



The Reel

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
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No 265

SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER 2008

OPEN AIR DANCING

Saturday afternoons
6 and 13 September 2008
2.00-4.00 pm.

Kensington Gardens
(by the bandstand, near the
Round Pond)

Nearest underground stations:
Queensway and High Street
Kensington.

Dancing to the music of **Kafoozalum**.
Each afternoon we will have live music
and an MC to guide us through a
programme of popular dances and easier
dances for beginners and children.

Everyone welcome.

Bring your friends and have a picnic.
Entrance is free.



Adults and children alike enjoy the open air dancing at Harrow School in June. More pictures on page 11.
Rae Walker writes on page 6

Stephen Webb

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- 16,17,20 Dance Events
- 18. Cherry Blossom Tour



ST. ANDREW'S DANCE

Saturday 22 November 2008
St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1 0BD
7.00-10.30pm

Ian Robertson and his Scottish Dance Band
MC Simon Wales

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.

START THE SEASON

Branch Dance

Saturday 20 September 2008
St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1 0BD
7.00-10.30pm.

The Craigellachie Band

1. Mrs Stewart's Jig 35/1
2. The Sailor 24/4
3. The White Rose of Scotland ..London 75th
4. Tribute to the Borders.....L 11
5. Red House..... 7/2
6. Culla Bay 41/2
7. Argyll is My Name London 75th
8. Miss Gibson's StrathspeyL 10
9. Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan.....Goldring
10. The Kelloholm Jig L 32/1
11. Summer Wooing..... 38/6
12. Fair Donald 29/4
13. Jennifer's Jig..... Drewry
14. The College Hornpipe..... 20/12
15. From Scotia's Shores.....L 2
16. The Wild Geese..... 24/3
17. Autumn in Appin..... 31/5
18. The Reel of the Royal Scots L 7

Admission £7.50 members,
£8.50 non members, £2.00 Children,
members' children admitted free.

CELEBRATE FOR CHRISTMAS

Branch Dance

Saturday 13 December 2008
6.45 for 7.00-10.45pm.

David Cunningham and his Band

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Machine Without Horses..... | 12/12 |
| Back to the Fireside | 38/4 |
| Bridge of Nairn | 13/11 |
| The Cocket Hat..... | 44/5 |
| Fraser's Favourite | L 3 |
| Miss Milligan's Strathspey | L 20 |
| Joie de Vivre | 39/2 |
| Mrs Milne of Kinneff | L 32/2 |
| The Flowers of Edinburgh | 1/6 |
| MacLeod's Fancy | 33/3 |
| None So Pretty | 19/1 |
| Wisp of Thistle | 37/4 |
| Muirland Willie | 21/9 |
| West's Hornpipe | 5 for 1965 |
| Sugar Candie | 26/9 |
| The Wild Geese | 24/3 |
| S-Locomotion | 41/8 |
| The Duke of Perth | 1/8 |

Admission £15.00 members,
£16.00 non members.
Reception drink and refreshments provided.
Those with Highland/evening dress are
encouraged to wear it.

Issue No 266 will be with UK based members by 29 November 2008 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 1 November 2008. (Issue No 267 will arrive by 14 February 2009).

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

Welcome to another season of dancing with London Branch. It has been a busy year culminating with a sunny day at Harrow where dancers enjoyed the excellent music of the Dave Hall Band, admired the surroundings, met old friends and had a thoroughly great afternoon.

A good number attended the AGM and enjoyed the delicious tea provided by some of our Vice-Presidents. The AGM marked the retirement of Rachel Wilton from the Branch Chairmanship. We are most grateful to Rachel for all her hard work over the past three years. Her grasp of Branch and Society issues has been outstanding, and the Committee has benefitted greatly from her advice and leadership. I hope to be a worthy successor.

Building on the good works which Rachel has put in place, I would like to see an increase in membership coupled with a lowering of the average age. To this end we are promoting Dance Scottish Week again this year with a special Open Evening at Pont Street on Wednesday 17 September to encourage new dancers and raise awareness of Scottish Country Dancing.

As a rare departure from tradition, we now have a "Chairman's Blog" page on the Branch website as an interactive newpage to show what's new on a regular basis, like an internet notice-board.

We now look forward to the new dancing year – four sessions of dancing in Kensington Gardens as a precursor to Dance Scottish Week. Bring your non-dancing friends and encourage them to join the Branch. The Craigellachie Band will inspire us at our first dance on 20 September and the Day School will follow closely with classes for dancers and musicians. We have a day for children and the family in November, and in December we are delighted to have David Cunningham and his band with us for the Christmas Dance. This is your Branch so please support it.

Don't forget to look at your enclosed Dance Diary and list of classes to find out what is going on in the London area – there is something to suit everyone.

I look forward to seeing you on the dance floor!
Jeff Robertson

COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

During the coming quarter, the London Branch Committee will meet on 8 September, 16 October and 1 December. Suggestions for items to be discussed should be sent to the Secretary at least two weeks before the dates of the meetings (or a.s.a.p.)

EDITORIAL



The RSCDS is not just a dancing organisation: it institutes international fellowship. Ever since Miss Milligan embarked on her international travels over 50 years ago, Scottish dancers from all over the world have been meeting at the Summer School in St Andrews. There, it is

normal for between 20 and 30 countries to be represented. But that is not the only international gathering: more and more we are seeing dancers combining dancing with foreign travel, as several of the articles in this edition testify. It is not just the effect of the Scottish Diaspora over the last several hundred years, but increasing interest by dancers of all nationalities. Long may the friendship and enjoyment increase!

RSCDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE WEEKEND AND AGM

Perth 7 - 9 November 2008

The application form for the weekend is available on request from Headquarters, or to download from the website. The programme is:

Friday

Ball: Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig Band

Saturday

Class: Teacher Pat Houghton
Musician Jennifer Wilson

Members' Forum

AGM

Dance: John Renton and his Band

Sunday

Workshop: "Dances from the McNab Books"
Led by Sinclair Barbour, music by Robert Menzies

Musicians' Forum

Youth Forum

Meeting for International Branch members

DANCE SCOTTISH WEEK 2008

It's only a short time before this Society initiative is upon us. People from Kentucky to Kirkcudbright, from Los Angeles to London will be taking part in all sorts of activities to let people know more about Scottish Country Dancing. With this copy of *The Reel* you should have received one of the flyers which outlines the London Branch contribution. If you like you can do your bit by placing the flyer where others can see it, or use it to invite a friend along to the main event – Open House at Pont Street on Wednesday 17 September from 6.00pm. There's lots more information and detail about all the London Branch events available on the London Branch website "Dance Scottish" page at www.rscdslondon.org.uk.

Scottish Country Dancing for fun, fitness and friendship.

CUTTING THE CAKE AT THE JUNE JIG

The June dance at St. Columba's was honoured by the presence of the Branch President and all but one of the Vice Presidents for the ceremonial cutting of the cake by Branch President Mary Stoker and Vice President Stella Booth on the occasion of their 90th Birthdays. There was a festive mood with the hall decorated and the dancers uplifted by the bright music provided by Green Ginger. This extra dance in the Branch calendar patently justified the decision by outgoing Chairman, Rachel Wilton, to hold it the day after the Branch AGM. (picture on page 11).

DANCE AROUND THE WORLD

Saturday/Sunday 25/26 October 2008

Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Rd, NW1 7AY

This is an annual festival that celebrates traditional dance culture from all parts of the world. In two explosively exciting and energetic days of dance, excellent performers and teachers provide a non-stop programme of extraordinary variety. The Branch will be doing a demonstration and a workshop during the weekend so come along to support the Branch and also to watch and participate in many different ways of dancing.

More information www.datw.org.uk

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE SOCIETY



Patron - H.M. The Queen

HEADQUARTERS:

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www.rscds.org.

LONDON BRANCH

Hon. President:

Mary Stoker

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

Mary Barker, Stella Booth, Ellen Garvie,
Jenny Greene, Marie Jamieson,
John Laurie, Owen Meyer, Rosemary Tilden.

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SUB-COMMITTEES

Youth: Andrew Kellett, Angela Young

Classes: Moira Strutt, Gillian Bloomfield,
Margaret Catchick (Day School), Pamela Ellam,
Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw

Dances: Jeff Robertson, Gillian Bloomfield,
Margaret Catchick, Pamela Ellam,
Margaret Shaw, Angela Young

Demonstrations: James Fairbairn, Angela Young

Publicity: Wilson Nicol (Reel), Rita Marlow*,
Meryl Thomson*(website)

Open-air Dances: James Fairbairn,
Gillian Bloomfield, Jeff Robertson

Membership: Gaynor Curtis*

Bookstall: Ian Anderson*

Central Council of Physical Recreation:

Marie Jamieson*, Simon Wales.

Hon Archivist: Iris Anderson*

S E Branches: Andrew Kellett,

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:

- 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.

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Lord Mansfield

A commemorative Cedar of Lebanon was planted by the Chairman at Scone Palace on 30 May. The President, four past Chairmen and the Chairman Elect attended the ceremony.

Education and Training Committee

Spring Fling 2008 has been very successful and next year will be held in Aberdeen. The revision of the examination syllabus is now complete and the full version is available on the website.

Membership Services Committee

The Dance Scottish DVD/CD is about to go into production. Although it is proving difficult to find a suitable distributor for the digital downloading project another possibility is being investigated.

Human Resources

The Board have agreed the appointment of an Executive Officer. The recruitment strategy has been put in place and notification was issued to Branches in advance of the July Branch mailing.

Finance Governance and Procedures

General Purposes & Finance committee have continued to review options to trim costs and areas have been identified which if realised will produce a balanced budget for 2009-10. The accounts for the current year have been approved and show a deficit for the year of just under £150,000 as predicted.

Paragraphs on governance and risk management will be updated before the final document is signed off and the new Executive Officer will ensure that procedures are "fit for purpose".

Membership & Subscriptions Working Group

A detailed report on subscriptions and benefits will be included in a motion to the 2008 AGM and information was circulated with the July Branch mailing.

Website

Anne Carter has carried out a thorough investigation of the Society website and her recommendations have been broadly accepted. Costed proposals are being prepared for consideration.

Central Registered Body in Scotland (CRBS)

Disclosures

The Society is now registered as an "intermediary" body and information has been circulated around the Scottish Branches.

Marketing

The Society will be participating in Homecoming Scotland 2009 and will be part of the floorshow throughout "The Gathering". The Marketing Officer has been building excellent relationships with a number of influential organisations which has been demonstrated by approaches from the Scottish Executive. Liz Fraser has also been advising and assisting with publicity material for our own London Branch Dance Scottish Week and Open House event on 17 September 2008.

Strategic Plan 2007-2010

The Chairman, Chairman Elect and Convenors have completed the plan which has been circulated to the Board for comment before wider distribution.

Dance Scottish

Receptions will be held at Coates Crescent on 16 and 17 September to promote Dance Scottish Week and raise the profile of SCD and encourage new dancers. A colouring competition for children has been sent to Branches and the picture is available on the website.

Outside Scotland

The Regional Conferences working group is

Continued in next column

RSCDS KALEIDOSCOPE INTERNATIONAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CONFERENCE

3-5 July 2009, Holiday Inn Thoiry, France (9 km from Geneva Airport)

The event will provide an ideal environment for networking and the exchange of ideas amongst our international dancing community on the following overall topics:

- "The Future of SCD – can we get there from here?" (panel discussion)
- An opportunity to meet members of the RSCDS Management Board
- Origins and development of Social and Scottish Dancing
- Topics (not only) for teachers
- Organising successful workshops (and other SCD events)
- The attraction of SCD – ways to discover SCD and reasons to keep doing it
- Using the Internet and other new media for SCD
- A chance to dance to David Hall, Keith Smith, Angela Young and friends!

For more information about Kaleidoscope, the programme and venue, sponsorship and sales exhibition opportunities, please contact us at scd.kaleidoscope1@yahoo.com or visit the event website www.scdkaleidoscope1.strathspey.org.

DANCING – A HEALTHY CHOICE

On a Wednesday evening in May, 16 dancers from London Branch gathered at Philbeach Hall near Earls Court to film a short Scottish Country Dancing "lesson" for the *NHS Choices* website promoting the health benefits of Scottish Country Dancing particularly for retired people. Some senior members of London Branch along with members of the Demonstration Team were invited to show that Scottish Dancing is for every age and every ability.

Angela Young, who is usually on the other side of the camera, mocked up a short class and we demonstrated the rudiments of Scottish Country Dancing and danced *St. Andrew's Fair* to bring it all together. Although we knew a five minute snippet would take longer than five minutes to record, we were quite surprised to be there three hours later. At the end, and with the last of our energy, we danced *The Montgomerie's Rant* 16 times through in a 7-couple set! The evening went well, thanks to the excellent guidance from Angela, music from Ian Robertson and refreshments provided by Jan. Thanks to everyone who gave up their time to take part. Look out for the clip on the *NHS Choices* website.

Elaine Davies



Bill Clement and Atsuko at the Palace when he received his MBE from the Queen

FUTURE BRANCH DANCES 2009

17 January	Kafoozalum
7 March	Strathallan
9 May	George Meikle
13 June.....	Frank Reid

Continued from previous column

investigating the possibility of "communication" meetings in various locations around the world with participation by office-bearers and Board members.

Conference Weekend and AGM

Members are encouraged to support their Society and stand for all the available Management Board and committee places at the AGM. Details of posts available and nomination forms, returnable by 12 September, are available to download from the Society website.

Jeff Robertson

Want to Advertise in *The Reel*?

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

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch costs £19.00 per annum for UK based members (£19.50 for Europe; £21.50 elsewhere). 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* and dances and events during the year; while Society membership includes the bi-annual dance publication, *Scottish Country Dancer*, books, music and recordings, and most importantly defining and maintaining standards of Scottish Country Dancing

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

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	Moira Strutt / t.b.a.
POPULAR	Wednesday	8.00 - 9.30	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Lindsey Rousseau / 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	For details contact James Fairbairn, 01865 512308		Angela Young / Sandra Smith

Term Starts week commencing 22 September, and ends week commencing 1 December. Half term is week commencing 29 October. New this year – end of term party is on 10 December from 6.30-9.30. 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.

HIGHLAND CLASSES 2008

Teacher:..... **David Hall**

Thursdays:- 9, 16, 23 October, 6, 20 November, and 11 December.

7.15 - 9.15 p.m.

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

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

STEP DANCING

Please refer to the Branch website for the dates of the Step Dancing Classes in the coming months. The sessions are from 10.30 - 12.30 and 13.45 - 15.45 at the Scout Hut, Kings Langley, WD4 9HT. It is a about a mile from Kings Langley station just a short train ride from Euston, or by car it is close to junction 20 on the M25 near Watford. The class is taken by Joan Desborough who invites everyone to come and have a go: her daughter Wendy provides live fiddle music.

Further details from Joan, tel 01442 826629 or email ladiesstep@rscdslondon.org.uk.

TEACHING EXAM PASSES

At a Teaching Examination held at Cambridge in June, Barbara Martlew passed units 4 and 5 to become a fully fledged RSCDS teacher. At the same time, Rose Kreloff and Andy Weiner passed units 1 - 3 and now move on to the next stage. Congratulations to you all and Babs Wood their teacher: now go out and spread the word!

SOUTH EAST REGION TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

The South East Region Teachers' Association (SERTA) organises workshops for Scottish dance teachers. It is open to anyone who teaches SCD, 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 873026.

The next meeting will be at Finchampstead Memorial Hall in Berkshire on Sunday 28 September. The workshop will be led by Ann Dix, with Barbara Manning providing the music. The topic is "You and Your Class – are you user-friendly?" Application forms have already been distributed to those on the mailing list and can also be obtained from Mervyn Short or myself. The first workshop of 2009 will be on 19 April in Reigate. Further details will appear in The Reel nearer the time.

Mike Johnson

LONDON BRANCH YOUTH WORKSHOP

Saturday 20 September 2008

Following the success of the Youth Workshops held in Perth, Aberdeen and Bournemouth – the London Branch will be hosting a Youth Workshop on Saturday 20 September. It will take place at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London, NW1 7AY, from 1.30 until 5pm (Light refreshments available from 1pm).

The workshop will be taken by Angela Young. Angela is the teacher of the London Demonstration Class, and as well as teaching children's and adult classes for the London Branch, has taught at Spring Fling, Day Schools around the country and a weekend for the San Francisco Branch in Asilomar. She has also choreographed display routines for a number of events and locations including one for the South East Branches at the Royal Albert Hall.

All experienced dancers between the ages of 16 and 35 are invited to attend and – as this event will be sponsored by the Mary Telfer Fund – there is no charge.

The Youth Workshops previously held have concentrated on technique and demonstration work – as well as providing a place for young people from around the country to meet and dance together, whilst improving steps, formations, flexibility and covering.

This workshop will have the added focus of working towards providing the display for that evening's Branch Dance – including all the dancers attending that afternoon (please let Angela know if you would rather not be included in this).

Following the workshop, the plan is to go for an evening meal of pizza together, followed by attending the London Branch dance at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street. (Discounted Ticket price £5 for those attending the Workshop).

If you have any queries including advice on where to stay in London please get in touch with Angela (aady@mac.com) – or Andrew Kellett (youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk).

CHILTERN CHILDREN'S SCOTTISH DANCE CLUB

The children's classes at Aston Clinton restart in September. It is planned to have classes with both Country and introductory Highland Dancing on Tuesday evening for 'Improvers' and Wednesday evening for 'Wee ones' and 'Beginners'. Details from Ann Robertson on 01296 630682.

There will be a **Family Ceilidh Dance** on Saturday 4 October from 2.00 - 4.30, cost £4 with refreshment, live music and all dances walked through in Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Rd, Wendover, which is near Aston Clinton.

Joan Desborough

FOCUS ON YOUTH

Children's Classes

The Branch children's class continues in the Autumn term on Saturdays 13 September, 25 October (tbc), 15 November and 13 December.
10.30-11.30.

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

Teacher: **Angela Young**

Musician: **Jean Harrison**

£2.00 per child (including drink)

Adults welcome to stay.

Newcomers always welcome!

Family Day – 22 November

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

11.30-12:45

Children's Class

*All children 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 will be provided for all dancers

14:00-16:30 Dance to the music of

Ian Robertson

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 Andrew Kellett
on 020 8301 1403.*

Children's Class

Aston Clinton, Nr Aylesbury, Bucks.

Teacher: **Joan Desborough.**

See separate notice below left

TEACHING QUALIFICATIONS

Anyone else wishing to take units 2, 3 or 5 of the RSCDS Teaching Certificate with the London Branch in 2009 or who would like further information about the teaching Certificate should contact Moira Strutt. Tel 020 8748 6711.
email: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

Step Out Together With The Music

Saturday 18 October 2008

Lady Margaret School, Parsons Green, SW6 4UN

Continuing our break from tradition, classes will once again be themed, encouraging the enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing through the understanding of movement and interaction. In addition to these themed classes there will also be a class for newcomers and those fairly new to Scottish Country Dancing which will take place in both the morning and afternoon. Please be realistic in assessing which classes are suitable in order that everyone can get the most out of the day. Classes will be divided as follows:

Morning: 10.30 - 12.30

"Are You Up to the Challenge" – This class concentrates on working towards achieving higher proficiency in the performance of the dance – a class for experienced dancers

Teacher: **Mary Murray** Musician: **Jennifer Wilson**

or: "Dancing to the Music" – Music can either be a help or sometimes a hindrance. This class will look at how to get the most from the music and how to cope with the unhelpful side of the music – Suitable for those with a reasonable standard of dancing and a good knowledge of steps and formations.

Teacher: **Eric Finley** Musician: **Ian Muir**

or Newcomers & Improvers Class - Suitable for the less experienced dancer

Teacher: **Rachel Wilton** Musician: **Barbara Manning**

Afternoon 14.00 - 16.00

"Top to Toe" – Dancing involves the whole body, so how do we make the most of this aspect in our dancing? – a class for experienced dancers

Teacher: **Eric Finley** Musician: **Ian Muir**

or: "It's Just for Fun" – A class emphasising the social aspect of Scottish Country Dancing. – suitable for those with a reasonable standard of dancing and a good knowledge of steps and formations

Teacher: **Mary Murray** Musician: **Jennifer Wilson**

or: Newcomers & Improvers Class – Suitable for the less experienced dancer

Teacher: **Rachel Wilton** Musician: **Barbara Manning**

Lunch: 12.30 - 14.00

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

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 Foss (inc. Fugal Fergus)

Teacher: **Maureen Campbell** Musician: **Jennifer Wilson**

Highland/Step

Teacher: **Joan Desborough** Musician: **Barbara Manning**

Music – A Help or a Hindrance?

Muriel Johnstone

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 **Muriel Johnstone** this will take place in both the morning and afternoon. This year the course will cover playing as a group for Scottish Country Dance and what you need to do to work together. 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 stamped s.a.e. Tel: 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 & Judith Muir**. Tickets are available in advance 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 stamped 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.

DON'T MISS IT!!

CAN'T 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.

NEWS FROM THE SOMERSET BRANCH

Sometime in the nineties I remarked to Jane Bett from Cambridge who had come with her husband Norman to play for our day school that I wished we could get a musician to play for our weekly classes in Somerset as we had Norman Williams who played for us for many years in Bedford when we taught there. Jane's reply was "Organise a Day School for Musicians, Sheila, and they will appear out of the woodwork!! They did in Cambridge."

It took me until 2006 to put Jane's suggestion to the test, when the numbers attending our dance day school were diminishing gradually. I spoke to people from other branches of the Society who had organised successful days for musicians and asked their advice. The main suggestions seemed to be to advertise well in advance both within the area and further afield, and of course employ a good teacher!!

In March 2006 Mo Rutherford came to teach the nine musicians who had booked for the course. Many of them were quite nervous having never attended such a function before, but Mo with her tact, her charm and sense of humour had them all relaxed and happy in no time at all.

Mo repeated the exercise in 2007 when 16 musicians applied, mostly the former attendees who had brought along friends.

Mo played keyboard for most of the day but she was also able to demonstrate to the fiddlers how tunes were to be played. Most of her instruction was based on playing Scottish music to accompany class teaching or for social dancing, and of course we encouraged as many players as possible to play for the evening following the day school.

March 2008 saw Neil Copland (Mo's husband and leader of their Scottish Country Dance Band) teaching the 15 musicians on accordion. His style is very different but equally acceptable to the participants, who all seemed very happy and satisfied with the day and all vowed they would return next year.

Organising two parallel courses, one for dancers and the other for musicians is invariably much harder work, entailing booking of two halls, etc. Music needs to be sent in plenty of time so that potential players can practise in advance. But judging by the atmosphere in the hall for our evening dance this year it was all worthwhile. The dancers took part enthusiastically to the end of the evening, despite having danced all day. As always we had a mixture of instruments from keyboard to fiddle and accordion with even a squeezebox and most of them played with Mo and Neil in the evening.

Next year's date is 7 March with Dave Hall teaching, which will be different again, but I'm sure equally successful as most of the participants have promised to bring more friends next time.

Sheila Barnes

Secretary, Somerset Branch

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

CHILDREN'S MEDAL TEST RESULTS

Congratulations to all the children who entered the RSCDS Medal Tests at St. Columba's on 3 May. 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 the assessors, Brenda Burnell and Mervyn Short, and to the teachers who worked so hard with the children preparing for the tests. There will be another opportunity for children to take the Medal Tests next year.

Cambridge Children's SCD Class

Grade 3:
Agnes Taylor
Grade 4:
Astrid Burden
Lydia Farrer *
Polly Ray,
Rachel Taylor *
Emma Vallis-Booth

Chiltern Scottish Dance Club for Kids, Aston Clinton

Introductory:
Sophie Ahern #
Rachel Bullard #
Samantha Bullard*
Hannah Minnett *
Sophie Peterson *
Jenny Robertson#
Grade 1:
Sophie Ahern*

Gemma Bullard *
Gemma Cartmell *
Hannah Graham *
Callum Minnett
Ellie Minnett
Sophie Peterson
Jenny Robertson #
Tom Robertson

RSCDS London Branch Children's Class

Introductory:
Heloise de Satge
Olivia de Satge
Isabel Elliott #
Iona Geidt
Olivia Geidt *
Madeleine Jones *
Bethan Kendrick
Blake Kendrick *
Iona Milliken Long *
Raeanna Webb-Smart *

RSCDS Milton Keynes Branch Children's Class

Introductory:
Hannah-Marie Culley *
Nanako Onda
Holly Pappalardo
Emily Rogers
Isabel Sapwell
Jessica Scott *
Robyn Smith
James West
Grade 2:
Katie Farnes
Jonathan Heron
Megan Hill
Alice Rigby
Megan Rigby *
Grade 3:
Bethany Heron
Ebryl Nicholls
Megan Rigby
Anna Tholen *

St Johns Scottish Country Dancing Children's Class

Grade 1:
Bethany Allwright,
Hannah Webster
Grade 2:
Sarah Allwright *
Becky Boer,
Megan Brackstone *
Bethany Fuller
Robyn Jenkins
Grade 3:
David Allwright #,
Fiona Thomson *
Molly Wilson *
Grade 4:
Philip Cresswell,
Rebecca Hall *,
Katie Jones *
Hannah Nutsford
Grade 5:
Amelia Draffin #

The Upland Dancers, Bexleyheath

Introductory:
Miriam Blyhe-Hassan *
Tom Booker #
Paige Cruickshank*
Oliver Davis *
Chloe Fisher *
Charley Griffin #
Feyi Kadri #
Georgina Walker #
Grade 1:
Miriam Blyhe-Hassan *
Evie Booker #
Tom Booker #
Hannah Cutting #
Lucy Cutting #
Chloe Fisher *
Emily Hurst *
Max Moore #
Lucy Parsons *
Georgina Walker #

Grade 3:

Steven Dawson #
Katie King #
Florence Moore *
Amy Moughton *
Danielle Reynolds *
Roya Saeednia *
Grade 5:
Claire Dawson #
Nancy Moore #
Rebecca Worrell #

There are pictures of the RSCDS Milton Keynes Branch and the London Branch Classes on page 11.

MEDWAY & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION – JUNIORS

The Results of RSCDS Medal Tests taken in Rainham, Kent, on Sunday 18 May 2008 are:

Introductory Grade Pass: Sarah Fovargue;
Credit: Harlie Blundell and Amy Nelson

Grade 1 Pass: Sarah Fovargue; **Credit:** Najah Badran, Kelsey Lovelock, Hayley Nelson, Anna Peake; **Distinction:** Elly Blundell, Karla Dicker, Georgina Tagg

Grade 2 Distinction: Emily Wickenden, Sian Wickenden

Grade 3 Credit: Kemi Blundell, Tara Foord, Daisy Hart; **Distinction:** Joel Blundell

Grade 4 Distinction: Ashleigh Murray

Grade 5 Distinction: Leona Chalmers, Ashleigh Murray

SCOTTISH TRIBUTE TO A CHAMPION FOR THE LONDON HOMELESS

The award winning London Branch Dem Team delighted, entertained and taught over 50 guests at a Scottish Evening held at The Connection at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London on 14 May. It was held to commemorate the life of Robert Isles, who had been President of the Friends of The Connection and previously Deputy Director of St. Martin's Social Care Unit, predecessor of The Connection in its work for homeless people in Central London. The team presented a wide variety of dances, group and solo, and joined pipers and reciters of Scottish verse. Over £200 was raised for the work of The Connection. Representing The Connection, Giles Andrews, one of the organisers, commented "We were delighted the RSCDS have helped us in our work for homeless people in London. The dancers provided an invaluable part of a very successful evening."

A photograph of some visitors who joined in is on page 10.

James Fairbairn

THE HARROW PICNIC DANCE

A marvellous picnic dance took place on 28 June in the beautifully maintained grounds of Harrow School, North-west London. Blue sky and sunshine lifted our spirits and a brisk breeze lifted our kilts. David Hall's band performed in a jaunty open-sided tent inspiring us to leave our picnics, don our sun hats and dance (some bare-footed) on a vast swathe of wonderfully flat grass. Non-dancing friends were hugely encouraged by our MCs, Rachel Wilton and Gaynor Curtis (whose patience knows no bounds!). Miracles happened and young and old found themselves casting, setting and reeling with happy abandon! The Dem Team delighted us with a 'Summer Medley'.

From the elegant 90+lady in her pretty sun hat to the tiny toddler in his kilt and sporran we all had a fabulous afternoon. Thank you Mr. Farrell! (...and for the wonderful piping).

Rae Walker (Harrow)

Footnote



Visitor
Teresa
O'Donoghue
is in clover
well, at least
her foot is!

More Picnic Dance pictures on page 11

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Please state your Branch when ordering.

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

SCOTTISH DANCING - Pre-History Part 2 Continued from Reel 264

From the late 14th Century onwards available records give an indication of the extent of dancing throughout Britain. Here follows a brief summary of available information. This is set out in date sequence, as far as possible, but on occasion for the sake of clarity it has not been possible to adhere strictly to date order.

1380 King Richard II of England paid a Venetian dancing master for his services.

1446 Osbern Bakenham records a dance being held on Twelfth Night in the household of Isabel Lady Bouchier.

1450 During the period from 1450 to 1470, the Italian writers: Domenico da Piacenza, Antonio Cornazaro and Giovanni Ambrogio da Pesaro, wrote the first European treatise of dances. Their book covered rhythm, dynamics, core and harmony and established a terminology with which to describe individual dances including steps and movements, together with a notation to record the sequence.

1457 John Harding coupled music and dancing as being typical activities of noble children. Dancing was described as an import.

1474 Hornpipes were first mentioned.

1475 John Bromyard declared that dancing was a parody of divine worship and a service of the Devil.

1490 A book, containing the instructions for 48 different dances, was published in Paris. 'The Cockelbie Sow', a 15th Century Scottish poem, names 20 contemporary Scottish dances of which no other record exists.

1522 The earliest treatise on dancing was translated from the French and published in English. It included instructions for 7 French dances, with their steps and sequence, but no music.

1536 The Duke of Rutland paid the King's Minstrels 40/- for teaching his son and heir, Henry Manners, how to dance.

1549 An early record of country dancing in the Lowlands of Scotland reports that the musicians were playing bagpipes, fiddles and tin whistles for the performance of the following dances (amongst others): Al Cristeyn Mennis;

Continued across the bottom of the next page

BRANCH ACCOUNTS 2007 - 2008

As promised at the last AGM, here are my comments on the accounts, with apologies once again that the tight timescales and *The 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 an operating surplus of £843 – not far above the break even budget we set.

We did, however, have an unrealised loss on our investments of £ 8,000 due to the poorer performance of the stock market this year. Thankfully, this is not even real money, as we have no intention of cashing in our shares, but it means that the effective operating surplus for the year was £8,843.

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: £17,615-£7,274-£8,844 = £1,497 in surplus for the first time. This is because we now run the classes as a private venture and so have the income as well as the expenses.

Children's Activities

Income less expenditure: £1,382-£1,752 = (£370), but we subsidised the children's class by £689 from the Telfer bequest.

Dances

Income less expenditure: £9,562-£8,127 = £1,435 surplus thanks to good turnout at the Christmas and Burns Night dances.

Publicity

This only cost the Branch a net £68 this year thanks to a surplus on *The Reel* of over £800 and a subsidy from the Westwood fund to cover the cost of the open air dancing in Kensington Gardens.

Bookstall and other trading

The bookstall made its steady £678 contribution, although the total for this heading is reduced to £176 after the CD and badges are taken into consideration.

Demonstration team

This appears as "fundraising activities" i.e. £5,226-£ 4,720 = £506 surplus thanks to the efforts of the team in getting out at more performances and more lucrative ones.

Administration Costs

The only other figure to comment on is the admin costs (£540) – down on last year. This is made up as follows:

Membership expenses	£209	Insurance	£ 60
Treasurer's expenses	£ 48	AGM expenses	£150
PAT testing	£ 18	EFDSS Insurance	£ 55

The meeting expenses of £565 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 more 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 musician attending Summer School and have received a further £2,000 from Mary Telfer to be spent on youth activities.

Membership subscriptions were slightly up, but with the increase in the RSCDS portion due from July 2008 we will have to watch that this does not affect our membership numbers.

Investment income and bank interest were both up, contributing a total of £3,163.

With income increasing by over £7,000 in the year and expenses being carefully managed, the Branch is in a strong position going forward to a new year.

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow officers and convenors who are always on top of their paperwork enabling 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, 13 June 2008.

John W. Mitchell

Biographical Note

During the war years and for some time thereafter John learnt ballroom dancing and with his parents attended an Old Time and Sequence Dancing Club. In 1946, he was introduced to Scottish Country Dancing whilst staying in Dollar. His introduction to the RSCDS occurred whilst living in Leeds in 1964, where he joined the Leeds Caledonian Society and the Leeds Scottish Country Dance Club. It was in Leeds that he first met May Yarker and Hugh Foss who encouraged him to devise dances and to research the origins of the Society dances. This led to many years of correspondence and occasional meetings, mainly at St. Andrews. In 1965, John moved to Belfast and was involved with the Belfast Branch of the Society for about a year. It was about this time that he began a lengthy period of correspondence with Hugh Thurston about the origins of Scottish Dances. He has not only carried out extensive research in various libraries, but also extended this beyond Scottish Dancing to include the influence of other forms of dancing throughout the years.

John moved back to Hove in 1966, and joined the London Branch. While travelling extensively on business, he always took his dancing shoes with him and danced as far away as Jeddah!

In the 1960s he was instrumental in the formation of the Sussex Association of Scottish Societies, of which he became the first Chairman. As well as the Annual Sussex Scottish Charity Ball, the Association ran a number of smaller dances, day schools and the Sussex Scottish Dancing Festival. He also inaugurated a series of Summer Dances on the lawns on Hove sea front.

When May Yarker retired to Sussex he persuaded her to organise Teacher training courses, through which he was examined for both Certificates by Miss Jean Milligan, gaining his Teacher's Certificate in 1972.

In 1975, he was the founder Chairman and Instructor of the Hangleton Scottish Country Dance Club (which eventually became the Brighton and Hove Branch of the Society). In 1982, he transferred to teaching the Aldrington Scottish Country Dance Club.

John is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland; a Guild Brother of the Incorporation of Wrights of the City of Glasgow and a Burgess Freeman of that City; a Life Governor of the Royal Scottish Corporation, a Laird of Camster and a Freeman and Liveryman of the City of London.

Continued from previous page

North of Scotland; Huntsup; Robene Hude; Alman Heye; The Speyde; The Flail.

1561 Mary Queen of Scots introduced formal French Court Dances to Scotland. The French Courtiers were not yet performing country dances. The French Court Dances included dances in common time called Branles (pronounced Brawls) – which in Scotland gradually became known as Reels. The word Reel subsequently came to indicate a dance in common time. There is no evidence of the word "Reel" being used in Scotland prior to this period. (The Branles had previously been introduced to the English Court by King Henry VIII). In the Branles the dancers originally stood in a line facing the top of the room, each man with his partner on his right. The dancers performed a series of standard steps for each different Branle. In the 'Montarde Branle' at the end of the sequence of steps the dancer on left hand end of the line proceeded to pass in front of the dancer on his right, behind the next dancer

and thus weave to the right hand end of the line to join up, each dancer following this track in turn. The 'Hey Branle' was the first dance to include the interlacing figure with all the dancers moving. The figure subsequently became known in England and North America as a "Hay" and in Scotland as a "Reel". (A Hey is a wattle fence with wooden cross bars interlacing uprights). Instructions for these French Court dances were published in 1588 by Thoinot Arbeau.

1563 Elinor Gunter's manuscript, recorded country dances. It was reproduced by James P. Cunningham. No details of the majority of popular dances of the late 16th and early 17th Century have survived, except for their titles. Amongst hundreds of old manuscripts preserved in the Inns of Court there are a number which contain the programmes of dances performed at various functions by members of the bar and their ladies.

1574 On 19 August, Jean Cadye was brought before the Presbytery of Edinburgh for dancing in men's clothes.

1577 Misogynous gives the earliest reference to English country dancing.

During the 16th Century, the Kirk was not so much against the actual dancing, as against the licentiousness which might occasionally have accompanied or followed the event. As the Rev'd John Northbrooke indicated: '*But wee now in Christian countries have schools of dauncing, howbeit that it is no wonder, seeing also we have houses of baudrie...it is well known, that by daunces, and leapings very many honest marriages are brought to passe, and, therefore it is good and tolerable.*'

1580 Due to pressure from the Kirk, dancing became rather curtailed at Holyrood; but even then on 3rd. December, King James VI paid £100.00 to William Hudes, for '*his extraordinary painstaking in teaching us to dance*'. From which it is safe to assume that dancing was still regarded as important in the social life of the Scottish Court.

John W. Mitchell

ELIZABETH AND FRANK BENNETT CELEBRATE THEIR SILVER WEDDING



Irene Spooner

When Elizabeth Bruton came to London in 1975 she started Scottish Country Dancing and joined the Branch in 1976. She frequently attended dances at St. Columba's Church. It was here that she met Frank Bennett who started dancing in 1977. Elizabeth has served on the London Highland Club Committee for many years and is currently Assistant Treasurer. Frank joined that Committee a year later and is now Secretary. Elizabeth is also an officer of the St. Andrew Society (London) which is based in Wimbledon.

On the 21 May 1983 they were married. To celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary they invited friends to join them at a dance at the Community Centre in Wimbledon on 31 May. The 70 or so at the dance were from various clubs in London and nearby parts of Surrey.

The evening started with a Champagne reception ably supervised by Clem Wilson. This was followed by an evening of Scottish Country Dancing to the music of the Musicmakers. The

Continued in next column

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

London

Musicians

Dear Wilson,

Musicians playing for evening dances seem to want a lot of money for something that they, like dancers, do for their social enjoyment. While dancers have to pay for their pleasure, musicians not only don't have to but actually get paid, and quite highly for that matter, even if some of them are 'professional'.

When dancers dance, they do so to the sound of dance music which emanates from speakers, whether initially from musical instruments, CDs or tapes. The dancer's attention is taken up by performing the dance. There is little concern from most dancers as to who is or what is playing from the stage, such is the ambiance, concentration and pre-designed co-ordinated interaction in the lines of dancers. And, seemingly, if life-size doll(s) or even cardboard cutout(s) of musicians were placed on the stage, illuminated and given names, few dancers would be aware of this or possibly be even that bothered. Moreover, if a CD or tape player were set up and operated efficiently in terms of sound balance and volume, including using a base speaker, and a good liaison made between the operator and MC for the evening, the acceptability by the dancers would be virtually

Continued from previous column

M.C. for the evening was their daughter Catriona.

During the interval there was a finger buffet with wine served by some of the members of the St. Andrew Society of Wimbledon. After the main buffet was over, a cake made by Miss Pauline Cashmore was ceremonially cut and served. To round off this enjoyable evening a collection was made (in special envelopes) to be given to St. Raphael's Hospice in North Cheam: over £600 was raised.

Irene Spooner and Catriona Bennett

equal to that of live musicians (an American Square Dance Saturday evening has only one person who acts as both a record-player operator, caller and MC and everyone enjoys themselves at very little cost for the session). But most importantly, A LOT OF MONEY would be saved by all such that the entrance fee would be low, allowing those of limited means to access the function and possibly procure a higher quality of refreshments.

There are many groups of players across the country who would be willing to play for evening dances, simply for free entrance (maybe some financial help with a long journey) and partaking of the refreshments. This might outrage the paid musicians and bands to say the least, but that would be their problem, not ours. If many were not so greedy in the first place, just maybe the above text would not apply in the second.

Peter Hoult

Somerset

Booking Dances

Dear Wilson,

Having read the letter by Danielle Reinstein in *The Reel* (No 264) I heartily agree with her sentiments. I speak as someone whose husband died some years ago (not that Harold and I danced together the whole evening) and I normally go to dances on my own now. Whereas I know lots of people on the dance scene so am not usually short of partners, occasionally I attend a function where I know few dancers. One such recent example was the Duns weekend in early May. If the regulars had all pre-booked dances I would have been without partners. As it was I danced every dance on both evening programmes and a jolly good weekend it was too, where people made a real effort to welcome newcomers and make them feel included. How must newcomers feel when most people have pre-booked dances?

Sheila Barnes

Best of Scotland 2004 Award for Excellence

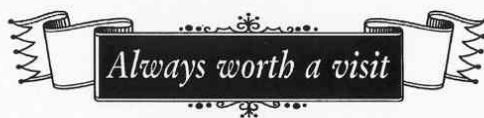
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (continued)

London

Repairing the Kilt

Dear Wilson

I got my first kilt in 1983, when I was working in Saudi Arabia – there was a flourishing Scottish Country Dancing group in Jeddah and I felt I needed a kilt for their Burns' Night celebrations. It lasted well into the 1990s, but inevitably the sporran chain wore through the apron and in my innocence *I threw the kilt away and bought a new one.*

The replacement kilt did sterling service through the 1990s, the Millennium celebrations and the early "noughties", but by the time we went to our first Winter School in Pitlochry in February 2006, it was starting to show the same fatal symptoms of chain wear. So when Myra, my wife and I went in to Macnaughtons to buy hose, kilt pins and other such trifles I was lamenting to the (very helpful and chatty) salesman about the need to consider the huge expense of buying yet another kilt. He very kindly explained that I shouldn't be so hasty as more economic remedies were available – the apron could be darned or inconspicuously patched if the wear was not yet serious; the apron could be cut off, turned around and re-attached; or it could even be replaced completely if a matching metre or so of cloth could be found. Any or all of these options could readily be performed expeditiously and at moderate expense – many more years use could thus be secured.

We fell to discussing the details, but when it transpired that my wife and I were only in Pitlochry for the long weekend and I could not contemplate a long separation from the garment, things began to look less feasible as only a skilled Scotsman could be trusted to do such work. My new friend enquired as to our abode and when he realised we came from South London, he had the immediate solution – "You need to talk to my good friend Hamish Macnab, he's based in Kennington (020 7735 2255) and will do a fine and economical job for you"

So I did and he did; and what's more he made me a new kilt for my 70th birthday, and early this year he patched the apron of the old kilt yet again. So kilt-wise the motto is "Never Say Die", or not yet anyway!

Bob Chapman

Middle East

Electronic Reel

Dear Wilson,

You asked for views on the electronic *Reel*. In addition to the ones you mentioned, here are some others:

Pro: *If it were instead of the postal version for everyone, it would save money, Less work for those involved in posting, Speedier delivery, significant to some of us outside the UK., Saves trees.*

Con:

Unless you sent only the text, it would be too large a file for those of us who live in areas with poor internet connections. Very expensive for individuals to print in the same quality as your eye-pleasing production.

My current views:

I strongly wish to continue to receive the hard copy, even with the extra cost for living outside Europe. I might in future like to have an electronic copy in addition to the hard copy. My circumstances would have to change before I'd consider having an electronic copy as an alternative to the hard copy.

Iain Ross

Worcester Park, Surrey.

Electronic Reel

Dear Wilson,

I do not think this is a very good idea, unless the recipient has a giant computer mailbox. A recent newsletter I had from another organisation, consisting of three pages of print and a few small coloured logos, required nearly 800KB. At that rate the amount of space needed for Stephen's excellent centre-page photo-spreads would be horrendous. *[Over 2MB. Ed].*

I have every edition of *The Reel* going back 32 years. I am now a member of Croydon Branch, but still get copies of the magazine, and I would like to continue the collection. The improvement in that time has been enormous – 32 years ago this publication amounted to 4 to 6 pages, mainly of dance programmes. Even if you do introduce an email edition, I would still prefer a hard copy.

Elizabeth Bennett

Hemel Hempstead

A Hard Choice

Dear Wilson,

Numbers are dwindling, what can we do about it? This is often the cry heard at AGMs! To do 'something about it' we need to tackle both ends of the age span. I greatly applaud initiatives such as taking SCD to schools, arranging children's classes with awards that then involve their parents, using ceilidh dancing as a springboard to SCD and running beginners' groups/classes that overlap with the more experienced during a dance evening just to mention a few. But I did say both ends of the age span.

'People stop dancing because they get old', I have heard it said, yet many dancers are in their 70s. But it is true that numbers do drop off with the onset of stiff or sore joints or simply injuries. After all, old bones can be worn and are more brittle.

Recently, I went to an evening dance and injured myself because I was unable to dance with the flow, spring and naturalness I love about SCD. You see, the floor was both hard as concrete (in fact it was concrete) and cold, which made the covering of thermoplastic floor tiling sticky to dance on.

Now my point is that this dance was excellent in every other respect, a lot of trouble had been taken to have an enjoyable social programme, live music of the highest quality, excellent supper and all at a reasonable price. The dancers there were great company too! All these things were right but **not** the floor of the hall. To fall at the last hurdle, so close but so far from being able to say 'that was a really excellent evening!' We all want to take away happy memories BUT not injuries.

Now, please don't misunderstand me, I am certainly not ungrateful for what all organisers do for the dancers that come along. The heart and generosity of organisers it seems is boundless, however, in organising an event they do take on a responsibility to look after the dancers and for this reason they should definitely not book a hall with a concrete floor.

I am convinced that the use of concrete floors to dance on contributes to dance injuries and thus the early demise of dancer numbers. So to **all organisers** of functions, a plea from the humble vulnerable dancer, to keep dancer numbers up as long as possible please do try not to book a hall that isn't timber but if you do have *no choice* then kindly mention in your advert *Hard Concrete Floor* and allow dancers the advance knowledge to be able to make a proper choice of where they wish to go to dance. (Also such a column reference could so easily be added to the

SE Diary designated **H** for *Hard* or **T** for *Timber!*)

So, if we are to maximise member numbers we do need to look after our dancers and that's you and me!

Stephen Webb

Argyll

Frederick Hill

Dear Wilson,

I write to comment on a recent letter to *The Reel* entitled 'Ladies Step Dances'. My comments relate particularly to the references made to *Frederick Hill's Book of Quadrilles & Country Dances etc., March 22nd 1841*, more commonly known as the 'Hill MS'.

I was not aware that Francis Peacock of Aberdeen was ever considered to be the teacher of Frederick Hill. Indeed, that would have been an impossibility since the Aberdeen dancing master died in 1807 and Frederick Hill was not born, in Hammersmith London, until c.1816. It is also a questionable assumption that Adam Myren of Mortlach in Banffshire was his teacher. Certainly, he was a contemporary of Frederick Hill but so also were the three other gentlemen named in the manuscript, who, like Myren, were all well known peripatetic 'dancers' in the counties of the north-east of Scotland in the mid-nineteenth century.

These and other misconceptions about the Hill MS, though unfortunate, are perhaps understandable in view of the fact that access to the actual content of the notebook is not so readily available to anyone wishing to consult it. To remedy that situation, readers of *The Reel* may be interested to know that Alan Macpherson and I, both former Honorary RSCDS Archivists, propose to publish a page by page reproduction of *Frederick Hill's Book* with its detailed descriptions of seventy-four dances – Country dances, Quadrilles, Reels and High dances. We have embarked on the project with the approval and encouragement of Frederick Hill's descendants, who are now the custodians of the manuscript and with whom we have been in contact for several years.

Preparing the manuscript for printing has been a time-consuming process but we are hopeful that it will be available before the end of the year. Meanwhile, anyone seeking further information about this unique opportunity to acquire a copy of this important historical document can consult our website, www.hillmanuscript.com or contact me by email, macfadyennewton@aol.com

Any profits resulting from the publication will be donated to the RSCDS with the express wish that they be applied to the further development and promotion of the Society's Archives.

Alastair MacFadyen

London

Red House

Dear Wilson,

I read with interest John Mitchell's article in *Reel* 264. He is correct in saying that the Society in *Book 7* used the form AABBC which does not really suit the dance, but in later editions of the book it was changed to ABBC, as it is in my copy dated 1986. This suits the dance much better as we have the same strains BB for the chasing and CC for the two reels.

John mentions the recording ABBC by the Berkeley Players, but it has also been recorded thus much nearer home. Notably on David Hall's CD *The Sound of Feolin* recorded in 1998 and still available, and much more recently on Keith and Muriel's CD reviewed in this issue.

John Laurie



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Combined Societies Dance

1. Ian Dennison leads Rae Walker up the middle followed by Peter Sayce and Rachel Wilton in *Shiftin' Bobbins*
2. Ian Anderson with Meg Harman leads the allemande in *Wisp of Thistle* to the music of Dave Hall and his Band.
3. Dance composer Judith Smith with Brian Pierson the dance devisor of the reel *Lena's Kitchen* with Lena Robinson herself.

Musicians in May

4. Regular dancing devotee Natalie.
5. Gordon Simpson, Leader of the Musicians' Day Workshop and the evening band.
6. The Musicians playing for *Glasgow Lassies*.
7. Rachel Wilton, with Jimmy Young visiting from Cumbria.
8. Alex Duncan joins hands with Lindsey Rousseau and Marion Morris to set in *The Braes of Breadalbane*

Other Events

9. Inspiration for Renata Stankova and Kevin Kearns from *The Reel*.
10. Dancing in Kyoto on the Cherry Blossom Tour, see page 18.

John M. Sturrock.



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7

All pictures by Stephen Webb except where stated

11. Audience participation at Dem for Homeless, see page 6. *Michael Nolan*.
12. Our Branch Demonstration Team gives the Harrow Picnic Dance onlookers a real sense of the Scottish Country Spirit through their dancing.
13. Also at the Harrow Picnic Dance Michael Nolan with Janet Rudge set to Alan Martin in *The Montgomeries' Rant*.
14. At the Stoke Goldington Picnic Dance on

- 29 June the children from the Milton Keynes Branch of RSCDS proudly show their certificates. With them is their teacher Rita Scott.
15. Joan Desborough's Step Dancing group.
16. Mary Stoker and Stella Booth cut their 90th birthday cake.
17. Our Branch President with all her Vices except Ellen Garvie
18. Rachel Wilton briefs Jeff Robertson after the AGM.
19. Jim Cook with Klári Lovrics show the way in Kiev, see pages 15 and 16. *Maria Zotko*.
20. Emma filming the NHS Video, see page 3. *Michael Nolan*.



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Nine year old Isabel has this to say: "On Saturday, May the 3rd, some people from Angela's Saturday class entered the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Introductory Medal Test. Our examiner was a lady called Mrs Burnell. When we did the test we wore some lovely tartan skirts with a white t-shirt with a bow on the side. We did two dances called *Reel for Jeannie* and *The Flying Scotsman*. It was great fun and we wouldn't have been able to do it without Angela's help. We really enjoy her classes." (seated is Class pianist Jean Harrison)

NEW RECORDINGS

RSCDS Book 9 plus 4 Dances 2008 and 2 Dances for Eileen Watt – Lindsay Weir and her Band and Liam Stewart and his Band (RSCDS CD 063)

RSCDS Book 11 – John Renton and his Band (RSCDS CD 062)

Silver Tassie and other favourite Dances Keith Smith and Muriel Johnstone (SSCD 20) The De'il among the Tailors, The Silver Tassie, The Deuks Dang o'er my Daddie, John of Bon Accord, Saughie Haugh, Ladies' Fancy, None so Pretty, Miss Ogilvie's Fancy, Holyrood House/Argyll's Fancy, The Dancing Years, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Reel of the Royal Scots.

Todlem Hame and other favourite dances Keith Smith and Muriel Johnstone (SSCD 21) Todlen Hame, Sugar Candie, The Dancing Bees/More Bees A-dancing, Light and Airy, Well Kent, Red House, Wisp of Thistle, The Engine Room, Blue Bonnets, The Barmkin, The Minister on the Loch, Fight about the Fireside.

The first three recordings are the first for the Society by the bands concerned but a number of the musicians have played on earlier CDs with other bands; notably, Marie Fielding, Ian Muir (Prestwick) and Graham Berry – to name but three!

Book 9, etc, is a 'double CD'. Lindsay plays dances 1 to 6 and three of the new dances while Liam plays 7 to 12 and the three others. Both bands are on top form; good tempo, lots of lift. Sometimes I get a bit weary listening to a complete CD from start to finish but with these two I have listened all the way through several times. There are, in my opinion, two outstanding tracks; Liam's 8x48 reel The Birks of Abergeldie with the original tune 'The Wind that shakes the Barley' and three Shetland reels. Some very fine second accordion playing by Ian Muir and that ace pianist Graham Berry complement Liam's lead with Andy Kaim on the fiddle. Lindsay's rendering of The Minister on the Loch is quite superb – Muriel Johnstone's excellent original is

followed by two well chosen modern compositions. Lindsay's husband Colin Garvin is on second accordion and Judith Linton is on fiddle.

I must say that I find John Renton's CD disappointing, especially when compared with the other and despite Marie Fielding on the fiddle. It sounds a bit laboured in the reels and jigs. This is perhaps due to the slow tempo with 8x32 reels at 5min 2sec and 5.10 and a jig at 4.52. On the other hand, some of the strathspeys are, by Society standards, too fast at 7.54 and 8.00 for 8x32 bars. I am surprised that the Society representatives who attended the recording did not encourage the band to play at more normal speeds.

Regular readers are now well aware that I just love Keith and Muriel's recordings: great tunes and excellent tempo. Need I say more? Buy, listen, dance to them and you will not fail to be uplifted.

John Laurie
020 7286 1923

THE MUSICIANS' DAY AT ST. COLUMBA'S

The Musical May dance on 10 May at St. Columba's was to the music of the 20 or so musicians, mostly fiddlers, who had attended Gordon Simpson's workshop that day. As one of those musicians I can say that the daytime sessions were very instructive as well as enjoyable. More to the point the many dancers at the evening dance thoroughly enjoyed our music.

But quite how many different tunes go to make up an evening's dancing came as a surprise to me. Nearly 70 tunes were played that evening, and it took us musicians all day to work them up to something like a presentable performance (even having had the music in advance). Gordon Simpson, one of the leading Scottish band fiddlers, led us through the repertoire, showing us points of style and how to avoid the tendency to speed up. He has a strongly accentuated bow stroke, which helped to bring out the rhythm and lift in this wonderful music. The organisation was astonishing – suddenly tables and delicious home-cooked food appeared at the right moment, and everything was organised so smoothly to enable us to work – it was impressive.

Some of us were a bit anxious about performing for the dancers come the evening, but Gordon carried us through. It was wonderful to play through the music we had learnt, and the response from the dancers was worth as much as any applause – for me at least there was real buzz. I am grateful to the Branch for this opportunity to work under an experienced leader and to play for competent dancers – a wonderful day.

Charlotte McDonough

(See page 10 for photos of this event)

MUSICIANS' WORKSHOP

There was a good turn-out of musicians for the Branch Musicians' Day on 10 May at St. Columba's, led by Gordon Simpson. 21 attended, which was the maximum that could be accommodated: a few late applicants had to be disappointed. Quite a few were repeat attendees (including one from France) so the Branch must have the right formula for the event. There were also some new faces which is also a good omen for the future.

The majority of musicians were fiddle players, which was a good match to Gordon's own skills, but the rest of us were not overlooked and there was something for everyone to learn or to take away [some more than others - I have quite a list of things to work on...]

Our own Angela Young ably assisted, both on the piano and also by providing feedback on how we sounded from a dancer's perspective located in the body of the hall.

It was very generous of the Branch to provide lunch at no cost to the delegates and I would like to thank the Branch and the team of stalwarts who gave up their day to do this. I would also like to thank Rachel Wilton for organising the event – much appreciated.

Most of the musicians were able to stay on to play for the evening dance (not me – unfortunately I had a family commitment) but I have heard from dancers that they enjoyed the fruits of the musicians' labours earlier in the day.

The next Musicians' event is on 18 October 2008 with Muriel Johnstone. This runs concurrently with the Branch Day School but does not include playing for dancing in the evening. I recommend my fellow musicians to come and join us!

Colin McEwen



BANDS

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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, e-mail: 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.

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

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M	c	Band	N	S

Contact: Mike McGuinness Tel: 020 8398 6799
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Soloist: PETER JENKINS

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

GEORGE MEIKLE VENTURES SOUTH

Off-beat notes by a drummer

George Meikle is a remarkable musician, well-known for his enthusiastic accordion playing each year at the RSCDS Summer and Winter Schools. George has also put in an enormous amount of work editing, writing and arranging the musical transcriptions for countless recent RSCDS dance publications. "Originally Ours", the book of original tunes for all the RSCDS dances was I suspect "Originally George's". It is an indispensable source book for the working dance musician.

From *The Reel* I discovered that George was to make three appearances in the London area during May 2008: I was able to go to each! The first was Saturday 24 May at the 75th Anniversary Ball at Ashford Middlesex of the Heston and District Scottish Association. The Ball comprised all the elements needed: good company, good refreshments, slices of celebratory cake, a forgiving floor and an excellent church hall. George fielded the Lothian Band with Stewart Reid on the fiddle and Alan Rintoul on the keyboard. The music could not have been better! The programme was a clever mixture of those well-tried favourites that anyone can do backwards or standing on their heads, along with one or two to challenge the dancing experts.

Event number two was arranged by Jan Jones of the Thistle Dance Club of Milton Keynes in another nice church hall in Stony Stratford on Friday 30 May. It was an occasion of great dancing, good food and friendly company. George played on his own – not that you would have noticed such was the variety and virtuosity of his playing. Some dancers kept telling me what a hard and sticky floor it was but with such uplifting music I just didn't notice it. Jan gave us recaps to stimulate the mind and one local speciality dance was walked through so nobody could complain about that.

Event number three was in Central Milton Keynes in a sombre post-Stalinite office block. There were about 10 musicians from Purley, Sutton Coldfield, Stourbridge and all stops in between. Such was George's skill in coaching us that by the end of the session, any promoter could have confidently booked this band for an up-coming dance! The music was scrupulously presented and George had a laptop to make any adjustments or corrections to it. Any problems and questions were answered by anecdote or demonstrating musically on his box. Many secrets were revealed about controlling tempo, bellows technique and busy moving bass lines. It all seemed so easy. Not everyone brought along an obvious instrument for Scottish dancing. Who would have thought a flute, a concertina or a 2-row melodeon could have sounded so good at it? I took along my snare drum. Tutors at such workshops don't usually know what to do about drums: George explained seriously 'I dinna use a drummer in my ain band. It is a popular misconception that the drummer is there to keep the rest of the band in time – that is *NOT* the case'. Strangely enough David Cunningham and Ian Muir (Prestwick) made the same observation at previous workshops, so there must be something in it!

It turned out to be one of the best musicians' workshops I have attended for some time. George tutored us from 10 until 3.30 when he had to up sticks and dash to another engagement that evening.

I would urge any musicians to attend these workshops if they can. There is one annually at

Fleet and in London, amongst others. The tutors are really quite outstanding. It is good to hear how these masters explain and demonstrate what works so well for them.

Tom Cooper

Footnote by the Milton Keynes organiser:

Prior to the workshop, some of the musicians had expressed a little disappointment at not having the opportunity to play for a dance in the evening. Logistically this just was not possible. George had provided great music for the Thistle Club Dance on the Friday, and following Saturday's Workshop he was off up the motorway to play for an event in Doncaster in the evening!

Following the success of this event I am investigating possible dates with George to run a second workshop. For information contact Jan Jones jange@verybusy.co.uk (07877 153259)

INVERCAULD SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

In October 1997, the Berks/Hants/Surrey Border Branch were unexpectedly short of a band for their Branch Dance due to ill-health. The evening before the dance, they asked Branch pianist Lilian Linden and fiddler Peter Macfarlane to fill in. Although they had never met previously, Lilian and Peter's music was so well received by the BHS Branch and the dancers, that their second booking was made that evening. And the Invercauld Scottish Dance Band was born!

Bookings to play at other Scottish Country dances, weddings, and ceilidhs soon followed, and the band rapidly grew from a duo to a three-piece band and occasionally a four-piece band, with a caller for ceilidhs and weddings.

The Invercauld Band have played at many venues all over London and the south-east of England, including many enjoyable evenings in Pont Street for the London Branch. For the last ten years, they have also played regularly for Scottish ceilidhs at Cecil Sharp House in Camden and also larger venues. Playing for 600 enthusiastic young dancers at Hammersmith Town Hall was a fun, if noisy, experience with a very lively atmosphere.

Several years ago, the band travelled to Ghent in Belgium to play for a Scottish dance weekend and ball, which was followed by playing for dances in Luxembourg, the Channel Islands and a Burns' weekend in Oslo, making good friends along the way.

Lilian's Scottish ancestors, the Farquharsons of Invercauld, have been traced back to the sixteenth century to the start of the Clan, and she particularly loves playing Scottish dance music. Lilian has played for many classes and day schools since 1985. She has also played the

piano with other Scottish dance bands since 1994, and has played many times at the RSCDS Summer School at St Andrews since that year.

Peter first encountered Scottish music at university, and has played in Scottish dance bands since 1988. In the 1990s, he organised and led the annual Aylesbury Fiddle Rally. Peter moved to America in 2003, but makes occasional guest appearances with the Invercauld Band on visits to the UK a couple of times a year.

The Invercauld Band currently consists of fiddler Dave McAllister from Ayrshire, accordionist Kevin Street, and Lilian on piano, occasionally joined by Bob Parsons on drums. Dave is a very talented fiddler and occasionally plays for the London Branch general class. Kevin is an accomplished accordionist who teaches in Dulwich. Two other excellent fiddlers who occasionally join the band are Judith Smith and Diana Mitchell, both of whom also play with other established Scottish bands.

Lilian and the band have enjoyed working with many MCs at Scottish dances and balls. When the band plays for Scottish ceilidhs and weddings, they are joined by some excellent callers, including Malcolm Ferris-Lay, Simon Wales, Andrew Kellett and Lindsey Rousseau, who expertly guide the dancers in taking part in the dances, and help build the atmosphere.

Lilian and Peter have both composed many Scottish dance tunes and they have recorded a CD of their original music, arranged in sets for dancing. The CDs can be ordered from Lilian (details in *The Reel* under the 'Bands' column).

The Invercauld Band were very pleased to take part in the London Branch recording for the 75th



Anniversary of the Branch, and recorded the music for two dances, a Reel and a Strathspey. The CDs are available from London Branch.

The band have great fun playing for Scottish dancing and their passion for the music shines through and creates a great atmosphere for the dancers. They enjoy making many friends through their music and often get asked back to play.

With Lilian at the core of the Invercauld Band, the remaining band members are occasionally flexible, depending on other work commitments. Whatever the line-up, the Invercauld Band's philosophy is to provide fun and enjoyment of the dancing with their lively, traditional Scottish music. More details are available on their website www.invercauldband.com.

Lilian Linden

DANCING IN KIEV

In issue 261 of The Reel, Jim Cook mentioned the dancing in Ukraine and said that he felt a future train trip coming on. And so it has come to be. As advertised in The Reel, Iryna Zhurakovska arranged an international weekend hosted by her Kiev group, Lugnasad, from 18-20 April 2008. Over to Jim.

Come 16 April, my travels from London had brought me to Vienna's South station. The next stage of the journey was an overnight train, the "Chopin", to Kraków in Poland. Before boarding my carriage I walked the length of the train musing on the various destinations of the coaches, namely Warsaw, Moscow and Prague. In the early hours of the morning coaches would be detached whilst others from Prague, Bratislava and Budapest would be attached. Truly a train to inspire one's imagination. I looked up and down the platform but saw no other Scottish dancers. I was the only dancer making the journey this way!

A few years ago, who would have thought that one would ever catch a train from Austria to Poland, crossing the Czech Republic on the way, with no officials wanting to wake you up at unearthly hours to look at your papers? This was the case the following night as I travelled the last stage to Kiev from Przemyśl in Poland. (If you wonder how to pronounce this, London dancers should ask Ludka Morris. If it sounds as if she is sneezing then that is it!) At the frontier, the Ukrainian officials thoroughly examined everyone's papers. But, even so, it is not as it once was now that EC and Swiss passport holders no longer need visas.

Simultaneously, dancers from Russia, Hungary, Germany and Chatham were also converging on Ukraine. Indeed upon arrival, my English eyes found it exotic to read the place names on everyone's name badges. But I wonder if Chatham had the same frisson for our hosts and hostesses?

Kent's Mike Gould picks up the story.

"Kiev is a city that has long been on my "Wish to Visit" list. When I discovered that Lugnasad was organising a SCD Weekend I immediately contacted Iryna, whom I'd met several times at St. Andrews.

I flew out a couple of days early so as to visit Kiev's historic attractions. Using Kiev's extremely efficient Metro system, where one can go anywhere for 50 kopeks (5p), I visited the Caves Monastery, with its fascinating underground passageways housing glass coffins containing the bodies of long-deceased monks in elaborate colourful shrouds. Above ground stands the beautiful Dormition Cathedral and other golden domed churches.

Other memorable sites included the 11th century St. Sophia's Cathedral. And as I walked away from the Cathedral who should I bump into, but Jim Cook? The world is not big enough.

On the Friday evening, I met up with Iryna, one of her helpers Anastasiya Gavrylyuk, and all the other dancers for a Welcome Dance with a programme of old favourites. Music was provided by Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning. Ken was also to be our teacher for the course. Jim was our MC for both evenings' dancing.

On Saturday morning we met up in Podil on the north side of the city for a guided walking tour, led by our hosts. From Kontractova ploscha (Contract Square), a steep hill (Andriivsky uzviz) took us to the spectacular baroque St. Andrew's Church. We then descended into the centre of Kiev where a traditional Ukrainian lunch had been organised in a restaurant overlooking Lenin's statue. (Yes-they still have one!)

Saturday afternoon consisted of a 3-hour class, and after a short break we smartened up for the evening Ball – more familiar dances along with several that Ken had taught earlier in class.

Sunday was our final day together, starting with a 3 hour class in the morning followed by a

short social dance after the lunch break. We then travelled by Marshrutka, a cross between a bus and a taxi, to the Pyrohovo Museum of Folk Architecture and Life which is eight miles south of Kiev's centre. Here, authentic buildings from all over Ukraine (barns, schools, houses, churches, windmills) have been collected to form a "village" depicting older times. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind to us and we were rapidly soaked by the deluge that also contained enormous hailstones. Damp, but not dispirited, we found a thatched tea room and spent the rest of the afternoon singing a selection of Ukrainian, Russian and British songs including "My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean" – complete with hand gestures!

The majority of the dancers were either Ukrainian or Russian and they were all so young! Back in the UK I am usually at the lower end of the age spectrum at events, but in Kiev I was one of the senior citizens! It is so refreshing to see SCD catching on and being embraced with so much enthusiasm by the youth of Europe!"

Klári Lovries and Tomi Hámori add the Hungarian point of view.

"After the welcoming atmosphere of the opening dance we both knew it had been worth making the long train journey from Budapest. Our first ever time on a sleeper train was great fun.

In May 2007, we met Iryna when she attended the biennial International Scottish Weekend organised by the Budapest SCD Club. So we reciprocated and came to support her event in Kiev. [NB. The next Budapest Weekend will be 24-26 April 2009 with Graham Donald teaching and music provided by James Gray and Keith Smith. To make the journey even more worthwhile, after an optional tourist programme, the RSCDS Vienna Branch celebrate their 20th Anniversary with an event from 30 April-3 May 2009 with Graham Donald and Susi Mayr teaching and with music provided by Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith. See websites www.bstk.hu and www.rscdsvienna.org for details.]

Lugnasad seem to dance everywhere and all the time. Wherever we went on the sightseeing tour, they added: "And we regularly dance here. We think Kiev people are really lucky to have the opportunity to watch this group dancing in the streets. They are very good dancers who are often demonstrating and they love to do this. We had a cheerful time, friendly young dancers and exactly the same amount of men as women!"

Moscow was represented by two groups, the RSCDS Moscow Branch and the Scottish Dance School "Shady Glen". On behalf of the Moscow Branch, Julia Tkacheva continues.

"For us it was not only an occasion to improve technique and to learn new dances but an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. As English is not our native language, some dancers were afraid they would have a problem understanding. Thanks to Jim Cook calling the dances, nobody had. We also had no problems understanding the classes as Ken, with his words or without words, made every figure simple. Even the Schiehallion reel!

A SCD group has existed in Moscow for over ten years and it became an RSCDS Branch in 2006. There are three classes a week and our teachers are Katherine Finogenova (fully certificated teacher) and Olga Ivanova and Mikhail Smagin who have passed their preliminary exams.

We shall have a Dancing Weekend on 12-14

September with Malcolm Brown as teacher and Ken and Barbara as musicians. Irene Bennett will be our special guest.

I am pleased to contribute to *The Reel* as I have good memories of London last January when I danced at St. Columba's on the Monday, the London Branch classes on the Wednesday, Highland with David Hall on the Thursday and the Burns' Supper on the Saturday!"

Maria Zotko, the head of the Shady Glen school, continues with the Moscow perspective.

"Shady Glen has existed for three years. In addition to Scottish Country Dancing, which is the basis of our programme, Highland and Ladies' Step Dancing is also taught. Indeed Shady Glen is the only school in Moscow teaching Highland and Ladies' Step.

There is one class for newcomers, where they learn basic steps and formations, and a separate advanced class for those who enjoy the beauty of complicated dances. As a result we have classes almost every day of the week and dancers can choose which classes suit them best.

A monthly social dance or ceilidh is held in one of the Moscow pubs with, usually, a short masterclass for the newcomers. At the end of May, a great Scottish Ball will be held with dancers coming from different Russian cities and Ukraine. Music will be provided by "Celtic City Experience" a Scottish Dance band from St. Petersburg.

Every St. Andrew's Day we arrange a concert of Scottish dancing and music. To this annual festival of Scottish culture in Moscow we invite the best bands and dancing groups from Moscow, Krasnodar and St. Petersburg. In 2007 more than 500 spectators came to see it!

So we do our best to promote Scottish culture in Russia and to acquaint people with Scottish Dancing!"

Ken Martlew adds to the picture.

"One of the pleasures of life as an itinerant teacher/musician is the opportunity to visit delightful people and places that would not be found in any Travel Agent's brochure. And so I arrived in Kiev.

Forty-seven (mainly!) advanced dancers arrived for the weekend. Many were lovely dancers, a joy to watch. Russians and Ukrainians appear to have music, song and dance flowing in their veins. They are also prepared to work at it!

With Barbara Manning moving expertly from violin to keyboard, we progressed through changes of step and feet, tournée, poussette, highland steps, to dances including *Schiehallion* and *Glasgow Highlanders*. I also taught a couple of dances from the new "Four Dances 2008" leaflet, fresh off the doormat the previous week. [Indeed my copy was awaiting my return home. So I shall always remember that I learned *Sueno's Stone* and *Festival Interceltique* from Ken in Kiev, such is the international nature of SCD. Jim]

There are valuable lessons from teaching in or among foreign languages. Instructions must be brief, explicit and demonstrated. Cut the waffle! When needed, Iryna, whom I had met at St. Andrew's Summer School, easily interpreted between Ukrainian, Russian and English – but SCD, thanks to the RSCDS, is international currency. We came home laden with chocolate, vodka, and a surfeit of wonderful memories. What a difference it could make to world peace and goodwill if a few dictatorships were to take SCD on board!"

Barbara Manning picks up the thread.

"I arrived at Ken's at 2.30 a.m. on the Friday morning to start our journey to Kiev via Warsaw, and was greeted by the message "Yes, they have a music stand. You can take yours out of your case to lessen the weight".

When, many hours later, fortified by excellent borscht sampled at Iryna's 8th floor flat near Kiev, we arrived at the hall, there was no music stand to be seen! However, it's amazing what you can do with a violin case perched on a chair - not to mention a lectern, which usefully served as a music stand for the keyboard on one side, and a perch for Ken's teaching notes on the other. Such are the perils of the travelling musician.

Far more important was the joy of seeing such elegant and expert young dancers, performing in a venue which was the furthest east I've so far been. You had to get used to the slow hand clap - not in a derogatory sense but, for example, on the first beat of every bar of a strathspey!

We were royally looked after by Iryna and her family. We sampled such delicacies as stuffed cabbage, kasha (a bit like semolina, for breakfast), buckwheat and fish, and red caviar, not to mention the happy Ukrainian tradition of dreaming up ever more obscure toasts as an excuse to take another drink, typically, wine and vodka from the Crimea. As an erstwhile student of Russian, it was exciting to travel in a private car along the major highway that links Odessa on the Black Sea with Moscow and St. Petersburg. Also the length of some of the Kiev Metro station escalators had to be seen to be believed. Then there would be another one to take you up to ground level!

We dipped into a cellar bar once or twice, and enjoyed the spontaneous singing which sprung up from the "rival" groups, Russian and Ukrainian.

Even when our bedraggled party at the open air Pyrohovo museum stopped for restorative hot wine, coffee or chocolate, the delightful Oksana (who wants to be a professional singer) got out her guitar and gave us yet more beautiful songs in Ukrainian. Music of many styles enhanced this weekend.

I am most grateful to Ken for the loan of his Polish fiddle, which saved me anxiety over whether I would be allowed to take mine into the aircraft cabin, as the strings can be regarded as a potential weapon. But, neither with LOT nor Austrian Airlines, was there a problem."

The last word goes to Iryna.

"I would like to thank Barbara and Ken, and all our guests from East and West, for making long journeys and making the weekend unforgettable! Also thanks to my group who worked so hard to organise the event.

Our SCD group is very young, having started in September 2005, and so is our country as Ukraine only became independent in 1991. We held our first dancing weekend in October 2006 when my first SCD teachers, Avril and David Quarrie, came to teach a small workshop. This was a rehearsal for this bigger weekend.

I wanted this weekend to fulfil two goals, firstly to show my young dancers how big and beautiful the SCD world is and to let them dance with more experienced dancers and teachers, and secondly to show our foreign guests how beautiful our country and city are. Also I just wanted to meet my friends from England, Hungary and Russia.

I am sure this was not our last such weekend but it is too early to say when the next one will be. But we shall do our best to make it even better!"

Jim Cook finishes:

Thank you Iryna. And so the weekend ended and it was time for me to return home to London. I

could do it in 48 hours by train. But I decided to break my journey for 24 hours in Nyiregyháza in Hungary with the attraction of a nearby open air folk museum to make up for the wet one at Pyrohovo.

Unnecessary luggage is a nuisance when travelling as I do. To save a bag, I just wear my kilt and have done with it. So I visited the museum "en kilt". I seemed to be the only individual visitor that April weekday. Otherwise there were a number of 5-7 year old school groups which could be differentiated by the teddy bears they carried.

Outside one of the display houses, a teacher of the "Winnie the Pooh" group was taking a photograph and I was in the way. So I started to move but this caused consternation because it transpired that I was the subject. Having put this to rights, the teacher then instructed all the children to say "Good morning" to me and I duly responded.

After visiting the house, which the group had just vacated, I emerged to find that they were still nearby. But now the teacher had briefed the children in how to say "Good bye". And so we said our goodbyes.

Back in the town centre on my way to the station, I was stopped by an English speaker. Was I free that night to speak at his English Circle? But I would be back on the train. However the idea of running a Scottish Dance evening for absolute beginners has been put to him, taught in English of course. Perhaps one day Nyiregyháza will be on the Scottish Dance map. Watch this space.

Jim Cook
(and other contributors as indicated.)

KENTISH CALEDONIANS.

Following the news of the demise of The Chelsea Reel Club (*The Reel* No. 263), it is my sad duty to report that Kentish Caledonians has had to be wound up for similar reasons i.e. lack of volunteers to serve on the Committee combined with falling attendances at functions.

Founded in 1968, Kentish Caledonians was the brainchild of Robin and Margaret Ellis to provide a means of liaison between Scottish Societies in the area of North West Kent and South East London, the founder member clubs being Orpington, Sidcup, Hayes and West Wickham, Lee Thistle, North Kent and St. Andrew's (Welling). Later recruits were Meopham, Dartford and MacLennan Scottish Group. Some of these societies no longer exist or had ceased being members of Kentish Caledonians.

The Society has had only three Treasurers in its 40 years existence namely Joe Matson (1968-1980), Ken Burchett (1980-1989) and John Cottrell (1989-2008) and only two Secretaries - Margaret Ellis (1968-1980) and Audrey Ewer (1980-2008).

Regular functions have been the Annual Dance which attracted 200 in the first year and around 150 for many years thereafter, and a dancing weekend in hotels around the coast from Cliftonville to Worthing and places in between. The proceeds of these functions have enabled the Society to donate almost £13,500 to local charities.

The final function was when Committee Members, past and present, and supporters attended a farewell lunch. Unfortunately, several could not attend but the Chairman, Loraine Chase, thanked all of them for their efforts over the years which had contributed to the success of Kentish Caledonians and to the friendships generated.

John Cottrell
Orpington and District Caledonian Society



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DANCE EVENTS

New Zealand Branch
Summer School



<http://ssakl.rscdsnz.org.nz/>



28 Dec 2009 - 5 Jan 2010

Organiser: **Andy Nicol** organiser: ssakl@rscdsnz.org.nz
Branch Secretary: **Murray Corps** sect@rscdsnz.org.nz

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball
Saturday 7 March 2009
Harpenden Public Hall, Harpenden AL5 1PD
The Craigellachie Band
Programme and other details in the next issue
Enquiries to Val Owens 01727 863870

HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION (MIDDLESEX)

ANNUAL BALL
Saturday 1 November 2008
7.30 - 11.30pm
Bretnside High School, Greenford Ave, W7 1JJ
The Craigellachie Band

Programme: Cramond Bridge, Napier's Index, Kilkenny Castle, The Piper and the Penguin, Macleod's Fancy, Wembley's GEM, John of Bon Accord, Spiffin, Alison Rose, West's Hornpipe, The Luckenbooth Brooch, Anniversary Reel, Midsummer Madness, The Dream Catcher, The Reel of the Royal Scots, James Gray, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Polharrow Burn, Equilibrium, The Flower o' the Quern, The Montgomerie's Rant, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder.

Tickets :- £16 [incl. Buffet] from
Margaret Wallace 020 8560 6160
email: Margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk
website: www.hayesscottish.org.uk

CHICHESTER & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

St. Andrew's Dance 29 November 2008
Chichester High School for Boys
Drinks Reception 7.00 for 7.30 pm
Dancing to 11.15 pm
The Dave Hall Band

Programme: Good Hearted Glasgow, The Saltire Society Reel, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Polharrow Burn, The Music Makars, Cape Town Wedding, The Jubilee Quadrille, The Flying Spur, The Glengarry Homestead, Kingussie Flower, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran, The Diamond Jubilee, Linnea's Strathspey, The Barley Bree, Old Nick's Lumber Room, The Dream Catcher, The Peat Fire Flame, Machine Without Horses, Moray Rant, The Reel of the Royal Scots. *Extras:* Neidpath Castle, Flowers of Edinburgh.

Tickets £12 for members, £14 for guests,
American Supper
Apply for tickets with an s.a.e. to Stuart Dean, 35
Shillinglea, Purbrook, Waterlooville, PO7 5RW,
Tel: 02392 792073, or e-mail
stuart.dean4@ntlworld.com

RSCDS BATH BRANCH

Annual Ball
FRIDAY 27 February 2009
at The Guildhall, Bath
Strathallan SCD Band
Tickets £25 from June Hall, Top Flat,
141 Wells Rd, Bath BA2 3AL
Tel.01225 318906



BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND REEL CLUB

Annual Highland Ball
Saturday 7 February, 2009
7:30pm to midnight
Ashlens School, Chesham Road,
Berkhamsted, HP4 3AH.
Sandy Nixon and his Scottish Dance Band
Details: Janet Halse, tel: 01442 246381. Details
in The Reel No. 266 and on website.
www.berkhamstedreelclub.org



BRACKNELL REEL CLUB AUTUMN DANCE

Saturday 1 November 2008
7.30 - 11.00 at the
Carnation Hall,
Chavey Down Road, North Ascot
RG42 7PA
Green Ginger
Tickets £10 inc. buffet + home-made desserts
For details see www.bracknellreelclub.org.uk
Tickets from: David McQuillan 0118 9793024
email: dance@bracknellreelclub.org.uk

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Exeter Branch

Day School and Evening Social Dance
Saturday 25 October 2008

Teacher:**Marilyn Watson**
Musician:**Ken Martlew**

For more information & application
forms please contact:
Duncan or Laura Brown
Tel: 01626 852839
email: lauraebrown@tiscali.co.uk

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Annual Ball
Saturday 25 October 2008
Headington School, Oxford

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band
Programme: Happy Returns, Antarctica Bound, The Rose of the North, Fife Ness, The Argyll Square, Scotch Mist, Flowers of Edinburgh, Joie de Vivre, The Singing Sands, The Ruby Reel, EH3 7AF, The Duchess Tree, The Anniversary Reel, The Wild Geese, Radcliffe Square, John of Bon Accord, The Minister on the Loch, The Chequered Court, The Reel of the 51st Division.

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

Advance notice

Burns' Night Supper & Dance
17th January 2009, Benson
The Strathallan Band

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Autumn Dance
Saturday 18 October 2008,
7 to 11 pm
St Luke's Parish Hall, Pinner, HA5 3EX
Dancing to **Silver Cross**
Tickets: £11 from Jim Henderson 020 8954 2586,
email: jimhendersonuk@aol.com

Annual Ball

Friday 2 January 2009,
7:45 to 11:45 pm
Allum Hall, Elstree, WD6 3PJ
Dancing to **Craigellachie**
Programme in the next issue.

ISLE OF WIGHT Weekend School

13-15 February 2009

Teachers: **Ann Dix & Eric Finley**
Musicians: **Robert Mackay**

Ian Muir & The Craigellachie Band
For further information send SAE to Catherine
Packwood-Bluett, 33 Highfield Rise, Shrewton,
Salisbury Wilts SP3 4DZ
or email catherinep@hugh-davies.co.uk



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Forthcoming attractions to be
held at St. Columba's
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London SW1 0BD.

Fridays: Upper Hall 7.30-10.30pm
Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00-10.30pm
unless otherwise stated

Saturday 6 Sept.....**Strathallan**
President's Night.....Jacket potato supper
7.00-11.00 pm
Saturday 4 Oct.....**Stradivarious**
Friday 31 Oct.....Hallowe'en
Saturday 15 Nov.....**Karl Sandeman**
Friday 28 Nov.....St. Andrew's Night
Saturday 20 Dec.....**Frank Reid**

All dances will be talked or walked through on
request, except Christmas Dance.
For further details contact: Frank Bennett on 020
8715 3564, email 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.

RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

Christmas American Supper Dance
Saturday 13th December 2008
Caber Feidh
Tickets £9.

Annual Ball
Saturday 14th February 2009
Strathallan
Tickets £15 inc. Supper
Please note change of venue for both events:
Corfe Mullen Village Hall, BH21 3UA

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Formal Dance & Buffet
Saturday 15 November, 2008
7.30 - 11.00 pm
Reigate School, Pendleton Road,
Reigate RH2 7NT
David Hall and his Band
MC: Alister Reid

Programme: The Nurseryman, The Montgomerie's Rant, Summer in Assynt, Black Mountain Reel, Tribute to the Borders, Butterscotch and Honey, Tattie Bogle, The Gentleman, The Music Makers, Kilkenny Castle, General Stuart's Reel, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Foxhill Court, JB Milne, Miss Hadden's Reel, Gang the Same Gate, Seton's Ceilidh Band, The Reel of the 51st Division, *Extras:* Trip to Bavaria, The Sailor, Neidpath Castle.
Tickets £11,
Enquiries to Alister Reid 020 8393 6732.

One more Dance Event
on the back page

DANCE EVENTS (continued)



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER BRANCH

**Autumn Social -
11 October 2008**

Carnation Hall, Winkfield Row, RG42 7PA
7.45 to 10.45 pm

Bring and share refreshments, dancing to
recorded music

Contact Roger Hills 01483 836056 / Roger Finch
01483 511040

Christmas Social - 27 December 2008

Finchampstead Memorial Hall, RG40 4JU
7.45 to 10.45pm

Bring and share refreshments, dancing to
recorded music

Contact Rhoda Finch 01276 681820
or Peter Loveland 07748 766334

Branch Day School - 14 March 2009

Court Moor School, Fleet GU52 7RY.
Contact Fiona Albinson 0118 9789181

Advanced Classes - alternate Mondays

Finchampstead Memorial Hall, RG40 4JU
starting on 8 September 2008
8.00 to 10.00pm.

Teachers: **Ann Dix, Mervyn Short,
Gaynor Curtis and Alan Davis**

Contact: Fiona Albinson 0118 9789181

General Class - Every Wednesday

Starting on 10 September 2008 at 8.00pm.

Teacher: **Mervyn Short**

Contact: May Sloan 01428 604868

The first 4 weeks at Farnborough Community
Centre GU14 7LE, thereafter at Our Lady Queen
of Heaven RC Church, Frimley.

NEW - Beginners Class

Starting on Thursday 11 September 2008 at
8.00pm.

Teacher: **Anne Whillis**

Camberley Baptist Church, Frimley Road,
Camberley GU15 3EN

Contact: Shirley Ferguson 01276 501952

Dancing Proficiency Assessment (DPA)

The Branch is considering holding a DPA
course. If anyone is interested in attending a
DPA course please contact

Mervyn Short 07713 148192.

Details of events on www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

RSCDS CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH

Annual Weekend School
7-9 November 2008

Cumberland Hotel, Eastbourne BN21 3YT .

Teacher: **Pat Davoll**

For application forms and further details contact

Pauline Cashmore 0208 686 9362

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH

Autumn Dance

Saturday 18 October 2008

7.00 - 11.00pm

Weald of Kent School, Tudeley Lane,
Tonbridge, TN9 2JP

David Hall Band

Tickets £9.50 plus a plate of food to share.
Contact Sue Fergusson, tel: 01892 513514 or
email: socialsec@rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk
www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

60th Anniversary Dance

Saturday 27 September 2008

7:30 to 11:30pm

Tolworth Girls School

Fullers Way North, Surbiton ,KT6 7LQ.

David Hall's Band

Programme: Anniversary Reel, Duke of Atholl's
Reel, Butterscotch & Honey, Clutha, Airie
Bennan, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, The Reel of the
Royal Scots, Napier's Index, Margaret Parker's
Strathspey, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan,
Diamond Jubilee, St. Columba's Strathspey, Peat
Fire Flame, Tribute to the Borders, Miss
Milligan's Strathspey, Black Mountain Reel,
Pelorus Jack, The Belle of Bon Accord,
St. Andrew's Fair, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets £18.00 inc buffet from Brenda Horwill,
32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames,

Middx TW16 7TY

Tel: 01932 784866

email: dmhorwill@aol.com

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

Day School

Saturday 15 November 2008 at 2.00 pm
Thameside School, Reading, RG4 8DB.

Teacher:.....**Joan Desborough**

Musician.....**George McLennan**

followed by

an evening dance to recorded music

Details from Janet Wright 0118 972 2945

www.scottishdancingreading.org

ST. NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS Annual Dance

Saturday 8 November, 2008 at 7.30pm

St. Albans Girls School

Sandridgebury Lane, Harpenden Road,
St. Albans AL3 6DB

Ian Robertson and his Band

Tickets £14 including supper

Details from Pat Hamilton tel 01462 671156,

Sheila Harris tel 01525 875060,

or Chris Walker, mail@cwalker3707.fsnet.co.uk



ST. JOHN'S

Saturday 22 November 2008

7.30 - 11.45pm

Emmbrook School, Wokingham
RG41 1JP .

Ian Muir & The Craiggellachie Band

Tickets £15.00 from Sue Davis, 2 Larkwood
Drive, Crowthorne, Berks. RG45 6RL.

SAE. please.

Tel: 01344 774344

Half Day School

for Intermediates

Saturday 8 November 08

St. Sebastians Hall, Nine Mile Ride Wokingham.
2.00 - 5 p.m. £5.00

Teacher.....**Alan Davis**

Applications from Sue Davis Tel: 01344 774344

email alandaviskirk@hotmail.com

FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

60th Anniversary Ball

8 November 2008

The White House Community Centre, Hampton.

Karl Sandeman and his Band

7.30 - 11.00pm

Tickets £16 including supper - Bar available
(£15 if purchased before 21 October)

Contact; Paul - 01784 462456

p@ulfbrown.co.uk

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Jeff Robertson on tel: 01903 245718;

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

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Sweatshirts and Polo Shirts and a larger
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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
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Jeff Robertson

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CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR

This wonderful tour to Japan was an ambition fulfilled for Atsuko Clement who organised it down to the very last minute detail. I was lucky enough to be one of the participants and I am still marvelling at all the shrines, temples and palaces we visited, the majesty of Mt. Fuji, Japan's history including the rule of the Shoguns, Japanese culture and customs, the Bullet trains, the beauty of the blossom and the tasting of such delicious and diverse cuisine. This trip was more than a Scottish dancing holiday or a tourist visiting Japan as Atsuko and the dancing hosts told us so much more about this amazing country and its customs as we went. The trip of course was planned to coincide with the appearance of the very famous cherry blossom. It has been celebrated for many centuries and holds a very prominent position in Japanese culture. It is indeed a sight to behold and I was astonished that the blooms only last a day or two at most.

This article cannot do justice to our experience but I will attempt to give you some flavour of our trip. We numbered 44 from 9 different countries and in addition to being accompanied by Atsuko and her husband Bill Clement who also entertained us with the pipes, we had the expertise of Bill Zobel and the wonderful music of Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith.

We stayed in seven different hotels and danced in five different venues with many Japanese dancers joining us along the way. Our trip concentrated on the largest and main island Honshu (about the size of the UK). The tour commenced in Kyoto where we enjoyed a concert, a class and dancing with over 100 local dancers and where we had our introduction to bathing in hot springs.

Our sightseeing commenced with Nara just south of Kyoto where we to visit the Horyu-ji temple site and Todai-ji built in 743 A.D by the Emperor Shomu. The main hall was built to enshrine the Great Buddha which is 15 metres tall and weighs 25 tons. A pillar with a hole at the bottom is the exact size of one of the Buddha's nostrils and it is said if you can climb through it you will be healthy. One of our party did manage it!

The next day was spent in and around Kyoto which contains the best preserved examples of Japan's feudal history. We visited the stunning Kinkaku-ji (the Temple of the Golden Pavilion), Ryonji Temple with its Zen rock garden (featured in Monty Don's "Around the World in 80 Gardens") then on to Nijo Castle, the private residence of the Tokugawa shoguns. Then to the Kyoto Imperial Palace, Sanjusangen-do (an extraordinary sight with row upon row of statues (1001) of Kannon, goddess of Mercy and 28 guardian deities) and finally a climb up to Kiyomizu-dera (Pure Water Temple).

The tour included a visit to Hiroshima where the Atomic Bomb Dome, the only building deliberately left standing from 1945 was a grim reminder of the past. The park includes a number of memorials including the Children's Peace Monument, the Cenotaph and the Peace Memorial Museum. We then crossed to the island of Miyajima which was quite delightful and where we witnessed a Japanese wedding complete with a ritual dance and music. The island is famous for its Shinto shrine and famous O-torii Gate.

From Kyoto we took the train to Odawara with its beautiful castle and where the cherry blossom was in full bloom. It is wise to know that trains in Japan arrive and leave on time. If one is travelling by Bullet train it is advisable to check your booked ticket and ascertain where the

boarding area is on the platform for that carriage. The trains don't wait!

Our journey from Odawara to Hakone was quite spectacular as we took the Ropeway and at the top of the mountain stopped to walk up to the volcanic valley where active sulphur vents filled the air with their pungent odour. There one can partake of the local speciality of eggs hard boiled in hot springs. The eggs turn black but consuming them is said to increase longevity by seven years. We then continued in the cable car down to Lake Ashi close to where we were to stay for the next four nights.

Hakone was a delight. It is a forested, mountainous, volcanic area with Hot Springs. As well as the beautiful Lake Ashi which we sailed on the following day, it provided spectacular views of Mt. Fuji. There we were joined by Scottish Dancers from all over Japan which saw over 200 of us staying, eating and dancing at the venue. It was wonderful to be reacquainted with Japanese dancers we had met on previous years at Summer School. See picture on page 10.

Then it was city time and what a contrast Tokyo was. We went up the Tower, saw the Rainbow Bridge, took a trip on the river, visited the Royal Palace and Edo Tokyo Museum and enjoyed the Kabuki Theatre. Tokyo was our first experience of dining on matami mats. Our party then shrunk somewhat with 14 returning home or staying on in Tokyo while the rest of us travelled north to Sendai. Sendai is a large city and here we enjoyed dancing with the local dancers and being entertained by them. We also went further north to Matsushima and cruised the bay. We needed no bidding when Keith started playing and we keenly danced *West's Hornpipe* and *The Sailor* on the aft deck. Next day we headed in to the interior and saw more temples (they were all so different) and hot springs but also geysers which reached a tremendous height.

Next day we travelled to Nagano, site of the Winter Olympics 1998. Here we visited a Buddhist temple, Zenko-ji, built in the 7th century before heading to Matsumoto, dominated by its huge castle. The cherry blossom surrounding the castle was magnificent especially when lit up at night. We were met by the local dancers and despite being few in number (I think 14) their enthusiasm for dancing and their hospitality made our trip seem so worthwhile. The Cherry Blossom was at its peak in this area where we visited the preserved old town of Takayama and also a Wasabi Farm (Wasabi being the Japanese horseradish which accompanied many of our meals)

And so the tour was concluded at Narita but not before having our final fling with the many dancers in Chiba.

I must say more about the food. Atsuko carefully organised our meals so that we had the chance to taste and experience all types of Japanese food. Every meal was different and a real experience especially knowing in what order to eat the dishes and which food we cooked in the pots set before us. The presentation was magnificent. Beer was often drunk with meals but also chilled or hot saki.

I can't underestimate the help we received from the many Scottish dancers who met us at the various airports and train stations. They seemed to pop up the minute we needed help. The hospitality in Kyoto, Hakone, Sendai, Matsumoto and Chiba was wonderful and I only hope when our Japanese friends visit the UK they enjoy it as much as we did their country.

Christine Hastie

SCOTTISH NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY

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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/absdcd or Rowena Fowler, 01865 361129.
- ADDESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY** meets Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm September to May at the Brook Memorial Hall, Ottershaw, KT16 OHG. Details from Val Clack, 01932 845869.
- 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 7.00-8.30pm. 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 Illingworth Way, Foxton, Cambridge, CB22 6RY. Tel. 01223 510201. email: anthony.garrick@ntlworld.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 phone 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.
- CHELTHENHAM 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, mbsteele45@aol.com.
- CHESHAM: THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00pm, White Hill Centre, Chesham HP5 1AG. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231
- CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** in the Upper Hall at St Michael's & All Angels' Church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Rd. (turn right out of Turnham Green Tube), W4. Sundays until 29 Jun. 6 Jm Midsummer Madness in Chiswick House grounds. Restart 14 Sep. Beginners 6.30 - 7.30, General Class 7.30 - 9.15, all levels welcome. Details: 020 8743 9385 (aftn'ns) also www.chiswickscottish.org.uk
- CIRENCESTER SCOTTISH SOCIETY** 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
- CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY:** Robertsons, Reids, Duncans etc. The London & Southern Counties Branch has attractive programme of events tailored to meet members' preferences. Details: jean_robertson@beeb.net.
- 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.rscdsroydon.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.
- EPHING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Club night Mondays (all year) 8-10 pm at Woodford Green Prep School, Glengall Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0BZ. Details: John Tanner 020 8504 1632. www.efsa.org.uk, john@efsa.org.uk.
- EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dance classes, including beginners, (September to March). Many other activities including frequent informal dances. Details from Brian Burgess, 72 Seymour Avenue, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 2RR. Tel: 020 8786 7452.
- 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 Beauclerk 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 7.30-11.00pm, 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@gxsccottish.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 Road, Guildford most Mondays at 8.00pm from September to April. Teacher Paul Plummer, 01252 404639.
- 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 Roderborough 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. Olms Close, Luton, Beds LU3 2LD. Tel: 01582 617734.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Classes Wednesdays 8.00 -10.00pm, Orley Farm School, South Hill Ave, Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Sheena Henderson, 92a Kenton Road, Kenton HA3 8AE. Tel: 020 8907 6581.
- 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.
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darke 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 CALEDONIA SCDC GROUP.** Contacts: Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel/Fax 01534 854459; Alan Nicolle 01534 484375, alan.nicolle@yahoo.co.uk; 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 Bradstone 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, jdiimps@aol.com.
- 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
- 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 Courrier, 16 Oslter Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372. maidenheadsccottishdancing.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 Lunnun, Duntun 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 SCDC 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.
- MID SUSSEX CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Events throughout the year at various venues. Members of SASS. Classes held before St. Andrews/Burns. Contact David Anderson, 8 Tindal Close, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 0LB. 01444 244854, madaanderson@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, Blethchley, 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 Rococroft 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 Barnehurst 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. All welcome. Information contact 020 8977 4304.
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP.** Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@qna.cc.
- ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON).** The Wimbeldon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm at Wimbeldon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbeldon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB. 020 8540 1755. www.geocities.com/standrewsclondon.
- ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street.** Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Sept to May, 7.15-10pm. Admission free except for six 'Band Nights' when tickets cost £7 inc. supper (Burns Night £10). Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details: Bob Harman: 020 8642 7192, bobandmegharman@aol.com.
- ST. JOHN'S'S DC 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 Larkwood Rd, Crowthorne. Also Childrens' Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, Deborah Draffin 01344 776831.
- ST. NINIAN'S 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, Sunnbank 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: Evelyn Bremner, 49a Lime Grove. New Malden, KT3 3TP, Tel: 020 8949 4469.
- 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, Bengeo 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 SCDC 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 Wolsey 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.
- 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 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, westley3148@tiscali.co.uk. www.wallingtonscottish.org.uk.
- WATFORD & WISL 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 Krelוף, 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, 02830 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.

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Michael Nolan

LEEDS 2008

Not one, but two teams from London Branch travelled up north to the 53rd Annual White Rose Festival in Leeds on the 13 July. The demonstration class as well as the technique class both entered teams into the massed dancing, which although it was sunny, had to be held indoors for a second year running due to the ground being wet. Nevertheless, both teams danced flawlessly throughout the afternoon's programme. The demonstration team joined in the demonstration dances, a near-perfect rendition of *The Waterfall* as well as *The Inverness Sixsome Reel*, which can be viewed via the London Branch website. After dinner, the day was wrapped up with an evening dance to the tunes of Nicol McLaren and the Glencairn Band which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Our thanks go to the teachers of both classes who enabled the teams to dance as well as they did.

Andrew Nolan

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Stephen Webb

Fergus applauds Iain Farrell's superb playing, which was much appreciated by young and old alike while Fergus's mother Sam Fairbairn looks on.

London Branch 75th Anniversary CD

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This compilation CD of music for dances recently published in the London 75th Anniversary book, includes six different bands and one track by a piper, each band having its own unique sound.



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