



The Reel

rscds
London Branch

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
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FEBRUARY TO MAY 2015

Scottish Country Dancing –
For fun, fitness and
friendship



Left: London Branch Festival Fling, 10 December 2014:
Turning corners in *John McAlpin*.
Above: Jim Healy, installed as RSCDS Chairman at the
AGM in Perth in November (see p9).

SPRING DANCE

Saturday 21 March 2015

7.00 – 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

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

Kafoozalum

Happy Meeting	29/9
Maxwell's Rant	18/10
Dalkeith's Strathspey	9/6
Miss Hadden's Reel	23/5
Cherrybank Gardens	Bankhead 1/7
The Sailor	24/4
The Bees of Maggie Knockater ..	Canadian/2
Miss McLean of Inverness ...	London 75th/7
Round Reel of Eight	27/7

The Machine without Horses	12/12
The Flowers of Edinburgh	1/6
The Birks of Invermay	16/2
The Kellogholm Jig	Leaflet 12
The Belle of Bon Accord	Deeside 2/10
The Cumbrae Reel	28/8
Mrs Stewart's Jig	35/1
The Robertson Rant	39/8
The Montgomerie's Rant	10/1

Admission includes refreshments
RSCDS members £10.00, Non-members £12.00
Students (with student card) and spectators £5.00
All children (under 16) free
All tickets to be purchased (cash only)
on the door
All dances will be recapped

DANCE TO THE MUSICIANS

Saturday 18 April 2015

7.00 – 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

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

Jim Lindsay & the Musicians

A Capital Jig	5 Dances 2009/3
Flowers of Edinburgh	1/6
The Braes of Breadalbane	21/7
Light and Airy	4/5
Sleepy Maggie	11/5
The Birks of Invermay	16/2
Mrs Stewart's Jig	35/1
Culla Bay	41/2
Da Rain Dancin'	Whiteadder Coll/3

The Duke of Atholl's Reel	16/3
Adieu mon Ami	24/11
Red House	7/2
Best Set in the Hall	46/7
Autumn in Appin	31/5
Duke of Perth	1/8
Old Nick's Lumber Room	26/6
The Minister on the Loch	4 for 2008/2
Mairi's Wedding	Cosh 22+2/4

Admission includes refreshments
RSCDS members £10.00, Non-members £12.00
Spring Fling Attendees and students (with student
card) £8.00, spectators £5.00
All children (under 16) free
All tickets to be purchased (cash only) on the door
All dances will be recapped

COMBINED SOCIETIES' DANCE

Saturday 25 April 2015

7.00 – 11.00pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

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

Strathallan

Hosted this year by the St Columba's Dancers
In memory of **John Laurie** who gave so much to our
music and dance and **Annie Waterson** who
compiled the Combined Societies' Calendar
Hooper's Jig

Hooper's Jig	MMM 34
The Castle of Mey	Diamond Jubilee/2
The Belle of Bon Accord	Deeside 2/10
The Starry Eyed Lassie	23/11
Fraser's Favourite	Leaflet 7
Up in the Air	20/2
The Last of the Lairds	22/5
Gang the Same Gate	36/4
Mairi's Wedding	Cosh 22+2/4

The Wild Geese

Tickets £12.00 on the door
Including Finger Buffet Supper
Crib sheet will be on www.stcolumbasdancers.org
All dances will be recapped

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Elsewhere in this issue you will find the formal announcement about our Annual General Meeting. Please don't stop reading at this point. I know AGMs or meetings of any sort can be a turn-off for many of you, and it certainly takes a special sort of person to enjoy them, but they are necessary. We are required to hold an AGM, our accounts have to be approved and the Committee really does want to know what you think about how the Branch is run and your ideas for making things better. If the Committee didn't meet (approximately once a month during the dancing season) there wouldn't be the dances and classes for us all to enjoy, and the Branch would cease to function. Of course, a successful branch requires teachers, musicians, members filling a myriad of roles and, above all, dancers, but serving on the Branch Committee is one way you can give something back to the RSCDS. Think about it. We do need members to put themselves forward for the Committee.

There are overheads to being a branch of the Society: there are constitutions to review, there are initiatives from Headquarters to take forward and occasionally we may want to challenge some of the things coming out of Coates Crescent. The Committee doesn't always have time to keep an eye on every aspect of the Branch's life. We have decided therefore to revive our former structure of Sub-Committees, where details, especially about dances and classes, can be worked out. Each Sub-Committee will be co-ordinated by a member of the full Committee with other members of the Committee in support, but the Sub-Committees also afford an opportunity for non-Committee members to get involved in running the Branch. I am sure there are many of you who would be happy to help with classes, dances or publicity, but are dubious about the policy side of committee work. This is your opportunity. If you are not sending in a nomination for the Committee, please get in touch with Margaret, our Secretary, or me if you want to be considered for a role on one of the Sub-Committees. Our contact details are shown to the right of this page.

Our AGM is on 13 June, but there is a lot to enjoy before then. We will be welcoming Spring Fling to London and I hope many of you will be at St Columba's on 18 April to join in the fun. The following Saturday we will unite with the other SCD groups that meet at St Columba's for the annual Combined Societies' Dance. It will be a particularly special event this year as it is being held in memory of John Laurie. Our classes resume on 29 April.

See you on the dance floor.
Andrew Kellett



ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE
SOCIETY



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Chairman: Jim Healy

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Jeremy Hill, George Potts, Marjory Reid,
Jerry Reinstein, Thelma-Jane Robb,
Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw, Anna Twinn

Co-ordinators:
Classes: Margaret Shaw, Lena Robinson
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Dances: Marjory Reid
Demonstrations: Anna Twinn
The Reel: Jeremy Hill
Youth: Marjory Reid

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Branch:
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RSCDSLONDON](http://www.facebook.com/RSCDSLONDON)



@LondonRSCDS



Objects of London Branch

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

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

London Branch to introduce PayPal option

London Branch is in the process of setting up a PayPal account, through which members and subscribers to *The Reel* will be able pay for their subscriptions, renewals and events in a simple and safe way via the internet. This may be particularly of interest to overseas readers. We will be joining Edinburgh, Paris and other branches that are using this modern system. Many of you will already have PayPal accounts, or if not they are free and very easy to set up. Cheques are being used less and less and being replaced by internet transactions, which most people who are on the internet find greatly simplifies payments. Those members who wish to continue to use cheques will be able to do so.

When the Branch PayPal account becomes operative we will advise all members via *The Reel* and email, so if you haven't been receiving monthly updates on Branch events via email, please send your email address to Jerry Reinstein jar@reinsteinassociates.com. This will not only update you on Branch events but also permit you to use PayPal for London Branch payments as soon as it is ready. Full information on how to use the Branch PayPal account will be sent to members via email. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions on this option.

Jerry Reinstein



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Maintaining Contact – email addresses

The Branch continues to use various means to keep in touch with members, on the website, Facebook, Twitter, through *The Reel* and regular email.

If you are not receiving emails from the Branch Committee on a regular basis with information on forthcoming Branch events, we may not have your current email address. If you wish to receive information by email (not more than once a month), please send your email address to Jerry Reinstein

jar@reinsteinassociates.com
and we will add you to the list. Note: the list is not used for any other purpose and not shared with any other organisation.

LONDON BRANCH AGM

Saturday 13 June 2015 6.45pm

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will take place on Saturday 13 June at 6.45pm at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD, immediately prior to the dance we are holding that evening.

The meeting is timed to start shortly after parking restrictions are lifted in the vicinity of St Columba's and should be over in time to enjoy (almost) a full dance programme. However that should not discourage members from making their views known at the meeting and contributing to our plans for the coming year. Tea and biscuits will be available before the meeting and supper will be served as usual during the dance. All members of the Branch are most welcome to attend. If you cannot get to the meeting, we will still be pleased to see you and your friends at the dance. A formal agenda for the meeting and a report covering the Branch's activities will be circulated with the next issue of *The Reel*.

Any member can put a motion to the meeting providing it is submitted in writing to the Branch Secretary (see the right-hand column on p2) and received by 31 March, so that it can be included on the agenda. The motion should be signed by the proposer and a seconder, who must both be members of the Branch. Members present can also raise any pertinent matter at the meeting under Any Other Business, but only motions appearing on the agenda can be voted upon.

Branch members wishing to stand for election as an office holder or Committee member should provide the Secretary with a written nomination signed by the nominee and by a proposer and seconder, who must also be Branch members, by 31 March. Including the position of Vice-Chairman, there are two vacancies on the Committee as Marjory Reid and Anna Twinn are not standing for re-election, so please consider putting yourself or a fellow member forward. If there are more candidates than places, ballot papers will be issued to all Branch members with the next issue of *The Reel*.

The current officers and remaining members of Committee are eligible for re-election and are listed below with the date they joined or last re-joined the Committee.

Chairman.....	Andrew Kellett	2011
Vice-Chairman	Vacant	
Secretary.....	Margaret Catchick	2013
Treasurer	Simon Wales	2003

Elaine Davies 2009, Pam Ellam 2011, Ireen Goulding 2014, Jeremy Hill 2013, George Potts 2009, Jerry Reinstein 2009, Thelma-Jane Robb 2011, Lena Robinson 2010, Margaret Shaw 2007 and Jamie Walker 2015.

EDITORIAL

The weekend of 17 – 19 April promises to be an especially lively one for dancing in London, as the RSCDS Spring Fling comes to London for the first time (see details below). Alongside the main event for those aged 12 to 35, the organisers and the Branch have set up a series of other events open to all: a Saturday class (Spring Fringe), a Musicians' Workshop with Jim Lindsay (see p6), and two dances: Jim and the musicians will be playing for the evening dance on the Saturday (see p1), and there is also a dance for all on the Friday night in conjunction with the Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club.



Country dancing in general provides a wonderful opportunity to bring generations together. I have had many conversations with both keen and irregular dancers about how well it works at a wedding or other function, allowing all ages to dance together.

Even though schools have cut back, many children continue to learn country dancing, often through thriving dance schools. We must continue to find ways to encourage these children to continue from their classes, medal tests and competitions to informal dances, demonstrating the social side of the activity that can sustain them to university groups and into adulthood. The Spring Fling is a great opportunity for all these younger dancers, allowing them to come together and meet others who also love to dance.

Please do come along to some or all of the weekend and join the fun!
Jeremy Hill

STOP PRESS

South East Branches – Unit 5 Candidate Course

There is a space for one more candidate for Unit 5 to be held in Finchampstead in April/May/June, advertised in prior issues of *The Reel*. As this is last minute, there is the possibility of joining the course and taking the exam even if you have not already submitted Unit 4 (the record of teaching etc.).

Please contact George Ferrier if you might be interested, or would like more information, 020 8651 5673 or george2542@hotmail.co.uk

Spring Fling and Fringe 17-19 April 2015



Spring Fling - 12-35 year olds

...Timetable continued

Spring Fling is an RSCDS residential course for young dancers organised by young dancers with the help and support of HQ and local dancers. Unlike Summer and Winter school, the venue of Spring Fling (SF) changes each year and last year moved abroad for the first time to Lyon. There are still places left for this year's course in London so get onto the RSCDS website to apply soon. The staff line up is sure to have something for everyone - Angela Young, Andrew Nolan, Heather Cowan, Gillian Frew, Rachel Shankland, Graham Berry and Martainn Skene.

What's the timetable?

Friday 17 April:

4.00-6.00pm: Registration at Hounslow Travelodge, TW3 1JG

7.30 - 10.30pm: 'Nice & Easy' Dance co-hosted by Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club. Dancing to the Borderline Band at Isleworth & Syon School, TW7 5LJ. Tickets £10 including light refreshments, open to all.



Saturday 18 April:

9.30-1.00pm: Morning classes in Isleworth & Syon School or St Mary's Church Hall, Isleworth (teachers in brackets)

- Beginners/Improvers (Heather then Rachel)
- Advanced (Rachel then Andrew)
- Very Advanced (Angela then Heather)

2.45-4.00pm: Optional afternoon classes (highland, ladies' step or birling)

7.00-10.30pm: "Dance to the Musicians" co-hosted by RSCDS London Branch. Dancing to the musicians from the musicians workshop led by Jim Lindsay at St Columba's, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD. Tickets £10/12 (RSCDS Members/Non-members), £5 students, includes light refreshments, open to all dancers.

Sunday 19 April:

10.00-12.30pm: Judging entries for the new dance "Spring Fling" at Heston Community School, TW5 0QR followed by buffet lunch provided by RSCDS London Branch.



Spring Fringe - for those aged 36+

Saturday 18 April:

10:15-12.45: Workshop led by Mervyn Short with music from Barbara Manning at Montague Hall, TW3 1LD. Tickets £9 available on the door, includes tea and coffee. Please let the organisers know in advance if you plan on attending as it will help considerably with the planning (rscdsspringfling2015@yahoo.co.uk).

Also on the Saturday is the RSCDS London Branch Musician's workshop led by Jim Lindsay at St Columba's, Pont Street. Ticket (£24/27 RSCDS Members/Non-members) include food but must be booked in advance.

Don't forget, the dances on the Friday and Saturday nights are open to all dancers regardless of age. Let's spread the word that we can all SCD together.


How can I find out more?

✉ rscdsspringfling2015@yahoo.co.uk

🌐 <http://rscdsspringfling.wix.com/springfling>

📘 www.facebook.com/rscdsspringfling2015

See all the details at <http://rscdsspringfling.wix.com/springfling>



Classes leading to the
Intermediate level of the RSCDS Dancing Achievement Award

will be offered this summer over three evenings, 3, 10 & 17 June as part of the Summer Wednesday classes at The Francis Holland School, Graham Terrace, London, SW1V 8JF 6.45 - 8.45pm

Teacher **Simon Wales**

The course is open to all dancers looking to develop their personal dancing. The syllabus is available on the RSCDS website

If you would like to take part, please let Margaret or Lena at classes@rscdslondon.org.uk know by 15 May

#throwbackthursday

As part of our 85th Anniversary celebrations we are publishing a #throwbackthursday every week on Facebook, Twitter and the website. "What's #throwbackthursday?" I hear you say. Very simply, it is a photo or video from the past that is posted on a Thursday. We've had great fun searching through the archive and hope you enjoy the pictures and videos that we've selected. If you have anything that might be suitable for a #throwbackthursday or you would like to donate to the archive please contact Elaine Davies at laneypops83@yahoo.co.uk

To give you a taster, below are two of the published throwbacks (see also p7).

Our Facebook page www.facebook.com/RSCDSLONDON is a great way to keep up with Branch news, announcements, photos of events and reminders of forthcoming Branch activities (you can also access the page by scanning the QR code to the right).

To make sure you don't miss out, please 'like' the RSCDS London Branch page. Follow the initiative at [#throwbackthursday](https://twitter.com/throwbackthursday) and [#85thanniversary](https://twitter.com/85thanniversary)



Representing the Branch

The Branch runs a monthly class for advanced dancers, taught by Jeremy Hill, for the purpose of creating a pool of dancers with a repertoire of dances that can be used for public displays, including Kensington Gardens. The class is held on a Tuesday evening from 6.45 - 8.45pm at the Francis Holland School (see details p5).

If you have a sense of fun and the ability to reflect the joy of Scottish country dancing to the general public, do come along and give us a try. Anyone interested in joining is asked to have a good grasp of basic Scottish dance steps - knowledge of a few Highland steps would be an advantage, but not essential.

For further information please contact Anna Twinn at demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk

Children's Class 2014 - 2015

Teacher: James Fairbairn assisted by Jenny Kendrick

The Branch Children's Class will take place as follows:

28* February, 14 March, 21 March (Family Day - see below), 18* April, 2 & 16 May, 6 June, 13 June (Family Day - further information to follow in *The Reel* 292)

Dates marked * will be held at The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR, from 10.45am - 12.00pm

All other dates will be held in the Upper Hall, St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD, from 10.15 - 11.30am

Class Fee: £5.00 per child per class

Newcomers are always welcome!

Family Day

Saturday 21 March 2015

St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD
 11.30am - 1.00pm: Children's Class, followed by lunch for all children

2.00 - 4.30pm: Dance to the music of Kafoozalum

Programme: Circassian (big) Circle (Trad/Fairbairn), Charlestown Chaser (Gr2/2), Gay Gordons (Pocket Reference Guide), MC's choice, The Waratah Weaver (Gr2/4), A Reel for Jeannie (40/1), The Dhoon (Ch1/1), Loch Ness Monster (Imperial 2/9), Granville Market (Gr2/18), MC's choice, Espie McNabb (MMM 23), The Barmkin (Gr2/6), Canadian Barn Dance (Pocket Reference Guide), The Dashing White Sergeant (3/2). Extras: Scotch Mixer, Round Reel of Eight (27/2), Witches' Reel

Special Day Ticket (includes class, lunch & dance): £7.00 per child
 Dance Admission only: £3.50 per person

All young dancers, their families, friends and teachers are welcome. The dances in the afternoon will be talked and walked through.

For further information please contact either

James Fairbairn on
 07930 949599,

childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk or
youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk



Blowing out 75 candles at the Children's Dance in 2004 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the London Branch.

London University Class

London Branch's university class at University College London (UCL) continues to engage younger dancers and also to give our own young teachers a chance to teach a regular class. It is run in conjunction with the UCL Folk Society, which provides students with access to folk music and dance in the London area.

The class is held on a Monday evening at UCL, Gower Street (opposite Euston Square underground station). The teaching team consists of Charlotte Sandifer, Judith Jones and Gillian Frew, with Lindsey Jane Rousseau co-ordinating, and Ian Cutts playing for the class.

If you know any students who might be interested, or for more information, please contact Elaine Davies at laneypops83@yahoo.co.uk

Set yourself a fun challenge Join a Scottish Country Dance Class

We have
classes for...

CHILDREN in central London.

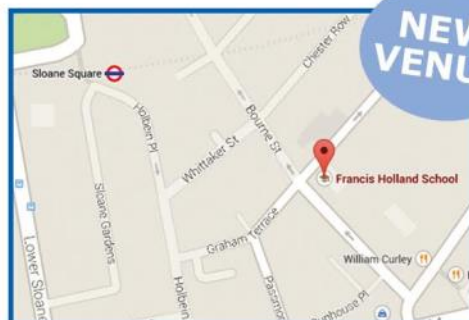
Email James Fairbairn: childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk for details

Basic Skills & Improvers 6.45 - 8.45pm

with **Jane Rose** and musicians

Ian Cutts and **Jane Ng**

at Francis Holland School, 39 Graham Terrace,
London SW1W 8JF



Experienced dancers wishing to improve their technique 6.45 – 8.45pm,

venue Francis Holland School as above, with

Lindsey Rousseau (25 February – 25 March)

Debbie McLachlan (29 April – 20 May)

Musicians **Sandra Smith, Ian Cutts** and **Jane Ng**

Class Fees: £75 per term or £9 per night for RSCDS members,
£85 per term or £10 per night for non-members

Summer General Classes suitable for all abilities except total beginners 3, 10 & 17 June, teacher **Simon Wales** 6.45 – 8.45pm,

venue Francis Holland School as above. Also see page 6

Wednesday afternoons, 2.30 – 4.30pm

In the Upper Hall at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London, SW1X 0BD

Fee £5 per class. Current term ends on 25 March. Summer Term 29 April – 1 July (half-term 27 May) Suitable for dancers with some knowledge of basic steps and formations.

Teacher, **Jeni Rutherford**: jrutherford@freeuk.com

For experienced dancers interested in demonstrations

Email Anna Twinn at demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk

SUNDAY CLASSES

Are held at The Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RT | 1.00am – 1.00pm

RSCDS members £10 per class, non-members £11 per class

Highland Dancing with **Kathleen Gilbert** on 29 March

Contacts for all classes either Margaret or Lena at
classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

BRANCH NEWS

In 15 Minutes – Jamie Walker

Jamie joined the Branch Committee in January, and we took some of his time to find out more about him:

How old were you when you started dancing?

I started dancing when I was 10.

What first started you dancing?

I started ceilidh dancing in primary school as a compulsory activity in physical education. I was asked if I would like to be in the school Scottish country demonstration class, which rehearsed during the lunch interval – and it was much better to be inside dancing, than outside playing football in the rain.

Where did you learn your dancing?

I learned the basics in my old hometown of Elgin in Moray, Scotland. After a 12-year hiatus, I decided to go along to The Gay Gordons in London to see what I remembered, and I became hooked. The London Branch Technique Class has been particularly useful for developing my dancing technique. I am still learning – we should never stop!

Who has been the biggest influence on your dancing and why?

Jennifer Wilson, who taught and played for our school demonstration class. She was an extremely thorough teacher, and the rudiments of good social dancing – that is eye contact, smiles and covering – were instilled from the outset. And you could never get away with not completing your step!

Where do you dance now?

I'm very active in the London Branch, and I attend all the Branch classes and dances that I can get to. I continue to dance, and now teach, at The Gay Gordons on Thursdays, which I absolutely love, and I also dance in Chiswick on Sunday evenings.

What do you enjoy most about Scottish dancing?

The sociability of the dance form makes it most enjoyable for me. I like how, after a dance, I feel like I've danced with many people – I've not been staring over the left shoulder of my partner for what seems like an eternity, as one would in ballroom dancing. Those acknowledgements when taking someone's hand, or those little gestures to help someone less familiar through a dance, are what makes Scottish dancing so pleasurable.

Whose dancing have you most admired?

Elaine Davies. She's a very good person to stand behind in a Highland class! Oh yes, and Anna Twinn – she always smiles, and I've never seen such beautiful pointy toes.

What is your favourite dance and why?

Macleod's Fancy: it's such an energetic dance with lots of flight, and plenty of opportunities to cover. And who doesn't love a St Andrew's Cross?

Who is your favourite dance band and why?

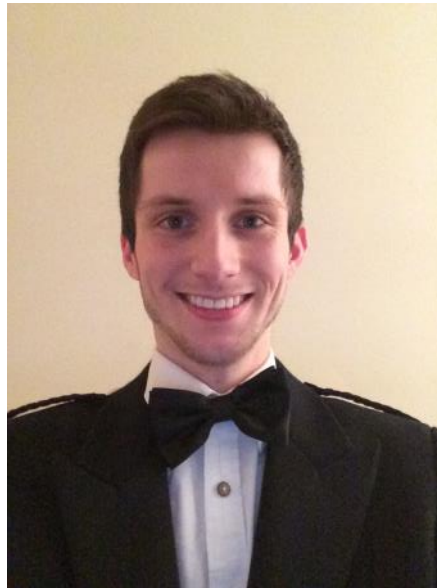
Marian Anderson and her band: the music is so uplifting, with light and shade.

What is your best dancing memory?

Dancing in the Scottish country demonstration in the Younger Hall at summer school in St Andrews last summer.

What would you like to change in the dancing world?

I still feel that there is an element of taboo surrounding men dancing with men. At dances, if there are two ladies who want to complete a set, then it's usually fine, but if two men are left over, it's often deemed necessary to "split them up" and find women for them to dance with. It's all a little bit antiquated, and I feel embarrassed when people try to split men up, especially when they



have deliberately chosen a male partner. There are certain figures like the allemande and the knot that I enjoy dancing as a 'lady'. We should be actively encouraging men to dance on the ladies side to improve their understanding and appreciation of the dance. Also, I don't like booking at dances.

How do you think we can encourage more young people to dance?

A good way is to teach children in primary school – it's how I was introduced to Scottish country dancing. I think it's important to have young committee members, teachers and musicians to attract younger people to join in the dance. The demand for youth to dance to Scottish music is there – London Reels and PGT Reels see hundreds of vibrant 20- and 30-somethings at their events.

What do you see as the future of Scottish dancing?

I hope that Scottish dancing continues to thrive, both nationally and internationally, and that the dance form continues to evolve, with new formations and configurations of dancers.

What do you do when you are away from the dance floor?

I'm a private maths, physics and engineering tutor for A-level and university students. I also do very boring computer programming stuff on the side. I play piano, and cello in an orchestra. And I'm rarely away from the dance floor, as I enjoy Latin and ballroom dancing too.

OPEN AIR DANCING

The Bandstand, Kensington Gardens

Once again the Branch will be running informal open air dancing sessions during August in Kensington Gardens (by the bandstand near the Round Pond) on the following dates:

Saturday 8 August 2015

Saturday 15 August 2015

Saturday 22 August 2015

Time: 2.00 – 4.00pm

An MC will guide everyone through a programme of popular dances and there will be easier dances for beginners and children. Bring some friends and a picnic and enjoy dancing to some wonderful music.

Please put the dates in your diary and do come along!

MUSICIANS' DAY

18 April 2015

Led by Jim Lindsay

The Branch will be holding a Musicians' Day on Saturday 18 April 2015 at St Columba's Church Hall. The programme for the day is as follows:

10.30 – 11.00am:	Enrolment & Coffee
11.00am – 1.00pm:	Workshop
1.00 – 2.30pm:	Lunch (included)
2.30 – 4.30pm:	Workshop
7.00 – 10.30pm:	Branch Dance in conjunction with Spring Fling 2015 (see p1)

The Workshop is for all musicians who want to learn more about playing for Scottish country dancing with the opportunity to play for the Branch Dance in the evening.

The Workshop will be led by **Jim Lindsay**,

who, over the past 40+ years, has consistently been one of the most respected and 'in demand' musicians on the Scottish music scene. Becoming Scottish Accordion Champion in the early 1970s established him as a top band musician, working with most of the legendary names from the golden era of Scottish dance music and you will find him on the credits for countless dance recordings.

Jim formed his own band in the 1980s which quickly became renowned for his innovative arrangements and concert performances. Their popular brand of listening music is regularly featured on the BBC and their critically acclaimed *Free Hand* CD inspired a generation of young Scottish musicians.

In recent years Jim has brought the two strands of his music career together, playing and recording for dancing under his own name. His band is firmly established as one of the most popular for Scottish country dances in the UK, and he has performed across Europe, North America, New Zealand and China. His *Christmas Dance Party* CD brought a smile to faces all around the world and recent recordings include a CD with Muriel Johnstone and *The Black Watch Ball* and *Reel of the Puffins* CDs with his own band.

All musicians are welcome to come along to join in. Please note: the two keyboards the Branch have access to have been allocated; therefore, keyboard players should bring their own keyboard. All musicians are requested to bring their own music stands.

Parking: residents' parking is enforced from 8.30am – 6.30pm on Saturdays. We would advise musicians travelling by car to unload any equipment at Pont Street then use one of the nearby National Car Parks during the day. Vehicles can be collected prior to the dance starting then parked nearer to the church for easier access after the dance.

RSCDS Members: £24.00, non-members: £27.00 (Lunch & refreshments included in price)

For further information please contact Marjory Reid

dances@rscdslondon.org.uk or 07762 069364

Application forms are available to download from www.rscdslondon.org.uk



DANCE SEASON 2014-2015

Recent Events

Pat Davoll: Christmas Dance (10 December):

With welcoming wine, the Festive Fling atmosphere was appropriately seasonal. It was attended by 87 dancers and was a chance to exchange cards and greetings, and also to remember John Laurie (see Obituary in *The Reel* 290). John devised the dance programme, the MCs were suggested by him and there was a demonstration including his dance, *Fraser's Favourite*. The dances were succinctly recapped by MCs Rachel Wilton and James Fairbairn. John's love of SCD music was evident and Craiggellachie did justice to his choices. Thanks go to the Branch catering team for refreshments for the interval. (See photos p1 and p10)

Chris Hood: Burns' Night Ceilidh (10 January): Knightsbridge saw one of the first Burns' suppers of the season, with the Branch's annual ceilidh anticipating the bard's birthday by some two weeks. Those who think ceilidh-style is the future of Scottish dancing will not be surprised that the event was a sell-out success, with the hall at Pont Street packed for once, the majority of dancers staying to join in *Auld Lang Syne* and the final polka. Over 60 non-members attended, most of them under 40, visibly enjoying themselves and several asking when the Branch would be holding its next ceilidh. There was an extra buzz in the hall that evening, because it was the first time The Caledonian Reelers had played for us (see p7), and the younger dancers appeared to especially enjoy the Reelers' vibrant and lively style. They should be invited back to play for us again soon. (See photos p11)

Coming soon

On Wednesday 18 February, we look forward to seeing you at the Winter Wednesday dance to enjoy once again the superb music of Christina Hood and Sandra Smith. Peter Knight has devised the programme and your MC for the evening will be Pat Davoll.

Looking forward to Spring 2015? Please then come along on Saturday 21 March to dance to the programme devised by Simon Wales. Your band for the evening will be Kafoozalum. You will be expertly guided through the programme by Simon Wales and Elaine Wilde.

The Branch Musicians' Workshop takes place on Saturday 18 April, which will be led by Jim Lindsay (see p6). The workshop has been moved from May to April to run alongside Spring Fling 2015 (see p4), which is being held in London over that weekend. From the number of applications received so far, and with everyone requesting to play at the evening dance, it should be a great sounding evening. We look forward to giving a warm London Branch welcome to the Spring Fling dancers who will be joining us at the evening dance (see p1). Andrew Nolan has devised the programme and your MCs will be Jim Cook and Catriona Bennett. If you have anything in your diary for 18 April please try to reschedule it or you may miss out on a great evening!

Many thanks to all the programme devisers and MCs. You may find your favourite dance(s) in the programmes so do come along and join in the dancing.

We look forward to welcoming all dancers to the Branch dances during the coming months. Dance cribs are available on the Branch website.

Look out for what will be coming up later in 2015 in *The Reel* 292! See Future Events to see which bands will be playing for the Branch in Season 2015-16.

Enjoy your dancing!

Marjory Reid, Dances Co-ordinator

FUTURE BRANCH EVENTS

Except where noted, events take place:

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

Time: Evening dances 7.00 – 10.30pm (doors open at 6.30pm)

SEASON 2014-15

Saturday 21 March: Family Day (2.00 – 4.30pm)

Kafoozalum (see p4)

Saturday 21 March: Spring Dance

Kafoozalum (see p1)

Friday 17 – Sunday 19 April: Spring Fling (see p4), incorporating, a Musicians' Day (see p6) and

Evening Dances open to all (see p1)

Jim Lindsay and the Musicians

Saturday 25 April: Combined Societies' Dance in memory of John Laurie and Annie Waterson

Strathallan (see p1)

Wednesday 27 May: Summer Wednesday Dance (7.00 – 10.00pm)

Sandra Smith & Barbara Manning

Saturday 13 June: Family Day (2.00 – 4.30pm), AGM (6.45pm) and

End of Season Dance

Barbara Manning & Callum Mitchell

Saturdays 8, 15 and 22 August: (2.00 – 4.00pm), Open Air Dancing, Kensington Gardens (see p6)

SEASON 2015-16

Saturday 12 September: New Season Dance

George Meikle & The Lothian Band

Saturday 17 October: Day School and Dance with ceilidh items (venue to be confirmed)

Teachers: Joan Desborough, Deb Lees, Antoine Rousseau, Sam Schad

Musicians: Jeremy Hill, Christina Hood, Barbara Manning, Andrew Nolan

Musicians' Workshop: Nicol McLaren

Nicol McLaren and the Musicians

Evening dance with ceilidh items

Saturday 31 October: RSCDS London Branch 85th Anniversary Celebration Dance

The Craiggellachie Scottish Dance Band (see p9)

Saturday 12 December: Christmas Dance

Dave Hall & His Scottish Dance Band

Saturday 16 January: Musicians' Ceilidh Workshop led by Ian Robertson and

Burns' Ceilidh Dance and Supper

Ian Robertson and the Musicians

Saturday 19 March: Combined Societies' Dance

Ian Muir of Prestwick

For further details see future editions of *The Reel* and www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Musicians' Recruitment

In its latest project to recruit new class musicians, the Branch had an amazing response to a recent advert placed on Facebook and sent to music colleges around London. The Technique and Basic Skills Classes are helping us audition the applicants, who are being invited to attend class in small groups. They are given some music in advance and are required to sight read other tunes. In addition, they are being asked to bring a waltz for the cool down at the end. This has been quite amusing in some classes – our idea of a waltz is far removed from that of a music student! The standard of playing has been very high and the young musicians have coped excellently.

When the auditions are over, we plan to equip a group of them with the skills required to play for a class, and support them in becoming accomplished class musicians. Many thanks to Sandra Smith and Ian Cutts for putting the musicians through their paces, and Paul Plummer and Jane Rose for agreeing to have the auditions in their classes. We will report in the next issue to let you know how they are getting on. If you have any questions about this, please contact Elaine Davies at laneypops83@yahoo.co.uk

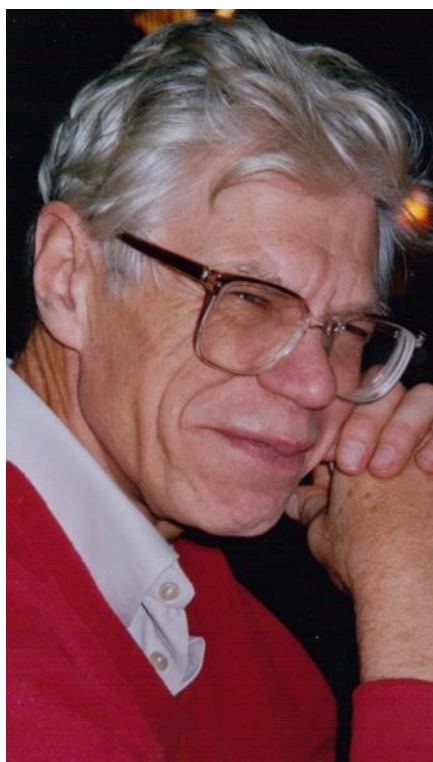


Another photo featured in [#throwbackthursday](#) to celebrate the Branch's [#85thanniversary](#) (see p4). Can you identify the dancers in this photo from the early days of the Dem class, captured in the *Hebridean Weaving Lilt*?

LIVES REMEMBERED

Ian Dennison
27 November 1937 –
12 November 2014

Ian Evrington Dennison was born in South East London on 27 November 1937 and lived all his life in the same beloved house where he died peacefully on 12 November 2014 at the age of 76. He had been unwell since receiving his initial diagnosis of cancer in the spring of 2012. He is first remembered on the London SCD scene in the late 60s, when most of the London-based Scottish societies met at the Royal Scottish Corporation Hall in Fetter Lane.



For most of his working life, Ian was a very skilful professional photographer, but he will be most remembered for his social activities. Apart from the dancing, Ian enjoyed camping, cycling, walking and would organise weekends away in the country with like-minded friends. Large parties were held at his house – invitations bore a request “please bring musical instruments”, which could mean a whole band turning up.

Ian’s legacy includes a major contribution to the international SCD world. In combination with the London Highland Club he teamed up with me to produce seven records of SCD music over a period of some fifteen years during the 70s and early 80s. Ian was involved with both the recordings, and the design of the record sleeves. Bands recorded were Frank Reid, the Caber Feidh, Andrew Rankine and there was also a specialist record with fiddle player Ken Slaven and his friends.

As a member of the LHC committee, Ian was responsible for the design and printing of the Club’s dance programmes and crib sheets. Personalised tickets containing the programme became a feature of the LHC during Ian’s many years of service. He often contributed to the catering and for several years helped run the Children’s Party.

Ian, who is survived by his elder sister Sylvia and two nieces, will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Graham Cattell

Janet Benton
16 February 1946 –
27 January 2015

Janet very sadly lost her battle with cancer and died on 27 January. Janet was a former member of St John’s Scottish Dance Club, Wokingham, a member and Committee member of BHS Border Branch, for whom she ran the shop for several years. She was in the London Dem Team for many years, and also danced in the demonstrations at Younger Hall at Summer School.



We knew Janet since 1980, and had some very happy times together, holidaying all over the world. Janet unfortunately had an accident with her foot, and had to give up dancing in the 90s – heart-breaking for her, as she loved dancing, and was a lovely dancer. After she met Brian, they went to live in Spain for several years, but decided to return to Cheshire, to her roots, a few years ago, to be near her daughter Kate, Kate’s husband Phil and grandson Daniel.

Janet was always a fighter and very competitive in sports – we had many a good game of badminton at Bracknell – and she fought till the end. She was a very loyal person and regularly drove up to the North to see her mum and dad when they were alive.

Alan and Sue Davis

When Janet Clarke joined the London Branch Demonstration Class in Autumn 1984 she was the third Janet. Bill Ireland, the teacher, identified the others as Black Janet (Samson) and White Janet (Rudge), so the new one became Fair Janet. She was always resourceful and I remember when the team was in France she sat on the minibus en route to a show, busy carrying out emergency repairs to a costume that had caught on a nail as the dancer left our base. I only remember having Janet as my partner once throughout a demonstration at a Branch Function; it was a killer and it is only thanks to Janet that I survived!

Sadly, a fall from a climbing wall damaged her ankle and, while modern surgery saved her foot from amputation, she could no longer dance to a high standard; she found ‘walk dancing’ frustrating. It is good that she found such happiness away from dancing in her later life.

Peter Luke

The Caledonian Reelers come to Pont St

We are the Caledonian Reelers, a 3-piece Scottish dance band. We formed in 1994, and play for RSCDS dances, ceilidh music for weddings, and various gatherings, and also played for reeling. We have been performing for 20 years, mainly in the South East of England, South West areas and in and around London. We do like to travel any distance wherever we are needed.

We comprise Derek on midi accordion, Mary on the fiddle, and, our latest recruit, Paul, on snare drum, and we use a Bose system for our sound, which can adapt to any size of hall. Our favourite style of playing is for RSCDS dances, and we have played at a great deal of RSCDS dances over the years, particularly in Kent. We are based in Colchester in Essex, and regularly play for the RSCDS Colchester Branch, and have danced too on their practice evenings.

Derek started playing accordion at the age of 12 in Fort William, where he was taught by the late Jack Stitt, later joining the army as a musician, as an oboist in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders’ Regimental Band. He also went to the Royal Military School of Music in Twickenham to advance his study in music, and, once back in the Argylls, travelled extensively round the world performing music, and playing for various sergeant and officers’ mess Scottish dancing evenings on accordion. He also studied the piano, and now teaches on a regular basis.

Mary had a great passion for Scottish dance music, and played mainly on her own, until she teamed up with Derek, whereupon we formed our own band, and have not looked back. Paul has had experience playing for jazz groups on cruise ships, and now enjoys playing for Scottish dancing in our group. Some of our dances have been at Lord’s Cricket Ground, Claridge’s Hotel, and even on the HMS Belfast on the River Thames. Mary and Derek often attend various Scottish music workshops, which we thoroughly enjoy, especially the ones at Paddington, Fleet, and Wing in Buckinghamshire – it’s great meeting other musicians, and working through a dance programme with a top player, such as Sandy Nixon, Muriel Johnstone or Keith Smith, to name a few!

We really enjoyed our first experience playing for the London Branch at Pont Street, for the Burns’ ceilidh on 10 January 2015. It was a great atmosphere, and a broad range of dancers, the hall is nice and big, plenty of room for the dancers. The stage is a good size, with a lovely grand piano, for any pianists. Everybody was nice and friendly, and very helpful, and they seemed to be enjoying themselves dancing. It was great to see a varied age of dancers too, mixing together and having a good time. I hope we may get the chance to experience playing at Pont Street again. A big thank you from the Caledonian Reelers for such a nice warm welcome from you all!

Derek Chappell and Mary Felgate
The Caledonian Reelers

BOOKSTALL

Up to date information on the Branch Bookstall is on the Branch website,
www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Look out for the Bookstall at future Branch events. You can contact Daniel at
bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk

74B Thurlow Park Road, London SE21 8HY, or
on 020 8670 6918.

See also p12

An Interview with our new RSCDS Chairman, Jim Healy

How old were you when you started dancing?

Probably about six, but there have been breaks since.

What first started you dancing?

My parents were both ballroom dancers, and so dancing was just something you did. And there was always Scottish dancing at family parties, especially at New Year, when the carpets literally were rolled back.

Where did you learn your dancing?

Mainly at school in Dundee.

Who has been the biggest influence on your dancing and why?

I danced relatively informally outside school and really only discovered RSCDS style in the Middle East in the mid-1980s. The biggest influence in my involvement in that style of dancing was going to Summer School for the first time a few years later, and being in Anna Holden's class. As for Society stuff, that's all Linda Gaul's fault!

Where do you dance now?

All over, but principally in the East of Scotland.

What is your favourite dance and why?

That depends a bit on the mood, the floor and the band, but any top ten I would put together at any time would include *The Mongermers' Rant*.

Who is your favourite dance band and why?

The one I am dancing to at the time ☺. There is no absolute answer to the question.

What is your best dancing memory?

One night in Kinloch Rannoch, I think it was the only dance on in Scotland that day and a huge crowd turned up. We finished up dancing *Macleod's Fancy* in the kitchen and it just took flight. If that could be bottled... There are a few others, not least a *Flowers of Edinburgh* at a Society AGM in Dundee a few years ago now.

What are your priorities as Chairman of the Society?

To increase membership and promote dancing as something that is fun!

What do you see as the role of the Society in relation to Scottish dancing worldwide?

One of the Society's difficulties is that it is many things to different people. It is a club where dancers get together; it is a publisher of dances, music and recordings; it is a standard-setting organization and it is a teachers' association. The trick is to balance all those things, which people want, without one or the other dominating and always keeping to the fore that this is our hobby!

How do you think we can encourage more young people to dance?

By giving them opportunities to dance together at an energy level they enjoy. As one young dancer said to me a few years ago: "we don't need special treatment; just give us the opportunity to dance, and dancers will appear." The more I see of the university groups around the UK, the more I understand that sentiment.

What do you see as the future of Scottish dancing?

I am a natural optimist, but we are going through a lean spell. I am confident it will turn but there is a general problem for all types of clubs and organizations these days. People dip into new activities for a year or so and then move on to something else. We have to adapt to that without losing the best of what we do have.

What do you do when you are away from the dance floor?

Read science fiction and listen to classical music. I am a big fan of the relays from the top opera and ballet companies, so my Saturdays are now torn between a good dance programme and a relay from the New York Metropolitan Opera. Fortunately there is a lot of dancing in Scotland on a Friday night with no major conflict.

(See photo p1)



Dance with a difference 85 years on Celebrating 85 years of London Branch

Saturday 31 October 2015

6.30 – 11.00pm

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

Dancing to *The Craigellachie* Scottish Dance Band

RSCDS members £25.00, Non-members £28.00

Join in the fun of the evening by wearing 1930s fashions,
accessories, kilts & cravats (optional)

Further information in future editions of *The Reel* and on

www.rscdslondon.org.uk



London Branch Membership

The annual cost of RSCDS membership through the London Branch is:

- £22.00 (£18.00 RSCDS subscription plus £4.00 Branch fee) for members who choose to receive *The Reel* in electronic format only, **irrespective of where they live**,
- £24.00 (£18.00 RSCDS sub + £6.00 Branch fee) for UK-based members who receive *The Reel* through the post,
- £30.00 (£18.00 RSCDS sub + £12.00 Branch fee) for European-based members who receive *The Reel* through the post, and
- £33.00 (£18.00 RSCDS sub + £15.00 Branch fee) for members in the rest of the world who receive *The Reel* through the post.

Discounts apply of £9.00 for members aged 12-17, £4.00 aged 18-25 and £3.50 for each of two members living at the same address. Members of other branches can become 'second members' of the London Branch by paying the appropriate Branch fee.

London Branch membership benefits include reduced rates at Branch events and receiving *The Reel*, while RSCDS membership includes the biannual publication, *Scottish Country Dancer*, and 10% discounts on items from the RSCDS shop.

Membership forms can be downloaded from the Branch website. Membership applications and enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989 or membership@rscdslondon.org.uk

See also p3 regarding the use of Paypal.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE REEL

If you are not a member of the London Branch, you can order copies of *The Reel* from Wilson Nicol at reelsubscriptions@rscdslondon.org.uk or 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS.

For individual subscribers we now offer electronic subscription for £4.00 for four issues, and, for hard copies sent by post, rates are £6.00 if resident in the UK, £12.00 for other European residents and £15.00 if resident elsewhere. There are special rates on request for bulk orders. Remittances in sterling please, payable to RSCDS (London Branch).

THE DANCING WORLD



1



2



3



11

1. **Branch Family Day, 22 November 2014:** Families following James Fairbairn's lead in the *Dundee Stomp*.
2. **Branch Christmas Dance, 9 December 2014:** Elaine Davies and Chris Hood providing a welcome drink.
3. **Harrow & District Caledonian Society Annual Ball, 2 January 2015:** The Frank Reid Scottish Country Dance Band.
4. **Branch Burns' Ceilidh Dance & Supper, 10 January 2015:** James Fairbairn addresses a "warm, reekin', rich" Haggis.
5. Andrew Kellett (MC) with the Caledonian Reelers Scottish Country Dance Band, making their debut for London Branch (*see p8*).
6. Stephen Webb and Natalie Maude prepare to slip down the middle.
7. **Wembley & District Scottish Association Burns' Dinner, 30 January 2015:** Northwood Park Golf Club set fair for Wembley's celebration (*see p15*).
8. **St Columba's Dancers Burns' Night, 26 January 2015:** John Lang addressing a haggis with piper Bob Harman and Denise Haugh in attendance.
9. **Gerrards Cross Tea Dance, 18 January 2015:** Pete Williamson leads Gill Stevenson down the middle in *The Deil among the Tailors*.
10. **Branch Christmas Dance:** Matthew Goulden and Danielle Reinstein (complete with festive bauble) lead the promenade in *The Colledge Honripipe*.
11. Good to see ex-dem dancer Alvin Tann again who came to the Branch Christmas Dance during a brief visit to London. Here chatting with Anna Twinn over a glass of festive cheer!



10



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8

IN PICTURES



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sociability: Dead or just Dying?

Dear Jeremy,

Can a cerebrally challenged programme ever be a social one too? I contend not. There are social dance programmes, and a range of other programmes, that have a mix of complex dances right up to where every dance is a memory test of not just the figures, but the transitions between them and the subtleties of the phrasing too. Today's devised modern dance (of which there are many) often has several two bar phrases – parts of this figure or that, joined up to create a whole. Devising dances in this way is the contemporary approach, and, whilst they are interesting to dance, they can involve careful preparation to work out just how they should flow.

Speaking to fellow dancers, as I frequently do, I discover that dancers in general like to just 'turn up' at a dance and do the dances without having done any real preparation; this view, though, is unrealistic. Unfortunately, these days this approach is inadvertently being encouraged by 'helpful' organisers because, apart from at a few clubs' events, all the dances on a programme are now being recapped in one way or another before being danced. I remember when it was the usual practice to simply come to a dance having done 'one's homework' first, when there were no recaps. Of course many dances had been danced over the years and were well-known so the homework was confined to say four or so newer dances at the most.

A few years ago I attended a ball. The organisers were disappointed by the number that had come to it. Although about half the programme was unknown to me, I had come prepared having spent that morning working out those 'new' dances, but many dancers that evening struggled to dance the programme well, thus spoiling the dances for those who had come prepared. Rightly, in my view, being a ball, there was no recapping at that event, so the guests eventually tended to sit out dances that they hadn't worked out in advance. Dancers went away though with the feeling of having just 'done their best'. I may be wrong but I believe that this is not the feeling we wish to have at the end of an evening's dancing. This feeling would have been reversed if all those attending had come prepared, having spent some personal time ahead, either alone, or with others, walking/talking through the dances at, say, an in-advance practice or at their club. Walking and/or talking through dances at a dance, or especially a ball, can destroy the atmosphere for dancers and the band alike.

How many of us are attracted to attending a dance by the advertised programme. Not many, I would guess, but would we be deterred if the dance programme consisted solely of unusually seen dances? Yes, of course we would! Go to a club in Outer Mongolia and we might expect that the popular dances there would be unfamiliar to us. So, conversely, dance programmes local to us in general should have a familiar ring and contain a balance from easy to advanced level dances. Why is all this important? It is that word 'sociability'! This is at the heart of SCD. Can dancers be social to one another on the dance floor if they have arrived at an event unprepared because every dance on the programme has been advertised as being walked and/or talked through beforehand? I don't think so.

'Sociability' is a bit like an elephant, we all know one when we see one but it's not so easy to describe! I feel that dancers like country dancing because it is a dance form where people interact, help each other in subtle ways and in general are nice to one another, and when it is over it leaves the dancer with a warm sense of well-being. If these ingredients are not there then SCD is not fulfilling its intended purpose.

Like the next person, I appreciate faultlessly accomplishing a challenging and cerebral dance, but there must be a limit to how many of these can be on one programme. In my view dance organisers have a responsibility to always put the dancers first. We go out to a dance for a social evening and we get it when we feel at ease, with the dances on the programme, however we achieve this. I may be alone with these views – I wonder!

Yours aye,
Stephen Webb

The Branch Bookstall

Sales of books, CDs and accessories (such as RSCDS pencils and rubbers and Branch badges) will be held at St Columba's at the following times:

Saturday 21 March

4.30 – 5.00pm, just after the Family Dance,

6.00 – 7.00pm, just before the Spring Dance and in the interval.

Saturday 18 April

4.30 – 5.00pm, just after the Musicians' Workshop,

6.00 – 7.00pm, just before the Branch Dance and in the interval.

Saturday 25 April

6.00 – 7.00pm, just before the Combined Societies' Dance and in the interval.

Many items will be for sale at reduced price or even given away in exchange for a donation. This is a chance to fill gaps in your collection or obtain historic books and CDs.

As well as recent RSCDS publications, the bookstall has many earlier publications. These provide the opportunity to buy books now probably out of print, such as books of original dances by John Drewry from the 1960's on (£3.50 – £6.50), or CDs by well-known bands for about £11.00 – £13.00. We have all the RSCDS books from Book 1 at prices generally lower than the current reprint, some being bargains at 20p or 50p; and CDs of all books, CDs of Books 1-42 being only £3.00 each. And if you missed buying the London Branch 75th Anniversary book of Scottish country dances and CD by top London musicians, these are still available at just £1.00 each.

Among other items we sell London Branch badges, one with a thistle and the words 'RSCDS London since 1930', and one in white, gold and black with a lion rampant.

A list of books and CDs currently available is on the Branch website, www.rscdslondon.org.uk, and will be updated regularly.

Daniel Capron

bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk

74B Thurlow Park Road, London SE21 8HY
020 8670 6918

Nineteenth of December

Dear Jeremy,

This jig, No 2 in RSCDS Book 27, has been on a number of recent programmes. It was originally published in *Caledonian Country Dances 1754*. The date 19 December must have had some significance when the dance was written for the deviser to use it as a title. Sir Fitzroy McLean's *A Concise History of Scotland* gives the following explanation:

"In 1745 the Jacobite army led by Bonnie Prince Charlie advanced south as far as Derby, which they reached at the beginning of December. There they held a council of war. Although the Prince wanted to continue and would have stood a reasonable chance of success, his advisers urged caution and the highland army decided to return to Scotland for the winter. On the 19 December they reached Carlisle, and the next day they crossed the River Esk and were back in Scotland. 19 December 1745 was thus their last day on English soil."

The RSCDS book does not give this information, at least in the pocket edition. Our society was set up to preserve Scottish country dances. Surely this ought to include their background.

Elizabeth Bennett

CREDITS

Many thanks to all who contributed, including the following for providing photos for this edition:

Jerry Reinstein: p1 (left), p10 & 11 (2, 4, 5, 6, 10)

RSCDS: p1 (right)

Stephen Webb: p2, p4 (right), p8 (ID), p10 & 11 (3, 8, 9, 11) p14, p20 (3)

From Jeremy Hill: p3

Branch Archives: p4 (left), p7
From Jamie Walker and Jim Lindsay: p6
Sue Davis: p8 (JB)
Marjory Reid: p10 (1)
Graham Hamilton: p11 (7)
Pete Williamson: p20 (1 & 2)

Thanks also to Stephen Webb for additional reporting and co-ordination.

The Lady who would Love to Dance

You ask her for a dance, and which one she'd like to do,
As you slowly run your eyes down all those listed for the ball,
She looks at you with eager eyes and says it's up to you,
For she'd absolutely love to do just any one at all.

The MC rattles off the dance as quickly as may be,
As someone counts the people who have gathered on the floor,
The girl looks rather hesitant and whispers in your ear,
"Well actually, I've never really done this one before."

So you grab her hand, and cross and cast, one place down the set,
And once again for both to cast, her up while you go down.
You do your reel, of three across, and go to look for her,
And there she's standing looking lost, with on her face a frown.

You grab her hand and do your set, her panic clear to see;
Then you turn in, so naturally, she turns the other way,
And sets and stumbles as you swing, to set to number three,
And last, thanks be, she does do just exactly what you say.

But then, of course, she has to do a reel between the men,
While you go reeling merrily between the other pair,
And stretch your hand for her to pull you back to place again,
And finally and naturally your hand grabs empty air.

Bruce McLaren

(Feeling all Gilbertian after a trip to *Iolanthe!*)

NEW RECORDINGS

Leeds Golden Collection – Neil Barron and his Scottish Dance Band (CD £12.00) and *Leeds Branch Golden Anniversary Book* (£5.00) available from RSCDS Leeds Branch Shop at rscdsleeds.uk/index.php

Dances: *Charles Ogden's Jig* (8x32J), *Golden Arc* (8x32R), *Shirley's Strathspey* (3x32S), *The Leccamore Jig* (8x32J), *Jacqui Watson's Strathspey* (3x32S), *All the Eights* (8x32J), *A Twinkle in his Eye* (4x32S), *Nifty Ninety* (3x32R), *Scarborough Castle* (8x32S), *The Cooper Children* (8x40J), *Candyfloss* (3x32S), *Jovial Jack* (8x32R), *South from Oban* (8x40J) (from the *RSCDS Leeds Branch, Tenth Anniversary Book*)

Neil Barron's characteristics of a beautifully integrated, full band sound, largely 'straight' arrangements, with the whole band playing their part, and great tempi really supportive of the dancers, are very much in evidence in this recording, which accompanies *The Leeds Golden Collection* of dances, celebrating the Branch's 50th Anniversary in 2012.

The original tunes, mostly by Neil himself, set things off well – I particularly liked the distinctive *Miss Nicola Gray* for *Jovial Jack* – and the alternative tunes include examples of many of the best composers of tunes over the period of the Leeds Branch's existence, particularly the first part: Andrew Rankine, Bobby Crowe, Rob Gordon, Lindsay Ross and Charlie Sherritt all feature, as well as Neil himself, alongside some traditional tunes. I take slight issue with the approach to *The Cooper Children* (see article p14), but otherwise all are nicely matched.

Scarborough Castle, with an original tune by George Meikle, comprises a lovely set of slow airs, with the band somewhat let off the leash, leading to a lovely rippling and flowing piano accompaniment from Dennis Morrison, and melodic interplay between Neil on accordion and Marie Fielding on the fiddle. Alasdair Macleod is on second box, Billy Craib on bass, and Gordon Smith his usual perky self on the drums. I always enjoy the fact that his drum rhythms are grounded in the tunes he is accompanying, and the distinctive little flourishes that mark up the end of a set of tunes. The CD is an ideal match for some interesting looking dances in the new book, plus *South from Oban* from their 10th Anniversary.

Traditionally Inspired – Matthew MacLennan Scottish Dance Band. CD £12.00 available from matthew-maclennan.co.uk

Tracks: *Postie's Jig* (4x32J), *Lomond Waltz*, 4/4 Marches, *Madge Wildfire's Strathspey* (4x32S), 6/8 Marches, A Scandinavian Sweetie, *Canadian Barn Dance*, A Piping Hot Medley, *Boston Two-Step*, Irish Hornpipes, *Strip the Willow* (4x64J), Gaelic Waltzes, A Reel Irish Finale

Dennis Morrison and Gordon Smith are also on the back row for this debut recording by Matthew MacLennan and his band, with Dennis also credited with the music arrangements. Nicky McMichan on second accordion, Iain Anderson on fiddle and John Sinton make up the band, to create a full and varied six-piece sound.

Matthew is a multiple award-winning accordionist, hailing from Kiltarty, a small village to the west of Inverness, near Beauly, and now based in Edinburgh. His highland roots show in his choice of tunes for this album, for listening and dancing, with an emphasis on Gaelic and pipe tunes, including a great set entitled *A Piping Hot Medley*, taking us from *Lament for Red Iain* through to *The Brown Haired Maid*.

There is less on this for the country dancer, with a 4x32 jig billed as *Postie's Jig*, but with the traditional *Saddle the Pony* as the first tune, and four times through *Madge Wildfire's Strathspey*, well-played, but of limited direct value – it would make an unlikely encore. For listening or for ceilidh purposes it's a tight combination and good variety.

No Half Measures – Alasdair MacCuish & The Black Rose Ceilidh Band. CD (£10.00) or download (£7.49) from www.amazon.co.uk, or download (£7.99) from itunes.apple.com

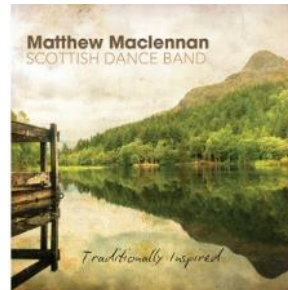
Tracks include: *Highland Barn Dance*, *Eva Three-Step*, *Gaelic Waltz* and other listening tracks.

A third CD that has recently come my way, though it was released a little while ago, is from Alasdair MacCuish and the Black Rose Ceilidh Band, who have played a big part in the Glasgow ceilidh scene over more than 25 years.

This is their fifth release, after a few years "maturing in the cask", as they describe it. Theirs is a distinctively 'modern' sound, reflecting jazz and other influences in the arrangements, through rhythmic, harmonic and melodic touches that can take you by surprise, and won't be to everyone's taste (possibly including my predecessor in the reviewer's chair). I must admit I love it.

The driven style of playing and variety wouldn't really suit country dancing, but in any case this is not a CD intended for dancing, with a range of medleys of tunes, building up from one or two instruments, with slick key, tempo and tune changes. Alasdair's control and variety of accordion sound is masterly, and each of the other band members contributes equally, with some great touches from Russell Hunter on the piano. Once again there is the luxury of a six-piece band, with Marie Fielding on the fiddle, in a somewhat different style than with Neil Barron on his new release (above), Tom Orr (second accordion), Neil MacMillan (bass) and Iain 'Stretch' MacFadyen (drums). Tracks also feature guest artists Chris Stout (fiddle), Gordon Middler (keyboards) and Tony Byrne (guitar), as well as two integrating Julie Fowlis' beautiful Gaelic singing into the band texture. Highly recommended if you are interested in a new approach to the sound of Scottish band music.

Jeremy Hill



BANDS

KAFOOZALUM COUNTRY DANCE BAND

Music for Scottish country dancing anywhere, anytime. For further details and availability, please telephone Peter Jenkins on 020 8581 0359, peter@kafoozalum.co.uk or our Ceilidh website at www.kafoozalum.co.uk

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

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

Soloist: PETER JENKINS

Solo accordion for workshops, classes, day schools and 'smaller functions'. 020 8581 0359 or peter@kafoozalum.co.uk

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

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

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 Derekdexie@aol.com

THE RED RIVER BAND

We are now taking bookings for Scottish country dancing. Having played at informal ceilidhs, weddings, birthdays and Burns' Suppers for decades, we've started to take on dance programmes for local Scottish dance groups. We're happy as a three- or four-piece band. Please contact Edward Bunting on edward.bunting@btinternet.com, 020 8883 1703 or 07748 942 768.

CAN YOU HELP?

The Reel is very fortunate in receiving excellent material from a wide range of contributors. The Editor is very grateful for the support of various people in editing, preparation and reviewing to create the issue you see, but could always use more assistance, for example in editing photos. Some technological knowledge would be useful. If you think you might be able to help in some small way, please contact editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

THE REEL

The Reel is published four times a year by the London Branch and posted free to all Branch members. Non-members may subscribe to be on the mailing list, and clubs can negotiate bulk copies for their members. Enquiries to Wilson Nicol, see advert on p14.

Articles and advertisements for *The Reel* should be sent to the Editor, address at the foot of the front page. Advertising rates are **£13.00 per column inch in black and white, £19.50 per column inch in colour**. Enquiries to the

Going through hoops for the Cooper and his family

The recent publication by the RSCDS Leeds Branch of a collection to celebrate their 50th Anniversary includes *The Cooper Children*, a 40 bar jig (see p13). It takes as its original tune the song *Wee Cooper O'Fife*, with its characteristic phrasing of the 40 bars not as five times eight bars, but four times ten bars. The song was first attached to the dance of the same name in Hugh Foss' *Dances to Song Tunes*, re-published by the RSCDS in 2014, but has already been used in addition for *The Cooper's Wife* (John Mitchell) and *Wee Jessie Cooper* (Arthur C Boswell). It seems the whole family has now got into the act.

The traditional song tells the story of the cooper getting a gentle wife, so careful of her spoiling her comely hue, shaming her gentle kin, or spoiling her gowden ring, that she wadna bake, brew, card, spin, wash or wring. The cooper is reasonable enough not to want to thrash her, but instead lays a sheep skin on her back, which he is prepared to thrash. The wife quickly agrees to take up the various occupations! There is no mention of children.

The Wee Cooper o' Fife

trad arr Peter White

Among published dances of the last 100 years, very few stray from the standard eight bar structure, though I am sure that historically there will have been more dances with phrasing other than the eight bars that we are so used to. In the regularisation of SCD these have been put to one side. I came across one by the name of *Barbarini's Tambourine*, from Walsh's *Caledonian Country Dances – Book the Fourth*, made up from two eight bar phrases and two twelve bar phrases, but this is in a version for English country dancers.

The Princess Royal, with a 28 bar hornpipe tune familiar from the *Fantasia on British Sea Shanties* played on the Last Night of the Proms, is published in RSCDS Book 2, and *Cairn Edward*, in six bar phrases, also devised by Hugh

Foss, had a period of popularity, but neither is common on the dance floor. There are of course others where the deviser has deliberately or inadvertently arranged figures across the eight bar phrasing.

When it comes to finding tunes for the Cooper dances, musicians are also on their mettle, as there are not many ten bar tunes around. Looking through *The Gow Collection*, with over 500 traditional tunes, only three are not in eight bar phrases, and they are all six bar tunes (one reel, one strathspey and one jig). Hugh Foss thoughtfully included arrangements and two alternative tunes in the original *Dances to Song Tunes*, with the help of Peter White who added a second ten to the original ten of the song.

Last May a brow wooer is put forward as an alternative, again with an added second ten bars. The tune given this name was originally called *The Lothian Lassie*, a song that talked about "The Queen o' the Lothians cam cruizin to Fife...to see gin a wooer wad tak her for life". Robert Burns, as so often, saw the potential of the tune, and his version, *Last May a brow wooer*, is an eight verse tale of a young girl falling in love, almost losing her wooer to a cousin, before winning him back for a happy ending. John Mitchell also devised a dance to go with this tune as the original. The third tune in the published set is *O wha's at the window*, from a song by the less well-known composer and poet Robert Archibald Smith, who came from Reading but ended up in Paisley and subsequently Edinburgh.

Neil Barron in his latest recording takes the route of several others in devising some tunes of his own as alternatives. They don't all work equally well, since in this instance two fives are definitely not the same to a listener or dancer as four plus six. Iain Cathcart's recording to accompany the re-published *Dances to Song Tunes* book for the RSCDS last year added other traditional songs, but in some cases repeated the last two bars to make ten instead of eight, also somewhat disconcerting. *O Whistle and I'll Come to You* is a particular example, since the two phrases are eight and ten bars, and therefore suited neither to the (32 bar) original dance of that name or the Cooper dances.

The alternative taken by some bands to play two bars plus eight is also off-putting for the listening dancer, as the whole phrase is across the dance. That's even worse than that situation in a 40 bar dance where the band changes tune out of line at the wrong time, followed by a slight *frissant* as those who have noticed listen out to see whether the band will make adjustment.

When the tunes, sets and dance are all suitably synchronised, the Cooper and his family of dances represent a rather interesting diversion for the more advanced dancer. They are a good reminder of the difference music makes to our dancing – I'm sorry there aren't some other families or dances that also challenge us to listen to and work with the music in quite the same way.

Jeremy Hill

Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club – Dancing Weekend



Ian Robertson and George Meikle made for a wonderful musical combination.

The Berkhamsted Club enjoyed a highly successful weekend in November 2014, comprising a Saturday dance and Sunday Day School.

Saturday night was dedicated to commemorating John Drewry, with a balanced dance programme of his devised dances, plus *John of Bon Accord*, written for him by Roy Goldring. Some dancers may say it was rather a rich diet, but, for me, John devised such a variety of dances of light and shade, so many being very popular in the wider SCD scene and therefore known and easily danced by all. Our programme included many of these, yet it included a smattering of more unusual dances such as *Hunter's*

Moon with *La Baratte*, a much under-used and pretty formation, in my opinion. With George Meikle and Ian Robertson playing, it was a wonderful combination of musical excellence. I liked the diet we were fed! The evening was a sell-out with a waiting list.

Then for Sunday: a relatively early start, at 10am, for the classes in superb sports halls at Abbott's Hill School. The day finished around 6pm after a social dance – quite a tiring day, both mentally and physically.

Our teachers were Eric Finley from Ayr, and, from closer to home, Sam Fairbairn and Rose Kreloff. The musicians were George Meikle again, Ken Martlew and Ian Cutts (now a TV celebrity after he appeared on the BBC4 programme *Dancing Cheek to Cheek*, as dancer, fiddler and even singer! See also *The Reel 290*).

In the advanced class that I attended, we began with a very energetic warm-

up of at least 20 minutes, the like of which I had never seen before, to George's continuous and easy playing. Despite Eric needing a new right hip joint, his footwork was immaculate in his demonstrations (he must have been on tablets). We then tackled an interesting Hugh Foss reel from his *Galloway Album* called *Greenwich Hill*, which had us in a spin from the get-go. The day more or less moved on at the same pace.

For the concluding social, all the musicians joined forces to provide an entertaining musical bash when accordion met piano, and they met fiddle! About 60 came to the day school and all went home feeling they had added to their SCD skills and had a great time in the process. I must admit I was very impressed with my club's organisation to create a really fulfilling weekend. This has become a fixture in our busy calendar. Well done Berkhamsted!

Stephen Webb



Ken Martlew and Eric Finley teamed up for the Sunday advanced class.

Gie her a Haggis!

One of the biggest dates in the Scottish calendar was celebrated on Friday 30 January 2015 when Wembley and District Scottish Association held its Annual Burns' Night Dinner Dance at Northwood Golf Club. This sell-out event is steeped in history and has been a highlight of the Association's year since it was founded over eight decades ago.

The evening followed the traditional pattern for a formal Burns' Night: after a drinks reception in the club lounge, the diners took their places at table, ready for the President and her party to be piped in by our regular piper, Iain Farrell. We encountered a tricky matter of protocol this year, as Iain was also the principal guest, who by tradition should escort the President, Valerie Roig, to table. As Iain could hardly pipe himself in, it fell to his partner, Xuan Li, to accompany Valerie.

After the President said Grace, a haggis, born aloft by the chef, was piped in by Iain and addressed by the Master of Ceremonies, my husband Graham. Not renowned for his Scottish accent, as usual he made up for any lack of linguistic skills with great enthusiasm and a flamboyant wielding of the carving knife in *To a Haggis*.

The splendid three course meal commenced with haggis, neeps and tatties, followed by a choice of sea bass, lamb shank or mushroom stroganoff, with an apple and blackberry strudel for dessert. The head chef, Craig, has earned a fine reputation at

the golf club for his splendid cuisine and the meal lived up to everyone's expectations. As is traditional, at various times during the meal the President 'took wine' with sections of the assembled diners, with everyone getting the chance at some point in the evening to stand and join her in a brief toast.

After dessert, and the loyal toast, coffee was served, and we settled back to hear the main formal speech of the evening, the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. Having been to many Burns' Nights over the years, it never ceases to amaze me that speakers continue to find new angles on Robert Burns, but Iain Farrell did just that. Highlighting his early life, and in particular his education, Iain contrasted Robbie's upbringing and outlook with that of other great Britons such as Samuel Johnson and Winston Churchill. A truly illuminating and interesting speech.

For a number of years now we have been most fortunate to be able to call upon Jeremy and Grace Hill, and friends from various choirs, to give a short recital of Burns' songs. This year there were eight singers, a record for us, and they sang beautiful renditions of *Comin' thro' the Rye*, which Jeremy himself had arranged, and a Vaughan Williams arrangement of *Ca' the Yowes*.

The Toast to the Lassies was then proposed by Keith Jones, with the reply by Kim Franklin: very enjoyable and humorous, these light-hearted

speeches are the perfect culmination to the formal part of the evening.

After the President had said her thank-yous, the hall was prepared for the ceilidh dancing. To the splendid music of Ian and Judith Muir we danced the *Gay Gordons*, *Scotch Mixer*, *The Dashing White Sergeant*, *The Boston Two-Step* (Shetland style), *Canadian Barn Dance* and an *Orcadian Strip the Willow*. All too soon it was time for the last waltz and then the evening was brought to a close with everyone up for *Auld Lang Syne*.

In this day and age, many traditional events are being lost, so it is wonderful to be able to continue to celebrate in such time-honoured fashion. The popularity of this event has never been greater and long may it continue.

Caroline Hamilton
(See photo p11)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH Day School

Saturday 18 April 2015

Including evening social

Reddings Community Centre, Cheltenham
GL51 6RF

Teacher: Fiona Grant

Musician: Keith Anderson

More details and flyer at website:

www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH Afternoon Summer Dance

Saturday 29 August 2015

Davenport House Lawn, Headington School,
Oxford OX3 0BN
(indoors if wet)

Recorded music

Annual Ball

Saturday 24 October 2015

Headington School, Oxford OX3 7TD
Ample free parking & on the London to Oxford
bus route. Bus stops near to the school.

The Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band

Contact Trisha Rawlings, 01869 340830 or

trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com

Full details in next issue or from

www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk

SOUTH EAST REGION TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Workshop

Sunday 22 March 2015

Collingwood School, Springfield Road,
Wallington SM6 0BD

10.30am – 5.00pm

Rediscovering Scottish Country Dances

led by Jimmie Hill with music by Green Ginger

Contact Mike Johnson on 01491 873026

For more details, please see article on p7

MILTON KEYNES RSCDS 36th Annual Ball

Saturday 14 March 2015

Lovat Hall, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes,
MK16 0EJ

Susan MacFadyen's Band

7.30 – 11.30pm

Tickets £18.00

Contact Jan Jones 07877 153259

jange@verybusy.co.uk

www.rscdsmk.co.uk

South East Region Teachers' Association

Our next workshop, "Rediscovering Scottish Country Dances", will be in Wallington on Sunday 22 March, led by Jimmie Hill, and with music by Green Ginger. The day will be devoted to Scottish country dances from the 18th and 19th centuries. The morning session will look at a number of familiar dances, and compare the modern versions we dance today with the original versions, and try to understand the process of reconstruction. The afternoon session will deal with dances as yet unpublished. The purpose of the whole day is for teachers to get together, dance together, discuss together, have some fun together, and in the process come to a better understanding of our unique Scottish country dance tradition. The workshop is open to all experienced dancers. Please contact me for further details and an application form.

SERTA is open to anyone who leads a SCD group, whether qualified or not, those with a dance teaching qualification and those taking teaching courses or interested in doing so. If you wish to join the mailing list or have any queries, please contact me at mikejohnson@waitrose.com 4 Gatehampton Cottages, Gatehampton Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9LX or on 01491 873026.

Mike Johnson

RSCDS SUMMER SCHOOL

26 July – 23 August 2015

Note: later dates are due to the Open Golf
Championship in St Andrews in 2015

University Hall, St Andrews

Director: Ruby Wilkinson

- Attend as resident or non-resident, for any one or two weeks of the four
- Morning classes at all levels, and optional afternoon classes/sessions
- Social dancing every evening, with a ceilidh one evening each week
- Courses for Unit 2 will take place in week 1, Unit 3 in week 2 and Unit 5 in weeks 3 and 4
- Classes leading to the RSCDS Dancing Achievement Award are offered in weeks 1 (Advanced), 2 (Intermediate) and 3 (Very Advanced)
- Musicians' course in week 2
- Family Week – in week 2, 12-15 year olds may attend, with a chaperone, and join in the regular classes and activities
- Tutoring Skills Course in week 3
- A range of prices is available including £540 for a resident and £255 for a non-resident member
- Discounts are available for 12-15 year olds (week 2) and 16-25 year olds
- Other resident, and non-resident options are available

All classes and courses are subject to demand.

Further information and, for the first time, online booking are available at www.rscds.org/article/summer-school-2015

WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT

The RSCDS and the London Branch continue to see the importance of supporting the teachers, musicians and dancers of the future. As such, funds are earmarked for scholarships, for young people (up to the age of 25) to attend RSCDS Residential Schools as a dancer or as a musician; and for any member attending Summer School with a view to taking the RSCDS Teaching Certificate. London Branch also has funds available to give support to any event promoting Scottish country dancing among young people.

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

**ABINGDON SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCE CLUB
Annual Ball**



Saturday 14 March 2015
7.30 – 11.30pm
Abingdon Guildhall, Abbey
Close, Abingdon-on-Thames OX14 3JE

Kafoozalium

Programme: Flight to Melbourne, Bill Clement MBE, Linnea's Strathspey, Bratach Bana, Best Set in the Hall*, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, John of Bon Accord, Quarries' Jig, The Quern, Father Connolly's Jig*, The Reel of the Royal Scots, The Cat & the Fiddle, The Recumbent Stone*, The Gentleman, The Dancing Master, Angus Macleod*, The Singing Sands, Muirland Willie, Shifftin' Bobbins, Scotch Mist, Postie's Jig, Mairi's Wedding

Dances marked * will be walked through once
Tickets £22.00. Purchase before 28 February at
early bird price of £20.00

Includes supper

Contact Hilary, 01235 528154

Cheques (Abingdon Scottish Country Dance
Club) to Ray Hitchins, 15 Hawthorne Avenue,
Oxon OX3 9JQ (please enclose SAE)
abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

**WATFORD & WEST
HERTS SCOTTISH
SOCIETY**



Caledonian Ball
Saturday 21 March 2015
7.30 – 11.30pm

Allum Hall, Allum Lane,
Elstree, WD6 3PJ

**Dancing to Robert Whitlaw and the Danelaw
Band**

Refer to *The Reel* 290 for Programme or see our
website www.watfordscottish.org.uk

Tickets £20.00 include Buffet Supper and
sparkling wine reception

Great band, great venue, great company –
Come and join us!

Ball practice

Sunday 15 March 2015
4.00 – 7.00pm

St Thomas' URC Gymnasium, Langley Road,
Watford, WD17 4PN

Please contact us if you wish to attend

Contact us, 07880 842370 or

rkreloff@hotmail.co.uk



**WEST MACS
Charity Ball**

in aid of Erskine Homes

Saturday 11 April 2015

7.30 – 11.30pm

Bushey Meads School, Bushey WD23 4PA

**Nicol McLaren and the Glencairn Band
MC: Caroline Hamilton**

Programme: Hooper's Jig, Bratach Bana, The
Byron Strathspey, The Kelloholm Jig, Flight to
Melbourne, The Cashmere Shawl, Olive
MacNeil of Hayes, The Irish Rover, Alison
Rose, The Cranberry Tart, Glastonbury Tor,
Butterscotch and Honey, Bill Clement MBE,
Scott Meikle, Gang the Same Gate,
Inchmickery, Swiss Lassie, MacDonald of the
Isles, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder,
The Falls of Rogie

Tickets £18.00 before 4 April, £19.00 thereafter
including supper

Contact Kate Fraser,

WestMACS@greenfordcaledonian.net or
63 Buckingham Close, London W5 ITS

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Spring Dance

Saturday 18 April 2015

7.00 – 11.00pm

Mascalls School, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge
TN12 6LT

Recorded music

Programme: Joie de Vivre, The Cumbræ Reel,
Monymusk, The Dancing Man, Meg Merrilees,
Bonnie Stronshiray, Rye Twist, Welcome to Ayr,
City of Belfast, The Wild Geese, Swiss Lassie,
Catch the Wind, Sleepy Maggie, Sloane Square,
Major Ian Stewart, Polharrow Burn, Linnea's
Strathspey, A Capital Jig, The Fireworks Reel,
The Singing Sands, Good Hearted Glasgow
Tickets £5.00 plus a plate of food each to share
at the buffet

For tickets please send SAE to Colin Simpson,
21 Culverden Avenue, Tunbridge Wells,
Kent TN4 9RE

Contact Colin Simpson,

socialsec@rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

Details also available on

www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk/

**ARGYLL SCOTTISH
DANCING GROUP**



Day School

Saturday 25 April 2015

Edgbarrow School, Crowthorne,

Berkshire RG45 7HZ

**Teachers: Andrew Nolan,
Catherine Smith**

Musicians: Andrew Lyon, Robert Mackay

Contact Gaynor Curtis, 01483 721989 or
60 Bishops Wood, St Johns, Woking Surrey
GU21 3QB

Argyll Weekend

Friday 2 – Sunday 4 October 2015

Dillington House, Somerset TA19 9DT

Dancers' Weekend School:

Teachers: Muriel Johnstone, Duncan Brown

Musicians: Robert Mackay, Judith Muir

Musicians' Weekend School:

Led by Ian Muir

For booking contact Dillington House,
01460 258613 or Dillington House, Ilminster,
Somerset, TA19 9DT

For further information and brochure:

Email dillington@somerset.gov.uk

Website www.dillington.co.uk

www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB

Spring Dance

Saturday 21 March 2015

7.30 – 11.30pm

Charters School, Charters Road, Sunningdale,
Berks SL5 9QY

Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme: The Luckenbooth Brooch, The Tri-
Mariner, Linnea's Strathspey, Quarries' Jig, The
College Hornpipe, Johnnie Walker, Muirland
Willie, The Periwig, Indian River Strathspey,
The Black Mountain Reel, Pelorus Jack, Grand
March & Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder,
The Earl of Mansfield, The Gentleman, The
Zoologist, Nottingham Lace, The Blue Mess
Jacket, Seton's Ceilidh Band, The
Montgomerie's Rant, Jean Martin of Aberdeen,
Widdershins, The Reel of the Royal Scots

Tickets £20.00 (including supper with wine)

Cheques payable to Camberley Reel Club

Please order vegetarian option before 17 March

Contact Maria Gunston, 01276 34609,

22 Woodside, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey
GU17 9JJ or tickets@camberleyreelclub.org.uk

www.camberleyreelclub.org.uk

**BERKHAMSTED
STRATHSPEY & REEL
CLUB**



Spring Dance

Saturday 16 May 2015

Victoria Hall, Tring, HP23 6AA

Sprung dance floor – large car
park nearby

Jim Lindsay with Ian Robertson

Programme available on website

Raffle, Bar, Bring & Share Buffet

Admission by tickets £12.00, from

treasurer@berkhamstedreelclub.org

Contact Gerry Elliott, 01442 832753

Tickets also available via website and PayPal

www.berkhamstedreelclub.org



**RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/
SURREY BORDER
BRANCH**



Branch Day School

Saturday 14 March 2015

Garth Hill College, Bull Lane,

Bracknell, Berkshire RG42 2AD

Teachers: Lindsey Ibbotson, Alice Stainer

Musicians: Robert Mackay, Judith Muir

Musicians' Tutor: Ian Muir

Contact Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

Branch Ball

Saturday 16 May 2015

Emmbrook School, Wokingham, Berkshire

RG41 1JP

The Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Joie de Vivre, The Cumbræ Reel,
The Braes of Tulliemet, The Last of the Lairds,
Milton's Welcome, Argyll Strathspey,
Gothenburg's Welcome, The Ladies of Dunse, A
Summer Meeting, The Dancing Master, The
Rutland Reel, The Silver Tassie, The
Nurseryman, Polharrow Burn, Scarborough
Castle, Links with St Petersburg, Back to the
Fireside, Neidpath Castle, Miss Allie Anderson,
The Deil amang the Tailors

Contact Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

Afternoon Tea Party

Sunday 5 July 2015

2.30 – 5.30pm

Normandy Village Hall, Glazier's Lane,

Normandy GU3 2DD

Ian and Judith Muir

More details to follow

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

**REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY
DANCING CLUB**

Formal Dance

Saturday 14 March 2015

7.30 – 11.00pm

Reigate School, Pendleton Road, Reigate,

Surrey RH2 7NT

Strathallan

Programme: Catch the Wind, The Chequered
Court, The Moray Rant, John of Bon Accord,
The Flying Spur, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, The
Plantation Reel, The Duchess Tree, The Bees of
Maggielknockater, St Columba's Strathspey, The
Roselath Cross, The Falls of Rogie, John
McAlpin, The Dancing Master, The Australian
Ladies, Neidpath Castle, Inchmickery, The Reel
of the 51st Division

Tickets £17.00 including buffet

Contact Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or

wmitton517@btinternet.com

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

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



Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 – 10.30pm unless otherwise stated

Saturday 7 March:**Frank Thomson duo**
Saturday 11 April:**Kafoozalum**
Saturday 9 May:**Ian Muir (Prestwick)**
Saturday 6 June (7.00 – 11.00pm):
..... **Marian Anderson**

Programmes & cribs are now available on our website:

www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

For further details, contact Catriona Bennett on 020 8544 5558 or cmb84scd@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening.

Scottish Country Dance Weekend



June 19th - 20th 2015

at
St. Mary's Church Centre,
Peterborough PE1 1TT

Friday 19th June

Social Dance to Ian Slater

with Bring & Share Supper & raffle in aid of charity

Saturday 20th June

Two classes taught by **Graham Donald** and **Sue Ronald**
with musicians **Marlon Turnock** and **David Page & Debbie Hammond**

Buffet Supper at 6 pm

followed by

Social Dance to the School Musicians

Application form and further details from:

Amanda Peart, Weekend Co-ordinator,
2 Deeping Road, Boston,
Peterborough PE6 9NP

Tel: 01778 560433 email: amandapeart@thesundayclass.org.uk
www.peterboroughrscds.org.uk

with support from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund

IAN & VAL MCFARLANE

cordially invite their dancing friends to an extra special to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary

Scottish/English Dance

Sunday 28 June 2015

3.00 – 8.30pm

Please note earlier start time!

The Beaconsfield School, Beaconsfield,

Buckinghamshire HP9 1SJ

Superb music provided by

Mollie Koenigsberger and Ali Ellacott, and Belshazzars Feast

Contact Ian & Val McFarlane, 01494 672782 or

www.mcf107.com

SOUTH EAST DANCE DIARY

The diary is available through the Branch website at www.rscdslondon.org.uk and is regularly updated. If you don't have internet access and would like a hard copy of the latest version please send an SAE to Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW.

All societies in the South East are invited to submit their functions for inclusion in the diary by emailing Caroline Hamilton at diary@rscdslondon.org.uk or by post to the above address.

GUILDFORD SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Spring Dance

Saturday 2 May 2015

7.30 – 11.30pm

Drinks Reception from 7.00pm

Normandy Village Hall, Glaziers Lane,
Normandy, Surrey GU3 2DT

Sandy Nixon and his Scottish Dance Band

Programme information contact Mike Anning

Tickets £15.00

Contact Mike Anning, 01483 534946 or preferably by email mjn.anning@gmail.com
www.gscdc.org.uk



HARWELL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Spring Ball

Saturday 25 April 2015

7.30 – 11.30pm

Old Mill Hall, Grove, Oxfordshire OX12 7LB

The Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Granville Market, Anniversary Reel, Linnea's Strathspey, The Wee Cooper O' Fife, Rye Twist, Sugar Candie, Harlequin, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, City of Belfast, The Irish Rover, A Trip to Bavaria, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, 1314, The Black Mountain Reel, The Bees of Maggielknockater, Orwell Lodge Strathspey, The Montgomerie's Rant, S-Locomotion, Pelorus Jack, The Reel of the 51st Division

Tickets £18.00 (students, spectators £13.00)

Including supper by Grove WI

Contact Malcolm Austen, 01235 533626/
07828 032468 or ball@harwellscdc.mno.org.uk

Large SAE 11 Corn Avill Close, Abingdon,
OX14 2ND

Full details including flyer on our website

www.harwellscdc.mno.org.uk

MacLENNAN SCOTTISH GROUP

33rd International Folkdance and Music Festival

Weekend 22 – 25 May 2015

including

International Folkdance

with our international and local guests including

Swedish, Basque, Morris, and Scottish

Saturday 23 May

8.00 – 11.00pm

Tickets Adults £7.50 (concessions £6.00)

Children £3.00

International Folk Dance Concert

Sunday 24 May

2.00 – 5.30pm

Tickets Adults £7.50 (concessions £6.00)

Children £3.00



Note venue for both events: The Priory School,

Tintagel Road, Orpington, Kent BR5 4LG

Licensed bar, refreshments and stalls

Family and weekend discounts available

Contact Catriona Bennett, 020 8544 5558 or

festival@msg.org.uk

www.msg.org.uk

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Spring Dance

Saturday 28 March 2015

7.00 – 11.00pm

St Andrew's URC Hall, Eastcote, HA5 2SH

Ian Muir (Prestwick) and Bob Parsons

Tickets £13.00

Contact Gail Bignell, 020 8868 9064 or

gail.bignell@talktalk.net

Programme and cribs available at

www.harrowscottish.org.uk

RSCDS CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH

Annual Dance

Saturday 14 March 2015

7.30 – 11.30pm

Impington Village College, Impington

CB24 9LX

Green Ginger

Programme: Hooper's Jig, Flowers of Edinburgh, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, The Fairbridge Reel, Seann Truibhas Willichan, Tribute to the Borders, The Braes of Breadalbane, The Clansman, Oh, whistle and I'll come tae ye, my Lad, The Saltire Society Reel, The Diamond Jubilee, Gang the Same Gate, Jennifer's Jig, The Flower of Glasgow, The Ladies of Dunse, Sugar Candie, The Last of the Lairds, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran

Ladies' Step classes

Saturdays 1 & 29 March 2015

Centre at St Paul's, Hills Rd, Cambridge

CB2 1JP

Teacher: **Kate Gentles**

Musician: **Lindsey Ibbotson**

Contact Lindsey Ibbotson, 07977 905291 or

lindsey.ibbotson@gmail.com

www.rscds-cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Annual Ball

Saturday 2 May 2015

7.00 for 7.30 – 11.30pm

Impington Village College, Cambridge

CB24 9LX

Danelaw Band

Programme: The Falls of Rogie, Muirland Willie, The Blue Mess Jacket, Nottingham Lace, The Kelloholm Jig, Linnea's Strathspey, Rye Twist, Father Connelly's Jig, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, The Recumbent Stone, Miss Johnstone of Ardrrossan, The Minister on the Loch, John of Bon Accord, The Immigrant Lass, Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord, The Cocket Hat, The Earl of Mansfield, Stephen's Web, Quarries' Jig, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran

Tickets £15.00 plus shared refreshments

Contact Donald Wilson, 01954 210683

www.camscotsoc.org.uk

LONDON BRANCH DIARY DATES

Wednesday 27 May: Summer Wednesday Dance (7.00 – 10.00pm) – **Sandra Smith & Barbara Manning**

Saturday 13 June: Family Day (2.00 – 4.30pm), AGM (6.45pm) and End of Season Dance – **Barbara Manning and Callum Mitchell**

SEASON 2015-16

Saturday 12 September: New Season Dance – **George Meikle & The Lothian Band**

Saturday 17 October: Day School and Evening dance with ceilidh items – **Nicol McLaren and the Musicians**

Saturday 31 October: RSCDS London Branch 85th Anniversary Celebration Dance – **The Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band** (see p9)

Saturday 12 December: Christmas Dance – **Dave Hall & His Scottish Dance Band**

Saturday 16 January: Musicians' Ceilidh Workshop led by **Ian Robertson** and Burns' Ceilidh Dance and Supper – **Ian Robertson and the Musicians**

Saturday 19 March: Combined Societies' Dance – **Ian Muir of Prestwick**

For further details see future editions of *The Reel* and www.rscdslondon.org.uk



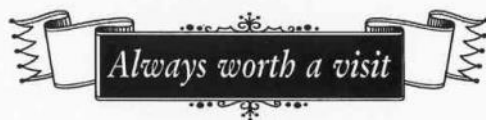
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OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB. Dancing most Mondays, 8–10.15pm, Sept–June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details: Morag Liddell, 38 The Holt, Abingdon, OX14 2DR, moragian@sky.com or www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15–10.15pm Sept–May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Val Clack, 01932 845869 or www.addlestonescottish.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 8pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Gerard Elliott, 10 Dinmore, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 0QQ, 01442 832753 or www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS. Technique Class, alternate Mondays, starting on Monday 8 September 2014, 8–10pm Finchampstead Memorial Hall, RG40 4JU. General Class, every Wednesday, starting on Wednesday 10 September 2014, 8–10pm, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church Hall, Frimley, GU16 7AA. Teacher: Mervyn Short. Details: Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at St Andrew's Church Hall, Millhams Road, Kinson, Bournemouth, BH10 7LN 7.30–10pm. Alternate Wednesday Technique class, by invitation. Details: Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Road, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX, 01202 698138

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 or www.rscds-brighton.org.uk

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

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 8pm at St Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Janette Walton, 32 Moulsham Lane, Yateley, Hants GU46 7QY, 01252 875511

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for all grades. Details: Lindsey Ibbotson, 07977905291 or lindsey.ibbotson@gmail.com

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY Scottish country dancing and other events. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8pm from Sept–June. Details: Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or www.camscotsoc.org.uk

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

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30–10pm from October to end May, at St Andrew's URC, Montpellier Street,

Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN, 01242 528220 or mbsteele1945@aol.com

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

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meet on Sundays 6–9.15pm, Sept–June, in the Upper Hall at St Michaels & All Angels Church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Road, London W4 1TX (turn right out of Turnham Green tube station, 70 yards). Check www.chiswickscottish.org.uk for beginners and experienced dancers' start times and all activities. Details: Heather Nolan, 01784 256549 or secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk

CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets Thursdays 8–10pm Sept–June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details: Mrs Lee Pratt 01403 269439 or chrisp@fastnet.co.uk or www.crawleyscdc.btck.co.uk

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH. Branch classes in Coulsdon: General, incl Beginners with technique (Fri); Advanced & Improvers (Wed) 8–10pm St Andrew's Church, Woodcote Grove Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2AJ. Details: Ian Tucker, 01306 741690 or ian.tucker.at.home@gmail.com or www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

DULWICH Scottish Country Dancers meet on alternate Tuesdays between September and June from 7.30–10pm (later when we have live music) at St Barnabas Hall in Dulwich Village. Teacher Peter Knight. Enquiries Lindsay Merriman 020 8693 2182 or Michael Merifield 020 8693 624

EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Club night Mondays (all year) 8–10pm at Christchurch Parish Hall, Wanstead Place, Wanstead, E11 2SW. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or angelaross87@hotmail.com or www.efsa.org.uk

EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION General dancing Mondays, 7.30–10pm, Tweddle Hall, St Andrew's URC, Northey Avenue, Cheam, SM2 7HF. Teacher: Pauline Cashmore, 020 8686 9362. Details: Dorothy Pearson, 01737 551724 or pearson2902@tiscali.co.uk

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8pm, Sept–end of April at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details: Pippa Peatman 01256 703909 or p_peatman@yahoo.com or www.fscdc.co.uk

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30–10pm, Sept–May. Details: Morna Partridge, 01252 711992 or morna.partridge@btinternet.com

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays from

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- Sept–June. Beginners 7.30pm, General 8.15pm. Details: Celia Stuart-Lee, 01753 884217 or info@gxscottish.org.uk or www.gxscottish.org.uk
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8–10.30 p.m. Details: Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF, 0203 078 0018
- GUILDFORD SCD meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford, GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8pm from Sept–June. Details: 01483 456091 or www.gscdc.org.uk
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Tuesdays Sept–June from 8–10pm in The Parlour, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF, 020 8870 6131
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday at 8pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8pm. Details: Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts AL3 5RE, 01727 863870
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Classes Wednesdays 8.15–10.15pm, St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details: Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner, HA5 3QR, 020 8428 6055 or www.harrowscottish.org.uk
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Fridays 8–10pm, Sept–July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, 020 8560 6160
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB. Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30–11pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 0208 440 3236 or margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS meet Wednesdays Sept–June at Holy Trinity & St John's C. of E. Primary School, St John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7–8pm. General 8–10pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent, 01843 869284
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP. Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinity, Jersey JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or icchanjoy@gmail.com Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@gmail.com or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB meets regularly at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: adverts in *The Reel*, Catriona Bennett, 33 Pains Close, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1BY, cmb84scd@gmail.com or 020 8544 5558 or www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB meets Thursdays 8pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL, 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday 8pm at St Piran's School, Gringer Hill, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7LZ. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372 or maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP meets every Wednesday 7.30–10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details: Dick Barford, 55 Northumberland Road, Maidstone ME25 7JG, 01622 685984
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing Thursdays 8–10.15pm at St Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent DA12 3HL, 01474 822919
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB meets every Monday evening from September – June at 8.15–10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details: Mrs Jane Whittington, 5 Coldharbour Rd., Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AE, 01474 359018
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS. Mixed ability class Mondays 8–10pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5LP, 01908 378730 or jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB. Dancing most Wednesdays during school term, 8.15–10.15pm from Sept–May at St Thomas' Church Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, SG6 4DZ. Informal Saturday dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds SG17 5AL or 01462 812691
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dancing 7.45–10pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 9UN, 01634 254451
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday 8–10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners'/Improvers' Class every Monday 8–10.15pm at St Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or hadyndavies@gmail.com
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS. Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET, 01869 340830
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY. Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading, RG1 5BD from 8–10pm, Sept–May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st & 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Margaret Spiceley 0118 978 7181 or sascdo1@gmail.com or 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
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8pm from mid Sept. to end of May. Details: 020 8943 3773 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP. Dancing Tues 8pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Scottish country dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15–10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns' Nights when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Details: Denise Haugh, 020 8392 2920 or dhaugh200@btinternet.com or www.stcolumbasdancers.org
- ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM meet every Thurs 8–10.15pm Sept–June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Sue Davis 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne, 01344 774344 or alan.suedavis@gmail.com Also Children's Class Sats 9.30–11am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT hold weekly classes for all levels of dancers on Monday evenings from 7.30–9.30pm at Collingwood School, Springfield Road, Wallington, SM6 0BD. Details: Maggie Westley, 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157, or westley.maggie14@gmail.com
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB meets every Tuesday from Sept–May, 8–10pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Mrs Josephine Ellis, 26 Byng Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8EJ or josephine@ellismp.plus.com
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday from Sept–May, 8.15–10.15pm, in Barnes. Details: Sheena Clarke, 07954 350899
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Wednesdays from 8–10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin, 48 Eastbrook Road, Blackheath SE3 8BT, 020 8856 4522
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing at St Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30–10pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Fridays, 7.30–10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30–9pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS. Classes in Hertford, Sept–May: Int/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Hollybush School, Hertford SG14 2DF; Beginners/Improvers Thurs 8pm, Guide Hut, West Street, Hertford SG13 8EZ. Details: Martin Hirst, 01992 412833 or sehscds@hotmail.com. For Demonstration class contact Anne Nutt 01992 550923
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday at 8pm 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
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS. Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8–10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8–10pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9AL. Details: George Daly, 1 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5UE, 01892 534512 or www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY. General and Beginners'/Improvers' Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey, WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8–10pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford, WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Wednesdays 8–10pm Sept–June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dance Class Mondays 8pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, WD19 5HF, 020 3078 0018
- WIMBLEDON. St Andrew Society (London): Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8pm at Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1SB. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3JB, 020 8540 1755 or araffan@googlemail.com or www.standrewsoclondon.net/ne.net
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS. Classes Tuesdays 8–10pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8–10pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ, 01264 363293 or wendy@mumford.com
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Wednesday 8–10pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Alex Daniel, 01621 855548 or alexsdaniel@aol.com



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The Reel congratulates Stephen Webb, multiple contributor and reviewer, on his recent 70th birthday, celebrated in style in January with a dance at Allum Hall, Elstree. Over 160 dancers gathered for an excellent evening, dancing to the music of Ian Robertson and his Band. **Top:** Stephen turns Wendy Carse in *Stephen's Web*, a dance she devised as a gift; and, **below left**, cutting the beautiful cake prepared by Pauline Cashmore (in background). **Below right**, one of Stephen's photos: at the Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club Christmas Party, 16 December 2014, Dawn Dorman and Janet Ridgway join up in festive mood.

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