



The Reel

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
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No 262

DECEMBER 2007 to FEBRUARY 2008

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

LONDON BRANCH AWARDS

The London Branch is pleased to announce that Rita Marlow, Peter Luke and George Potts have been nominated to receive Branch Awards at the Christmas Dance on 15 December. *Citations on page 3.*



Rita Marlow



Peter Luke



George Potts

Joan Desborough

Tony Eilam

CELEBRATE FOR CHRISTMAS

Branch Dance

Saturday 15 December 2007
6.45 for 7.00-10.45pm.

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St.

Colin Dewar and his Band

Machine without Horses	12/12
Jessie's Hornpipe	8/9
Miss Gibson's Strathspey.....	L.20
The Diamond Jubilee	31/1
The Royal Deeside Railway.....	40/9
John McAlpin.....	Foss/Galloway
Bonnie Anne.....	MacNab II/1
Autumn in Appin.....	31/5
The Montgomeries' Rant	10/1
The Laird of Milton's Daughter.....	22/10
Mrs McLeod.....	6/11
Anna Holden's Strathspey	42/2
Napier's Index	45/8
John of Bon Accord	33/5
Sugar Candie	6/9
Jennifer's Jig	Drewry Silver City 4
Macdonald of the Isles	Haynes Carnforth 2/7
The Reel of the Royal Scots.....	L.7

Admission £15.00 members, £16.00 non members. Reception drink and refreshments provided. Those with Highland/evening dress are encouraged to wear it.

BURNS' SUPPER AND CEILIDH DANCE



Saturday 12 January 2008
6.45 - 10.45pm

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

The Strathallan Band

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

Admission £9.50 for RSCDS members, £12.00 non members, including supper.
Tickets in advance (SAE please) from Rachel Wilton, 31, Kemsing Road, London SE10 0LL.
Tel 020 8858 7729
email wiltonrachel@hotmail.com
(a pair of tickets would make a wonderful Christmas present)



Dr Alastair MacFadyen (Past Chairman 1985-88)

Has become the Society's seventh President at the Society AGM in Perth on the retirement of the Earl of Mansfield after 30 years of valued service to the Society.

Stephen Webb

Issue No 263 will be with UK based members by 16 February 2008 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 Woocote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS to arrive by 18 January 2008. (Issue No 264 will arrive by 4 May 2008).

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

SOCIETY AGM

Once again, in keeping with RSCDS tradition, well over 500 members (many acting as delegates for their Branches) convened on the first weekend in November for the Society's AGM. Perth has almost become home to the AGM and associated Conference Weekend, and having ventured to Aberdeen last year we returned to the familiar surroundings of the Bell's Sports Centre

The event is more than just the AGM. For many, the Friday Ball and more informal dance on the Saturday are social highlights in the annual dancing calendar – a chance to catch up with friends from far afield and enjoy some good dancing to great music. Certainly, the music from David Cunningham and Marian Anderson did not disappoint. There were the regular features of the weekend; the Branch forum (its findings will be posted on the RSCDS web-site in about a month's time); the General Class (well-attended and taught in Mervyn Short's renowned meticulous but very enjoyable style); Musicians' Forum (a lively and stimulating discussion led by our own Angela Young); and the Youth Forum (where a host of interesting activities, including the Annual Spring Fling were covered). For those that needed a break from the dancing there was the opportunity to take a bus tour to Scone Palace – home of the Earl of Mansfield, President of the RSCDS for the last thirty years but who retired at this year's AGM. In a break with tradition, the AGM elected as President a well-known and respected 'insider', Dr Alastair MacFadyen.

So, to the central element of the weekend: the AGM. For most of the previous twenty or so meetings that I have attended, the afternoon has been witness to a very formulaic and somewhat uninspiring meeting. This year was certainly not that. Why? Well, there was the usual round of important processes: presentation of Scrolls of Honour, appointment of Auditor, presentation of Annual Reports and the like. Of some note though, was the dearth of interest in applying for the elected positions on the Management Board and supporting committees: a source of some concern, I would have thought.

But what marked out this meeting was the frankness of debate about how the Management Board was performing and how well the Society was faring both financially and managerially. Some of this was prompted by the motion (proposed by the Management Board) to increase subscription from £10 to £15; but more so by the open expression of frustration with the Management Board from a number of sources. Also of note, was the high quality of almost all the interventions at the meeting.

The debate about raising the subscription hinged on whether the Society could justify the increase in fee with what it produced or delivered. There were few that doubted the financial arguments for needing more revenue: we are making large losses and we may run out of reserves in just a few years at this rate. Some overseas Branches were particularly sceptical about what they really got from the Society in return for the subscription. Some delegates were concerned that the increase would lead to a significant loss of members. Others simply felt that the explanations and arguments offered prior to the meeting were not satisfactory and circulated very late in the day; indeed, while this was rectified at the meeting (where members of the Board did offer some more persuasive arguments supported by real data) many delegates did not feel in a position to modify the voting instructions that they had received – an interesting issue highlighting the varying level of discretion that delegates felt they had when voting.

Lawrence Boyd, the outgoing Convenor of

General Purposes and Finance, delivered a very robust financial case for the increase underpinned by a need to act now to avoid potential insolvency. But he was also critical of the Management Board's failure to grip governance, planning and delivery issues. The Board offered almost no defence of their position, although the Chairman elect, Alex Gray, made clear that he was acutely aware of the challenges that lay ahead. The motion to increase subscription was passed convincingly. There was a further sting in the tail for the Board and the HQ office, when a Glasgow Branch motion essentially highlighting procedural failure by both (this was in respect of processing Disclosure Certificate applications by HQ) was overwhelmingly passed.

Some may have felt that the meeting had a sharper tone than previously, but I felt that it was also a very constructive meeting. Most who spoke exhibited a great desire to see the Society stronger, and a passion about the organisation that had undoubtedly made possible the Scottish Country Dancing that we all enjoy. It is important now to move forward beyond any differences of approach between individuals and give full support to the Management Board as they tackle the range of issues raised at the meeting. The recognition by several speakers that much of what the Society achieved relied on a great deal of voluntary work.

David Hall

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

'Thank goodness for Scottish Country dancing!' we must all say as we enter the time of short days; classes have completed a whole term and we have welcomed some new dancers who enjoyed the 'Dance Scottish' sessions in the park. The three classes now at Marlborough School are coordinating well; thank you to the Committee members who are guiding, collecting fees, making new members welcome and giving information. We are pleased highland dancing is firmly back on the programme – both highland and ladies' step dancing are open to men and women – it is fun and improves posture, balance and footwork – try them and see (details: page 4).

Our new season's first dance had a bandleader's programme – what lovely music we had from David Hall and his 'Big Band' and what great tunes! Our Day School saw a beautiful day and another rise in the number of participants – well done to Margaret and all her helpers for a very successful and enjoyable day (see page 5). November saw the trusty band of Branch delegates setting off for Perth to take part in the Society AGM and enjoy the 'fringe' activities of dancing, meeting, talking, even sightseeing. Another successful Family Day was held in November led by Angela Young, and followed with the St. Andrew's Dance for new dancers and beginners with Frank Reid and Andrew Kellett working together for the benefit of all dancers who were able to enjoy 'stovies' made by real Aberdonians during the break. If your friends and family enjoyed this evening, or missed it, don't forget the Burns Supper/Ceilidh Dance in January (see page 1).

Congratulations to the recipients of this year's Branch Awards, three people who have worked hard for the Branch, and dancers in a 'background' capacity, and still do.

We look forward to all the dancing available in 2008 – in the Dance Diary, and on the website – are we all not fortunate to have such a wonderful activity?

The festive season starts with the opportunity to dance to Colin Dewar and his Band; come and enjoy HAPPY DANCING!

Rachel Wilton

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Patron - H.M. The Queen



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SUB-COMMITTEES

Youth: Andrew Kellett, Angela Young
Classes: Moira Strutt, Gillian Bloomfield,
Margaret Catchick (Day School), Pamela Ellam,
Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw
Dances: Rachel Wilton, Gillian Bloomfield,
Margaret Catchick, Jeff Robertson,
Angela Young
Demonstrations: James Fairbairn, Angela Young
Publicity: Rosalind Zuridis, Lindsay Jenkins*,
Rita Marlow*, Wilson Nicol (Reel),
Meryl Thomson*(website)
Open-air Dances: James Fairbairn,
Jeff Robertson
Membership: Gaynor Curtis*
Bookstall: Ian Anderson*
Central Council of Physical Recreation:
Marie Jamieson*, Simon Wales.
Hon Archivist: Iris Anderson*
S E Branches: Andrew Kellett, Simon Wales
Combined Societies: Rachel Wilton

*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

Website

www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Objects of London Branch

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

- preserving and furthering the practice of traditional Scottish Country Dances;
- providing or assisting in providing instruction in the dancing of Scottish Country Dances;
- promoting the enjoyment and appreciation of Scottish Country Dancing and Music by any suitable means.

The London Branch is pleased to announce that Rita Marlow, Peter Luke and George Potts have been nominated to receive Branch Awards.

RITA MARLOW

Rita began SCD in 1960, when Andrew Gillies suggested that as she enjoyed English Country Dancing, she might enjoy the Scottish variety as well. She attended his class party in Putney and was hooked, later joining the YWCA class under Alex Westwood and subsequently, Bill Ireland's Demonstration Class.

In 1966, she joined London Branch as a Life Member. Scottish dance became an important part of Rita's social life – Branch dances, dances with other organisations in and around London, weekend schools and demonstrations, as well as regular attendance at St. Andrews Summer School in the 70s and 80s.

Feeling she should give something back to the Society, Rita became Editor of *The Reel* and was co-opted onto the Committee, where she remained for 17 years. She was Editor for issues 124 to 145, during which time she maintained the high standard of the publication. Classes, Reel Subscriptions and the Polesden Lacey sub-committees followed this. Her final Committee task was as Membership Secretary from August '86 until her resignation in 1989. From 2000 she has been in charge of mailing *The Reel* to 400 plus subscribers worldwide.

After passing her Teaching Certificate, Rita taught the YWCA Advanced class in 1983. When she retired from the Demonstration Class after 15 years, she then taught the Quintin-Kynaston Advanced class for three years from 1986-89. Rita has taught at weekend and day schools from Edinburgh to Bournemouth to the Medway, and for the Argyll Group and the Cairngorm Dancers.

Since moving to Ashted in 1987, she has taught a range of classes for the Wallington Association, which are generally of mixed ability, but lively and enjoyable, encouraging dancers to attend Branch activities and subscribe to *The Reel*. She is a regular MC at dances in the area.

PETER LUKE

In 1945 Peter made his debut performance in the Floral Dance in Cornwall. Employment took Peter to Reading and in 1958 he had his first lessons in SCD from Marion Dean at the Reading St. Andrew's Club. By 1962 he was in the St. Andrew's demonstration team, and still dances with them. Since 1964 Peter has often been a St. Andrew's Committee member (currently Treasurer). He regularly takes classes and acts as caller for the demonstration team. St. Andrew's honoured him with a life membership in 1999. *Pluke*, an early nickname, first danced abroad in Letterkenny during 1969 with 'The Reivers', founded by Colin Robertson.

Peter became a Life Member of the RSCDS in 1967. ("The best money ever spent," said Peter.) He attended many Day and Weekend Schools and joined the London Branch Demonstration Team in January 1974. His first dem was in the Albert Hall and his last at Luton Football Club. He participated in trips to France and Belgium. Bill Ireland coined '*Pete the Feet*' as his nickname and always referred to the 'dicky bird hop' of his travelling step. He thought he had retired in July 1993, but if you look at Reel 258 you will see that he has had several recalls. Peter joined the Branch Committee in 1989, serving on various Sub-Committees, and was Branch Treasurer from 1993 until 2000. He has worked tirelessly for the Society over many years extending his influence to the MacLennan Scottish Group, dancing in most countries in Western Europe; the Argyll Group of which he was Treasurer in 1997; and the Cairngorm Group Hogmanay celebrations.

Scottish Dancing is an important part of Peter's life and his major birthdays have been celebrated with dancing friends. Whether on tour or at home Peter engages with spectators and participants and encourages them all onto the dance floor.

GEORGE POTTS

George has been a member of London Branch since 1973. He started dancing at school in Perth and has been dancing almost ever since. Following a brief time in Glasgow, George came to London in 1970 to join the Ministry of Defence. He resumed his dancing at Pont Street Monday evening socials going on to join the Advanced Class taught by Mary Stoker, our President. He attended RSCDS Summer Schools at St. Andrews and took part in one of the Highland Demonstrations at the Younger Hall. He qualified as an RSCDS teacher in 1983 under the tutelage of Mary Stoker. After teaching General Classes, George took over the Intermediate Class at Marlborough School in 1989 where he taught for three years.

He joined the Branch Committee in 1985 as a member of the Classes Sub-Committee, going on to become Branch Secretary in 1986 and holding that office for nine years until 1995. He has also regularly represented the Branch as a Delegate at the Society AGM. George has been a loyal member of London Branch for over thirty years. He is a great supporter of Branch events and willing participator in the organisation that make these events successful. At the recent London Day School he was part of the group working hard all day to provide refreshment for over a hundred dancers. I am sure we will all have tasted his excellent scones and enjoyed a good cup of interval tea at some time. George currently attends the Branch Technique Class and teaches a General Class at Morley College.

He is the kind of member every Branch needs, fun to dance with, lively and friendly in conversation, and always pleased to help when asked undertaking the very responsible role of Branch Secretary and working as a Teacher to encourage others.

ROY GOLDRING — An Appreciation

Few of today's dancers can have failed to have danced and enjoyed a Roy Goldring dance, the essence of which is a combination of simplicity and originality, whilst observing the traditions of Scottish Country dancing and its music.

So how was it that this quintessential Englishman became a member of that select group of devisers of Scottish Country dances, whose compositions are performed worldwide on a regular basis?

The early years give few clues. Roy was born and raised in Devon. His work for HM Government took him around the country. In Birmingham he met and married Doreen, to whom he was devoted for 56 years. They settled down, raised a family – two sons – and enjoyed ballroom and English Country dancing.

When Roy's work involved a move to Surrey, there was no English club locally, but there was a Scottish Country dance club. So they joined that and Roy was immediately attracted to the music. A further work move took the family to Newcastle and the Ponteland SCD Club. This coincided with the early years in the career of Robert Whitehead, who played for the club.

Finally in the 1970s the family moved to Ilkley. In those days the SCD club was run by the Evening Institute. Teachers had to be qualified; so when there was a gap, Roy and Doreen decided to study for their teaching certificates, which they gained at Summer School in 1977. Their teacher there was Alastair MacFadyen and it was he who was instrumental in the publication of Roy's first

dance.

In Ilkley, Roy had got into the habit of devising "exercise dances" as a teaching aid. He experimented with these, developed his ideas and showed some to Alastair who recommended that one should be submitted to the Society for publication. The dance was published as "The Cuillins of Skye" in 1978.

Roy had become an active member of Leeds Branch, serving as Teacher, Committee member and latterly Chairman. He continued to devise dances which he published privately, any "profits" being given to charity. When Leeds Branch celebrated its silver jubilee in 1987, a book of new dances was published, the lion's share including *The Rose of the North*, dedicated to Doreen, being devised by Roy. The Leeds Branch website currently details all Roy's published dances, now totalling over 150.

The increasing popularity of his dances led to teaching engagements. In England his first weekend school was for The Argyll SD Group at Easthampstead Park, Berks in the 1980s. He also taught in Scotland at Perth and Stirling, but famously at Castle Douglas with John Drewry to whom he dedicated *John of Bon Accord*. In Canada his classes were very popular and he became a member of TAC.

Roy received The Society's Scroll from the Earl of Mansfield in 2001. Included in the citation is "The main feature of Roy's dances is their accessibility to dancers of all abilities and many teachers throughout the world make use of his

dances in their teaching and hold him in great respect."

The writer was first introduced to Roy's dances in our Branch President's classes. Although a keen traditionalist, Mary Stoker admired Roy's work greatly and often featured it in her lessons. He dedicated *All for Mary* and *The Isle of Tiree* to her.

It is often asked where the inspiration for Roy's dances came from. The answer is not simple. According to Doreen, they often came out of thin air! Occasionally, there was a direct link as with Raeburn's painting *The Minister on the Loch* which Roy dedicated to the Society pianist Robert Mackay. Roy usually provided a footnote where there was such a link. In answer to "What came first?", Roy devised the movement first (often in his own hieroglyphics) and then sought out the music. His early collaborators included Nancy Dickson and Muriel Johnstone, but there were many others. In some of the early books, there was a note of recommended tunes to accompany the dances. Latterly the music was printed alongside the dance instruction.

Music was very important to Roy: a visit to the Goldring household was usually made to the accompaniment of SCD music in the background.

The wider public will remember Roy for his dances. Those who knew him will also recall his boyish enthusiasm, his sense of humour and his considerable warmth. He is already greatly missed.

Andrew Cockett

CLASSES

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher / Musician
BEGINNERS	Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Moira Strutt / t.b.a.
POPULAR	Wednesday	8.00 - 9.30	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Lindsey Rousseau / 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	Jenni Rutherford
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	<i>For details contact James Fairbairn, 01865 512308</i>		Angela Young / Sandra Smith

Term starts week commencing 7 January 2008. Half-Term week commencing 11 February and term ends during the week commencing 17 March. Enquiries about classes: 020 8748 6711, or email classes@rscdslondon.org.uk.

CLASSES

This year for the first time all three Wednesday evening classes are being held at Marlborough School. So, whether you are in the beginners, attending the technique class or an enthusiast for popular dances, everyone can see something of what is involved in the other classes. Also, for the first time, all the classes are being run by the Branch (as the technique class has been) instead of the Adult Education Authority. This may not sound important but it does mean that dancers may be able to move from one class to another, if appropriate. We are also able to offer classes to visitors to London and a discount to Branch members. The fee for the term will be £60 for members and £65 for non-members. See above for class and term details.

SUNDAY TECHNIQUE CLASSES

Band Hall, Coram's Fields, 93 Guilford St, WC1
11.00am - 1.00pm Cost £6.00
27 January

Teacher: **Philippe Rousseau**
Musician: **Barbara Manning**
17 February

Teacher: to be confirmed
Musician: **David Hall**
16 March

Teacher: **Ann Dix**
Musician: **Angela Young**
Nearest underground station: Russell Square.

On street parking available.
Local establishments available for lunch.
Further details 020 8748 6711.
email: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

HIGHLAND CLASSES 2008

Teacher: **David Hall**
Thursdays -

10 January, 24 January, 7 February,
14 February, 28 February, 13 March
7.15 - 9.15 pm

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

Further details from Margaret Shaw,
tel: 020 7329 2847

SPRING FLING

Glasgow 2008

Friday 28 March to Sunday 30 March
The RSCDS Annual Youth Event

For people between the ages of 16 and 35
A weekend of dance

Beginners through to Advanced

Teachers - **Alasdair Brown, Craig Houston,**
Margo Priestley

Application forms available from www.rscds.org
or Craig Jackson, Schools and Examinations

Officer, RSCDS, 12, Coates Crescent,
Edinburgh EH3 7AF. Tel. 0131 225 7783

email springfling@rscds.org.

Financial support is available, contact Secretary

FOCUS ON YOUTH

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

The Branch Children's Class starts the term on Saturday
19 January, then 9 February and 8 March.
10.30-11.30am.

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

Teacher: **Angela Young**
Musician: **Jean Harrison**

£2.00 per child (including drink)
adults welcome to stay.

Newcomers always welcome!

FAMILY DAY - 15 March

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

11.30 - 12.45 Children's Class

*All children welcome to join the
Branch Children's class.*

At the same time there will be a special gentle
introduction to Scottish Country Dancing class for
the grown ups the children bring with them - to
help them join in the afternoon's dancing.

13.00 Lunch

will be provided for all dancers

14:00 - 16:30 Dance to the music of
Kafoozalum

List of dances will be appear in the next *Reel*.

Everyone is welcome for all or part of the day.

Dances in the afternoon will be talked through.

*For more details please contact
Andrew Kellett on 020 8301 1403.*

Medal Tests

There will be another opportunity for teachers to
enter their pupils for the RSCDS Medal Tests for
Children on Saturday 3rd May 2008 at St.
Columba's Church Hall, SW1. Over 760 children,
including almost 50 from the London area, took
the Tests at 28 venues last year. They are a good
way of encouraging and rewarding young dancers,
and we try our best to make the examination day a
relaxed and enjoyable experience for everyone
involved. If you would like more information,
including details of the syllabus, please get in
touch with Andrew Kellett on 020 8301 1403.

And finally another Family Day will be held on
22 November 2008.

Children's Class

Aston Clinton, Nr. Aylesbury, Bucks

Teacher: **Joan Desborough**
Further details from Ann Robertson 01296 630682.

STEP DANCING

Joan Desborough is continuing Step Dancing in
the Scout Hut, Kings Langley into 2008 to live
fiddle music by Wendy Desborough. Dates for
your diary are Sundays 10 February and 1 June
2008. Classes will be 10.30 - 12.30 and 13.45 -
15.45. Joan will welcome anyone who wants to
come and try step dancing. Further details from
Joan Desborough, tel 01442 826629.

DEMONSTRATION TEAM ACTIVITIES SUMMER / AUTUMN 2007

Following another round of auditions in May, we
have augmented the team by another two,
including one man. In addition, **Dave Hall**
has returned from Brussels and has been dancing
with us from the start of the new season. We
started this year without **Simon Wales** for the
first time for 22 years. Simon has decided that he
has danced with the Dem Team for long enough
and wishes to free up his calendar a bit.

We shall miss him at Dem class. He goes with
our very good wishes and gratitude both on
behalf of the Team but also me personally as I
have gleaned much from him over the years
about dancing and I have always enjoyed his
company on and off the dance floor. He has I am
pleased to say agreed to dance with us at the
Newcastle Festival in February 2008 and will
make the occasional other guest appearance.

Our calendar has remained reasonably full and
since March we have fulfilled the following
engagements: Brompton Oratory garden fête;
Branch Garden Dance at Harrow; Annie Lennox
new album launch party, 20th Century Theatre,
Westbourne Grove; Leeds Festival; Epsom
Caledonian Society afternoon garden party;
Nehru Centre, Mayfair joint country and
highland display alternating with Indian dancers;
Marchmont Street Street Party; Kensington
Gardens Branch afternoon open air dancing;
Branch dance, a tribute to Roy Goldring;
Regent's Business College student induction
party; Branch day school ceilidhs items; Dance
around the World festival display at Cecil Sharp
House; Northwood Synagogue Scottish evening;
40th birthday party, Milton Keynes.

The Annie Lennox gig deserves special
mention. The website was again responsible for
leading Annie's personal assistant to contact me
and to our dancing a display for her guests,
including Bob Geldof and Richard E. Grant,
among other luminaries, and organising a drag
session, in which they joined with gusto. I
confess to never having heard of Annie Lennox
(she's from Aberdeen, so must be a Good Thing,
according to Angela) but am now proud to have a
hand-written note of thanks from her in the Dem
Class file!

The Nehru Centre event was also a website-
created opportunity and we joined forces with
Amanda Bignell and her friend Charlotte to put
on a display of highland and country dancing in
the small theatre at the Centre, which was well
received by the mixed Indian and British
audience.

Rosalind Zuridis as the new Publicity
Convener has been making a welcome effort to
get involved in our events so as to maximise
publicity there-from for Scottish Country
Dancing and the Branch's activities. We are
making sure that Rosalind has advance notice of
our calendar and we now systematically go to

(Continued at foot of next page)

BRANCH DANCE

'Mingle in March'

Saturday 15 March 2008

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

7.00-10.30pm

Kafoozalum

Good Hearted Glasgow	Knapman
The Dashing White Sergeant	3/2
John McAlpin	Foss/L.2007
Antarctica Bound	Scotia Suite
Petronella	1/1
Monymusk	11/2
Jennifer's Jig	Drewry
The Belle of Bon Accord	Drewry
The Eightsome Reel	2/12
Joie de Vivre	39/2
The Highland Rambler	Leeds 25
The Robertson Rant	39/8
Ladies' Fancy	13/2
West's Hornpipe	5 Trad.3
Lady Charlotte Bruce	MMM2
The College Hornpipe	20/12
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	L.18
The Reel of the 51st Division	13/10
Admission £7.50 members, £8.50 non members Children £2.00, members' children admitted free.	

ADVANCE NOTICE

Branch Dances 2008

at St. Columba's unless otherwise stated

12 April	David Hall Combined Societies Dance
10 May	Musicians/Gordon Simpson Musicians' Day followed by dance
14 June	Green Ginger
28 June	(Harrow outdoor dance) TBA

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch costs £14.00 per annum for UK based members (£14.50 for Europe; £16.50 elsewhere). Current members of other Branches can join London Branch for £4.00 per annum if they live in the UK (£4.50 in Europe and £6.50 elsewhere).

London Branch membership brings benefits including *The Reel*, while Society membership includes the 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, Surrey GU21 3QB. Tel: 01483 721989.

(Continued from page 4)

events armed with flyers, business cards and spare copies of *The Reel* to hand out to interested parties. This approach was particularly effective at Kensington Gardens where on both Saturdays we had as many as 72 dancing at any one time and about an equal number spectating.

All our events are supported by a variety of musicians without whom much effect would be lost and I record my thanks and heartfelt appreciation to Rod Dorothy, Neil Esslemont, Dave Hall, Roger Huth, Peter Jenkins, Stewart Murray, Ian Robertson, Sandra Smith and Angela Young.

Angela continues to provide stimulating classes and invent attractive displays for us, taking a mix and match approach to dances, adjusting to the circumstances of each event and trusting that our memories and would-be well-drilled feet will allow us to string them seamlessly together.

We have our usual clutch of engagements around Burns Night to look forward to.

James Fairbairn

SCHOOL DAY VIEWS

SCHOOL DAYS, HAPPY DAYS

Regretfully reaching wakefulness on a Saturday morning, one would not necessarily imagine that going to 'school' was the most enticing proposition. However, one makes an exception for an RSCDS Day School, and this year's London event was a perfect illustration of the reason why: fresh approaches to teaching, live (and lively) music, royal refreshments and the informal conviviality of a Ceilidh to round the day off in style.

At this stage in my dancing career, I particularly relish the opportunity a Day School provides of directly comparing and contrasting teaching styles. We are all becoming more aware that not everybody learns in the same way, and it is particularly useful to pick up new tips on imparting the old figures to the uninitiated. A different take can genuinely make all the difference to someone who has been struggling with a progressive reel of four for weeks on end.

In the morning the experienced dancers were in the cheerful and capable hands of Linda Gaul (staunchly supported by George MacLennan on the piano), learning how to change feet and switch steps less in the manner of an unfortunate who had been stung by a wasp and more like a graceful disciple of Miss Milligan. In the afternoon, we were treated to the slightly gentler but dryly witty and elegantly precise style of Graham Donald. He confessed that the title of the class - 'Spinning Around' - was drawn from a Kylie Minogue song, which set the lighthearted tone for our attempt to improve various turning techniques, from the Spurtle in Jig time to the Tournée in Strathspey. Again there was plenty for even the most experienced dancer to chew over, and, rarely in my experience of Day Schools, I was neither flagging nor clock-watching by the end of the afternoon; testament to Graham's skill and charm as a teacher. As we know, the wicked are granted no rest, so after a quick cup of tea and a nourishing scone or two, it was off to Ladies Step/Highland. And yes, it really was both, as Joan Desborough managed to pull off the *tour de force* of teaching different halves of the room not only different dances but different styles simultaneously. The enthusiastic amongst us began by tackling both, but then saw sense...

The culminating Ceilidh was presided over by Simon Wales with his usual panache, and contained several topical dances, including an English one to encourage the Rugby team! The dancing was, as usual, interspersed with turns of the non-spinning kind, including some classy singing from Matthew Kellett, a hilarious rendition of the *Reel of the 51st Division* by eight stern-looking military maidens, and a runaway *Foursome Reel* from eight panting members of the Dem Team. The evening ended on a high with England unexpectedly beating the hosts France in the Rugby World Cup - and I don't even like Rugby! A big vote of thanks is due to the organizers of the event, especially Margaret Catchick; and if you didn't get up for school this year, there's always next...

Alice Stainer

COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

The London Branch Committee will meet on 7 February. Any members wishing to raise items for discussion should send these to the Secretary, Stewart Murray, at least two weeks before the meeting.

BEGINNERS' OUTING TO LONDON DAY SCHOOL

Over the past few years, I have started at Berkhamsted S & R Club a very successful way of introducing new folk to S.C. Dancing. I teach our Beginners' lessons on the same night as our Club night in a side hall, for the first hour. We all join for refreshments and then dance the beginners' dance for that night together. The Watford Scottish Society, with Bar Martlew as their teacher, has now adopted the system.

However, the next question was how to improve and widen their experience. Firstly, we started a Joint Intermediate Class, fortnightly on a Monday night and then encouraged them to come to their first day school - in London. We travelled together in car-loads and most stayed through to the end of the ceilidh enjoying every moment of the day (photo, centre pages).

We are holding a dance specifically for the "Less Experienced" in November in Watford to encourage our new dancers. Next - St Andrews Summer School!

Jane Rose

FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

It was with a little apprehension that we arrived on a fine October morning at Lady Margaret School for our first ever Day School. Eight fellow "Beginners and Improvers" from Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club had been encouraged to attend by their more experienced colleagues who were enrolled in the other classes. What would the day bring?

After welcome coffee and biscuits we were led away to meet our teacher, Irene Edgar and musician, Barbara Manning. It was impressive to see how quickly Irene got the measure of our group of 22 dancers. After warm up and learning or working on our step technique we quickly progressed to putting it into practice in real dances, even tackling the dreaded poussette. Irene seemed to have eyes in the back of her head, able to spot anyone who was struggling a little with a figure, or trying to get away without a proper "shake-hands grip". She addressed our faults with kind Scottish humour and much encouragement. Barbara too had infinite patience, playing slowly at first then speeding up as we gradually mastered our steps. The morning passed in a flash.

We enjoyed our lunch in the sunshine comparing notes with dancers from other classes. Then back to the dancing, 24 of us this time so Peter was able to rest from the "ghosting" duties he had so ably performed in the morning. By popular request Irene tackled reeling with us. We progressed from straightforward reels on the side to mirror reels, crossover reels, and diagonal reels. Again we were soon putting these skills into dances. Four o'clock came all too soon after dancing a triumphant *Prague Medley*.

After reviving tea and biscuits there was a choice of optional classes. We decided to pace ourselves before the evening ceilidh and sneaked off to the local pub for rest, refreshment, and to plot more dancing outings. Perhaps we will try a weekend away but we definitely will return to next year's London Day School.

The Ceilidh was great fun, the Dem Teams an inspiration. Oh, to be able to dance a fraction as well! We returned home weary but having thoroughly enjoyed our day. It was wonderful to see so many dancers and musicians gathered together from far and near. We were grateful to the London Committee for all their hard work and excellent catering, but especially grateful to Margaret Catchick for organizing such a good time for so many with such efficiency.

Judy Roythorne and Keith Anderson

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BY CAMPER VAN IN NEW ZEALAND

Dorothy Scott and I started our camper van tour of New Zealand in March at Christchurch in South Island. The scenery was quite spectacular with lakes, mountains, waterfalls and glaciers. The similarity to Scotland was apparent with place names such as Glen Orchy, and Clyde. Our plan to meet up with some Scottish dance groups was to a large extent foiled because we seemed to arrive on the wrong day! However we had success at Picton, the ferry port at the north end of South Island where we joined a small group of dancers (only 5!) and were made very welcome. One lady, Ann McGuire, who used to live in Invermoriston near Inverness, recognised Dorothy, and there was a gentleman who came from Braco near Crieff where I sometimes dance. During the evening I taught one of Derek Haynes' dances – the jig *It's Nae Bother*.

The scenery of North Island is quite different, with the thermal area around Rotorua and the Kauri forest in the North West. In Kerikeri in the Bay of Islands we visited Enid Honiss who had been in my class at Summer School 2006. Enid and her husband have a fruit farm on the edge of the town. Finally, we reached Auckland in time to attend the Derek Haynes Memorial Workshop and Dance at the end of April. The event was organised by the Innes Club led by Katharine Hoskyn who is well known in the Oxford Branch here. The programme was the same as that held in Lockerbie on the same day. We were pleased to be able to join the 40 dancers. The following Monday we again danced at Innes when they had a 'Come and Try' session. We took along Dorothy's cousin who enjoyed the experience. A couple from this group, Pat and Trish Henley were over in Scotland this summer and met Dorothy at a dance in Forres before going on to Summer School in St Andrews. During our stay in Auckland we enjoyed the hospitality of Andy Nicol (Wilson & Jean's son) and his wife Lesley.

New Zealand is a spectacular country full of enthusiastic and welcoming Scottish Country dancers. It is well worth a visit (with your dancing shoes!).

Jenny Greene

JAPANESE VISITORS TO LONDON

Japanese who visit London for the first time are usually impressed by something old or traditional, but 22 dancers from Japan who attended their first Summer Tuesday seem to have been moved by something really new; they discovered a different attitude to dancing.

Japanese dancing teachers tend to focus on dancing skills and good manners, which naturally, is not a bad thing. However, traditionally (or genetically) obedient Japanese dancers take it too seriously to feel relaxed at a dancing occasion.

Therefore, it was really fortunate for them to be exposed to the open and joyful atmosphere of Summer Tuesday. New friends they made there successfully relieved them of their mental shackles and helped them to really enjoy dancing to their heart's content.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all those who spent a happy time with us. I look forward to you coming to Japan soon and renewing our friendship.

When you visit Tokyo, be sure to contact me. Address: 2-32-2B Ichigaya-tamachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Tel/Fax: 0081-(0)-3-3269-2393.

Kobby S. Kobayashi

Footnote: For those interested in a return visit, your attention is drawn to the Cherry Blossom Scottish Country Dance Tour of Japan with additional side tours in Spring 2008 with Muriel Johnstone, Keith Smith and Bill Zobel. For further information please contact; **Atsuko Clement:** 14 Queensberry Brae, Thornhill, DG3 5AQ, Scotland, UK, email: atsukoclement@aol.com Tel/Fax +44-1848-330-671.

NZ TRIBUTE TO DEREK HAYNES

On Saturday 28 April 2007, the Innes Scottish Country Dance Club, Auckland, New Zealand hosted 'A Tribute to Derek Haynes' – following a suggestion that was made on *Strathspey* that other groups might like to hold a tribute similar to that being held in Lockerbie Scotland.

The Tribute followed the format of the day in Lockerbie – same date, timing, evening programme. The Innes teacher, Katharine Hoskyn (of Oxfordshire and New Zealand Branches), was in frequent contact with Maureen Haynes about several aspects of the programme.

A number of dancers had met Derek at Australian Winter School, St. Andrews Summer School and other events. Many felt they knew him through his dances, but had not met Derek personally. So we felt it was important to provide information about Derek as a dancer, deviser and teacher.

A video player provided footage of Derek performing both Highland and SCD. A photo board displayed photos of Derek – including two of him dancing to the mouth music of Bill Ireland in London in 1989 after a Day School.

The connection with the London Branch did not stop there. Lesley and Andy Nicol attended the day – and brought along two dancers, who were visiting. We were delighted to welcome to the event Jenny Greene and Dorothy Scott. As a good friend of Derek and Maureen, Jenny was able to give some anecdotes and Dorothy was able to give the background to one of the dances attributed to a dancer in her area. They both made a tremendous contribution to the event.

The New Zealand Cancer Society was delighted to receive the proceeds from the day.

The day demonstrated the benefits of belonging to an international society. *"It's a small world – especially in Scottish Country Dancing!"*

Katharine Hoskyn



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NEW RECORDINGS

The Vallin Suite – Two. David Cunningham and his Band (JVMCD 0701)
The Kangaroo Paw. Marian Anderson and her Band (WACD 0001).

David Cunningham's latest CD contains music for 15 dances from John Morris's Vallin Collections books 2 and 3. It is, as ever, very, very impressive. Indeed this is as good as you will get. There is a fine mix of traditional and modern tunes. I particularly like David Queen's Strathspey *Clitheroe Castle* and a set of 'Eightsome Reel type' traditional tunes, but it is all great stuff.

Marian Anderson's CD has the new dances devised by John Brenchley (a former London Branch member) and published in a book by Western Australian Branch. (The Kangaroo Paw is a native wild flower). Again, we hear a nice selection of tunes all played in Marian's distinctive style with lots of verve. There are three originals composed by Marian and a lovely Strathspey to the Australian Bush Song 'Click go the Shears'. I know some folk frown at the use of non-Scottish tunes but this tune had its origins in the UK. There are various sets of words to it including 'Bonnie Aberdeen'.

When I was a lad living in Perthshire we went to a dance in the village hall: simply 'a dance' without qualification – e.g. old time, country or modern. When I recently received a CD recorded live in Ballintuim Village Hall by Ian Hutson and his Band I asked myself, are we returning to an earlier era? I then received a similar CD by Nicol McLaren and the Glencairn Band. Both CDs have a selection of old time and modern dances with 8 country dances on Ian's and 7 on Nicol's. I much enjoy listening to both these recordings and would not like to say which I prefer. Ian and Nicol both live in Blairgowrie and I do not want to start a local war!

Two CDs in the same vein from a relatively new label – Glasfield Records. Lindsay Weir and her Band's selection includes seven country dances while Roy Hendrie has four. Roy plays a couple of my favourite pipe marches and, again reminding me of my youth, The Road to the Isles for the *Palais Glide*. These two are highly recommended.

Nineteen year old student and All Scotland Senior Accordion Champion in 2005, Gary Sutherland from Fife makes his debut CD. There are no full length country dances but 4x32 tracks for *Roxburgh Castle* and *Fight about the Fireside* are well worth a listen together with 13 other varied selections. A lovely Irish Waltz there, Gary!

Really good pianists are much in demand! Isobelle Hodgson plays with Nicol and Marian, while Graham Berry features on David and Gary's recordings. We look forward to hearing Marian's Band playing for the Highland Club at St. Columba's on 2 February.

Now for some nostalgia: the Bankhead tapes feature Bill Powrie on chromatic accordion accompanied by his father Will recorded in the 1950s. The tapes have now been restored and transferred to CD. There are also six tracks originally issued on 78 rpm records in the 1930s. On these Will takes the lead on the melodeon with Bill on the accordion. Dated perhaps but fascinating listening.

People of a certain age may remember tenor Neil MacLean who made a number of recordings between the 1920s and 1950s. Twelve of these, some in Gaelic and some in English are now on CD – my kind of song.

Finally, *Once Upon a Time in Scotland* has 24 tracks, some by dance bands, some feature singers. There are too many to list in detail. This

would be a nice gift to give to a friend who is seeking to learn about our varied Scottish Music.

Please phone me if you require further information about any of these CDs.

John Laurie 020 7286 1923.

P.S. In Reel 261 I said that the CD for Book 7 was coming soon. There has been a change of plan and Book 7 will not be coming in 2007. David Cunningham has, however, recorded Book 30 and the three 2007 Hugh Foss dances. It will be available by the time you read this.

THE MAKINGS OF A MUSICIAN

It kicks off around February with a few mentions here and there, but gradually builds pace throughout the spring until it comes up in almost all conversations at RSCDS events – Summer School. I had heard a lot about it from friends and Society members who had been previously, but I eventually got round to filling in the application and going to Week 4 of Summer School in St. Andrews.

For those of you who may not be aware, the Society holds a Summer School every year in the university town of St Andrews for four weeks in the Summer. There are classes for dancers of all abilities and during weeks 2 and 4, a musicians course is held. With a scholarship from London Branch, this is what I set off to do in August.

Under the watchful eyes of the three tutors (Angela Young on piano, Gordon Simpson on fiddle and George Meikle on accordion), eight other students and I gathered early every morning to learn and improve our musical techniques. We played together as a group as well as individually working towards being able to play for a class. One of the most valuable lessons was to observe a dance lesson and being able to interact and ask questions.

St Andrews, however, is not all about drilling on getting back to the sidelines or making sure you have perfectly turned out feet all of the time, but also about the friendliness and fun that comes with Scottish dancing. I had travelled to St. Andrews on my own so was quickly taken under the wing of the people in the flat next door who I'd like to thank for looking after me for the week. I'd also like to thank the tutors of the course and London Branch for its support and help.

All in all, it was a busy and full week but I enjoyed it immensely nonetheless. Maybe I'll just have to go again as a dancer next year.

Andrew Nolan

N.B.: scholarships are available for young people, contact the Branch Secretary.

The Kaffozalum Tunes

A newly published book of Country Dance Music and other stuff from Peter Jenkins.
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THE MUSICIANS AT WORK IN LONDON

18 musicians gathered on 13 October under the leadership of Keith Smith to work on playing for Scottish Country Dancing. The workshop had been announced as open to players of any standard and experience, and we certainly had a good mix – ranging from classically trained violinists to Morris dance musician. However we all shared a keen interest in Scottish music and in playing for country dancing.

It was good to see both some familiar faces and some new ones, from near and far – two people had travelled from the south of France. There were some very skilled younger players which must be a good omen for the future.

Keith Smith created a friendly and positive atmosphere right from the very beginning and the morning simply flew by until it was time for lunch (fully up to the standard traditionally provided by the school staff and the Branch team of stalwarts). The afternoon session created so much enthusiasm that some continued playing after the workshop had ended at tea-time.

Overall, the day was valuable and great fun. If you play an instrument and have an interest in the music for SCD, why not join us at the next session in May 2008? The music is delivered in advance, so we are not asking you to sight-read strange music at dance speed, and I can promise that you will meet a great bunch of musicians and have a good time!

Thanks to Keith Smith and the Branch for organising such a fun day.

Colin McEwen

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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; 020 7730 9633;

jtr@ctg.co.uk, or from the Branch website:
 www.rscdslondon.org.uk.

These quality garments 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

ON THE 30th NOVEMBER

Spare a thought!

Did you go to St. Andrews this year? When dancers say that, they mean the RSCDS Summer School – which is held annually at St. Andrews University. A 4-week period devoted to teaching Scottish Country Dancing and having fun, which are generally one and the same anyway!

But do you ever think in a wider sense about St. Andrew? How did he become the patron saint of Scotland? Why the town of the same name has this name and what is the story behind the Saltire? I did!



The Saltire Society Reel is a very popular dance and one cleverly devised by Roy Goldring to culminate in the Saltire. The Saltire is the heraldic name for the Cross of St. Andrew. This Society promotes all aspects of

Scottish culture and celebrated its 70th Anniversary last year. As dancers, we are constantly reminded and rightly so, of the symbolic significance of reels of four on both diagonals, as in *Fair Donald* or double triangles which occur in many dances and other figures such as balancing on the diagonals or even turning corners and partner to define the Cross of St. Andrew form in dance. It seems such a coincidence, that SCD should lend itself so readily to this depiction. Andrew with his brother Peter were said to be fishermen in Galilee who then became apostles of Jesus. Andrew preached in Greece, and in Patras in 69AD was crucified by the Romans, at his request on a crux decussata (X-shaped cross). One traditional account is that in the 6th Century a pious Greek monk, named Regulus (or Rule), was warned through an angel in a dream that for safekeeping, St. Andrew's remains (at that time entombed in Constantinople) were to be moved to the 'ends of the earth'. Scotland was then considered to be as far as was known! A shipwreck brought the monk and the relics he had taken, ashore at a Pictish settlement on the east coast. This settlement is now known as St. Andrews. In 1160 the relics were placed in a chapel, which was later replaced by the Cathedral. Around 1559 the relics were then lost, it is believed at the time of the religious reformer John Knox. Earlier however; and a few years after the Battle of Bannockburn, in 1320 with the Declaration of Arbroath, Robert the Bruce desired the most gentle Saint Andrew to keep Scotland under his protection as its patron forever.

Now going back further to the year 832AD legend suggests that at the later named village of Athelstaneford (then in Northumberland and later to become East Lothian) a battle took place between the Angles and Saxons commanded by their leader Aethelstan (not to be confused with the first King of England of the same name of 10th Century) and a combined force of Picts and Scots under the Pictish King Hungus MacFergus who, being surrounded, prayed for a sign and in the clear azure blue sky above it is said he saw a white cross in the shape of the Saltire telling him that St. Andrew was with him. Hungus was victorious and when Aethelstan was slain crossing the ford he said that from that day forth the St. Andrew's Cross should become the national flag of Scotland (this was later recognised as such in 1385 by the Parliament of Scotland). The Saltire Memorial at Athelstaneford erected in 1965 depicts that moment in history.

So when you are dancing at the next St. Andrew's Ball, do spare a thought, won't you, for the Scots legends that went before.

Stephen Webb

DANCE SCOTTISH

A week promoting Scottish Dancing

WELL DONE GLASGOW!

Dance Scottish Week concluded in Glasgow

Branch Representatives and guests gathered at the Jordanhill Campus of the University of Strathclyde to be present at the unveiling by Irene Caithness (Grant) her 'best Strathspey dancer' of a commemorative plaque to Dr. Jean Milligan, co-founder of the RSCDS. Speakers were Society Chairman Irene Bennett, Dorothy Patterson, past Chairman of Glasgow Branch who also worked at Jordanhill, and Society musician Robert Mackay. All paid tribute to this remarkable woman who was able to be serious and have fun, and made such a contribution both with music and dance to the activity we all enjoy so much today. Evidence of that enjoyment was demonstrated by children from Garscadden Primary School and Glasgow Branch Demonstration Group, with Gordon Simpson playing. Thanks were extended to the University and Glasgow Branch for organising this occasion.

The informal evening dance was held in the magnificent St. Andrews in the Square with excellent music from the Lothian Band. Dancers had come from Ireland, Wales, Leicester, London, U.S.A., Hawaii, Japan, Italy, New Zealand and all over Scotland. Our Chairman Irene Bennett was present to welcome dancers and to enjoy the dancing, and we were privileged to watch a superb demonstration from the newly formed Dance Scottish Youth Demonstration Team which included our own Andrew Nolan.

We hope 'Dance Scottish' week will continue.

Rachel Wilton

DANCING IN THE PARK

How very special summer is when we can get out into the open air, enjoy the sun on our backs and feel a gentle breeze on our faces. Couple all this with the delights of Scottish Country Dancing and one has the recipe for perfect happiness especially if we can share this pleasure with other people. My granddaughter recently came over for a holiday from Italy and it gave me immense pleasure to introduce her to Scottish Dancing at Pont Street. She is young and once I had persuaded her to get up and have a go she took to it like the proverbial duck to water. Jimmy was kind enough to find her a pair of suitable shoes and in spite of being thrown in at the deep end, and with the kind help of many of our gentleman dancers there was no stopping her. It is this getting people to 'give it a go' which is all-important. That is where Dancing in Kensington Gardens comes in.

The weather was glorious and there was a buzz in the air as we began to assemble by the bandstand: young and old, mothers with babies, young couples, the experts and the uninitiated. The music started up, James Fairbairn, a truly amazing MC, had us all up and dancing in no time at all. The atmosphere was one of excitement which with the help of a firm but gentle hand at the helm, and experts inviting novices to dance, meant that the afternoon went from strength to strength, as more and more spectators joined in. There must have been 60 or more people up and having a go at a splendid selection of Ceilidh and easy dances when things were at their height. Then came the *pièce de résistance*: a demonstration by our real experts and the crowd were hooked. It is one thing to captivate people, another to hold on to them! But

Branch publicity guru Rosalind Zuridis was there with a table resplendent with colourful flyers giving details of classes and groups and where and when to find them. During the interval, James talked about the information available while Branch members distributed flyers to those standing or sitting round watching.

Once again may I congratulate the London Branch for the splendid example they set us by 'Dancing in the Park'. It took a lot of organising I am sure but when you hear people saying 'I don't know why I didn't discover this before, it is such fun. I'm definitely going to join the classes', it makes it all worth while.

Kay Senior

(President of the Chiswick SCDance Club)

FÈIS LUNNAIN Roehampton University

There was buzz and excitement in the air at the very first London Fèis. Many *fèisean* (festivals of Scottish music, dance and Gaelic song that put the emphasis on everyone participating in some way) have been held in Scotland. But this was the first time a *fèis* had been held anywhere else, thanks to the vision and hard work of Christine Yorston, Etienne Duval, Donald Stewart and Iain Fraser, who managed to turn that ambitious dream into reality.

I was one of about seventy people at this weekend event at Froebel College and we all sensed it was 'the start of something big'. Most of those attending were instrumentalists, and for them there were sessions on the guitar, bagpipes, fiddle and accordion, as well as jam sessions and evening ceilidhs. I chose to dabble in Cape Breton step dancing and Gaelic song, which was a good mix, because step dances were traditionally often done to *puirt a beul*. The Cape Breton style is a far cry from RSCDS-type dancing – no kilts, pumps or elaborately turned out feet. It's a survival of an older style of dance which the migrating highlanders brought over to Cape Breton and kept alive in their geographical isolation while it almost died out in Scotland (but is now reviving). What appealed to me about it was that people could participate at many different ability levels, that it gave an opportunity to respond individually to the music within a group dance, and that it introduced me to a form of dance that is every bit as authentically Scottish as Country, ceilidh or highland dancing, but that I hadn't previously experienced.

Dualchas àraid agus luachmhor... ('a unique and precious heritage') are the final words of *Cùm ur n'Aire*, which everyone joined in singing at the end of the weekend. Those words perfectly sum up what the *fèis* was about. What I liked about it was (1) the open, inclusive and egalitarian atmosphere; (2) amazingly talented tutors – Mats Melin and Kathleen Graham in my case – who were friendly, helpful and willing to give personal attention to everyone in their classes; (3) the sense of enthusiasm and optimism that pervaded the whole occasion. If you're open to new experiences, want to widen your horizons, and are interested in developing your knowledge of the music (oral and instrumental) that we dance to, *fèisean* are for you. I'm proud to have been at the first *fèis Lunnain* and I'd be keen to go again, but I think it will be much harder for the likes of me to get in next time as the word gets around!

Chris Hood

DANCE SCOTTISH WEEK – NINE DAYS A WEEK!

Having been tasked, as the current argot has it, with compiling a list of SCD related events in the London area during Dance Scottish Week, it seemed a good idea to experience as many different types of event as possible during the week. My fellow Committee member, Gillian Bloomfield, devised a suitable plan, which took in both the Branch open air dances in Kensington Gardens and a number of local groups in south or south-west London but also including the very different versions of Scottish dancing practised by the London Reelers and the Ceilidh Club. The 'Week' actually consisted of nine days and the corresponding nine events that we attended showed what a broad range of dance types were on offer during Dance Scottish Week (as indeed there are most weeks of the year. Of course this was just a small sample of the eighty-odd Scottish dancing events that we listed on the Branch website (and there were undoubtedly others that did not end up in our net).

First stop on the evening of **Friday** 7 September was Alison Newbery's Adult Class just off Clapham Common. The somewhat unusual name for this group reflects the fact that when Alison started this class around 20 years ago, it was just for children. Perhaps they all grew up! She still has a wide range of ages in the group and we were impressed by her very flexible approach with gently-paced instruction tailored to the needs of those present. Early in the evening we only had 10 dancers so Alison dropped her previous plan and we had two sets dancing *Domino Five*.

Saturday provided a delightful way to spend an afternoon – dancing on the "lawn" by the bandstand in Kensington Gardens, MC'd in inimitable fashion by Simon Wales. Lots of participation from passers by who were attracted to the event by the strains of Kafoozalum and our peregrinating piper.

Perhaps reflecting its Presbyterian roots, there are not many places to dance on the Sabbath so all credit to the Chiswick group for giving Londoners somewhere to dance on **Sunday** evenings. This was the first evening in the new season and we began with a waltz to get any stiff joints moving again. Chiswick is fortunate to have such a talented group of MCs and teachers, on this occasion James Fairbairn who regularly makes the journey from Oxford to coach the group.

Monday: For regular Country Dancers who are unfamiliar with the Reelers' version of Scottish dancing, descending to the lower hall at Pont Street on a London Reelers evening provides a mind-boggling experience. A small group of us arrived from the London Branch Classes sub-committee just in time to witness *The Eightsome Reel* with one young man doing press-ups in the middle of the set as an alternative to highland setting steps. This is high-energy dancing, for the 30-something set on this occasion MC'd in part by the redoubtable John Laurie. Admittedly the repertoire is very limited and the reelers' music may not be to everyone's taste but the dancers' enthusiasm is unbounded, with lots of birling, twirling and repetitions. And they do know exactly when to clap!

The Feltham group, to which we travelled on **Tuesday**, have had to come to terms with the sad loss of Margaret Henderson during the summer and they now have a panel of MCs and teachers. On this, the first night of the season, the group was in the very capable hands of Kerry Greenwood, one of the younger certificated teachers in the London area. A highlight of the evening was the 8x32 reel, *The Brig O' Bogendreep*, one of many dances devised by

Margaret in her long and illustrious teaching career. It would be a wonderful thing if some of her dances could be published in booklet form.

The Boppers group, now in its second year, is based on the London Branch Popular class which meets on **Wednesdays** during term time. During the summer and other vacation periods when the class is in abeyance, the group get together in Wimbledon. The approach is to include primarily the dances taught in the class – but with no teaching and sufficient repetition by the end of the summer, most of the regulars have thoroughly learnt a score of new dances. In contrast to its first year, when a DIY approach was used, this summer the group benefited from having a number of experienced MCs and teachers taking charge. On this, the penultimate evening of the Boppers summer 'season' Jim Cook was "in the chair" and we all enjoyed his signature dance, the six-couple reel, *Fire in the Rye*.

Thursday evening was spent in Surbiton (the author's home base) where the group is probably typical of the many RSCDS-affiliated dancing groups in outer London, with weekly dances and occasional tuition to recorded music throughout the season from September to June. Like many groups nowadays, Surbiton publishes on its website the list of dances and a crib sheet in advance of each weekly session. One novelty it has adopted is to allow the dancers to mark on a ratings sheet whether they like or dislike the dances chosen for them.

Cecil Sharp House is one of three venues in London used by the Ceilidh Club for its **Friday** night hooleys. If the London Reelers are for 30-somethings, then the Ceilidh Club is for 20-somethings. Its very successful formula has been developed over the past 10 years – a good band and an experienced caller (Kafoozalum and Andrew Kellett respectively on this occasion), effective marketing; a cash bar and keeping the dances simple enough that no-one need feel intimidated, no matter how inexperienced. This allows the Ceilidh Club to attract around 200 or more young people of both sexes to its rumbustious evenings. Technique may not be much in evidence but no-one (including the small number of Scottish Country Dancers who might venture in) minds in the least. It's all about having fun.

Saturday 15 September: The final day of Dance Scottish Week. And thankfully another sunny one with just the occasional cloud to help us cool down as we danced again in Kensington Gardens to the music of Kafoozalum (and yes there are other bands in London!) and with James Fairbairn in charge of the programme. Perhaps not quite so many visitors dancing as on the 8th but correspondingly more local dancers from various London clubs. The Dem team, with its customary skill and versatility, showed us how the dances can be done to perfection.

To summarise, we had a lot of fun during the week and it was particularly interesting to experience the different approach of the Reelers as compared to the rather more controlled dancing style of country dancers. Somewhat surprisingly, very few of the people we met were aware that it was Dance Scottish Week – probably reflecting the difficulty of getting the message across to the members of local branches and groups in what is, after all, the off-season for most of them. But the heavens certainly smiled on us – after the dreadfully wet excuse for a summer, it was amazing that not a drop of rain fell the whole week.

Roll on Dance Scottish Week 2008!

Stewart Murray

DANCE SCOTTISH WEEK with Japanese dancers in Paris

On September 7th, the Paris Branch celebrated in style the start of Dance Scottish Week, by giving a ball in honour of a group of 22 Japanese visitors to Paris.

Our Japanese friends had been on a tour of Scotland and England, and Paris was their last stage before going home the next day. Their leader was none other than Atsuko Clement, who was kind enough to stay over, and give us an advanced SCD class in the morning and a Ladies' Step class in the afternoon, quite a feat after her many days' travelling and guiding!

The dance, MC'd by Tom McKinlay and Jerry Reinstein, had a distinctly Franco-Japanese flavour, as it featured *C'est l'amour* and *Montparnasse*, along with *Shinkansen* (the bullet-train) and the highlight of the evening, *L'été à Paris*, a marvellous dance specially devised for the occasion by Mr Shigeyoshi Kobayashi, a Scottish dance teacher from Tokyo who organised the group from Japan. It was a unique opportunity to practise such rare formations as the *Japonaise* and the *Typhon*. Only the cherry blossoms were missing!

Our members admired the savoir-faire and *kotsu* of the visitors and the evening, with the lively music by Kevin Williams and Michel Reuter, was, we hope, something to remember (or recover from!) on their long flight home the following morning.

Jean-Marc Dorelot

MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH SCOTTISH DANCING

I am from the Czech Republic and *open-air dancing* in Kensington garden was my first experience with Scottish Country dancing. It was on 8 September on Saturday from two o'clock in the afternoon. It lasted a very short 2 hours!

It was very nice weather on that day when I was there with my friend Renata Stankova, who regularly attends Scottish Country Dancing lessons at Lindsay Rousseau's Wednesday class.

The atmosphere was brilliant with lots of people there, with many London visitors like me and we could listen to live traditional music and there was a guide called Simon, who organised and explained all the dancing. Everybody was encouraged to join in and able to dance because we learned basic dancing patterns. People were very friendly and pleasant.

The event was an excellent occasion to meet new people and have a lot of fun. If you ask me, I think that open air dancing is very good idea.

Vera Polivkova

Page 10 Picture Captions

Branch Dance 22 September 2007

1. The youthful Past Treasurer, Past Secretary and 2005 Branch Award Holder Helen Brown, celebrates her birthday.
3. Dem Dancer Kate Sweeney helpfully providing some of the victuals at the interval.
5. Socialising as a prelude to the dance, Sue and Michael Merfield are joined by Caroline Allcock.
6. Committee Member and Day School Organiser Margaret Catchick administering hospitality with a welcoming smile!
7. Iris and Ian Anderson (Branch Archivist and Bookstall Organiser respectively) turn by the right in *The Braes of Breadalbane*.
9. Retiring Dem Dancer and Hon. Treasurer Simon Wales with returning Committee member Margaret Shaw during the interval.
10. Iain Farrell guides Jenny Sweeney in *Fife Ness*.

Day School 20 October 2007

2. Lined up for the evening dance.
4. Linda Gaul urging the dancers with feeling.
8. George MacLennan tinkling the ivories!
10. Jane Rose's party of 12 from her Watford and Berkhamsted Beginners' Classes enjoy a picnic lunch in the sunshine. (See Jane's article on page 5).



For captions see previous page

[Picture credits](#)

4. Andy Wiener

2 and 8. Simon Wales

11. Jane Rose

Other pictures by Stephen Webb





1



2



4



3



5

Kensington Gardens

1. The scene is set – Bandstand (with band of course), MC, the Spectators and most importantly, the Dancers!
2. Catrina Bennett helps spectators join in.
3. Chris and Anna followed by Simon and Catriona cross up in the open air demonstration.
4. Marjory Reid ably assists a beginner to dance *Strip the Willow*.
5. More spectators join members of the Dem Team.

Dance Scottish Week – Summer Tuesdays

6. Circles galore as over 100 dancers enjoy *Miss Hadden's Reel* together.
7. Brian Pierson leads Sue Marshall and overseas visitor Harue Umetsu from Akita in Japan, up the middle in *Margaret Parker's Strathspey*.

Picture credits: 2 and 5: Ian MacGillvray, others Stephen Webb



6



7

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Strathspeys

Inverness

Dear Wilson

I read Julian Mason's article on strathspeys with amazement and despair I would like to know where he learnt his dancing and who taught him. Having been a teacher of Scottish Country Dancing for 40 years, I feel he hasn't learnt anything either in dance or music, perhaps he is one of those dancers who believes in dancing as many dances as he can as quickly as possible without any style at all.

As far as music goes, especially strathspeys, I would recommend the purchase of the latest Colin Dewar CD "A' the best fae Banffshire". This is music at its finest with tempo spot on, then he can pass comments.

I would also remind him that whereas reels and jigs and also hornpipes are danced all over the UK, strathspeys are truly Scottish and should be treated with respect. To say that strathspeys are used as a breather is beyond me. Dancing a strathspey well is far more energetic and time consuming than the three afore-mentioned styles.

I would also suggest he purchases the book "The Ruthven Collection" of 18 Scottish Country Dances and give some of the strathspeys a try.

Having berated Julian I do feel that teaching of strathspeys leaves a lot to be desired. Dancers no longer want to learn steps but only dances. I am pleased to say that in the North of Scotland, and I am sure other areas up here, strathspeys are still taught as they should be giving that style, grace and elegance that the dances were designed for.

Rob Sargent

(previously Jack McConachie Strathspey School of Dancing).
P.S. I was also in the London Branch Demonstration Team with Bill Ireland. He would have known what I am saying.

Strathspeys, Music – and finding Venues

Cambridge

Dear Wilson,

I have now been dancing for some time and never felt the need to write to *The Reel* before, but the last issue did provoke a vigorous reaction.

The thought that Strathspeys might be put on a programme to provide a rest really did make me jump. Maybe they do let you off the heavy breathing, but they are not – or certainly should not be – a rest. Good strathspeys are powerful, driving, dynamic and elegant, up-in-the-air affairs, not feeble and down into the ground and they should be there in their own right. Not at the beginning, or straight after the interval either, as an easy lead in – because they are not, certainly if done well. Anyone who has been in a ballroom full of competent dancers doing *New Scotland* or *Margaret Parker* will know the right feeling.

Then the suggestion that a piano is a better instrument than an accordion to render them is just not true. Yes, the piano can get the 'snap', but not in a continued tone – most old strathspeys were after all fiddle tunes, and need the continuity as well. There are some fine accordionists out there who can make you feel ten feet tall and want to reach for the sky, so credit where it's due. My own view, with no slight to the performers intended, is that while there are some very fine pianists, dancing to a piano alone feels too like being at a class to suit a 'proper' dance. The same feeling is true of 'walk-throughs' except for the occasional very new or special dance.

On a less contentious note I also think that the road on which a dance venue lies should be present in the publicity and on the ticket, but in

this electronic age it may be more useful to add the post code or even Grid reference. Then anyone who wishes to get a map off the internet or use a sat-nav device can easily do so. It is also worth remembering that a lot of dances, etc. are held in schools and the larger ones may well have their own web-site with location map and directions – also true of town halls. If that fails look up the phone number on BT's on-line directory and you will get the postcode and a link to a map in one go!

Donald Wilson.

Strathspey

Christchurch, Dorset,

Dear Wilson,

I would like to comment upon Julian Mason's letter regarding the Strathspey in the September/November issue of *The Reel*.

Yes, I agree that the Strathspey is welcomed as a "breather" between two vigorous dances, but as very many of our dancers are, shall we say, past the first flush of youth, this "breather" is very acceptable. In addition there are many older dancers, who still love their dancing but are now only able to attempt the Strathspey and they deserve every consideration.

Julian says that most bands cannot play Strathspeys. Of course the tempo can be varied from one dance to another, dependent upon the tune which has been chosen for the dance and the choreography, but I have found very few bands that cannot cope with this. In fact many band leaders are themselves dancers and fully understand the variation.

Julian also states that there are very few Strathspeys worth dancing – not true. There are very many beautiful dances, perhaps he is a new boy and hasn't yet met them! There is nothing to equal the elegance of the Strathspey when it is properly danced. To me it is not second best and I am delighted if I am invited to dance it.

I hope we shall continue, as is customary, to have a Strathspey for every third dance in a programme.

Yours sincerely,

E C Price

In Defence of Strathspeys

Berks, Hants, and Surrey

Dear Wilson,

We were dismayed by Julian Mason's comments on strathspeys in *The Reel* 261, suggesting that nobody really likes them. In contrast we believe there are many dancers who adore strathspeys and would go so far to say that they are their favourite dances.

The suggestion that dance programmes should include only a very few strathspeys also met with strong disapproval from a number of our Branch members. In our opinion as a general rule every third dance should be a strathspey.

We would also like to comment on the article written by Robin Ellis about dance programmes. It appears that he doesn't approve of 8x32 strathspeys viz. "If you must have 8x32 strathspeys". There are a number of teachers and dancers north and south of the Border who are concerned that 8x32, 40, 48 strathspeys are disappearing from our programmes and are being replaced by 3 or 4x32 strathspeys which some people consider more popular. A few decades ago we saw some 40 and 48 bar strathspeys on programmes, today this rarely happens, presumably music to the ears of people like Messrs. Ellis and Mason!

If we let 8x32 strathspeys and indeed strathspeys as a whole disappear from our programmes we shall stop practising traditional

Scottish Country Dancing as revived by Miss Milligan and Mrs Stewart over eighty years ago.

Mr Mason writes: "Let's face it there are a small number of good strathspeys". He also goes on to say that the tunes for strathspey aren't appealing either. We take the opposite view. One only has to think of: *Sir George Clerk of Pennycuik*, the original tune for *Up in the Air*, the original tunes for *Braes of Breadalbane*, *Monymusk*, *Balquidder Strathspey*, *Strathglass House*, *Sugar Candie*, *Lord Elgin's Reel* and *Auld Lang Syne*. They are all beautiful tunes. Moreover, there are many other wonderful tunes used as alternatives, e.g. *Barbara Cunningham*, *Miss Campbell of Saddle*, *Miss Douglas*, *Manderston House* to name but a few. We must also remember modern compositions by Muriel Johnstone such as, *Lumsden Wing*, *Muriel Johnstone's Compliments to Robert Mackay* and *Welcome to Hamilton House*, all sublime.

Many of the 'short' strathspeys use slow airs and song tunes which are not strathspeys musically. The Society uses such tunes for *Lea Rig*, *Seann Triubhas Willichan* and *Miss Gibson's Strathspey*. Although these tunes are delightful in their own right, in our opinion they should only be used once, or at the most twice, on a dance programme. In preference more traditional 'strong' strathspeys should be used.

If you too share our views about strathspeys please let your feelings be known through *The Reel* so that these beautiful dances and their tunes don't disappear from our programmes.

BHS Borders Branch Committee

Strathspeys

Worcester Park, Surrey

Dear Wilson,

With reference to Julian Mason's letter about Strathspeys in Reel 261, I think he is talking a load of rubbish. Strathspey is a rhythm unique to Scotland, and Strathspey dances are strong and dignified in nature, and graceful to dance. In contrast, some quick dances can deteriorate into a romp. When I first started dancing I found Strathspey footwork rather difficult to master, and I still cannot perform it perfectly, but thirty years on I love these dances and never sit one out if I can help it, although I am happy to miss the occasional Reel or Jig for a breather. I certainly do not think that Strathspeys are second best and I am delighted when asked for one.

Elizabeth Bennett

George Lawson

London

Dear Wilson,

Alastair MacFadyen's obituary of George Lawson in the last *Reel* brought back memories for me of George's beginners' class in Glasgow many years ago. He wasn't the sergeant-major type of teacher and had a low-key style. But he used his dry ironic wit to great effect and gave us a real feeling for the spirit in which dances like *Sugar Candie* should be done. He took the trouble to get to know everyone in his classes personally, and inspired us all to attend the Friday dances that he ran in Paisley in those days, which were most happy and friendly affairs. Even although he rose to great heights in the RSCDS, he would still say hello to folk he had taught when he saw them at dances and was always ready to take up newcomers and beginners. I don't think I'd have persisted with country dancing if it wasn't for him, so you know who to blame!

Best wishes,

Chris Hood

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Strathspeys

Hove

Dear Wilson,

I cannot agree with Julian Mason, but care must be taken in choosing which Strathspeys to include in a Programme. For example, one evening in the Younger Hall at St. Andrews all twelve Strathspeys, chosen by Miss Jean Milligan, commenced with “set and circle”, which proved both amusing and tedious. There are many enjoyable Strathspeys, published by the Society and privately, plus some interesting Medleys.

Originally Marches, Reels and Jigs were performed at about 60 bars per minute; Rants, Hornpipes and Strathspey-Reels at about 40 bars a minute and Strathspey-Minuetts at about 30 bars a minute. The modern Strathspey was invented by the RSCDS in the 1920s. When republishing the earlier country dance Strathspeys the RSCDS republished them to be performed at the well known Strathspey-Minuet timing. The only dance including Strathspey timing published during the nineteenth Century was *The Glasgow Highlander*; which was published as a Medley, 16 bars of country dance (with the instruction after bar 16: “Change to Strathspey time”) and 16 bars of Highland Strathspey. When the Society first republished this dance, there were 32 steps in the instructions with 24 bars of music. Unfortunately, the instructions did not indicate that the first sixteen steps should be danced 2 steps to each bar. In the second edition the dance was published with 32 bars of Strathspey music.

On the other hand the Society republished some Strathspey-Reels at the faster Reel timing. An example is *The Montgomeries’ Rant* – the name tune being a typical Strathspey. The original instruction for *My Lady Montgomeries Rant* read: “The first couple dance a figure, reel, set and reel.” “Figure” invariably meant a figure of eight. A possible interpretation of these instructions is: “First couple dance a figure of eight round the second couple to finish back to back between the second couple; first and second couples dance a Reel of Four, set for eight bars and dance another Reel of Four.” Possibly another way of introducing the *Foursome Reel* into a Country Dance.

Yours sincerely,

John W. Mitchell.

P.S. In 1963, at a Scottish Association Ball in Leeds Town Hall, at which Jimmy Shand was playing the *Foursome Reel* was announced. May Yarker, whom I had not met previously, approached with the order “You are going to dance this with me.” When she retired to Eastbourne she started a class in Willingdon. As Chairman of the Sussex Association I invited her to attend the next meeting. She subsequently organised local courses for the RSCDS Certificates and a dozen of us were later examined by Miss Jean Milligan for both parts. May’s tuition was extremely comprehensive and accompanied by valuable notes. Away from St. Andrews, every student she entered for the examination passed it.

Small is beautiful, too

London

Dear Wilson,

The beauty of big bands, in Mo Rutherford’s words last issue, is “depth, lift and sheer roundness of sound”. The beauty of small groups is flexibility and spontaneity. If the dancers seem to need an adjustment in the speed or style of the

music, it is far easier for the leader to make the change if he or she is only controlling a small number of players. One melody player, playing alone, need never play the same phrase in the same way – a fiddler can change the volume, attack, bowing, emphasis, articulation, ornamentation, even the notes, all on the spur of the moment, and much of that applies also to the accordion. Where two or more melody players are involved, all of this would have to be thrashed out at rehearsal, decided on, noted and remembered. A single pianist can vary the accompaniment infinitely, changing the bass line, the harmonies, the texture and the articulation, all on the spur of the moment; and much of this can also be done on the reed bass of the accordion. Add a double bass and second box, and all that would have to be planned in advance.

When a fiddler and pianist work together, ideas can be passed from one to the other – perhaps the pianist decides to lighten the texture at a particular point, and the fiddler can immediately go with this; the fiddler might decide to put a bit of extra emphasis in a particular 8-bar phrase, and the pianist can reinforce the bass. If there is good rapport between the players, it happens in a second or less. This can be used to benefit the dancers, for instance where the same phrase of music accompanies different dance movements. All this helps to keep the music fresh and alive and free from routine.

Regards,

Ian Cutts

Dancing on Board

Crieff

Dear Wilson,

I was interested to read Terry and Margaret Gibbon’s article in *The Reel* 261. In July 2005, I had a similar experience whilst on a National Trust for Scotland cruise to Iceland and Greenland on board the *Black Prince*.

One evening, a ceilidh was held so I gathered a group of people together to dance *The Piper and the Penguin* – links with The Royal Scottish Geographical Society. They were reluctant to practise as we were sailing through the magnificent fiords of southern Greenland. However, the dance was well received and as a result I was asked to take a dancing session one afternoon. This was popular and we did a mixture of country and ceilidh dances. Music was provided by Wayne Robertson and friends – accordion, piano, fiddle and flute.

I did offer my services for future cruises!

Jenny Greene



The Cameraman Never Lies!

Hemel Hempstead

Dear Wilson,

Love it or loath it but cameras are here to stay. There is an increasing use of them in daily life, witness the Internet. No longer is any real skill needed to take a decent photo – just point and off you go. I joined a photographic club in my early twenties and learned about depth of field, stopping down and juggling stops with shutter and film speeds. Today, a good photo is simply judged on subject composition. Important, as this is, it was just one of many qualities needed in the past.

As the London Branch have specially requested my photographic services at functions for use in *The Reel*, on the LB website and at the AGM Slideshow, I suppose it behoves me to respond to Julian Mason’s concerns on intrusive photo-graphy in the last Reel. Julian hastened to add, when I mentioned his letter to him, ‘present company excepted’ or similar words. Adding that his experience wasn’t even in the UK and only involved video! Irrespective of this I can agree with him that inconsiderate and irresponsible photography has no place on the dance floor or in actual fact anywhere. ‘Ruining a dance’ as a result of photography however does seem a little far-fetched but not out of the question if the photographer was lying in the path of the dancers or adopting some equally absurd position to get that special shot!

Rather like Ken Martlew’s advert ‘have piano will travel’ or Jim Cook’s interesting article in *The Reel* 261, ‘have train will travel’ I always have my camera in my pocket. As I dance with many groups an organiser will often ask if I could take some snaps for them and I am most pleased to do so! Why? Well, because wherever those pictures go they will publicise SCD, which you must agree, can only be a good thing?

Julian raises the question whether a photographer has a right to photograph anybody and dancers in particular. Looking in any newspaper could be a clue to answer this question! The RSCDS Policy has no limits on photographing adults but they quite rightly flag up the risks to photographing children dancing. When this is done then parent’s consent is to be obtained first and only children’s first names given in any caption.

Julian suggests that dancers’ feelings are not being considered by photographers. Well, if they are dancers too they have a natural sense of awareness through their dancing for that not to be a likely scenario.

From feelings on the floor to dancers’ feelings when they are in print – in this area I have become more and more sensitive, often asking the subject first if I am in doubt. Dancers can get caught in the most awkward poses but it is my intention to give pleasure through my photography and not pain.

I would ask any dancer seeing a photographer at a function, that if they feel uneasy, then make the photographer aware of their concerns. Photographers are like you in fact they are you (and me) and we are reasonable people. It is good to talk, but it is better to dance!

Happy dancing!

Stephen Webb

Julian Mason (centre) and friends in glorious B+W enjoying dancing the strathspey: *The Robertson Rant*

ST. COLUMBA'S DANCERS IN FRANCE

Scottish Country Dancing opens many avenues for travel, pleasure and learning. This summer the St. Columba's dancers made two very strenuous but enjoyable visits to France, to "twin" with Bourrée Dancers. Although the knowledge of each others language was limited, music, dance, and song filled the gaps.

We danced in the street and took part in official events on both visits, but chiefly we enjoyed the privilege of French hospitality at its best. Our first visit was to Fontainebleau where on the Sunday evening we were joined at supper by the President and some members of ARCIF (the Fontainebleau Association for Cultural International Relations) whose relaxed presence added greatly to the pleasure of the occasion.



Our second visit was to Conques in the Auvergne, where we visited many of the local places of interest. After taking part in the parade on Sunday 15 July at the time of the Senergues Festival, we offered an evening of dance at the Maison Familiale on Thursday 19 July, following a communal meal. We were joined by the Groupe des Castelous de Senergues and it was an evening of folklore exchange, which the other holidaymakers present were also able to appreciate. The latter participated actively in the discovery of the Scottish strathspey, the bourrée and the brise-pied. Norris Haugh, the piper of the group, presented to Benoit Clot, President of the Castelous group, a quaich or friendship cup in which all present shared the single malt "eau-de-vie ecosaise". Everyone was able to taste a little haggis and the Castelousian "brioche gâteau" prepared by one of their members. After Benoit Clot warmly thanked the group for its thoughtfulness and kindness, he offered them a splendid brioche gâteau for their homeward journey. A moving bilingual Auld Lang Syne sung together hand in hand closed this soirée rich in cultural exchange and friendship.

Our next exchange will be in England in 2009, and I can heartily recommend joining in the activities.

Denise Haugh

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Derbyshire DE4 3RU.

Tel: 01629 760101 or 0845 345 7529

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BABIES AND GRANDDAD – SUMMER SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

Summer School is never restful, but it is certainly a change. With two children under three, a two-parent family was very helpful as it meant that the one could dance while the other minded the bairns one week and then swapped for the next. It was not hard to say which week was the more tiring. Dancing in class and in the evenings, with civilised items like breaks for coffee, some uninterrupted meals, adult conversations, the forgotten sense of having time on one's hands or, after a day spent chasing the length of St. Andrews in search of small persons' amusements (there are many, and we tacitly thank the Toon Council every year), running around the balcony at the Younger Hall in pursuit of the two youngest spectators, one of whom wanted only to dance and expressed her frustration by leaning as far as possible over the balustrade without actually falling on the dancers below, while the other felt the need to compete with the MC in vocalisation; all the while hoping, vainly, to avoid drawing the attention of any high *heid yins* in the vicinity and suffering their quasi-indulgent smiles (more like rigor mortis in some cases).

After the first week Granddad arrived. Having taken up Scottish Country Dancing the previous year, undoubtedly the oldest ever Beginner at Summer School (four score years, it should be in the record books at HQ), he had become an avid aficionado and was back for more. We think it has something to do with the number and youth of the ladies helping in his class, but to be fair his dancing really has come on in leaps and bounds (or the third age equivalent at least – this is the man who still plays cricket but scores walks, not runs). Granddad was pretty autonomous and as Grandma was there too (also a convert to the Scottish dance) we didn't have to worry about him too much. In fact, he and Grandma found the energy or the willpower to take the children to the beach one afternoon even after morning classes. We were lost in admiration and waved bye-bye weakly, not stirring from the garden bench.

The grandparents went to the walk-throughs on the Monday and the evening dance, but found the two overtaking so cannily just went to the walk-throughs for the rest of week. Very social, apparently, and will be so useful at other dances. We didn't like to point out that some of the dances that are dusted off and given an airing each year at Summer School for some reason never seem to find their way on to dance programmes elsewhere.

One ingredient which contributed hugely to our enjoyment was a well-appointed, spacious and comfortable rented house just opposite St. Leonard's church and in other years close to the hub of University Hall (shut this year for renovations). This meant that we could maintain the rhythm of family life pretty well intact and indulge all our idiosyncrasies without scandalising anyone. The house was also strategically close to the Lade Braes park, a great advantage in that after only three minutes in the pram both infants could be happily ensconced in swings or the elder tearing up and down the helter skelter, heedless of Grandma's fearful cries.

Most readers are probably thinking that this account sounds more like hell than a holiday. But we came back tanned (the sun shone a lot) and fitter and with a feeling that while we had been to class, learned a few things from some stimulating teachers and got our fair share of good dancing (St. Andrew' Branch, Carnoustie and the

Younger Hall band night in both weeks), the children had enjoyed themselves and the grandparents had also had a good time, a proper holiday even. We think they must have, as next year they are coming for two weeks!

James Fairbairn

BOOK REVIEW

A Life to Enjoy

By John Reeve

ISBN 1-904502-98-9. £12.99

It is not often that we have a book review in *The Reel* but this book is remarkable coming as it does from our designer and printer. John has had a remarkably varied life and his story-telling is first rate. He started life in Surrey but went with his family to deepest Cornwall where his love of the sea catapulted him into the Royal Navy with a truly diverse experience earning him an engineering degree at Cambridge and taking him round the world. On retiring from the Services, he and his family settled down in Watford while he earned a living at Kodak broadening further his interests and experience. He and his wife Patricia have an abiding enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing and walking which they practice regularly. We in the London Branch benefit from John's skills and enthusiasm in producing *The Reel*. His book describes the enjoyment he has had from life coloured by his humour in relating the entertaining anecdotes that have come his way. The book – all 500 pages of it – makes an excellent read. The remarkable thing is that he was born and married in the same years as I was, and, like me, has been Scottish Dancing all his adult life. We celebrated our Golden Anniversaries at our annual Editorial meeting at the RHS Gardens at Wisley. Yes, we are both keen gardeners too!

Wilson Nicol

ILLEGAL DANCING

We take for granted our freedom to dance where and when we like but 200 years ago things were a bit different. An Act of Parliament was passed in 1752 for the better preventing thefts and robberies, and for regulating places of public amusement, and punishing persons keeping disorderly houses. 'Any house, room, garden or other place kept for public dancing, music, or other public entertainments of the like kind in the cities of London and Westminster or within 20 miles thereof without a licence shall be deemed a disorderly house or place'. Any person(s) with a warrant signed by a JP was able to seize every person therein and be liable to be indicted under the Vagrancy Act, sent to prison to hard labour or the treadmill. Public Concerts were equally subject to the oppressive penal clauses of the Act for regulating places of public amusement. The details of the Act was so little known, that Tavern Keepers and Publicans in London unwittingly rendered themselves liable to them, as did those Dancing Masters who held such Assemblies at their Rooms, as they were not exempt from the Act, on account of their profession. Those found dancing in unlicensed Rooms, however respectable and orderly, were liable, at the discretion of the Magistrates who were not always conversant with the Act, to be committed to prison as Vagrants.

The proprietors of the disorderly house forfeited £100 (a huge sum in those days) and were also subject to the Vagrancy Act. Licences were dispensed by Justices and the licensed premises had to display above the main doorway "*Licensed Pursuant To Act Of Parliament Of The Twenty Fifth Of King George The Second.*" No dancing could start before five in the afternoon. In 1755 the law was made perpetual... Is it still in force?

Wilson Nicol

OBITUARIES

Margaret E Bare

For 31 years Margaret Bare was at the centre of Scottish Country Dancing and teaching classes in the Colchester area. It all started when she saw a display of dancing in the early 60s. She enrolled in a class and progressed rapidly. In due course under the aegis of the Adult Education Centre in Colchester she attended a teacher's training course and started teaching a class of her own. The one class soon became four, all well subscribed. As one session ended, students quickly enrolled for the next to be sure of a place. In addition, she organised Day Schools and there was a heavy demand for the display team she trained. She was strongly supported by her husband John who had an ear for music. Even after she retired from teaching about 12 years ago she took a keen interest in our activities which have continued along the lines she established. Her death leaves us with a sense of loss but with grateful feelings for all that she did for the Scottish Dancers of Colchester.

Catherine Rowe

Peggy Randall

It is with regret that we note the death of Peggy Randall from Bromley, a life member of the Society since 1949.



Valerie Leonard

Maggie Maplesden

1938 - 2007

On Monday 29 October, many of Maggie's friends gathered to say good bye to one of Scottish Dancing's real characters. On a glorious Autumn day Maggie had a send off she would have been proud of. She danced her way into the next world to the pipes played by Jim Reid and Frank Reid with his accordion.

There was and can be no one else like Maggie. For those who knew her before her last decade, she was full of life and energy, throwing herself into all the activities she loved. Most tributes in this publication seem to talk about excellence in dancing, or teaching even – but not so Maggie. Maggie made her mark on the Scottish dance scene by dancing furiously, totally disregarding any refinements of step, and spinning far more than RSCDS decorum allowed. She became affectionately known as 'Mad Maggie' and her 'yee hahs' could be heard loud and clear. She felt the Royal Scottish Country Dancers were far too stuffy – she felt dancing was foremost 'for fun'. She loved the music of Frank's band and was one of their most loyal supporters. She travelled miles to dance to them. She danced at many clubs over the years, including Gerrards Cross, Amersham and of course Pont Street, where many of us first encountered her. In recent years she had to stop dancing, although very reluctantly, but had still driven to Pont Street and various other towns as long as she was well enough, to listen to the music she so loved.

Rita Reid and Ann Pfeiffer

BANDS

CALEDONIAN REELERS

Well established 3-piece SCD band, consisting of accordionist, fiddler and drummer. Caller/piper can also be supplied. Available for RSCDS dances, ceilidhs, weddings, reeling. Anywhere, anytime for your function. Please contact Derek Chappell 01206 764232 / Mary Felgate 07866 757401 for further information, or email Derekdexie@aol.com.

KEN MARTLEW

Solo pianist / RSCDS teacher / MC
or **Duo with BARBARA MANNING**
(violin/piano)

A highly-experienced, versatile combination for your Day School / Dance.

European languages, will travel anywhere.

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SCOTCH MIST CEILIDH BAND

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

THE HIGHLANDERS

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

KAFOOZALUM COUNTRY DANCE BAND

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

THE INVERCAULD SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

Scottish Dance Band (3 or 4 piece) for Dances, Ceilidhs, Reels, Weddings & Parties. Contact Lillian Linden, 01252 629178, Mob: 07879 633766, lillian.linden@virgin.net. CDs £12 each (+ £1.00 UK p&p) www.invercauldband.com.

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

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

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

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

Soloist: PETER JENKINS

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

Soloist: FIONA MCGEE

Harpist for functions, weddings etc. 07814 135281.
www.fionamcgeeharp.co.uk.

DANCE EVENTS

HIGHLAND SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

Saturday 29 March 2008

Starts 7.30 pm prompt

Sports Centre, Bought Park, Inverness.

Marian Anderson S.C. Dance Band

Programme: Gay Gordons, St Bernard's Waltz, Saltire Society Reel, The Frisky, Butterscotch and Honey, The Reel of the 51st Division, The Bees of Maggiecknockater, Calum's Road, Black Mountain Reel, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Tullich Hornpipe, Mairi's Wedding, The Montgomerie's Rant, Follow Me Home, Wisp o' Thistle, Catch the Wind, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Wind on Loch Fyne, J.B. Milne, Postie's Jig, The Robertson Rant, Robbie Over The Waves, Shiftin' Bobbins, *Extra:* Duke of Perth.

All dances will be called with encores for popular ones.

Dress Formal. Tickets (limited to 350) £13.50 including light refreshments. Cheques made payable to: Highland Scottish Country Dance Group. No refunds after 1 March 2008. Last day of availability: Saturday 22 March 2008. Please send stamped addressed envelope to: Mrs Mary Ross, 60 Drummond Road, Inverness IV2 4NU, tel: 01463 234680. Further details of the Ball on the Branch webpage: www.rscdslondon.org.uk

WEMBLEY AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL BALL

Saturday 23 February 2008

7.30-11.30pm.

Eastman's Hall, Kodak, Harrow View, Harrow, HA2 6QQ

The Craigellachie Band

Programme: Joie de Vivre, Falls of Rogie, St. Columba's Strathspey, The Luckenbooth Brooch, Scott Meikle, Foxhill Court, The Lochalsh Reel, Roselath Cross, The Dreamcatcher, The Plantation Reel, Napier's Index, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, John of Bon Accord, My Heather Hills, Alison Rose, Pelorus Jack, The Earl of Mansfield, Dagmar's Fancy, The Dancing Master, The Irish Rover.

Tickets at £15 each and further information from Patricia Hamilton 7 Boldmere Road, Eastcote, Pinner, Middx HA5 1PW, Tel: 020 8866 2841.

WEST MACS CHARITY BALL

Saturday 26 April 2008

London Collegiate School, Edgware HA8 7JR.

The Craigellachie Band

Programme and other details in the next issue. Enquiries to Ron McCann 0208 573 3237.

THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Christmas Dance

Saturday 15 December 2007

Methodist Church Hall, Chalfont Avenue, Little Chalfont, HP6 5RD

Karl Sandeman

Tickets £6 plus "bring-and-share" refreshments, from Dick Field, 01494 562231.

For Sale - Men's Jackets

Day jacket - Lovat Green

Prince Charles - black barathea

Montrose - green velvet (never worn)

Evening jacket - black velvet with waistcoat

All about size 38 chest

These have been generously donated to the Branch and proceeds will be put into Branch funds

Please contact Rachel Wilton. Tel. 0208858 7729, e mail wiltonrachel@hotmail.com

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Burns' Supper and Dance

Saturday 19 January 2008

6.15 - 11pm

St Mary's Parish Hall, Lingham Road, Teddington TW11 9HF.

Dancing to Finlay Forbes

Details from Ted Goater 020 8783 9282

tedgoater@tiscali.co.uk

RSCDS BATH BRANCH

Diamond Jubilee Ball

Friday 22 February 2008

at The Guildhall, Bath BA1 5AW.

Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band

Tickets £25 from June Hall, Top Flat, 141 Wells Rd, Bath BA2 3AL

RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 12 January 2008

Town Hall, Cheltenham, GL50 1QA.

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Tickets £20 (including light refreshments)

Programme on website:

beehive.thisisgloucestershire.co.uk/cheltenhamrscds

Weekend School

Sat/Sun 2 - 3 February 2008

Richard Pate School, Cheltenham

Teacher: **Andrew McConnell**

Musician: **Jeremy Hill**

Details: Margaret Winterbourne,

tel: 01242 863238

RSCDS CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH

Saturday 12 January 2008

Annual Ball

Sanderstead URC Hall

Sanderstead Hill, Sanderstead

Robin Ellis and his Band

Tickets £14.50 incl. supper in advance from Dorothy Pearson, tel: 01737 551724.

THE TARTAN JIGSAW

Bi-Annual Summer Ball

Saturday 12 July, 2008

7.30 - 11.30 pm

Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon, CR9 7AT

Robin Ellis and his Band

M.C. Peter Forrow

Programme: Round Reel of Eight, Jennifer's Jig, Up in the Air, The Meeting of the Waters, The Diamond Jubilee, Sands of Morar, Major Ian Stewart, Autumn in Appin, The Irish Rover, The Minister on the Loch, Earlstoun Loch, Joie de Vivre, Kilkenny Castle, The Waggle o' The Kilt, The Falls of Rogie, The Garry Strathspey, Pelorus Jack, The Reel of the Royal Scots, Lady Sophia Lindsay, The Moray Rant, Postie's Jig.

Tickets: £18 including supper.

Contact: George Ferrier, Tel. 020 8651 5673,

email: george2542@hotmail.co.uk

or Elaine Wilde, Tel 020 8660 5167

WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Caledonian Ball

Saturday 5 April 2007

7.30 - 11.30 pm

Parmiter's School, Watford, Herts WD25 0UU

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Details from Dr. John Crowder,

tel. 01923 225522

Tickets@WatfordScottish.org.uk

www.WatfordScottish.org.uk

DANCE EVENTS (continued)

Club de Danse Écossaise de MONTPELLIER, FRANCE

-O-

20th ANNUAL BALL

Weekend of 13-15 June 2008

Dancing to

Ian Robertson & his Scottish Dance Band

Dancing, eating, drinking, more dancing followed by a jolly outing on the famous *Canal du Midi* with more eating and drinking. *Rendez-vous* with social warmth and real sunshine.

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

website: <http://danseecossaisemp.free.fr/>

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Burns Night Supper & Dance

Saturday 19 January 2008

7.00-11.30 pm.

Benson Parish Hall OX10 6LZ

Ian Muir & The Craigellachie Band

Programme: The Ferry Louper, Cramond Bridge, The Birks of Invermay, The Champagne Reel, Pelorus Jack, None So Pretty, Double Diamond Strathspey, Swiss Lassie, The Dancing Master, Good Hearted Glasgow, Les Noces D'Or, Rose of the North, Milton's Welcome, The Dundee Whaler, Ladies of Dunse, The Little Treasure, Follow Me Home, The Reel of the Royal Scots. *Extras:* West's Hornpipe, De'il Amang the Tailors, Macdonald of the Isles

Ticket price: £14, from: Trisha Rawlings,
29 Frances Road, Middle Barton,
Oxon OX7 7ET. Tel: 01869 340830.
email: trish@rawlings50cc.fsnet.co.uk

Day School and Dance

Saturday 16 February 2008

Headington School, Oxford, OX3 0BL

Teachers: **Helen Russell**,
(York & North Humber-side)
Andrew McConnell (Ayr),
Dennis Tucker (Oxford).

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

Tickets: Whole day £22.00.

Morning or afternoon class £7.50 each session.

Evening Dance £12.00

Music for the evening dance provided by

Ian Muir and The Craigellachie Band

Details: Trisha Rawlings, 29 Frances Road,
Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon, OX7 7ET

Tel: 01869 340830 or email:

trisha@rawlings50cc.fsnet.co.uk

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

Annual Ball

Saturday 2 February 2008

Elvian School, Southcote Lane, Reading RG30 2BB

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Hooper's Jig, Inverneill House, John McAlpin, The Luckenbooth Brooch, All for Mary, The Lammermuir Hills, The Dancing Master, Cramond Bridge, Kilkenny Castle, The Royal Yacht Britannia, Happy Returns, The Kelloholm Jig, The Rose of the North, The Immigrant Lass, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, The Silver Tassie, Miss Hadden's Reel, Milton's Welcome, St. Columba's Strathspey, Irish Rover. *Extras:* The Reverend John MacFarlane, The Starry Eyed Lassie, The Jubilee Jig.

Tickets: £14 including sherry reception and
supper with a glass of wine, from

Carol Woodward, 36 Betchworth Avenue,

Earley, Reading RG6 7RL

Tel: 0118 926 8757

www.scottishdancingreading.org



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming attractions

to be held at St. Columba's
Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1.

Fridays: Upper Hall 7.30-10.30pm

Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00-10.30pm

unless otherwise stated

Friday 30 November St Andrews

Friday 14 December **Frank Reid**
7.30-11.00pm Christmas Dance

Saturday 5 January **Craigievar**

7-11pm New Year's Dance with haggis supper

Friday 11 January AGM

Saturday 2 February **Marian Anderson**

7.00-11.00pm Annual Ball

Friday 15 February St Valentines

Saturday 1 March Music Makers

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

For further details contact: Frank Bennett on 020
8715 3564, e-mail fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk, or
Roger Waterson on 020 8660 5017. You can also
telephone our "Dial-a-Programme" service on
020 8763 8096 to hear our programme, or leave a
message. Everyone is welcome at all our
functions, so please come along and join us for
an enjoyable evening. Please visit our website at
www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk for the latest
news and programmes of our dances.

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Saturday 2 February 2008

Annual Ball

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

7.00 to 11.00pm

Marian Anderson

Programme: Hooper's Jig; MacDonald of the
Isles; College Hornpipe; James Gray; Miss
Milligan's Strathspey; Nottingham Lace,
Roselath Cross, Alison Rose, Hamilton Rant,
Argyll's Fancy, Grand March leading to Clutha,
Luckenbooth Brooch, The Flower o' the Quern,
Bratach Bana, Craven Jig, Duchess Tree, White
Heather Jig, Drumelzier, Duke and Duchess of
Edinburgh. *Extras:* The Weathercock; Blooms of
Bon Accord.

Dances will not be walked through at this dance

Tickets: (Including finger buffet refreshments)

LHC Members in advance £12.00.

Non Members in advance £14.00.

All classes on door £15.00.

Highland or evening dress preferred.

All enquiries to Frank Bennett 020 8715 3564,

email: fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk

or Roger Waterson 020-8660 5017.

JERSEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE WEEKEND

Bank Holiday Weekend

Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 May 2008

Ian Robertson & his Band

£27.50 per person for two evenings.

Saturday Ball Programme: 7.00-11.30 pm.

Nice to See You, Lochearnside, The Chequered
Court, The Reivers, Jean Martin of Aberdeen,
The Cocket Hat, Blackwater Reel, Foxhill Court,
The Raven's Dance, Cramond Bridge, Monadh
Liath, James Gray, David Russell Hall,
Lammermuir Hills, Nessie's Neuk, Follow Me
Home, Kinfaun's Castle, Crossing the Line,
Ladies Fancy, The Belle of Bon Accord, Black
Mountain Reel.

Sunday Dance Programme: 7.00-11.30 pm.

Highland Rambler, Tribute to the Borders, Trip
to Monymusk, Caddam Wood, Friday's Child,
Sloane Square, Scotia Sea, The Grumpy
Gentleman, Strathcare, Red Ghillies, Ian
Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Bruce's Men,
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Allshellach,
Blooms of Bon Accord, Equilibrium, Blackadder
House, Anniversary Reel, Quarries' Jig, S-
Locomotion, Mairi's Wedding.

Contacts: Mrs. Helen McGugan, La Pelotte,

La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey, JE3 9GB

tel./fax 01534 854459 or

Mr. Alan Nicolle, 88, La Ville du Bocage,

St. Peter, JE3 7YT, tel 01534 484375

e-mail address: alan_nicolle@yahoo.co.uk

<http://scottishcountrydancingjersey.blogspot.com/>



DANCING IN KIEV

18-29 April 2008

A warm welcome to
Ukraine
from an enthusiastic
and friendly SCD
group.

Weekend for experienced dancers

including sight-seeing around Kiev

Teacher: **Ken Martlew**

Class pianist: **Barbara Manning**

Evening Dances Band:

Ken Martlew (piano) and

Barbara Manning (violin)

Enquiries: iryna.ukrainienne@gmail.com or

KenMartlew@AOL.com 01442 261525

HIGHLAND DANCING/LADIES STEP

Reading St Andrew's Scottish Dancing Society
are holding a class on Thursday 31st January.

Teacher: **Joan Desborough**

All dancers welcome – why not come and try it?
Details from Sara Ribbins 0118 947 3207

Want to advertise in *The Reel*?

Contact Jeff Robertson, tel: 020 7730 9633
or Tel: 01903 245718, email: jtr@ctg.co.uk.

MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB

Highland Ball

Saturday 23 February 2008 from 7.00 - 11.00pm Venue to be confirmed

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Please note change of date and earlier starting time

Programme: The Ladies of Dunse, EH3 7AF, Miss Gibson's Strathspey,
John of Bon Accord, The Dancing Master, The Flying Spur, Jean Martin of Aberdeen,
Milton's Welcome, Diamond Jubilee, The Cuckoo Clock, Minard Castle,
Kilkenny Castle, Aird of Coigach, The Lochalsh Reel, The Wind on Loch Fyne,
The Plantation Reel, Whigmaleeries, Culla Bay, Festival Fling, White Heather Jig.

Extras: The Earl of Mansfield, Anniversary Reel, The Wild Goose Chase.

Tickets from: Alan Pfeiffer 64 Wavell Road Maidenhead Berks SL6 5AD.

Tel/Fax 01628 633928, Moble: 07956 233 536

An SAE would be appreciated.

Visit our website at www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk.

DANCE EVENTS (continued)



BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND REEL CLUB

Annual Highland Ball
Saturday 9 February 2008
7.30pm to midnight

Ashlyns School, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted
HP4 3AH

Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band

Programme: St Andrew's Fair, The Flying Scotsman, The Wind on Loch Fyne, The Pines of Pitlochry, Drumtochty Glen, John of Bon Accord, Fugal Fergus on Waverley, J.B.Milne, The Reel Friend, Pelorus Jack, Schiehallion, Waltz Country Dance, Fire in the Rye, The White Heather Jig, Shepherd's Crook, Miss Allie Anderson, The Plantation Reel, The Dundee Whaler, The Montgomerie's Rant, MacDonald of the Isles, The Luckenbooth Brooch, The Buchan Eightsome Reel.

Admission by Programme - £18.50 incl. dinner.
No bar - BYO drinks (soft drinks provided).

Details and tickets from: Mrs Janet Halse,
1 Highcroft Road, Felden, Hemel Hempstead,
Herts HP3 0BU, tel: 01442 246381.
e-mail: janethalseuk@btinternet.com

Highland Ball Practice;

Potten End Village Hall, Potten End, Berkhamsted
Saturday 2 February 2008

2:00 - 5:00 pm £3 on door

www.berkhamstedreelclub.org



CHELSEA REEL CLUB

Our final Burns' Dance and Supper
Thursday 24 January 2008
7.00 for 7.15 - 11pm

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

Ken Martlew and Ian Cutts

Piper: Stewart Murray

MCs: Jim Cook and Jim Dunlop

Programme: The Machine Without Horses, The College Hornpipe, The Gentleman, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Festival Fling, The Belle of Bon Accord, Shifitin' Bobbins, The Wind on Loch Fyne, Joie de Vivre, The Music Makars, Monymusk, Pelorus Jack, Duke of Perth. *Extras:* The Byron Strathspey, Postie's Jig, The Sailor.

Tickets (including haggis supper): - *in advance:*
CRC Members: £6; Associates and Visitors £10.

On door: £12.

from Penny Seddon, pennyseddon@aol.com
Please state if vegetarian

Practice Night: Thurs. 6 December

7.30 - 10.30 at St. Columba's.

Cheese & wine supper, live music,
MC: Jim Cook.

Enquiries: Ruth Hewlett

Email: r_hewlett3@hotmail.com

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order your copy of *The Reel* from

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elsewhere. There are special rates for bulk
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to RSCDS (London Branch).

Advance Notice

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Formal Dance

Saturday 8 March 2008

Warwick Road School, Redhill RH1 4AD

Green Ginger

Programme in the next issue

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Annual Ball

Saturday 29 March 2008

7.30 - 11.30 pm

in the Guildhall, Abingdon, near Oxford

Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

Programme: Grand March leading into The Piper and the Penguin, Jennifer's Jig, The Double Diamond Strathspey, Mr. Iain Stuart Robertson, The Hunting Horn, St. Columba's Strathspey, The Lochalsh Reel, The Weathercock, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Shifitin' Bobbins, Yan Tan Tethera, Mrs. Milne of Kinneff, The Earl of Mansfield, Macleod's Fancy, Butterscotch and Honey, The Black Mountain Reel, Mrs. Stewart's Jig, The Garry Strathspey, The Reel of the Royal Scots. *Extras:* Cramond Bridge, Minister on the Loch, The Sailor.

Tickets: £15, included supper seated in
medieval Roysse Room,
Vegetarian meal on request. Licensed Bar.
Ample free parking nearby.
Contact Jessie MacLachlan, 01865 763942.
See www.geocities.com/abscdc.

GUILDFORD SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Spring Dance

Saturday 3 May 2008

7.15 - 11.15pm

Normandy Village Hall

Strathallan SCD Band

Enquiries: Catherine Smith, tel:01483 502422 or
email: crsmithgg@aol.com, www.gscdc.org.uk.

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball

Saturday 1 March 2008

7.30 to 11.30 pm

Harpenden Public Hall, Harpenden, Herts

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Tickets £16 including Supper

Students (16-21) £10

Programme: West's Hornpipe, The Kelloholm Jig, Monymusk, Baldovan Reel, Chasing the Wild Goose, The Wind on Loch Fyne, Cramond Bridge, The Bees of Maggie Knockater, Lochanora, Fugal Fergus, The Duke of Perth, Argyll Strathspey, The Flight of the Falcon, The Earl of Mansfield, Schiehallion, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, The Saltire Strathspey, Crossing the Line, Lullyvolan, Flowers of the West, The Recumbent Stone, The Dancing Master.

Tickets and enquiries: Val Owens 01727 863870
email: tvowens@beeb.net

Website: www.HSCDC.org.uk.

ROSS REEL CLUB

25th Anniversary Dance

Saturday 16 February 2008

Larruperz Community Centre Ross-On-Wye

Ian Robertson and his band

Tickets £10, from Susan Dick 01989 564929.



ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Day School

Saturday 26 April 2008

Edgbarrow School,

Sandhurst Road,

Crowthorne, RG45 7HZ

Teachers:.....**Deborah Draffin,**

Bruce Frazer, Kathy Lawmon

Musicians: **Robert Mackay,**

Barbara Manning, Caroline Sloan

Further details and application forms from:

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

Weekend School

3 - 5 October 2008

Dillington House, Somerset

Teacher: **Ann Smyth**

Musician:..... **Robert Mackay**

Saturday Band - **Green Ginger**

Booking opens January 2008

For booking contact: Dillington House,

Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 9DT.

Tel: 01460 258613 www.dillington.co.uk



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER BRANCH

Christmas Social

Thursday 27 December 2007

Finchampstead Memorial Hall, RG40 4JU

7.45 to 10.45pm

Bring and share refreshments

dancing to recorded music

Contact Mervyn Short 01903 715068

Branch Day School - 8 March 2008

Court Moor School, Fleet

Teachers:.....**Linda Gaul (Pitlochry)**

Alison Russell (Ayr), Alan Davis (Berks)

Pianists: **Robert Mackay, Ken Martlew**

Contact: Diane Hoskins 01628 639 699

Music Day School: **Ian Muir & Keith Anderson**

Contact: May Sloan 01428 604 868

Day School Social

Music provided by Day School Musicians

Tickets in advance only

Contact: John Douglas 0118 9781125

Advanced Classes - alternate Mondays

Finchampstead Memorial Hall

8.00 to 10.00pm.

Contact: Fiona Albinson 0118 9789181

General Class - Every Wednesday

Our Lady Queen of Heaven RC Church, Frimley

Starting at 8.00pm. Teacher: **Mervyn Short**

Contact: May Sloan 01428 604868

May Ball

Saturday 17 May 2008

Ian Muir & the Craiggellachie Band

Emmbrook School, Wokingham

Programme: Quarries' Jig, Summer Wooing, Gang the Same Gate, The Wee Cooper o' Fife, The Montgomerie's Rant, Foxhill Court, Jennifer's Jig, Alltshellach, The Starry Eyed Lassie, The Blackwater Reel, Queen's View, La Flora, Mr Robert H Mackay, Summer Assembly, Kelloholm Jig, Festival Fling, Up in the Air, The Chequered Court, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran.

Contact Shirley Ferguson 01276 501952

Diary Date

Open Air Dance - 21 June 2008

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

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Dancing most Mondays, 8.00 - 10.15pm, Sept to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details/map: www.geocities.com/abscdc or Rowena Fowler, 01865 361129.
- ADDESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY** meets Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm September to May at the Brook Memorial Hall, Ottershaw, KT16 0HG. Details from Val Clack, 01932 845869.
- 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 Tuesday evenings, September to May. Garden dances June and July. 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 7.00-8.30pm. Improvers/Intermediate 8.45-10.15pm. Weekly children's classes. Technique class by invitation - alternate Wednesdays. Details from Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Rd, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX. Tel: 01202 698138.
- BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS.** Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details from Ray on 01273 684417 or Bill on 01273 731927. www.rscds-brighton.org.uk
- BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 7.30-10pm at Balfour Junior School, Balfour Road, Brighton. Details from Carol Catterall, 01273 564963.
- BURNS CLUB OF LONDON** holds lively meetings in central London, usually including live music, on second Monday of the month as well as a superb Burns Supper. Details: Jim Henderson 020 8954 2586, jimhendersonuk@aol.com.
- CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday 8pm at St. Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details from Rhoda Finch, 20 Redcrest Gardens, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2DU. Tel: 01276 681820.
- CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS.** Classes for all grades. Details from Alison Gundy, 92, Devonshire Mews, Devonshire Road, Cambridge, CB1 2BB; tel 01223 303603.
- CHELSEA REEL CLUB** meets once a month from Sept to April in St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1. All welcome. Instruction given. Dancing to live music. Details Ruth Hewlett, 020 8749 5471, r_hewlett@hotmail.com.
- CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS** Advanced class Mondays 7.30-9.30pm. General class Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm. Bettleidge 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.
- CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING** in the Upper Hall at St Michael & All Angels Church corner of The Avenue and Bath Rd. W4 (nr Turnham Green tube), Sundays 7.30-9.30pm. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: 020 8743 9385 (afternoons).
- CIRENCESTER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets most Wednesdays 8:00 - 10:00pm September to end June at the Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester. Details Mr A.E.L. Bush, Lake View House, Willington, Glos. GL54 4 BN. 01242890454, imbush@btopenworld.com
- CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY:** Robertsons, Reids, Duncans etc. The London & Southern Counties Branch has attractive programme of events tailored to meet members' preferences. Details: jean_robertson@beeb.net.
- CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00pm September to June at Millon Mount Community Hall, Millon 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); West Wickham (Fri); Advanced: Reigate (Thurs.). Details: Dorothy Pearson 01737 551724, www.rscdscroydon.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.
- EPHING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Details from John Tanner, Tel: 020 8504 1632. www.efsa.org.uk, john@efsa.org.uk.
- EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dance classes, including beginners, (September to March). Many other activities including frequent informal dances. Details from Brian Burgess, 72 Seymour Avenue, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 2RR. Tel: 020 8786 7452.
- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, 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. Instruction by Mrs Margaret Henderson. Details from Pam Black, 0208 894 9399. pamjblack@aol.com
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-11.00pm, 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 May. Details: Mrs B MacKenzie Ross, Blythe Muse, Misbourne Ave, Chalfont St Peter SL9 0PD. Tel: 01494 874604.
- GREAT MISSENDEN: THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00pm, Oldhams Hall, Church Road, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Walford, Herts WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- GUILDFORD SCDC** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford most Mondays at 8.15pm from September to April. Teacher Paul Plummer, 01483 236946.
- 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 8.00-10.00pm, Orley Farm School, South Hill Ave, Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Sheena Henderson, 92a Kenton Road, Kenton HA3 8AE. Tel: 020 8907 6581.
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8-10pm, September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, 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 Nicole 01534 484375, alan.nicole@yahoo.co.uk; or Brenda Gale 01534 862357. See blog <http://scottishcountrydancing.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 Bradslow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. 01843 869284.
- LEICESTER BRANCH RSCDS** meets Thursdays, Holy Cross Centre, Wellington St., Leicester. 4 classes - Beginners, Intermediates, Social, Advanced. 7.30-8.30pm., 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, jdjimps@aol.com.
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Some major functions held at other London venues. Details: adverts in *The Reel* or contact Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG. 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096. www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372. maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk.
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday 7.30-10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details from Jane Masters, 251 Robin Hood Lane, Blue Bell Hill, Chatham, Kent ME5 9QU. Tel: 01634 864007.
- MARKET HARBOUROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesday 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, "Lazonby", 9 Little Lunnon, Duntun 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: Miss Kate Penny, 133 Broom Hill Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3LQ. 01634 716644
- 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.
- MID SUSSEX CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Events throughout the year at various venues. Members of SASS. Classes held before St. Andrews/Burns. Contact David Anderson, 8 Tindal Close, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 0LB. 01444 244854, madaanderson@hotmail.com
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS.** Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00-10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. MK3 5LP. 01908 378730, jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. from September to May at Rocoft School, Stotfold. Informal Saturday Dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shelford, Beds. SG17 5AL. Tel: 01462 812691.
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dancing 7.45-10.00pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Bill MacFarlane, 26 Lewis Road, Istead Rise, Northfleet, Kent DA13 9JC. Tel: 01474 832801.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 7.45-10.15pm. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Classes Mon eves at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Mrs. P. J. 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. All welcome. Information contact 020 8977 4304.
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP.** Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@iee.org.
- ST. ALBANS & MID HERTS CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing most Fridays from October to March. Group meets at Homewood Road U.R. Church Hall, Sandpit Lane, St. Albans at 8.00pm. Details: Mrs I. Smallwood, 26 Gresford Ct, St. Albans, AL4 0UB. Tel: 01727 760878.
- ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON).** The Wembleton and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm at Wembleton Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wembleton, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB. 020 8540 1755. www.geocities.com/standrewsoclondon.
- ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street.** Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Sept to May, 7.15-10pm. Admission free except for six 'Band Nights' when tickets cost £7 inc. supper (Burns Night £10). Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details: Bob Harman: 020 8642 7192, bobandmegharman@aol.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. Also Childrens' Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, Deborah Draffin 01344 776831.
- ST. NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS,** Luton meet every Wednesday, September to July 8.00-10.00pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road, Luton, Beds. Contact: Pat Hamilton, 01462 671156 or Sheila Harris, 01525 875600.
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00-10.00pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Penelope Fisk, Sunnybank Cottages, 15 Maidstone Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3BY. Tel: 01732 457327.
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from mid-September to May 8.30-10.30pm, in Barnes. Further info: Evelyn Bremner, 49a Lime Grove, New Malden, KT3 3TP, Tel 020 8949 4469.
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details: Terry Boorman, 15 Old Farm Road West, Sidcup, DA15 8AG. Tel: 020 8302 2974.
- SOMERSET BRANCH RSCDS** Beginners and General Class at Keinton Mandeville School Mon. 7.30-9.30pm. Experienced Thurs. at Monteclefe School, Somerton 7.45-9.45pm Children's Class Charlton Mackrell Reading Room 2.30-4.00pm Sats. Highland class Kingsdon Village Hall 2.00-4.00pm Suns.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30-10.00pm. Details from Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ. Tel: 01305 265177.
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Fridays, 7.30 to 10.30pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near the hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details from Mrs Edna Carroll, 01702 428974.
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS.** Classes in Hertford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Sacred Heart School, Ware; Beginners Thurs 7.30pm. Millmead School, Hertford. Demonstration All. Mons 8.0pm. St John's Hall, Hertford. Details: Mrs Maureen Ainsworth, 01279 434342.
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details: Brenda Hinton, 01273 595017.
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday at 8pm. September to June at St. Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsley Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY. 01932 784866. surbitoncaledonian.co.uk.
- THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON** meets at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1, every Tuesday from October to end of May for Scottish Country Dancing, 7.00-10.00pm. Details: Tom Symington, 020 7834 7151 or 020 7828 6792.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners, General and Advanced classes on Mon, Tues, Thurs, 8.00-10.00pm at St. Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details: Colin Simpson, 21 Culverden Avenue, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9RE. Tel: 01892 532712(eve) 01732 377407(work).
- 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, wesley3148@tiscali.co.uk. www.wallingtonscottish.org.uk
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Class at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1BJ. Thursdays from 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE. 01923 492475, reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk
- WAVERLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Winchester, every Thursday from September to the end of June, 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Pat Mumford, 02380 252570.
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Mondays 8.00pm. Dance Class. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Walford. WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Club night (all abilities) Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. Both evenings take place at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ. 01264 363293, wendy@mumford.com.
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from Maureen Manson, tel: 01206 210927.

EDITORIAL



Wilson, John and Stephen – a Reel Team

Owen Meyer

The Reel is prepared almost entirely electronically these days so it is rare for all of the 'staff' to meet. Recently, such an opportunity arose and this photo taken. The team sends you Seasons Greetings and Happy Dancing.

This has been a 'Golden' year! Both the Editor and Printer of *The Reel* celebrated their golden weddings within a few days of each other during the summer, celebrating as well 50 years of dancing for both couples. Out here in New Zealand we participated in the Auckland Labour Weekend school Ball marking 50 years of Scottish Country Dancing in the area. Later in our travels to the Bay of Plenty we danced at Opotiki again to Peter Elmes band to celebrate the first 5 years of dancing started by Pam Perkins, a London Branch member who emigrated from the New Forest Dancers in Brockenhurst nearly 10 years ago: an eminent missionary from our Branch! The same dance coincided with the 50th birthday of another North Island dancer. Dancing really is fun out here in New Zealand. Later we will go to the Royal Oak Ball in

Auckland to music of the Balmoral band led by Ian McKenzie also from London. During our travels to South Island, the Nelson/Blenheim Ball is on the cards plus a dance in Christchurch before we return in time for the London Branch Christmas dance. Scottish Country Dancing is truly international!

Wilson Nicol

JIMMY McINTOSH

Jimmy is 85-years young, long live Jimmy. But who is Jimmy? Jimmy McIntosh is the founder of Summer Tuesdays. He celebrated his birthday on 31 July this year and appropriately it fell on a Tuesday. To mark this special occasion he generously covered the complete cost of the evening so all who came that night entered free. In founding Summer Tuesdays he realised a need, 50 years ago, for those enthusiastic dancers who were at a loose end in the London area during the summer months. We dancers (some 100 each week) owe Jimmy a lot for doing this, as the weekly event is recognised as giving one of the most exciting SCD atmospheres to be found anywhere! Dancers describe themselves as *flying* to the sounds of the resident band of Frank Reid, or guest musicians Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band under the able guidance of Graham Hamilton. Jimmy hardly misses an evening and if he is not there his friends always ask where is he and is he well?

Jimmy sadly, doesn't dance anymore but knows the ropes so well that he is always on hand to help in the kitchen or make newcomers welcome. Jimmy is a reel star! Thank you Jimmy for everything!

Stephen Webb



Graham Hamilton with his wife Caroline (and young son, James) have just presented Jimmy with his special 80th birthday card at a July Summer Tuesday

Visit the Summer Tuesdays website at www.summertuesdays.co.uk

London Branch 75th Anniversary CD

Where else can you hear, on one CD, most of the bands who play regularly in London and the South-East?



This compilation CD of music for dances recently published in the London 75th Anniversary book, includes six different bands and one track by a piper, each band having its own unique sound.

Available from the Branch bookstall for £12 or buy the book and CD together for just £15 plus postage.

Hurry while stocks last!



VICE-PRESIDENT REPLIES

Our long standing Hon Vice-President, Marie Jamieson, replies to Jill Roeder whose letter was published in Reel 261.



Stephen Webb

Marie who taught at Morley College for about 30 years thanks Jill for her flattering remarks. She sends you her best wishes for continuing to enjoy your obsession! Marie will be at the Branch Christmas Dance on 15 December and hopes that you will make yourself known to her!

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