



# The Reel



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Issue 316

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JUNE TO AUGUST 2021

## London Branch Dances



### COVID-19 Forecast



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

### New Season Dance

Saturday 18 September 2021  
7.00 - 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street  
SW1X 0BD

David Hall and his Scottish Dance Band

Pelorus Jack .....	8x32 J
Mrs MacLeod .....	8x32 R
Cape Town Wedding .....	8x32 S
Miss Allie Anderson .....	8x32 J
Cherrybank Gardens .....	3x32 S
Trip to Timber Ridge .....	8x32 R
The Bees of Maggie Knockater .....	4x32 J
Asilomar Romantic .....	8x32 S
The Black Mountain Reel .....	5x32 R
Kendall's Hornpipe .....	8x32 J
Mrs Milne of Kinneff .....	Sq 4x32 S
The Music Will Tell You .....	4x32 R
The New Rigged Ship .....	8x48 J
The Haar on Skye .....	8x32 S
John of Bon Accord .....	8x32 R
Jean Martin of Aberdeen .....	3x32 J
Best Set in the Hall .....	8x32 J
Da Rain Dancin' .....	8x32 R

Admission includes refreshments and a glass of wine  
RSCDS Members £15, non-members £18  
full time students (with card) and spectators £9  
Children (under 16) free  
Tickets to be purchased (cash only) on the door  
All dances will be recapped  
Crib available at [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

### Autumn Wednesday Dance

Wednesday 27 October 2021  
7.00 - 10.00pm

Doors open at 6.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street  
SW1X 0BD  
Chris Oxtoby

The Highland Fair .....	8x32 J
Currie Mountain .....	8x32 R
Lady Glasgow .....	8x32 S
Flowers of Dunbeg .....	5x32 R
It's All Right .....	8x32 J
Butterscotch and Honey .....	4x32 S
Good Hearted Glasgow .....	8x32 J
Cramond Bridge .....	8x32 R
Seann Truibhas Willichan .....	8x32 S
Granville Market .....	8x32 J
Catch the Wind .....	8x32 R
The Silver Grey .....	4x32 S
Inchmickery .....	5x32 J
Round Reel of Eight .....	Sq 88 R
<b>Extras:</b>	
The Buttercup .....	8x40 J
Jessie's Hornpipe .....	8x32 R

Admission includes light refreshments  
RSCDS members £12, non-members £14,  
full time students (with card) and spectators £7  
Children (under 16) free  
Tickets to be purchased (cash only) on the door  
All dances will be recapped/walked through  
Crib available at [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)



### Garden Celebration

If safe to do so, we plan to hold our rearranged Garden Dance as a free Garden Celebration on  
Saturday 3 July 2021

2.00 - 6.00pm  
St Helen's School, Eastbury Road,  
Northwood HA6 3AS  
with music from Strathallan

As we are unlikely to be able to dance, if guidelines permit, we will have a free garden event, paid for by the Branch, for you to socialise once again with dancing friends at a responsible distance. Bring your own refreshments.



### Grand Autumn Ball

To celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the RSCDS London Branch on

Saturday 16 October 2021

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

Dancing to  
Ian Muir and The Craiggellachie Band

Welcome Reception 6.30pm  
Carriages 11.30pm

Come and join everyone attired in their finery and help London Branch celebrate its landmark anniversary in this spacious venue with its superb dance floor

Tickets, including a two course buffet supper  
RSCDS members £40 non-members £45

Further information including Ball programme plus application forms are available to download from

[www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

or can be obtained by sending an email to

[90anniversary@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:90anniversary@rscdslondon.org.uk)

DON'T MISS OUT - APPLY NOW!

### Where is this?



Answer on p10 ...

### In This Issue

#### Branch matters (pp2-5)

Chair's report, AGM Notice, committee report, classes listings, members' survey

#### Fancy a new CD? (p6)

Latest reviews from Jeremy Hill

#### Inside the RSCDS (p7)

Membership Services Committee, In my opinion

#### Summer School revisited (pp 8-11)

Centrefold spread and reflections from our roving reporters

#### How I started dancing (pp11-12)

Articles by Jim Henderson and Adam Ray

#### Lives Remembered (pp12-14)

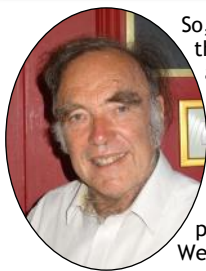
We remember Eric Lindsay, Henry Nolan, Stuart Anderson, John Nicholson, Peter Stogden, Bill Somerville, Brian Harry and Donald Ross

Issue 317 should be with UK based members by 28 August 2021 unless delayed in the post. However, due to the current situation with COVID-19 there may need to be a last minute change to the schedule. Please check the latest situation on the London Branch [website](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk).

Contributions for *Reel* 317 should be sent to arrive by and preferably in advance of Sunday 18 July 2021 by email to [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

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

## From the Chair: Jim Cook



So, year two of COVID-19 restrictions is well under way but, thankfully, there is now light at the end of the tunnel whereby we may be dancing again later in the year.

But firstly, I thank all the contributors to another of our successful Zoom entertainment events on Saturday 10 April 2021. This coincided with what would have been the date of this year's Combined London Societies' Dance. It took place with the support of the St Columba's Dancers, the London Highland Club and the Little Ship Club who all participated in this presentation of music, dance, poetry and quizzing. Well done to everyone for supporting this much enjoyed occasion.

Nobody truly knows how the future will unfold but, at the time of writing, the Branch's plans for the future seem to be realistic. Let us keep our fingers crossed that this is so. Cautiously, our Branch AGM on Saturday 12 June will be another Zoom presentation accompanied by online entertainments once again. For my part, I trust that this year my internet link will not go down for several days as it did last year so that I can actually chair the meeting this year!

Thereafter, it will be time to revive our 90th (or should I now say 91st) Anniversary celebrations. The next event will be our Garden Celebration on Saturday 3 July 2021 which at least will allow us to meet our dancing friends face to face in the open air and, we hope, to dance as well if the prevailing rules permit. After that, we plan our relaunch in September with classes resuming and our New Season dance taking place on Saturday 18 September 2021. See details of all these events elsewhere in this issue.

The deadline for nominations for next year's committee has passed. However, sadly, there are again committee vacancies. So do please make contact if you are willing to be co-opted to join the team. All help is gratefully received. There is currently a question mark as to the next Chair. In May we shall learn if a possible replacement is available to be co-opted to replace me. Watch this space.

I end on a happy note because, at the time of writing, one of our supporting pianists, Sandra Smith, has recently returned home after a very long stay in hospital, followed by a period in a rehabilitation home, as she recovered from COVID-19. Let us all wish Sandra a speedy final recovery. But such wishes are equally extended to all those other readers who I know have also been adversely affected by the pandemic.

As ever, keep well and safe and let us look forward to happier days.

*Jim Cook*

## RSCDS London Branch Annual General Meeting

Saturday 12 June 2021 at 5pm

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will take place via Zoom ([us02web.zoom.us/j/85318488597](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85318488597)) on Saturday 12 June 2021 from 5pm followed by a virtual End of Season social.

All members and friends of the Branch are invited to attend both the AGM and the End of Season social, although only members may vote at the AGM (see Agenda below).

Please join us for this short (30 minutes) meeting, learn about what London Branch has been doing throughout this most unusual of years, and be part of its plans for the future.

Nominations closed on 31 March 2021. Following Jim Cook's decision to step down as Chair, this position is currently vacant. Joanne Lawrence, Simon Wales and Mel Rowland will continue in their roles of Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Margaret Shaw, Elaine Davies, George Potts, Jenny Kendrick, Thelma-Jane Robb and Margaret Moore have all agreed to continue in their current committee roles.

The committee members are listed below with the date they joined or last re-joined the committee:

Chair: Vacant

Vice Chair: Joanne Lawrence (2017)

Secretary: Melanie Rowland (2019)

Treasurer: Simon Wales (2003)

Committee members:

Margaret Shaw (2007)

Elaine Davies (2009)

George Potts (2009)

Thelma-Jane Robb (2011)

Jenny Kendrick (2015)

Margaret Moore (2020)

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of 19 September 2020
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Report on the Branch Activities 2020-2021
5. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts
6. Confirmation/Appointment of Honorary President and Honorary Vice Presidents
7. Appointment of Officers and Committee of Management
8. Appointment of Account Checker
9. Appointment of Branch proxy delegates to the Society AGM
10. Any Other Business

Note: As the number of nominations does not exceed the number of places available, there will not be an election under item 7. Nominations for the appointments at items 6 and 9 will be taken from the floor at the meeting.

### Objects of London Branch

To advance the education of the public in the London area in traditional Scottish country dancing, in particular by:

- a) preserving and furthering the practice of traditional Scottish country dances;
- b) providing or assisting in providing instruction in the dancing of Scottish country dances;
- c) promoting the enjoyment and appreciation of Scottish country dancing and music by any suitable means.

ROYAL  
SCOTTISH  
COUNTRY  
DANCE  
SOCIETY



Patron: H M The Queen

President: Jean Martin

Chairman: Lorna Ogilvie

### HEADQUARTERS

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[www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org)

### LONDON BRANCH

Hon. President

Rachel Wilton

Hon. Vice-Presidents

Mary Barker, Jenny Greene,  
Danielle Reinstein, Jerry Reinstein,  
Rosemary Tilden

Chair

Jim Cook

59 Larkfield Road, Richmond-upon-Thames

TW9 2PG Tel: 020 8948 5637

[chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk)

Vice Chair

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[vicechair@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@rscdslondon.org.uk)

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Hon. Treasurer

Simon Wales

Flat 6, 86 Worcester Road, Sutton SM2 6QQ

Tel: 020 8643 0952

[treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk)

### Committee

Classes.....Jenny Kendrick

Dances..... Margaret Shaw

Communications..... Joanne Lawrence

..... /Mel Rowland

Demonstration Team ..... Elaine Davies

Other roles ..... Margaret Moore

..... George Potts, Thelma-Jane Robb

### Non-Executive roles

Hon. Archivist..... Rachel Wilton

Day School ..... Margaret Catchick

Family ..... Marjory Reid

90th Anniversary ..... Margaret Catchick

Membership & Subscribers .. Gaynor Curtis

*The Reel* ..... Edward Bunting, Simon Wales

*The Reel* Business Editor.... Jeff Robertson

Webmaster ..... Meryl Thomson

[www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)



[www.facebook.com/RSCDSLONDON](https://www.facebook.com/RSCDSLONDON)



@LondonRSCDS



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



Associated London Branch videos can be activated by clicking photos with the symbol in the electronic *Reel*.



# London Branch Matters

## Membership and *The Reel* Subscription

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

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

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

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

### Branch Committee Report: Branch Secretary, Mel Rowland



During the months of the pandemic the London Branch has been holding a series of virtual events aimed at keeping members in touch and celebrating the joy of Scottish country dancing. As the IT skills of some of the committee members have developed, so our virtual events have become more ambitious.

At our latest committee meeting, held on 19 March 2021, the committee members were delighted that, after many months of organising virtual events, they were, once again, in a position to plan face-to-face events. We hope to resume these later in the year, dependent on the success of the COVID-19 vaccination programme and according to current government guidelines on social distancing. So, it was with real pleasure that Jenny Kendrick (Classes Convenor) was able to propose dates, teachers and musicians for restarting classes in September 2021 (see p4).

In addition, the committee agreed on the programme for the 'big bang' event to relaunch our dance season in September. However, bearing in mind that people will not have danced for many months, it was recognised that additional health and safety measures will need to be put in place. Should we provide additional ice packs? Should we walk through rather than dance the first few dances? These were just some of the health and safety questions discussed by the committee. It was agreed that a list of suggested safety measures should be made available ahead of the September event, thus trying to avoid muscle strain or other types of

injuries which may occur to over-enthusiastic dancers on the resumption of dancing.

The second main agenda item discussed at the committee meeting was the Branch AGM to be held virtually on Saturday 12 June 2021. Branch Treasurer, Simon Wales, is busy preparing the end of year accounts, which together with the review of the Branch's year, to be compiled by Chair, Jim Cook, and other AGM documents, will be available to Branch members, prior to the AGM, on our web site.

The AGM will again be followed by some form of entertainment, still to be decided by the committee. Last year's AGM and ceilidh was the Branch's first virtual event and the members reflected on how far the Branch had come, in holding virtual events which have been well received and attended. The committee agreed that, even when face to face dancing resumed, there would still be merit in including some form of hybrid or fully virtual events throughout the year. Such events would enable those Branch members who are unable to return to dancing or live too far away to attend live events, to still enjoy having an involvement with the Branch. Joanne Lawrence, Vice Chair, noted that over 300 people had attended our virtual Burns event in January, and over five hundred and thirty people had subsequently viewed the recording of the event on the Branch's web site.

The committee agreed that, hopefully, with a resumption of dancing in September and a full programme of live and virtual events, there was much for the Branch to be optimistic about in the year ahead. Please get in touch with suggestions or topics for discussion at future committee meetings: [secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk)

### Raising Mrs MacNab's profile:

Stephen Webb



London Branch website has been steadily adding an Archive under the able management of Meryl Thomson, its webmaster. Users of the website will already know of the complete Pat Batt Collection of poems, The

Thistle complete collection and more recently, Bob and Maimie Donald have added their collection of dance material found under the heading of the Donald Dance Collection. And now, following on from my article in *Reel* 313, your attention is drawn to our latest interactive addition that went live on 1 May - The Mary Isdale MacNab Collection at: [www.rscdslondon.org.uk/mary-isdale-macnab-dances/](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk/mary-isdale-macnab-dances/)

The Mary Isdale MacNab Collection gives users a chance to read about Mrs MacNab's life and the original dance descriptions of the 29 dances first published by the RSCDS in Sets 1-9 from 1948 and the 11 miscellaneous Leaflet dances, later mainly published by her late niece, Mrs Elizabeth Sutorius and the RSCDS plus a further 16 dances generally not known about but identified by Hugh Thurston supported by Joan & Tom Flett. This archive also lists 16 dances for which only fragmented handwritten descriptions exist (often in Mrs MacNab's own hand) and 54 dances too, where simply a name is known to have been mentioned, generally in correspondence. Finally, a further 12 dances not known to have been collected by Mrs MacNab but, used by her in festivals and the like, are included for completeness. Many of the dances also include links to videos and thanks go to Peter Knight for making many of these available.

London Branch hopes you will use and enjoy this resource and perhaps even include a MacNab dance in a future dance programme. So, do treat yourself to a visit to our Archive and explore what is there.

### Remaining Dances in 2021 - 22 Season

In addition to those advertised on the front cover, the following are confirmed for the remainder of the season (all at St. Columba's Church):

#### 2021

11 December - Christmas Dance with Marian Anderson and her SCD Band

#### 2022

15 January - Burns Ceilidh with The Caledonian Reelers

16 February - Winter Wednesday

1 June - Summer Wednesday

11 June - AGM Social

## London Branch Classes



# Set yourself a fun challenge join a Scottish country dance class

## We have classes for...

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

Provisional plans are being put in place for a return to classes in September 2021. London Branch will be monitoring government guidance on COVID-19, and hopes to confirm these plans in August.

### Park Walk Primary School

Park Walk, London SW10 0AY

**Autumn Term**  
Weeks 1 - 5

**Wednesdays 22 September - 20 October**  
7.00 - 9.00pm

**Return to Dancing General Class**  
with teacher **Pat Davoll**

A gentle return to dancing for dancers of all levels.

**Half-term Wednesday 27 October**

Weeks 6 - 10

**Wednesdays 3 November - 1 December**  
7.00 - 9.00pm

### Beginners and Improvers

with teacher **Davinia Miln**

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

### Technique Class for Intermediate and Advanced Dancers

with teacher **Simon Wales**

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

**Christmas Party: 8 December 2021**

with MC **Simon Wales**

Class fee: £7 per class for RSCDS members, £9 per class for non-members. Termly rates available.

Underground: South Kensington, Sloane Square.

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

Buses: 11, 22, 19, 49, 328, 319, 345

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

Contact: Jenny Kendrick:  
[classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk)

### St Columba's Church

Upper Hall, Pont St, London SW1X 0BD

**Wednesdays during term time**

2.30 - 4.30pm

Dates to be confirmed

### Mixed Ability

with teacher **Jeni Rutherford**

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

Class fee: £7 per class to recorded music

Underground: Knightsbridge, Sloane Square.

Buses: 19, 22, 137, 452, C1

Contact **Jeni Rutherford**:

[jenirutherford@virginmedia.com](mailto:jenirutherford@virginmedia.com)

### Richmond

Richmond Library Annexe, Quadrant Road,  
Richmond TW9 1DH

**Autumn Term**

**Wednesdays 22 September - 1 December**  
7.30 - 9.30pm 10 weeks

**Half-term Wednesday 27 October**

### Beginners and Improvers

with teacher **Judith Jones**

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

Class fee: £6 per class to recorded music

Underground/Train: Richmond.

Buses: 65, 190, 371, 391, 419, 490, 493

Contact: **Jenny Kendrick**:

[classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk)

### Families in London Dance Scottish

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



### Day School 2021

**Advance Notice**

**Saturday, 30 October 2021**

St. Helen's School, Eastbury Road,  
Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 3AS

Teachers (in alphabetical order):

**Fiona Mackie, David Queen, Mervyn Short,**  
**Alice Stainer**

Musicians (in alphabetical order):

**Adam Brady, Jeremy Hill,**  
**Barbara Manning, Ian and Meryl Thomson**

Musicians' Workshop led by: **Jim Lindsay**

Evening Dance with ceilidh items

**Jim Lindsay**

**and the Day School Musicians**

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

Full details in *Reel 317*

### Coram's Fields

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

**The Very Advanced Sunday class will**  
**resume in the Spring of 2022.**

### Representing the Branch

The demonstration team will resume its activities in the Autumn.

The aim of the team is to represent the Branch and to present the joys of Scottish country dancing to a wider audience - it is not just about competitions or showing intricate footwork to the cognoscenti!

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

Please contact **Elaine Davies** on  
[demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk) if you are interested and would like more information.

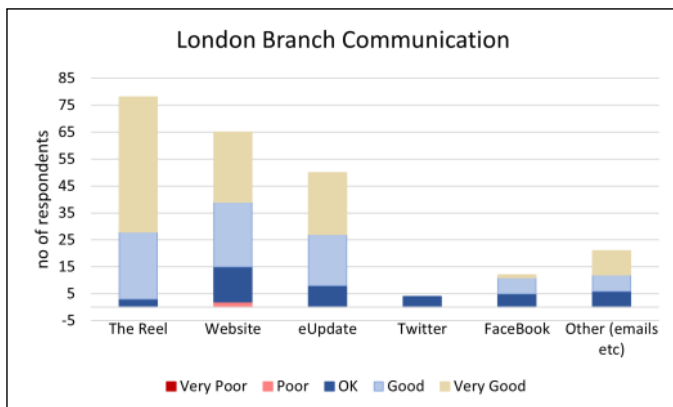
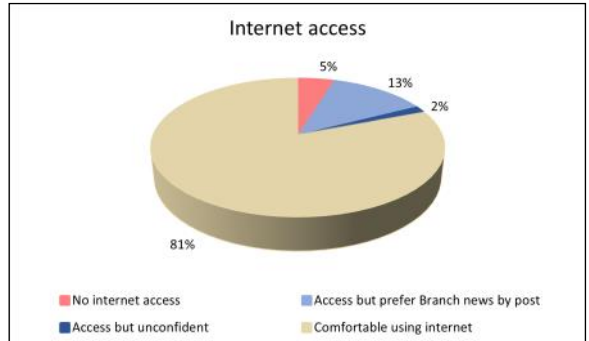
# London Branch Members' Survey: Joanne Lawrence



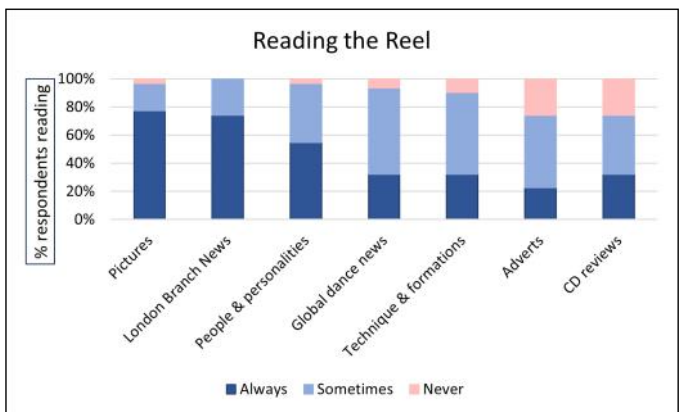
In the last edition of *The Reel* we shared initial findings from the London Branch members' survey, focusing mainly on Branch demographics covering age, sex, location as well as pre COVID-19 dancing frequency and preferred methods of transport. The Branch communication tools have inevitably played a larger role in the life of the Branch during our enforced break from dancing and the survey provided useful insight into the strengths and weaknesses of each.

Responses to the survey came in two forms, via a paper form published with *The Reel* (23 responses) and via an online questionnaire (64 responses). The online questionnaire gave scope for more detailed questions and we took the opportunity to seek input on how members used *The Reel*, website, eUpdate, Facebook and Twitter and how we might use these tools to improve Branch communication.

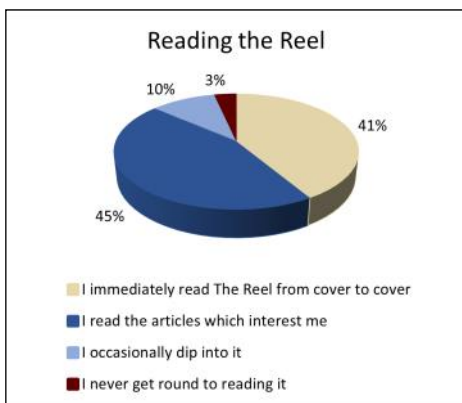
95% of respondents have access to the internet and many expressed appreciation of the ease of access to information via the website and eUpdate. Although 81% said that they were comfortable using the internet to access Branch information, 13% were happier receiving such information by post. In particular, when it came to *The Reel*, numerous respondents stated a clear preference for the hard copy version, citing the physical pleasure of leafing through a paper copy, the joy of reading on the daily commute and the restfulness of an escape from screen-based information - particularly during this last year of working from home and enforced reliance on electronic media.



Class members were grateful for the efforts of individual teachers keeping them in contact with the dancing world and each other via regular emails during the non-dancing months. The eUpdate was acknowledged as having kept the wider membership in touch and Facebook and Twitter are growing in popularity albeit currently used less than the other Branch media.

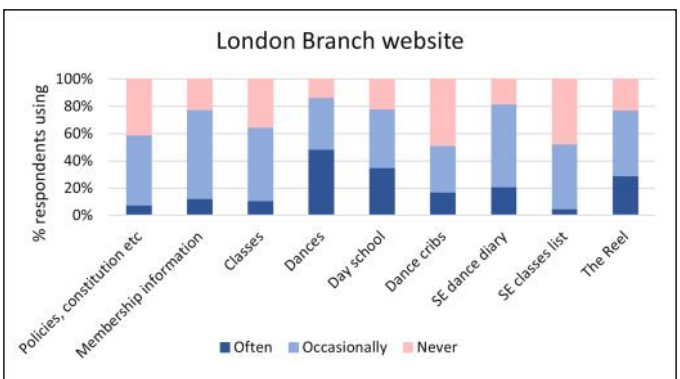


When reading *The Reel*, 41% of respondents said that they immediately read it from cover to cover whilst 45% picked out the articles that most interested them first. Readers evinced interest in all aspects of *The Reel*, from advertisements to CD reviews and international news. More than three quarters of respondents confirmed that they always looked at the photo spread and the London Branch news. Comments expressed an appetite for extending the range of contributors and London Branch always welcomes proposals for future content via [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk)



Respondents articulated a strong loyalty to *The Reel* as the Branch's flagship publication but recognised the role of the website and eUpdate in communicating more time sensitive information. It will be a key objective of the Branch to achieve the optimum balance among the media tools available.

The Branch website contains many hidden gems and it was apparent from survey responses that we need to do more to alert members to the wealth of content available. Branch and South East dance lists were the most frequently



visited items on the website, closely followed by day school and membership information. Many respondents were interested in the Branch archives and welcomed the development of online payment options for membership, day school and other branch events.

The members' survey has provided invaluable insight into the needs of the London Branch membership. However, it can only ever be a snapshot of a moment in time and it is important that we continue to seek, absorb and respond to input from the London Branch membership. Please do share your views on what is going well and what could be improved via [secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk).

## Spring from Home Event

Did you 'spring from home' with us at our Zoom event on 10 April? This was the latest online entertainment run by the Branch, this time in collaboration with London Highland Club, St Columba's Dancers and the Little Ship Club, on the evening of what would have been the Combined Societies' Dance at St Columbas. There was a veritable cornucopia of delights, all spring related, for everyone to enjoy - dances, quizzes, songs and some archive dance performances. Even Noël Coward made an appearance (thanks to his estate) in the *London Pride / None So Pretty* item. Thanks are due to all who contributed, on screen and behind the scenes and in the meticulous preparation of items. If you missed it, do not despair, the items are now available to watch on the London Branch YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9DPXQy16Uca8CGFVld6QI06AdVvVQ\\_Qw](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9DPXQy16Uca8CGFVld6QI06AdVvVQ_Qw)

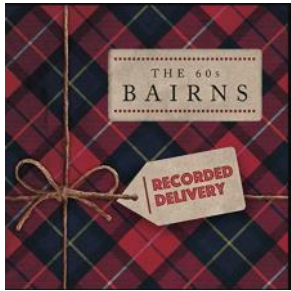


## CD Reviews: Jeremy Hill



**Recorded Delivery:** The 60s Bairns. CD (£12 plus P&P). *Elwyn's Fairy Glen* (4x32R), *Johnny McGill* (4x40J), a set of Scott Skinner reels (5x32R), *Scottish Ramble* (4x32S) plus *Circle Waltz* and other tracks suitable for ceilidh dances and for listening.

**The Spectrum Project:** Marie Fielding, with Tom Orr, Donogh Hennessy and Luc D McNally. CD (£10 plus P&P). Both available from [mariefieldingmusic.com/shop/](http://mariefieldingmusic.com/shop/) or to stream or download.



**Recorded Delivery** is the debut album of the band The 60s Bairns, formed in 2019, but that tells only part of the story: I would not like to

hazard a guess at the number of recordings featuring the six players in this all-star band in the 50+ years since each started playing. Marie Fielding alone lists 25 bands with whom she has appeared, including 13 formative years with Jim Johnstone and his Band. Alongside her, on accordion, are Duncan Black and Ian Muir; on piano, Denis Morison; on bass, Brian Cruickshank; and on drums, Gordon Smith.

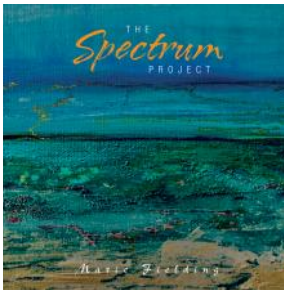
Together, they have put together a classy album "which features influences from childhood days", giving arrangement credits to greats of the past - Jim Johnstone, Ian Powrie, Bill Black, John Ellis, Max Houlston, Bobby Crowe and Ian Holmes - alongside the band themselves. In doing so, they also to some extent

re-create the unique sounds of the respective bands, so a set of marches including Bobby Crowe's *The Provost of Forgandenny* is presented in the style of Bobby's band, the sound of John Ellis is channelled through a set of John MacKay compositions, and the half-set for *Elwyn's Fairy Glen* contains more than a hint of Jim Johnstone.

Other favourite tracks include Marie Fielding's slow air *Bill Black's Fiddle*, featuring the eponymous instrument, and a cracking set of Scott Skinner reels, rarely heard together, let alone with the vitality and drive of this 5x32 set. I cannot wait for the chance to get nine friends together for a set to put these into action, and I would love to get a chance to hear this band live.

It is beautifully presented by Marie Fielding's record company, Rumford Records, adding to her collaborations with a range of players, including other recordings to seek out with Duncan Black and her brother Owen. Most recently, in *The Spectrum Project*, Tom Orr (piano/harmonium), Donogh Hennessy and Luc McNally (guitars) each join her to present a stimulating range of (mostly) Marie's own compositions. As she describes it, "rather than rehearsing, planning and aiming for perfection...[they] wanted to capture energy, emotion and flow." This they have certainly done.

Marie's fiddle playing has illuminated many a recording and dance session. Here, on some tracks she plays a Hardanger fiddle (a Norwegian version of the instrument with additional sympathetic strings) and on others a five-stringed instrument, with equal facility.



Throughout, she produces a beautifully sweet sound, particularly appropriate for *Brattfors I Brunt*, by Swedish fiddle player Eva Deivert.

## Bands

### CALEDONIAN REELERS

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

### IAN ROBERTSON AND HIS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE BAND

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

### THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

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

Through her tunes, and the arrangements, Marie and her colleagues expand on the Scottish idiom, for example with the reels *Charlie Stewart's* and *Queensferry Crossing*, not presented here for dancing, but setting the toes tapping with the rhythmic energy. This is as much credit to her duo partners, who provide the perfect sound world for each of the tracks. This includes Tom Orr's piano "frame" for the only traditional tracks on the CD: *Niel Gow's Compliments to Mr Marshall* and *Daniel Dow's Captain MacDuff's*.

Finally, on top of record production, marketing and beautiful playing, the cover of *The Spectrum Project* shows off Marie's own art, influenced by "nature or imaginary thoughts", with the sea a strong theme, and Dingle, Tیره, Tobermory and Shetland featuring heavily. It is a really attractive package.

## Letters to The Reel

### Waltz tempo

In Jeremy Hill's CD review in *Reel* 314 of *The Liam Stewart Band ... as promised*, he states that the track *Comet Valse* is played "at a pace that would challenge any waltzers". I am wondering if this is intended to be a Viennese waltz as this is a different dance, which is danced much faster than our usual waltz.

Viennese waltz (German: *Wiener Walzer*) is a genre of ballroom dance. At least four different meanings are recognised. In the historically first sense, the name may refer to several versions of the waltz, including the earliest waltzes done in ballroom dancing, danced to the music of Viennese waltz.

What is now called the Viennese waltz is the original form of the waltz. It was the first ballroom dance performed in the closed hold or 'waltz' position. The dance that is popularly known as the waltz is actually the English or slow waltz, danced at approximately 90 beats per minute with 3 beats to the bar (the international

standard of 30 measures per minute), while the Viennese waltz is danced at about 180 beats (58-60 measures) per minute. As the waltz evolved, some of the versions that were done at about the original fast tempo came to be called specifically 'Viennese waltz' to distinguish them from the slower waltzes.

Elizabeth Bennett, Worcester Park

### Reel appreciation

I have just received the latest issue of *The Reel* and I would like to congratulate you and your team on producing such an interesting, though understandably slimmer, publication. Despite the limitations of COVID-19 you have provided readers with a dozen pages full of interest.

Good to see that committees are thinking positively and planning for later in the year.

Over the years I have attended many Burns Night celebrations and I found it very helpful to find an English translation in this issue. At last, I know what it is all

about! As for the photo shoot centre pages, I had to smile when I saw the group of younger dancers, the lasses with their legs discreetly crossed, while the two young men made very good use of their sporrans (which does not always happen!).

Whilst I have attended several Summer Schools at St Andrews, I was never able to attend a Winter School. I always enjoyed my time at Summer School (see p11) but there was that extra 'something' surrounding the thought of a mid-winter gathering at Pitlochry and the write-ups did not disappoint.

And, of course, it is always interesting to hear how others started Scottish country dancing. As a fully certificated teacher, I have so often heard the remark from older, new recruits, "I wish I had started dancing much sooner," and been so thankful that I went along to my first Scottish country dance class when still a teenager.

All in all, an excellent read. Thank you very much. I look forward to your next edition.

Dorothy W Wilson, Blenheim, NZ

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

For all the latest Society news and updates please visit [www.rscds.org/blog/important-rscds-updates](http://www.rscds.org/blog/important-rscds-updates)

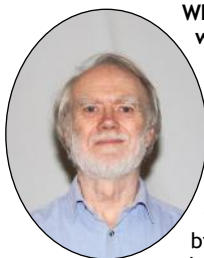


RSCDS HQ: 12 Coates Crescent,  
Edinburgh EH3 7AF

what we have been doing and planning in recent years. Like all organisations the RSCDS needs to think about the future as well as the past. The model of regularly producing books of dances for the benefit of members has proved successful over a number of years, however, it is not universally popular! In addition, the world is changing and what has worked well in the past may not be the best model for the future - how many dancers today learn dances from books of dance instructions? In response to this Membership Services have been looking at different types of publications to complement our traditional output. Two years ago, we produced *Thirty Popular Dances, Volume Two* as a way of exploring a slightly differently model. As you will, hopefully, be aware this book includes a fair bit of additional information about the dances, music and the Society. It is our attempt to widen the appeal of dance books in an ever-changing world. Producing it involved a fair bit of hard work, research and skills that perhaps have not traditionally been part of MS skills set. Some of our planned publications for this coming year have involved a similar strategy.

We have no idea how successful this approach will be in the long run, but the present committee appreciates that we do need to try something different and that we need to welcome committee members who have an open mind about Scottish country dancing, where it came from and where it is going. Dancing today is not the same as when I first became a member of the RSCDS and joined the London Branch in the 1970s and it will change again as we move forward - we need to respond to, and influence that change!

## Membership Services Committee: Peter Knapman



**What do we do and for whom?**

Being asked to write a short article about the activities of Membership Services Committee (MS) is an interesting challenge which I hope brings a bit more awareness of activities and aspirations of those of us who give some of our time for the benefit of the wider RSCDS. The stated aims of MS actually sound a bit dry: "to develop and update instructional literature and other relevant material pertinent to the interests of the Society; conducting and disseminating research in furtherance of the Society's objectives; and dealing with matters relating to members, Branches and Affiliated Groups". But what does this actually mean and how does it fit in with Scottish country dancing as the RSCDS approaches its centenary?

Many of our activities are historic with MS being responsible for producing publications on behalf of the Society - books of dance instructions, CDs and other 'saleable' products. Producing these does not just happen but requires a fair bit of effort by the members of the committee with assistance and guidance from the staff in 12 Coates Crescent. The last year, however, has proved a bit different with a small number of committed people focussed on producing Dance Scottish at Home - not quite what we 'signed up for' but a very rewarding exercise nonetheless. Angela Young has also been running the weekly online classes which are watched by a large number of people across the world - the classes seem to provide an important social function just as much as an instructional one.

That briefly outlines where we are, and the type of activities MS has been involved with, but it does not quite cover much of

## In My Opinion: Elma McCausland OBE



Scottish country dancing has played a major part in my life. Introduced to it in the Brownies, I was in the winning Guide team, along with Doris Young (as she became), at the first Aberdeen festival after the second World War.

This was my first encounter with Jean Milligan who was the adjudicator. I joined the Scottish Country Dance Society (not yet Royal) children's class and progressed to adult classes, taking Teacher's Certificates and attending Summer School when reaching the required age, eventually teaching there and more importantly meeting Cecil, my future husband there.

After a gap while our family was growing up, Cecil, son Andrew and I returned to Summer School. Was it the same? Yes and no! No longer Miss Milligan but still many 'kent' faces amongst staff and students.

Miss Milligan's classes would have started with step practice. We sometimes would have done our own exercises whilst waiting for the class to begin, circling the ankles and simple pliés but now we have the much more organised warm-ups which has

proven to be necessary in reducing the risk of injuries.

Over the years we have gathered many new formations, which is natural since 'folk/country' dancing evolves and it was interesting to note the changes that had taken place. The early strathspey travelling step underwent a change in the 'pull through'. Miss Milligan had encouraged that the flat of the foot should pass the supporting leg. This meant a wider turn out of knees and hips and for many dancers this not only felt awkward but looked awkward in some! Fortunately, this was no longer encouraged but a more relaxing of the leg as it is pulled through feels and looks more natural.

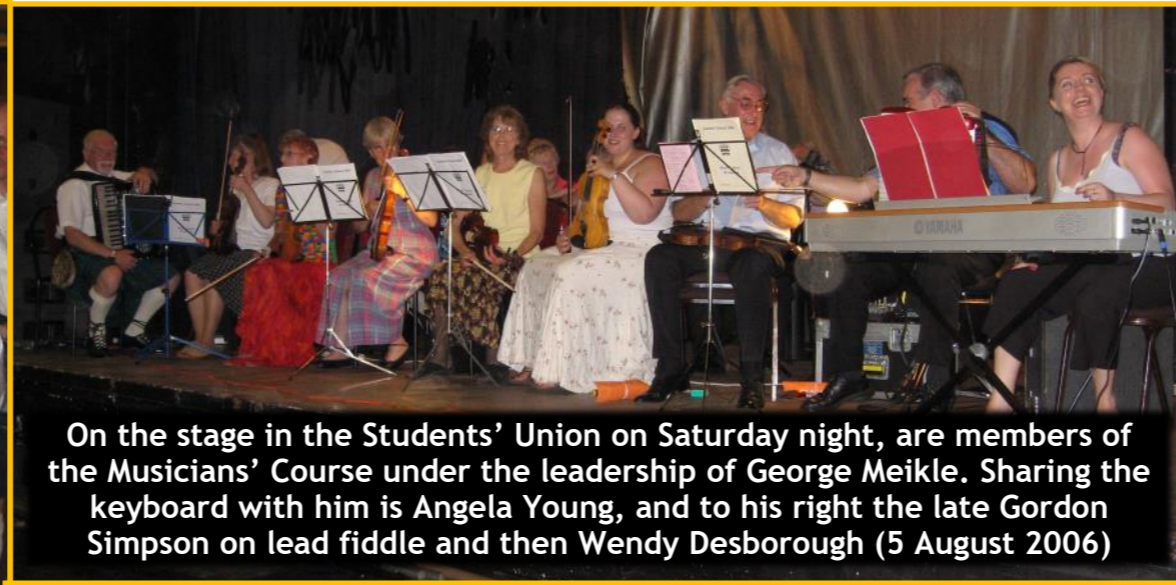
I had initially learnt the strathspey *Poussette Right Round* or *Diamond Poussette* as it was called, in the dance *New Park* in Book 19 when it was published in 1957. The instructions were, and still are, for couples one and three to dance the *poussette*, although the diagrams show couples one and two. I do wonder whether that was a misprint? I think it was surprising that Miss Milligan should teach a variation of the new formation first, as in book 20 we have *Village Reel* and *Miss Ogilvie's Fancy* using first and second couples. In book 21, in *My only Jo and Dearie O'* we have couples one and three dancing the formation, but second couple

step up on bars one and two, so the pattern shown in the notes is followed.

The actual pattern had changed when I returned in the early eighties. It was no longer such an obvious diamond since on the first step we now form a line between first man's and second woman's position and on bar eight we back out to place rather than the original dancing out. Although the shape has changed a little, covering is more obvious.

The lifting of the arms in preparation for the *allemande* is a change I have not been happy about. I can still hear Miss Milligan calling, as first couple came up the middle, "Ready for allemande," and before the end of bar eight the arms were in position ready for that lovely step to the right on bar one. If you can do that after a turn with the right hand, why not always?

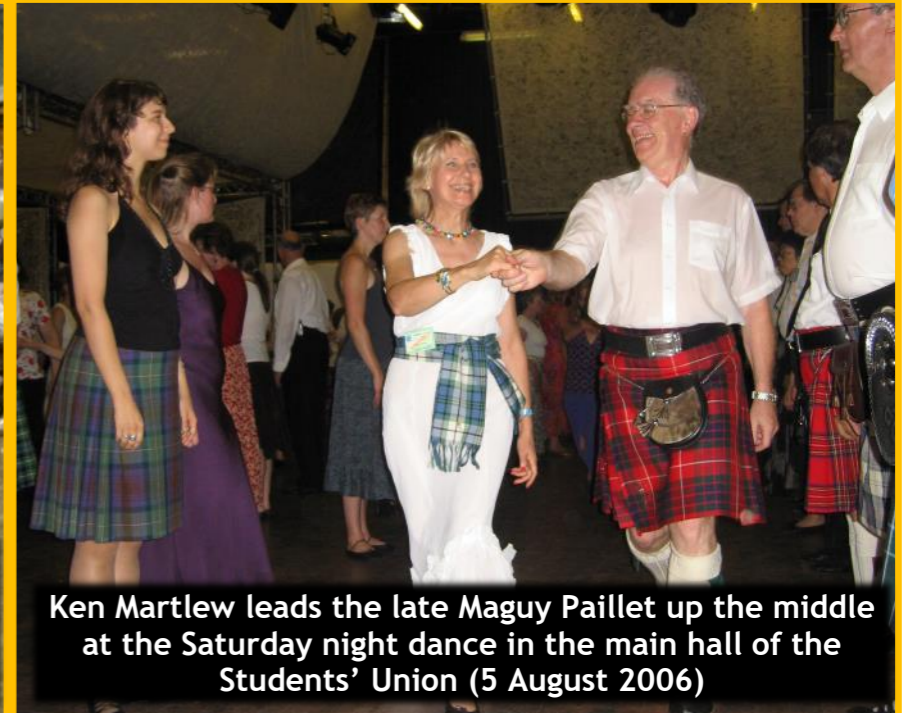
Changes or not I maintain that we have a wonderful Society. We get good exercise and form lasting friendships worldwide which for me has been enhanced in another new way, during these unusual COVID-19 times, by Angela Young (Doris's daughter) organising the online classes. So, in my opinion, new or different is not wrong (but not change for change's sake) and I feel so lucky to be part of this wonderful family.



At the Thursday night dance, in Younger Hall, Muriel Johnstone is led up in 'triumph' in the reel of the same name (9 August 2004)

On the stage in the Students' Union on Saturday night, are members of the Musicians' Course under the leadership of George Meikle. Sharing the keyboard with him is Angela Young, and to his right the late Gordon Simpson on lead fiddle and then Wendy Desborough (5 August 2006)

Accompanied by former London Branch piper Sandy Walker, Bill Zobel teaches the highland dance class in the upper hall of Hope Park church (12 August 2004)



Mary Murray from Vancouver was the teacher for the Certificated Teachers' class, with George Meikle on accordion. In the class is Malcolm Brown, asking a question, Peter Knight, Anne Walker and Rachel Wilton (14 August 2004)

Each week on Friday evening, the Summer School participants squeeze into the party room to watch the ceilidh items. Accompanied by Ken Martlew on piano, a team of Ukrainian dancers dance a traditional folk dance (14 August 2009)

Ken Martlew leads the late Maguy Paillet up the middle at the Saturday night dance in the main hall of the Students' Union (5 August 2006)



Impromptu early morning *Highland Fling* in the party room. John Wilkinson and Janet Johnstone in the front and Jeremy and Grace Hill behind (16 August 2009)

The Saturday morning class, accompanied by George Meikle, rehearsing for that evening's Younger Hall demonstration. Included in the set are Jeremy and Grace Hill, Dave Hall, Fred de Marse, Pat Houghton and Janet Johnstone (15 August 2009)

Certificated teacher's class teacher Mervyn Short and class musician and past *Reel* editor Jeremy Hill at the end of the morning class (15 August 2009)





Summer School has long been a firm favourite with some members, but others have not yet experienced it. It has had to be cancelled this year, but *The Reel* has asked some roving reporters, dancers and musicians for their impressions, to whet the appetite for Summer School 2022.

The answer to 'Where is this?' on p1: The 1587 St Andrews' West Port city gate. It was rebuilt and added to in 1843. Summer School students setting off on a 20 minute walk from University Hall pass under this into South Street to attend classes at Madras College or the Town Hall for an evening dance.



It was late July 2018. I was headed north on the train to St Andrews to my first ever RSCDS Summer School, filled with some anxious feelings of trepidation and equipped with my fiddle, plus a good selection of books and some crocheting to keep me occupied in the evenings. I was not really sure I would know anyone, or at least not anyone who would not be busy dancing or playing in the evenings, and did not want to feel like I had nothing to do. As it turned out, those things were excess baggage and what I should really have packed was a bottle or two of gin.

I spent the days with a big group of musicians, in the care of the brilliant team of Ian Muir, Gillian Stevenson and Bill Ewan, happily working on tunes which would eventually be the soundtrack to the last night's dance in Younger Hall. Sometimes we worked together, and sometimes we split into groups of instruments to practise particular things. It was amazing having such a long time to prepare together as a band, and Ian had arranged lots of the tunes so that there were harmonies and different combinations of instruments to make the sound varied and interesting for both us and the dancers - and the end result was really impressive. Younger Hall was a

to watch Shona MacFadyen playing for David Queen's class in Younger Hall. It was interesting watching how they interacted and seeing how having a live musician supported the learning of the group - and was amazing that a lone fiddle could fill the hall with sound.

The evenings I had dreaded turned out to be one of the highlights. They started by unwinding over dinner and next, or sometimes before, there was a welcome drink for newbies, or a sneaky party in someone's room, with wine or gin and crisps and chat. People were crowded in and perching on beds and windowsills, again quite like being back at university, and almost unthinkable in these strange COVID-19 times. Once everyone was in the mood, it was time for the evening's official entertainment. Sometimes this was a social dance or a ceilidh (this turned out to be a performance party not a dance - the band gave a preview of its awesomeness and lots of others performed party pieces) or a formal dance (I watched and chatted and sometimes gave scores).

At the end of each evening, many people gravitated towards the party room. This was quite small, and it was surprising how many people could fit in, to chat, play music and dance. Lots of the musicians from the course took their instruments along, and many of them seemed to have an encyclopaedic knowledge of the tunes that were being played. I took my fiddle along too and tried to join in, but just did not know enough tunes by heart. This did not seem to bother anyone though and after a while it did not bother me either, and I joined in when I could and stopped when I could not. However, the most amazing part of the party room was that as well as the musicians from the course, the room was full of the professional musicians that were playing for classes during the day, and for dances in the evenings. Normally, you would never get more than one band in a place at one time, but there they all were, hanging out

I first went to Summer School in 1978. It was quite an experience. In those days dancers were woken by a piper who walked round the grounds playing his pipes. Pipers on the course formed a rota, so that it was not always the same person getting up early. There were some minor contretemps - one piper slipped on a muddy bank, another caught the bass drone of his pipes on a washing line. Nevertheless, it made me feel like the Queen, as she is woken by pipes when she is at Balmoral.

The classes were marvellous and I learned a lot. The Thursday dance at Younger Hall was a formal occasion. When I saw the Society chairman, in Highland evening dress and wearing his chain of office, I thought he was the Provost of St Andrews.

I went regularly for several years, until I got married. A year later my daughter, Catriona, was born. We went once more - she was a tiny baby and my late husband Frank and I did different weeks. After that holidays had to be more child-orientated. Then, when Catriona was 18, she went with a group from Croydon Branch. Until then, although we had taken her to dances, she had only been mildly interested in SCD. During this week she really caught the dancing bug, in spite of being evacuated from the building in the middle of the night because the fire alarm went off. She is now an RSCDS teacher.



Catriona Bennett in the country dance demonstration in Younger Hall

The following year we did not go, because she had just started work. The year after that she persuaded me to take part, in spite of a 20-year gap since my last visit. Frank joined me the following year and we went for a few years, however neither of us was in good health and we sadly had to decide that it was too much for us. We still went to St Andrews every summer with Catriona, until COVID-19 got in the way, renting a holiday flat for a week. She did the course. We had a pleasant break from the heat in London, did a bit of sightseeing and went to the St Andrews branch dance on the Tuesday and the Younger Hall dance on the Thursday (neither of these is restricted to Summer School participants).

One year I decided to go up St Rule's tower, the tower of the ruined Cathedral at the opposite end of the town to the university buildings where Summer School is based. When you get to the top you are supposed to be able to see the whole of the town spread out below you. It was a beautiful sunny day when I started to climb the spiral staircase. By the time I reached the top, the haar (sea mist) had rolled in and I could not see anything. I do not think I will be attempting the climb again.

Elizabeth Bennett



Musicians' course attendees including Ali McCan playing in Younger Hall

great venue - really big and with great acoustics, and the band was huge and loud and well rehearsed, and played tightly together, and got the dancers up and dancing. I felt very proud to be a part of it.

In the afternoons after we had finished rehearsing, we had the chance to broaden our musical knowledge, and to let our fingers recover. We learnt about repertoire, putting sets and dance programmes together, and how to compose Scottish style tunes. There were other opportunities we could take if we wanted, for example observing musicians at work, which is definitely not something you usually get the chance to do, so I signed up for it. I was lucky enough to get

together and just playing for the love of it, laughing and taking it in turns to use the piano or to lead the set, and it was one of the most wonderful things I have ever seen. It was an absolute privilege to even be in the same room, and my happiest memory of Summer School.

I had planned to go back to Summer School last year, and then this year. Of course, that was not to be. But as soon as COVID-19 lets us, I will be signed up and back on that train, but this time without the crocheting.

Ali McCan (formerly Ashburner)





My first Summer School (resident - one week course - tuition and maintenance £48) was definitely daunting. I travelled by train from a small north Wales railway station as far as Leuchars Junction, found a bus to transport me into St Andrews and then hiked with luggage from the bus station - wonderful to meet up with someone else with suitcase who, after checking I too was heading for Summer School, suggested I tag along as she knew the way!

I recall that hike with luggage from the bus station (I always used a car for subsequent visits) then, on arrival, after I had registered, being handed a typewritten duplicated, foolscap sheet of instructions. A far cry from the warm greeting and welcome on arrival along with an informative booklet and folder of more recent years.

Knowing no-one, though obviously for so many others it was a reunion and catchup time. I wondered...Where to go? Whom to ask? Who is who? It was several years before everyone was issued with name badges.



Misty morning piped alarm call

I well recall the frisson of excitement hearing the piper playing as he passed by our bedroom windows each morning and the walk into town for classes (a good warmup!) All around the University and the town there were kilts swinging along, and one could hear the tinkling of pianos as pianists were warming up too (augmented by accordionists in more recent years). I could hardly believe I was there, experiencing it all in person! Local organisations used the Summer School period as a fund-raiser, providing morning tea for some classes, while other dancers dashed out to patronise the many teashops which offered delicious refreshment before rushing off to their next class for the second half of the morning.

There was not as much offered in the afternoons in my earlier visits, no trips to places of interest, though there were a few classes, but always dancing in the evenings, with the event at Younger Hall being THE dancing event of the week with a band and always an excellent team display.

Sadly, although I had registered for her class at my first Summer School in 1978, Miss Milligan was seriously ill in hospital, and died later that same week, so over the whole school there was a sombre atmosphere. The School carried on, of course, but she had always been such a dynamic character and we all had that feeling of grief for a much loved and revered personality. The Friday Ceilidh was cancelled, and I returned to north Wales the following day. But I was hooked on St Andrews, and over the years to come, when I was able to visit Britain on a regular

basis my grand finale was always a week at St Andrews.

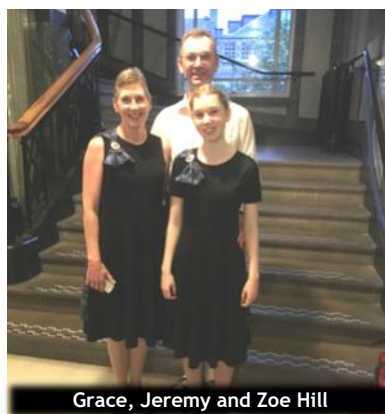
Remembering that first visit of mine to St Andrews, not knowing anyone and at times feeling quite lost, I was particularly impressed when Anna Holden, on becoming Director, instituted the practice of holding a reception for first timers at the beginning of each School week. I thought this was an excellent idea and introduced it at our own New Zealand Summer School when I was elected Branch President - a practice which has continued to this day.

As years passed, I matured from the Fully Certificated Teachers' Class to the Seniors. All great fun, always something to learn and the sheer joy of dancing to music of such high calibre. But active participation in the morning class is mandatory, no observers (I quite agree) and, therefore, following a couple of accidents which limited my ability to dance, I had to give up my biennial visits. But oh, what memories. Miss Milligan likened the Society to a world-wide family, and she was so right! I know of no other interest or organisation where one can walk into a hall full of strangers and immediately feel at home. You do not even have to know the language. I firmly agree with her and have proved it so.

Dorothy Wilson



For me, the best part of summer school is the people. Whether it is friends and family that I have known and danced with for years, or people that I only met the previous day, Summer School provides a warm environment that makes it easy to create fast and strong bonds with people from all around the world. My best experiences are shared with other people, from dancing the country demonstration with my parents, to reimagining *Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder* with a double set alongside my youth friends and performing it at the Friday ceilidh.



Grace, Jeremy and Zoe Hill

I have enjoyed a great number of incredible teachers and musicians over the years (and my mum and dad), which have all helped me improve my dancing and provided me with a love of the skill. The beautiful St Andrew's, steeped in rich history and flanked by iconic sandy beaches, is a welcome bonus. It is no surprise that people return year after year - I have been coming since I was born and I cannot wait to come back again when circumstances allow.

Zoe Hill

An inter-generational feel this time, with Jim Henderson from Harrow, whose *Immortal Memory* at our virtual Burns Night can be seen on our Branch YouTube channel, and grandson Adam Ray who dances in Kent. (see next page)

### Jim Henderson



Despite the leader of my Life Boy company having been a stalwart of the Perth branch of the (then) Scottish Country Dance Society, Scottish country dancing hardly made it into my early life. There was just

the weekly programme of dance music on the radio, and a few PE periods in some years of secondary school devoted to teaching us a few ceilidh dances including *The Eightsome Reel*, in which the figures in the introduction were taught as processes in making a farm cart wheel (with setting to partner as hammering in the nails!).

I moved to Harrow for my first job after graduating, and the next few years brought further big changes in my life: I met and married Wendy, changed career, raised a family of three children and achieved additional qualifications by part time study. My lecturing commitments included two evenings per week but by 1980 my work had all moved to daytime so Wendy and I looked for an evening activity we could enjoy together. We had already enrolled our children in the highland/Scottish country dancing class run by Harrow and District Caledonian Society and joined the club, so we thought we would try their weekly Scottish country dance class taught by Janet Cook, and give it a four-week trial. We found it challenging at first, but we were given a warm welcome and encouragement by Janet and the experienced dancers in the club, so I am still dancing (when it is permitted) more than 40 years later, and I am the regular teacher at the Harrow and Greenford clubs. The music, mental and physical exercise and companionship make it the perfect hobby.

It was lovely when two of our children, Sheena and Fiona, started attending the adult classes and dances with us. When Adam spent time with us during school holidays, he agreed to come to classes with us and quickly became a competent dancer, and we had the very great pleasure of having three generations of our family dancing together. Wonderful!



Dancing at the Burns Club of London

## How I Started Dancing 2

### Adam Ray



I started dancing quite a while ago, but not nearly as long ago as my grandfather... I was five, and I started going to highland dance classes that my mum taught. You could even argue that my dancing journey started when she started dancing, jumping up and down in her pyjamas at the back of her older sisters' highland class waiting for them to finish. Alas, that's highland and my Scottish country started with my grandparents in Harrow - I think I was eleven... Since then, I have danced when I can, often in and around Harrow, but also at Summer Tuesdays, and using Scottish country dance towards the Physical Section of my Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

I do like to dance Scottish... anywhere I go I find it a sociable occasion, really adding to

the experience. Not only is it good to put the grey matter to work, but even better if you finish the evening out of breath: exercise is good for you, as is socialising and doing things you enjoy, so I would say it is a triple winner.



Adam dancing with Cynthia McIntosh at St Columba's Church

In the last year, like most of us, I have not danced nearly as much as I would have liked, but casting my mind back, I would consider the way I prepare to dance quite different to that of my grandfather. Being based in Kent but dancing primarily in Harrow has its difficulties, meaning I do

not dance as much as I would perhaps like to. Unlike my grandfather's (probably) hundreds of dances by memory, I maybe have three or four dances total that I could dance without looking at a crib - anything else, I'm almost dancing blind! Even so, he will still go through the instructions in plenty of time to prepare. Luckily, my highland experience gives me most of the steps I need and I just have to remember the order that each dance deviser put them in for thirty two bars, or thereabouts.



Adam with grandparents Wendy and Jim, and Aunt Sheena at the West MACS ball

## Lives Remembered 1

### A Man of Contrasts

from Patsy Patterson

Eric Lindsay

13 May 1930 - 20 January 2021



Eric was born Eric Graham Leshnick in South Africa, where he grew up and was educated to degree level before going to Zimbabwe to teach English. He had an older brother, Ivan, but did not enjoy happiness in South Africa as he did not agree with the apartheid regime.

Whilst in Zimbabwe he felt he had a calling, so he decided to change his name and join a seminary in the UK. He did not take the final vows as he knew, in all honesty, he enjoyed his secular life and would have liked to have a family, so he embraced the life of a cleric.

For many years in the 1960s and early 70s he was chaplain and taught English in affluent Kent schools and lived in a spacious apartment in St Mary Cray, Orpington. During this period, he travelled to London to attend firstly Alex Westwood's advanced Scottish Dance Class at the YMCA and then Bill Ireland's Tuesday evening London Demonstration class, acquiring the soubriquet 'Eric the cleric'.

Eric was a lovely eccentric character who exuded confidence, but his flamboyant, larger than life personality belied his perceptive and kind nature. When Eric formed an SCD team for demonstrations or



competition, we were always known as the 'Lindsay Lairds and Ladies'. Eric would have loved to have been a Scottish Laird, but moved from Kent to an East London flat and taught in a school for children with special needs.

He adored being in the limelight and never more so than in the dancing arena, where his *pas de basque* was high and strong. In the RSCDS London Branch Golden Jubilee Concert in May 1973, Eric was able to let his amateur dramatics come to the fore as he read the part of James Boswell in the *Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides*. It was a brilliant rendition. As the narrator, he helped to pull the scene together to great applause.

In 1985 he moved to Scotland to become Rector at St Fillans Episcopal Church in Kilmacolm, making many friends, he also enjoyed dancing with the RSCDS Glasgow Branch. On his retirement he remained in Kilmacolm and so as not to interfere, worshipped privately in his own special space. Finally, he converted to the Catholic faith and joined the Church of St Colm, in Kilmacolm.

A man of contrasts, may he find peace.

### A True Gentleman

from Ellen MacDuff

Henry Nolan

21 January 1956 - 17 January 2021



I met Henry in 1986 when I started working at Oxford Airport. I remember he was quiet but once he got to know me, I discovered a different person - he was fun to be with and had a keen sense of humour. We both liked aviation, music and loved playing squash and backgammon at which Henry usually won, as he was very competitive.

I remember he was quiet but once he got to know Henry loved music of all kinds. He played the viola and was part of the National Youth Orchestra in Birmingham and even went to Berlin with them.

I introduced Henry to Scottish country dancing. When I showed him some typical steps, he was intrigued and we soon joined a local class - Henry was well and truly hooked. Scottish dancing became a huge part of our lives. He loved everything about it - the music, the dancing - the more challenging the dance the better, and of course all the people we met over the years, many of whom have become very good friends.

Henry was a natural dancer, with an elegant, easy style. It was a pleasure to watch him and dance with him as he was such a good partner. He was very modest about his abilities and never quite believed his talent.

He was asked to join a number of demonstration teams. With the RSCDS London Branch team, he danced at various festivals around the country like Newcastle and Leeds as well as performing at Burns suppers and various demonstrations.



Henry with the MacLennan Scottish Group at Europeade in Frankenberg, 2019

The MacLennan Scottish Group had a big influence in his life. The Group went yearly to a large festival in Europe - *Europeade* - dedicated to folk music, dance and singing, held over five days. The Group would spend months learning new dances and the three minute finale. Henry loved it, he enjoyed the whole experience - going to different countries,

## Lives Remembered 2

meeting different people and the music. When the MacLennans were in Haapsalu, Estonia, Henry found a tutu and put it on; seeing this, the leader of the Russian group decided to coach him and two others to perform the *Dance of the Cygnets* from *Swan Lake* in front of everybody, to present a scroll to the Group's dance director. He really loved doing things like this.



Henry always loved the big occasion

For over 20 years, Henry was part of the Reading St Andrew's demonstration team. When the team was asked to perform, Henry would usually take part ... however, he did not always tell the Secretary until she started nagging him!

Henry had two phrases he would use when asked to do anything - "I'm washing my hair then" or "I'm waiting for a better offer." He loved seeing people's reaction - it certainly made them smile or more often, they would just exclaim "Oh Henry!" This was typical of Henry's quirky humour.

Henry could make people laugh or smile, either intentionally or unintentionally.

He was also a terrible tease especially when he got to know someone. I used to say once he started teasing you, you knew he liked you.

The thread throughout is that Henry was a gentleman who cared about the people he met and wanted to make them feel a bit special when he left. People remember his smile - always cheery and at times, mischievous.

I know he will be missed by those who knew him and I'm certain he will leave a hole in their lives too.

### A Knowledgeable Dancer

from Iris Anderson and Stephen Webb

Stuart M Anderson

22 October 1968 - 23 February 2021



Stuart was the elder of the sons of Iris and Ian Anderson who were life members active in the Branch until Ian's death in 2013. Stuart was known to many members of the Branch from the occasions when he accompanied his parents to garden dances at Polesden Lacey, ceilidhs and Christmas dances.

He began to dance in the mid 1980s and attended day schools in London, RSCDS BHS Branch and The Argylls. He became quite a competent dancer and in 1993, when Ian and Iris were asked to make up a team to appear in the film *Four Weddings and a*

*Funeral*, his dancing was considered to be of a high enough standard to include him.

After school he gained a B-Tech in Leisure Leadership at Farnborough College of Technology and began to work in the Leisure Industry. He worked locally for a few years until 2001 when he moved north to Chalfont St Peter and later to Harpenden. He settled in Hemel Hempstead and joined the Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club.

He was active in this club, taking part in demonstrations and entering into the club activities, even devising some dances for club members' special occasions including *The Potten End Reel*, which was published in the club's Diamond Jubilee Book. His health declined, with Stuart eventually being hardly able to walk nor see. When possible, he was brought to the village hall to enjoy the music and members greeting him. It was not unusual for Stuart, who had an exceptional memory, to call to the MC from the sidelines correcting the MC on this point or that. The club continued to embrace him despite his disabilities, including him in club lunches and garden dance events. I think it would be correct to say that the Berkhamsted Strathspey & Reel Club and its members were an important part of Stuart's life. And we shall all surely miss him.

### An Enthusiastic Dancer

from Deborah Draffin

John Nicholson

5 May 1933 - February 2021



John was well-known to many dancers in the Berks / Hants / Surrey area for his jovial and good-humoured nature.

John was born in 1933 in Withypool, a small village in Somerset in the middle of Exmoor, and lived life in this rural idyll with his parents, three sisters and older brother. His father died tragically when John was two years old and several years later, after happy years on Exmoor, he was sent away to school where, sadly, he never got over his homesickness.

After school, he did his National Service in the Tank Regiment, following his brother William. He enjoyed the army, made friends and, after rising to 2nd Lieutenant, he went on to study engineering at Loughborough. He had a number of jobs until he started work for Howard Rotavators and stayed there until the demise of the firm in the 1980s.

He married Patricia in 1960, had three children and three more were adopted into the family when John and Patricia started fostering. This was remembered as an idyllic time by the family.

The family moved to Waltham St Lawrence in 1969 and, after the end of his work with Howard Rotavators, did several jobs and enjoyed being a delivery driver in his red van. He moved to Winnersh after his divorce.

Driving was one of his joys and he was very reluctant to give it up in his later years despite a few bumps. He also loved sailing, photography, inventing and joined the choir with the rest of the family. He also, of course, loved Scottish country dancing and danced at St John's SCDC in Wokingham, Maidenhead SDC, Guildford SCDC, Marlow SDS and BHS Border Branch classes and events. He played the organ and the fiddle and attended the BHS Border Branch Musicians' day school for many years.

Always enthusiastic, with a warmth and energy, he loved meeting people and will be sadly missed. His funeral took place on 4 March at the parish church in Waltham St Lawrence, where John had been baptised.

### A Proud Yorkshireman

from Fiona Grieveson

Peter Stogden

10 March 1939 - 7 December 2020



Peter Stogden sadly died on 7 December 2020 following a major stroke in November. He was very proud to be a Yorkshireman, born just before the Second World War, the last of seven siblings.

Peter travelled to Aden in the Middle East during his years of National Service, returning a couple of years later after a brief spell in the UK. It was in this unlikely country that he discovered Scottish country dancing, at the British Sailors' Society, met his wife Margaret and never looked back!

Peter had strong connections with the Fleet Scottish Country Dance Society. 45 years ago, he was part of the Fleet demonstration team and later he served on the Fleet Society committee before becoming Chairman from 2003-2005. Peter and Margaret were both long standing members of both Fleet and Guildford clubs. Peter also served on the Guildford committee as Vice Chairman from 2010-13.

Peter was also a teacher of Scottish country dancing; he patiently developed dancers in Guildford, Fleet and Adlestone clubs. When Peter and Margaret moved to Cairo in 1990, Peter had joined a Scottish country dance club at the British Embassy, within two weeks of landing on the tarmac!! Even in Egypt, he swelled the numbers of the Scottish country dance club there, encouraging his friends to join him. Evidently Scottish country dancing was a passion of Peter's that he wanted to share with others.

In a recent Fleet club newsletter, a tribute to Peter noted that, as a result of his teaching, many of his pupils continue to enjoy the fun of club dancing, which is a great testament to his patience and determination to ensure others could share his passion. He would be so pleased to know this.

He is greatly missed by so many Scottish country dance friends across the world and not least his wife Margaret, daughter Fiona, and the family.

## A Star of the Dancefloor

from Valerie Strachan and  
Lynton McLain

Bill Somerville

9 May 1936 - 22 January 2021



Bill Somerville, who was a regular attender at St Columba's Dancers and at Summer Tuesdays, sadly passed away in January, aged 84. Those of us who danced regularly with him remember his kindness, his low-key and

self-deprecating sense of humour - and his total reliability. One of the MCs says: "He always knew where both he and the rest of the set should be at any time in the dance, and was a kindly and efficient shepherd in guiding newcomers or those less confident around the dance." He positively relished learning the new dances - the more complex the better.

As is often the way in Scottish country dancing, most of us knew nothing about Bill's background (as we know, there is very little time for sustained conversation on the dance floor). At his Service of Thanksgiving, we learned that Bill was a pillar of the Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, where, as well as other activities, he organised the Scottish country dancing.

We also learned that he was Dr William Somerville, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at University College London. He had spent all his working life there: his research work was on the chemistry of interstellar clouds. He is remembered particularly for an innovative Diploma course, held in the evening, on astronomy.

He will indeed be greatly missed. He was friendly, kind, always with a twinkle in his eye - and a lovely man to dance with.

### Lynton McLain recalls:

Bill Somerville was a lovely man, with his quiet Scottish ways. I was one of Bill's students at University College London, studying astronomy as a member of the first group on the Diploma in Astronomy course at UCL.

Bill was hugely generous with his time for the Diploma group, even after he retired, and we are grateful for all he did to support us. He became almost a father-figure.

His great legacy, I think, is that, after our astronomy course, he wanted to continue to feed the appetites of mature students for knowledge of our universe. He arranged monthly lectures by PhD candidates for former students in the UCL physics lecture theatre. He combined his wish to continue to help us all, with opportunities for PhD researchers to speak in public.

We were always invited to a post-lecture wine reception, organised by Bill, who did all the catering; we could socialise and speak to the lecturer, and chat to and give our thanks to Bill, who is very greatly missed.

## A Great Ambassador

from Elizabeth Harry

Brian G Harry

April 1951 - 3 March 2021



Brian was introduced to Scottish country dancing in his qualifying year at primary school in North West Ayrshire. Shortly after this, his family moved overseas to Cyprus where he completed his schooling.

On returning to the UK to join the wines and spirits trade, he quickly joined dance groups in Buckinghamshire (Lucy Clark Scottish Country Dance Club) and London and never looked back.

He danced at the RSCDS Summer School for many years and took his teaching certificate there in 1974. He became one of the youngest teachers in the RSCDS at that time. His travels as a dance teacher have taken him around the world, including Canada, USA and all over the UK and Europe, earning him his epithet 'have kilt will travel'. He was a frequent contributor to *The Reel* using this epithet.

Brian moved back to Scotland in the late 1980s and danced for many years in the Demonstration team of the Edinburgh Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society where he met his wife Elizabeth. He taught many levels of classes in Edinburgh including demonstration teams and examination classes.

His favourite class to teach was always the beginners where his enthusiasm for dance has been passed on to countless dancers in Edinburgh. To quote one of his most recent beginners, "He was an inspiring teacher who gave a real sense of enjoyment through dancing."

He leaves a strong legacy in the Scottish dance world with his dedication to promoting Scottish country dancing both locally in Edinburgh and the wider work of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, serving for many years on the Executive Council and General Purposes Committee.

Brian is a past Chairman of Edinburgh Branch and as such attended some RSCDS London Branch events and remained actively involved looking after Edinburgh's archives and demonstration team until his sudden passing in March 2021.

He is remembered as a kind and compassionate teacher, a true gentleman on the dance floor and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

### Joan Desborough adds:

We remember Brian Harry well. We saw him regularly at the Lucy Clark dances held in Amersham in the 1970s. The last time I had a chat with him was at the Newcastle Festival about 10 years ago. He told me that the Gold Cussons trophy that the *Strathreelers* brought home twice from Edinburgh now never leaves the bank!

## A Forthright Kiwi

from Peter Forrow

Donald Ross

July 1950 - 21 February 2021



Donald came to the UK from New Zealand. He was an extremely accomplished accordion player.

Quite often he was in the orchestra pit of a show in a theatre in London or playing in a small ensemble or solo in a restaurant creating an ambience while the patrons dined.

He found he liked leading rather than following, so he created a management company which provided among other things Sunday markets, Christmas fairs and of course musicians for a multitude of different events.

At one time he was offering five different bands of which he was the bandleader, of course. Themes were French, German, Italian, Bavarian and of course Scottish. He did not favour playing for country dancing because of the strict tempo required and he liked a bit of energy in his playing. He felt there was nothing like ramping up the speed at the end of a dance.

He also taught the accordion and had a successful medley of students of all ages. Eventually, of all his bands Scottish was the most favoured but when COVID-19 appeared with the attendant restrictions, he took to online teaching.

Sadly, he was admitted to hospital in January and passed away on 21 February 2021. He leaves behind a wife, a daughter and a step daughter.

## New Home Wanted

Green Argyll men's daywear kilt jacket, size 36-38 inch. Very good condition. Free to a good home, however a donation to charity would be appreciated. Contact Simon Wales at [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## The Reel Advertising Rates

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

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Send Forthcoming Events adverts to Willie Lawrence at

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Other adverts and enquiries on pricing to the Business Editor, Jeff Robertson, at

[businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## Forthcoming Events

RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/  
SURREY BORDER BRANCH

### Branch Class Musicians' Course

Calling all budding  
musicians

Have you ever thought about playing for a class, or do you know a musician who is thinking about this but is not quite sure how or where to start?

If this is the case, then the BHS Border Branch Class Musicians' Course taking place this autumn just might be the answer.

The course is limited to ten participants so register now to avoid disappointment!

Contact Judith Muir  
[judith.robertson3@btinternet.com](mailto:judith.robertson3@btinternet.com)  
for further information.

### Branch Autumn Social

Saturday 25 September 2021

St Mark's Church Hall,  
Farnborough GU14 6TU

Visit our website on [www.rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://www.rscds-bhs.org.uk)



ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING  
GROUP

### Dancers' and Musicians' Weekend School

Friday 1 - Sunday 3 October 2021  
Dillington House, Ilminster  
Somerset TA19 9DT

Teacher: Andrew Nolan  
Musician: Robert Mackay  
Musicians' course: Ian Muir

For further information please contact Gaynor  
Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB,  
01483 721989

[gaynorcourtis@clara.co.uk](mailto:gaynorcourtis@clara.co.uk)

This course is not considered suitable  
for beginners



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Dances up to the end of August  
2021 have been cancelled.

We continue to plan our  
Saturday dances to be held at St Columba's  
Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD in the  
Lower Hall starting at 7pm, once it becomes  
safe, legal and prudent to run them.

We have provisional arrangements for  
Saturday 4 September 2021  
with Calum Mitchell

Saturday 2 October 2021  
with Ian Muir (Prestwick)

Saturday 4 December 2021 with Frank Reid  
**Programmes, cribs and latest status are on  
our website: [www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk)**

For further details contact:

Karen Barter on 01689 853645.  
Everyone is welcome to our functions



## South East Dance Diary

The diary on the Branch website is regularly  
updated, and all societies in the South East  
may submit details of their functions. For a  
hard copy, please send an SAE to Caroline  
Hamilton.

Email [diary@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:diary@rscdslondon.org.uk) or by post  
to Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road,  
Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW.

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH  
Annual Ball

Saturday 23 October 2021  
7.30 - 11.30pm

Headington School, Headington Road,  
Oxford OX3 7TD

Ample free parking and on the London-  
Oxford bus route with stop near to the  
school

**Ian Muir and the Craigealachie Band**  
Full details in Reel 317 or on our website

Contact Helen Houghton-Carr,  
07531 469213 or  
[events.rscdsoxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:events.rscdsoxfordshire@gmail.com)



[www.rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk)

## Munro Competition Shoes

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[www.bobbymunrodanceshoes.com](http://www.bobbymunrodanceshoes.com)



## Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

To update your information in Other Scottish Country Dance  
Organisations contact [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

If you require your information to also be changed in the  
SE Classes Listing on our website please contact Jan Collings  
[seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk) or call on 07803 923036.

This is the first issue of this cycle. Payment of £30 for issues 316-  
319 is now due. If you wish to cancel, or pay by bank transfer,  
please contact [treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk)

**ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Dancing most Mondays,  
7.45-10.00pm, Sept-June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All  
welcome. Details: [secretary@ascdc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ascdc.org.uk) or  
[www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com](http://www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com)

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

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

**BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS** General Class Wednesdays  
Sept-May, 8.00-10.00pm St Mary's Church Hall, Park Road, Camberley,  
Surrey GU15 2SR Teacher: Mervyn Short. Monday Advanced class: Fourteen  
Mondays Sept-April, 8.15-10.15pm at St Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine  
Mile Ride, Wokingham Without RG40 3BA. Details: Alex Duncan,  
01932 241615 or [www.rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://www.rscds-bhs.org.uk)

**BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS** Meets every Friday at Kinson Community  
Centre, Pelham's Park, Millhams Rd., Kinson, Bournemouth, BH10 7LH  
7.30-9.30pm. Alternate Wednesday Technique class, by invitation.  
Details: Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Road, Broadstone, Dorset  
BH18 8BX, 01202 698138 or [margaret.brscds@ntlworld.com](http://margaret.brscds@ntlworld.com)

**BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS** Classes for beginners, intermediate and  
advanced, country and highland, adults and children.

Details: Rod Burrows, 01903 783053 or [chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk](mailto:chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk) or  
[www.rscds-brighton.org.uk](http://www.rscds-brighton.org.uk)

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

**CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB** Dancing every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Paul's Church  
Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Jackie Cresswell, 01252 616289 or  
[info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk](mailto:info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk)

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

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

**CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Dancing Friday nights 7.30-10.00pm at  
St Andrew's UR Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP.  
Details: John Marshall, [duracellbunney@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:duracellbunney@tiscali.co.uk)  
[www.cheltenhamscottishsociety.btck.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamscottishsociety.btck.co.uk) [www.jockjigging.btck.co.uk](http://www.jockjigging.btck.co.uk)

**CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets on Sundays 6.00-  
9.15pm, Sept-June, in the Upper Hall at St Michael & All Angels Church,  
corner of Woodstock Road and Priory Avenue, London W4 1TX (turn right  
out of Turnham Green tube station, 70 yards).  
Details: [www.chiswickscottish.org.uk](http://www.chiswickscottish.org.uk) or Evelyn Norman, 020 8641 5877 or  
[secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk](mailto:secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk)

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

Details: Mary Courtney, 020 8651 0704 or [www.rscdscroydon.org.uk](http://www.rscdscroydon.org.uk)

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

## Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

Continued from p15

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

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

**FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** Dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.00pm, Sept-May. Details: Anne Lester 01252 782927 or [lesteranne@gmail.com](mailto:lesteranne@gmail.com) or [fleets.rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://fleets.rscds-bhs.org.uk)

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

**GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** Meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Janet MacPhail 020 8560 7670 or [enquiries@greenfordcaledonian.net](mailto:enquiries@greenfordcaledonian.net)

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

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

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

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

**JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP** Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinity JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or [jjcchanjoy97@gmail.com](mailto:jjcchanjoy97@gmail.com)  
Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or [alan.nicolle88@gmail.com](mailto:alan.nicolle88@gmail.com) or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or [scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com](http://scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com)

**LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** Meets regularly at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: [www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk)

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

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

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

**MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** Dancing Mondays Bredhurst Village Hall, 1.30-3.45pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays St Mary's Island Community Centre, 8.00-10.00pm. Beginners welcome at all. Details: Lyn Sutton-Jones, 07831 154038 or [www.medwaycaledonians.co.uk](http://www.medwaycaledonians.co.uk)

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

**MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS** Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00-10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5LP, 01908 378730 or [jange@verybusy.co.uk](mailto:jange@verybusy.co.uk)

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

**ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners'/Improvers' Class every Monday 8.00-10.15pm at St Paul's, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or [hadyndavies@gmail.com](mailto:hadyndavies@gmail.com) or [www.orpingtonscottishdancing.com](http://www.orpingtonscottishdancing.com)

**OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Christine Jeffery 01844 278242 or [christinej201@hotmail.com](mailto:christinej201@hotmail.com) or [www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk)

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

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

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

**SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP** Dancing Tues 8.00pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, South Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or [gwood@gna.cc](mailto:gwood@gna.cc)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm Sept-June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or [welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net](mailto:welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net) or [www.sehscottishdance.org/Welwyn](http://www.sehscottishdance.org/Welwyn)

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

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

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

**WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Audrey Kennedy, 01376 513567 or [amkenedy148@gmail.com](mailto:amkenedy148@gmail.com)

### Credits

Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of *The Reel*, including the following for providing photos: p1: West Port, St Andrews - Stephen Webb (SJW). p2: Jim Cook - SJW. p3: Mel Rowland - from herself; Mrs MacNab - from SJW. p5: Joanne Lawrence - from herself. p6: Jeremy Hill - from himself; album covers - from Marie Fielding. p7: 12 Coates Crescent - RSCDS archives; Peter Knapman - from himself; Elma McCausland - from herself. Centrefold: all pictures and captions - SJW. p10: Summer School musicians - Lucy Fallon; Summer School demonstration - Stuart Somerville. p11: Summer School piper - Dorothy Wilson; Hill family - Paula Rodenacker; Jim Henderson pictures - from himself. p12: Adam Ray - from himself; Adam Ray dancing - SJW; Hendersons at West MACS - from Jim Henderson; Eric Lindsay - from Patsy Patterson; Henry Nolan - Simon Wales; MacLennan Scottish Group at Europeade - Europeade archives. p13: MacLennan Scottish Group at Europeade - Europeade archives; Stuart Anderson - from Iris Anderson; John Nicholson - SJW; Peter Stogden - from SJW. p14: Bill Somerville - from Valerie Strachan; Brian Harry - from Elizabeth Harry; Donald Ross - from Donald Ross website. Anniversary logo - designed by Thelma-Jane Robb.

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