



The Reel



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SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2021

Scottish country dancing -
For fun, fitness and
friendship

London Branch Dances



COVID-19 Forecast



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

New Season Dance

Saturday 18 September 2021

7.00 - 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street
SW1X 0BD

David Hall and his Scottish Dance Band

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

Admission includes refreshments
and a glass of wine

RSCDS Members £15, non-members £18
full time students (with card) and
spectators £9

Children (under 16) free

Tickets to be purchased on the door
All dances will be recapped

Crib available at www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Autumn Wednesday Dance

Wednesday 27 October 2021

7.00 - 10.00pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street
SW1X 0BD

Chris Oxtoby

The Highland Fair	8x32 J
Currie Mountain	8x32 R
Lady Glasgow	8x32 S
Flowers of Dunbeg	5x32 R
It's All Right	8x32 J
Butterscotch and Honey	4x32 S
Good Hearted Glasgow	8x32 J

Cramond Bridge	8x32 R
Seann Truibhas Willichan	8x32 S
Granville Market	8x32 J
Catch the Wind	8x32 R
The Silver Grey	4x32 S
Inchmickery	5x32 J
Round Reel of Eight	Sq 88 R

Extras:

The Buttercup	8x40 J
Jessie's Hornpipe	8x32 R

Admission includes light refreshments

RSCDS members £12, non-members £14
full time students (with card) and
spectators £7
Children (under 16) free
Tickets to be purchased on the door
All dances will be recapped/walked through

Crib available at www.rscdslondon.org.uk



Grand Autumn Ball

Saturday 16 October 2021

Welcome reception 6.30pm

Carriages 11.30pm

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

Ian Muir and The Craiggellachie Band

Miss Hadden's Reel	8x32 J
Fraser's Favourite	8x32 R
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	8x32 S
Miss Allie Anderson	8x32 J
Lady Susan Stewart's Reel	8x32 R
The Gentleman	8x32 S
The Dancing Master	Sq 96 J
Argyll Strathspey	8x32 S
The Westminster Reel	8x32 R

Major Ian Stewart	8x32 J
The Earl of Mansfield	8x48 R
The Glasgow Highlanders	8x32 S
Farewell to Balfour Road	96 J
Cramond Bridge	8x32 R
Culla Bay	4x32 S
The New Rigged Ship	8x48 J
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	3x32 S
The Montgomerie's Rant	8x32 R

Plus 90th Anniversary Dance Competition
winning dance

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

Tickets, including a two course
buffet supper, to be purchased in advance
RSCDS members £40, non-members £45

Further information including application
forms are available to download from
www.rscdslondon.org.uk
or can be obtained by sending an email to
90anniversary@rscdslondon.org.uk

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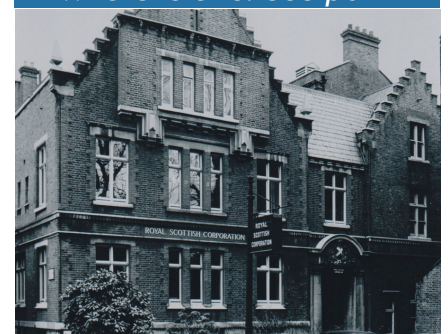
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From the Chair: Joanne Lawrence



With any new role it is always instructive to see how others have approached its various tasks. As the very new Chair of RSCDS London Branch, whilst still a comparatively new dancer (since 2014), it made sense to look back at earlier columns for guidance and inspiration.

The first *Reel* columns from recent new chairs have followed a general pattern. Acknowledgement of the honour in being asked to take on the role, recognition of the immense contribution of those who have gone before, promotion of the many enticing dance opportunities of the new season and a sombre reflection on the need to recruit young dancers combined with a call to members to support the Branch in whatever way they can.

This column is, I suppose, no different and yet the times we live and hope to dance in have no precedent in the history of the RSCDS. As I write, there have been no London Branch dances or classes for more than 15 months but the remaining COVID-19 restrictions in England are due to be lifted and we are starting to believe that we may indeed dance together once more.

I am grateful to outgoing Chair, Jim Cook, for his steady support of a dancing community unable to dance; to his immediate predecessor, Margaret Catchick, whose commitment to the Branch in general and its 90th Anniversary celebration in particular, endured and gave hope to many of us, despite repeated setbacks; and to Andrew Kellett, London Branch chair 2013-16, who, as RSCDS Chair 2018-20, had the unenviable task of leading the global Scottish country dance community at a time when physical contact and travel was forbidden. I am truly honoured to follow where they, and others, have led.

I am proud to be part of a Society that has kept its members in touch with each other and dancing albeit in kitchens and in sitting rooms. The Society newsletter and weekly classes threw us a lifeline when we were suddenly bereft of all usual social outlets. In London, members responded magnificently to Branch communications and the eUpdate was rarely short of imaginative videos, dances, quizzes and reflective articles. As the year wore on, we ventured into virtual events and were again brilliantly supported by the musicians, singers, dancers, speakers, quiz setters and all attendees in the community, peaking with 330 logons from 13 different countries for the Burns Night at Home (subsequently viewed a further 730 times online).

We have learned a lot in the last year. From feedback in the members' survey, we know that the great appetite for a safe return to dance is tempered with concern about late night travel and increased costs from the congestion charge and ULEZ. We have realised that the virtual events can have a role long after the pandemic in improving access to the Branch's activities for those prevented, by health or distance, from attending in person. We have quantified what we already knew: that the lack of younger dancers represents a growing generation gap which must be bridged if our family class members are to keep dancing in their teen years and beyond.

As the new season opens, momentum will rebuild swiftly from the New Season dance with the resumption of classes, 90th Anniversary Ball, Autumn Wednesday dance and Day School all before the end of October. But, alongside this welcome resumption of all that London Branch does well, we need more. We cannot secure the future of the Branch by simply doing what has always been done and, during the long months of lockdown, inspired by the feedback from members and friends of the Branch, the management committee has begun to develop ideas of what might be possible with the right approach and support. We will share more of these ideas in the coming months and invite input from all.

COVID-19 may have removed dance abruptly from our lives, but London Branch members and other dancers have shown that the heart of the community is strong. Dance will return and each of us has a role to play in helping it to grow and to flourish. I look forward to talking, working and dancing with you.

PS: I was honoured to receive a Branch award at the recent AGM for work on the eUpdate and virtual meetings. As noted above, these represented the contributions of a wide swathe of Branch members and friends. It has been a privilege to work with each one.

From the Outgoing Chair: Jim Cook



At our Branch AGM, the reins of being Chair were passed to Joanne. I therefore thank the Branch for the honour of my being Chair for the last two years. I also thank the Committee, and all those who have supported me in so many ways, during this trying period for the Branch and the world.

I think I can safely say that no Chair has ever presided over such a period before, thanks to COVID-19. Let us hope that no future Chair experiences anything similar. However, my Chairmanship ended on a high note with the announcement at our Branch AGM of the Branch Awards to be presented to Joanne Lawrence, Meryl and Ian Thomson and Stephen Webb. As you will read on p12, I presented Meryl and Ian with their actual award at their home. But, with the demise of our 90th Anniversary Garden Party in July, Joanne and Stephen's presentation will now take place at our Grand Ball.

But now is the time to look ahead. A full programme of classes and dances is planned and, to lead the way, I welcome Joanne as our new Chair. Joanne has excellent plans for the future, and it makes so much sense for the Branch to start afresh in all respects with the commencement of the new season. Meanwhile, as Vice Chair, I shall be supporting Joanne and, alongside her, I shall be promoting the Branch's activities.

I therefore wish Joanne and the Branch every success for the future.

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE
SOCIETY



Patron: H M The Queen
President: Jean Martin
Chairman: Lorna Ogilvie

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LONDON BRANCH

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Danielle Reinstein, Jerry Reinstein,
Rosemary Tilden

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Committee

Classes.....Jenny Kendrick
Dances..... Margaret Shaw
Communications..... Joanne Lawrence
..... /Mel Rowland
Demonstration Team Elaine Davies
Other roles Margaret Moore
..... George Potts, Thelma-Jane Robb

Non-Executive roles

Hon. Archivist..... Rachel Wilton
Day School..... Margaret Catchick
Family Jenny Kendrick
90th Anniversary Margaret Catchick
Membership & Subscribers .. Gaynor Curtis
The Reel Edward Bunting, Simon Wales
The Reel Business Editor.... Jeff Robertson
Webmaster Meryl Thomson

www.rscdslondon.org.uk

www.facebook.com/RSCDSLONDON

[@LondonRSCDS](https://twitter.com/LondonRSCDS)

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



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

Membership and *The Reel* Subscription

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

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

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

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

Day School Evening Dance

Saturday 30 October 2021
6.00 - 9.00pm

St Helen's School, Eastbury Road,
Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3AS
Jim Lindsay and the Day School Musicians

Miss Hadden's Reel	8x32 J
The College Hornpipe	8x32 R
Midsummer Common	8x32 S
The Hollin Buss	8x32 J
The Music Makars	8x32 R
Jean Martin of Aberdeen.....	3x32 S
Mrs MacLeod	8x32 R
Catch the Wind.....	8x32 R
The Wild Geese	8x32 J
Seann Truibhas Willican.....	8x32 S
Polharrow Burn	5x32 R
Miss Allie Anderson	8x32 J
The Silver Tassie	8x32 S
Mairi's Wedding	8x40 R

Admission includes light refreshments

There will be ceilidh items during the evening, and anyone who wishes to volunteer an item should contact Margaret Catchick (details on p5)

RSCDS members £7, non-members £8

Tickets available in advance with Day School bookings or can be purchased on the door

All dances will be recapped/walked through

Crib available at www.rscdslondon.org.uk

See p5 for details of the Day School, or visit the website for more information and to download the application forms

Remaining Dances in 2021 - 22 Season

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

15 January 2022 - Burns Ceilidh with
The Caledonian Reelers

16 February - Winter Wednesday
1 June - Summer Wednesday
11 June - AGM Social



Christmas Dance

Saturday 11 December 2021
7.00 - 10.30pm

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

Marian Anderson and her
Scottish Country Dance Band

EH3 7AF	8x32 J
Jessie's Hornpipe	8x32 R
Delvin Side.....	8x32 S
Jennifer's Jig.....	8x32 J
The Earl of Mansfield	4x48 R
Sands of Morar	8x32 S
The Hollin Buss.....	8x32 J
Autumn in Appin	4x32 S
College Hornpipe	8x32 R

Gothenburg's Welcome	8x32 J
Midsummer Common	8x32 S
The Rutland Reel	8x40 R
The Dancing Master	Sq 96 J
Margaret Parker's Strathspey	8x32 S
Polharrow Burn	5x32 R
The Nurseryman	8x32 J
Miss Eleanor	3x32 S
Sleepy Maggie	8x32 R

Admission includes seasonal refreshments and a glass of wine

RSCDS Members £20, non-members £23
full time students (with card) and
spectators £11
Children (under 16) free

Tickets to be purchased on the door

All dances will be recapped

Crib available at www.rscdslondon.org.uk

South East Dance Diary

The diary on the Branch website is regularly updated, and all societies in the South East may submit details of their functions.

For a hard copy, please send an SAE to Caroline Hamilton.

Email diary@rscdslondon.org.uk or by post to Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW.

Branch Accounts 2020 - 21: Treasurer, Simon Wales



To say that this was not the most active year in the Branch's 90 year history would be somewhat of an understatement! Despite the fact that there was no activity on classes, dances, family classes, or demonstration team, we

were legally required to produce accounts for our AGM, which were approved by the members present. Here is a summary of the published accounts.

At 31 March 2021 the Branch's net worth of £76,641 was represented by the undernoted funds:

	2021	2020
General Fund	70,284	56,759
Ireland Fund	3,644	3,644
Anniversary Fund	2,069	2,069
Wilson Nicol	464	464

Total net worth £76,461 £62,936

There was a net operating surplus of £3,957 (budget was to break even) and an unrealised gain on investments of £9,568, recouping most of the 2019-2020 losses.

Publicity and *The Reel*

The Reel made a loss of £1,658. This was mainly due to a loss of advertising revenue, partly offset by producing slightly smaller editions. There was £151 expenditure on publicity for the website.

Membership

Membership numbers have reduced but not significantly, and we are grateful to our loyal members for their continued support. London Branch benefited by £441 as a result of the reduction of the HQ levy.

Donations and Legacies

Donations and legacies raised £1,548 most of which benefited from HMRC gift aid.

Looking forward

We have committed to spending this unbudgeted surplus to kick start events in the coming season.

London Branch Classes



Set yourself a fun challenge join a Scottish country dance class

We have classes for...

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

Plans are in place for a return to classes in September 2021. London Branch will be monitoring government guidance on COVID-19 and will run classes accordingly. Check www.rscdslondon.org.uk as the latest position may change week to week.

Park Walk Primary School

Park Walk, London SW10 0AY

Autumn Term

Weeks 1 - 5

Wednesdays 22 September - 20 October
7.00 - 9.00pm

Return to Dancing General Class

with teacher Pat Davoll

A gentle return to dancing for dancers of all levels

Half-term Wednesday 27 October

Weeks 6 - 10

Wednesdays 3 November - 1 December
7.00 - 9.00pm

Beginners and Improvers

with teacher Davinia Miln

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

Technique Class for Intermediate and Advanced Dancers

with teacher Simon Wales

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

Christmas Party: 8 December 2021

with MC Simon Wales

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

Underground: South Kensington, Sloane Square

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

Buses: 11, 22, 19, 49, 328, 319, 345
Note: From 25 October, Park Walk will be in the [Ultra Low Emission Zone \(ULEZ\)](#)

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

Contact: Jenny Kendrick:
classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

St Columba's Church

Upper Hall, Pont St, London SW1X 0BD

Autumn Term

Wednesdays 22 September - 15 December
2.30 - 4.30pm 12 weeks

Half-term Wednesday 27 October

Mixed Ability

with teacher Jeni Rutherford

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

Class fee: £7 per class to recorded music

Underground: Knightsbridge, Sloane Square

Buses: 19, 22, 137, 452, C1

Note: From 25 October, Pont Street will be in the [Ultra Low Emission Zone \(ULEZ\)](#)

Contact Jeni Rutherford:

jeni.rutherford@virginmedia.com

Richmond

Richmond Library Annexe, Quadrant Road,
Richmond TW9 1DH

Autumn Term

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

Half-term Wednesday 27 October

Beginners and Improvers

with teacher Judith Jones

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

Class fee: £6 per class to recorded music

Underground/Train: Richmond

Buses: H37, 65, R68, R70, 110, 190, 371,
419, 490

Contact: Jenny Kendrick:

classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Families in London Dance Scottish

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



Coram's Fields

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

Sundays March 27 and May 8 2022
(subject to confirmation by the venue)

11.30am - 1.30pm

Technique Class for Advanced and Very Advanced Dancers



Teachers

Mervyn Short

27 March

and musicians to be confirmed

Joan Desborough

8 May

A class aimed at advanced and very advanced dancers who are able to perform and execute all steps and formations to a high standard of dancing and assimilate instructions quickly

Class fee: £9 per class for RSCDS members
£10 per class for non-RSCDS members

Underground: Russell Square

Free on-street parking available

Note: Coram's Fields is in the [Ultra Low Emission Zone \(ULEZ\)](#)

For details contact Jenny Kendrick
classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Representing the Branch

The demonstration team will resume its activities in the autumn.

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

Please contact Elaine Davies on demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk if you are interested and would like more information.

RSCDS London Branch Day School and Musicians' Workshop

Saturday 30 October 2021

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

Teachers



Fiona Mackie



David Queen



Mervyn Short



Alice Stainer



Jim Lindsay

This year the classes will be Very Advanced, Advanced, Mixed Ability and Improvers levels:

Very Advanced - Applicants must be able to perform and execute all steps and formations to a very high standard of dancing. They must also be able to illustrate good phrasing, handing and covering and be able to assimilate instructions quickly, sustaining a high level of performance throughout the class.

Advanced - Applicants must be very good dancers with a sound knowledge of all steps and formations and be able to execute them accurately. In addition, dancers should possess quick powers of assimilation of instruction and be able to maintain a good level of performance throughout the class.

Mixed Ability - Applicants should have a good standard of dancing and a sound knowledge of steps and formations and be looking to improve their personal technique.

Newcomers & Improvers - Applicants should have knowledge of basic steps and formations and be looking to improve on this.

Musicians



Adam Brady



Jeremy Hill



Barbara Manning



Ian and Meryl Thomson

Day School Programme

Time	Activity		
10.00 - 10.30	Enrolment and coffee		
Morning session	Class	Teacher	Musician
	Very Advanced	David Queen	Adam Brady
	Advanced	Fiona Mackie	Barbara Manning
	Mixed Ability	Mervyn Short	Jeremy Hill
	Newcomers & Improvers	Alice Stainer	Ian & Meryl Thomson
Musicians' Workshop	Jim Lindsay		
12.30 - 2.00	Lunch		
	A lunch may be purchased comprising a baked potato or rice with a choice of fillings and dessert. Alternatively, there are facilities for packed lunches or pubs and cafés in the local area.		
Afternoon session	Class	Teacher	Musician
	Very Advanced	Fiona Mackie	Adam Brady
	Advanced	David Queen	Barbara Manning
	Mixed Ability	Alice Stainer	Jeremy Hill
	Newcomers & Improvers	Mervyn Short	Ian & Meryl Thomson
Musicians' Workshop	Jim Lindsay		
4.00 - 4.30	Tea		
Optional extras	Class	Teacher	Musician
	Dances from the evening programme	Fiona Mackie & Mervyn Short	Ian & Meryl Thomson
	Highland Scottish Step	David Queen Alice Stainer	Jeremy Hill Barbara Manning
	If you do not wish to do anything too active, you may prefer to enjoy some free time before the evening dance. The choice is yours.		
6.00 - 9.00	Evening dance with Ceilidh items. Dancing will be to Jim Lindsay and the Day School Musicians, for programme see p3. Tickets are available in advance from Margaret Catchick or on the door.		

Musicians' Workshop Led by accordionist and band leader Jim Lindsay, this will take place in both the morning and afternoon. The workshop is open to players with a suggested minimum of Grade 5 and is principally aimed at giving musicians a grounding in the skills and techniques required in playing for dancing. It will cover such areas as: pleasing the dancers, regardless of your playing ability level; inspiring the dancers through drive and lift; exploring ways to enthuse the dancers through tune selection, arrangements and interpretation; performing as a group; maximising your enjoyment in playing for dancing. **NB: this is so popular that it is now full and there is a waiting list!**

For an application form containing further details for the Day School or to be put on a waiting list for the Musicians' Workshop which is now full, please contact Margaret Catchick, 251 Botley Road, Ley Hill, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1YD, enclosing an SAE
Tel: 01494 772305, or email dayschool@rscdslondon.org.uk

Application forms are also obtainable on the [Branch website](#), at Branch dances, or from your class teacher

CLASSES TO SUIT EVERYONE - DON'T MISS IT!



CD Review: Jeremy Hill



**Bridge of Earn
Lockdown Sessions:
Steven Carcary and
Graham Bell**
CD (£12 including
free postage to UK)
via
[www.facebook.com/
steven.carcary](http://www.facebook.com/steven.carcary)

C'est L'amour (8x32J),
Postie's Jig (4x32J), *Lucy
Campbell* (4x32R), *The Flying Scotsman*
(4x32R), *The Gay Gordons*, Waltzes,
Old Time and listening tracks

Previous releases also available: *The Band
Boys* (1998); *The Friockheim Barn Dance*
(2003); *25 Years of Music* (2006); *Fine Mix*
(2008); *Something Old, Something New*
(2016), available for £10 each or three for
£20. All five CDs are also available on a
USB stick with 16 page booklet for £30.
Free postage in UK.

The latest lockdown release to come my
way is from Steven Carcary and Graham
Bell, which follows the pattern of Steven's
previous releases: mixing country dance
tracks with a range of other styles,
demonstrating great versatility. On this
occasion, rather than the full band, Steven
and Graham have put the recording
together with the proverbial 'box of
tricks': midi and multi-tracking allowing
them to simulate an entire band. It is a
really full sound, and you would be hard
pushed to tell the difference.

There are four country dance tracks,
starting with a jaunty *C'est L'Amour*,
matching the published original *Pleasures
of the Night* with two of Steven's own
tunes in a well-integrated set. There is an
excellent *Lucy Campbell* using traditional
tunes, though only four times through, and
Graham Bell takes the lead in a set for
Postie's Jig. Tempo and balance are good
throughout.

Letter to The Reel

Wearing the Kilt

Here are some remarks I have heard from
non-dancers about the kilt. I hope they
give some amusement.

Before I was married a lot of us used to go
to the pub in Beauchamp Place after
dances at St Columba's, still in our dancing
gear. One night I was quietly enjoying my
drink when I heard someone say, "Why are
all these men wearing skirts?"

More recently, one December evening
Frank and I were setting off for the Branch
Christmas dance. One of our neighbours
turned round and saw Frank in his Highland
evening dress. Her jaw dropped and she
said "You're a brave man!" I am not sure if
she meant he was brave to go out with
bare knees on a very cold night, or brave to
dress up like that in the first place!

Elizabeth Bennett, Worcester Park

[Where is the most outlandish place you
have worn your kilt? Or the most
embarrassing situation caused by wearing
it? We would like to know - with discreet
pictures!](#)

Email: editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

The recording has four different waltz sets,
one with traditional Scottish tunes, two
with modern tunes from Ian Lees and
Steven himself, and a set of Blair Douglas's
tunes. I referred to a waltz in my review of
Liam Stewart's recording as "at a pace that
would challenge any waltzers"; that was at
250 BPM, whereas these are similar to the
tempo of a Viennese waltz - 150-180 BPM
(beats per minute) according to official
ballroom sources. Ballroom dancers can
also enjoy a smooth Rumba and a Jazzy
Swingers/Quickstep medley.

One of my favourite tracks was a *Tribute
to Angus Fitchet*, combining three of the
great fiddler's tunes. For those looking for
something different, there is also a
Shadows' medley, of *Wonderful Land* and
Theme for Young Lovers. All told this
makes an excellent selection, whether for
dancing or listening.

Listening also to Steven's back catalogue, I
found very much the same story of
consistently excellent playing across a
range of styles, and something for
everyone. Bill Ewan (piano), Malcolm Ross
(drums) and Gillian Ramsay (fiddle) are
among some great company in recordings
of a full band (even up to seven players at
times), and a similar range of country
dances and other styles. It is a great value
pack.



New Home Wanted

Kilt - Jacobite Tartan, drop 59 cm (23 in),
waist 104 cm (40-42 in). Kilt - Cameron of
Erracht tartan, drop 59 cm, waist 96 cm
(38in). Prince Charlie Jacket, size 44 small
(112 cm chest). Tweed jacket, sleeveless
summer jacket similar size. 2 pairs of dress
kilt brogues, one size 7 and one size 8.
Sporrans, sgian dubh, kilt hose.

Free to a good home, however a donation
to St Raphael's Hospice would be welcome.
Contact Elizabeth Bennett on:

07580 314431 lizbennett@blueyonder.co.uk

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

Where is this?

Answer to 'where is this?' on p1: this is the
Royal Scottish Corporation building on
Fetter Lane where most Scottish dancing in
London took place until it was demolished.
See *Reel* 318 for Rachel Wilton's trawl
through the archives. Remember dancing
there? Email: editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

Bands

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

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

CALEDONIAN REELERS

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

IAN ROBERTSON AND HIS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE BAND

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

News from Chiswick:

Kay Senior



4 July 2021 - a day to
remember. Not
because it was
United States'
Independence Day,
but a special day
for the Chiswick
group. We have not
been able to dance of
course, but we were
able to hold our annual

garden party, and to meet up with people
again to chat and eat and enjoy each
other's company. 28 people came so we
were below the legal limit and everyone
dutifully signed in for track and trace. We
had an unprecedented 20 people make
contact to say they were sadly unable to
attend, showing just how eager people are
to get back to meet up to dance again, so
the future looks bright for Chiswick.

Term starts again on 19 September 2021
and we will be experimenting running two
classes in parallel. We are planning a
recruitment drive and will run a
beginners' class before the evening break
and an advanced class after the break
concurrently with the social dancing. For
the new scheme we will need two
teachers an evening, so we are recruiting
for teachers too. We want to get enough
teachers to join us so that we only have to
ask them to teach once a term. So, if you
are qualified or partly qualified, please
get in touch. We are very kind to our
teachers and they can put their own
programmes together and are free to
teach in their own way.

Our term will end with our spectacular
Kilts and Posh Frocks Ball on Friday
17 December 2021 to be held in the
magnificent Sacred Heart Church hall on
Edge Hill in Wimbledon. For details see
our advertisement on p15. Although it is a
big hall, with COVID-19 in mind, we are
limiting the numbers to 120, so hurry if
you want to join us! Happy dancing!

The Story behind the Dance: Meryl Thomson



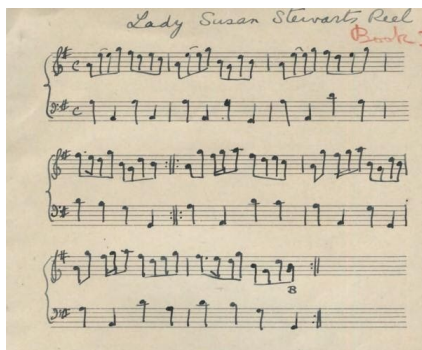
This is the first of a series of articles from Meryl Thomson delving behind the history of some of our dances and their music. First under the spotlight is *Lady Susan Stewart's Reel* which features on the 90th Anniversary Grand Ball programme.



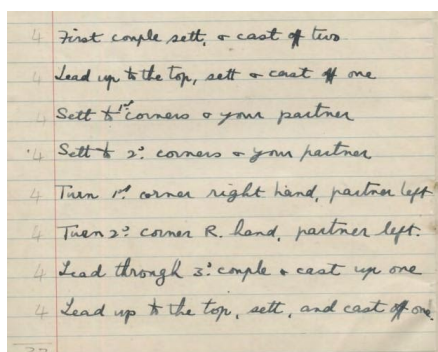
Lady Susan Stewart's Reel - A Tale of Two Ladies

Since this is one of the older dances on the 90th Anniversary Grand Ball programme, I wondered about its origins.

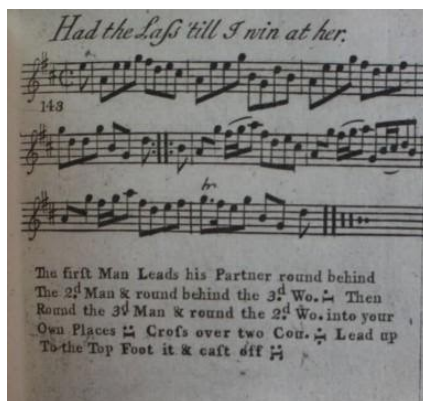
The dance *Lady Susan Stewart's Reel* is found in RSCDS Book 5. The original dance was copied from *Caledonian Country Dances Vol 2 part III or IV c.1754* by Mrs Ysobel Stewart, according to her handwritten note on the cover of her notebook. Here is her transcription of the tune:



The RSCDS published dance is pretty much the same as the original instructions copied by Mrs Stewart:



The tune has had various titles. Robert Bremner in his 1757 collection of music with no dance instructions, *A Collection of Scots Reels or Country Dances*, calls the tune *Had the Lass till I winn at her*. A dance which is mostly different from the 1754 version, but with the same tune, appears under the name *Had the Lass till I win at her* in Rutherford's *Compleat Collection of 200 of the most celebrated country dances Volume 2* from 1759. As *Haud the Lass till I come at her* the tune appears in various tune books including the 1770 manuscript of William Vickers who is believed to have lived in Northumberland.



By 1840 the tune was also known as *Lads of Boat; or Had the Lass till I wear at her* in the John Rook handwritten manuscript from Wigton, Cumbria. One of the latest versions seems to be in Kerr's *Merrie Melodies Vol 4* from the 1880s where it is called *Haud the Lass Till I Come at Her*. David Johnson in his book *Scottish Fiddle Music of the Eighteenth Century* points out that tunes with scandalous names such as this were generally not played in company after 1800 without causing great embarrassment. William Ross published it in his *Collection of Pipe Music* in 1885 under the name *Miss Victoria Ross* - tunes could be renamed to flatter sponsors or honour people. The tune, under its more scandalous name, continued to be popular in music collections in spite of, or perhaps because of, its name!

So, who was Lady Susan Stewart?



Our first candidate (above) was born on 10 April 1767 and she was the second daughter of John Stewart, 7th Earl of Galloway, and his second wife, the former Anne Dashwood. Aged 24, Susan married George Spencer-Churchill, the future 5th Duke of Marlborough. George was the great grandfather of Sir Winston Churchill. They had four children and on the death of the 4th Duke, she became Duchess of Marlborough, living in the splendid Blenheim Palace. She died at the age of 73 in her house in Park Lane, London and was buried at Blenheim Palace.

As you might have noticed, this Lady Susan Stewart was not born until some 13 years after the date Mrs Stewart gave for the source of the dance. Did the dance therefore refer to another Lady Susan Stewart?

Candidate two (below) is Lady Susanna Stewart who was born in 1742/3 in Scotland and was the eldest daughter of Alexander Stewart, 6th Earl of Galloway (and aunt to our first candidate).



Susanna, who was also known as Lady Susan Stewart, married Granville Leveson-Gower in 1768, becoming the Marchioness of Stafford in 1786. The family lived in Stafford and had a central role in the politics and society of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Susanna was a political hostess (her husband was a career diplomat and British Ambassador to Russia) and a collection of her letters in *The Granville Archive* stored in The British Library provides a fascinating insight into the French Revolution. Susanna died in 1805 in Mayfair, London.

Dances or tunes named for Lady Susan Stewart are few. The dance *Lady Susan Stewart's Strathspey* appears in *Miss Milligan's Miscellany* with suggested music by Nan Main and there is a strathspey tune called *Lady Susan Stewart's Reel* written by Malcolm MacDonald in his 1788 *Collection of Strathspey Reels etc*. MacDonald lived for a while around Dunkeld and is said to have played the cello for Niel Gow.

Although I have several volumes of Walsh/Johnson's *Caledonian Country Dances*, I have not been able to track down the particular volume from which Mrs Stewart copied *Lady Susan Stewart's Reel* and several other dances and tunes in her [notebook number eight](#) available from the [RSCDS archives](#). If anybody knows anything more about this volume I would love to hear from you.

Sources

Rutherford's Compleat Collection of 200 of the most celebrated country dances 1759 - www.vwml.org/topics/historic-dance-and-tune-books/RutherfordVol2

Mrs Stewart notebook pictures - RSCDS archives - archive.rscds.org/index.php/notebook-belonging-to-ysobel-stewart-8

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.



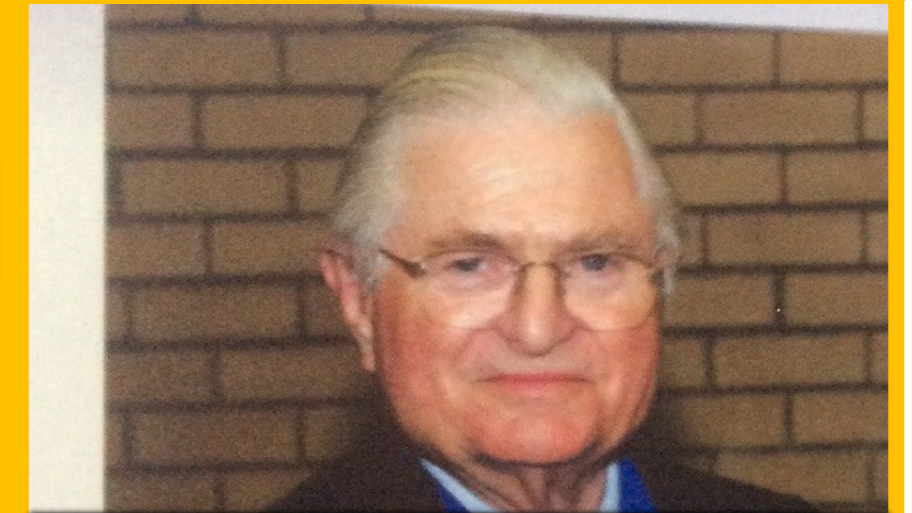
John Laurie, former Chairman of London Branch and past editor of *The Reel*. Deviser of *Fraser's Favourite* in 1972 to mark the birth of Fraser Patrick



LP cover of Jim McLeod's recording of *Fraser's Favourite* featuring London Branch Demonstration Team members Andrew Kellett and Janet Rudge, as she became



Jean Martin, retiring president of the RSCDS for whom *Jean Martin of Aberdeen* was written in 2004. The original tune was composed by Muriel Johnstone



In honour of the long term President of the RSCDS, the *Earl of Mansfield* was written by John Drewry in 1980, with an original tune by John McEwan from 1886



Dr Jean Milligan with Harry Draper at a London Branch Day School (and a young Owen Meyer in the background!)
Miss Milligan's Strathspey devised in 1973



Good friends Sheila Jupp and Ann Dix in party mood. *Culla Bay* was devised by Ann for Sheila, and originally published in *Reel Friends* with an original tune by Frank Reid. *Culla Bay* is on the island of Benbecula where Sheila spent part of her childhood



Bill Ireland, with Ellen Garvie (former Vice President on his right and Mary Stoker (former President) on his left). *The Dancing Master* was written by John Drewry in 1989 to mark Bill's retirement from teaching the Demonstration Team after over 35 years

Inside the RSCDS

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

For all the latest Society news and updates please visit www.rscds.org/blog/important-rscds-updates



RSCDS HQ: 12 Coates Crescent,
Edinburgh EH3 7AF

Education and Training Committee: Anne Taylor



What do we do and for whom?

I took on the role of convener of Education and Training after a year as convener elect, working with Malcolm Brown in his final year as convener.

However, my term of office ends in November 2022, currently the Society will be looking for a convener elect in November 2021 at the RSCDS Annual General Meeting.

I have served on the Education and Training Committee, over several years, so thought I knew the ins and outs of it all. It has always been a passion of mine to assist others to learn and to teach. Therefore, Education and Training was the one for me.

The committee is made up of eight members, some of whom are RSCDS

teachers and examiners. If you are a motivated individual, passionate about Scottish country dancing, and can bring vision, enthusiasm, relevant experience and/or skills to the committee and work effectively and collaboratively on the development of the Society we would love to have you join us.

Over the past two years I have been blessed with a committee which is indeed made up of exactly that. We have worked hard as a team, and it has been a pleasure to work together.

During these two years we have looked into, and updated, where necessary, the Dancing Achievement Awards, Medal Tests, Examinations and worked on the new award (Core Training for Instructors) which is based on teaching a class but without the rigours of the current examination system. This will not replace that system. The project was begun by Malcolm Brown but needed some more thought and refinement. It has taken much time and

effort on the part of the committee but we now have twenty six teachers worldwide, who have undergone on-line training to assist non-certificated teachers to become instructors.

We have also selected and appointed several probationary examiners who are awaiting the current health situations to be lifted to enable examinations to take place again and to allow them to finish their training.

We have also seen the introduction of a working group for Scottish Step and Highland dancing. They are working on updating the library of Scottish Step dances, the re-introduction of Step and Highland classes to the daily programme of Summer School in St Andrews, and to workshops and schools throughout the world.

I have helped out in a small way with *Dance Scottish At Home* which has gone a long way to keep everyone involved and motivated. It was very sad that RSCDS Schools were cancelled, but virtual events have been used to replace these events.

All the Convenors report to the Management Board regarding the committees' developments, plans and hopes for the future.

The return to dancing will have to be taken rather slowly to begin with. At present we in Scotland can dance outdoors but I have high hopes that dancing indoors will be back on our agenda very soon, in the UK and in other parts of the world where Scottish country dancing is enjoyed. I also hope that all RSCDS Schools and other workshops and day schools will be back up and running in 2022. We hope to see you all again with more fun, friendship and happy dancing to come.

serTA: Jane Rose, Chairman



serTA Scottish Dance - your Teachers' Association

What have we been doing during lockdown and what are our future plans?

We have rebranded as **serTA Scottish Dance** (no longer will your search find an American bed company!) We have a new logo and a new website - [//www.sertascd.org/](http://www.sertascd.org/) Please do visit.

We held our **Biennial General Meeting** in February 2021, virtually, of course. It worked so well we shall continue to hold our BGMs virtually and we have altered our constitution accordingly.

New memberships for two years, 1 March 2021 - 28 February 2023. The fee of £10 gives a discount at each workshop of £2, so effectively our fee is just £1 per year. Easy online application on website.

Virtual workshops: September 2020 - Returning to Dancing: Useful ideas for the future, including some that had not worked! March 2021 - Use of Digital Technology. Presenters explained digital technology and use of recording/PA equipment for dancing. Reports on both workshops are on our website.

Teachers' Course: By the time you read this we hope to have successfully completed this course.

Our future plans are as follows:

Workshop, 26 September 2021: Our re-scheduled March 2020 workshop on rhythmic counting and MC'ing at dances. Application form on website.

Weekend Away, 23 - 25 September 2022: with Jimmie Hill, Ian Robertson and Ewan Galloway. Deposits from members being taken now but places are going fast. Join us in Bungay, Suffolk - time to discuss teaching/leading groups, networking and dancing with your colleagues.

First Aid Sunday, 31 October: Fully booked day course but cancellations do happen!

When we return to dancing, your teachers will be ready and keen to rekindle the pleasure we have in Scottish country dancing. Anyone who teaches or leads a group is welcome to join us.

Helen Frame



RSCDS London Branch would like to extend its congratulations to Society teacher and examiner, Helen Frame from Ayr, who taught at our Day School in 2004, on the occasion of her 90th birthday - born a year after London Branch!

A Great Ambassador

Ethel Carlyle

22 July 1920 - 27 July 2021



We have received sad news of the death of Ethel Carlyle, Honorary President of Ayr Branch since 2007, having first joined the committee in the 1960s. She taught children's classes for many years, as well as being Branch Secretary.

She was always a wonderful ambassador for the Branch and promoted its best interests in her long association with it. See *Reel* 313 p5 for more on Ethel.

How I Started Dancing

Featuring a couple, for the first time in this series. Alan Ip and Hamish Todd relate their journeys into the world of Scottish country dancing.

Alan Ip



I remember very well how I started Scottish country dancing.

It was a chilly December evening in 2012. Christmas was over, *Strictly Come Dancing* had been and gone and I was contemplating the prospect of several long and dreary months of dismal weather. I decided dancing would be good for the spirit and the waistline.

We once went to a barn dance at a friend's wedding which was a good laugh. We also had one at our civil partnership where everyone joined in. It seemed a good idea to take it up. Searches on barn dance and ceilidh dance pointed me to a couple of reeling and ceilidh clubs not far from home. Then I looked for similar groups near Islington where I used to work. The Gay Gordons came up first but it was Scottish country dancing. Was that the same thing? I made contact to get some information, hoping something would put me off. Nothing did.

So, on 23 January 2013 I experienced Scottish country dancing for the first time. As the saying goes, I never looked back. The first evening was scary but great fun. Naturally I had little awareness of what was happening. *Reel? Left-hand across? Strathspey? Did you say a poussette?* The rest of the group was very helpful in pushing me in the right direction or grabbing me back to place when I overshot. I initially gave myself three months to see how I would get on and if I didn't like it, I would move on to something else. Needless to say, I loved it and bought my first pair of gillies after four weeks.

The next hurdle was to learn the steps and formations. The internet was an enormous help. Had it not been for YouTube, (yes, the quality of dancing can sometimes be dubious...) and Keith Rose's diagrams, progress would have been far slower. I recall spending hours and hours watching one particular video called *Zero to Pas de Basque in 64 Bars* and trying to follow along. My mind was totally blown and I thought it was completely beyond me.

I went to my first London Branch Day School that October. I learned an enormous amount that day, not just about doing the steps properly, but also about the light and shade of the formations and the social aspect of dancing. You know, looking at your partner.

Now I was ready to tackle a social dance at Pont Street. I found the programme, printed off the mini crib and the diagrams. Wow, 20 dances! I used my commute in the fortnight leading up to the event to study the diagrams and watched videos every evening in a bid to memorise all the dances. Indeed, I treated it like preparing for an exam. My stomach was churning as I sat on the tube going to St Columba's

Church. I walked through the doors and was greeted by a cheery hello from Rachel Wilton. She put me at ease straightaway and invited me to the first dance. I remember it was *Flowers of Edinburgh*, which Grace taught us at the Day School. Talk about applying what you learned.

Well, that was the start of my dancing journey. There have been further milestones, such as going to my first Summer Tuesdays, no recap - horror upon horror! To my first ball and wearing a kilt and Prince Charlie jacket for the first time. But the best one was to convince my husband, Hamish, to start Scottish country dancing. You can read all about it in his story below.

Hamish Todd



Despite my Scottish name and heritage, my main exposure to Scottish dancing in my youth was listening to my grandmother's Jimmy Shand records. My parents did go to Scottish country dancing classes

for a while and at the age of six or seven I was taken along but it did not go well! I may be half Scottish, but I fear my feet are not in the Scottish half!

Fast forward nearly 50 years. When Alan took up Scottish country dancing, I was intrigued and puzzled by the little diagrams he was studying. The music he listened to brought back happy memories and had my toes tapping. I went along to a few Gay Gordons classes with him. Everyone was very welcoming but, of course, I hadn't a clue what I was doing and I was self-conscious about spoiling things for the others. Finally, in 2015, Alan discovered the wonderful RSCDS London Branch Beginners' Class in Richmond, run by the talented and infinitely patient Judith Jones. Mel Rowland, now Branch Secretary, was in the same class and together we grappled with what seemed infernally complicated manoeuvres like *teapots, rights and lefts and reels of three*. But with Judith's perseverance and a lot of swotting on YouTube, I made progress. It took a while till I felt ready to join dances at Pont Street but the Wednesday evening dances arranged for beginners are a fantastic opportunity for new dancers to 'find their feet'. As well as with the Gay Gordons, I dance regularly at Surbiton and at Wimbledon Reels, all very friendly and welcoming groups. Huge thanks to all those who have got me through dances with a nod or a shove.

Over the last five years (not counting the pandemic hiatus!), Scottish dancing has become a hugely important part of my life, improving my fitness, my wardrobe and my social life in equal measure.

Scottish country dancing has enabled us to meet many lovely people and given us the chance to dance whenever we travel. We smile from ear to ear when we dance. Not because all the teachers told us to, but as an outward manifestation of the immense joy we feel inside. It is definitely one of the best things we have ever done.

RSCDS London Branch AGM:

Mel Rowland



London Branch's annual general meeting took place on Zoom on 12 June 2021. Several weeks prior to the AGM we had published the annual report, accounts, and AGM agenda on the Branch website and offered to take questions in advance from members.

On the day, we were delighted to be joined by 47 attendees, made up from both members and friends of the Branch. It was lovely to see so many familiar names joining the meeting, including those currently living far from London.

Jim Cook, London Branch Chair, read his report in which he reflected on how the pandemic had impacted on our activities with no dances, classes or family events taking place during this period. He stressed how important the Branch communications had been keeping in touch with members during the difficult times. *The Reel* had continued to be published and the Branch had also hosted Zoom entertainments with music, dance and quizzes. Events at Christmas, Burns Night as well as the Spring from Home event, which took place on the evening when the Combined Societies' Dance would have occurred, were 'virtually' well attended and enjoyed.

Jim then turned his attention to Branch priorities for 2021-2022. These, he outlined as being the rebuilding and reinvigorating our membership base including developing classes for younger dancers, modernising payment methods for Branch events and the digitisation of the Branch archives.

After thanking those whose hard work contributed to our 90th Anniversary plans and the regular running of the Branch, Jim was delighted to announce Branch awards to Meryl and Ian Thomson, Stephen Webb and Joanne Lawrence in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the work of the Branch. (More details can be found on p12.)

Vice Chair, Joanne Lawrence gave a brief overview of the results of the Branch survey and thanked the eighty-nine members who had responded.

Honorary Treasurer, Simon Wales, presented the annual account and a summary appears on p3. The vote on approving the accounts, to re-appoint the independent examiner, President, Vice-Presidents and Committee was managed via Zoom poll and approved by the members present. One important committee change was the stepping down of Jim Cook from his role of Chair to become Vice Chair and former Vice Chair, Joanne Lawrence taking on the role of Chair. Joanne presented Jim with a quail and thanked him for all his hard work over the past two particularly challenging years.

After the meeting was formally closed, the ceilidh began. Simon Wales introduced a programme of lively music by Ian Muir and The Craigellachie Band. For those who wished to dance at home, the dances were recapped by Jim Cook, Peter Knight, Rachel Wilton and Simon Wales. A lively end to our virtual AGM.

Branch Awards

At the recent Branch AGM, Branch awards were made to Joanne Lawrence and Stephen Webb, and a special award to Meryl and Ian Thomson for all their work in keeping the Branch connected with its members, both during and before the COVID-19 pandemic. We publish their citations here and await the September dance to make the formal presentations.

Joanne Lawrence



Joanne enthusiastically became Vice Chair of the Branch in 2020 after the re-creation of this post. Soon thereafter, Joanne was instrumental in the creation of a new Communications Sub Committee, of which she immediately became Convenor. Her prime responsibilities cover overseeing the publishing of the Branch's quarterly *Reel* magazine plus more frequent Branch eUpdates and liaising with our webmaster who is responsible for the Branch's website. The aforementioned frequent eUpdates with their news and special articles have been invaluable in keeping in touch with the membership during the pandemic.

During this COVID-19 period, Joanne has become our Zoom master ensuring that Committee meetings can continue to take place in this way. In addition, Zoom became the launchpad for a number of special Branch events which have provided dancers around the world with entertaining programmes of dance, music, dance history and quizzes.

Joanne's conscientiousness, enthusiasm and ability have been invaluable at this difficult period for the Branch.

Stephen Webb



Since its creation, Stephen is commended for his enthusiastic and conscientious contribution to *The Reel* Editorial Team. His duties included the canvassing, and the editing, of material to meet the strict deadlines of the publication of the Branch's quarterly *Reel* magazine. This task became even more challenging when the epidemic impacted on the amount of readily available material. But standards were maintained.

Stephen's attendance at events, armed with his camera, guaranteed excellent pictures for *The Reel*.

Stephen enthusiastically commissioned a New Dance competition to coincide with the Branch's 90th Anniversary year, albeit the COVID-19 pandemic arrived and sadly impacted on the outstanding final judging for obvious reasons.

The Branch hereby thanks Stephen for all that he has achieved and wishes him a happy retirement from *The Reel* Editorial Team after so many years.

Stephen responds:

I must say I am delighted to be given this Branch Award and let me thank London Branch Committee very much for proposing me.

Although being a Branch member, often Long-Term, since 1973 my association with *The Reel* began under Andrew Kellett's tenure as editor, I had written the odd letter

that had been published, but when I learned in 1993 that *The Reel* was in need of a typesetter and printer my thoughts immediately went to my late good friend John Reeve who had previously worked in publishing; he took on the task with unbridled enthusiasm. I would add at this point that a year earlier I had suggested a solution to the clashing of dance dates and the SE Diary was born and Anne and John King made it happen.

This award reflects my work as copy editor for the 13 editions since, at my instigation, going full colour. But in my mind my contribution to *The Reel*, based on the dual imperatives of promoting Scottish dancing and promoting the London Branch, dates back further. As Michael Caine might have said "not many people know that" ... when Wilson took over as editor in 2005, right up to last year, I became the main proof-reader. Also, in that year I instigated our 75th Anniversary Book of 13 dances.

From 1996, I started to submit dancing-related photos for inclusion in *The Reel*, which I would generally especially take, steadily increasing the number from a trickle to 914 at the last count. I also have since 1994 written, 170 articles, obituaries and letters, on Scottish matters which were also published.

Early in 2016 I began a campaign, supported by our then chairman Andrew, to collect and collate a complete set of unmarked original *Reels* for The British Library Collection. This is reported on, in *Reel* 296.

My other London Branch initiatives were: setting up the material for a comprehensive website archive of Pat Batt poems, PDF sets of past *Reels* and The Thistle Scottish magazines. And more recently launching The Mary Isdale MacNab Collection Archive and also co-ordinating the 90th Anniversary Dance Deviser's Competition - still ongoing.

At this point I want to sing the praises of my friend and fellow editor and Branch webmaster, Meryl Thomson, supported by husband Ian without whom most of these initiatives becoming reality would just not have been possible. Thank you very much Meryl!

After outlining my wider involvement in *The Reel*, I now wish to add a few further comments: Whilst sadly, I believe the future lies with electronic communication *The Reel*, since 1951 has acted as a valued diary for London Branch activities, which was of course the brainchild of the late Hugh Foss - *The Reel* and his name will always be synonymous.

For me, I had two focuses, which are on a par with each other - presentation and accurate quality content thus, allowing us to raise the bar. Every decision Meryl and I made was based on these criteria. Of course, I was very fortunate to have some excellent contributors from Scotland and around the world who were very willing to write most interesting articles, thus putting their valued information on record in a sort of depository for readers now and researchers on into the future.

I always felt privileged to have followed on from dedicated past editors - Andrew Kellett, the late John Laurie and the late Wilson Nicol to name but a few.

A final thought - *The Reel* is a magazine that one can return to, to read time and time again and to search out this or that. And let us always remember that the printed word has a permanence that the spoken word just has not. Thank you again.

Meryl and Ian Thomson

Since its creation, Meryl and Ian are commended for their ongoing enthusiastic and conscientious contributions to *The Reel* Editorial Team. Their participation includes the management of the computerised publishing aspects associated with the quarterly publication of *The Reel*. This includes the development of an electronic version, with interactive addons, which is produced in parallel with the traditional printed version.

Also, the Branch greatly benefits from Meryl and Ian's flair and ability in their role as webmaster of the Branch's extensive website. Their timely and accurate attention to detail in ensuring that the website is kept up to date is invaluable to the Branch especially as a way of keeping in touch with members at this difficult time for us all.

The Branch hereby thanks Meryl and Ian for all that they continue to do for the Branch and *The Reel* Editorial Team after so many years.



Meryl and Ian respond:

We were very honoured to receive the specially created award which was given with a generous citation at the Branch AGM and later presented by Jim Cook.

When we took over the Branch website some 23 years ago the digital world was very different with few websites and slow online access through dial-up connections. Little did we know we would continue to run the website for so many years and through many technological changes, trying to keep it fresh and most importantly providing up to date information on all the Branch's activities. Recently, we have been concentrating on expanding the archive section, making dance resources available which might have been lost when books went out of print or other websites holding this data disappeared.

We enjoyed our years working as part of *The Reel* editorial team with Stephen Webb, striving for the highest editorial and typographical quality. Initially we streamlined the whole production process, altered the layout and design to give a more modern look without totally changing the character, including moving to colour throughout and later enhancing the digital version eg with links to videos.

The recent COVID-19 situation made us look to different ways of communication with Branch members and gave us a chance to learn about video editing to aid with the varied online Branch events in the past year and a half.

We look forward to continuing to push digital communication on behalf of London Branch and thank them for this award.

The Fun We Had by Karin Feldner

As we Hamburg dance friends, Anett, Ellen, Gero and Karin, attended the RSCDS London Branch virtual Burns event on 24 January 2021 and listened to Iris giving her *Response from the Lassies*, wistfulness arose as we thought back to the past years. Currently, we can only dream of dancing with our friends every night in London, as we did during our 2019 travels.

One year ago, in February 2020, I was in London for the last time for Scottish dancing. I was a guest of Iris Ronayne in Wimbledon and we attended the wonderful ball at the Berkhamsted Strathspey & Reel Club on Saturday, February 8. On February 9, we danced at the Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club. It was the weekend of the big storm, and my biggest concern was whether my plane would fly, or whether I would have to presume on Iris's and Michael's hospitality for longer.

The pandemic was already looming on the horizon. When we said goodbye in February, Matthew Goulden said that what was coming would be terribly bad. He works for the public health department. I believed him. Yet at the time I had no idea what bad meant.

Looking back to 2019, how different that first trip was! Carefree times.

I have often visited friends in London and had heard about the many dance opportunities through Jim Cook from the RSCDS London Branch. He also provided me with my first copy of *The Reel*. In Chiswick and Wimbledon I had met Iris, who told me that she went dancing almost every evening and invited me to come over for a whole week of dancing. Back home, I told my fellow dancer Anett about it. The idea of a week of sightseeing and dancing in London was quickly born, and two other dancers from Hamburg, Ellen and



Burns Night Supper and Dance 2019 at Benson Parish Hall

Arriving for the RSCDS Oxfordshire Branch Burns Night Supper and Dance at Benson Parish Hall, we were in for a shock.

There were no walk-throughs and not even recaps. However, the fantastic music of Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band, friendly fellow dancers and a great atmosphere with delicious food and the traditional Burns Night programme got us through the evening safely.

At the Gerrards Cross Scottish Country Dancing Club tea dance at Colston Hall in the Memorial Centre, East Common, Gerrards Cross the next day, we were fortunate to have recaps from the fantastic MC, Rose Kreloff. We enjoyed more wonderful live music from Barbara Manning and Ken Martlew.

At the Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club, we were able to attend the group's atmospheric 18th anniversary celebrations that same evening.



Monday night at St Columba's Church

In the evenings we went to the weekly Monday dance at St Columba's Church, on Tuesday to the Wimbledon Reels, on Wednesday to the Richmond Caledonian Society, and on Thursday to the Watford and West Herts Scottish Society in Watford.

We received a warm welcome everywhere we went. Each of the groups we visited has its own character; each teacher has their own style. There are always social breaks with drinks and sometimes even food. The dancing is always huge fun. We have met many lovely people and some of them several times. What a privilege to be able to dance Scottish every night of the week! We in Hamburg

count ourselves lucky to be able to meet every Thursday.



Wembley & District Scottish Association Burns Night 2019, Northwood Golf Club

The crowning glory was a Burns evening hosted by the Wembley and District Scottish Association, to which Iris took us again. Graham Hamilton was MC in the beautiful rooms of Northwood Golf Club with delicious food, great music played by Calum Mitchell and Keith Anderson and ceilidh dancing.

It was such a fantastic week that we immediately began detailed planning for the follow-up event.

We returned in October 2019, staying from Wednesday until Sunday. It was almost like coming home. We danced again in Richmond on Wednesday and discovered new groups such as the Surbiton & District Caledonian Society and the Hayes & District Scottish Association.

In Surbiton on Thursday there was an open evening for anyone interested in Scottish dancing, with easy, quick-to-learn dances and again a sensational buffet.

On Friday, we headed to Hayes. There we received an exceptionally warm welcome and met dancers we already knew from Watford and Wembley - and so the circle was completed.

The crowning event was the London Highland Club's Autumn Dance on Saturday 5 October at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street.

Now it is 2021 and at the moment we can visit London only virtually, but our hopes are high for 2022 and we are already planning to come at the time of the Burns Night celebrations - this time again in person, not just virtually.

Lives Remembered

An Extraordinary Talent

from Joan Desborough

Colin Robertson

24 August 1941 - 28 June 2021



Colin was born in Reading and was taken, age seven, by his parents to the Reading St. Andrews Society social dancing evening each Wednesday that also included some tuition. He was a talented dancer and also learnt highland dancing, perfecting his technique with lessons from Pipe Major Peter Quinn in London. He became a successful competitive highland dancer including competing in some Highland games in Scotland. In addition to dancing, he was a drummer in the Reading St. Andrews Pipe Band. Sometimes Colin provided the music for his classes on his tin whistle.

I met Colin in the early 1960s when I moved from the beginners' highland class to a more advanced class in Reading. He also taught me Scottish country dancing when I joined his demonstration team called *The Reivers* which consisted of people who were not necessarily already good dancers, but under Colin's guidance were encouraged to dance to the best of their ability and perform some complex choreography successfully. Colin felt that Scottish country dancing is for all to enjoy, and I remember him saying, "if your class cannot follow a dance, look to the teacher." At that time, he also ran the Reading University SCD class.



Reading Pipe Band in 1967, Colin Robertson with the mace, and Sandy Walker on the right

In the early 1970s Colin and Lewis Innes started the Scottish National Dance Company. This enabled Colin to have a troupe of good dancers, based in London, who enjoyed performing his imaginative choreography, both country and highland dancing. A video of one display, from the Tonbridge Ceilidh 1990, can be found via the London Branch MacNab Archive for *The First of August*. For a few years he also guided the rehearsals of *The Strathreelers*, a team who used to compete in the country dancing competitions in the south-east.

Colin's professional career was as a scientific glass blower at Imperial college London, but his passion was dancing. He married an American fiddler, Terie, and in due course they moved to Oregon where Colin continued to teach.

He maintained his interest in the development of dancing of many different genres and some of his research into the history of dance can be found, for now, on his website: www.colinrobertson.net See also *Reel 310* for Colin's article on the *Sailor's Hornpipe*.

Lives Remembered

The Most Charming Partner from Liz Mitchell

Archie McNair

18 February 1930 - 17 June 2021



It is with great sadness that I write these few words about Archie - long time member and past Chairman of the Lucy Clark Scottish Country Dance Club - who died on 17 June.

Archie was born in Ayrshire in 1930. At school, he excelled in the sciences and after gaining a doctorate in nuclear physics from Glasgow University, he headed south for work in Chelmsford, Luton and Reading. Archie was passionate about Scottish culture, and dancing in particular, so it was not surprising that he joined a Scottish dancing group where he met his wife Rosemary.

After he and Rosemary married, the family settled in Hyde Heath near Amersham where Archie worked at the Atomic Energy Authority and, later, in medical research at Amersham International. In retirement, he was able to enjoy walking, cruising and gardening, but he was also generous with his time supporting local organisations as a school governor, President of Amersham Scottish Association and a representative of the Hyde Heath HS2 Forum.

For many years, Archie was a stalwart of the Lucy Clark Club (in three different locations), maintaining a keen interest in the Club's affairs and supporting from the sidelines. Latterly, despite having mobility difficulties, Archie continued to dance, his clear mind seeming to race ahead of his body to guide him into place. He always knew where he should be, which gave everyone confidence.

We will all miss 'dear Archie' - always welcoming, courteous, quietly tough, thoughtful, generous, and the most charming partner.

A Life Cut Short

from Ros McLaughlin

Brian Hooper MBE

29 August 1944 - 4 May 2021



The sudden and unexpected death of Brian Hooper came as a great shock to many Scottish country dancers in Cornwall and further afield.

As a proud Cornishman, brought up in the Liskeard/Callington area, Brian was keen to be involved in dancing in the county, and when elected Chairman of the RSCDS Cornwall Branch in 2017 he became the driving force behind the committee, bringing to it his excellent organisational skills, his 'can-do' attitude, enthusiasm for planning dancing events, and encouraging others to get involved. Brian was very personable and

approachable and was always open to suggestions of how more people might be encouraged to join Scottish country dancing.

Brian represented RSCDS Cornwall Branch at the Autumn Gathering in Perth in 2017, and made sure that Cornwall was on the map by speaking to as many people as possible. He was a great ambassador for dancing and Cornwall.

If you ever spent any time in his company, then you would have realised that one of his other passions was water! Particularly water saving efficiency, and for services to the water industry, he was awarded the MBE in 2004.

Throughout the last fifteen months of lockdowns, Brian kept in touch with the committee, encouraging them to stay positive about returning to dancing again this summer. Hence our two summer dances in July and August.

Brian will be sadly missed, and our sincere condolences go to his wife Felicity, and their children Victoria, Jonathan and Rosemary and families at this difficult time.

Adapted from an article originally published in *The Carswellian*, our excellent sister publication in Cornwall, which has been edited by Felicity Hooper for many years.

Forthcoming Events

LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB



Christmas Dance

Saturday 11 December 2021
7.00 - 10.30pm

Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Road,
Wendover HP22 6HF

Ian Robertson and his Band

Programme: EH3 7AF, Flight to Melbourne, City of Belfast, A Capital Jig, Trip to Timber Ridge, The Bon Viveur, Pelorus Jack, Staircase in Styria, The Last of the Lairds, The Gentleman, The Rutland Reel, The Minister on the Loch, John Cass, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran

All dances recapped and some walk throughs
Tickets £18

With a welcome glass of fizz and plated supper

Contact Ann Higginbottom on 01494 451374 or email lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com

Further information and cribs available at www.lucyclarkscottish.org
Crib also available at www.my.strathspey.org/dd/list/29158/

RSCDS CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH



Weekend School

Friday 12 - Sunday 14 November 2021
Cumberland Hotel, Grand Parade,
Eastbourne BN21 3YT

Teacher: Wendy Mumford

Music: Recorded

Reserve a place now, pay in October
Contact Roger Keeling

rscdscroydon.treasurer@gmail.com
www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

Forthcoming Events

THISTLE CLUB

Musicians' and Dancers' Workshops and
Dance

Saturday 4 September 2021

10.00am - 2.00pm and 3.00 - 5.30pm

Wing Village Hall, LU7 0NN

Teacher: Vladimir Garbuzov

Musician: Calum Mitchell

Musicians' Tutor: Ian Robertson

Workshops: Dancers £8, Musicians £15

Evening dance £7

Tickets - pay on the door

Bring your own refreshments

Contact Jan Jones 07877 153259 or

jangeverybusy@gmail.com

www.thistleclub.co.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB



Day School

Sunday, 14 November 2021

9.30am - 5.00pm

Venue: Chiltern Hills Academy
Chartridge Lane, Chesham HP5 2RG

Teachers: Jim Stott, Sam Schad,
Rose Kreloff

Musicians: Ken Martlew,

Barbara Manning, Jeremy Hill

Tickets: Whole day £25;

Morning or afternoon £15

Contact: Petula Martlew, 102 Gravel Lane,
Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1SB

Mobile: 07718 236333;

email: sec@berkhamstedreelclub.org

website: www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH Annual Ball

Saturday 23 October 2021

7.30 - 11.45pm

Headington School, Oxford, OX3 7TD
Ample free parking and on the London to
Oxford bus route with stop near school

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Programme (17 dances): Hooper's Jig, Flowers of Edinburgh, The Belle of Bon Accord, EH3 7AF, Swiss Lassie, Midsummer Common, The Immigrant Lass, MacDonald of the Isles, The Deil among the Tailors, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, Scott Meikle, The Birks of Invermay, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Maxwell's Rant, The Dream Catcher, Pelorus Jack, The Reel of the 51st Division

Tickets £20 (spectators £10)

COVID-safe supper arrangements to be confirmed

Full reimbursement if event cancelled for COVID-related reasons

Contact: Helen Houghton-Carr,

07531 469213 or

events.rscdsxfordshire@gmail.com

www.rscdsxfordshire.org

(note our new website address)

Advance notices (pandemic permitting):

Burns Night Supper and Dance
29 January 2022, Benson OX10 6LZ
Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Day School and Dance
19 February 2022, Oxford OX3 7TD
Chris Oxtoby and the Strathallan Band



www.rscdsxfordshire.org

Forthcoming Events

RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/
SURREY BORDER BRANCH
Branch Class Musicians'
Course



Calling all budding
musicians.

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

If so, then the BHS Border Branch Class Musicians' Course taking place this autumn might just be the answer. The course is limited to ten participants so book now to avoid disappointment!
Contact Judith Muir

judith.robertson3@btinternet.com
for further information.

Autumn Social
Saturday 25 September 2021
St Mark's Church Hall,
Farnborough GU14 6TU

Strathallan
7.30 - 10.30pm

Bring your own picnic and drink
Tickets on the door

Christmas Social
Thursday 30 December 2021
7.00 mulled wine, dancing to recorded
music 7.30 - 10.30pm
St Paul's Parish Rooms,
Wokingham RG41 1EH
Bring and share refreshments
Tickets on the door

Day School
Saturday 12 March 2022
Venue TBC

Teacher: Rachel Shankland,
Class Musician: Ken Martlew
Musicians' Day School: Susan MacFayden
Evening dance with Day School musicians

Branch Spring Ball
Saturday 21 May 2022 7.30 - 11.30pm
Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP
Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band
events@rscds-bhs.org.uk
www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING
GROUP
**The Final Dancers' and
Musicians' Weekend School**
Friday 1 - Sunday 3 October 2021
Dillington House, Ilminster
Somerset TA19 9DT



Teacher: Andrew Nolan
Musician: Robert Mackay
Musicians' course: Ian Muir
This course is not considered suitable for
beginners
Booking is now open:
Telephone 01460 258613 or email
dillingtonbookings@somerset.gov.uk

To receive further information contact:
Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking,
Surrey GU21 3QB Tel: 01483 721989
Email: gaynorcourtis@clara.co.uk

www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY
DANCE CLUB

Kilts and Posh Frocks Ball
Friday 17 December 2021

7.00 - 11.00pm
Doors open 6.30pm
Sacred Heart Hall, Edge Hill,
Wimbledon SW12 4LU



Ian Robertson and his Band
Programme: Nice to Meet You, The Highland Rambler, Best Set in the Hall, The Dream Catcher, J.B. Milne, The Dancing Master, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, The Black Mountain Reel, St Andrew's Fair, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Joie de Vivre, Ramadan-ce, Alison Rose, Shiftin' Bobbins, Pelorus Jack, City of Belfast, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Mairi's Wedding
Mulled wine served on arrival
Bring and share supper
Please bring your own wine

Tickets £16 (limited to 120) online from:
clare.buckle58@gmail.com

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB
Dances up to the end of
September 2021 are cancelled
Our next dance is in October
Details below and on our website.



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

Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 - 10.00pm
2 October 2021: Autumn Dance
with Ian Muir (Prestwick)

4 December 2021: Christmas Dance
with **The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band**
Programmes, cribs and latest status are on
our website: www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
Everyone is welcome to our functions

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH
DANCING SOCIETY

Afternoon Tea Dance
Sunday 28 November 2021
2.30 - 6.00pm
NEW VENUE



Basildon Village Hall, Bethesda Street,
Upper Basildon, RG8 8NU
Strathallan

Programme: The Hospitality Circle, The Castle of Mey, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Inchmickery, The Rutland Reel, The Hazel Tree, Lochindorb Strathspey, The Aviator, The Deil among the Tailors, Hooper's Jig, Ramadan-ce, Brunette d'Ecosse, The Dancing Bees, Torridon Lassies, Scott Meikle, The Minister on the Loch, Liquid Assets, The Irish Rover
Extras: Pelorus Jack, Swiss Lassie
Tickets £10 including afternoon tea

Annual Ball
Saturday 5 February 2022
7.30 - 11.30pm
The Abbey School, 17 Kendrick Road,
Reading RG1 5DZ
Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Contact: Gill Coulson 0118 962 9075 or
sasdc01@gmail.com
www.scottishdancingreading.org

Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

To update your information in Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations contact editor@rscdslondon.org.uk
If you require your information to also be changed in the SE Classes Listing on our website please contact
Jan Collings seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk or call on 07803 923036.

This is the second issue of this cycle. Payment of £30 for issues 316-319 is now overdue.
If you wish to cancel, or pay by bank transfer, please contact treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Dancing most Mondays,
7.45-10.00pm, Sept-June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, near Oxford.
All welcome. Details: secretary@ascdc.org.uk or
www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

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

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

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS Wednesday General Class:
Sept-May, 8.00-10.00pm St Mary's Church Hall, Park Road, Camberley,
Surrey GU15 2SR. Teacher: Mervyn Short. Beginners: Five Wednesdays
starting 20 October (not 10 November) at St Mary's as above. Monday
Advanced class: Sixteen Mondays from 13 Sept-April, 8.15-10.15pm at St
Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham Without RG40 3BA.
Details: Fiona Albinson, 01189 789181 or www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

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

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS Classes for beginners, intermediate and
advanced, country and highland, adults and children.
Details: Rod Burrows, 01903 783053 or chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk or
www.rscds-brighton.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets on Sundays 7.00-
9.30pm, Sept-June, in the Upper Hall at St Michael & All Angels Church,
corner of Woodstock Road and Priory Avenue, London W4 1TX (turn right
out of Turnham Green tube station, 70 yards).
Details: www.chiswickscottish.org.uk or secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH Branch class in Coulsdon: General,
including Beginners with technique Fridays 7.30 -10.00pm Coulsdon
Methodist Church, Brighton Road, Coulsdon CR5 2BE.
Details: Mary Courtney, 020 8651 0704 or www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

Continued from p15

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

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

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

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY Dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.00pm, Sept-May. Details: Anne Lester 01252 782927 or lesteranne@gmail.com or fleet.rscds-bhs.org.uk

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

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

GUILDFORD SCDC Meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from Sept-June. Details: 01420 362530 or www.gscdc.org.uk

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

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

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

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB Meets regularly at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Margaret Spiceley, 07985 962781 or secretary.rscdsoxfordshire@gmail.com or www.rscdsoxfordshire.org

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading RG1 5BD from 8.00-10.00pm, Sept-May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st & 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Duncan Barnet, Flat 4, 8 Western Elms Avenue, Reading RG30 2AN 0118 956 9289 dbarnet@waitrose.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 7.30pm from mid-Sept. to mid-June. Details: 07802 442435 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk

SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP Dancing Tues 8.00pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, South Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@гна.cc

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

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

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

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

SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS Classes for all standards, in Hertford, Tuesdays in term time. Monthly dances Sept-June, in Ware, usually second Friday. Sunday afternoon Family Dances once a term. Details: Douglas Hedley, 07880 405152 or sehscds@hotmail.com or www.sehscottishdance.org/news

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Credits

Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of *The Reel*, including the following for providing photos: p1: Royal Scottish Corporation - Scotscore website. p2: Joanne Lawrence - from herself; Jim Cook - Stephen Webb (SJW). p3: Simon Wales - Petar Petkovic. p4: Mervyn Short - from himself; Joan Desborough - from herself. p5: Day School teachers and musicians - from themselves. p6: Jeremy Hill - from himself; album cover - from Steven Carcary; Kay Senior - Michael Nolan. p7: Meryl Thomson - from herself; Susan Duchess of Marlborough - unidentified painter, public domain; Mrs Stewart notebook - RSCDS archive; Had the Lass and Susanna, Marchioness of Stafford by George Romney - public domain via Wikimedia Commons. Centrefold: John Laurie - Joan Spencer; Jim MacLeod LP cover - archive; Jean Martin - RSCDS; Jean Milligan - London Branch archive; Sheila Jupp and Ann Dix - London Branch archive; Earl of Mansfield - RSCDS archive; Ellen Garvie, Bill Ireland and Mary Stoker - London Branch archive. p10: 12 Coates Crescent - RSCDS; Ann Taylor - from herself; Jane Rose - from herself; Helen Frame and Ethel Carlyle - Ayr Branch RSCDS. p11: Alan Ip and Hamish Todd - from themselves; Mel Rowland - from herself. p12: Joanne Lawrence - from herself; Stephen Webb - SJW; Jim Cook, Meryl and Ian Thomson - Aline Cook. p13: The fun we had - from Karin Feldner and SJW; Colin Robertson - from himself first in *Reel* 310; Reading Pipe Band - from Joan Desborough. p14: Archie McNair - from Lucy Clarke archive; Brian Hooper - SJW.

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