or, City of Belfast, The Immigrant Lass,
Granville Market, The Reverend John
MacFarlane, The Gentleman, The Chequered
Court, The Belle of Bon Accord, Sueno's Stone,
Follow Me Home, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, The
Reel of the 51st Division.

Tickets £14 from: Richard Stamper
39 Howard Street, Oxford. OX4 3AY
Tel: 01865 724389

email: stamper.richard@gmail.com

Day School and Dance

Saturday 18 February 2012

Headington School, Oxford, OX3 7TD

Teachers: **Pat Houghton,**

Eric Finley, Dennis Tucker

Musicians: **Chris Oxtoby,**

Jeremy Hill, Ken Martlew

Whole day £23.00

Morning or afternoon class £8.00 each session.

Evening Dance £12.00

Music for the evening dance by

Strathallan

Programme: Shiftin' Bobbins, Lady Home's Jig,
The Silver Tassie, Polharow Burn, Tayport
Beauty, Radcliffe Square, The Sailor, Bill
Little's Strathspey, EH3 7AF, Hooper's Jig,
Scott Meikle, The Birks of Invermay, Major Ian
Stewart, Beeswing, The Dream Catcher,
Jennifer's Jig, The Deil among the Tailors.

Details: Richard Stamper

39 Howard Street, Oxford. OX4 3AY

Tel: 01865 724389

email: stamper.richard@gmail.com

RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 14 January 2012

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham, GL52 3JE

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Tickets £22 (including light refreshments)

Programme on website:

www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk

Day School

Saturday 28 April 2012

Reddings Community Hall, Cheltenham, GL51 6RF

Teacher: **Grace Hill**

Musician: **Jeremy Hill**

Details: Margaret Winterbourne,

tel: 01242 863238

email: mj.winterbourne@btinternet.com



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

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

Fridays: Upper Hall 7.30 - 10.30pm

Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 - 10.30pm

unless otherwise stated

Saturday 10 December **Frank Reid**

Christmas Dance 7.30 - 11.00pm

Saturday 7 January **Craigievar**

New Year's Dance with haggis supper

Friday 13 January **AGM**

Saturday 4 February **Sandy Nixon**

Annual Ball..7.00 - 11.00pm

Friday 17 February St Valentine's Dance

Saturday 3 March **Green Ginger**

Saturday 31 March **Craigievar**

Friday 20 April Spring Ceilidh

Cribs are now available on our website:

londonhighlandclub.co.uk

For further details contact: Frank Bennett on
020 8715 3564, email 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.

Saturday 4 February 2012

Annual Ball

St Columba's Church, Pont Street

7.00 to 11.00pm

Sandy Nixon

Programme: The White Heather Jig, The
Australian Ladies, Autumn in Appin, The
Luckenbooth Brooch, The Plantation Reel, The
Valentine, The Immigrant Lass, The Cuckoo
Clock, The Flower o' the Quern, The Laird of
Milton's Daughter, Grand March leading to The
Eightsome Reel, 12 Coates Crescent, Tribute to
the Borders, Baldoan Reel, Sugar Candie,
Midnight Oil, General Stuart's Reel, Neidpath
Castle, The Diamond Jubilee, The Reel of the
Royal Scots.

Tickets: (Including finger buffet refreshments)

* LHC Members in advance £14.00.

* Non Members in advance £16.00.

All classes on the door £18.00.

If you have highland dress, you are invited to wear it

Please visit our website at

www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk for the latest
news and programmes of our dances

* Advance booking price is only available on

orders received by midnight

Wednesday 1 February.



RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

75th Anniversary Ball

Saturday 18 February 2012

7.30 - 11.30pm

Hampton School, Hampton,

TW12 3HD

Marian Anderson and her Band

Programme: Bratach Bana, The Flying Spur,
Kilkenny Castle, James Gray, JB Milne, The
Gardeners' Fantasia, Best Set in the Hall, The
Recumbent Stone, Rose of the North,
Anniversary Reel, Ian Powrie's Farewell to
Auchterarder, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The
Wee Cooper of Fife, Cape Town Wedding, Mrs
Stuart Linnell, Scott Meikle, Gang the Same
Gate, The Lochalsh Reel, The Hazel Tree, The
Robertson Rant, Major Ian Stewart, The Duke of
Perth.

Tickets, to include supper and soft drinks, £20

Contact: Frances Campbell Colquhoun,

020 8943 3773 france@btinternet.com

www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk

DANCE EVENTS (continued)

Club de Danse Écossaise de MONTPELLIER, FRANCE

-O-

24th Annual Ball and Outing
Weekend of 16-17 June 2012

Dancing to the

Strathallan Band

Dancing, eating, drinking, more dancing
followed by a jolly outing with even more eating
and drinking.

Rendez-vous with sunshine and social warmth.

Contact: William Whyte +33 467 868 919 or
wlwhyte@buzig.com

Our photograph gallery plus the 2012 booking
form is now available on our website [http://
danseecossaisemtp.free.fr/](http://danseecossaisemtp.free.fr/)

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

Annual Ball

Saturday 4 February 2012

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

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Programme: The Findlay's Jig, The Cumbræ
Reel, Barbara's Strathspey, Miss Allie Anderson,
The Black Black Oil, The Quaich, Rothesay
Rant, Milton's Welcome, Argyll Strathspey, The
Earl of Mansfield, It's Just for Fun, The Three
Shires, Alison Rose, The Ship in Full Sail, The
Committee Meeting, St Columba's Strathspey,
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig, Catch the Wind, The
Minister on the Loch, The Duke and Duchess of
Edinburgh. *Extras:* James Gray, Scott Meikle.

Tickets: £16 including sherry reception and
supper with a glass of wine, from
Duncan Barnet, Flat 4, 8 Western Elms Avenue,
Reading RG30 2AN
Tel: 0118 956 9289
www.scottishdancingreading.org

Want to Advertise in *The Reel*?

Contact the Business Manager, Jeff Robertson,
Tel 01903 245718. or
email: businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk

THE RSCDS BRISTOL BRANCH



Saturday 10 March 2012

Wine reception: 7.00 for 7.30pm

Dancing to 11.30pm.

Please come and help us celebrate with

Ian Muir and The Craiggellachie Band

The Council House, Bristol BS1 5TR

Programme: Grand March into The Eightsome
Reel, Jennifer's Jig*, Moment of Truth*, The
Montgomerys' Rant*, The Wild Geese*, The
Lammermuir Hills*, The Recumbent Stone,
Pelorus Jack*, The Dream Catcher, The Earl and
Countess of Wessex*, The Hazel Tree*, Mr Iain
Stuart Robertson*, Schiehallion, Tribute to the
Borders*, The Highland Rambler*, Gang the
Same Gate*, Ian Powrie's Farewell to
Auchterarder, Scott Meikle*, Mairi's Wedding.
(* - Recap)

Tickets £27 including supper (Students £20)

For tickets and accommodation enquiries

Graham Coles 23 Trinity Road,
Nailsea, BS48 4NT. 01275 854782,
graham.coles@btinternet.com or
www.rscdsbristol.info

RSCDS CROYDON AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 7 January 2012

7.00 - 11.00pm

Croydon High School GDST

Old Farleigh Road, Selsdon, Croydon CR2 8YB

Robin Ellis and his Band

MC Don Ward

Ticket (includes supper) £ 21 members,
£22 non-members

01737 358401 info@rscdscroydon.org.uk

WEMBLEY AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball

Saturday 25 February 2012

7.30 - 11.30pm

Nower Hill School, George V Avenue, Pinner,
Middlesex HA5 5RP

Ian Muir and The Craiggellachie Band

MC: Mrs Caroline Hamilton

Programme: Pelorus Jack, West's Hornpipe, The
Belle of Bon Accord, EH3 7AF, Mr Iain Stuart
Robertson, The Gentleman, Spiffin', Swiss
Lassie, The Gardeners' Fantasia, Equilibrium,
The Irish Rover, The Moray Rant, The Dancing
Master, The Plantation Reel, Culla Bay The
Roselath Cross, Scott Meikle, The Wind on Loch
Fyne, The Bees of Maggicknockater, Mrs
MacPherson of Inveran.

Tickets: £16 from Brenda Manbauhar,

Tel: 020 8933 9169.

RSCDS BATH BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 11 February 2012

at The Guildhall, Bath BA1 5AW

Dancing to

Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band

Tickets £25 from June Hall

Top Flat 141 Wells Road, Bath BA2 3AL

Tel: 01225 318906.

RSCDS MILTON KEYNES

Annual Ball

Saturday 10 March 2012

7.30 - 11.30pm

Lovat Hall, Newport Pagnell,

Milton Keynes, MK16 0EJ

Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig Band

Enquiries and tickets at £17 each

From Jan Jones 07877 153259

jange@verybusy.co.uk

www.rscdsmk.co.uk



OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Dancing
most Mondays, 8.00 - 10.15pm, Sept to June at
Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome.
Details: www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com or Carol
Gibbins 01235 527211 cgibbins60@hotmail.com

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

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

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at St
Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village,
Bournemouth 7.30 - 10pm. 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 Rod Burrows on 01908 783053
or chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk. [www.rscds-
brighton.org.uk/](http://www.rscds-
brighton.org.uk/)

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

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 8pm at St.
Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details from
Rhoda Finch, 20 Redcrest Gardens, Camberley, Surrey
GU15 2DU. Tel: 01276 681820.

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for all
grades. Details: Jacqui Brocker, 24 Hemingford Rd,
Cambridge, CB1 3BZ. Tel. 07916 892611, [jacqui_brocker
@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jacqui_brocker@yahoo.com.au).

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

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

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday
nights 7.30 to 10.00pm from October to end May, at St
Andrew's URC, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs
Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham,
GL51 9RN. Tel:01242 528220, mbstele45@aol.com.

CHELMSFORD: SANDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB
meets on Monday evenings 8-10pm at Springfield Park
Baptist Church, Springfield Park Road, Chelmsford, CM2
6EB. Beginners welcome. Details from Esther Wilkinson,
email: ewilkin@gmail.com or tel. 01206 240132.
www.sandonscotdance.org.uk

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

CIRENCESTER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets
most Wednesdays 8:00 - 10:00pm September to end
June at the Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester.
Details: Mrs Val Williams, Leaholme, Broadway Lane,
South Cerney, Glos. Tel 01285 860660.
williams147@btinternet.com

CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets
Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00pm September to June at Milton
Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill,
Crawley. Details: Mrs Pip Graham, 57 Milton Mount Ave,
Pound Hill, Crawley, W. Sussex RH10 3DP, tel: 01293
882173.

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH: Branch classes:- General,
incl Beginners with technique Coulsdon (Fri). Advanced
(Wed) Coulsdon. Details: Sue Hassanein
01737 358401 www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

EPHING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Club night
Mondays (all year) 8-10 pm at Woodford Green Prep
School, Glengall Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0BZ.
Details: www.efsa.org.uk or Angela Ross, 02085043376,
angelaross87@hotmail.com.

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS (continued from previous page)

- EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** holds weekly adult dance classes for beginners and intermediate/advanced levels, (September to March), including informal dances. Details from Dorothy Pearson, 366 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon CR5 3BF. Tel 01737 551724.
- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details from Mrs Annette Owen, 47 Beauclerk Green, Winchfield, Hook, Hants RG27 8BF. Tel: 01252 845187.
- FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Tuesdays 8.00pm, September to mid-July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Details from Ann or Paul Brown, tel: 01784 462456 or mobile 07801 160643. Email: p@ulfbrown.co.uk
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.30pm, September to May. Full details from Vikki Spencer, 24 Park Hill, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 6PW. Tel: 01252 691922.
- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays from September to June. Beginners 7.30pm, General 8.15pm. Details from Jeanette Patterson: 01753 890591; info@gxscottish.org.uk; www.gxscottish.org.uk.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- GUILDFORD SCDC** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wildemess Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from September to June. www.gsdc.org.uk or tel 01483 502422.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept.-June from 8.00-10.00pm in Elderkin Hall, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF. 020 8870 6131.
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00 pm. Details from Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts, AL3 5RE. Tel 01727 863870.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St. Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner HA5 3QR. Tel: 020 8428 6055. www.harrowscottish.org.uk.
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8 -10pm, September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.
- HEREFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS:** Dancing in this beautiful holiday area every week of the year. Visitors always welcome. Contact Brian on 01568 615470 email brianraasay@btinternet.com
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.
- HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15pm. September to July, tuition followed by social dancing. Also monthly Saturday dances and ceilidhs. All at Heston Methodist Church Hall. Details from Mrs Rosemary Mitchell, Tel: 01483 202386.
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** meet Wednesdays September to June at Holy Trinity & St. John's C. of E. Primary School, St. John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7.00-8.00pm. General 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. 01843 869284.
- JERSEY CALEDONIAN SCD GROUP.** Contacts: Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel/Fax 01534 854459; Alan Nicolle 01534 484375, alan.nicolle88@googlemail.com; or Brenda Gale 01534 862357. See www.scottishcountrydancingjersey.blogspot.com.
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Some major functions held at other London venues. Details: adverts in *The Reel* or contact
- Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG. 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096. www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372. maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk.
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP** meets every Wednesday 7.30-10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details from Jane Masters, 251 Robin Hood Lane, Blue Bell Hill MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at St. Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 3HL. tel 01474 822919.
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB** meets every Monday evening from September - June at 8.15-10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details from Mrs Jane Whittington. 5 Coldharbour Rd. Northfleet.Kent.DA11 8AE, 01474 359018.
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS.** Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00- 10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. MK3 5LP. 01908 378730, jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. from September to May at Roecroft School, Stotford. Informal Saturday Dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds. SG17 5AL. Tel: 01462 812691.
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dancing 7.45-10.00pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9JN. Tel. 01634 254451.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners/Improvers Class Every Monday 8.00-10.15pm at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Pam. French, 20 Beaumont Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent, BR5 1JN. 01689 873511.
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET. Tel: 01869 340830.
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00-10.00pm. September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Rita Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Tel: 0118 975 7507, www.scottishdancingreading.org.
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00pm from mid Sept. to end of May. For Information contact Marshall Christie 020 8977 5237 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk.
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP.** Dancing Tues 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc.
- ST ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON).** Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB, 020 8540 1755, araffan@googlemail.com.
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns Nights' when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details: Denise Haugh 020 8392 2920, email dhaugh200@btinternet.com.
- ST JOHN'S SDC WOKINGHAM:** meet every Thurs 8-10.15pm Sept to June at St. Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Sue Davis 01344 774344, 2 Larkswood Dr, Crowthorne, alan.suedavis@gmail.com. Also Childrens' Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, Deborah Draffin 01344 776831.
- ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS,** Luton meet every Wednesday, September to July 8.00-10.00pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road, Luton, Beds. Contact: Pat Hamilton, 01462 671156 or Sheila Harris, 01525 875060.
- SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT** Hold weekly classes for all levels of dancers on Monday evenings from 7.30-9.30pm at Collingwood School, Springfield Road, Wallington SM6 OBD. Details from Maggie Westley; 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157. maggie.westley@rmh.nhs.uk.
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00-10.00pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Rebecca Evans, 2 Vestry Cottages, Old Otford Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5EH 01732 456382 beccab31@hotmail.com .
- SHENE SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from September to May, 8.15-10.15 pm, in Barnes. Further info: Fiona Jack, 07780 671021, jack_fiona@hotmail.com.
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details: Pauline Cameron, 7 Wayne Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 9TS. Tel 01689 838395.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30-10.00pm. Details from Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ. Tel: 01305 265177.
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Fridays, 7.30 to 10.30pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details Mrs Edna Carroll, 01702 428974.
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS.** Classes in Hertford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Bengoe School, Hertford; Beginners Thurs 7.30pm. Millmead School, Hertford. Demonstration Alt. Mons 8.0pm. St John's Hall, Hertford. Details: Chay Smith 01992 442154.
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details: Martin Heath, 01273 478069, m.j.heath@talk21.com.
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** dancing every Thursday at 8pm from September to June at St Matthew's School, Langley Road, Surbiton KT6 6LW. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx, TW16 7TY. http://www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8-10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8-10pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Rd, Tunbridge Wells. TN4 9AL, Details: George Daly, 1 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5UE. tel: 01892 534512 www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk.
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** General and Beginners/Improvers Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE. 01923 492475, reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk.
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Wednesdays 8 to 10 pm September to June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. email welwyn.scdc@ntlworld.com or telephone Douglas Wood 01582 469928.
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Mondays 8.00pm. Dance Class. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford. WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Both evenings take place at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ. 01264 363293, wendy@mumford.com.
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from Beryl Munro, tel 01621 850838 or email: beryl.munro@btinternet.com .

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Stephen Webb

Above:

Shopping with a difference! Shoppers at the Mall, Uxbridge, enjoyed a whole day of keep fit activities on Tuesday 11 October, organised by Age UK for over 60s. Here members of Gerrards Cross Scottish Dancing demonstration team showed how SCD is a brilliant way to keep fit mentally and physically while having fun.

Barbara Martlew

Right

London Branch at the White Rose Festival in Leeds in the summer. (see page 5) *Picture: Chris Hood*

Lower Right:

Lindsey Jane Rousseau MCs at a Kensington Gardens open air dance.



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