



The Reel

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



No 272

MAY to AUGUST 2010

MAJOR SUCCESS at NEWCASTLE FESTIVAL



David Cordés

The Demonstration Team have been regular participants at the annual Newcastle Festival for nearly 20 years. This year, their crowning success has been winning the Mabel Ellison Trophy for the Display Section of the Festival on 13 February. In addition the mixed team won their section. More about it inside



London Branch takes Olympia by storm

MOVEIT is one of the UK's largest annual Dance exhibitions attracting over 20,000 people to Olympia. The opportunity arose in February for London Branch to exhibit at the 11-14 March show and with some financial support from RSCDS HQ we set about designing our stand, materials and a rota to cover all four days. It was a hugely vibrant exhibition with performances, workshops and activities taking place all the time and ranging from street dance, to salsa, ballroom, ballet and many other forms of dance.

Our small stand (Number 111) attracted many people who were pleased to see Scottish Country Dancing represented, and many said that more traditional folk dancing should have been there too. From a networking point of view and from simply flying the flag for SCD it was a real success. But given our late entry on the scene it was not possible to provide any dance performance and this is what folks really wanted to see. Everyone who was involved in the exhibition worked very hard at meeting and greeting the public and my thanks go to all concerned for another first for the London Branch. The photo (left) shows the Strictly Come Dancing professionals Matthew and Nicole Cutler with us on the RSCDS Stand at MOVEIT.

Michael Nolan

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Issue No 273 will be with UK based members by 28 August 2010 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 31 July 2010. (Issue No 274 will arrive by 27 November 2010).

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

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

As we progress through our 80th Anniversary year there is an opportunity to reflect on recent events.

Although a bit of a departure, there was a good turn out for our first mid-week Winter Dance. We enjoyed the music of the Strathallan Band and the line up included our multi-talented Vice-Chairman Angela Young on keyboard. MC Simon Wales kept us under control and sincere thanks to the many helpers who contributed to the success of the evening.

An early start was needed for our March Family Day with a BBC interview at 7.00am. Following the children's class we were blessed with a visit from the Mayor of RBKC and the Pearly King of Thornton Heath who brought a sense of occasion to the afternoon session. Our thanks to the members of the demonstration team who contributed a faultless version of *The Merrick* and it was nice to see the trophies won at the Newcastle Festival on display.

The evening Combined Societies Dance, hosted by the Branch this year, was well attended with a range of MCs guiding us through the programme. Our thanks to the home team MCs, Dave Hall and Angela Young and also to our band Green Ginger.

We give our on-going thanks to the Anniversary Sub-Committee led by Angela Young, for the imaginative programme of events over the year. We are also greatly indebted to Margaret Catchick for all her work arranging the Branch Weekend School and to Rachel Wilton for the Ball in October.

Once more our AGM is upon us and members will find the Branch Annual Report enclosed with this copy of *The Reel*. Please take time to look at the Annual Report and tell us what you think. Even if you are not able to attend the AGM in person we would still value your contribution.

Unfortunately, two of our Convenors are stepping down at the AGM. My sincere thanks go to James Fairbairn, Dem Class Convenor and to Michael Nolan who is leaving the Committee after an unprecedented spell as Publicity Convenor.

My thanks go to the hard working members of the Committee who do so much to keep the Branch flourishing. There will be some new faces on the Committee next season and with their hard work and your support the Branch can continue to thrive and build on its past success.

Enjoy your dancing and I hope to see you at the AGM.

Jeff Robertson

EDITORIAL



The Branch is run by a dedicated band of volunteers trying both to meet the objectives of the Branch and to provide members an interesting programme of events throughout the year. These volunteers are elected at the Annual General Meeting held in June each year. We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to express your appreciation or otherwise with the way the Branch is being run – and even to volunteer to participate in its running. Things just don't happen – a lot of hard work goes into organising each event. Is the committee doing a good job? Friday 11 June is the time to make your views known – after a free tea and then a free dance. Is the £4 annual Branch subscription good value? And what about the £15 to Headquarters?

Wilson Nicol

ANNIVERSARY FUND APPEAL

Enclosed with your copy of *The Reel* you will find a page explaining the Branch Anniversary Fund Appeal. Members and supporters of the Branch are asked to consider seriously making a contribution to the funding of additional youth projects.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held at St Columba's Church (Upper Hall), Pont Street, London, SW1 on Friday 11 June 2010. Tea will be served, by courtesy of the Vice-Presidents, at 6.30 pm and the meeting will commence at 7.30pm. There will be dancing after the meeting. All Members and friends are welcome to attend and there is no need to register in advance. Naturally, only Members are entitled to vote.

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Approval of minutes of the 2009 AGM
- 3 Matters arising from the minutes
- 4 Report on the Branch Activities during the past year
- 5 Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts
- 6 Appointment of Honorary President and Honorary Vice-Presidents
- 7 Appointment of Officers and Committee of Management
- 8 Appointment of Auditors
- 9 Election of Branch Delegates to the Society AGM
- 10 Any other business

Note: Nominations for the appointments at items 6, 8 and 9 above will be taken from the floor at the meeting.

SOCIETY AGM 2010

The AGM of the Society will be held in Perth on 6 November 2010 during the Conference weekend of 5-7 November.

The London Branch will elect its delegates at the Branch AGM on 11 June. Please advise the Secretary, Stewart Murray, if you would be willing to be present at the Society AGM as a Branch delegate. Delegates are required to vote as directed by the Branch Committee. There will be a small contribution towards the travel expenses but all other arrangements are the responsibility of the delegate. Application forms for function tickets during the Conference weekend should be available on the Society website by the end of April. This is a great opportunity to meet dancers from all over the world, to attend two wonderful dances and to see the Society at work. In addition to the formal business of the AGM itself, a Members' Forum will be held on the morning of Sunday 7 November.

End of Year Branch Accounts

By the end of May, the Annual Accounts of the Branch should have been approved by the Committee. It will not be possible to circulate them to all members before the AGM on 11 June but if members would like prior sight of them, they should email the Treasurer, Simon Wales, at simon_wales@talk21.com or send a stamped addressed envelope to him (address in the next column).

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY



rscds
Dance Scottish

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

HEADQUARTERS:

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LONDON BRANCH

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Mary Stoker

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SUB-COMMITTEES

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

*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

Website: www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Objects of London Branch

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

- 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.



80th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS



WEEKEND SCHOOL DANCE

Saturday 8 May, 2010
7.45 - 11.00 pm

Main Hall, Hayes Conference Centre,
Swanwick, Derbyshire, DE55 1AU.

Nicol McLaren

and the Weekend School Musicians

Miss Hadden's Reel.....	23/5
Maxwell's Rant	18/10
The Lea Rig.....	21/5
Fifty Years On.....	43/1
Westminster Reel.....	45/1
Crathes Castle.....	44/8
The Chequered Court.....	42/3
The Glasgow Highlanders.....	2/3
The Deil amang the Tailors.....	14/7
The Duke of Atholl's Reel.....	16/3
Anniversary Reel.....	36/7
The Silver Tassie.....	Leaflet
Waverley.....	15/12
Glasgow Country Dance.....	23/6
Back to the Fireside.....	38/4
Culla Bay.....	41/2
The Montgomerie's Rant.....	10/1

Tickets £8.50 in advance from

Margaret Catchick 01494 772305 or email:
margaretcatchick@hotmail.com

You can in addition still take part in our 80th Anniversary Weekend School Celebrations in Derbyshire by attending the dance class on the Saturday. The class will be taught by Graham Donald, accompanied by Andrew Lyon on the piano. The cost will be £45.00 for the day (morning class, one hour optional afternoon class, evening meal and entry to the evening dance). If you wish to have lunch as well the cost would be £50.00.

Tickets in advance from Margaret Catchick.

GARDEN DANCE

Saturday 3 July, 2pm to 6pm New Location Kensington Gardens

This year the London Branch will be holding their annual picnic dance in Kensington Gardens. Join us to dance to the music of **Liam Stewart and his Scottish Dance Band** from Ayrshire for a great afternoon of dancing in the centre of London.

Souvenir programmes will be sold in advance at the price of £7.50. We really need all attending to buy a programme to ensure that this event is successful for the Branch. Purchasing a programme also means entry into the anniversary prize draw to win – 2 tickets to the London Branch Christmas Dance, a set of London Branch anniversary books and a 75th Anniversary CD

Don't worry if it rains as your souvenir programme will also gain you entry into our wet weather venue – St Columba's Church, Pont Street. Programmes will be sold by committee members, and at Branch events leading up to the picnic dance.

You can also contact Angela Young at aady@mac.com to reserve your souvenir programme or Jeff Robertson, 31 Alinora Avenue, Goring By Sea, West Sussex, BN12 4NA enclosing a 6x4" s.a.e.

Cheques payable to RSCDS (London Branch).
So bring your friends, bring a picnic and enjoy the dancing.

Programme

Cumberland Reel	1/11
The Inverness Reel.....	MMM1
Fair Donald	29/4
The Dunedin Festival Dance	Collins
The Luckenbooth Brooch	Glendarroch
Mairi's Wedding	Cosh
Balmoral Strathspey.....	22/3
Sheena's Saunter.....	Collins
The Eightsome/Thirtytwosome Reel	
Virginia Reel.....	Collins
Hooper's Jig	MMM2
Shiftin' Bobbins	Clowes
The Minister on the Loch	Goldring
Circle Waltz	Collins
The Montgomerie's Rant.....	10/1
Butterscotch and Honey	Attwood
The Machine Without Horses.....	12/12
Dashing White Sergeant	3/2



DANCE THROUGH THE DECADES

Our June event sees us dancing through the decades from the 1920s to the Noughties with some old and some favourite dances.

Saturday 12 June 2010
7.00 - 10.30 pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1 0BD
Dave Hall and his Scottish Dance Band

The Rock and the Wee Pickle Tow.....	3/7
The Duke of Perth	1/8
Glasgow Highlanders	2/3
The Scots Bonnet	10/9
The Gates of Edinburgh	15/5
Strathglass House	13/9
The Duke of Atholl's Reel	16/3
Up in the Air	20/2
The Sailor	24/4
Miss Hadden's Reel	23/5
Seann Truibhas Willichan	27/9
The Ladies of Dunse	26/11
St Andrew's Fair	5 for 1982
The Gentleman	35/5
Johnnie's Welcome Hame	32/1
Follow Me Home	38/3
Culla Bay	41/2
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh	39/7

Members £7.50 / Non-Members £8.50
Children £2.00
Members' children admitted free

SCOTLAND IN SEPTEMBER

Saturday 18 September
7.00 - 10.30pm

Glencraig Scottish Dance Band

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

The Happy Meeting	29/9
General Stuart's Reel	10/3
MacDonald of the Isles	Haynes
None So Pretty	19/1
The Jubilee Jig.....	Leaflet
Gang the Same Gate.....	36/4
The Reel of the 51st Division	13/10
The Braes of Breadalbane	21/7
Ladies' Fancy.....	13/12
John of Bon Accord	33/5
The Gentleman	35/5
The Starry Eyed Lassie	23/11
The Westminster Reel.....	45/1
Sugar Candie	26/9
The Wild Geese.....	24/3
West's Hornpipe	5 for 65
Neidpath Castle.....	22/9
The Ladies of Dunse	26/11

Workshop Attendees £5;
Members £8.50 / Non-Members £9.50

See next pages for Day School and Kensington Gardens dancing. St Andrews Dance on 27 November to Ian Cathcart and his Band, and Christmas Dance on 11 December to Marian Anderson and her Band.

ANNIVERSARY BALL

Saturday 30 October 2010
7.30 for 8.00 - 1.00am

Hammersmith Town Hall, King St, W6 9JU
Craigellachie 6 piece Band

The Jubilee Jig	Leaflet
The Westminster Reel.....	5/1
The Braes of Tulliemet	7/12
Miss Allie Anderson	Leaflet
Fraser's Favourite	Leaflet
The Valentine	5/2009
Miss Mary Douglas	10/11
Culla Bay	41/2
Cramond Bridge.....	London 1979
Ladies' Fancy	13/12
The Earl of Mansfield	Leaflet
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	Leaflet
All for Mary	London 75th
The Duke & Duchess of Edinburgh	39/7
Margaret Parker's Strathspey	31/3
Argyll's Fancy	Graded 23
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	3/2006
The Montgomerie's Rant	10/1

Tickets £40.00 includes welcome drink and two course meal, a chance to mingle with dancing friends in this magnificent wood panelled London hall with a sprung floor.

Round tables seat 10 people;
application forms available on the website.

Accommodation is available at the Premier Inn, 255 King St. W6 9LU.

Further details Rachel Wilton
wiltonrachel@hotmail.com

BRANCH CLASSES

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

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

Summer term starts on 21 April 2010 and runs for five weeks. This is immediately followed by five Summer General Classes. Wednesday evening classes cost £35.00 for the five week term. The cost per session is £8.00. Newcomers are not charged for the first class they attend. The term for the Wednesday afternoon class begins on 28 April 2010 and will end on either 30 June or 7 July 2010. Half term for this class will be 2 June 2010.

LADIES' STEP DANCING

with Alice Stainer
on Sunday 16 May, 10.00am - 4.00pm.
at the Oddfellows Hall, Richmond, TW9 2RT,
(minutes from Richmond Station).
Details will be on the Branch website, or contact
Margaret Shaw, on 020 7329 2847.

KENSINGTON GARDENS

Following the popular support that we received last year for our extended season in Kensington Gardens, the Royal Parks have again allowed us to book four Saturdays in August and September for open air dancing by the bandstand. We will be dancing on Saturdays 21 and 28 August and 4 and 11 September which coincides with the launch of our Dance Scottish Week 2010.

The timing is from two till four o'clock each afternoon and we will have music from a lively band to dance to and a friendly caller to guide everyone through the dances. The Dem Team will do a brief display during the pause at three. We hope that veterans recalling past pleasures will want to support the events again. If you have not been before then it is a lovely way to spend a couple of hours on a sunny afternoon, alone or *en famille*, possibly sampling some of the other pleasures to be had in the park as well, such as the Diana Memorial playground with its new café, the Albert Memorial, the Italian Gardens, the Round Pond and the Serpentine Gallery.

There are trees for shade and lots of grassy space on which to establish camp. Do remember to bring your own water and refreshments and even a sun hat or parasol. There are loos quite close by at Palace Gate. You can park on meters in nearby streets and tube access is from High Street Kensington, Gloucester Road, Queensway or Bayswater stations.

James Fairbairn

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch costs £19.00 per annum for UK based members (£19.50 for Europe; £21.50 elsewhere). There is a discount of £3 for members aged 18 to 25 and for each of two members living at the same address. For members aged 12-17 there is a discount of £7.50. Current members of other Branches can join London Branch for £4.00 per annum if they live in the UK (£4.50 in Europe and £6.50 elsewhere).

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

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

SUMMER CLASSES

This year there will be five general classes on Wednesday evenings at Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, London, SW3 from 7.15 - 9.15pm. The classes will start on Wednesday 26 May and finish on Wednesday, 23 June 2010. The cost per class is £6.00. Each class will have a different teacher and a different musician.

Come along and try the different styles of teaching and playing: suitable for all abilities.

The teachers in alphabetical order are: **James Fairbairn, David Hall, Jane Rose, Samantha Schad and Angela Young**

And the musicians in alphabetical order are: **David Hall, Peter Jenkins, Andrew Nolan, Sandra Smith and Angela Young**

THE DEMONSTRATION TEAM EXPERIENCE

I have spent four enjoyable years in the Demonstration Team during which we have danced in a great many places including iconic locations in central London doing bits of *The Eightsome Reel*. The team took part in a world record in Trafalgar Square. There is the annual round of Burns night events including at a golf club in Leatherhead and a hotel in Hampshire, a birthday party in Kent and on BBC Radio Scotland to name just few. The team has also rubbed shoulders with celebrities on more than one occasion. The team also features in the usual displays for the Branch at Christmas, summer picnic dance and Kensington Gardens. Further afield, we travel to Slough, Leeds and Newcastle for their respective festivals.

Being in the Demonstration Team isn't just all about dancing: at Christmas and the end of the season we have a meal somewhere in Central London; there are parties at Leeds and Newcastle which can be quite a laugh; we went bowling at the beginning of our Easter break this year which I really enjoyed.

Generally, participation in a demonstration is voluntary, and it is interesting because we never know where the next dem will take us. I have to say my best moment with the team to date was being part of the winning display team at Newcastle this year! I'm looking forward to many more years of fun with the team and just wonder where we'll end up next. *However, we could do with more members, especially men and young men at that!*

Catriona Bennett

TEACHER CERTIFICATE PASS

London Branch Member Esther Wilkinson has passed unit 1 of the RSCDS teaching certificate. She dances at the Sandon Scottish Country Dance Club.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

ST ANDREW NIGHT FAMILY DAY

Saturday 27 November

Class, Lunch and Dancing

11.30 to 1.00pm then

2.00 to 4.30pm to the music of

Iain Cathcart and his Band

St Columba's Church, Pont Street

Thank you to all who attended and helped at the March Family Day making it such a success.

ANNIVERSARY YOUTH WORKSHOP

Saturday 18 September

Teacher:..... **Dave Hall**

Refreshments 1.00pm

Workshop 1.30 to 4.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street

Join everyone for Pizza after the workshop before returning to the Branch dance.

Contact Angela Young for more details.

Note there is an Anniversary Ceilidh at St Columba's on the Friday evening prior to the workshop.

17 September 8.00 to 11.00pm

All workshop attendees are also encouraged to take part in the South East Branches performance in the CCPR event at the Royal Albert Hall

on Saturday 25 September,

attending rehearsal on

Sunday 19 September.

Please contact Angela for details of this.

REQUEST FOR FIRST AIDERS

Recently at Branch functions we have had the occasion to require a First Aider, and it's good that dancers are willing to volunteer on the spot.

The Committee feel that where possible we should identify a qualified First Aider at our events.

If you hold a current First Aid Certificate and would be willing to act in this capacity at any dance please let a member of the Committee know – either on the night, or by email.

COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

During the coming quarter, the London Branch Committee will meet on 24 June. Suggestions for items to be discussed should be sent to the Secretary at least two weeks before the dates of the meetings.

DAY SCHOOL

Advance Notice
(CHANGE OF VENUE – see below)
Saturday, 16 October 2010
Paddington Academy, Marylands Road,
London W9 2DR

Teachers: **Janet Johnston, Angela Young,
Maureen Campbell, Gaynor Curtis**

Musicians: **Andrew Lyon, Dave Hall,
George MacLennan, Phil Jones**

Plus a choice of optional classes
at the end of the afternoon.

Musicians Workshop led by: **Ian Robertson**

Evening Ceilidh:

Andrew Lyon & Dave Hall

Classes to suit everyone. DON'T MISS IT!!

Full details in the next Reel.

A NEW VENUE

We have been very fortunate over the past few years to have been able to hold our Day School at such a welcoming venue as Lady Margaret School in Parsons Green. However last year proved a little bit of a challenge as we had to find alternative parking arrangements and a second school where we could hold some of the classes. We were lucky to secure a school nearby whose playground we were able to use for parking and another school a little further away which had parking and the additional space we required for classes.

We had hoped to repeat these arrangements again this year but things were to conspire against us! The nearby school we had used for parking was to have building work carried out and Lady Margaret School itself was not available as the School wished to hold a Ball of its own there on that date. So it was back to the drawing board yet again!

Much time had been spent last year trying to find schools with parking that would allow us to use their facilities. We had already explored all the schools in the Hammersmith and Fulham area. After hours of searching on the internet, numerous telephone calls and emails I managed to get down to a few schools that possibly had the facilities we required at a cost we could afford and that were willing to allow us to use their premises. Some of these schools looked great on paper but were quickly discounted on visiting. A short list of six schools was whittled down to two. Unfortunately one of those schools had a regular booking when we needed it but it had plenty of parking and was across the road from Tufnell Park station.

The other school was Paddington Academy, about an eight/nine minute walk from Warwick Avenue underground station, not far from Paddington Station and with numerous bus routes nearby. Rachel Wilton and I both liked the school very much. It had everything we needed – a proper car park with additional parking in the playground if it became necessary, four rooms to hold classes in (a proper dance studio, drama studio, sports hall and assembly room), dining facilities, a room for the musicians and a building only three years old so therefore very bright and fresh. The floors in the dance studio, drama studio and assembly room are sprung and the floor in the sports hall is cushioned so hopefully should be easier on the body. It had the added advantage of helpful and willing staff. After positive visits by other Committee members, we decided to go ahead with this venue.

Paddington Academy may not have the charm of an old building but what it lacks in character it makes up for in every other way. So do come along to the Day School this year and take a look for yourselves. We don't think you will be disappointed. With excellent teachers (Janet

Johnston, Angela Young, Maureen Campbell and Gaynor Curtis) and brilliant musicians (Andrew Lyon, Dave Hall, George MacLennan and Phil Jones with Ian Robertson leading the Musicians Workshop) it should be a day not to be missed – so put 16 October, 2010 in your diary now!

We look forward to welcoming you all, in our Anniversary Year, to our new venue, Paddington Academy, Marylands Road, London, W9 2DR.

Margaret Catchick

DANCE SCOTTISH WEEK

London's Dance Scottish Week will be held from 11-18 September this year. The week begins with the last of the four free open air dances in Kensington Gardens on 11 September and also includes an Open House Taster Evening on the 15th and a Ceilidh on the 17th, both at St Columba's, Pont Street.

Dance Scottish Week is an international initiative by the Society in Edinburgh and it is hoped that branches around the world will participate by organising events (large or small) that will encourage newcomers to experience and hopefully take up Scottish dancing. This year, the Society's week is the week after the Branch's and runs from Friday 17 to Saturday 25 September. It begins with a dance on 17 September, at the McRobert Hall, Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, with music from Colin Dewar. Tickets cost £10 and can be purchased from Headquarters (admission is by ticket only). Please see the Society's website for details of related events around the world. Incidentally, the Society's website was given a major revamp in early April but the link remains the same (www.rscds.org).

South East Dance Diary 2010 - 2011

Diary season! How would Scottish Dancing in the South East function without the annual Diary? So let's have the information for 2010/2011 please. Events should be entered on the standard form which can be downloaded from the Branch website. If you do not have access to the website please complete the following details for each event: Day; Date (dd, mmm yy); Venue (town – and hall as well if this is somewhere special); Band, recorded or type of event (e.g. a day school); Contact name and telephone number, plus email and website addresses if available. Please will you reconfirm any of the coming season's dances that are already on the Branch website: <http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk>. We use a code to indicate certain features of some events. Please therefore say if it is: – in the afternoon, a ball, children's dance, suitable for the less experienced, in the open air, a special supper (e.g. Burns Night), tickets need to be booked in advance, or a special anniversary celebration.

Please send the form or details to Caroline Hamilton by email to diary@rscdslondon.org.uk or by post to Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 1PW. Email messages will be acknowledged once received.

The Diary is provided by the London Branch free of charge. It will be distributed with the September copy of The Reel to all London Branch members in the London area. Others, including any who may subscribe to The Reel but do not live in the London area, can get a copy by sending a large sae to the Editor.

Input as soon as possible please but by the end of June at the latest.

Caroline Hamilton

BRANCH HITS THE LONDON AIRWAVES

Those of you who are early risers who listen to BBC Radio London may have heard on Saturday (27 March) the sounds of Angela Young and myself trying to teach their roving reporter Jim Wheble something about Scottish Country Dancing while broadcasting live on air. BBC Radio London had heard about our Family Day and wanted to find out more, so we met Jim on the steps of St Columba's Church at seven o'clock. We were armed with music, dance shoes and some chat while he clutched his microphone, headphones and a fantastic gizmo that would broadcast our session to the whole of London.

We were lucky to have two slots on air, the first just after 7.00am and then again just after 8.00am, when we explored a bit of SCD history, some steps, names of dances and of course a practical demonstration involving him with his microphone wires almost wrapped round him. It was opportunity to publicise our Family Day and as a result a number of additional people came and enquired about Scottish Country Dancing.

By the time Jim left he knew that Highland was not Country, that *Petronella* needed a bit of movement and that *The Earl of Mansfield* was not a dance for a novice to learn at breakfast time. He left clutching a copy of the Collin's Scottish Dancing book with our good wishes and a promise to come back for more at Kensington Gardens in the Summer.

You should be able to hear the interview again on our website at www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Michael Nolan

(Picture on page 18)

SOUTH EAST CLASSES LIST

London Branch will again be publishing, free of charge, a list of Scottish dancing classes in the south and east. If you wish your class(es) to be included, please send or confirm details, including your group name, venue, day, time, class standard, contact name and telephone number to Stewart Murray, 139 Cottenham Park Road, London SW20 0DW or preferably by email to stewart.murray@btinternet.com. The printed list is distributed with the September Reel, with subsequent changes being included on an updated version that can be downloaded from the Branch website. It is perhaps worth noting that not all the classes are formal in the sense of being led by qualified teachers. A number are general/social in nature with limited instruction provided by members of the local group. To be included in the printed list, you must submit your information by no later than Monday 2 August (and preferably earlier).

NEW HQ WEBSITE

As we go to press we have been informed that the new HQ website has come on line. The address is the same, www.rscds.org, but members now need to log in to see certain 'member only' pages.

All RSCDS members have been registered to use the website, but to log in each one needs to know their username and password. The procedure for Branch members to have access to these is too involved to publish here but suffice to say that there will be guidance posted on the Branch website as soon as this has been formulated.

RSCDS WINTER SCHOOL First Week

An inclusive Houseparty event

I have been very fortunate in managing to attend Winter School at Pitlochry for the past seven years, having remembered to put in my application immediately each year; no mean feat in itself. That said there were many in the past who, for a variety of reasons, were unable to apply immediately so were disappointed in not being able to be allocated a place.

Not so this year.

The Management Board agreed to George Meikle's excellent suggestion to trial two courses so that more would have the opportunity to attend, with non-dancing partners being included if space allowed, making it a more inclusive event. As it turned out it was indeed inclusive and all who wished to attend were able to do so.

Any trepidation on either George or Management Board's part were soon allayed when the time came. As usual the Atholl Palace Hotel was extremely comfortable and very welcoming. Old friends were reunited/rekindled and new friendships made. Despite a last minute panic regarding classes, with the usual four classes being taken down to three due to the sudden non-availability of the Town Hall, all went very smoothly; at least to us dancers. The classes were excellent, the usual queues for tea/coffee were non-existent, there was space to dance in the evening with space to sit and move around at the soirees afterwards and we did not play sardines at the Ball (at Blair Castle). The atmosphere was electric with excitement, wonder, constructive support, sheer enjoyment and a sense of calm from day one, never waning as the course progressed. I understand that out of the 85 attending the first week about 25% were 'first-timers' or had not attended for a while, rising to about 35% of the 106 attending

the second week, with six extra dancers attending the first course Ball and seven the second; overall about 43% of attendees did not attend last year. Feedback to HQ has been very positive and, to put the icing on the cake, both courses together appear to have made a surplus which will help to offset central administration costs. How fantastic.

May I convey a big thank you to George Meikle (Director), Ann Dix, Bill Ewan, Gordon Simpson, Jennifer Wilson, John Johnston, Margo Priestley and Sue Porter for making this so successful; your collective talents and lovely natures are inspiring. Roll on next year as I for one can't wait!

P.S. The Atholl Palace Hotel has been provisionally booked for the two courses again in February/March 2011 which is expected to go ahead.

Elaine Wilde

WINTER SCHOOL FOR ALL Second Week

Two groups enjoyed these five day courses this year; for the first time there was room for all who wished to attend to do so, and their non-dancing partners too. Originally provided with those who were unable to attend the Summer School in mind, the Winter School at Pitlochry has become more and more popular. This year, as the time came to depart for the second course, the news of the snow in the Perth area could have put one off altogether but Scottish dancers are intrepid and were in fact relieved (disappointed?) to find very little snow – people from London reported the best journey ever and dancers, including some from as far as North America and mainland Europe were delighted with the snow on the hills, Five cold bright sunny days and a huge moon at night. The hotel was as warm, comfortable and welcoming as ever and for the first time there was room to dance in class, no queue for coffee, the bar or the dining room, no searching for somewhere to sit at the soirees. People who had not been quick enough to put in their application in the past were there so new friends and acquaintances were made. The teachers were a splendid team, teaching, walking through, MCing – Ann Dix, John Johnston, Sue Porter and Margo Priestley, and the musicians seemed to be playing all day and all evening; the dancers appreciated to the full Bill Ewan, Gordon Simpson and Jennifer Wilson – how fortunate we were to have all that talent and expertise under one roof for five whole days. The Ball in Blair Castle was a suitable finale with George Meikle, Gordon Simpson and Bill Ewan providing the music, again with room to dance. Thank you George, as Coordinator of the Winter School, for having the faith and determination to run two courses. We had a wonderful time!

Rachel Wilton

WINTER SCHOOL 2011

Details of the 2011 Winter School will be published by the Society on its website in July, 2010.

BRANCH BADGES

The Branch Badge is based on the rectangular *Reel* masthead logo and is available in a smart enamel and polished finish. These are modestly priced at £4.00 and are available from

Jeff Robertson

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Branch Bookstall on 01420 84599 or
bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk.

Please continue to support your Branch.

Jeff Robertson



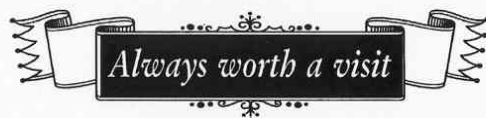
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NEWCASTLE FESTIVAL 2010

This is the second time I have had the opportunity to participate in the Newcastle Festival, having first done so in 2008 when I had recently joined the London Demonstration team. The lead-up to the event was no different from my previous experience: vigorous practice and rehearsals at demonstration class, scrambling for a means of transportation to Newcastle, wine party the night before at the Ravensdene Lodge. The day of the event started off with a short practice session in the hotel function room as we warmed up before moving to the Festival venue, Emmanuel College, which is conveniently across the road from our lodgings.

The competition this year was slightly shorter than before due to the lack of entries for the children's mixed bracket. First up were the ladies' teams, followed by the mixed teams, children's teams and finally the demonstration category. We sneaked over to the sports hall for a quick run over the demonstration. As much practice as we already had, it never hurts to have another go in the actual space to get a better idea of set sizes and step lengths.

The Festival kicked off just shy of midday, with the ladies' teams each performing their dances with beauty and grace. While the adjudicators huddled over the score sheets, everyone else was invited to the floor for a quick dance interlude. Customary procedure for awards starts with the adjudicator's general comments for the class, followed by individual team comments, and finally the announcement of third, second and first place. There was a slight tinge of disappointment when our ladies team was not placed.

Next up were the mixed teams. I have been doing demonstrations for about three years running, but I still get butterflies before every one, and this time was no different. The music started playing and my body followed the rhythm. Unfortunately, it was this state of semi-blankness that led me to commit a mistake right in front of the adjudicator as I moved into first couple position. Oh, the horror! There was a split second of terror written across my face before carrying on dancing with a silly big grin for the rest of the set. After finishing I could not bear to stay and watch, and retired to the changing room. Having recomposed myself, I made my way back into the hall to catch the last couple of teams dance, and then joined the fray for the intermission. The results were announced, with my mistake being pointed out early during the team comments. Great, she did notice, and it was all my fault. In a surprise turn of events however, we were placed first, and I joined the rest of the team to receive the trophy.

While the children's event took place we changed into Highland regalia for our demonstration event. We were the penultimate team to dance, and I spent most of the time walking the routine in my head, determined to avoid making any catastrophic mistakes this time round. The introduction tune filled the hall and we danced like we had danced so many times before in rehearsals, only better. Every step felt right, every stride purposeful and energetic. As the final chord rang I felt relieved, pleased and vindicated, as if I had redeemed myself for the earlier transgression. This was the most coveted prize for our team, and the one event we had poured our hearts and effort into preparing for. There was much rejoicing when they finally announced that we were placed first! All our hard work had been worthwhile.

Alvin Tan

RSCDS MANAGEMENT BOARD FEBRUARY 2010

As a number of you may have noticed, the promised RSCDS Strategic Plan for 2010 to 2013 was made available on the Society website, in February. There are few surprises as the draft plan had been consulted upon and different reactions to the content. Larger branches, like London, have less need of a steer from HQ, whereas some of the smaller and international groups find the guidance and leadership helpful. One thing is sure, during the development of the Strategic Plan, the team at HQ were well aware that you cannot please all of the people all of the time!

The Strategic Plan is guidance, but not cast in tablets of stone, and it is for members of the Society to reflect upon the work and direction of their RSCDS and influence it. The members of the Management Board discussed the content at the meeting in February, and agreed that whilst fine tuning is still required there is something now in place to build on.

One way of adjusting the plan to the aims of the members of the Society is through the establishment of focus groups and these are being set up, through branches, in order to obtain the views of members who might not always articulate their thoughts.

Another way is in the extension of the concept of Regional Conferences and Elaine Wilde and I, as local members, have been asked to work with other MB members to organize, in consultation with branches, a conference for England/N Ireland and Wales. That promises to be fun – and we look forward to working with readers of *The Reel* in helping that to happen.

Lindsey Jane Rousseau

FAMILY DAY AT ST COLUMBA'S

The 80th Anniversary Family Day on Saturday 27 March at St Columba's in Pont Street was a huge success with over forty children joining the afternoon dance after a class in the morning and a pizza lunch. It was heartening to see more than the normal numbers of children at both morning and afternoon sessions

Special guests in the afternoon included The Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Councillor Timothy Coleridge, The Mayoress Mrs Timothy Coleridge and Mr Larry Barnes, Pearly King of Thornton Heath. To the enjoyment of the children and adults the Mayor and Mayoress joined in the dancing to the music of David Hall. To the Children's delight Vice-President Rosemary Tilden had produced 80 iced cup cakes for the break when the Mayor made a little Happy Birthday speech and created a very good impression with all the dancers. The Pearly King wowed the children with balloon tricks and told them the history of the Pearly Society.

Michael Nolan on behalf of the Branch presented a signed copy of the Collins pocket edition of Scottish Country Dancing to each of the Mayor and the Pearly King, and the demonstration Team gave a display of *The Merrick*.

The day of dancing catered for all ages as reflected in the words of Branch Chairman, Jeff Robertson "We are especially keen to ensure that people of all ages can get a chance to enjoy Scottish Country Dancing"

In the evening over a hundred dancers from the Combined Societies drew the Family Day to a close with a Dance to the music of Green Ginger.

Michael Nolan

(pictures on page 18)

DEMONSTRATION TEAM

It is no longer news but still satisfying to report that after close on 20 years of trying the Dem Team finally won the Display Section (the Mabel Ellison Trophy) at the Newcastle Festival on 13 February. There was general acknowledgement within the Team that it was possibly the best display that we have put on, choreographed by Angela Young who, with a little help from Graham Berry, also put together a recording of super tunes stylishly played by different bands that was quite inspirational to dance to. The judges obviously agreed with us, and I think it fair to say that the other teams and the public audience were of a similar view. As the mixed team also won their section, for the first time since 2005, and we shared the overall trophy for the highest aggregate marks, we came away well satisfied. The competition apart, the festival provides a wonderful forum for the enjoyment of Scottish country dancing by a large number of enthusiastic and friendly dancers.

On 8 February we were invited for the first time to Guildford SCD Society to dance for them. It proved to be an enjoyable evening with piper Roger Huth playing both for us and for some general dancing. On 11 March four of us with Neil Esslemont playing danced at the London Deanery in Russell Square at a farewell lunch party for one of their directors who was returning to Edinburgh. I believe we brought a tear to her eye, so mission accomplished. And on 17 March we made our annual visit to Richmond Caley where we danced a varied programme over about half an hour from our repertoire, including the first public airing by us of Derek Haynes' *Celtic Knot*, featuring a few new (to us) highland steps.

I shall be resigning the convenership of Dem Class at the AGM in June and shall also leave the committee at that point. Elaine Wilde has kindly agreed to take over as convener and to join the committee. I believe Elaine has the appropriate administrative experience and dancing knowledge to fulfil the role very well.

James Fairbairn

COMBINED SOCIETIES DANCE

In the ladies' before the Combined Societies Dance I met a lady from the Black Forest in Germany. Not everyone had come from so far afield but there was a good mix of over a hundred people from the five participating societies (The Clans, The Little Ship Club, London Highland Club and Winter Mondays as well as the London Branch) along with people from other clubs. The evening went very slickly with the baton passed on efficiently between the six MCs (representing the different clubs). The popular and accessible programme seemed to have been chosen especially to suit the band, Green Ginger, with lots of lovely lyrical strathspeys, but also some rousing reels and a reel humdinger of a foot-tapping final encore.

The dance followed a Family Day, also held at Pont Street. Some of the young people stayed on for the evening dance, including little Emily Hall, pretty in pink. Dad Dave Hall and Angela Young both had a busy day, playing and teaching respectively during the day and MCing in the evening. But the endurance prize must go to Angela, jointly with Michael Nolan: both were at Pont Street at 7am to do a slot on BBC London's breakfast show. Many other people contributed to the success of the evening, admirably hosted by the London Branch. The convivial spirit and friendly atmosphere showed Scottish country dancing at its best.

Samantha Schad

THE BHS BORDERS DAY SCHOOL

The early morning alarm call on Saturday morning does not always seem so welcome in the event, but the anticipation of a day school and evening dance soon gets one out of bed and ready for registration for 10am.

The BHS Borders Branch annual day school at Courtmoor School, Fleet, was as always a day to be remembered.

A warm welcome and coffee is always a good way to start. The dancers under the excellent tutelage of John and Ruby Wilkinson, and Maureen Campbell, with the accompaniment of musicians Robert Mackay, Ken Martlew and Judith Muir, were put through their paces. Ruby concentrated on the beginners and from their confident performance at the dance in the evening, Ruby inspired them. The more advanced were also inspired and challenged both mentally and physically.

Over in the Club Room the musicians were put through their musical paces by two of the best musical teachers possible, Ian Muir and Keith Anderson. Their enthusiasm for the genre, willingness to share their expertise and knowledge was greatly appreciated by all.

The culmination of the day as always was the dance in the evening; ably MCd by Paul Plummer and Peter Loveland, to the music of the musician's class. Was it the electric atmosphere from the floor that spurred the musicians on or the wonderful uplifting music that raised the dancers game? Certainly those on the stage were no cardboard cut-outs.

A big thank you to all those volunteers who are involved in organising these days. Where would be without them?

Alan & Anna Crawford

Mrs Elizabeth Maclachlan

Further to our article on Mrs Maclachlan on page 5 of the last issue of *The Reel*, The RSCDS Archivist, Marilyn Healy has found this rather poor quality newspaper photo and a report from the 9 March 1936 issue of the London Daily Sketch:



Still an expert dancer at 79, a London woman is the leading figure in a new movement to revive Scottish folk dancing in London and the south of England.

She is Mrs. Elizabeth Maclachlan, of St Martin's Lane, W.C., one of the best-known figures in the folk dancing world for more than half a century.

Her plan is to organise teams of Scottish folk dancers to attend festivals throughout the country.

Commenting on the fact that English people seem to be cleverer at Scottish folk dancing than the Scots themselves, Mrs Maclachlan observed that it is largely because the people of the south are more interested.

"I can do a Cumberland Reel with the best," she told me. "It is all a matter of keeping at it, and I don't think I have ever given up dancing for any length of time since I was a young girl."

She is a qualified doctor, and for years lived in Harley-street.

It is believed that relations with Miss Milligan were not the most cordial!

THE ISLE OF WIGHT WEEKEND

About 28 years ago an enthusiastic and enterprising group of dancers decided to organise a weekend school on the island; February is a quiet time, hotels are glad of the custom. Since then, at that time of year, dancers from far and near have flocked onto ferries to cross the sea to the Isle of Wight, confident that they will be welcomed royally, be well looked after, meet old friends and make new ones and have a thoroughly good time. Those of us who organise such events are only too aware of the worry that sufficient dancers will not apply, but not the Isle of Wight weekend – you must send in your application swiftly. Two teachers, one musician and a band provide morning classes and evening dances; Saturday afternoon is free; those of us fortunate enough to have sea view enjoyed a spectacular view across the channel, and, of course, glorious sunshine.

The combination of flexibility and friendliness allows everyone to do as much, or as little, as they want, and the organisation flows smoothly as the committee and friends are always at hand to handle all eventualities. Thank you to Frances Packwood, Pauline Parker and Dorothy Wigglesworth for your vision all those years ago and to those who have continued and developed it.

Rachel Wilton



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THE DIARY OF A SPRING FLINGER

26 March 2010

It's the first day of Spring Fling! Had to catch the two o'clock train from Kings Cross up to Newcastle, making it just in time to the Youth Hostel for supper. There was plenty of catch up chatter over the meal. Shortly after we went down the road to Blackfriars Hall for the evening ceilidh, with music by Real to Reel and Deb Lees calling. I was having so much fun, I forgot to take pictures! Afterwards at the hostel there was the traditional pizza, snacks and drinks before bed.

27 March 2010

Day two of three begins with breakfast and a bus ride to Westfield School. For the first class of the morning Deb Lees went over posture, timing and teamwork. After a short break we had Graham Donald going over technique, with extra focus on footwork. Fortunately, we were spared Pas de Basque practice having done 'hello goodbye' setting earlier. Music for the classes was provided by Patricia Cass and Gillian Stewart. There was an hour and a half break for lunch at the local pub, before the afternoon classes started. I opted for Highland, the alternative was Northumbrian Ranting. We had David Queen teaching us *Blue Bonnets*, with Patricia at the piano.

Supper started at an early five pm, as we had to get to Wallsend Memorial Hall for seven for the wine reception. Dancing started promptly at half past seven, and lasted till about eleven, with lovely tunes throughout played by Ceol na h-Alba. It was a lovely setting for the evening, and many lovely young ladies in their gorgeous evening wear to dance with! Having regrouped at the hostel, the night continued to late with more nibbles and drink.

28 March 2010

Woke up with a hangover thanks to last night's excessive partying. Clocks have moved forward, I have missed breakfast, and to crown it all Blackfriars Hall, where we were supposed to go to for the morning activities, was locked! Fortunately, the organizers secured Westfield School and we merrily (well, everyone but me who was feeling poorly) made our way there. The morning started with some warm ups, followed by the Scottish Dance Challenge which was a cross between pub quiz and party games. The eventual winner was Roy's Lassies. Thereafter everyone gathered for a light lunch before parting.

Alvin Tan

WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT!

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

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

stewart.murray@btinternet.com
or youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

CHISWICK is 8 years old!

The Chiswick group first met on 20 January 2002. It was a somewhat chaotic affair the result of Kay Senior, in her initial 'crazy about Scottish dancing' phase, phoning all her friends and neighbours who, although not dancers were likely candidates, and cajoling dancers from several of the groups she danced with to come along for the opening to help out. With promises from about 60 people that they would come along Kay took the financial plunge and booked and paid for the hall. (Nothing ventured nothing gained!) As it happened, at least 50 people turned up and paid their £3 so the books balanced! Denise Haugh was brave enough to say she would teach for that night and had to cope with a really mixed bag from non-starters to experienced dancers which must have been a very daunting task. People however seemed to enjoy themselves (and the mulled wine) and despite moments of organised chaos, the club was launched. Later, other teachers like Owen Meyer, Dave Hall, Jim Cook, Lindsey Rousseau and Davinia Miln all pitched in and formed a wonderful teaching team.

We now have a flourishing club of some 40 members and offer graded classes: Beginners to Experienced on a Sunday night from 6.00-9.30. We have three special events in the year; 'Kilts and Posh Frocks' in December, closely followed by Birthday Celebrations in January, and our very special open air dance in Summer when we dance on the beautifully kept lawns at the back of Chiswick House. We have to limit the numbers for 'Kilts and Posh Frocks' because of the size of our hall, but our summer dance can (and has) catered for over 100+. Weather permitting (and it usually does) we gather at from 5.00-6.00 and have our picnics on the grass with the beautiful Palladian house as our backdrop. Then from about 6.30 we dance until dusk to excellent live music.

Why not come and join us this summer, there's plenty of parking in the nearby streets and as we only charge a modest fee to cover expenses, it is a very popular and well attended event. You can only buy tickets before the event and not on the day, so please check our website. www.chiswickscottish.org which gives details of all our activities and has a whole gallery of pictures.

Kay Senior
(Life President and Club Founder)

LEEDS FESTIVAL 1963

I have recently unearthed some photographs taken at the Leeds Festival 1963. We danced on the school playing field in the afternoon and the evening Ball was held in the Town Hall.

At the time, I was dancing with the Southport Scottish Association and we were invited to dance *Angus MacLeod* as a demonstration. I was somewhat younger and slimmer in those days.

You might spot Alex Queen in the photograph; he was my Highland teacher and, of course, he wrote *Angus MacLeod*. Alex was Clan Pipe Major of the Angus MacLeod pipe band in Liverpool and sadly there are only two pipers left, - one is my brother in law!

One of these pictures (not *Angus MacLeod*) is reproduced on the right.

Marshall Christie

John W Mitchell analyses some modern dances

Bratach Bana

This extremely popular dance was devised by John Drewry. As originally devised on bars 25 to 28 the dancing couples promenaded across the set and then turned into line with two pas de bas steps. This was found to be awkward and when the book was published it included an addenda slip to indicate that there were no setting steps in this dance - the couples should promenade across and turn into line using travelling step. Many teachers have either lost or ignored the addenda slip and insist that the dancers set on bars 27 - 28. Pilling whilst being a useful aide memoire, even managed to make an error in the correction and show bars 27 - 28 as being a turn with the right hand half way, which is not only difficult but makes an awkward entry into the following right hand crossing with corners.

Caddam Wood

Caddam Wood, after which the tune is named, is situated just outside Kirriemuir. One evening at a Summer School Ball in St. Andrew's during one of the reels the band started playing the tune 'Caddam Wood'. Miss Jean Milligan immediately stopped the dance and informed the band in no uncertain terms that the tune was not one which she had selected for them to play, furthermore that as the tune was a "Pipe March" it should never be used for country dancing. In fact a bagpipe only has a range of five notes (like a bugle or cavalry trumpet) which is insufficient to play this particular tune. The following day she complained in class about the use of pipe tunes, modern dances in general and five couple dances in particular. This dance was devised and walked through that afternoon; to commemorate the significant event which had occurred on the previous evening.

The Last of the Lairds

The RSCDS published a version of this dance, with a footnote to the effect that the devisor Hugh Thurston had "agreed" that the ending published by the RSCDS was "more satisfactory" than the one in his original version as sent to the RSCDS. Hugh Thurston has always maintained that 'even though he agreed to permit the RSCDS to publish the dance with its changes, he personally never agreed that they were more satisfactory'. He rightly affirms that traditionally if all three couples are required to commence the first figure in a dance, only the first couple should be moving at the end of the final figure. On the other hand if all three couples are moving on the last bar, only the leading couple should move on the first bar. His original version followed the traditional construction, whereas that published by the RSCDS breaks that rule. Most dancers who have performed his original version prefer it to the one published by the RSCDS because of the easier second half, thus:-

Bars

- 17- 20 First couple cross giving right hand and cast off into second place.
21- 24 All turn with two hands, using pas de basque step.
25- 28 First couple dance a half figure of eight round the third couple, crossing down to commence.
29- 30 First couple lead up to the top.
31- 32 First couple cast off into second place.

As published by the RSCDS, the dancers set on bars 17 - 18 and on the next ten bars are expected to cover a distance for which 12 bars would normally be allowed. The introduction of this unnecessary setting interrupts and complicates the dance. Omitting this setting would make the dance much easier to perform; but it was probably introduced so that the second half of the dance would not be the same as in Maxwell's Rant as published by the RSCDS; otherwise the only difference between the two dances would be the manner of performing the reels on bars 1 - 16.

Mairi's Wedding

This extremely popular dance, as devised by James B. Cosh, included a development of the reels of four with corners figure, which first appeared in 'The White Rose of Scotland' devised by Elma Taylor. In the original instructions it was indicated that the leading couple must always pass by the left in the centre of the set. James Cosh subsequently confirmed this. This instruction is perfectly logical for a wedding dance as the heart is on the left side of the body. Despite this many leading couples incorrectly insist on passing by the right in the centre. It should be obvious to any dancer that if in a reel of four you pass by the right at the ends of the reel and also in the centre, it ceases to be a reel and degenerates into a clockwise chase or (as described by one devisor) "a sausage". Unfortunately some teachers and some modern dance devisors give as instructions 'pass by the right in the centre as in Mairi's Wedding'.

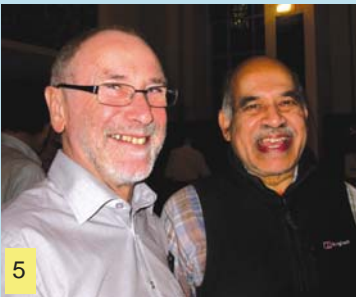
Mairi's Divorce

This modern dance was published by TAC. It is virtually identical to 'Mairi's Wedding', except that the instructions clearly indicate that the first couple must always pass by the right in the centre of the set. This is completely logical as it means the dancers hearts are as far apart as possible.

Trip to Bavaria

There are several stories about the origin of this dance. It is understood that shortly after the termination of the Second World War, Glasgow Branch of the RSCDS sent a demonstration team to Germany. The visit was a success and they were invited to return the following year. The dance received its first public performance during the second visit to Bavaria.





RSCDS WINTER WEDNESDAY BRANCH DANCE



- 1 Tony Ellam, Kay, Amy Banner and Kevin Kearns at the February RSCDS Winter School (photo by Tom McKinley)
- 2 Six hands round is danced in *Elsapie McNabb*
- 3 Six hands round in *The Birks of Invermay*
- 4 Ken Martlew leads Sarah Dring up the middle in *Rakes of Glasgow*
- 5 Jeff Robertson meets Frank D'Souza at the interval
- 6 MC Simon Wales with Brenda de Souza, Angela Young and Strathallan Bandleader Chris Oxtoby
- 7 Thelma Robb, George Potts and Lena Robinson take a well-earned kitchen break
- 8 Catriona Stewart, Judy Hall and Angela Young at the interval
- 9 South American Noëlle de Freitas chats with Finnish newcomer Paula Vanninen

Pictures 2 - 9 by Stephen Webb





10 Sin See leads Harriet Montez down the beautifully decorated hall at the Chiswick Kilts & Posh Frocks event

COMBINED SOCIETIES DANCE

(pictures by Renata Stankova)

- 11 A clutch of MCs: Jeff, Angela, Dave, Davinia, Rachel, Peter & Nigel
- 12 Green Ginger: Ian and Meryl Thomson, and Cas Sloan
- 13 Erika Ritzau, Rachel Wilton and Lindsay Merriman dance in *Mrs Stewart's Jig*

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hemel Hempstead

Dancing with a Grapefruit

Dear Wilson,

Eat a piece of fruit and wonder what its life was before it came to you. So it is with a dance. We as dancers have come to love some dances above others. We enjoy their flow and cleverness; in short, we enjoy the choreography of the dance. That we can dance it with others and with effortless familiarity appeals to our self-satisfaction. But spare a thought for the deviser.

This man or woman was motivated for some reason or other to write this dance. *Scotland Through Her Country Dances* by George Emmerson gives the reader an excellent insight into the background of many SC dances or at least details of what the dance name refers to. Some dances take their name from the tune that accompany them eg: *Corn Rigs*, *Green Grow the Rashes* whilst for others a tune is written in collaboration with the deviser (Muriel Johnstone and the late Roy Goldring). The dance tune is an integral part of the dance and helps us dancers who are wrestling with our memories at a 20 or more dance evening programme to remember that choreography.

In past years at St Andrews, at the RSCDS Summer School, when the next new book/ leaflet of dances was taught we had the added enjoyment of discovering a little of the history of the new dance. This was often because the teacher knew the deviser or arranger of the music or how it came to be chosen for publication. I always felt that the history of the music or the deviser or why it was so named or what it commemorated or depicted through its meaning, brought the dance alive. In passing however, I was surprised to discover that when a dance is trialled by the RSCDS for a new book the deviser's choice of music is not considered, which seems very strange and contrary to their beliefs in this matter!

We all know of the story behind the devising of *The Reel of the 51st Division* or *Ship o' Grace* and how cleverly in this latter dance we dance as if first couple is the RNLI lifeboat rescuing a stricken vessel. Or *Angus MacLeod* where the dance pattern is the regimental badge of The Black Watch, or *The Duchess Tree* where the Duchess of Gordon, a reputed beauty, was said to have given a kiss to all men willing to enlist in the 2nd Battalion The Gordon Highlanders. Such dances are associated with their meaning or history.

Every dance that is written down was devised for a reason. It could simply be that a deviser needed to make up the numbers for a book of dances or imagined how a certain progression could be developed into a flowing movement and so wrote a dance around it to show this off, or written for, or about somebody, to depict their character through dance. I wrote such a dance for *My Friend Robert* on the occasion of his 70th Birthday; written as a mark of friendship, it incorporates movements he loves dancing.

Look at any of Bill Forbes' dances and he has accompanied each dance description with a reason or commemoration. I like this approach because it allows the MC – you or I to bring the dance to life by seeing the dance through the eyes of the deviser and so feeling the soul of the dance.

So how can we maximise the enjoyment of a dance for others? Well, use the correct tune (ie the tune required by the deviser to accompany it), teach the dance clearly referring only to the original description and by using accurate unambiguous consistently recognisable descriptions and walking especially the linking parts from one figure to another to show the flow

whilst relating the figures to the barring. And also, remember to take a moment before teaching the dance, to say who wrote it or to whom it is attributed with any history or story. For me all these parts complete a pretty jigsaw and bring the fruit of our dancing endeavours to life!

Stephen Webb

Cheltenham

Announcements at Dances

Dear Wilson,

At any dance the M.C. is very busy, and one of the things they will be asked to do is read out information about other clubs' forthcoming dances. I would like to suggest, that rather than handing in a flyer, which has too much information, a piece of paper with only the salient points is handed in: that is, name of the club, the date, the venue, band/records, and the person to contact. This will save the MC having to scan the whole flyer to pick out these details.

Anyone interested can then speak to the contact and get full information (probably the flyer) from them.

John Marshall

(Cheltenham Scottish Society).

Orewa (NZ) and Reading

New Zealand Summer School

Dear Wilson

As a participant of the New Zealand Branch Summer School, if only for all the evening social events, I would like to thank Andy Nicol, the School Director, and all his helpers, for such an entertaining time. Indeed I must congratulate Craigellachie for their wonderful contribution to the dancing. They played with enthusiasm and enjoyment. I was proud to tell folk that they were our "local" band. When they played the Pink Panther tune I was amused at the reaction of the dancers, some very wry expressions passed from one to another. Again when the band put in their usual pauses (with no music played) the dancers stopped in their tracks thinking something was amiss! The biggest tribute the band could offer was playing the Maori tune "Pokarekare Ana" for the dance *Miss Gibson's Strathspey*. It was greatly appreciated and well received.

Well done Craigellachie!

Janet Wright



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THE CELTIC DIASPORA PLAYS AT THE WATFORD CALEDONIAN BALL (picture on page 18)

This year Watford invited the Australia fiddle/piano duo, Catherine Fraser and Duncan Smith, to be the band. We had purchased their album "Old Favourites And Odd Couples" and enjoyed it so much that we had asked them if they were ever in the UK. They replied that if we wanted them to come over they would, and would do some other work while they were here. The event was a great success, but I think there is a story to be told about the stresses of trying something new, that may be of interest to other clubs and societies.

There was some debate in committee about inviting a band that was something of an unknown quantity but we decided to take the plunge and try something different. Later, doubts started to set in: could a fiddle and piano fill a hall with enough sound for a ball? Wasn't fiddle music more difficult to dance to than accordion? Asking around, we discovered that rather a lot of people love the sound of the accordion so much that anything else seems to them a bit thin, and that others seemed uncertain about dancing to an unknown band. We started to think that we had made a misjudgement and that the event would not be supported. However some musicians and dancers did encourage us to hold firm, and this support really did sustain us. We also exchanged our previous venue (a local school hall) for the Allum Hall in Elstree, which has a sprung floor and a large lofty feel. However as the event drew near it seemed as if our fears were going to be realised as our ticket sales were low, partly due to a clash with another very popular event. However over the last two weeks our numbers doubled, and on the night we were very happy to welcome 116 dancers. Many people had come along out of curiosity to see this new band.

On the night of the dance the hall was opened up to its full length and looked lovely, thanks to the exceptional hard work of our President, Rose Kreloff, and the rest of the Committee. At 7.30pm sets were made up, and the band started to play. What happened next was that we were hit with a driving rhythm, exuberant energy and lift, and hundreds of notes tumbling over each other. The rhythm was coming not only from the piano, but, exceptionally, from the violin, and the beat was steady as a rock. The hall was full of music. I had no idea that a two-piece could make so much sound. After the first dance ended, the hall erupted with vigorous and sustained applause.

Personally, at times I felt as if the music was dancing me. Dancing strathspeys with a powerful downward urge was self-evident. The reels were full of wild notes and syncopation. In *Mrs Macpherson*, I felt physically pulled along by the music, and for the grand chain the set seemed to be locked into the timing, which is often so hard to achieve.

Interestingly, the tempo of the jigs was slower than we are used to, but in jig time I felt that the three beats were far more distinct than I normally experience.

So why should this two-piece from Australia have startled us so? Duncan grew up in Boston USA in a dancing family. His parents were founding members of the RSCDS Boston Branch and Miss Milligan was a house guest on more than one occasion. He was President of the Branch for four years in the 1980s. He later moved to Australia. He is a qualified SCD teacher and when he plays he is looking at the dancers and observing and responding to the dance floor. He says his aim is to be the kind of band he would want to dance to. Catherine is of Scottish descent and is trained in classical and

Scottish music. She founded the Southern Hemisphere International School of Scottish Fiddle in New Zealand, and so is immersed in the Celtic (Scottish) Diaspora. It takes an exceptional fiddle player to bring out the rhythmic accents that make the music dance – and give the dancers lift and momentum – without the need for bass and drums. Throughout the performance, Catherine moves with the music and puts a monumental amount of energy into her playing. She also has her eye on the dance floor most of the time with a smile for dancers when they catch her eye. Their playing has expanded our understanding of traditional Scottish music, whilst providing a tremendous amount of enjoyment.

I am pleased to report that the risk the band took with us paid off for them too, and resulted in a substantial tour, including dates in Somerset, Germany and Scotland. We very much look forward to welcoming them back to the UK again soon.

Andy Wiener

www.WatfordScottish.org.uk
www.CatherineFraser.com

WHERE DO DIPLOMATS DANCE?

The answer is that diplomats dance wherever they can, whatever the conditions. I should know, having been a member of HM Diplomatic Service for 42 years with overseas postings in 10 countries.

But let me start at the beginning in Oban at the Youth Hostel in the early 1960s. With two ex-school pals I had been on an expedition to "climb" Ben Nevis and the YHA in Oban was only a step on the way. When we saw the Warden's sign "Dancing tonight" we were easily diverted into the front room expecting something like the Lyceum Ballroom in London. Our shock at realising that we were being introduced to Scottish Country Dancing was soon overcome as we trampled our way through *Strip the Willow* and the evening was over before we could even sit down for a rest.

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing, they say. But equipped with my limited experience of Scottish Country Dancing I was easy prey for the organiser of the dancing at the Commonwealth Embassies' Club at my first posting in Berne. Later, I was sent to Lesotho in southern Africa where I introduced my newly acquired wife, Diane, to a form of dancing at the Maseru Club. A group of expatriates found someone with some records of dance music and we muddled our way through a few of the more popular dances. One full set was all that we could muster and most of our fun came from watching a Swedish aid official throw his legs high in the air in his attempt at a pas de basque!

Overseas again, this time in hot and humid Bangladesh, you would expect us to have taken up cards or chess, but it was on with the shorts and tee shirt to dance at someone's home. On hard, concrete floors it was quite punishing on feet and ankles and the style left a lot to be desired, but it was primarily a social event put together by Scots in the tight-knit British community. It acted as a morale-booster in a difficult environment, with a military government operating under martial law for the two years that we were there.

In Ireland, which immediately followed Bangladesh, there were many distractions and Scottish Country Dancing was not one of them. But it was in Canada that we really reached the

pinnacle of our dancing career when we joined the Ellerslie (Edmonton) Branch of the RSCDS. My predecessor as British Consul-General was a non-dancing Scot so the arrival of an English successor was not greeted with much enthusiasm. That is, until we paid our subscription and signed up for the weekly dance evenings. And, of course, it being a branch of the RSCDS we were helped to improve the quality of our dancing!

On our departure from Edmonton the Branch charmed us both by introducing a 4x40 bar jig which was especially written to commemorate the event. Entitled *Diane and Peter Johnstone's Farewell to Ellerslie or The Consul-General's Goodbye*, it was fun to dance but I do not think it ever reached the status of an RSCDS-approved dance.

Surprisingly, the standard of dancing was also very high in Jakarta, where we lived for 3 years in the late 90s. But it is the venue for the largest Scottish Highland Gathering outside Scotland so perhaps that explains it. And the highlight of the social year was the Saint Andrew's Ball which attracted hundreds of expatriates who attended dancing classes in the weeks before. Such was the infectious enthusiasm in Jakarta that I volunteered to be a competitor in the Reel of the 51st competition at the Gathering. With no kilt of my own, I was forced to borrow one from a dancer in an earlier set: not the most comfortable thing to do in a hot and humid atmosphere! Six all male sets competed and as our group did not gain 1st, 2nd or 3rd place we assumed we had come 4th! None of us was upset though and this was probably explained by the fact that we were already celebrating at the Whisky Su-su tent. (This is a whisky and cream cool drink – with a kick!)

And so to the finale! Four years as Governor of the Caribbean island of Anguilla (population 12,000) was a good place to finish my DS career. But you can imagine my surprise when the Deputy Governor told me, before we arrived, that he and his wife ran a small country dancing class every week in the high season! Our generous hosts for these occasions were a Canadian couple who had a wonderful wooden floor at their house so it was a pleasure to dance there. However, the cosmopolitan participants from the Caribbean and North America had some difficulty with memorising the dances and many of the finer points were omitted from our repertoire. This could explain why I still have some difficulty, for example, with the pousette! Imagine our surprise, or was it shock, when we received a visit from a "teacher from England" who was visiting her daughter on the island. It was none other than Irene Edgar from Reigate. Whatever were her impressions of our disparate (or should that be desperate?) group? She has always been too polite to comment. But we found that she took charge quite effortlessly and our evenings were much more orderly and productive as well as being a lot more fun as we learnt some different dances and how to do them properly!

Once during my term of office our group was invited to perform at an amateur variety show in aid of funds for the Soroptomists in Anguilla. My current dancing partners at the Sanderstead URC Scottish Dancers will be surprised to hear that I was one of the better male dancers which meant that I was chosen to be in the show. Our local audience was delighted to see His Excellency the Governor cavorting in this very strange British folk dance so we were given a very warm reception.

Over the years, Scottish Country Dancing, mainly overseas, has given me hours of pleasure, exercise and, particularly, fun. Long may it continue!

Peter Johnstone

Reprinted with permission from the Croydon Spring 2010 Branch Newsletter

DANCE EVENTS



ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Weekend School
Dillington House,
Dillington, Ilminster,
Somerset TA19 9EQ
1 – 3 October 2010

Teachers:..... **Mervyn Short, Jessie Stuart**
Musicians:.... **Robert Mackay, Christina Hood**

Booking Open – last few residential places.
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For booking contact: Dillington House,
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website www.dillington.co.uk.



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER BRANCH

May Ball

Saturday 15 May 2010

Emmbrook School, Wokingham, Berks RG41 1JP

Ian Muir & the Craigellachie Band

Contact Shirley Ferguson 01276 501952.

Summer Open Air Dance

19 June 2010
2.00 - 4.30pm

South Hill Park, Bracknell RG12 7PA

If wet the event will held at St Sebastian's
Memorial Hall, Honey Hill, Nine Mile Ride,
Wokingham RG40 3BA.

All dances will be recapped.

Contact: Fiona Albinson 0118 9789181.

The Branch hopes to run a Unit 2, 3 and 5
Course during the winter/spring 2010/11 in
Finchampstead.

Please contact Mervyn Short 01903 782413.

Details of events on www.rscds-bhs.org.uk.

RSCDS CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH Tea Dance

Saturday 8 May 2010 from 2.00 to 5.00pm.

Chesterton Community College, Cambridge CB4 3NY

Dancing to **Barbara Manning**

Afternoon tea with scones.

Bring the family for fun and easy dances.

Open Air Dance

Sunday 6 June 2009 from 2.00 to 5.00pm
Anglesey Abbey, Lode, Cambridge CB25 9EJ.
Dancing to recorded music.

Bring family and friends for a great day out.

Annual Dance

Chesterton Community College, Cambridge
Saturday 16 October 2010 7.30 to 11.30pm

Dancing to **Craigievar**

Details: www.rscds-cambridge.org.

SUMMER SCOTTISH DANCE

with the Societa di Danza of Italy
Friday 2 July 2010
7.30 - 11.00pm

Chiswick Town Hall, London W4 4JN

Craigievar

MC: Simonetta Balsamo with Lindsey Rousseau

Tickets inc Supper in advance only:

£15 before 1st May, then £18.

Enquiries to Libby Curzon at
DanceSoc.London@gmail.com
tel 020 8391 1215.

Programme and crib available at
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BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND REEL CLUB

Spring Dance

Saturday 22 May 2010
7.30 - 11.30pm

Boxmoor Playhouse,

St John's Road, Hemel Hempstead HP1 1NP

George Meikle's Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Hooper's Jig, The Ladies of Dunse,
Ship o' Grace, Muirland Willie, Scott Meikle,
The Ladies of Berkeau, Inchmickery, The
Minister on the Loch, The Rothesay Rant, Rest
and Be Thankful, C'est l'amour, John of Bon
Accord, Callum's Road, The Black Black Oil,
Fugal Fergus, Huntly Castle, A Trip to Bavaria,
The Byron Strathspey, The Hazel Tree, White
Heather Jig.

Admission by Programme £8.50.

Licensed Bar – £1 corkage fee if you bring your
own drinks.

Bring and share supper. Raffle.

Details and tickets from: Mrs Janet Halse,
1 Highcroft Road, Felden, Hemel Hempstead,
Herts HP3 0BU, tel: 01442 246381.

email: janethalseuk@btinternet.com.

www.berkhamstedreelclub.org.

Spring Dance Practice

15th May 2010, 2.00 - 5.30pm. £3 on the door
at Potten End Village Hall, Berkhamsted.



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22nd ANNUAL BALL

and OUTING

Weekend of 12-13 June 2010

Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band

Dancing, eating, drinking, more dancing
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Rendezvous with sunshine and social warmth.

Contact: William Whyte +33 467 868 919 or
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Our photograph gallery plus the 2010 booking
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CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS

Band Dance

Saturday 15 May 2010
7.00 - 10.30pm

Purley URC, Brighton Road, Purley CR8 2LN

The Music Makers

£8.00 including refreshments

Contact: Dorothy Pearson 01737 551724

www.rscdscroydon.org.uk.

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Open Air Summer Dance

Saturday 28 August 2010
2.30 - 6.30pm

Last chance to dance on

Wolfson College Lawn, Linton Road,
Oxford, OX2 6UD

(indoors if wet) Dancing to recorded music.

Tea and Biscuits provided,

Ticket prices & programme
will be published on our website.

Annual Ball

Saturday 23 October 2010

Headington School, Oxford, OX3 7TD

Ian Muir and The Craigellachie Band

Programme and ticket details in next issue

Contact: Trisha Rawlings, tel. 01869 340830

email: trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com

www.rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk.



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming attractions to be
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Fridays: Upper Hall 7.30-10.30pm
Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00-10.30pm
unless otherwise stated

Saturday 1 May..... **Caber Feidh**

Saturday 5 June..... **Craigellachie**
7.00 - 11.00pm. Summer Ball

Saturday 4 September..... **Strathallan**
7.00 - 11.00pm

Saturday 2 October..... **Stradivarious**

All dances will be talked or walked through on
request, except Summer Ball.

For further details contact: Frank Bennett on 020
8715 3564, email fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk, or
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news and programmes of our dances.

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Saturday 5 June 2010

Summer Ball

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1B 0BD

7.00 - 11.00 pm

Craigellachie

Programme: Hooper's Jig, The Blue Mess
Jacket, Caddam Wood, The Dancing Master,
Kilkenny Castle, Blooms of Bon Accord,
Friday's Child, The Minister on the Loch,
Postie's Jig, Australian Ladies, *Grand March*
and The Buchan Eightsome Reel, White Heather
Jig, Alison Rose, EH3 7AF, Round Reel of
Eight, The Cashmere Shawl, Rothesay Rant, The
Duke of Perth, Wind on Loch Fyne, Mairi's
Wedding.

Dances will not be walked through at this dance.

Tickets: (Including finger buffet refreshments)

LHC Members in advance £11.00.

Non Members in advance £13.00.

All classes on door £15.00.

Highland or evening dress preferred.

Please visit our website at

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

HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Saturday 6 November 2010

Annual Ball

Craigellachie Band

Programme and details in the next issue.

Enquiries: Margaret Wallace Tel 020 8560 6160.

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

website: www.hayesscottish.org.uk.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCDC

Annual Dance

Saturday 22 May 2010

7.30 - 11.30 pm

Village Hall, Hall Lane, Woolmer Green SG3 6XA
just off B197 north of Welwyn

Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw

Please reserve tickets in advance

£11, £6 spectators, includes supper

Contact Mr & Mrs Wood 01582 469928

e-mail welwyn.scdc@ntlworld.com.

DANCE EVENTS (continued)

SOUTH EAST HERTFORDSHIRE SCDS
Summer Dance
Friday 11 June 2010
7.45 - 10.45pm
Sele School, Hertford, Herts.
Tickets:- £3 each (plus shared refreshments)
Contact:- Peter Dixon - 01920 462213
email:- peter@gamels.freemove.co.uk.

“Beating Retreat” Event
Sunday 5 September 2010
The Castle Grounds
Hertford.
2.00 - 5.00pm.
Entry free but with local charity collection.

52nd Annual Ball
Saturday 20 November 2010
De Havilland Sports & Social Club
University of Hertfordshire,
Hatfield, Herts.
7.30 - 11.30pm
Ian Robertson's Band
Tickets - £17.50.

THISTLE CLUB'S EVENTS

Saturday 4 September 2010
Wing Village Hall, LU7 0NN.

Musician's Workshop: **George Meikle**
10.30am to 4.30pm - £15

Beginners Ladies' Step Dance Workshop
Teacher: **Alice Stainer,**
Musician: **Ken Martlew**

11.00am to 1.00pm - £5

Then Dance to

George & the Workshop Musicians

7.30 - 10.30pm. (shared supper) - £7

All enquiries to Jan Jones.

jange@verybusy.co.uk

Phone 07877 153259 - www.thistleclub.co.uk.

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THERE ARE JIGS AND JIGS

To Scottish country dancers a jig is a dance in 6/8 time. The word comes from the French word Gigue and the Italian word Giga both of which imply the use of the legs. Early records show it started in England in the 16th century before it spread to Ireland and Scotland in particular. As well as being a particular form of dance (tune) the word also means colloquially to dance. But did you know that there was another usage of the word? In the late 16th and early 17th centuries, Elizabethan London playhouses would provide a secondary entertainment after the main play had been completed. If the playgoers stayed on after the main event they would be treated to a rude lewd farce commonly known as a jig. Featuring songs, dancing and slapstick, jigs involved far more than the sort of jig that we know. Many disapproved of these skits. The history of the stage jig is complex but it is likely that it originated in the oral tradition, dancing, clowning and bedlam of the carnivals. Singing, dancing and play-acting were popular pastimes in the royal court. When extended to the professional stage, the jig was used to describe anything from a solo song, dialogue ballad or dance to a self-contained mini drama.

Will Kempe, who founded the Globe Theatre with William Shakespeare and the Burbages, was a clown actor who specialised in these jigs describing himself as one 'that hath spent his life in mad jigs and merry jests' and is said to have danced a jig all the way from London to Norwich. In 1612, jig performances were attracting so many criminals and disorderly crowds who often visited the theatre for the jig only, that the Middlesex Magistrates issued "An Order for the suppressing of jiggs songs and daunces used and accustomed at the playhouse called the Fortune in Goulding Lane ... It is hereupon expresslye commaunded that all Actors of every playhouse.. utterlye abolishe all jiggs Rymes and Daunces after their plays." The effect of the ban was only temporary: audiences still demanded their jigs and these grew in popularity even during the Commonwealth. On the Restoration in 1660, things got so much out of hand that Charles II passed a law which resulted in jigs being dropped from the playhouses. Their existence continued to some extent as entertainments at civic functions and feasts. The spirit of the jig lives on in today's Christmas pantomimes with their stock characters, dancing and slapstick. Our thespian ancestors and their audiences enjoyed a laugh with a sense of humour just as indecent and daring as anything we might meet today. In the RSCDS, our jigs are the soul of discretion!

*A condensation of an article in History Today by
Lucie Skeaping*

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BANDS



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THE ST ANDREW SOCIETY 100th ANNIVERSARY BALL

The St Andrew Society (London) celebrated its Centenary in fine style with a Ball in March.

The evening started as we were greeted with a glass of wine and some fantastic bagpipe tunes played by James Reid, the honorary piper of the Society. Some people had travelled far to be there, and while many lived within walking distance, all came with high expectations.

The formalities began with the Grand March, which gave an opportunity to show off around 140 guests and an early chance to admire the ladies' most beautiful dresses and gowns with sashes, alongside the men in smart Highland evening dress. The Society's members had chosen their favourite dances for the programme and they had selected well. It was a popular choice indeed!

The feature of the night was *The Centenary Reel*, devised by Catriona Bennett to mark the occasion. The music was composed by Karl Sandeman. We looked forward with great anticipation to learning this reel and we were delighted, when five couples elegantly skipped in, prepared by Samantha Schad, to demonstrate the lovely formations and figures. Clearly much thought went into the designing of this dance. After the walk through 10 sets with 10 dancers = 100 (or close to it) enjoyed dancing the world premiere. Such was the appreciation and so storming was the applause, that we even had an encore. It's a gracious and fast dance, with a few new and also familiar elements. *The Centenary Reel* finishes with a "danced" 100 in each set: two four hand circles and one couple setting, holding inside hands. It was a shame we could not get the photographer suspended from the ceiling to provide the perfect aerial image.

The MCs for the evening were the highly efficient and patient Jim Cook and Catriona Bennett. David Hall and his Band played superbly, living up to their excellent reputation; some band members coming down especially from Scotland – his parents, Ian and Heulwen, and the outstanding fiddler Judith Smith.

This milestone event was masterminded by the President, Elizabeth Bennett and the Committee of the St Andrew Society (London). Ideas and

preparations started some years ago. Pretty much everyone who is anyone in Scottish dancing in London was present and many had a significant part in preparing the Ball. Particular thought went into the decorations, the Banner 1910 – 2010, the printed tickets, the invitations, the demonstration of the new "Centenary Reel", the history display, the table cloths, the flowers, food and drink, the speeches and of course the celebration cake made by Pauline Cashmore.

A Loyal Address had been sent to the Queen and Alison Raffan, the Society's present Chief, read the letter from Buckingham Palace expressing Her Majesty the Queen's congratulations on the Centenary.

The Mayor of Merton Nick Draper congratulated the Society in a short address and even joined in the dancing!

Denise Haugh shared her personal experiences of St Raphael's Hospice, the chosen charity to which the proceeds of this event were to be donated, as her husband Norris Haugh had been well cared for there during his final illness until he sadly died last year of cancer. He had been the Honorary Piper for many years and also a past Chief.

Past Chief Anne Wildash thanked all the many helping hands. Jeff Robertson, Chairman of the RSCDS London Branch, spoke about how it all started and highlighted the connection between the St Andrew Society (London), which was created in March 1910 and the beginnings of the London RSCDS through Mrs MacLachlan. She had been President of the St Andrew Society (London) 1926-1929 and compiled the Border Dance Book, in response to the increased interest in performing and teaching Scottish dancing. Through her interest, the St Andrew Society became a prime mover in setting up the London Branch of the SCDS (as it was then) in 1930. The Society became affiliated to the RSCDS in 1965.

St Andrew Society (London) today is made up of friendly, experienced and welcoming members with the patience to help a total beginner, when I stepped through their doors two years ago and started dancing. The committee and members, especially Nicky Mouldsdale rose

to the challenge of celebrating 100 years in style – beautifully organised with a very memorable and enjoyable Centenary Ball. It was an honour to be there.

Iris Ronayne



FOUND: After the St Andrew Society (London) Centenary Ball on 20 March, a small Spanish fan. Enquiries to Elizabeth Bennett 020 8715 3564 or lizbennett@blueyonder.co.uk

BRANDED GARMENTS

A range of garments including Tee Shirts, fitted Ladies Tees, Polo Shirts and Sweatshirts is available sporting the Branch logo. These garments are offered in a range of colours and sizes and children's sizes are also available.

Order forms are available from
Jeff Robertson on tel: 01903 245718;
or 020 7730 9633;
jtr@ctg.co.uk, or from the Branch website:
www.rscdslondon.org.uk.

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

Tee Shirts	£9
Ladies Tees	£11
Polo Shirts	£15
Sweatshirts	£16

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

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

Jeff Robertson

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

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

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

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

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth. Newcomers and Beginners 7.15-8.30pm. Improvers/Intermediate 8.45-10.15pm. Weekly children's classes. Technique class by invitation – alternate Wednesdays. Details from Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Rd, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX. Tel: 01202 698138.

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details from Ray on 01273 684417 or Bill on 01273 731927. www.rscds-brighton.org.uk

BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets

Thursdays 7.30-10pm at Balfour Junior School, Balfour Road, Brighton. Details from Carol Catterall, 01273 564963.

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

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

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

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

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 10.30pm from October to end May, at St Andrew's Church Hall, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN. Tel: 01242 528220, mbsteele45@aol.com.

CHELMSFORD: SANDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets on Monday evenings 7.30-9.30pm at the Hayward School, Maltese Road, Chelmsford. Beginners welcome. Details from Esther 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. Other classes in the area: Beginners: Reigate & Selsdon (Tues): Gen: Reigate (Mon); Advanced: Reigate (Thurs.). Details: Dorothy Pearson 01737 551724, www.rscdsroydon.org.uk

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

continued on next page

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS (continued from previous page)

- EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Club night Mondays (all year) 8-10 pm at Woodford Green Prep School, Glengall Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0BZ. Details: www.efsa.org.uk or Lee Noble 020 8505 3032 leenoble@waitrose.com.
- EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** holds weekly adult dance classes for beginners and intermediate/advanced levels, (September to March), including informal dances. Details from Dorothy Pearson, 366 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon CR5 3BF. Tel 01737 551724
- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details from Mrs Annette Owen, 47 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 8 to 10pm, end of September to June. Details: info@gxscottish.org.uk or from Mrs B MacKenzie Ross 01494 874604.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- GUILDFORD SCDC** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from September to June. www.gscdc.org.uk or tel 01483 502422.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept.-June from 8.00-10.00pm in Elderkin Hall, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF. 020 8870 6131.
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00pm. Details from Phil Bray, 25 St. Olams Close, Luton, Beds LU3 2LD. Tel: 01582 617734.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St.Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner HA5 3QR. Tel: 020 8428 6055. www.harrowscottish.org.uk.
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8-10pm, September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.
- HERTSMEERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.
- HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15pm. September to July, tuition followed by social dancing. Also monthly Saturday dances and ceilidhs. All at Heston Methodist Church Hall. Details from Mrs Rosemary Mitchell, Tel: 01784 254401.
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP.** Contacts: Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel/Fax 01534 854459; Alan Nicolle 01534 484375, alan.nicolle88@googlemail.com; or Brenda Gale 01534 862357. See blog: www.scottishcountrydancingjersey.blogspot.com.
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** meet Wednesdays September to June at Holy Trinity & St. John's C. of E. Primary School, St. John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7.00-8.00pm. General 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. 01843 869284.
- LEICESTER BRANCH RSCDS** meets Thursdays, Holy Cross Centre, Wellington St., Leicester. 4 classes - Beginners, Intermediates, Social, Advanced. 7.30-8.30p.m., followed by Social dancing until 10p.m. Also Tuesdays 1.30-3.45p.m. General class at same venue. Contact: Mrs. Pamela Hood 0016 2753886, djjimps@talktalk.net.
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Some major functions held at other London venues. Details: adverts in *The Reel* or contact Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG. 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096. www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK 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. maidenheadsottishdancing.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, Chatham, Kent ME5 9QU. Tel. 01634 864007.
- MARKET HARBOUROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesday 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, "Lazonby", 9 Little Lunnon, Dunton Bassett, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 5JR. 01455 209446.
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at St. Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 3HL. tel 01474 822919.
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB** meets every Monday evening from September - June at 8.15-10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details from Mrs Jane Whittington. 5 Coldharbour Rd. Northfleet.Kent.DA11 8AE, 01474 359018.
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS.** Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00- 10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. MK3 5LP. 01908 378730, jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. from September to May at Roecroft School, Stotfold. Informal Saturday Dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds. SG17 5AL. Tel: 01462 812691.
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dancing 7.45-10.00pm. most Wednesdays at Barmehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9JN. Tel. 01634 254451.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners/Improvers Class Every Monday 8.00-10.15pm at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Pam. French, 20 Beaumont Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent, BR5 1JN. 01689 873511.
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET. Tel: 01869 340830.
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00-10.00pm. September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Rita Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Tel: 0118 975 7507, www.scottishdancingreading.org.
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00pm from mid Sept. to end of May. For Information contact Marshall Christie 020 8977 5237 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk.
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP.** Dancing Tues 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.co.
- 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 or Elizabeth Bennett 020-8715 3564, libennett@blueyonder.co.uk. www.standrewsdc london.netne.net.
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns Nights' when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details: Denise Haugh 020 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 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne, alan.suedavis@live.com. Also Childrens' Class Sat's. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, Deborah Draffin 01344 776831.
- ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS,** Luton meet every Wednesday, September to July 8.00-10.00pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road, Luton, Beds. Contact: Pat Hamilton, 01462 671156 or Sheila Harris, 01525 875060.
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00-10.00pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Rebecca Evans, 2 Vestry Cottages, Old Otford Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5EH 01732 456382 beccab31@hotmail.com .
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from mid-September to May 8.30-10.30pm, in Barnes. Further info: Further info: Denise Haugh, 4 Burdett Avenue, SW20 0ST, 020 8392 2920, email dhaugh200@btinternet.com..
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details: Pauline Cameron, 7 Wayne Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 9TS. Tel 01689 838395.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesdays, 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. September to June at St. Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsley Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY. 01932 784866. surbitoncaledonian.co.uk.
- THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON** meets at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1, every Tuesday from October to end of May for Scottish Country Dancing, 7.00-10.00pm. Details: Tom Symington, 020 7834 7151 or 020 7828 6792.
- THE SCOTS SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW SLOUGH & DISTRICT** meets every Wednesday (September to May) 8.00 to 10.15pm at Trinity ERC Hall, Windsor Rd, Slough SL1 2JA. Scottish Dancing and other social events. Details from the Sec: Carol Berry, tel:01628 620 072 or 01771 223 8165.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 7.30-10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8-10pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details: Sue Bush, 33 St Luke's Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9JH. Tel: 01892 615269, website: www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk.
- WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** hold weekly adult Classes for, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs Maggie Westley, 30 Stanley Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4LF. Tel: +44 (0) 20 8647 9899, website: westley3148@tiscali.co.uk. www.wallingtonscottish.org.uk.
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** General and Beginners/Improvers Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Krelhoff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE. 01923 492475, reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk.
- WAVERLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Winchester, every Thursday from Sept to the end of June, 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Pat Mumford, 02380 252570.
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Dancing Wednesday 8 to 10 pm from September to June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, near Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. email welwyn.scdc@hotmail.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 night (all abilities) Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. Both evenings take place at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ. 01264 363293, wendy@mumford.com.
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from Beryl Munro, tel 01621 850838 or email: beryl.munro@btinternet.com .



1

- 1 The Mayor and Mayoress of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea pose with the children.
- 2 The Mayoress, The Pearly King and The Mayor
- 3 Angela Young talks to Radio London's Jim Wheble who later tried some dancing himself whilst still on the air.
- 4 The Class hard at work on their footwork.
- 5 The Pearly King demonstrates what can be done with a balloon.
- 6 The Mayor and Mayoress join in the childrens' dancing.

7 Australian duo Catherine Fraser and Duncan Smith play for the Watford Caledonian Ball in March (Story on page 13)

This picture taken by Andy Wiener; all others by Michael Nolan



2

FAMILY DAY

Story on page 7



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4



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6

AFTER THE SEA HORSES AND BELLY DANCERS...HUNGARIAN STYLE

Jim Cook's article, in the last issue of *The Reel*, continues as he puts Nyíregyháza on the Scottish Dance map.

The sea horses and belly dancers of the last issue went home, as did the other seven dancers who appeared with me in Nyíregyháza's annual Fruit Festival in September 2009. I was now on my own for the next fortnight.

Boreka (Barbara) Simonics, the secretary of the town's English-Hungarian Friendship Association (EHFA), arranged a series of morning school visits. A pattern emerged whereby I spoke to classes who had studied English for some time and thus could understand me. Perhaps it is good that I am English rather than Scottish as the Scottish accent can be difficult for foreigners to understand.

I talked of the kilt and sporran I was wearing, the sequence of events that had brought me to Nyíregyháza and I also summarised the history of the RSCDS and Scottish Country Dancing. By a stroke of luck, the teacher accompanying me always seemed to have a portable CD player and, amazingly, I just happened to have a Book 40 CD with me. So, when the children were asked if they would like to do a Scottish Dance and, thankfully, always replied "Yes", music just happened to be at hand. Desks were pushed back and I invariably taught *A Reel for Jeannie*.

One school gathered its pupils in a large hallway to greet me and wished to sample a dance before their classes started. There was room for three four-couple sets. Some children volunteered freely, some were happy to come forward when press ganged while others tried to escape and just watch.

After all they did not know what was going to happen yet. However *A Reel for Jeannie* was again successfully danced.

Readers of the last issue will know that Michael White was the local man who was the trigger for my visit. As I entered one classroom, I unexpectedly found his daughter Rachel grinning at me. As she had been coming regularly with Mum and Dad to my evening classes, of which more anon, she was definitely my star pupil and helped me demonstrate components of the inevitable *A Reel for Jeannie*.

Also, in the early evenings on weekdays, I ran a regular daily beginners' course. I had no idea how many people would sign up, nor whether anybody would speak English. It was safe to assume that nobody would have any experience of SCD and probably did not even know what a typical dance looked like.

In GB, when one finds oneself teaching a beginners' class, there are often some experienced dancers present to give support to sets. But here there would be none and there would be no common language to help either. If, when teaching, one needed an incentive "to demonstrate" and not "to use words" then this was it.

I cannot say that this worried me as I have been down this road before, at a language college in Radolfzell, near Konstanz, Germany. Here I was once asked by the Principal if I would conduct an afternoon of dancing to a new intake of students who could then get to know each other socially. So I found myself surrounded by students from various Asian and African countries. Not all spoke any English. My German is very limited and theirs was non-existent as they had not yet started their language course.

I had given thought as to which dances I should feature and how I would teach them. But when the big day came I hit a problem that I just had not envisaged. I needed everyone to find a partner of course. We old hands do it automatically, irrespective of sex, otherwise we

shall miss a dance. But all the men sat on one side of the room glaring at the ladies who sat on the other. No amount of gesturing would get them to make up couples and sets. So I had to go around the room and pair up people and then make up sets. After they danced *The Borrowdale Exchange*, where everyone changed partners by the end, the last thing I was going to do was to encourage people to have a rest. Instead it was a case of "Keep your new partners" and immediately carry on. However as the afternoon progressed, and each side found that the other side did not bite, it became easier to make up sets. Suffice to say I was certainly prepared for this eventuality in Hungary.



A still taken from a video that was covering Jim's class shows Jim supervising a set as they turn with both hands.

When planning a series of classes, I know from experience the futility of having a rigid plan of campaign which you intend to adhere to. Certainly some people may come to each class thus giving continuity. But, for example, others may miss the first class and come to the second thus requiring backtracking to bring new people up to speed. Also, how quickly will the class pick things up? There are too many unknowns. So I certainly had a pre-prepared plan assuming the optimum situation. Thus I was over prepared. Beyond that, one can only take each class as it comes, then review progress and decide what you are going to do the next day. Come that next day, flexibility is still the order of the day because new people may turn up out of the blue to impact on that day's plan.

Usually with any course, people start with good intentions but then drift away so that the numbers go down as the course progresses. Certainly I had a hard core of keen people who came every day. But I did lose some. However, perhaps through word of mouth, new people kept coming along all the time even for the very last class! So I thankfully ended the course with more people than I started with! When teaching, it was often a case of one step forward and two steps backwards to accommodate new people. However, I remember the proud moment when, to help things along, I asked the "experienced" dancers to partner the new people who had turned up that evening.

Towards the end of the course, I decided that *Round Reel of Eight* would be their party piece. They picked this up quickly and particularly liked bars 41-48, 57-64 when two couples promenade inside the set acknowledging the standing couples. As I demonstrated this, I said "Hello" in acknowledgement. The others latched on to this and clearly liked saying "Hello" with gusto at this point.

The last class ended with a little party and a glass of bubbly and various teachers from the schools I had visited came to say goodbye and

watch... except that they were "encouraged", or should I say "coerced", to join in the final dance which could only be *A Reel for Jeannie*. But its final chord was not be the last time that such a chord is heard in Nyíregyháza.

Having sown the seeds, it would be a shame if the introduction of SCD faded away. So, at the end of the last dance class, in response to my request for a volunteer to act as a focal point to keep the dancing alive, school teacher Nagyné Péter Katalin came forward. I then set up a two way line of communication between her and the Budapest SCD Club whose support I had obtained in advance. Also Katalin has invited me to return in May 2010 to teach again for a fortnight.

This time, the mornings will feature a continuous series of classes with the same children at Katalin's school. Then the early evenings will be another series of classes for all. This fortnight will culminate with Nyíregyháza's first proper Scottish Dance on Saturday 29 May, admittedly with a very straightforward programme of course. However this event will give the course an objective. Holding it in the afternoon will allow any supporters from Budapest to be able to travel there and back the same day.

As advertised in *The Reel*, a special dance weekend takes place in Szeged the previous weekend. Also there is a dance in Budapest on Sunday 30 May as well. So suddenly it will be possible to dance in three locations in far off Hungary in quick succession for the first time ever.

But my September 2009 fortnight was not all sweat and toil. My free time was filled with many diversions – newspaper interviews, visits to museums, exhibitions, botanical gardens and the zoo, the Tokaj wine area, a golf club and horse farm. Also, after each evening class, EHFA members kindly met me and escorted me to dinner either in restaurants or at their homes.

After all these arranged activities, it seemed strange to be alone looking after myself during the intermediate weekend of my fortnight which I had asked to be kept free for me. So I undertook a train trip through the Rétköz fruit growing area to Záhony by the Ukrainian border. My next railway line to Mátészalka passed several tank loading ramps left over from the Warsaw Pact days. After visiting various historic churches in southern Erdőhát, I spent the Saturday night in Mátészalka.

On the Sunday morning, I visited the town's Szatmári Múzeum before taking the train, firstly to Nagyecsed, the birthplace of the notorious "Blood Countess" Erzsébet Báthori, and then Nagykaroly (Carei) in Romania. Being the only passenger in the one coach train crossing the border to Romania assured me of much personal attention by the border official. Apparently, people do not normally go to Carei just for two hours for the fun of it. And "No" my little bag was not stashed with alcohol and tobacco. Then it was back to Nyíregyháza for my second and last week.

I give a big thank you to all those who made my stay in Nyíregyháza so memorable, especially Boreka Simonics who arranged so much for me and Gyula and Anna Stick who kindly accommodated me for the fortnight. It was the first time that I had been offered beer and wine for breakfast!

So much has resulted from that chance encounter in the street with Michael White. Here is hoping that Nyíregyháza now stays on the worldwide SCD map.

Jim Cook



Stephen Webb

Alan and Trish White, Frank and Elizabeth Bennett, James Reid, The Mayor of Merton Nick and Lady Mayoress Sheila Draper, Alison Raffan, Mary and Jeff Robertson, at the St Andrew Society Centenary Ball. (see page 16)

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