



The Reel



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Introducing the new RSCDS Chairman: Lorna Ogilvie



Little did I realise when I learned Scottish country dancing as a child, at Mary Erskine School in Edinburgh, that I would have the honour, and responsibility, of becoming RSCDS Chairman in 2020. Looking back on the intervening years, what stands out for me

is the sheer enjoyment I have had from dancing, and the many lifelong friends I have made.

For many years I attended Summer School at St Andrews, and I rarely missed an AGM weekend, even when living in London over a period of 20 years. These were opportunities to catch up with dancing friends from around the country, to have fun on the dance floor, and to enhance my dancing skills thanks to being challenged by superb teachers.

Over the years I have loved being involved with demonstration teams at grand venues such as Blair Castle and Scone Palace, alongside more challenging surfaces like grass at local village events and, whilst in Aberdeen, on visiting cruise ships. There were truly memorable events such as dancing on the football pitch at Wembley, with teams from all over London,

and of course the nerve-wracking highly competitive Aberdeen Music Festival!

After studying geography at Edinburgh and Calgary universities, my teaching career took me from Inverness to Croydon, then back north to Perthshire and Aberdeen, finally returning to my second Headship back in Croydon, before retiring to Scone near Perth. During these years I taught extra-curricular Scottish country dancing to all ages from 8 to 18 and saw just how much dancing meant to these youngsters. Entering Aberdeen teams for the festival, and taking seniors on music tours to the USA, were highlights for both the girls and me.

Serving as Branch Chairman in Aberdeen and Croydon, and Secretary in Perth and Perthshire, gave me a quite unique insight into how Branch committees work tirelessly to organise classes and dances. Additionally, two stints on the Management Board, prior to becoming Chairman Elect, have undoubtedly been invaluable preparation for the next two years.

I take on the Chairman role at the end of the most unsettling seven months any of us has ever experienced. COVID-19 lockdown has affected all of our lives. Not being able to dance has, for many members, meant not just the lack of the fitness this brings, but more

importantly the loss of a precious social life linked to the fun of dancing with others. The Society has run the very successful Dance Scottish at Home evenings, and weekly online classes, to keep spirits up and sustain communication within our worldwide RSCDS family. I know that large numbers of Branches have also done sterling work in keeping their members in touch socially. Nonetheless, we all long for the day when we can meet up and dance together, in person.

I am a natural optimist, but also a pragmatist, who realises that there are immense challenges ahead particularly in my first six months leading the RSCDS. There are financial pressures on our budget, following the cancellation of Summer and Winter Schools. We need to retain memberships whilst we prepare for a return to the dance floor, hopefully in late spring 2021 here in the UK. Thereafter the Society will have to adapt to operating in the 'new normal' with a number of unknowns. My role, working with the Management Board, committees and working groups, and supported by Clare and the office staff, will be to review and adapt the RSCDS Business Plan targets to reinvigorate the Society. This work will include preparing to celebrate our Centenary in 2023. If ever there was a need to have such an exciting year to look forward to, it is now!

We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Stay safe in these troubled times and here's hoping for a return to dancing in 2021!

Dancing Triumph



Brian Rose and Peter Knight lead Pat Davoll up in *The Triumph*, while Marian Morris awaits the return of her partner... Christmas dance 2013

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From the Chair: Jim Cook



I do hope that you are staying well, and keeping your spirits as high as is possible in these difficult days of COVID-19.

The incidence of the virus has brought about changes to *The Reel*. In particular, at short notice, Simon Wales and Willie Lawrence have taken on the editorial role. I thank them for stepping into the breach and I also thank our past *Reel* Editorial Team of Meryl and Ian Thomson, Stephen Webb and Edward Bunting for their quality work over many years.

I thank all those who attended our successful Zoom Branch AGM on 19 September which was followed by special on-line entertainments.

Meanwhile, the dancing inactivity continues of course with recent Government pronouncements changing with the wind and not offering much hope for the immediate future. Therefore, our recent intention of restarting our dancing activities with a Big Bang Christmas Dance on 19 December has evaporated. However, thoughts are being given to providing some form of Zoom related entertainment on this date so that we can all mark the Christmas season together. Please see the London Branch website, or read our eUpdates, for the latest situation. If you do not currently receive our free eUpdates then do please sign up to do so.

We entertain hopes of possibly restarting classes in the New Year but this depends on our venues accepting bookings once again. Otherwise we are preparing to relaunch if possible with our planned Winter Wednesday dance on 17 February. All I can say is "Watch this space!"

When we emerge from the current cloud, it will be a different world. This offers an opportunity for reflection and change. Do please help us plan the future by considering the questionnaire within this issue. We look forward to hearing your views.

Meanwhile, keep well and keep safe!

Jim Cook.

London Branch AGM: Joanne Lawrence



London Branch's annual general meeting, postponed from its traditional June date, finally went ahead on 19 September. The initial plan was to combine with the September New Season Dance. As the weeks passed it became clear that any Branch interaction would need to remain virtual for some months and the online AGM, to be followed by a programme of virtual ceilidh items, was planned instead.

We were concerned that some members, lacking the necessary internet connection, would be unable to join the AGM and so, in *Reel 313*, we tried to anticipate this by offering to post documents out and to take questions in advance from members. We also published the annual report, accounts, and AGM agenda early on the branch website, provided a 'how to access Zoom' guide and ran a help session online the week before the actual meeting.

On the day we were encouraged by an attendance of 39 members and 17 friends of the Branch, an increase of almost 70% on the 2019 AGM. It was heartening to see so many familiar names joining the meeting, including those currently living far from London. However, the fragility of our reliance on the internet was underlined, when London Branch chair, Jim Cook, suffered a loss of connection and could join the meeting only by phone.

Vice Chair Joanne Lawrence read Jim's report in which he reflected on the sharp contrast between the activities of the early 2019/20 season, in particular the success of the 90th Anniversary Tea Dance, and the complete closure of all classes, dances and meetings which followed all too swiftly. After thanking those whose hard work had contributed to the Anniversary plans and the regular running of the Branch, Jim reflected on the future. Noting the far-reaching impact of COVID-19 he recognised the need to reassess all aspects of London Branch's activities and announced a members' survey to gather opinion on this important matter (see p3).

Communication is at the core of any organisation and Jim thanked the outgoing *Reel* Editorial team, Meryl and Ian Thomson and Stephen Webb for their superb contribution to the life of the Branch over many high-quality editions.

Honorary Treasurer, Simon Wales, presented the annual accounts and proposed a motion to maintain the annual London Branch membership subscription at the same level as the previous year. Money saved by the 2019 reduction in HQ fees would be ringfenced by the Branch for use in developing opportunities for young dancers. The vote on this, and other motions to approve minutes, accounts, confirm independent examiner, President, Vice-Presidents and Committee, was managed via Zoom poll and approved by the members present. Zoom's Q&A function was well used, including queries regarding fees, investments, and future plans. Once all were answered and the meeting formally closed, the ceilidh began. Simon Wales introduced a lively programme of music and dance, showcasing the talents of Neil Esslemont, Ian Robertson, Amanda Esslemont, The Craigellachie Band, Strathallan and Catriona Bennett - an uplifting end to our first virtual AGM.

Objects of London Branch

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

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

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE
SOCIETY



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Day School..... Margaret Catchick
Family Marjory Reid
90th Anniversary Margaret Catchick
Membership & Subscribers .. Gaynor Curtis
The Reel Editorial Team
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..... Simon Wales
The Reel Business Editor.... Jeff Robertson
WebmasterMeryl Thomson

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



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



Membership and *The Reel* Subscription

As a member of RSCDS London Branch you enjoy the following benefits: reduced rates at London Branch classes, dances and events; four issues per year of *The Reel*; 10% discount on items from the RSCDS online shop and two issues per year of the RSCDS magazine *Scottish Country Dancer*. Members wishing to pay by direct debit may now do so by completing a payment mandate either by clicking on the appropriate link in the table to the right of this text (for electronic *Reel* readers) or by going to www.rscdslondon.org.uk/membership-page. Membership may also be purchased by Credit/Debit Card or PayPal or by cheque payable to RSCDS London Branch by going to the same page. See full details on website. New members should also complete the membership application form on the London Branch website. Membership/subscription enquiries and cheque payments should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989, membership@rscdslondon.org.uk. Any reader who receives a paper issue of *The Reel* may send their email address to Gaynor Curtis and receive an electronic copy too at no extra charge. Those receiving an electronic copy are asked not to pass this on, unless it is to someone they feel might like to help support the Branch by becoming a member or subscribing.

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

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

New Committee Member

Margaret Moore



My passion for Scottish dancing in all its formats stems from my parents. They were both long-standing members of the RSCDS Manchester Branch demonstration team led by the legendary Ian Hall, whose son, Dave, is well known to many in the

community and was one of the mystery Wednesday evening teachers.

My father was Chairman of the RSCDS Manchester Branch committee for 25 years and elected as an honorary Vice-President in 1994. He was also Chairman (for over 35 years) of the organising committee of the annual concert of Scottish music and dance (known as the *Manchester Scots Night*) which took place at the Free Trade Hall. With that background, it was inevitable that their three children would be immersed in the world of Scottish dancing and music, although I am the only one who really caught the bug! It was a very big part of my life during my school years with many facets ranging from Saturday morning lessons to Highland, and Scottish country, dancing demonstrations in and around Manchester (including at the *Manchester Scots Night*).

I moved from Manchester to London in 1982 to start my training contract (or articles as it then was) at what is now Clifford Chance LLP where I qualified as a solicitor, and have lived and worked here ever since. I was a competition and commercial law partner, at City firm, Travers Smith LLP for over 20 years before stepping down to become more involved in the charity sector. I am currently Vice Chair of national palliative, neurological and bereavement charity, Sue Ryder, and of the Fundraising Regulator. I am also a trustee of the Royal Voluntary Service (formerly the WRVS) and of Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby (the governing body of the sport known at the Paralympics as murderball).

When I got to London, my dancing sadly fell into abeyance, apart from the occasional Burns Night gathering. However, about three years ago, I decided to dip my (very rusty) toes back into the water on a Monday evening at Pont Street and, from there, discovered the wonderfully welcoming

Scottish country dance community in London within which one can dance and/or learn practically every day of the week, time permitting! I was dancing two or three times a week until lockdown and volunteered to join the RSCDS London Branch committee to help in promoting the joys, and health and well-being benefits, of dancing - COVID-19 notwithstanding.

London Branch Survey

Joanne Lawrence

It can be no exaggeration to say that 2020 has been a year like no other. The impact of COVID-19 on all our lives including, as Jim Cook noted in the Chair's report at our recent AGM, on Scottish country dance, will be far reaching.

Even before the pandemic hit it was clear that a review of London Branch dancing activities was needed. Although classes showed encouraging growth, with a waiting list for the Beginners' Class, attendance at dances continued to fall as members became increasingly reluctant to travel into central London for evening events. The continuing success of the Branch Day School and the energy and joy of the 90th Anniversary Tea Dance indicated that the interest had not gone away but that perhaps a different approach was becoming appropriate.

But what needs to change? And what do we hope will stay the same?

We have put together a set of questions to help us to build a realistic picture of London Branch and its diverse membership. Please do take a few minutes to review and respond with your thoughts on how the Branch can best serve its current members and engage future generations of Scottish Country Dancers. The core questions may be found on the reverse of the paper *Reel* address sheet, the full questionnaire is available via the London Branch website and also www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RSCDSLONDON20.

If you do not have easy access to the internet and would like to complete the full survey, please contact vicechair@rscdslondon.org.uk and we will be delighted to send you a paper copy.

Survey responses should be submitted by 24 December and we will aim to share initial findings in the first edition of *The Reel* in 2021.

New *Reel* Editorial Team

Simon Wales



You may notice a few changes with this issue of *The Reel* - after producing many high quality issues, the editorial team of Meryl and Ian Thomson and Stephen Webb, has decided to concentrate on other things, and a new team of Willie

Lawrence and myself has assumed the heavy responsibility.

The Branch owes a great debt of gratitude to Meryl, Ian and Stephen for taking *The Reel* to new heights, (and it has soon become apparent what a difficult job it is!), increasing to 20 pages of full colour, with articles of great interest from far and wide in the dancing world.



Meryl, Ian and Stephen hard at work on *The Reel* with Jim Cook, Chair

You will continue to see the regular articles of news and events in the London area, with perhaps a slight shift to more local activities (*The Reel* is the London Branch newsletter after all). This will give us a pause to consult readers, via the members' survey, as to what is important to them to be able to read in these pages.

What do you turn to first? Do you read from cover to cover, or just flick through? Do you head straight for the pictures? Or spare a few thoughts for those lives remembered? Or are you galloping off following the joys of dancing round the world?

Do please let us know, so we can produce a magazine that you want to read, whether it be online or delivered to your door.

London Branch Dances

COVID-19 Forecast



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

Winter Wednesday Dance

At the time of going to print, we are hopeful of being able to run this dance, but please check the website for the latest news.

Wednesday 17 February 2021
7.00 - 10.00pm
Doors open at 6.30pm
St Columba's Church, Pont Street
SW1X 0BD
Chris Oxtoby

St Andrew's Fair..... 8x32 J
Easy Peasy..... 8x32 R
The Silver Grey..... 3x32 S
The Barmkin..... Sq 1x88 R
Lady Glasgow..... 8x32 S
Flowers of Dunbeg..... 5x32 R
Kendall's Hornpipe..... 8x32 J

A London Celebration..... 32 R
Inchmickery..... 5x32 J
Seann Truibhas Willichan..... 8x32 S
Hedwig's Reel..... 8x32 R
The Byron Strathspey..... 3x32 S
Fair Enough..... 4x32 J
The Reel of The Royal Scots..... 8x32 R

Extras:

Mr Michael Bear's Reel..... 8x32 R
The Brudenell Jig..... 8x32 J
Flowers of Edinburgh..... 8x32 R
A Jig for Mrs Dunn..... 8x32 J

Admission includes light refreshments
RSCDS members £12, non-members £14,
full time students (with card) and
spectators £7. All children (under 16) free

All tickets to be purchased in advance

See the website for all COVID-19 security
measures in place at the time

All dances will be
recapped/walked through

Crib available at www.rscdslondon.org.uk

CANCELLATION OF EVENTS DUE TO COVID-19

This year's Christmas Dance has had to be cancelled.
All Branch classes have now been cancelled until at least the Spring term 2021.

Day School 2021

Our Day School (which is normally held the third Saturday in October) will take place next year on **30 October 2021** at St Helen's School, Eastbury Road, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3AS

Further details will be appearing in due course but in the meantime we are pleased to advise that Fiona Mackie, David Queen, Mervyn Short and Alice Stainer (who were due to teach this year) have confirmed their availability, as have musicians Adam Brady, Jeremy Hill, Barbara Manning and Ian and Meryl Thomson. We are also pleased that Jim Lindsay has agreed to lead the musicians' workshop.



Garden Dance

We plan to hold our rearranged Garden Dance on **Saturday 3 July 2021** at St Helen's School, Eastbury Road, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3AS to music from **Strathallan**
Please see *Reel 311* for dance programme and our website for ticket prices and more details



Grand Autumn Ball

Saturday 16 October 2021

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

Dancing to
Ian Muir and The Craigellachie Band

Welcome Reception 6.30pm
Carriages 11.30pm

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

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

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

@ Call for up-to-date contact information

Due to current circumstances we might not always be able to provide a paper *Reel* and would only be able to provide information electronically. It would therefore be helpful to have current member and subscriber email addresses.

If you think we do not have your current email address, please contact Gaynor Curtis membership@rscdslondon.org.uk (see p3).

This is IMPORTANT
Please tell us if you are unable to receive electronic communications. Ring Gaynor now on 01483 721989 to leave a message with your contact details.

Favourite Dance Formations

Rachel Wilton (Branch President)

Hello/goodbye setting or the RSCDS official title *Set to corners and partner*

Whatever you call it, it is an exciting formation, the time in the dance especially for the dancing couple. They set to their corners but on the second part of the step, keeping an eye on their corners, they pull back their right shoulders to face each other across the dance. They set to each other but on the left foot they spring (reel or jig) or glide (strathspey) in to face their second corner. That is the moment to exchange a special glance as they arrive back to back, close enough, to feel the heat! Repeat that sequence and be ready for the next formation.

Miss Milligan comments in her book *Won't You Join the Dance* that it is not an easy formation and that it has been found helpful to make dancers say "How do you do" - "Goodbye" - to each person as they set.

Mel Rowland (Branch Secretary)

One of my favourite formations is the *Espagnole* which is used as a progression to interchange adjacent couples in a longwise set. I have only ever danced the formation in the beautiful strathspey *City of Belfast*. The *Espagnole* forms the last eight bars of this 32 bar dance.

I was first introduced to the *City of Belfast* and the *Espagnole* in the Richmond Beginners' class. I remember just how difficult the *Espagnole* seemed to us at the time. Judith, our teacher, being as patient as ever, slowly guided us through the different elements of the formation. What a sense of achievement we had when we finished the dance and had successfully ended up on the correct side of the set and in the correct position! The *Espagnole* is such an elegant formation and it is a delight to watch when dancing couples perform it with perfect symmetry.

Jeff Robertson (Reel Business Editor) and former Chair

My favourite SCD formation is *Set and link for three couples* in strathspey time.

The formation is danced by three couples and is a four bar formation often repeated to complete an eight bar phrase. It may be danced in fast or slow tempo. I first encountered this formation in the strathspey *Gang the Same Gate* (Book 36).

I enjoy the transition between the setting and travelling step, finishing off the setting step then either pulling back the right shoulder or 2nd man and 3rd woman (at the left end of the lines) moving seamlessly into travelling step to finish in lines across the dance with the opportunity for covering, handing and eye contact. Not easy but such a joy when it goes well.

CD Reviews by Jeremy Hill



The Liam Stewart Band...as promised CD available for £12 plus P&P from www.ceilidhband.net/**-shop**

Come Let Us Sing and Dance for Circassian Circle (8x32R), *Hoolichan's Jig* (8x32J), *Festival Strathspey* (4x32S),

Blooms of Bon Accord (4x32R), various ceilidh dances.

RSCDS Book 9 plus 4 Dances 2008 and 2 Dances for Eileen Watt: *Lindsay Weir and Her Scottish Dance Band & Liam Stewart and his Scottish Dance Band*. Double CD available for £10 plus P&P from www.rscds.org/shop/product/music/cd-book-9/

Any band featuring three winners of the All Scotland Accordion Championship (with five recent titles in total between them) is not going to be short of technical skills. All band leaders in their own right, they can also be found mixing and matching accordion and piano in various other bands as well. Here Liam Stewart and Leonard Brown are on accordion, with Craig Paton on piano. Add in Gordon Smith's 40 years of experience on drums, and you have a really potent combination - and they certainly do not disappoint on this new recording.

Right from the four-bar intro to Jimmy Shand's *Six Twenty Two Step* you are swept up in the thrilling, tight sound of a band whose constituent parts add up to a really satisfying whole: the two accordions play off and balance each other beautifully, with imaginative second parts on many of the tracks; delicious piano harmonies constantly attract the ear (Craig's biography says 'he brings much-needed modern approaches to our music scene'); and rhythm is steady as a rock, even when the pace is high. The sleeve note includes an endorsement from Iain MacPhail. It is apt to compare this band with Iain MacPhail and his 'orchestra', as it used to be introduced, reflecting the thought that had gone into all the instruments' parts.

I started trying to capture which tracks are suitable for country dancing: there is a set for *Blooms of Bon Accord*, and *The Festival*

Strathspey might surprise a few dancers with its perfectly-executed cascades of notes - more than I think I have ever heard in 4x32. However, that is not the point of this superbly crafted CD: it is entertainment from start to finish.

There are some classic accordion showpieces, including *Comet Valse*, at a pace that would challenge any waltzers, and a

Saakjarven Polka

("Scandinavian Scorchers"),

plus various ceilidh dance tracks and some ballroom sets. All

provide great value for listening. One track I found myself returning to is *Come Let Us Sing and Dance*, which demonstrates that it doesn't need flashy tunes to create excitement. It is a well-matched set of tunes, cleverly arranged, and concludes with a version of Gordon Patullo's *The Legacy*.

For an hour of classy playing and toe-tapping entertainment, Liam's CD is an absolute winner.

His versatility is amply demonstrated by another recording I picked up recently, having missed it when it first came out, showing he is just as strong with straight dance tracks. Across 18 tracks, shared with Lindsay Weir's Band, we get the whole of Book 9, plus the 2008 dances, i.e. *Minister on the Loch*, *Sueno's Stone*, *Festival Interceltique* and *Trip to Lorient*, plus the two dances written for Eileen Watt.

The quality of playing is uniformly high and absolutely ideal for these dances. The set Liam and the band play for *Cadgers in the Canongate* was played on one of the *Dance Scottish at Home* sessions early on, and I immediately had to find the recording and hear the rest. There are several dances here that perhaps do not appear so often in programmes, but if you need an excuse for dances such as *New Rigged Ship* or *Cauld Kail*, have a listen to this recording.

Lindsay Weir's half is also of great quality, with a whole string of strathspeys. For £10 this is a great value CD of dance music.



Bands

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

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

Tel 07860 104653 or reel@frankreid.com

CALEDONIAN REELERS

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

IAN ROBERTSON AND HIS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE BAND

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

A Tale of Two Clubs

Since 1910 there has always been a Scottish Dance Club based in Wimbledon and from 2008 to 2018 there were two.

The St Andrew Society (London), also known as Wimbledon & District Scots' Association, was founded in 1910 and celebrated its Centenary with a grand Highland Ball in March 2010. It was, however, typical of many small clubs nowadays, as it had an ageing membership and reducing turnout for events. It met on Tuesday evenings and was affiliated to the RSCDS.

Wimbledon Reels were founded by Andrew Hudson in 2008 and since then the Reels have flourished and attract a high proportion of younger people, whilst the St Andrew Society has gradually faded away.

Why did one club succeed and not the other? In my opinion the answer is that the Reels have good organisation and a limited repertoire. They have experienced RSCDS-trained MCs, up-to-date musical equipment, which allows flexibility over the number of times a dance is repeated, and excellent refreshments consisting of cakes and sandwiches plus a glass of wine or mineral water. One member makes marvellous home-made cakes. Once a month they have live music.

I used to wonder why many people who came to Burns Night and enjoyed the dancing did not want to continue and learn to dance in the RSCDS style. The answer may be time. People are so busy these days and many do not take up dancing seriously until either they retire or their children have left home. Wimbledon Reels seem to have come up with an excellent compromise between the RSCDS and Reeling styles of dance. Perhaps this should be called Scottish social dancing. It could act as an introduction to Scottish country dancing, and those who wished, would be able to then learn the full RSCDS style.

Elizabeth Bennett, Worcester Park

Letters to The Reel

Dance Instructions Sources

I was interested by the articles on the Dance Programme Referencing Debate in *Reels* 310 and 312, but I spotted an error. In Part Two, *Reel* 312, p14, last paragraph, it is stated that one can 'purchase the RSCDS booklet from the RSCDS online shop entitled *Index to Scottish Country Dances*'.

Not so: the RSCDS has published such booklets in the past, but they have long been out of print and out of date. But an index of *RSCDS dances is available free online: go to www.rscds.org/learn/resources-dancers* and click on 'Find that Dance'.

So, if you want to look up the original instructions for an RSCDS dance you need access both to the internet and to the book or leaflet in which the dance first appeared. And finding the original instructions for a dance not published by the Society would be more difficult. I think Stephen Webb is right in suggesting that few if any dancers nowadays refer to the original instructions. There are many easier ways of learning a dance or refreshing your memory.

You can for example refer to the Strathspey Server, or you can use the crib the Branch provides, or you can look the dance up on Youtube.

Daniel Capron, Dulwich



Archive pictures reliving happier times at Christmas dances at St Columba's

Were you there? Have you found yourself in all the pictures?

Left: 2009 dancing *Tom's Friends* and right: sumptuous half time refreshments laid on by Margaret Shaw and the team



Above and bottom left: 2019, dancing to Nicol McLaren and his band with MC Rachel Wilton waiting for sets to settle down for the recap. Good to see the outgoing RSCDS Chairman Andrew Kellett taking time out from Society business

Right and above right: 2013 dancing to Ian Muir of Prestwick and his band



One step forwards and two back...trying to make the best of COVID-19 times

Surbiton and District Caledonian Society by Cathy Daldy, Chair

Masks on, get set, go - Surbiton is back!

Or should I say Surbiton was back? The following article was written shortly before the government announced the new 3-tier system of COVID -19 alert levels and placed London into Tier 2 High. Sadly, the tighter restrictions at this level with regard to mixing of households indoors put an immediate end to our hall dancing again, but we hope to resume as soon as we safely can.

Towards the end of June, as restrictions were beginning to ease after the full lockdown and the government was allowing groups of six people to meet outside, I wrote to Surbiton & District Caledonian Society members in my weekly email message that I had actually done some Scottish country dancing in real life, outside, with five other committee members in one of our gardens. I explained that our purpose was to experiment with some dancing observing all social distancing guidelines, to see how it felt and to discover what modifications might be needed to formations. It turned out that this was the very first step on our journey to where Surbiton is today, back dancing in our hall but in a new, COVID-19 secure way.

Flower pots set two metres apart marked where we should each position ourselves for a three couple set and our qualified teacher, Judith, had prepared a selection of modified dances to try. That first time was not easy! Six hands round became a chase - and also rather a race (!) due to the greater distance to cover. Grand chains and rights and lefts with no hands challenged the brain. However, we found that reels can be done rather beautifully with no hands, and we invented 'stepping back' to maintain the distance when first couple has to dance down the middle. Most importantly, we all agreed that it was still wonderful to dance at all and that there was hope that we could bring it back in some way for our members.

During the summer, a few more committee try-out sessions followed, to refine the adaptations and consolidate all the variations in our minds and then, in mid-August, we had the good news that the church hall where we dance was re-opening and would be compliant with all regulations required to be a COVID-19 secure venue for community groups to resume their activities provided an appropriate risk assessment was carried out. At the same time, the RSCDS had issued some considerations to help Scottish dance societies get started again, the government had increased the number of people allowed to meet outside and all these things together gave us real hope that a return to dancing would be possible.

That is when planning began in earnest! Having already mastered the technology to meet virtually, the committee got together online and put together the outline of what we would offer: a) a few garden dances for one set (eight people) during late August/early September run as official Surbiton events with a risk assessment in place and b) a return to dancing indoors at the church hall from late September with social distancing and safety restrictions in place, limited numbers (two sets), advance booking and online payment, shorter evenings and the necessary

adaptations and variations to formations and dances we had come up with to avoid close contact. The hall had provided us with their risk assessment and helpfully provided us with a template for our own which we could use and adapt for both garden and hall settings. We drew up a list of what safety equipment we would need to provide such as hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes and distance marking tape.

Of course, at that stage we still had no idea whether any of our members would even want or be able to return to dancing! Therefore, shortly after emailing out the above proposals in my summer message, we also conducted a brief online survey asking members for their responses to our ideas and including an opportunity for them to let us know any other thoughts or concerns they had about dancing again. We were pleased to get a 66% response rate and very encouraged to see that it was mainly positive, with half of respondents interested in garden dancing and nearly two thirds in dancing at the hall.

Several committee members were kind enough to offer their gardens as venues and themselves as hosts, so four dates were arranged and invitations sent to those members who had expressed an interest. Unfortunately, the good old British weather put paid to two of the dates, but we were thrilled to hold two successful outdoor dances and receive some lovely feedback from those who attended.

Whilst all this was happening, we were also getting ahead with our hall dancing planning. The hall was offering a 20% discount on bookings made before 1 September, so we took advantage of that and risked a booking from 17 September to 17 December inclusive for two hours per week instead of our normal three. We agreed that we would use the first week for the committee only to go into the hall and work out how we were going to manage everything: routes in and out, ventilation, spacing of sets, chairs, toilets etc., and decided that we would start by offering six weeks of dancing to members. In order to manage numbers attending, we created a simple booking system using the free Eventbrite software with separate payment options of bank transfer or old fashioned cheque in the post to avoid cash handling on the night. Spaces quickly filled up and we were all ready to go when - oh no! - everything we had planned was thrown into doubt by new Government guidelines announced at the beginning of the very week we were due to return, introducing the 'rule of six' and thereby putting paid to two full



Members of Surbiton and District Caledonian Society putting their best foot forward

sets dancing. Frantic poring over the documentation ensued, further advice was sought from the hall and an emergency committee meeting took place where we decided that we could still go ahead if we made certain changes, mainly reducing the number per week to twelve and dancing in two three couple sets and keeping those sets as 'bubbles' for the whole evening. Oh, if only Boris were a Scottish dancer, he would surely have made it a 'rule of eight' wouldn't he?! The wearing of face coverings indoors was also now more strongly advised, so although that had been one of the sticking points for many people wondering how they would be able to manage dancing in a mask, it was now necessary to enforce it. We anticipated that these stricter guidelines could well have changed some people's minds about wanting to dance, so committee members were on standby to fill places in case of any last minute cancellations. And finally, after all that preparation, practice and planning, we were back!



Alan Ip and Hamish Todd model the latest fashion accessories

The first twelve brave dancers donned their face coverings and made up their sets and after some much-needed warm-up exercises to jog the muscle memory, that familiar chord played for the first dance and they were dancing! Guided by Judith through some of Surbiton's favourite dances but all with a social distancing twist, everyone did fantastically well at not only adapting to the formation changes but also at coping with the challenge of getting back to place in time in an extra-wide, extra-long set, not to mention having to do them all as three couple sets, mostly without a rest! It turns out that face masks do wonders for improving our eye contact during dancing as well, although several members tried out face visors as an alternative.

We did miss our social break over a cup of tea and Surbiton's favourite, the fig roll, but we factored in plenty of short breaks to take a breather outside, effectively managing to keep the two sets apart by using the different doors and outside spaces available at each end of the hall.

It was amazing to be able to bring live dancing back to Surbiton, and even though our planned term of dancing was cut short by the new Tier 2 restrictions, it was still worth it. I would like to acknowledge and thank all my Surbiton committee team who have worked so hard and so well together to make it happen.

How I started dancing...then and now

Jenny Greene, one of the Branch Vice Presidents, and Ryan Ellsworth, a more recent recruit to the Branch, share their experiences of starting dancing.

First, Jenny Greene, a Branch Vice President, now retired and living in Crieff. Jenny was a PE teacher by training, finishing her career at Wimbledon High School. Movement and dance have long been in the PE curriculum - many will recall wet games afternoons, lining up in the gym to be allocated a partner for dancing.

Jenny Greene



I started Scottish country dancing in 1961 when I moved to Surrey to start my teaching career. I joined a class run by Wallington and Carshalton Scottish Association, having seen a poster in the local library and felt this would be a good way to

meet people and make friends.

The class was taught by Andrew Grant, who was a very good teacher. I had already done a lot of dance at college and ballet as a child, so the steps were not a problem! The beginners class alternated week by week with the advanced class, but once I started, I went every week! I was hooked.

After a few years I joined the RSCDS London Branch, and went to the advanced class in Chelsea, taught by Bill Hamilton - another good teacher. From there I moved to the demonstration class taught by Bill Ireland, in the days when there were annual auditions. During this time, I took my Teacher's Certificate, tutored by Mary Stoker (former President of London Branch, and a formidable tutor!).

I attended Summer School in St Andrews frequently, where I learned ladies step dance and also taught this style of dance.

I spent many years on the Branch Committee, and organised the annual garden dances at Polesden Lacey (see *Reel* 313). The worst part was having to make the decision, based on inaccurate weather forecasting, as to whether the dance should be outdoors or in a local school sports hall. Always a thankless task as the weather changes so quickly!

I was honoured to be asked to be a Vice President of the Branch of which I had been a member for so many years, and keep in touch with the Branch through *The Reel*, and with the Branch delegates when they come north for Society AGMs.



Jenny Greene and Bill Ireland dance with style

Ryan Ellsworth, now attending classes on a Wednesday evening at Park Walk is much newer to dancing, but no less enthusiastic!

Ryan Ellsworth



As a young piper in Canada, my first encounter with dancing was an annual all-male *Reel of the 51st*, danced with dubious proficiency by members of the local Pipes and Drums of the Royal Canadian Legion on Burns Night.

The footwork and formations left much to be desired but it offered an early introduction to the dance. After those initial faltering steps, Scottish country dance was something to watch from afar at countless ceilidhs and gatherings for many years but actually taking the floor was unthinkable.

Fast forward a couple of decades and pressure mounted from my diminutive daughter who had started Highland dancing at the age of four and was only too happy to dance at ceilidhs for hours. My unconvincing excuses for not dancing were dismissed outright by my progeny and so I sought out the RSCDS Beginners' Class in Chelsea.



Ryan and daughter Flora in Pitlochry

From the outset, we had a lovely group of dedicated attendees to the class, led by our wonderful teacher Davinia Miln. As a family, we began attending the highly enjoyable Family Class in Battersea instructed by Jenny Kendrick and James Fairbairn.



Flora and Frederick Ellsworth at home

In only a couple of years, an entire world has opened up with many new and important friendships forged, the intergenerational enjoyment of dancing and socialising at highly-anticipated dances and ceilidhs, and my only regret now, is not having got out of my seat a little sooner!

The John Mitchell Collection

by Alison Mitchell and Viktor Lehmann



Since the publication of *The Reel* 313, three more of the *Whetherly* Books (numbers 5, 6 & 24) are now available via the RSCDS Central Germany Branch website.

Whetherly Books 5 and 6 of original dances by John Mitchell have been prepared and uploaded, albeit without diagrams for the time being.

The last *Whetherly* Book, number 24, is actually a collection of reworked historical dances - such that we were able to let the dance instructions stand as written. This book may therefore be of interest to those who would like a glimpse into the historical context and evolution of country dancing.

Our hope is that we will be back dancing in person again by the time new editions of the remaining 17 books (and 79 leaflets) have been completed.



(A correction that after spending 5 years in Heidelberg, where Viktor Lehmann is still based, Alison moved to Zurich in 2018. They continue to work together on the project.) see p. 12 of the last edition:

<http://rscdslondon.org.uk/rdata/5sARfjPM6AXj.pdf>

RSCDS AGM 2020: Simon Wales

A quiet, almost reverential hush descends on the coaching hall of the sports centre as the Society officers make their way to the stage...well, that is what usually happens, but 2020 has been anything but a usual year. This year's RSCDS AGM, on Saturday 7 November was held online.

The upside was that we were spared the expense of travel and accommodation, and the delays and frustrations of getting to Perth, but the loss of seeing, and dancing with, so many friends from the RSCDS family from across the world is far greater!

As with the London Branch online AGM, it was indeed easier for delegates from afar to attend, and the voting for committee places, and motions was all done online beforehand. So what was left?

The Society has a new Chairman, with Lorna Ogilvie taking over from Andrew Kellett, committee places were (mostly) filled, and the accounts were approved, along with a motion to retain subscriptions at the current level, despite the financial difficulties in which the Society finds itself. The citations for the Scroll winners were read out, including Angela Young and Ian Muir for their many years of hard work, and especially this year with all the online presence. Angela and Ian also put together a splendid evening's entertainment - well done to all involved in producing a memorable day... and we'll have to save the catching up for Perth in November 2021!

Dedicated dancer and family man

from Alister Reid

Frank Bennett

28 September 1938 - 5 October 2020



Frank was born in Chelsea, just one year before the outbreak of the War.

During The Blitz, Frank's family was bombed out and they moved to Battersea. The bombs still fell and the family moved north to Gateshead.

Back in London after the war, Frank attended grammar school (Sir Walter St. John's) still known as SinJuns. On leaving school Frank started work with Poly Travel Agents in London, initially in the Despatch Department and then in the Rail Accounts Department. At 18, Frank would have done his National Service for two years but instead signed on for five years with the RAF, hoping to learn a trade. He served five years in the UK and Germany. When demobbed he joined Decca Radar and then for over 20 years was with Lloyds Bank.

In the 70s, Frank started Scottish country dancing where he met, fell in love with, and in 1983 married Elizabeth. They danced together for over 40 years. His favourite dances were *The Duchess Tree* and *Pelorus Jack*. He loved Scottish dance music but also loved classical music. Frank and Elizabeth were loyal supporters of The London Highland Club and danced with them for over 40 years. He was Assistant Treasurer, then Secretary and finally a committee member. He was the point of contact for advance Ball ticket sales but at a dance, he could always be found in the kitchen.

Frank and Elizabeth both danced all over our area of South London and Surrey, Wimbledon, Wallington, Croydon, Epsom and Reigate. They were also very loyal supporters of my charity dances (Bramley Hill Rangers) and their then very young daughter Catriona learnt to Scottish dance with us and became a very fine dancer. She is now part of the RSCDS London demonstration team and MacLennan Scottish Group. Frank was very proud of her. Frank also helped organise and run a popular dance in our area, May Cree's Garden Party Dance in Ashted. Frank had been unwell for a few years but danced on, mainly strathspeys, till the end.

All our thoughts are with Elizabeth and Catriona at this very sad time.



Frank and Alister

Memories from Graham and Fay Cattell:

We remember Frank coming to Winter Fridays where there was always more opportunity to talk to folk. The Bank, which was his employer, owned a sailing yacht called *Dark Horse* - employees could crew on her at weekends. Frank enjoyed such weekends and told us the skipper insisted they took plenty of porridge for breakfast (the skipper believed this was helpful in combatting seasickness).

There are enduring memories of Frank when, as often, he was involved with catering. He was very patient and methodical - many slices of bread laid out in precise order waiting to be buttered, exact ingredients ready for the pot when cooking neaps and tatties. He never appeared flustered and the food always came out on time. How many haggis suppers he must have served - the number must be beyond counting!

A Smart Dancer

from Roger Keeling

Heather Edwards (née Eldridge)

19 July 1934 - 5 September 2020



Heather was born in Blackheath in south east London. During the war, as a very young Londoner, she was evacuated a number of times to safer parts of the country so her childhood and early schooling were disrupted.

Heather went to Eltham High Grammar school, married and raised a family in Bromley. She took up Scottish dancing in the 1960s at a local class made up of ladies. She would talk of her amazement the first time she went to a public dance, probably at Porchester Hall, at seeing numbers of men in highland dress. She always took care with her own dress.

I met her through English country dance in Beckenham in the early 1990s. She introduced me to Scottish dancing and we had been partners ever since. She had to stop dancing herself two or three years ago but could still recap most of a dance programme.

Heather held an unobtrusive faith and was a long-time member of the congregation at the Church of St Giles in Farnborough. Sadly she lost a son about seven years ago but

leaves two daughters, eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.



Heather and Roger at St Columba's Church, Pont Street where they were often dancing together over the years

Elegance and style

from Pat Davoll

Eileen Orr

died 9 September 2020



Eileen started Scottish country dancing in the 1970s with the Tunbridge Wells and Crowborough Scottish Country Dance Group and in 1976 was a founder member of the RSCDS Royal Tunbridge Wells Branch.

Throughout almost 30 years, Eileen participated in all aspects of the Branch; serving on the committee, teaching and taking part in demonstrations. She served as Branch secretary for 10 years, before taking on the office of Chairman in 2002. She played a leading role in organising classes and day schools and Branch social events.

Eileen took her Teacher's Certificate in 1989 and taught at branch and other local groups. If not teaching the beginners, Eileen would attend their class to welcome and assist the new dancers, as well as regularly attending other Branch classes. She attended Summer School every year for 23 years and promoted it wherever she taught. She took pride in the number of Branch members attending and ensured that they enjoyed Summer School, especially on their first visit.

As well as dancing at RSCDS Royal Tunbridge Wells Branch, she danced with other local clubs, attending club nights and Saturday night dances, travelling throughout the south east.

Eileen was an elegant dancer and was a Branch demonstration team member for over 20 years. She danced in Summer School demonstrations at the Younger Hall, both country dancing and ladies' step dancing. For many years she took part in the Tonbridge Ceilidhs, and frequently performed step dances such as *The Cakewalk* and *Scotch on the Rocks*. Many of the ceilidh costumes were made by Eileen, including elegant 'Jane Austen' dresses for the polka (for ladies and men). She was also selected for mass demonstrations from dancers in the south east, including performances at Wembley and the Royal Albert Hall.

Eileen loved to travel and attended many dancing holidays in Europe. These included performances at folk dance festivals in Europe with the MacLennan Scottish Group.

The popular dance *The Dreamcatcher* was devised by her and published in the Branch Silver Anniversary dance book and RSCDS Book 45. In 2019, it was also included in the RSCDS publication *Thirty Popular Dances Volume 2*. These dances were chosen by RSCDS branches from around the world, showing how popular Eileen's dance continues to be.

Sadly, a stroke in 2004 meant she could no longer play such an active part in Scottish dancing, but she retained her interest in the Branch and was President from 2005-2009. In 2005 she was given an RSCDS Branch Award in recognition of her services to Scottish country dancing.

Forthcoming Events

ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP



Day School

Saturday 24 April 2021
10.30am - 5.15pm

Normandy Village Hall,
Manor Fruit Farm, Glaziers Lane,
Normandy GU3 2DT

Teachers: Emma Allsop and Eric Finley
Musicians: Adam Brady and Jeremy Hill

For further details and application forms
contact Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood,
St Johns, Woking, Surrey GU21 3QB
Telephone: 01483 721989

Email: gaynorcurtis@clara.co.uk

Dancers' and Musicians' Weekend School

Friday 1 - Sunday 3 October 2021
10.30am - 5.15pm

Dillington House, Ilminster,
Somerset, TA19 9DT

Teacher: Andrew Nolan

Musician: Robert Mackay

Musicians' course: Ian Muir

For further information and brochure:

dillington@somerset.gov.uk

www.dillington.co.uk

This course is not considered suitable
for beginners

www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk

RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH

Day School and Evening Dance

Saturday 24 April 2021
9.45am - 4.45pm

Reddings Community Centre,
North Road West, Cheltenham GL51 6RF

Teacher: William Williamson

(Advanced and General)

Musician: Ian Robertson

(Advanced and General)

£6 per class

Optional soup and cheese available

5.00 - 6.00pm, £4

Evening dance 6.30 - 9.30pm

including refreshments Entry £6

Musician: Ian Robertson

Contact Hilary Foulkes 01285 851798 or

cheltenhamrscds.tickets@gmail.com

Please check website:

www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB



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

These would have been:

5 December 2020, 9 January 2021,
6 February and 6 March.

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

Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00-10.30pm

10 April 2021: Combined Societies,
Calum Mitchell (subject to confirmation)

Programmes, cribs and latest status are on
our website:

www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

For further details contact: Karen Barter on
01689 853645. Everyone is welcome at our
functions.

London Branch has recently taken over the
Scottish Dance Archives (SDA) when Bob and
Mamie Donald decided to retire. These
archives hold records of The Donald
Collection, available to view at Edinburgh
Central Library, plus online instructions for
approximately 250 of the dances. Visit the
Archives section of our website and see
Reel 307 p12 for an article from Bob.

The Reel Advertising Rates

See *Reel 312* for details and rates.

Send Forthcoming Events adverts to Willie

Lawrence at danceads@rscdslondon.org.uk

Other adverts and enquiries on pricing to

the Business Editor, Jeff Robertson, at

businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk

South East Dance Diary

The diary on the Branch website is regularly
updated. For a hard copy please send a SAE
to Caroline Hamilton.

All societies in the South East may submit
their functions free for inclusion in the
diary.

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

Munro Competition Shoes

for Scottish Country
and Highland Dancing

from Marie Chaplin
Garrett

01444 401113

info@bobbymunrodanceshoes.com
www.bobbymunrodanceshoes.com



Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

To update your information in Other Scottish Country Dance
Organisations contact editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

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

Payment of £30 was due in May 2020 for *Reels 312-315*. If you wish
to make payment by bank transfer or cancel your advert, please
contact treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk otherwise your advert will
roll forward to issues 316-319 at a cost of £30.

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

ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY Meets Wednesdays
8.15-10.15pm Sept-May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet
KT14 7NF. Details: Val Clack, 01932 845869 or
www.addlestonescottish.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

...Continued from p11

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

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

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY Dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.00pm, Sept-May. Details: Shirley Ferguson 01276 501952 or fergusonshirley7@gmail.com or fleet.rscds-bhs.org.uk

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD on Tuesdays from Sept -June. 7.30-10.00pm Visitors and Beginners welcome. Details: Suzanne Todd, 01923 283730 or info@gxscottish.org or www.gxscottish.org

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

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

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

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

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

JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinité JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or jcchanjoy97@gmail.com
Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@gmail.com or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com

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

LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB Meets Thursdays at the Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Road, Wendover HP22 6HF. Beginners class 7.00-8.00pm, Social Dancing 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Liz Mitchell, 07947 000368 or info@lucyclark.org.uk or www.lucyclark.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Christine Jeffery 01844 278242 or christinej201@hotmail.com or www.rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk

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

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets most Mondays 8.15-10.15pm, Sept-May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com or www.reigatescottish.org.uk

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

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

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD
St Columba's Dancers meet most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10.00pm. Admission free except for Band Nights when a charge will be made.
Details: Valerie Strachan, 020 8693 5355 or valeriestrachan@btinternet.com or www.stcolumbasdancers.org

ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM Meet every Thurs 8.00-10.15pm Sept-June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome.
Details: Kate Thomson, 0118 9860681 sec.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com

Also Children's Class Sats 9.30-11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Dance Class Mondays 8.00pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW, 0208 866 2378 or info@wdsa.co.uk

WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS (Formerly South Dorset Caledonian Society) Dancing at St Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177

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

WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Alex Daniel, 01621 855548 or alexsdaniel@aol.com

Credits

Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of *The Reel*, including the following for providing photos: p1: Lorna Ogilvie - from herself; Dancing Triumph - from Branch archives. p2: Jim Cook - Stephen Webb (SJW); Joanne Lawrence - from herself. p3: Margaret Moore - from herself; Simon Wales - Petar Petkovic; TRET - *Reel 309*. p5: Jeremy Hill - from himself; album cover - Liam Stewart. *Centrefold*: From the Branch archives, Petar Petkovic or SJW. p8: Surbiton Caledonian - Brenda Horwill. p9: Jenny Greene - from Branch archives; Ellsworth family - from Ryan Ellsworth; Alison Mitchell - from herself; Viktor Lehmann - from himself. p10: Frank Bennett - from Alister Reid; Heather Edwards - from Roger Keeling; Eileen Orr - from Pat Davoll.

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