



The Reel

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
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No 269

SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER 2009

THE LONDON BRANCH 80th Anniversary Year

2010 is the London Branch 80th Anniversary Year. Join us for a variety of dances and events for every month in the year.

The celebrations start on Saturday 16 **January** with our annual Burns Night dancing to the music of Frank Reid and his band, while enjoying traditional Burns Supper fare.

February brings a midweek "Winter Wednesday" dance, **March** the Family Day, **April** a Tea Party, and then our Weekend School in **May**. You can "Dance through the Decades" in **June**, enjoy dancing outdoors in **July** and **August**, then indoors in **September** followed by the Day School in **October**. **November** brings St. Andrews Night and another Family Day with our regular Christmas Dance in **December** to round off the year.

All in all there should be something for everyone – so watch out for our 80th Anniversary Calendar in the next issue of *The Reel* and we look forward to celebrating with you in 2010.



The Stewart family (Eilidh, Catriona and Mum, Helen) shelter from the heavy shower at Polesden Lacey

Graham Berry

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ST. ANDREW'S DANCE

Saturday 28 November 2009

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1 0BD
7.00-10.30pm

Kafoozalum

The programme will include some of the traditional dances of Scotland, such as the *Eightsome Reel* and *Strip the Willow*, plus ceilidh dances – waltzes, two-steps and polkas and some straightforward country dances. All the dances will be talked through and called, and some will be shown on the floor. Have friends/family/colleagues been daunted by unknown dances? This is the dance for them but also for you!

Dances will be walked and called.

Scottish food, Scottish music,
Scottish DANCING

Admission £7.50 members,
£8.50 non members

Welcome drink and refreshments provided

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Branch Dance

Saturday 19 December 2009

6.45 for 7.00 - 10.30pm

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

Ian Muir of Prestwick & his SD Band

Jig to the Music.....	Reel 263
The Flowers of Edinburgh.....	1/6
The Braes of Breadalbane.....	21/7
The Chequered Court.....	42/3
The Music Makars.....	33/1
Miss Florence Adams.....	38/7
Miss Allie Anderson.....	Leaflet
Tom's Friends.....	London 75th
The De'il Amang the Tailors.....	14/7
The 19th December.....	27/2
The Sailor.....	24/4
Sugar Candie.....	26/9
Trip to the Drakensberg.....	38/8
The Clansman.....	32/8
Gang the Same Gate.....	36/4
A Capital Jig.....	5/2009
Jean Martin of Aberdeen.....	3/2006
The Montgomerie's Rant.....	10/1

Admission £15.00 members,
£16.00 non members

Reception drink and refreshments provided.
Those with Highland/evening dress
are encouraged to wear it.

DANCE SCOTTISH

Branch Dance

The Launch of a New Season

Saturday 19 September 2009

7.00 - 10.30pm.

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

Gordon Shand and his Scottish Dance Band

The Jubilee Jig.....	Leaflet
The Ladies of Dunse.....	26/11
Gramachie.....	MMM1
Joie de Vivre.....	39/2
The Homecoming Dance.....	5/2009
Golden Harvest.....	London 75th
Hamilton House.....	7/10
The Lea Rig.....	21/5
The Montgomerie's Rant.....	10/1
St. Andrews Fair.....	5 for 1982
The Westminster Reel.....	45/1
Sauchie Haugh.....	Leaflet
The Wild Geese.....	24/3
Preston Mill.....	45/7
The Valentine.....	5/2009
Muirland Willie.....	21/9
Strathmore.....	43/5
The Duke of Perth.....	1/8

Admission £7.50 members,
£8.50 non members,
£2.00 Children,
member's children admitted free
£5 Youth Workshop Attendees.

Issue No 270 will be with UK based members by 28 November 2009 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent preferably by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk. Postal contributions should be sent to Wilson Nicol, 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS to arrive by 31 October 2009. (Issue No 271 will arrive by 13 February 2010).

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

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

I hope you are all refreshed after the summer break and raring to go with a new season of Scottish Country Dancing.

A good number attended the Branch AGM and enjoyed the delicious tea provided by our Vice-Presidents and the slideshow of the year's events provided by Stephen Webb. The accounts and Annual Report were accepted and our President and Vice Presidents re-elected. The new committee is now in place and draft minutes of the meeting will be available on the website shortly.

Congratulations to the successful Certificate Class candidates and many thanks to our tutor Ann Dix, the musicians and the many helpers.

Our summer season closed with a return to Polesden Lacey and outdoor dancing on the newly created Orchard Lawn. Our thanks to David Hall and his Band for providing the much needed lift and to our MCs Rita Marlow and Wilson Nicol for their guidance and encouragement. Thanks are also due to our pipers Bob Harman and Neil Esselmont for their contribution to the atmosphere. We are also grateful to Polesden Lacey for kindly waiving their entrance fee for non-National Trust members. In 1995 we moved from the Croquet Lawn to the Walnut Lawn and this year saw another move to the Orchard Lawn. Whilst the setting was reminiscent of previous years, recent changes involving the creation of our designated dance area and the desire to maintain a natural feel have meant that the area is clearly unsuited to our needs, consequently it is unlikely that we shall be returning here for our summer garden dance event in the future. It is interesting to note that the programme included the 32-bar strathspey *Polesden Lacey*, devised by Gill Russell who was there on the day. This dance was first performed by the Branch demonstration team at Polesden Lacey on 11 June 1994 when we would still have been dancing on the Croquet Lawn.

Following on the outstanding success of our Dance Scottish Week activities last year, we look forward to four sessions of dancing in Kensington Gardens leading up to our Open House taster evening and Saturday Dance with Gordon Shand. As a departure from the norm, we will also include a raffle draw with thanks to MyTartan.com for kindly donating the quality prizes. As if that wasn't enough, an additional Ceilidh dance event will be held at Merton Hall on the Friday 18 September. Whew!

October sees a return to Lady Margaret School, Parsons Green for our Musicians Workshop and Day School and in November we have our Family Day and evening Dance with Kafoozalun. We herald in the festive season with Ian Muir of Prestwick at our Christmas Dance which leads us to the beginning of our Anniversary Year activities in January.

I look forward to seeing you on the dance floor in this exciting season and please remember to look at the enclosed list of classes and dances to find out what's going on in and around London – there is something to suit everyone.

Jeff Robertson

Editorial Policy

It is intentional editorial policy to include at least one 'typo' in each issue of *The Reel*. The feedback is a measure of how well our readers are aware of what sections are read. We are pleased to let you know that your Chairman is an assiduous reader and was first to spot the error in Reel 268. Our readers would have noticed that at the foot of page 1, it appears that we will reissue No 269 in December! We are confident that there will be enough new copy to prepare No 270 for your Christmas reading.

THANK YOU

The Branch AGM welcomes new faces on to the committee and thanks those who are retiring.

This year we bid farewell to Pam Ellam, Andrew Kellett, Lena Robinson and Moira Strutt and thank them most sincerely for their sterling contribution over the years and trust that they will still be available for consultation in their new role as senior statesmen.

The Committee welcomes Elaine Davies, George Potts, Marjory Reid and Jerry Reinstein as new members and hope that they enjoy their time serving the Branch and continuing the good work of their predecessors.

In addition to the members of the Committee important roles are carried out under the category of Non-executive Committee Member. These include our Membership secretary, Gaynor Curtis and Rita Marlow who distributes *The Reel* to non Branch members. Other posts in this category of unsung heroes includes Ian and Meryl Thomson who maintain our superb Website; Ian Anderson who runs the Bookstall; Iris Anderson our Archivist; Robert Elliott our Auditor and Marie Jamieson our Representative to the Central Council for Physical Recreation.

A special thank you also goes to Caroline Hamilton for maintaining the South East Dance Diary and our Branch photographer, Stephen Webb to whom we also wish a speedy recovery.

On behalf of the Branch I would like to thank you all for doing so much to keep the Branch flourishing.

Jeff Robertson

COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

During the coming quarter, the London Branch Committee will meet on 7 September, 12 October, and 3 December. Suggestions for items to be discussed should be sent to the Secretary at least two weeks before the dates of the meetings.



EDITORIAL

The Future of the RSCDS

Music and dance are living arts: for generations they have been in a state of continuing evolution. With that in mind, one has to question the current

Objects of the RSCDS. The Society has done a good job of screening old dances and publishing those worthy of preservation. But should it be looking forward as well as backward? The number of dances published by the Society is less than 1000 yet there are on the current record 12 or more times that number of 'modern' SCD from around the world. So what is left for the Society to do?

- *Should it close down with a job well done?*
- *Should it concentrate on maintaining standards through training of teachers (a teachers' association) and providing an archive?*
- *Should it expand its activities to embrace the modern dances and developments and pursue a commercial course?*

A greater part of its activities takes place in the Branches, all staffed by voluntary labour and competing with independent clubs in their local areas. HQ on the other hand has fixed costs – staff and fixtures, and these have to be funded substantially by Society membership fees at the moment. This HQ subscription burden increases the difficulty for Branches competing in their own territory.

While the Management Board is already debating these matters, the Society at large needs to be involved to reach a clear consensus about the future.

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY



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

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LONDON BRANCH

Hon. President:
Mary Stoker

Hon. Vice-Presidents:
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John Laurie, Owen Meyer, Rosemary Tilden.

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SUB-COMMITTEES

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

*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

Website
www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Objects of London Branch

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

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

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

GEORGE POTTS

Tony Ellam



George has been a member of London Branch since 1973. He qualified as an RSCDS teacher in 1983 under the tutelage of Mary Stoker. After teaching General Classes, George took over the Intermediate

Class at Marlborough School in 1989 where he taught for three years and now teaches a General Class at Morley College. He joined the Branch Committee in 1985 as a member of the Classes Sub-Committee, going on to become Branch Secretary in 1986 and holding that office for nine years until 1995. He has also regularly represented the Branch as a Delegate at the Society AGM. George has been a loyal member of London Branch for over thirty years. He is a great supporter of Branch events and willing participator in the organisation that make these events successful. He regularly assists in catering for Branch functions providing his speciality scones and brewing great potts of tea.

Winter School 2010

Winter School is open to RSCDS members over 16 years of age. Members must log into the members only area of the website to access the booking form. No more bookings can be accepted for single rooms. Closing date for applications was 16.00 UK time on 13 July 2009, but places may still be available

RSCDS MANAGEMENT BOARD NEWS

In the last few months there has been considerable activity from RSCDS HQ in an attempt to improve communication with branches. Whilst general members may not be aware of this branch secretaries and committees have been busy responding to questionnaires and documents seeking their views. All the responses are considered in preparation for the next AGM of the Society in November.

Of course, you can never please all of the people all of the time, and the results of an important consultation about the relationship between branches and HQ (and considering what advantages for members to belong to the Society actually are) had very mixed responses. However, it was an attempt to obtain branch input on an important issue, and that must be a positive step in the right direction.

Closely linked was a survey sent to branches where membership numbers have significantly declined. Management board members contacted the branches in their "patch" to delve a little into why this might be. I am pleased to report that London (in my patch) was not on my list!

Inevitably much discussion takes place around the budget and it is good to be able to report that the accounts to be presented at the AGM look healthy. We all know though that in these precarious financial times, forward and strategic planning to sustain this will be essential. Underpinning this is the need for an updated IT system at HQ to support the modern RSCDS and we have a long way to go still to secure that.

Lindsey Jane Rousseau

MARJORY REID

My interest and love of Scottish country/ceilidh dancing stems from my home town of Dundee. I began Scottish country dancing when I was about 10 years old under the tutelage of Bill Forrester. He was a hard task master, but every week we

all came back to learn more and improve our technique so we could enjoy our dancing. I was taught ceilidh dancing at school.

I moved to London in 1983 to join the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and didn't even think there would be Scottish dancing in London. How wrong I was, but didn't discover this until I returned from my first overseas posting in 1999. I came across a prospectus for Morley College and joined Marie Jamieson's class. Bizarrely I had played badminton at Pont Street from 1983-87 and was unaware that Scottish dancing took place there. This was a great shame, but glad to say I have made up for that now and proud to have gained a place in the dem team.

There are so many different Scottish societies holding events in London, but sadly there appears to be a lack of integration amongst them. I have been to several of the other societies' events and there appears to be a lack of interest in attending RSCDS dances which is a great shame. We should all be enjoying both Scottish country and ceilidh dancing together. I hope that being on the Committee I can contribute to promoting that RSCDS dances are good fun and there will be a warm welcome to all newcomers and hopefully, we will see new faces at the dances soon.

RSCDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE WEEKEND AND AGM

Perth 6 - 8 November 2009

The AGM of the Society will be held in Perth on 7 November 2009. The London Branch elected its delegates at the Branch AGM on 12 June. Application forms for function tickets during the Conference weekend have been available on the Society website from 13 April. This is a great opportunity to meet dancers from all over the world, to attend two wonderful dances and to see the Society at work. The programme is:

Friday

- Ball:David Cunningham and his Band

Saturday

- Question Time:
- General Class: Teacher..... Sue Porter
Musician.....Jennifer Wilson

AGM

- Dance:Jim Lindsay and his Band

Sunday

- Workshop and Meetings

Warning:- Another large conference is concurrent with ours this year, so book your accommodation early!



Stephen Webb

JERRY REINSTEIN

For some time I have been thinking of contributing directly to the Branch as we live in London most of the time and had been on the London Dem Team. Until now I have been very much involved in the Paris Branch Committee, mostly

with the organization of its 4-yearly Easter Weekends and other events as well as teaching. Now that I have served my term on the Paris Committee, and the Kaleidoscope SCD Conference that I was co-organizing is over, I would like to help with aspects of London activities. I have considerable experience in branch and RSCDS affairs having been the co-founder of the Paris Branch and first Chairman when I was living there and served on the RSCDS Management Board for four years. As a Committee member I would like to help with event organization and possibly also with the publicity sub-committee.



Anthony Fabian

ELAINE DAVIES



Renata Slankova

I am pleased to be joining and working on the London Branch committee as the branch reaches its landmark 80th anniversary.

Scottish country dancing has always been an important part of my life. From the children's class I attended from the age of 6 right up to my now four year stint in the London Branch Demonstration Team.

As one of the younger members of both the Branch and Committee, I look forward to bringing a fresh perspective and modern attitude and hope that London Branch will continue to grow and succeed well past its 80th birthday.

Preliminary Announcement

LONDON BRANCH 80th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND SCHOOL

For Dancers and Musicians
Swanwick, Derbyshire
7 - 9 May 2010
Graham Donald
Further details from
Margaret Catchick
01494 772305 or 07759 260955
email: margaretcatchick@hotmail.com

BRANCH CLASSES

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

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

Term starts week commencing 21st September and ends week commencing 30th November. Half term is week commencing 26th October. Wednesday evening classes cost £65 for ten week term (£60 for Branch members). For members and non-members each half term costs £35. The cost per session is £8. Newcomers are not charged the first class they attend.

DANCE SCOTTISH WEEK

12-19 September 2009

Dance Scottish Week is an international initiative by the Society in Edinburgh with branches around the world participating by organising events (large or small) that will encourage newcomers to experience and hopefully take up Scottish dancing. This year, the week runs from Saturday 12 to Saturday 19 September.

London Branch Events

The London Branch is building on the success of last year's events. The programme is laid out in the accompanying flyer and includes Open Air dancing at Kensington Gardens on 12 September as well as working with FEIS London on that day. Our Open House taster evening is on Wednesday 16 September, a Ceilidh is planned for Friday 18 September, concluding with a Youth workshop and a Branch dance on Saturday 19 September.

LADIES STEP DANCING

with Alice Stainer,
on Sundays:

22 November, 21 February, 16 May,
at the Oddfellows Hall, Richmond,
(minutes from Richmond Station).

Details will be on the Branch website, or contact Margaret Shaw on 020 7329 2847

SERTA

The South East Region Teachers' Association (SERTA) organises workshops for Scottish dance teachers. It is open to anyone who takes an SCD class, whether qualified or not, those with a dance teaching qualification and those taking teaching courses. If you wish to join the mailing list or have any queries, please contact me at mikejohnson@waitrose.com, at 4 Gatehampton Cottages, Gatehampton Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9LX or on 01491 873 026.

The next workshop will be in Hemel Hempstead on 27 September 2009. The morning session, on Highland Steps in Country Dancing, will be led by Joan Desborough. It will include teaching some of the steps and dances with a discussion on how to encourage the use of these dances by making them more accessible. In the afternoon, Ian Robertson will lead a discussion on the musician's perspective of what makes a good dance or ball. Topics will include programme choice, the role of the MC, communication, how to create a great atmosphere. The following meeting will be at Woodford on 18 April 2010.

Those wishing to have short reports of our last workshop on warm-ups and digital music by Jean Simpson and Robert Morgan respectively should contact me.

Mike Johnson

Scottish Dance Classes in the South and East

The list is published with this edition of *The Reel*. The list and ongoing updates can also be downloaded from the Website which in some cases shows further contact details. Because of concerns about junk mail, the email addresses are shown with "at-" in place of the @ symbol. Group secretaries or class organisers wishing to add this information or make changes to the listing should contact me at the address shown on page 2.

Stewart Murray

HIGHLAND CLASSES 2009

Teacher David Hall

Thursdays 7.15 - 9.15pm

on 15 Oct, 12 Nov, 10 Dec, 14 Jan, 11 Feb
and 11 March

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

Half day Workshop:

Cecil Sharp House, NW1 7AY

26 Sept, morning only.

Further details from Margaret Shaw on
020 7329 2847 or classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

TEACHERS' EXAMINATION SUCCESSES

A group of aspiring teachers undertook an intensive course tutored by Ann Dix and assisted by musicians Keith Anderson and Ian Cutts in preparation for the recent Society teacher examinations in London. HQ has announced the following passes:

- Unit 2 - David Ambrose, Catriona Bennett, Peter Loveland
- Unit 3 - David Ambrose, Catriona Bennett, Peter Loveland, Marie Montague
- Unit 5 - Pamela Cross, Ann Robertson, Catherine Smith.

We congratulate their successes and look forward to them taking leading roles in teaching SCD and spreading the 'gospel'. Units 1-3 are equivalent to the old Preliminary Test, while units 4 and 5 constitute the Full Certificate.

Our thanks are due in no small measure to the backroom team - the superb organisation by Moira Strutt ably assisted by Gaynor Curtis and Rachel Wilton and also the volunteers who gave up their time to be part of the 'class' to be taught during the course and also on the examination days.

FUTURE BRANCH DANCES

- 16 January 2010.....Frank Reid
Burns Night
- 27 March 2010.....Strathallan

FOCUS ON YOUTH

Children's Classes

The Branch children's class continues in the Autumn term on Saturdays 26 September, 31 October, 28 November and 12 December, from 10.15 to 11.15.

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

Teacher:Angela Young

Musician:Jean Harrison

£2.00 per child (including drink)

Adults are welcome to stay.

Newcomers always welcome!

Family Day - 28 November

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

11.30-13.00

Children's Class

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

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

13.00: Lunch provided for all dancers

14.00-16:30 Dance to the music of

Kafoozalium

Dances will be from the following:

Cumberland Reel, Dashing White Sergeant, The Dhoon, Espie MacNab, Highland Fair, The Flying Scotsman, A Jig for Mrs Dunn, Jig to the Music, Johnny Groat's House, The Merry Reapers, Petronella, Rabbie's Reel, Reel for Jeannie, The Round Reel of Eight, The White Cockade, Wild Geese.

Everyone is welcome for all or part of the day. Dances in the afternoon will be talked through.

For more details please contact

Angela Young at aady@mac.com.

LONDON BRANCH YOUTH WORKSHOP

Saturday 19 September 2009

Following last year's successful afternoon, London Branch will be holding a Youth Workshop from 1.30 - 4.30pm at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street. The teacher will be Angela Young, and the musician Gordon Shand. Light refreshments will be supplied from 1pm. As last year, the plan is for those attending the workshop to take part in a display at the evening Branch Dance, having enjoyed a pizza dinner together. There is no charge for the workshop and there will be a reduced evening dance ticket cost of £5 for those attending the workshop. To register interest or for more details, please contact Angela Young on email aady@mac.com.

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

Step out together with the music

Saturday 17 October 2009

Lady Margaret School, Parsons Green, SW6 4UN &
Langford Primary School, Fulham, SW6 2LG

This year the classes will be Advanced, Mixed Ability & Improvers levels and because of the great success of the Advanced Class, there will be two groups for advanced dancers.

Morning: 10.30 - 12.30

Advanced: (suitable for proficient dancers with a thorough knowledge of all formations)

Teachers: **Johan MacLean** Musicians: **Robert Mackay**
David Hall **Barbara Manning**

Mixed Ability: (suitable for those with a good standard of dancing & a working knowledge of steps and formations)

Teacher: **Deb Lees** Musician: **Jeremy Hill**

Newcomers & Improvers (suitable for those with some knowledge of basic steps and formations)

Teacher: **Craig Houston** Musician: **Judith Muir**

Lunch: 12.30 - 14.00

A cold boxed lunch may be purchased. There are also facilities inside and out for packed lunches as well as pubs and cafes in the local area.

Afternoon: 14.00 - 16.00

Advanced: (suitable for proficient dancers with a thorough knowledge of all formations)

Teachers: **David Hall** Musicians: **Barbara Manning**
Johan MacLean **Robert Mackay**

Mixed Ability: (suitable for those with a good standard of dancing & a working knowledge of steps and formations)

Teacher: **Craig Houston** Musician: **Judith Muir**

Newcomers & Improvers (suitable for those with some knowledge of basic steps and formations)

Teacher: **Deb Lees** Musician: **Jeremy Hill**

Optional Extras: 17.00 - 18.00

After tea, served from 16.00, there will be three optional classes to choose from. These are:

A Taste of Haynes

Teacher: **Craig Houston** Musician: **Robert Mackay**

Highland/Step

Teachers: **David Hall/Deb Lees** Musician: **Jeremy Hill**

Up In The Air

(an illustrated talk drawing on Ian & Judith's wide experience of playing for traditional dance)

Ian & Judith Muir

If you do not wish to do anything too active you may prefer to enjoy some free time before the evening ceilidh. The choice is yours.

Musicians' Workshop

Led by Ian Muir this will take place in both the morning and afternoon. This year the course is principally aimed at giving musicians a grounding in good technique for playing for dances and will cover, amongst other points, the characteristics of the Reel, Jig and Strathspey. Although there will not be an opportunity to play for the evening dancing, everyone is welcome to stay and contribute a ceilidh item.

For more details and an application form for the Musicians Workshop please contact Jeff Robertson, 31 Alinora Avenue, Goring By Sea, W. Sussex, BN12 4NA, enclosing a s.a.e. Tel No: 01903 530750; email: jtr@ctg.co.uk.

Evening Ceilidh: 18.30 - 21.30

This will follow the Day School and once again we anticipate much fun and entertainment. Dancing will be to Ian and Judith Muir. Tickets are available in advance from Margaret Catchick and on the door.

For an application form for the Day School containing further details, please contact Margaret Catchick, 251 Botley Road, Ley Hill, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 1YD, enclosing a s.a.e. Tel: 01494 772305, email: margaretcatchick@hotmail.com. Application forms are also obtainable on the London Branch website, the Branch dance, or from your class teacher.

PARKING

Please be advised that this year there will be no parking at the school. This is because the playground is being used as a construction site for a new school building. The building work will not impact on the Day School itself. We have negotiated alternative parking with Holy Cross School, Basuto Road, SW6 (approx 4 minutes walk away) and Langford Primary School, located in Gilstead Road, Fulham, SW6 approximately 15 minutes walk away. The Mixed Ability & Improvers Classes will also be held at Langford Primary School.

DON'T MISS IT!

RSCDS TEACHING CERTIFICATE

The BHS Border Branch is proposing to run a course to prepare candidates for Units 2, 3 and 5. The dates are to be finalised but the course will start at the end of 2009 and continue for six months. The venue will be Finchampstead Memorial Hall. Please contact Fiona Abinson 0118 9789181 as soon as possible if you are interested.

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

TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE COURSE

UNITS 2, 3 & 5

Selected Sundays or weekends between
November 2009 and June 2011

Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, UK
(Northwest London)

Near intersection of M25 and M1
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CHILTERN CHILDREN'S SCOTTISH DANCE CLUB

The Chiltern Children's Scottish Dance Club now meets on Wednesdays in Aston Clinton, near Aylesbury, Bucks. There are classes in both Scottish Country Dancing and introductory Highland Dancing with teachers **Joan Desborough** and **Ann Robertson**. All age groups are welcome from 'wee ones' to teenagers.

Details from Ann on 01296 630682.

WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT!

The RSCDS and the London Branch offer scholarships mostly to young people (up to 25 years) to attend RSCDS Residential Schools as a dancer or as a prospective teacher or as a musician. In addition any member can apply for a scholarship to attend Summer School with a view to taking the RSCDS Teaching Certificate.

London Branch also has funds available to give support to any event promoting Scottish Country Dancing among young people.

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

stewart.murray@btinternet.com

or youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk.

There are events happening all year round such as Spring Fling, Winter and Summer Schools.

Think about it.

We want to help

Want to Advertise in The Reel?

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

KENSINGTON GARDENS

Following the popular support that we received last year for our extended season in Kensington Gardens, the Royal Parks have again allowed us to book four Saturdays in August and September for open air dancing by the bandstand. We will be dancing on Saturdays 22 & 29 August and 5 & 12 September which coincides with the launch of our Dance Scottish Week 2009.

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

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

And it is all FREE!

James Fairbairn

DEMONSTRATION TEAM

The dem team finished the season with a flourish, the annual visit to the Leeds White Rose Festival on 11 July, where about 300 dancers gathered at the Gateways School to dance on the grassed sports field half surrounded by a raised bank which makes an ideal vantage point for spectators. We were joined by a team from the technique class. The MacLennans, featuring several past dem team members, were in the same corner of the field, so London as a whole was well represented. The rain stayed away, some cloud cover prevented us getting too hot and the music of George Meikle's Band lifted our hearts and our steps. We tackled all four demonstration dances, which as usual were quite (some might say fiendishly) complicated and thanks to some serious preparation executed them all with what we hope was style; and our crossed foursome got a special mention. [see picture on back page]

The evening dance in the sports hall was tremendous; feet and spirits really took off. We send our thanks and congratulations to Leeds Branch for organising what is such an enjoyable event that brings out the best in Scottish country dancing and dancers.

Our display at the open air dance at Polesden Lacey on 28 June was a medley of the five new dances published this year with the Scottish Country Dancer, including *The Homecoming Dance* and *The Grassmarket Reel*, both now appearing regularly on dance programmes.

Over the summer we are expecting to do brief displays at each of the four open air dances in Kensington Gardens on 22, 29 August and 5, 12 September. See you all there! The last date coincides with the start of Dance Scottish Week when we have three engagements with the Branch and with FEIS.

As the formal dancing year draws to a close I would like to record my thanks to all team members; also to Sin See and Marjory Reid for reliable and efficient assistance in administering the class, and to various musicians but in particular Sandra Smith and Neil Esslemont for playing for our classes and our outside engagements. The class teacher Angela Young has continued to devise attractive displays which are fun to dance and to drill us in the all important basics so allowing us to maintain high standards of Scottish country dancing. Angela also organises the class musicians and undertakes various other tasks, for all of which, my thanks.

James Fairbairn

BRANCH ACCOUNTS 2008 - 2009

As promised at the recent AGM, here are my comments on the accounts, with apologies once again that the tight timescales and Reel publication dates make it impossible to circulate these to all members before the AGM. Members were asked to email me if they wanted a set prior to the meeting, and all those who did were emailed a copy.

The accounts show a small net incoming resource figure of £682 – just over 1% of turnover. Not bad for a breakeven budget.

We did, however, have an unrealised loss on our investments of £12,359 due to the poor performance of the stock market. That is over £20,000 in just two years and will need some careful monitoring even if there is little we can do about it except sit tight.

The accounts are now constructed in such a way as to make it easier to work out how each area of Branch activity has done – classes, young dancers, dances, publicity, bookstall and demonstration team – you just have to subtract the costs from the income.

Classes

Fees, less hire of halls, less teachers and musicians expenses: £19,708 - £6,945 - £11,971 = £792 in surplus. This is despite subsidising the certificate class for which the costs and income are spread over two year's accounts.

Children's Activities

Income less expenditure: £1,707 – £3,708 = (£2,001), with the children's class subsidised by £747 from the Telfer bequest. The costs reflect the support from the Branch for the two dances, graded tests and the Youth Workshop. A planned expense and well worth it.

Dances

Income less expenditure: £9,339 - £7,597 = £1,742 surplus thanks to good turnout at the Christmas and Burns Night dances and steady attendance at the rest.

Publicity

The overall cost of publicity this year was £14,645 – this was reduced by transfers from the Westwood fund of £1,056 towards the cost of the Open Air Dancing and £4,800 from the Ruth Simpson fund to pay for the Open House at Dance Scottish Week. With *The Reel* bringing in income of £7,402 and the raffle £167 this leaves the publicity cost at £1,220 for the year.

Bookstall and other trading

This generated a surplus of £961 thanks to the efforts of Ian Anderson on the bookstall and steady sales of the Branch CD and book.

Demonstration team

This appears as "fundraising activities" ie £ 5,110 - £ 6,256 = £1,146 deficit reflecting the promotional work done on behalf of the Branch by the Team.

Administration Costs

The only other figure to comment on is the admin costs (£611) – slightly up on last year. This is made up as follows:

Membership expenses	£ 230	Insurance	£ 65
Treasurer's expenses	£ 81	AGM expenses	£ 161
PAT testing	£ 18	EFDSS Insurance	£ 57

The meeting expenses of £970 reflect the small subsidy to travel paid to delegates attending the Society AGM (£25 per head) and meeting rooms at St Columba's.

With next year's budget we have been able to be as generous to the publicity and youth areas, as a result of the classes no longer requiring a subsidy. This should enable us to advertise the branch more effectively and to recruit new young dancers.

We are very fortunate to have the various bequests which enable us to tackle projects in the knowledge that we have sufficient funds to back them up. We made another grant from the Bill Ireland fund for a young dancer to take Part 1 of the teaching certificate at Summer School and have received a bequest from the Pat Bawden estate of £3,030. We have decided to spend this on the development of musicians to enhance dancing, reflecting Pat's interest and capabilities as both dancer and musician.

Membership subscriptions to London Branch were slightly down, but the increase in the RSCDS portion has increased substantially the amount paid to HQ. Membership numbers are undoubtedly down, but we are researching the reasons for this. Sadly, the demise of life members is one cause.

Investment income was slightly up, and bank interest was slightly down, contributing a total of £3,218.

Having made a surplus last year we took a decision to spend some of this money on promotion, publicity and youth events – with the youth workshop, Dance Scottish Week events, and generally improved marketing materials we feel we are making good headway.

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow officers and convenors, who are always on top of their paperwork and enable me to keep the accounts on the straight and narrow. As ever, the biggest thanks are due to Robert Elliott, the independent examiner, who does so much more than his title suggests!

Simon Wales

Branch Treasurer, 12 June 2009

THE LONDON BRANCH 80th ANNIVERSARY BALL

Preliminary announcement

Saturday 30 October 2010

Hammersmith Town Hall

with its fine sprung floor and superb wood panelled interior

Drinks at 7.30 for 8pm dancing. Carriages 1.00am

The Craigellachie Band

Tickets: £40.00 per person includes champagne and dinner. Come and join everyone attired in their finery celebrating a special anniversary in this magnificent London hall.

Look out for further details in future Reels

It is not too soon to put the date in your diary

CHILDREN'S MEDAL TEST RESULTS

Congratulations to all the children who entered the RSCDS Medal Tests at St. Columba's on 2 May and at Wendover on 28 March. Everyone passed and some were awarded a credit (*) or a distinction (#). It was good to see so many enthusiastic young dancers all trying their best. Thank you to Marilyn Watson and Alex Gray, the assessors, and to all the teachers who worked so hard with the children preparing them for the tests.

Cambridge Children's

SCD Class

Grade 2:

Chloe Farrer

Grade 5:

Astrid Burden

Lydia Farrer*

Agnes Taylor#

Rachel Taylor*

Emma Vallis-Booth*

RSCDS London Branch

Children's Class

Introductory:

Sophie Corby

James Corby

Lucia Eales*

Beth Fairbairn*

Eleanor Hobby*

Andrew Ronayne

Thomas Ronayne*

St. John's Scottish

Country Dancing

Children's Class

Grade 1:

Morgan Peddie

Grade 2:

Bethany Allwright

Hannah Webster*

Grade 3:

Sarah Allwright*

Becky Boer

Megan Brackstone

Bethany Fuller*

Robyn Jenkins

Grade 4:

David Allwright#

Fiona Thomson*

Molly Wilson

Grade 5:

Maddie Burrows*

Philip Cresswell*

Rebecca Hall#

Katie Jones#

Hannah Nutsford

Congratulations as well to children in the Southeast who took the Tests on a different date.

The Upland Dancers, Bexleyheath

Introductory:

Elena Anderson*

Sophie Carey*

Marina Chen#

Sabrina Chen#

Molly Down*

Abbie Edwards#

Holly Jay*

Moyo Kadri*

Megan Powell#

Megan Stockbridge*

Grade 1:

Paige Cruickshank*

Charley Griffin#

Feyi Kadri#

Grade 2:

Miriam Bligh-Hasan*

Evie Booker#

Tom Booker#

Hannah Cutting#

Lucy Cutting#

Chloe Fisher#

Max Moore#

Georgina Walker*

Grade 4:

Steven Dawson#

Florence Moore*

Amy Moughton*

Roya Saeednia*

Milton Keynes

RSCDS

Introductory:

Shona Morris*

Elin West

Catherine Cresswell*

Grade 1:

Jessica Scott#

Hannah-Marie Culley*

Robyn Smith*

Holly Pappalardo

Emily Rogers

Grade 3:

Katie Farnes*

Jonathan Heron*

Megan Hill*

Alice Rigby *

Grade 4:

Bethany Heron#

Ebryl Nichols#

Megan Rigby#

Anna Tholen#

Chiltern

Children's Scottish

Dance Club

Introductory:

Charlotte Haines*

Enya Hansford

Grade 1:

Samantha Bullard#

Lauren Geary*

Hannah Minett*

Rachel Bullard*

Leigh Batson*

Grade 2:

Callum Minett*

Tom Robertson*

Jenny Robertson#

Gemma Bullard*

Gemma Cartmell*

Sophie Ahern#

Hannah Graham*

La musique adoucit les mœurs*

When musicians enjoy each other's company at RSCDS Summer School Musicians Courses so much that they can't face the 51 weeks till the next shot of the adrenalin-music (and in some cases – alcohol!) mix that they find there, what can they do? Answer: organise their own mini-course in the spring. So it was that four fiddlers – David Foreman, John McCahill, Seonaid Lynn and myself – were reunited in Lyon, France on 4 April, along with Gordon Simpson, well-known fiddler and Summer School music tutor. (see picture on centre pages)

Thanks to a local network of contacts, we had use of a municipal music school classroom for workshops and a school hall for the evening dance – all free of charge. In all there were 12 participants venus de partout (= frae a' the airts): fiddlers from Lyon and also Scotland, England, South of France and Switzerland, plus two accordionists from the French Alps and Switzerland. The pattern of London Branch Musicians Days was unashamedly copied – morning and afternoon workshops at which Gordon put us through our paces on the pre-arranged programme of dances, followed by an evening of playing for local dancers.

One essential difference with London (and vive la différence!) is that Lyon is la capitale gastronomique de la France which is, of course, la capitale gastronomique du monde. So the meal breaks were enjoyed as much as the music: delicious lunch in a very attractive restaurant which was in fact a supermarket cafeteria, and an early (by French standards – but we had to get the hall set up for le bal du soir before the dancers arrived) supper in a little café-bar-restaurant near the school where the patronne was delighted to fill her arrière-salle with a crowd of foreign musicians. She did us proud with salade, lasagne, fromage, tarte aux fruits, vin et café – all for a modest price.

A large proportion of local dancers turned out that evening to dance to la musique live. Many of them had little experience of dancing to the music of a miniature Scottish Fiddle Orchestra. One lady was moved to tears by the experience – and no, this was certainly not an indication of how badly we played! Bien au contraire!

Saturday was hard but exhilarating work, entirely devoted to the music. Sunday allowed us some détente in fine spring sunshine: a sail on the River Saône, a leisurely walk along the recently landscaped banks of the River Rhône, followed by apéritifs at the home of one of the French fiddlers and then a gastronomic dinner in one of the bouchons, typical restaurants for which Lyon is famous.

And during the weekend the four afore-mentioned inseparables also had plenty of time to « jam » – enough to be able to hold out now until Summer School 2009!

[If you too would like to savour the delights of this part of France, check out the Lyon Branch website (www.scottish-chanterelle.org) for details of upcoming weekend dancing courses (especially November 2009 and March 2010)]. *France's answer to Shakespeare's 'If music be the food of love, play on'.

Diana Sarran

BRANCH BOOKSTALL

At your service

Books and CDs for Scottish Dancers

Mail order from Ian Anderson,

104 Whitedown Lane, Alton,

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Tel: 01420 84599

email: bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk.

10% reduction on RSCDS publications

and recordings bought by members.

Please state your Branch when ordering.

N.B.: The Bookstall Stocklist is available on the Branch Website.

BRANCH BADGES

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

Jeff Robertson

on 01903 245718, 020 7730 9633 or jtr@ctg.co.uk or from Ian Anderson at the Branch Bookstall on 01420 84599 or bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk.

Please continue to support your Branch.

Jeff Robertson

BRANDED GARMENTS

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

Order forms are available from

Jeff Robertson on tel: 01903 245718;

or 020 7730 9633;

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

www.rscdslondon.org.uk.

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

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

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

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

Jeff Robertson

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

BANDS



THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

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

CALEDONIAN REELERS

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

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KAFOOZALUM COUNTRY DANCE BAND

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

THE INVERCAULD SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

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

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M c Band N S

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

Soloist: PETER JENKINS

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

MUSICAL MAY

Musicians' View

George Meikle attracted a good number of keen students to the musicians' day school at Pont Street on 9 May. The day's focus was the repertoire for that evening's dance, as the musicians were all invited to join George in that night's band. And most took up the opportunity.

George had thoughtfully chosen the sets of music, some easier, some harder, so that there was a challenge for everybody. Some tunes were 'box' tunes that fell nicely under the accordionist's fingers but offered more technical challenges to the violinists, and some were fiddle tunes that suited the strings better than the reeds. It was a good, comprehensive selection that everybody could enjoy.

Eighteen dances were planned, which meant eighteen sets of music had to be polished up to standard; a significant amount of material to get through in a six-hour workshop. The music was sent out in advance and most people had had an opportunity to practice the tunes at home, so George's aim was primarily to coax a group of disparate musicians to play together as a band.

He focused on style and drive. Particularly for the strathspeys, we were encouraged by example to let the music breathe, to find the spaces and the accents in the music to keep it sounding fresh and lively, yet at a constant tempo for the dancers. In 'Seann Triubhas Willichan', a more lyrical strathspey, we looked at how to smooth-out the more jaunty rhythm of the tune Calum's Road to suit the style of the dance. And as we listened to George's example, we listened to each other, gradually playing more and more as an ensemble.

I was unfortunately unable to play for the evening dance, but left a stage crammed with plenty of fiddles, a variety of boxes, pianos and drums, playing as one and ready for the dancers to take to the floor.

Thanks very much to George for leading an enjoyable day, and also to Rachel Wilton and her team of willing volunteers for their kind hospitality, lunch and refreshments that sustained us throughout the day.



Dave McAllister

Dancers' View

We often rave about the celebrated Scottish dance bands who visit London, but our own home-grown musicians provided us with a real treat at Pont Street on 9 May. The occasion was the culmination of the musicians' workshop, led by George Meikle who spent the day preparing an assorted group of accordionists, fiddlers, keyboard players and drummers for the evening dance which was to follow. It was, by all accounts, an exhausting day for some but about a dozen of the musicians later took to the stage and played throughout the evening, under the watchful eye of George, and to the obvious delight of the hundred or so dancers on the floor. The evening was enhanced by a programme of popular dances and some great tunes, all played at a tempo which meant that we could easily have carried on dancing into the early hours. Talking to some of the musicians afterwards, they clearly enjoyed the evening as much as we did so here's looking forward to a repeat performance.



Andrew Patterson

[see photos on centre pages]

Chiltern Fiddle Rally 2010

24th year of this wonderful celebration of Scottish music played by a fiddle orchestra of 100 musicians.

Sunday 17 January
at 7pm

Swan Theatre
High Wycombe, Bucks

Tickets £10
www.wycombeswan.co.uk
Tel: 01494 512000



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Further information from Ian Robertson
on 01296 630682 or chilternrad@aol.com



Stephen Webb

Renata to the Rescue!

Renata Stankova kindly agreed to become assistant photographer by stepping in for the AGM and June Jig events - a great job, well done. Many thanks Renata, Stephen.
P.S. Don't put your camera away just yet!

THE HILL MANUSCRIPT

In a letter to *The Reel* (No 265), I referred to the proposal to publish a facsimile copy of Frederick Hill's notebook collection of dances of 1841. I am very pleased to be able to report that the publication, co-edited by Alan Macpherson and me, both former Honorary RSCDS Archivists, is now available to purchase at a cost of £25.00 per copy + P&P. Anyone wishing to take advantage of this unique opportunity to acquire a copy of this important manuscript, accompanied by an illustrated commentary, can find details at www.hillmanuscript.com

The notebook's compilation of more than seventy dances provides an invaluable snapshot of dancing in Aberdeenshire at the outset of the Victorian era, highlighting, particularly, the diversity of the dancing repertoire. There are instructions for quadrilles, reels and country dances. Amongst the latter, there are such familiar titles as *Triumph*, *College Hornpipe*, *Patronella (sic)* and *Flowers of Edinburgh*. Additionally and uniquely, when compared with similar dance sources of the period, there are instructions for several step dances. It was the discovery of the notebook in the late 1940s which inspired the revival, sponsored by the RSCDS, of step dances for ladies, their form and style of performance reflecting their nineteenth century origins.

The principal objective of the publication was to make the Hill Manuscript more widely available and accessible. The editors have made no attempt to reconstruct any of the dances described, leaving the manuscript's readers with the opportunity to exercise their own interpreting skills.

The publication project was undertaken by the Hill MS Group, Alan Macpherson, Anita Mackenzie and me, and it is their intention to donate any profit from the sale of their book to the RSCDS Archives.

Further enquiries may be addressed to me at Tigh na Mara, Newton, Strathlachlan, Cairndow, Argyll PA27 8DB (Tel 01369 860 787).

Alastair MacFadyen
President, RSCDS

NEW RECORDINGS

Double Take – Ian Robertson and Rob Alderton (CRESESCD 0109)

Live from the Beach Ballroom Aberdeen – Graham Geddes and his Band (HRMCD 013)

Postie's Jig, Dashing White Sergeant, Waltz Country Dance, Cumberland Reel, Reel of the 51st Division, Canadian Barn Dance, The Duke of Perth, Boston Two-step, Strip the Willow, Johnny Walker, Mairi's Wedding, St Bernard's Waltz, Petronella, Hamilton House, The Flowers of Edinburgh, Walk on, Petronella (half length), Walk Off, Last Waltz, Auld Lang Syne.

Take Your Partners for... Vol 2 – Luke Brady's Band LBSDB 02)

EH3 7AF, On the Quarter Deck, The Minister on the Lock, Major Ian Stewart, Eileen Watt's Reel, Eileen Watt's Reel (encore), Autumn in Appin, Midnight Oil, Salute to Miss Milligan, Up in the Air, The Reverend John Macfarlane, The Reverend John Macfarlane (encore), The Dean Bridge of Edinburgh, Saint Andrews Fair, The Golden Wedding Strathspey, Broadford Bay.

Music for 12 Perth Dances – James Coult's and his Band (PERTHCD 0801)

The Sound of Iona, The Stanley Mill, Muirton Bank, Oakbank's Tribute to Christian, The Blooms of Perth, Colin's Kilts, Miss Macpherson of Scone, The Two Inch Race, The Silver Walk, The Vale of Atholl, The Pitlochry Tryst, St. Johnstoun Reel.

RSCDS – all the dances in Book 8 – Jim Lindsay and his Band (CD066)

Reel On, Roy Goldring's Graded and Social Dances Vol 3 – Jim Lindsay (accordion) and Muriel Johnstone (piano) (SSCD23)

Ian Robertson's excellent musicianship is already well known and I am sure many of our readers will have already obtained this fine CD. Ian double tracks on fiddle and accordion with Rob on piano and bass. There are a few old time dances and 12 country dance tracks not for any particular dances, i.e. no originals but a variety of lengths. If you are one of those people who object to non-Scottish tunes for Scottish Dances just listen to Marching through Georgia in reel time and you will love it! (Are Rory o' More and *Dashing White Sergeant* Scottish?)

Graham Geddes' CD is very lively and, in the best sense of the word, boisterous. The sound is much enhanced with Judi Nicholson on fiddle. Why does he not play the original for *Postie's Jig*?

Luke Brady's Vol 1 was reviewed by Margie Stevenson in the Scottish Country Dancer. There was some criticism of the Strathspeys with which I agree. They are much better in Vol 2; more lyrical and smoother without losing the essential "strong emphasis at the beginning of the bar and another fairly strong beat halfway through the bar". This is quoted from Muriel Johnstone's excellent guide to music in SCD published by the RSCDS. Luke makes an excellent job of the rather difficult original for the Golden Wedding Strathspey. Again, the mixing is not perfect. The fiddle is more up-front than in Vol 1 but there ought to be more of Maureen Rutherford's keyboard playing coming through the texture. Reels and jigs are nice and bright. I was particularly pleased to hear Jim MacLeod's tune Salute to Miss Milligan – the original for a Drewry dance. Jim recorded it on an LP for the Society's 50th Anniversary in 1973 and I do not think it has been recorded since. Thanks Luke, who follows up the original with Boil dem Cabbage Down, Itchy Fingers, and the New High Level Hornpipe – a great track.

James Coult's CD for a book of dances published by the Perth Branch was also reviewed in Scottish Country Dancer and being in agreement with that review, I have little to add.

However, with Graham Berry on piano, the bass is perhaps superfluous. A fiddle would have further enhanced this excellent recording. It was good to see the *St. Johnstoun Reel* included. *St. Johnstoun* was the ancient name for Perth. *The Reel of the 51st Division* devised in 1940 also has a Perth connection. The *St. Johnstoun Reel* was, like *The Reel of the 51st*, devised in a German Prisoner of war camp in 1944. I believe these were the first two 'modern' dances of the 20th century.

Jim Lindsay's recording for Book 8 is another real winner as they all are in this review. The line up is 2 accordions, Fiddle with Ron Kerr very much in evidence, Graham Berry on keyboard and Malcolm Ross on drums. Recording quality by David Cunningham is, as always, excellent. There are some lovely originals in Book 8, e.g. *Peggy's Love* and *Calver Lodge*. *Jessie's Hornpipe* is another great and on this CD it is a real bobby-dazzler – the original followed by three other hornpipes. Graham excels himself on this track. Even if you do not need this CD for classes and dances, it is highly recommended for listening to – sheer magic!

Roy Goldring's final book of dances was published by his wife Doreen after his death, with help from Muriel Johnstone at Scotscores. One of the dances is dedicated to Rachel Wilton with the tune by Muriel. This CD by Jim Lindsay and Muriel is a fitting tribute to Roy's memory. With Muriel at the helm on piano there is no need for a bass player or drummer. There is clearly tremendous chemistry between Muriel and Jim: again I say sheer magic!

Enjoy these lovely CDs and please call me with any questions.

Unfortunately, the Society CD for Book 7 has been delayed but it should be available along with one for book 17 early in November. 5 Dances 2009 will be split between these two CDs.

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1



2

Group Pictures at other occasions

1 Ten former members of the RSCDS London Branch Demonstration Class met for a pleasant lunch, chat and reminiscences over photos taken in their era.

From left to right back row: Gordon Patterson, Mike Wilson-Jones, Ian Anderson, Kay Dickens, Owen Meyer Vic Barnett. Front row: Joy Richards, Patsy Patterson, Iris Rowson and Christine Meyer.

Photo Mark Dickens.

2 Lyon fiddle orchestra line-up (see article on p.7)

Front row L to R: John McCahill, Seonaid Lynn, Diana Sarran, Christine Sabot, Maëlle Dubey, Judy Wood,

Back row L to R: Tim Watson, Antony Martley, Tancrede Melet, Gordon Simpson, Jacques Arnoux, Nicole Henry, David Foreman.

Photo Emma Orgeret



3



4

Polesden Lacey Garden Dance

3 'The Pied Piper of Polesden' Neil Esselmont, with fans Daysheen Bhogal, Nitisha Bhogal and Katrina, their friend in the red top.

4 National Trust Agent (in green top) Gemma Hodgkiss dancing the circle in *The Eightsome Reel* with our Chairman Jeff Robertson.

Both Pictures by Bhagwant Bhogal



5

AGM and Dance

Photos by Renata Stankova

5 Wilson Nicol and Tiny Pot watch as Elaine Wilde and Catriona Bennett slip-step down the middle in *The Happy Meeting* at the After-AGM Dance.

6 Simon Wales, Margaret Catchick and Marie Jamieson enjoy the fruits of the Vice-Presidents' famous AGM Tea.



6



14



15



16



7



8



9

Musical May

Photos by Stephen Webb

- 7 George Meikle and his Musicians play his original tune composition for the reel *John of Bon Accord*.
- 8 Ben Regan, Harriet Montez, Anne Milligan seen and others dance six hands round and back in the interval dance *The Reel of the 51st Division*.
- 9 Branch Treasurer Simon Wales leads Committee Member Margaret Catchick up the middle in *Seann Truibhas Willichan*.
- 10 Mark Damerell and Jane Gazzard lead off the allemande in *Miss Allie Anderson*, followed by John Raymond and Robin Roads and their partners.
- 11 Edinburgh visitor Patricia Houghton with Leader of the Musicians, George Meikle reflecting on the success of the evening.
- 12 At the Interval and the proverbial bar line-up, in this case of Jeff, Michael, new committee member Elaine, David and Alvin!



10



12



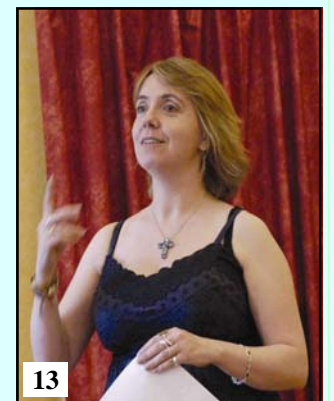
11

13 Angela Young speaking at the Kaleidoscope Conference (see p. 15)
photo by Bruce Hamilton

June Jig

Photos by Renata Stankova

- 14 Trevor and Maggie Stewart-Sweet move in double triangles to set to their corners in *The Starry Eyed Lassie*.
- 15 Jock Blakey, Rachel Wilton, Roger Keeling and Kathy Henderson in a line of four dancing down the middle in *Meg Merrilees*.
- 16 The epitome of dance happiness, our Parisian visitor Mylène Rousseau, setting with her sister in *Peggy Dewar*.
- 17 Petra Dolata-Kreutzkamp (London) with Sophie Rickebusch from Edinburgh and Antje Boettcher from Dortmund.
- 18 Visitors Roy Whitehead from Sheffield with Mathilde Tischmacher from Strasbourg
- 19 Valerie Fisher, a dancer from Toronto with our Chairman, Jeff Robertson.



13



17



18



19

LEEDS WHITE ROSE FESTIVAL

London Branch members were well represented at the 2009 White Rose Scottish Country Dance Festival in Leeds which attracted over three hundred people. For the first time in a few years the sunny weather allowed dancing in the beautiful grounds of Gateways School at Harewood. Demonstrations, Massed Country Dancing, Highland, Children's Dancing, George Meikle's wonderful music made for a great day.

Well done Leeds Branch for such an enjoyable festival.

Michael Nolan

SUMMER PICNIC DANCE

After a gap of two years when it was held at Harrow School the Summer Picnic Dance returned to Polesden Lacey, a National Trust property in Surrey. The dance was held on the Orchard Lawn – however lawn is a generous description of what was more of a clover meadow that has been established in the area that was previously the car park. Undaunted, a large group of dancers of all ages gathered to picnic and dance to the music of David Hall and his Band. The first half was completed with an Eightsome Reel to the pipes of Neil Esslemont. Then, just before the London Demonstration Team were about to go on to start the second half, the heavens suddenly opened.

The large trees that had provided shade from the sun proved to be equally effective in providing shelter from the rain. The rain stopped after about 20 minutes and the team decided to go ahead with their display which was based on the recent RSCDS leaflet "5 Dances 2009 including The Homecoming Dance" and for which Neil provided the accompaniment. They are to be complimented for an interesting display in difficult conditions. The second half then continued with a shortened programme. Thanks are due to Rita Marlow and Wilson Nicol for MCing on a day when one's waterproofs ended up smelling of suntan oil!

Duncan Barnet

Alastair Aitkenhead A Chance Meeting



John Reeve

My wife and I enjoyed a week in June on the wonderful island of Arran. This island, with its lovely beaches, beautiful mountains and so rich in wildlife, has a population of about 4,500 people with a community spirit that one seldom finds nowadays. We took the opportunity to visit one of the RSCDS past chairmen, Alastair Aitkenhead, now in his 88th year, still so lively and full of ideas. Since 1981 he has had a home in Corrie, a delightful little spot on the east coast facing Ardrossan across 12 miles of the Clyde estuary. We enjoyed a happy hour talking about our dancing. Alastair's philosophy has always been to offset the overly staid discipline of SCD with an injection of fun. 'Any dance that is not fun is too competitive' he said.

In his years as PE Adviser for Ayrshire he had a passion for involving children in dance at an early age (not *too* early!). As chairman of the Society he initiated 'Dance Scottish'. He still takes a very keen interest in the involvement of the seven Arran primary schools in the Annual Festival. 'It's important that schoolchildren get involved,' explains Alastair, 'especially for boys who think it is too soft. Before too long, dancing is seen by some as not brave enough, not strong enough.' He is still involved with the Arran ▶

THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

On Saturday 11 July as well as sending teams to the Leeds festival, London Branch played host to another event; a workshop led by guest teacher Bruce Herbold from San Francisco followed by an enjoyable early evening dance MCD by Bruce and Lindsey Rousseau.

Bruce and his wife Patti Cobb were passing through London on their way from the Kaleidoscope Conference in Geneva to Summer School in St. Andrews – Scottish Dancing is nothing if not international!

Bruce's emphasis during the workshop was on the social aspects of dancing – good eye contact, not just with your partner, but with other dancers in the set, courteous handing, and making good use of opportunities for relaxed flirting! Excellent live music for both workshop and dance was provided by Patti Cobb on piano and Ian Cutts on fiddle.

The programme included some dances from early RSCDS books, as well as some favourite dances from Bruce and Patti's home RSCDS Branch in San Francisco.

And the long and the short of it? Despite Bruce's compliments to Lindsey Rousseau on the effortless bounce of her immaculate coiffure when dancing, it's not about haircuts. *The Long and the Short of It* is a medley dance devised by Bruce which was included in the evening's programme.

Refreshments were kindly provided by Lindsey Rousseau, and £43 was raised for the Borderline charity, which works with homeless and insecurely housed Scots in London.

Steve Johnson


▶ Ceilidh Group that meets weekly through the winter.

Alastair showed us round his little cottage with its steep terraced garden rising high behind it, a real gem that he has created over the years. He looked so well, contented and at peace with the world. We were so glad we visited.

John Reeve



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The kilt is my delight!

Dear Wilson,

Many thanks to Ian Cutts for his informative and spirited advocacy on "Why I Don't Wear A Kilt?" in issue 267 of *The Reel*.

The origins of the philibeg (small kilt) and the erstwhile enmity between Highlander and Lowlander cannot be airbrushed from any authentic appreciation of Scottish history and traditions. As Ian's article indicates, this "phoney emblem of Scottishness" should not be taken too seriously, nor as *de rigueur* for Country Dancing.

However this form of dress has a long and noble history as a martial garb, as do the tartan trews. If the variety of tartans in the British Army is much reduced e.g. the Government Tartan of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, there are still many Canadian Regiments and other Commonwealth countries that perpetuate the distinctions, including the Maple Leaf (Canadian Government) Tartan of the Royal Canadian Regiment and even "Hodden Grey" tartan as worn by the Toronto Scottish and The London Scottish.

Although I might decide to wear the kilt for special dances, I am not much fussed to wear it at our weekly dance class; the dancing is the thing and it is by no means sure that the kilt improves performance or timing.

I much prefer the kilt for hillwalking as it does indeed allow greater freedom, a longer stride and unrestricted knee-bend and purchase, notably on the Right Hand Gully of The Lost Valley Buttress of Glen Coe on Easter Monday en route to the summit of Bidean nam Bian. The comfort that the kilt affords and the curious fact that I have never had the displeasure of catching ticks while kilted may, in part, explain why this apparel remained fashionable and functional in the Highlands, and still has a place out-of-doors, if not on the dance floor.

Niall Adam Archibald
late Royal Regiment of Scotland

Hemel Hempstead

How do I count thee?

Dear Wilson,

Sonnet 43 was not referring to SCD but there are many ways of counting sets! Like anyone else, after the announcement of the dance and once I have escorted my partner on to the dance floor, I just want to start dancing. Yet, there are important formalities to observe with questions to answer. Such as, does your partner have any queries concerning the dance to be danced and more importantly do you and what number in the set are you?



Alan Talbot counts down the lines

Nothing can begin in the longways set until the dancers' number is known (the dancers' position in a triangular, square and round the room dances is obvious). In SCD circles, the tradition is for the first man in longways sets to count down from the top to

bottom of his line of couples. I recall, with some amusement that at Kilkenny Castle the hall was so long, that a relay first man was used at the halfway point!

In the simplest form, both man and woman wish to know what number they are so when I am the counter I just count 'first couple', 'second', 'third', etc. restarting with 'first couple' each time whilst making eye contact to be sure they have heard their number. Sounds too simple! But those of us that have not been in a miscounted set can count themselves – lucky!

So what can go wrong?

Common problems to guard against are:



Rachel Wilton stewarding at Perth AGM

The counter is not including himself, dancers joining a set after the count has passed that point, the lady not standing on the man's side as a marker till her partner joins the set, counting for 4C in a 3C or 5C set, the counter being distracted whilst counting, poor communication between counter and MC. You will agree that the solutions to these problems are self-evident! The counter should in my view, adopt a friendly manner whilst treating the role as a serious one. At large functions such as the RSCDS AGM ball and dance where up to 800 dancers could be dancing then, efficiency is essential and cubes on poles or cards are a useful visual aid to the MC! The counter can also help space the sets in the hall and encourage straight lines to begin the dance.

In English and American country dancing a completely different and simpler, if less sociable, approach is adopted – the Caller simply announces 'take hands four (or eight) from the top' and immediately the numbers are known.

Bad counting wastes time and reduces the encores that can be added to the evening so those who aspire to be counters should be alert to the minefield they are crossing. Or is it time to reconsider this SCD tradition?

Happy dancing,

Stephen Webb

Toronto Ontario.

Greetings from Toronto

Dear Editor,

Glenview Scottish Country Dancers have been dancing in Toronto for over 30 years and are delighted to be the only Canadian social group listed in the RSCDS London Branch web-site links.

With so much global air travel today either for business, pleasure or family connection, we pride ourselves in welcoming visitors to our city and have them dance with us.

I travel widely and may say from experience how difficult it can be for a member of "Miss Milligan's family" to find an entrée at an established local group without knowing ahead of time whom to contact. It is daunting for the less courageous to walk up to a complete stranger and ask to dance at a social evening or ball especially when so many have booked dances ahead of time. There is nothing worse than feeling invisible!

It may not appear to be an issue in the UK where distance between communities is relatively short, but here in Canada and the US, the reverse is the norm. Nothing enhances an out of town visit more than a warm welcome and pleasurable visit to one or more of the local groups.

At a recent visit to Pont Street, where fortunately I was already acquainted with one or two, I had the opportunity to make new dancing friends and speak of the possibility of each branch having an 'ambassador' who may be contacted to direct a traveller to a group near to place of stay and provide a welcome. As a result, an informal 'twinning' of Glenview has been arranged with a social group in Hertfordshire.

For those who may be considering a trip to Toronto our website is www.glenviewscd.org and we look forward to either welcoming you to our town or direct you to a local group should you be journeying further afield.

Jonathan Allen-Friend

Recapping dances

Dear Wilson,

Each year the Berks/Hants/Surrey Border Branch organizes a meeting for Chairmen and Secretaries of local clubs to discuss matters in the area.

At our recent meeting, one of the topics discussed at length was that of recapping dances. This was prompted by the letters in the last two issues of *The Reel*.

The feeling from the BHS area was that, yes, dances should be recapped. However, we all agreed that the recap should be short and concise. Some people at the meeting even said that they were in favour of having a walk-through for each dance. Again most people were happy with this, provided it was a very quick walk-through with no long-winded descriptions or teaching points! The moral of the story is to choose your MC with great care! With falling numbers at dances, new dancers should be encouraged to go - to this end, MCs could announce at the beginning of the evening that the dances will be walked through, and that less-experienced dancers should go into first place to do this.

Another point that was raised at the meeting was that some programmes consist of too many dances only familiar to the organizing club. It is always good to dance an unknown or challenging dance, but only one in each half please!

BHS Border Branch Committee

Berkshire

Musician's Workshop

Dear Wilson,

I would like to say how much I enjoyed the Branch Musicians' Day in May, in a number of respects: great music (pity I couldn't manage every tune...), great teaching, great company, and superb Branch hospitality.

It was good to see a couple of people from the London Feis as well.

The only person who should have been there, and was not as far as I know, was Mr Hoult. He would then have been able to see for himself just how much work is put in by the musicians whose reward he finds excessive. On the other hand he would have enjoyed the excellent refreshments supplied by the Branch.

I therefore urge Mr Hoult to come along to join us in October, when the Branch is including a Musicians' Workshop as part of the Day School. It does not matter if he normally plays an instrument somewhat removed from the classic fiddle / accordion / piano normally found in a Scottish dance band – if he had come in May he could have played a church organ!

Thanks to George Meikle and everyone in the Branch team for a great day.

Colin McEwen

Cheltenham

Walk Throughs

Dear Wilson

A walk-through at a ball is an indication of a poorly devised programme. A good programme consists of mainstream dances, all of which are well known to everyone who might buy a ticket. There must be no odd dances and certainly no local dance. In this way everyone can enjoy themselves in a great atmosphere without brain strain.

There is nothing more certain to destroy the atmosphere than the MC saying the dreaded words, "not many people know this dance, so we will walk it through." This begs the question, why is this unknown dance on the programme?

John Marshall

Norris and Daphne

Norris and Daphne as husband and wife were two very well known demonstration team dancers from the 1960s onwards. In time they went their own ways and remarried. Sadly and remarkably, however, they both died of cancer within weeks of each other in the spring.



Norris Haugh

When Norris came to London from Malvern in 1959 after schooling at Rugby, military service, then graduating in Chemistry and Biology from Corpus Christi at Cambridge, he joined the

London demonstration group and served it diligently for over 30 years excelling in both country and highland dancing. He also danced with Corryvreckan and The Sheen SCD Group. Besides, he played the pipes at many events and spent much of his livelihood in tennis. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Denise, and his many friends. Here follow some appreciations:

Norris was one of the real personalities and a fixture in the second fortnight of St. Andrews Summer Schools over a period of at least 25 years. He was, of course, one of the better dancers on the scene; and not more so than in the Highland Class where he was so often the star of the Younger Hall dems. On many a morning Norris would provide the wake up call for the residents with a rendition on the pipes; he was a great supporter of the afternoon piping class.

Norris was always a great team player and made a huge contribution to the social scene. His room and company were always a popular haunt for a great range of folk, from the youngsters in their first few years at St. Andrews through to his own contemporaries and beyond. He was generous with his hospitality, and great fun. His popular ceilidh items always went down extremely well. In London too, Norris had this great sense of contributing – he was a stalwart of the Highland Classes that I taught over several years, with always a call if couldn't make it, and attending almost up to his final days. Again at the Sunday morning Technique Classes he was a regular, who gave 100% and provided gentle encouragement for the teachers. While very much of my father's generation (they danced together in the Demonstration Team of 1959), I certainly counted Norris amongst my friends - I admired his determination to do things as well as possible, his humour and fun, and enormous sense of loyalty. He will be missed by many.

David Hall

My lasting memories of Norris are his generosity; he always bought a round of drinks in the pub and always passed around his hip-flask at Demos or a litre bottle on Demos abroad, and his sense of humour. He frequently had newspaper cuttings about items that were ludicrous.

Iris Anderson

Norris was the most senior active member of the St. Andrew Society (London), also known as Wimbledon and District Scots' Association, having joined in the 1950s. He was an Honorary Piper to the Society, a Past Chief, and a Committee Member until his death. For many years he organised the MCs rota, and left it virtually complete until the end of this season. He encouraged people to take a turn at being MC, and as a fully qualified RSCDS teacher, was a good source of advice to those who undertook this duty. He rarely danced in his later years, due to problems with his knees, but it was unusual

for him to miss one of our regular Tuesday evening meetings. He had a dry sense of humour – his favourite joke was that, if the definition of a gentleman is “someone who can play the bagpipes but doesn't”, what did that make him, as he could not play them but did? He actually played them very well. Profits from the St. Andrew Society's Centenary Ball next March will be donated to St. Raphael's Hospice in memory of Norris.

Elizabeth Bennett

Norris started Highland dancing when he was 5 years old and he continued attending classes, firstly with Colin Robertson, then Malcolm Lay and finally Dave Hall, right up to the last class before his death. The effort it must have taken him to get to that class is characteristic of the determination and loyalty of the man. Norris was a reserved, kind and very original man. He danced enthusiastically and Bill Ireland had many expressions to describe his participation in London Demonstration classes. Foreign tours have always been part of the dem class repertoire and on one of these, in France, Norris (perhaps uniquely) had his sporran picked on the Paris metro!

He was a regular member of the Summer school at St. Andrews, where he was also able to indulge in his other passion tennis, and in a third interest; malt whisky. Despite his timid appearance the late night parties in Norris's room were always lively and discussions were wide ranging. Norris was always interested in others, especially young people, and his social gatherings had representation from several generations.

A keen musician Norris took up playing the bagpipes in the 1970s, with the ambition to be able to play for dances when he could no longer dance them. He was always modest about his skills as a piper and reluctantly became the official piper for the Shene Scottish dance group in the early 1980s. It was there that he later met Denise and a happier new chapter of his life began.

Norris's illness was sudden and it was only an uncharacteristic lack of energy that alerted him and his doctors to his cancers. He hoped that a cure would be found but this was not to be

Lindsey Jane Rousseau

Daphne Grace Haugh

Born Daphne Marshall 29 September 1931, died 25 April 2009.

Daphne grew up in Bugbrooke and went to Northamptonshire High School for girls in Dergate, before going on to gain her PE teaching qualification at Bedford College, Bedford. During this time she played County Tennis for Northants and later Hereford. We are not sure whether she met Norris Haugh through tennis or Scottish dancing. She taught PE in Ledbury near Malvern where Norris taught Chemistry and married Norris in Spring 1957. They moved to Wimbledon in 1959. Both were tennis players, and Scottish dancers. In 1956 she took the RSCDS preliminary teacher's certificate, and the following year her full certificate at St Andrews Summer School.

From back copies of *The Reel* we know that Daphne taught the RSCDS Elementary class at Rutherford School, London 1963-65 and also the RSCDS Intermediate class at Rutherford School, 1965-66.

She was a member of Bill Ireland's London demonstration class and with Chris Lohan and Peggy Jones formed the Harcourt Reelers and

Jiggers (name derived from the pub where we met up for after class drinks). These two competition teams went on to win many trophies at the Richmond Highland Games and the Harpenden

games. These were dancing events but primarily social occasions and excuses for lavish picnics. Meanwhile Daphne was busy with her career, and was appointed head of PE at Wimbledon High School in 1971 – useful for practice venues.

She left the RSCDS London Dem class about 1975, with many knee problems, and concentrated on her job as deputy headmistress, later that year she was appointed headmistress at Rowan Girl's School. She and Norris were in total harmony when sitting around their beautiful upright piano with Daphne playing and Norris playing his recorders – often two at once, other guests singing or playing their own instruments.

Daphne left Wimbledon to live in New Malden in 1994, whilst a Governor of Wimbledon High. She joined Dick Butler at Upham in Hampshire in 1998, continuing as a governor, and became a governor of two other schools, including a boys' prep school. Daphne always went to watch the tennis championships at Wimbledon, and after being on the waiting list for 28 years, finally became a Member of the All England Club. She also enjoyed going to Glyndebourne – another excuse for lavish picnics and dressing up! These were to be some of her happiest years.

She remained cheerful and kept her sense of humour to the end. In the nursing home a visiting doctor remarked that the picture which was in Daphne's room above her head should have been hung on the opposite wall so that she could enjoy it. Daphne's retort was “Ah, but they knew I was a headmistress and had eyes in the back of my head!” Her last words to us on the Sunday before she died were “Keep dancing”

This tribute to our dear friend Daphne was contributed by **Graham Marshall**, her younger brother, **Jenny Greene**, **Kay Dickens**, **Iris Anderson** and many memories from **Gordon and Patsy Patterson**.

JUNE JIG WITH AN INTERNATIONAL FLAVOUR

A select crowd danced a hot evening away to the lively music of Frank Reid and his Band at the June Jig which had quite an international flavour! Amongst the dancers we had visitors from far and near: Amy Banner from New York, Antje Boettcher from Dortmund, Valerie Fisher from Toronto, Tiny Pot from Rosendaal, Sophie Rickebusch from Edinburgh, Mylène Rousseau from Paris, Mathilde Tischmacher from Strasbourg, and Roy Whitehead from Sheffield. Visitors are always welcome at our dances: they should make themselves known to the Chairman to be introduced to other members. After a good smattering of encores, the dancers were ready at half-time for the ample refreshments prepared by Angela and her team.

[See photos in the centre pages.]

GOING ON-LINE WITHOUT A COMPUTER

As someone without an on-line computer at home, I was volunteered to write this article so as to give inspiration to those in a similar situation.

Computers are everywhere. Many of you will use computers at work and get the necessary training and support in a fast moving world. But what about those who do not work with computers, who are retired or do not have precocious children to help them? It is well-known that vast amounts of data on all subjects (including Scottish Country Dancing) are there for the asking. But how do you dip a toe into the water?

Some years ago, it became obvious that the world was marching ahead. I had an old hand-me-down computer at home on which I could do word processing. Should I upgrade and go on-line?

But my concerns were how much would it cost? Where do I get the expertise when one hears about the lack of readable documentation? How do you get support when you hear of expensive premium rate help lines where you dial someone far away whose English may be dubious and riddled with jargon?

Even if you have a computer, where do you get an email address from? How do you access the Internet?

Some years ago, I popped over for an afternoon with computer wizard Meryl Thomson (who helps run the London Branch web site with husband Ian) and she gave me a helpful run through the basics.

Now that I had an appreciation of things, I headed for the public library, five minutes walk from home, where eight machines are located.

So, brandishing my library card, I was given a PIN. Now I could easily book up to two hours time a day on a computer. (Given that my wife also has a library card, that makes four hours a day but do not tell the library that!)

I have overheard library staff give basic advice to others on how to "click" using a mouse and how to find "Google" and the such like. So you can ask basic questions if you are stumped. I hear that some libraries even run free basic courses.

Regarding email, Meryl had told me that using Hotmail was free. So having logged on to a machine in the library, I clicked on menu option "Hotmail" and then clicked on "Sign up". This enabled me to choose my own free email address and I was soon up and running communicating virtually instantly with people around the world and saving pounds in postage costs as a spin off. These days most people use email and it has become one of life's essentials.

I am fortunate that my public library is just around the corner and I have the time to call in during opening hours. Two advantages are that it is free and, when something goes wrong, it is somebody else's problem. The obvious disadvantage is that you are tied to library hours. However if a library is inconvenient, internet cafés abound if you do not wish to equip yourself at home.

But once your email address is known by others you must keep up the routine of looking for incoming mail at least a couple of times a week. So a degree of discipline is needed. The fact that you have a specific maximum number of hours in the library environment concentrates the mind so that you are not tempted to spend hours and hours on the computer.

So which aspects are useful to the Scottish Dancer? Firstly, as I say, email has the great advantage of enabling communications with dancers around the world virtually instantly.

Then there is the London Branch website,



namely www.rscdslondon.org.uk. If you cannot remember this then enter "Google" and just key in "RSCDS London Branch" and let Google find it for you. Here you have access to the latest SE

Dance diary and list of classes in the SE, details of branch membership, dances and classes, articles from the Reel, details of the bookshop plus links to other useful sites — including Belly Dancing!

There is the RSCDS HQ website, namely www.rscds.org with details of Summer and Winter Schools, AGM, training and teaching, Branch locations worldwide, to name but a few.

Being someone who goes dancing in Europe, via Google, I can access "Celtic Circle" via www.celtic-circle.de which gives me details of all the regular classes and their contact details, plus details of special events such as annual weekend schools and balls throughout Europe.

What if you are going on holiday to, say, Anchorage, Alaska? Should you take your dancing shoes? As an exercise, within Google, I simply typed "Scottish Country Dance Anchorage". This displayed entries for a number of websites. Clicking on the first of these revealed details of a dance taking place the following Monday! All in a few seconds.

Also it is not all rosy. So I shall end on a negative note so that this article is balanced. Many dancers use Mini-crib to access dance cribs from a wide database. Not having had a need to investigate this before, for the purpose of this article, I tried to check it out.

But I simply hit a brick wall as www.minicrib.care4free.net led me to a lot of computer jargon and whatever I "clicked" on took me nowhere apart from the odd error message. Possibly the library configuration is not compatible? Obviously it must be possible but I shall leave it to others to reveal its mysteries.

And so, having finished this article I shall save myself a stamp and a walk to the postbox. One click and I shall email this to Wilson, courtesy of the library.

Jim Cook

KALEIDOSCOPE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CONFERENCE

Big Success

Sixty-six dedicated Scottish Country Dance enthusiasts met in Thoiry, France, just outside Geneva over the weekend of 3-5 July 2009 to engage in a unique international event. The Kaleidoscope SCD Conference, three years in the planning, created an opportunity for those seriously interested in Scottish Country Dancing and music to debate and learn from each other about many aspects of our chosen hobby. Speakers came from 12 countries and altogether participants were from 17 countries on four continents.

The response to the event from the participants was very positive. A participant from Canada wrote: 'Kaleidoscope was a brilliant success, thanks to the devoted and caring work of Susi, Jerry, Pia, and Jeff. I also liked the structure, with its movement between the theoretical sessions and the practical sessions including dancing, all of which had more interesting content than a typical workshop class.'

In the short weekend there were 25 presentations, 10 of which involved dancing, and two longer panels – 'The future of SCD: Can we get there from here?' and an RSCDS panel which included the Chairman, Chairman Elect, Convenors of Education and Training and General Purposes and Finance and the new Executive Officer.

Topics ranged from the interesting and enjoyable 'What a difference a tune makes – how well do you know the music you're dancing to?' through to the MC's duties, a novel approach to dealing with mistakes, the place of Scottish Country Dance in 19th century social dance in Europe, SCD and the Internet, the value of technique in fostering enjoyment of SCD, grappling with the aesthetics of SCD, organizing dance and musicians' workshops to name just a few. Many were of interest to teachers, but those who 'just like to dance' also found them worthwhile and interesting. Although the RSCDS had offered to subsidise any loss up to £1000, in the event Kaleidoscope was completely self-financing.

The conference was recorded in full and we plan to offer video streaming as well as downloads of the conference papers free of charge via the website <http://scdkaleidoscope1.strathspey.org> later this year.

The main criticism made was that the event was too short!

Jerry Reinstein

[see picture of Angela Young addressing the Conference on the centre pages]



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DANCE EVENTS

ASHDOWN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Charity Dance

For Canine Partners and the Parkinson's Disease
Society [Crowborough Branch]
Saturday 19 September 2009
7.30 - 11.30pm

Beacon Community College, North Beeches,
Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 7AS

The Craigievar Band

Programme: Shiftin' Bobbins; Wild Geese;
Minister on the Loch; The Lochalsh Reel;
Midnight Oil; Cashmere Shawl; Miss Johnstone
of Ardrossan; Father Connelly's Jig; Flower of
the Quern; John of Bon Accord; Ray Milbourne;
Diamond Jubilee; Butterscotch and Honey;
Napier's Index; Royal Yacht Britannia; Notting-
ham Lace; Band's Choice; James Senior of
St. Andrews; The Irish Rover; The Cocket Hat;
The Blue Mess Jacket; Dundee City Police;
Mairi's Wedding.

Tickets, in advance please, £11.00 (child/
spectators £6.00) plus bring a plate of food
Contact Michael Copeman Tel: 01892 655971
email: michaelc.copeman@btinternet.com



HAYES AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL BALL

Saturday 7 November 2009
7.30 - 11.30pm
Brentside High School,
Greenford Avenue, W7 1JJ

The Craigellachie Band

Programme: Bratach Bana, The Nurseryman,
The Silver Tassie, Clutha, James Gray,
The Minister on the Loch, The Recumbent Stone,
Midsummer Madness, The Winding Road
Equilibrium, The Reel of the Royal Scots:
Maxwell's Rant, Napier's Index, The Cashmere
Shawl, The Black Mountain Reel, Father
Connelly's Jig, The Dream Catcher, Scott
Meikle, Pelorus Jack, Jean Martin of Aberdeen,
Mairi's Wedding, Ian Powrie's Farewell to
Auchterarder

Tickets: £16 [incl. Buffet] from
Margaret Wallace, tel 020 8560 6160
e-mail: Margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk
or Maureen McCann, tel: 020 8573 3237
e-mail: mccann_maureen@hotmail.com
Cribs from Website: www.hayesscottish.org.uk

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2010: 6 February, 8 May

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24 October, 27 February

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Ann Robertson tel: 01296 630682



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER BRANCH

Advanced Class – alternate Mondays
Starting on Monday 7 September 2009
8.00 to 10.00 pm.

Finchampstead Memorial Hall RG40 4JU
Teachers: **Ann Dix, Gaynor Curtis,**
Mervyn Short and Alan Davis
Contact: Fiona Albinson 0118 978 9181

General Class – Every Wednesday
Starting on 9 September 2009 at 8.00pm
at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church Hall,
Frimley GU16 7AA

Teacher: **Mervyn Short**
Contact: Fiona Albinson 0118 9789181

New Beginners and Improvers Class
Starting on Thursday 10 September 2009
8.00pm.

Teacher: **Anne Whillis**
All Saints Church Hall, Farnborough GU14 9EW
Contact: Shirley Ferguson 01276 501952

Autumn Social – 10 October 2009
Normandy Village Hall, Normandy GU3 2DT
Dancing to recorded music from 7.45 - 10.45 pm
Bring a plate to share
Contact: Roger Finch 01483 511040 or
Deborah Draffin 01344 776831

Christmas Social – 28 December 2009
Christmas Social at Finchampstead Memorial
Hall RG40 4JU from 7.45 - 10.45 pm.
Bring and share refreshments.
Dancing to recorded music
Contact: Peter Loveland 07747 112720 or
Annette Owen 01252 845187

Day School – 13 March 2010
Contact: Fiona Albinson 0118 9789181

RSCDS Teaching Certificate
See announcement on page 5

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH

Autumn Dance
Saturday 17 October 2009
7.00 - 11.00pm
Weald of Kent School, Tudeley Lane,
Tonbridge TN9 2JP
Dancing to recorded music
Tickets £6.50 plus a plate of food to share
Contact Sue Fergusson, tel: 01892 513514 or
email: socialsec@rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk
website: rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk



BRACKNELL REEL CLUB

50th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday 26 September 2009
7.30 - 11.15

Emmbrook School
Wokingham, Berks RG41 1JP

Strathallan

Tickets £14/£9 (under 18s) inc. supper with wine
and home-made desserts.

Contact: David McQuillan 0118 9793024
65 Woosehill Lane, Wokingham RG41 2TR
email: dance@bracknellreelclub.org.uk
Full details at www.bracknellreelclub.org.uk

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

NEW YEAR BALL AND DINNER
Saturday 9 January 2010
7.00 for 7.30 - 11.45pm

Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre SL9 7AD

Ian Robertson's Band

Programme: Cramond Bridge, The Snake Pass,
The Duchess Tree, Bauldy Bain's Fiddle,
The Ship in Full Sail, Bonnie Ina Campbell,
Mrs Stewart of Fasnaclloch, The Hazel Tree,
The Moray Rant, La Tempête, Ray Milbourne,
Anna Holden's Strathspey, The Roselath Cross,
Polharrow Burn, Culla Bay, John of Bon Accord,
The Dancing Master, Cape Town Wedding,
The Clachan, Mairi's Wedding.

Tickets £22
email tickets@gxscottish.org.uk
Andrew Patterson tel 01753 890591
www.gxscottish.org.uk

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball
Saturday 6 March 2010
Harpenden Public Hall, Harpenden, Herts AL5 1PD
The Craigellachie Band
Programme and other details in the next issue
Enquiries to Val Owens 01727 863870

RSCDS BATH BRANCH

Annual Ball
Saturday 13 February 2010
The Guildhall, Bath BA1 5AW.
Hugh Ferguson and the Dalriada Band
Tickets £25 from June Hall
Top Flat, 141 Wells Road, Bath BA2 3AL.
Tel 01225 318906

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Annual Ball
Saturday 24 October 2009
To be held once again in the splendid setting of
the Main Hall at Headington School,
Oxford, OX3 7TD.

Ample free parking and on the London to Oxford
bus route with a bus stop right outside
the school gates.

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Shiftin' Bobbins, Mrs Stewart's Jig,
The Balmoral Strathspey, Peggy Dewar,
The Linton Ploughman, Cape Town Wedding,
The Piper and the Penguin, The Nurseryman,
MacDonald of The Isles, College Hornpipe,
Hooper's Jig, 1314, The Plantation Reel,
Napier's Index, The Gentleman, Caberfei, James
Gray, Cherrybank Gardens, The Laird of
Milton's Daughter, The Montgomeries' Rant.

Tickets £15 (spectators £7.50) including supper
Contact: Trisha Rawlings, tel. 01869 340830
email: trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com

Advance notice

Burns Night Supper & Dance
16 January 2010
Benson, OX10 6LZ

Ian Robertson and his Band

RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

Christmas American Supper Dance
Saturday 12 December 2009
Caber Feidh
Tickets £12

Annual Ball

Saturday 17 April 2010
Craigievar
Tickets £17 inc. Supper

Venue for both events:
Corfe Mullen Village Hall BH21 3UA

ST. NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS

Annual Dance
Saturday 14 November 2009 at 7.30pm
St Albans Girls School, Sandridgebury Lane,
Harpenden Road, St Albans AL3 6DB.
Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band
Tickets £15.00 including supper.
Details from Pat Hamilton tel 01462 671156,
Sheila Harris tel 01525875060, or Chris Walker
mail@cwalker3707.fsnet.co.uk

DANCE EVENTS (continued)

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Formal Dance & Buffet
Saturday 14 November, 2008
7.30 - 11.00 pm
Reigate School, Pendleton Road,
Reigate RH2 7NT

David Hall and his Band

MCs: Alister Reid and Rita Marlow

Programme: Kendall's Hornpipe, The Moray Rant, Broadford Bay, Foxhill Court, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Polharrow Burn, Minister on the Loch, The Reel of the Royal Scots, Rothesay Rant, Neidpath Castle, Airie Bannan, Celtic Cross, Gang the Same Gate, Jennifer's Jig, The Montgomerie's Rant, Blue Mess Jacket, White Heather Jig, Duke of Perth.
Extras: The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Machine without Horses, Byron Strathspey.

Tickets £11,

Enquiries to Alister Reid 020 8393 6732

RSCDS CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH Annual Weekend School

Friday 13 - Sunday 15 November 2009
The Cumberland Hotel, Eastbourne BN21 3YT

Teacher: Pat Davoll

Cost: £106 Branch members
£110.00 non-members.
Application forms available from
Pauline Cashmore 0208 686 9362

Annual Ball

Saturday 10 January 2010
Sanderstead URC Hall,
Sanderstead Hill, CR2 8DD
7.00 - 10.30 pm

Robin Ellis

Tickets £14.00 for members £15.00 for non-members (including supper)
in advance from Dorothy Pearson 01737551724
www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Autumn Dance

Saturday 17 October 2009, 7 to 11 pm
St Luke's Parish Hall, Pinner, HA5 3EX

The Silver Cross Band

Tickets: £11 from Jim Henderson 020 8954 2586,
email: jimhendersonuk@aol.com

Annual Ball

Saturday 2 January 2010, 7:30 to 11:30 pm
Allum Hall, Elstree WD6 3PJ

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme in the next issue.

www.harrowscottish.org.uk

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ST. JOHN'S SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Wokingham
Annual Ball
Saturday 28 November 2009
7.30 - 11.45 pm
Emmbrook School,
Wokingham RG41 1JP

Marian Anderson's Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Lothian Lads, Quarries' Jig, The Hills of Alba, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, The Committee Meeting, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Cherry Bank Gardens, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich, Craigmint Brig, Culla Bay, Lochalsh Reel, St. Andrew's Nicht at the Shooting Lodge, Old Nick's Lumber Room, St. Columba Strathspey, Glen Alva, The Dancing Master, Monadh Laith, The Rev. John MacFarlane, Swiss Lassie, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Pelorus Jack, The Montgomerie's Rant, Extras: Scott Meikle, The Craven Jig.

No Bar, but soft drinks will be provided – and wine with supper.

For Tickets £16.00, please contact Sue Davis,
Tel: 01344 774344 or email:
alan.suedavis@live.com

HALF DAY SCHOOL for Intermediates

Saturday 7 Nov 09

At St. Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride
Wokingham RG40 3BA.

2.00 - 5 p.m. £5.00

Teacher: Gaynor Curtis

Applications from John Fletcher

Tel: 01344 761302 or

e-mail johnhf@warmweb.co.uk

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unless otherwise stated

Saturday 5 Sept. **Stradivarius**

Let the dancing begin. 7.00 to 11.00pm

With Jacket Potato Supper

Saturday 3 Oct. **Karl Sandeman**

Friday 30 Oct. **Hallowe'en**

Saturday 21 Nov. **Musicmakers**

Friday 27 Nov. **St. Andrew's Night**

Friday 18 Dec. **Frank Reid**

Christmas Dance. 7.30 to 11.00pm

All dances will be talked or walked through on request, except Christmas Dance.

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



ST ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON)

WIMBLEDON AND DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION

Centenary Ball

Saturday 20 March 2010

6.30 for 7pm; carriages 11pm

Wimbledon High School, Mansel Rd, SW19 4AB

David Hall and his Band

Programme: Grand March and Round Reel of Eight; The Belle of Bon Accord; Hooper's Jig; Anniversary Reel; Garry Strathspey; Luckenbooth Brooch; Centenary Reel; Butterscotch and Honey; Pelorus Jack; St. Columba's Strathspey; J.B.Milne; Seton's Ceilidh Band; The Winding Road; Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan; The Bees of Maggielockater; The Robertson Rant; Irish Rover; IPFTA. Extras: Trip to Bavaria; Postie's Jig.

Tickets including buffet supper
£27 (Spectators £18) in advance only
Highland or evening dress preferred

All enquiries to Elizabeth Bennett

020 8715 3564, e: lizbennett@blueyonder.co.uk

Profits from this event will be donated to St.

Raphael's Hospice.

RSCDS CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH

Annual Dance

Saturday 17 October 2009

7.30 - 11.30 pm

Chesterton Community College,

Cambridge CB4 3NY

Craigievar

Programme: The Happy Meeting, The Highland Rambler, The Gentleman, Napier's Index, Culla Bay, John of Bon Accord, The Wild Geese, Up in the Air, Milton's Welcome: Maxwell's Rant, The Bridge of Sighs, Berwick Johnnie, MacLeod's Fancy, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, None so Pretty, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Major Ian Stewart, The Montgomerie's Rant, *Extras:* Quarries Jig, The Reel of the 51st Division.

Tickets £12.50 (students £8). Shared Refreshments.

For tickets please enclose a Stamped Addressed

Envelope to Tony Garrick,

29 Illingworth Way, Foxton, Cambridge

CB22 6RY. Tel: 01223 874257

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CALLERS VERY WELCOME

BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING

Wouldn't it be great if we could persuade more people to take up SCD? If you are reading this, then you already know about and appreciate the physical, mental and social benefits which flow from our activity. I would love to see lots of beginners invading every branch, every class and every club. Of course, making provision for beginners is not easy...

Many branches and affiliated groups in the RSCDS have the problem of trying to integrate beginners into established classes or clubs. In a big branch the problems may be less acute, as there may be sufficient beginners to justify a separate class with its own teacher. But what do you do if you have 2 or 3 beginners, then 2 or 3 more next week, then another one and so on throughout the dancing season? This is a topic which is always raised wherever SCD teachers meet. There is no simple nor correct answer to the question, "How do we provide a good experience for beginners?"

Various dance groups have well established routines which work well for them. In some places, the evening is divided up so that beginners, and anyone else who cares to turn up, dances at beginners' level for the first hour. The beginners then depart and the next hour is taught at intermediate level. The final one hour or so is devoted to advanced dancers, by which time the numbers are considerably reduced, but the standard is high. Some ideas will work in some countries or branches and not in others, but the point is to have a range of strategies, so that if one is not working, you can try another one.

"How can we ensure that beginners find dancing accessible and inclusive?" is an even trickier question. I look back to my youth and wonder if at times I was not a bit intolerant of less experienced dancers joining my set. Perhaps a degree of competence also encourages a degree of selfishness, or maybe that was just me!

Recently, the Education & Training Committee of the RSCDS has been looking at one simple idea. It is an outline for a ten to twelve week Beginners' Course. This is not a rigid syllabus,

but suggestions for which formations and dances to introduce in which order, to help the teacher to achieve progressive teaching. Instead of an exam or an assessment at the end, I would like to see the beginners rewarded with a certificate of completion and then they could hold a small dance, the programme to be the dances they have encountered in the course and perhaps a few other really simple ones. They could invite the more experienced dancers, if they wanted to. I have experienced this and found that the more competent dancers generally have a really good time too. There is no huddling in the corners muttering over crib sheets of complicated dances, for instance.

Most teachers will tell you that it is much more demanding to teach beginners really effectively than it is to teach more experienced or more competent dancers. Intermediate level (and upwards) dancers have already become familiar with basic steps, basic formations, the language of SCD and the complexities of progression in a longwise set. All this is a mystery to the average beginner and calls for a great deal of expertise from the teacher. Beginners have needs not just in the learning and understanding all the complexity associated with dancing; learning any new skill can also be an emotional experience. While the teacher of a beginners' class must be able to demonstrate all the steps and formations to a very high standard, the best dancers do not always make the best teachers. Keen new teachers can often try to teach too much too quickly, which leads rapidly to discouraged dancers. More experienced teachers will adapt the learning curve to the needs of the dancers. They also understand the power of praise and humour. For this reason, many branches and RSCDS schools use their most experienced, patient and knowledgeable teachers to teach beginners. A good and successful teacher of beginners is someone who is sympathetic to the range of needs lurking in the mind and body of the beginner.

Helen Russell

RSCDS Convenor Education and Training

MOST POPULAR DANCES

2008 - 2009

In the year from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, I attended 39 dances (excluding club nights) in the area from Birmingham to Bristol, and from Hereford to Oxford at which 749 dances were performed; of which 277 were different dances.

The most popular were *The Dancing Master* and *Mr Iain Stuart Robertson* both of which occurred 13 times, which is on one third of the occasions.

Column 'b' is the number of times each dance occurred this season out of 39 occasions. 'c' is the number of times it occurred 2007 - 2008 out of 45 occasions. 'd' is the number of times it occurred 2006 - 2007 out of 37 occasions.

It is pleasing to see that many of our old favourites are still our favourites. A few have fallen by the wayside, such as *Culla Bay* which topped the list two years ago, but this year was only performed three times. Here is the top ten from my list

	b	c	d
Dancing Master	J 13	10	5
Mr Iain Stuart Robertson	R 13	9	7
Mairi's Wedding	R 12	8	7
Welcome to Dufftown	J 11	11	3
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	R 10	8	5
Cherrybank Gardens	S 10	8	4
Midnight Oil	J 10	7	3
Mrs Stuart Linnell	R 9	8	3
Polharrow Burn	R 9	7	7
The Gentleman	S 9	7	5

All of the "Top Twenty" dances performed in the London Area, compiled by Iain Ross, and which appeared in *The Reel* No 266 also appear on my full list.

All of the "Top Twenty Two", dances except one performed in and around Yorkshire compiled by Michael East, and which appeared in "Broun's Reel" No.117 also appear on my list.

All but two of the most popular dances performed in North-east Scotland, on the list compiled by Max Keith are on my list.

This is encouraging, and it is to be hoped that at last, it is possible to travel anywhere around the SCD world and always encounter a programme of familiar dances.

John Marshall
Cheltenham

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Dancing most Mondays, 8.00 - 10.15pm, Sept to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details/map: www.geocities.com/abscdc or Rowena Fowler, 01865 361129.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for all grades. Details from Tony Garrick, 29 Ilingworth Way, Foxton, Cambridge, CB22 6RY. Tel. 01223 510201. email: anthony.garrick@ntworld.com.

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

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

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30 to 10.30pm from October to end May, at St Andrew's Church Hall, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN. Tel: 01242 528220, mbstele45@aol.com.

CHELMSFORD: SANDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets on Monday evenings 7.30-9.30pm at the Hayward School, Maltese Road, Chelmsford. Beginners welcome. Details from Esther Wilkinson, email: ewilkin@gmail.com or tel. 01206 240132. www.sandonscotdance.org.uk

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Upper Hall at St Michael's & All Angels' church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Road (turn right out of Turnham Green tube) W4. Sundays from 27 Sep till 4 July with Xmas and Easter breaks. Midsummer Magic open air evening dance in Chiswick House grounds 11 July. Beginners class at 6.00 till 7.10. General class 7.15 till 9.20. Advanced dancers evenings with musicians twice each term. Tel 020 8743 9385 (afternoons only) / www.chiswickscottish.org.uk.

CIRENCESTER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets most Wednesdays 8:00 - 10:00pm September to end June at the Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester. Details Mr A.E.L. Bush, Lake View House, Withington, Glos. GL54 4 BN. 01242890454, tmbush@btopenworld.com

CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00pm September to June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details: Mrs Pip Graham, 57 Milton Mount Ave, Pound Hill, Crawley, W. Sussex RH10 3DP, tel: 01293 882173.

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH: Branch classes:- General, incl Beginners with technique Coulsdon (Fri). Advanced (Wed) Coulsdon. Other classes in the area: Beginners: Reigate & Selsdon (Tues): Gen: Reigate (Mon); Advanced: Reigate (Thurs.). Details: Dorothy Pearson 01737 551724, www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

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

continued on next page

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS (continued from previous page)

- EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Club night Mondays (all year) 8.00 pm at Woodford Green Prep School, Glengall Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0BZ. Details: www.efs.a.org.uk or Lee Noble 020 8505 3032 leenoble@waitrose.com.
- EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** holds weekly adult dance classes for beginners and intermediate/advanced levels, (September to March), including informal dances. Details from Dorothy Pearson, 366 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon CR5 3BF. Tel 01737 551724
- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details from Mrs Annette Owen, 47 Beaulker Green, Winchfield, Hook, Hants RG27 8BF. Tel: 01252 845187.
- FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Tuesdays 8.00pm, September to mid-July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Details from Ann or Paul Brown, tel: 01784 462456 or mobile 07801 160643. Email: p@ulfbrown.co.uk
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.30pm, September to May. Full details from Vikki Spencer, 24 Park Hill, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 6PW. Tel: 01252 691922.
- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays 8 to 10pm, end of September to June. Details: info@gxscottish.org.uk or from Mrs B MacKenzie Ross 01494 874604.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- GUILDFORD SCDC** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from September to June. www.gscdc.org.uk or tel 01483 502422.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept.-June from 8.00-10.00pm in Elderkin Hall, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF. 020 8870 6131.
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00pm. Details from Phil Bray, 25 St. Olams Close, Luton, Beds LU3 2LD. Tel: 01582 617734.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St.Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner HA5 3QR. Tel: 020 8428 6055. www.harrowscottish.org.uk.
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8-10pm, September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.
- HERTSMAERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.
- HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15pm. September to July, tuition followed by social dancing. Also monthly Saturday dances and ceilidhs. All at Heston Methodist Church Hall. Details from Mrs Rosemary Mitchell, Tel: 01784 254401.
- JERSEY CALEDONIAN SCD GROUP.** Contacts: Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel/Fax 01534 854459; Alan Nicolle 01534 484375, alan.nicolle88@googlemail.com; or Brenda Gale 01534 862357. See blog: www.scottishcountrydancingjersey.blogspot.com.
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** meet Wednesdays September to June at Holy Trinity & St. John's C. of E. Primary School, St. John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7.00-8.00pm. General 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. 01843 869284.
- LEICESTER BRANCH RSCDS** meets Thursdays, Holy Cross Centre, Wellington St., Leicester. 4 classes - Beginners, Intermediates, Social, Advanced. 7.30-8.30p.m., followed by Social dancing until 10p.m. Also Tuesdays 1.30-3.45p.m. General class at same venue. Contact: Mrs. Pamela Hood 0016 2753886, djjimps@talktalk.net.
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Some major functions held at other London venues. Details: adverts in *The Reel* or contact Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG. 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096. www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372. maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk.
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday 7.30-10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details from Jane Masters, 251 Robin Hood Lane, Blue Bell Hill, Chatham, Kent ME5 9QU. Tel. 01634 864007.
- MARKET HARBOUROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesday 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, "Lazonby", 9 Little Lunnon, Dunton Bassett, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 5JR. 01455 209446.
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at St. Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 3HL. tel 01474 822919.
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB** meets every Monday evening from September - June at 8.15-10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details from Mrs Jane Whittington. 5 Coldharbour Rd. Northfleet.Kent.DA11 8AE, 01474 359018.
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS.** Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00- 10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. MK3 5LP. 01908 378730, jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. from September to May at Roecroft School, Stotfold. Informal Saturday Dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds. SG17 5AL. Tel: 01462 812691.
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dancing 7.45-10.00pm. most Wednesdays at Barmehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9JN. Tel. 01634 254451.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners/Improvers Class Every Monday 8.00-10.15pm at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Pam. French, 20 Beaumont Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent, BR5 1JN. 01689 873511.
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET. Tel: 01869 340830.
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00-10.00pm. September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Rita Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Tel: 0118 975 7507, www.scottishdancingreading.org.
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00pm from mid Sept. to end of May. For Information contact Marshall Christie 020 8977 5237 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk.
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP.** Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc.
- ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON).** The Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB. or Elizabeth Bennett 020-8715 3564, lizbennett@blueyonder.co.uk. www.standrewsclondon.net.
- ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns Nights' when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details: Denise Haugh 020 8879 6437.
- ST. JOHN'S SDC WOKINGHAM:** meet every Thurs 8-10.15pm Sept to June at St. Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Sue Davis 01344 774344, 2 Larkswood Dr, Crowthorne. Also Childrens' Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, Deborah Draffin 01344 776831.
- ST. NINIANS SCOTTISH DANCERS,** Luton meet every Wednesday, September to July 8.00-10.00pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road,Luton, Beds. Contact: Pat Hamilton, 01462 671156 or Sheila Harris, 01525 875060.
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00-10.00pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Penelope Fisk, Sunnybank Cottages, 15 Maidstone Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3BY. Tel: 01732 457327.
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from mid-September to May 8.30-10.30pm, in Barnes. Further info: Further info: Denise Haugh, 4 Burdett Ave, SW20 0ST, 020 8946 8572, email dhaugh200@btinternet.com..
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details: Pauline Cameron,7 Wayne Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 9TS. Tel 01689 838395.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30-10.00pm. Details from Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ. Tel: 01305 265177.
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Fridays, 7.30 to 10.30pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details Mrs Edna Carroll, 01702 428974.
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS.** Classes in Hertford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Bengoe School, Hertford; Beginners Thurs 7.30pm. Millmead School, Hertford. Demonstration Alt. Mons 8.0pm. St John's Hall, Hertford. Details: Mrs Maureen Ainsworth, 01279 434342.
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details: Brenda Hinton, 01273 595017.
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday at 8pm. September to June at St. Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsley Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY. 01932 784866. surbitoncaledonian.co.uk.
- THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON** meets at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1, every Tuesday from October to end of May for Scottish Country Dancing, 7.00-10.00pm. Details: Tom Symington, 020 7834 7151 or 020 7828 6792.
- THE SCOTS SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW SLOUGH & DISTRICT** meets every Wednesday (September to May) 8.00 to 10.15pm at Trinity ERC Hall, Windsor Rd, Slough SL1 2JA. Scottish Dancing and other social events. Details from the Sec: Carol Berry, tel:01628 620 072 or 01771 223 8165.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 7.30-10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8-10pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details: Sue Bush, 33 St Luke's Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9JH. Tel: 01892 615269, website: www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk.
- WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** hold weekly adult Classes for, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs Maggie Westley, 30 Stanley Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4LF. Tel: +44 (0) 20 8647 9899, website: westley3148@tiscali.co.uk. www.wallingtonscottish.org.uk.
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** General and Beginners/Improvers Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE. 01923 492475, reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk.
- WAVERLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Winchester, every Thursday from September to the end of June, 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Pat Mumford, 02380 252570.
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Mondays 8.00pm. Dance Class. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford. WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Club night (all abilities) Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. Both evenings take place at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ. 01264 363293, wendy@mumford.com.
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from Maureen Manson, tel: 01206 210927.



Di Rooney

London Branch members were well represented at the 2009 White Rose Scottish Country Dance Festival in Leeds which attracted over three hundred people. For the first time in a few years the sunny weather allowed dancing in the beautiful grounds of Gateways School at Harewood. Demonstrations, Massed Country Dancing, Highland, Children's Dancing, George Meikle's wonderful music made for a great day, rounded off in the evening by a dance and supper in the school hall.

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