



The Reel



Published by the LONDON BRANCH of THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
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No. 250

DECEMBER 2004 TO FEBRUARY 2005

Wishing all our readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Left:
Jim McLucas
and partner
dancing at the
Hurlingham
Ball



Right:
On the floor
at the
Weekend
School

Below right:
Irene Mitchell
and her
partner at the
Hurlingham
Ball

Stephen Webb

Owen Meyer



Stephen Webb



Stephen Webb (centre and right)



Above:
Owen Meyer, Chairman of the
RSCDS London Branch in
party mood at Hurlingham

Above left:
Alistair Aitkenhead and Lindsay
Merriman at the Branch Day
School. Time for tea?

Left:
Simon Wales, Margaret
Catchick and Owen Meyer,
2003 Day School

Right:
Helen Brown, Robert Mackay,
Alistair Aitkenhead and
Branch President Mary Stoker
at the Weekend School



Owen Meyer

BRANCH MATTERS

A milestone has been reached in the publication of *The Reel*, this being the 250th edition. We have come a long way since the first issue in 1951 and hope that you will enjoy our colour pages.

It is a happy coincidence that we reached the 250th edition during our 75th Anniversary celebrations. All the events so far have been very successful and enjoyed by many members and friends. The opening event was the oversubscribed Weekend School at the delightful venue of the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester. We were fortunate to have Mary Murray from Vancouver to put all the dancers through their paces with Robert Mackay from Edinburgh to play for the classes and Green Ginger to provide the music for the Saturday night dance. Our thanks to Helen Brown for her excellent organisation.

There was a very good response from our French friends for the Entente Cordiale dance, not only from the Paris Branch, celebrating its 20th anniversary, but from all over France. Our visitors enjoyed the occasion so much that they are hoping to arrange a similar event in Paris next year.

We again thank Margaret Catchick for organising the Day School attended by over 80 dancers. Having Patrick Chamoin as one of the teachers was an inspired choice linking the Entente Cordiale.

We were honoured to have a personal message from Her Majesty the Queen, congratulating us on our 75th Anniversary season (see page 5). The message was read out at the Hurlingham Ball, which was attended by nearly 300 dancers.

We look forward to the remaining functions season and we are sure they will be as enjoyable as those so far. We have tried to make these events as wide ranging as possible so that everyone will have memories of our 75th anniversary year.

I would like, on behalf of the Branch Committee, to wish all members and readers a Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2005.

Owen Meyer

THE REEL 249

I apologise on behalf of London Branch for the late distribution of the last issue of *The Reel*, No. 249. It was prepared and printed in time to be sent out punctually so that UK based members would receive it by 4th September. But HQ were late sending us copies of the new dances book, Book 44, and the Branch Chairman and Vice-Chairman decided to delay distribution so that members would have this book at the start of the season. As the Branch could not afford to send it out separately, members would not otherwise have had the new book of dances until early December.

The Reel 249 was posted to members and subscribers on Tuesday 7th September and so should have been received less than a week late. I am sorry for any inconvenience to readers or advertisers.

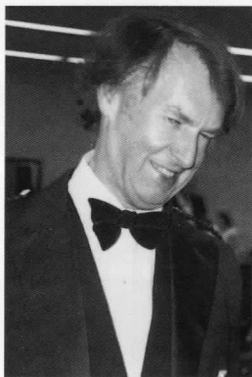
We remain committed to issuing *The Reel* each quarter to the timetable announced in the previous issue, subject to postal delays. If it may need to be delayed to include material from HQ in the distribution, this will be made clear in advance. This should not affect the next two issues, Nos 251 and 252.

Correction to *The Reel* 249: 'A Trip to Pau' on page 8 was by Liz Anderson, not Colin Anderson.

Daniel Capron, Editor

OBITUARY

ROBERT FERGUSON



It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Robert Ferguson, who died suddenly at his home on the 21st October.

Robert was instrumental in reviving the London Branch immediately after the war and helping it grow into the organisation we know today, and we remember him with

affection and gratitude for his hard work over many years.

In the 1940s there was only a little Scottish Country Dancing in London and that was organised by his mother. Isobel MacLennan (Mac) was his first teacher, in north Kent, then Marjorie Sandison (Sandy) in the famous classes in Lambeth according to Robert, both ladies were unrelenting perfectionists.

At first, there were no Branch functions. There were occasional hops (with piano) in a first floor hall in Euston where Robert, as MC, had to make up a set if 7 or 15 people came to dance. (There were never three sets and no room anyway). Later regular dances with a band, run by Ronnie Ryall, a stalwart member of the Branch Committee, were held in the Royal Scottish Corporation Hall in Fetter Lane. For years only one band was used, indeed the only one available in the south east of England. The class prospectus developed, offering five different grades of ability. Many classes and clubs sprang up in the London suburbs and adjacent areas, driven by Branch members.

When Robert was Branch Secretary (a post he held for 7½ years) as well as membership secretary, the membership was around 1000 and has remained more or less so ever since. He hired Porchester Hall, which became a regular venue until comparatively recently and the Seymour Hall, to accommodate just some of the people who wanted to dance to Jimmy Shand's band. There were 700 dancers, with hundreds turned away.

Robert, together with Hugh Foss, was instrumental in establishing the first Ball at the Hyde Park Hotel, which became an annual event.

After Robert completed his term as Secretary, he was Vice-President for a number of years, becoming President after the death of James Garvie. Unfortunately pressure of work and the demands of a growing family prevented him from giving what he considered to be enough of his time to the Branch and he decided to resign and take a back seat in the mid 70s.

Despite this, Robert took a tremendous interest in the activities of the Branch and his influence and knowledge was sought after by countless members of the Committee over the years.

His last act for the Branch was the informative history of the Branch, published in the last *Reel* for the 75th Anniversary year.

We extend our sympathy to Alison and his family at this sad time.

Owen Meyer

CONGRATULATIONS

...to London Branch member **Ella Hollins** on passing the Preliminary Test in August.

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY



Patron - H.M. The Queen

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Rachel Wilton

Branch Website Meryl and Ian* Thomson

*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

Website

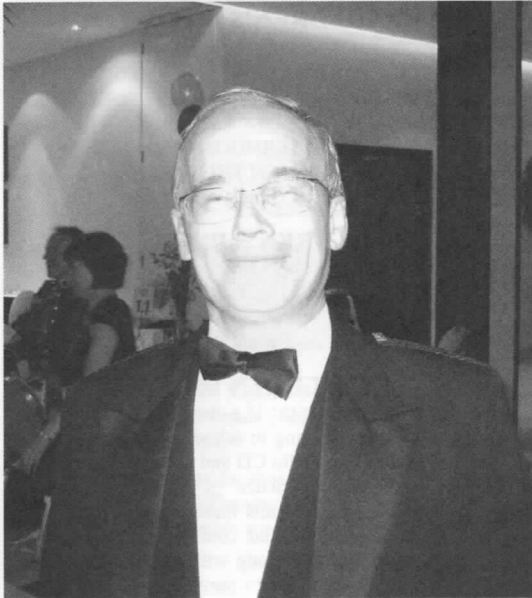
www.rscdslondon.org.uk

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.

MEET STEWART ADAM, NEW RSCDS CHAIRMAN



Owen Meyer

Where do you start to talk about yourself? I decided to take my guide from the web to give the impression I am up to date. Well, use the WWW at least to change it to Why, Where and What.

Why did I start dancing? Being brought up in Gala (Galashiels to the uninitiated) I had the usual course of Scottish Country Dancing at primary school. In fact one of my primary teachers was the daughter of R.M. Duthie who wrote Ellwyn Fairy Glen – walked up it often. My mother was a very keen dancer as was my father till his knees gave out. So there was always Scottish dance music in the house and my mother was a well-known figure on the borders dance circuit. When I arrived at Edinburgh University I looked round the civil engineering class and thought not many women here – in fact there were none. As it happened at the freshers' fair I was encouraged to join New Scotland (Edinburgh University New Scotland Scottish Country dance Society... what a mouthful) so along I went and have never regretted it. In fact it was through Dunedin Dancers – the graduates of New Scotland – that I met my wife.

Where have I danced? I must admit this is the first year I have danced at Summer School. Thanks initially to New Scotland and latterly Dunedin I have usually been able to dance abroad at dance festivals as well as the biennial folk dance festival run by Dunedin in Edinburgh. I was very lucky to be able to be one of the founding members of Dunedin Dancers. I was fortunate in that after graduating I was able to join the Edinburgh Branch demonstration team as they started to be short of men – being a man was a great asset if you wanted to join a demonstration team. There were a lot of good demonstrations then, particularly the Civics and Government at the Castle. I had just been elected to the Branch committee when the company moved me to Newcastle. A lucky escape for the committee!

Chris and I experienced one of the lesser appreciated benefits of the Society when work commitments took us to Newcastle and Cockermonth where the friendship extended to us and the fun of dancing made the travels more enjoyable. Also during this period our daughter Kirsten and son Cameron were born – one in Newcastle the other in Whitehaven.

The family returned to Balerno but my own travels with work continued with spells of time in

Aberdeen, London and Cheltenham. Yet again friendships in dancing made the living away from home more bearable but I did miss a lot of my children growing up.

I must admit that I did enjoy my time when travelling weekly to work in London. I used to travel down overnight on the Sunday but still thought it worth while to make the effort to go to Pont Street for the regular dancing under John Laurie's watchful eye, not forgetting the pub afterwards. On the Tuesday there was the demonstration class with Bill Ireland. Interspersed with this was the Mary Stoker class where I was referred to as Rin Tin Man by Mary. Occasionally I had to work at the weekend and these I planned to coincide with a Saturday dance. I still remember the Porchester Hall dances with great affection. The friendships formed during these days are still there and were a particular help at my first visit to St Andrews this year.

Soon I changed companies and started to work more locally. This gave me the opportunity to re-join the Edinburgh Branch demonstration team which resulted in a memorable three week trip to Japan as well trips to Sweden and Holland. Thanks to New Scotland and Dunedin I have visited Peru, Denmark, Belgium, Germany, France, Poland, Slovenia and Italy.

The final reason for failing to attend Summer school, not forgetting family holidays, was the Edinburgh Fancy. Yes I know it will surprise you but I did dance at the Royal High School then at George Square Theatre. I was the chairman when the Fancy was stopped and re-invented as Strictly Scottish and then Spirit of Scotland and have danced in all of them. Latterly I have stopped demonstrating but was fortunate to be asked to do the choreography for the latest show – Dancing Forth.

The What can be split into two.

The first takes me back to St Andrews where I was asked what I wanted to achieve during my two years. My aim is to try to encourage more youngsters to join the society. I feel that due to the immense efforts of my predecessors the Society has been perhaps too successful. There is now a plentiful supply of dances and music so they feel they do not need to join. We must remember that the aim of the Society is to promote Scottish Country Dancing and maintain standards but we must also be welcoming to those who may not attain these standards but get as much enjoyment out of dancing.

The second is what experience do I have for the role? While at University I was New Scotland (President) and Convener of Student Charities Appeal. When Chairman of Edinburgh Branch I was also on the Executive Council with appearances on the GP and Finance committees. After a break when I was Chairman of Dunedin I returned to the Executive Committee as Tokyo representative and was elected to the Publications Committee before becoming Chairman Elect. So my life has been dominated by committee work – just like my parents and brother Hunte.

To finish I would like to say how very proud I am to have been elected as Chairman and I hope that I can build on the hard work and excellent management skills of Jean who has brought to fruition the vision started by Linda then Allan and not forgetting the support from all the hard working committees and the staff at 12 Coates Crescent.

Stewart Adam

THE SOCIETY AGM PERTH 2004

A number of London Branch members, including 15 as delegates, attended the 75th AGM of the Society in Perth on Saturday 6th November. After enjoying the Ball on the Friday night, attended by over 720 dancers, we settled down to the more serious business on the Saturday.

During the morning, Jimmie Hill gave an excellent presentation about the advantages of considering the formation of Teachers Associations where teachers could share ideas and help others with advice. This was followed by Alex Gray presenting the new examination structure about to be implemented, which will reflect a more professional approach. The teaching certificate is now separated into five distinct units.

The afternoon proceeded with the Annual General Meeting proper presided over by the Earl of Mansfield with 250 delegates and 200 observers present. A number of Scrolls were presented including Bobby Brown, the late Alice Murphy, Elma McCausland, Jennifer Wilson and the retiring treasurer, Marilyn Jeffcoats.

The formal part of the meeting included a motion proposing a slight reduction of 20% for the annual subscription to members who are under 25 and for the second or more family members living in the same household. The former was approved but unfortunately the latter was defeated by a large majority. Other points of interest affected the publication of Book 45 and the Bulletin. Both will appear in the present format for the last time.

The Bulletin will be replaced by a twice yearly members' magazine from next autumn and a more efficient way of publishing the dance books is being considered.

Jean Martin, as the retiring Chairman, in her speech of thanks, urged members of branches to consider encouraging younger members to serve on branch committees as a rejuvenation of the Society in general. She then stepped down to make way for the new chairman, Stewart Adam. Elaine Wilde of Croydon thanked those concerned for the organisation of the weekend and the meeting ended at 4.35 pm.

The meeting was followed by a more informal dance again, enjoyed by over 750 dancers.

Owen Meyer

BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The London Branch Committee is due to meet on the following dates: 6th December 2004, 28th January, 4th April and 20th May 2005. Also there will be a meeting of Subcommittee Convenors on 4th March 2005 to set budgets for 2005-06. The Branch AGM will be on 17th June 2005.

THE ARCHIVE BOARD

This presentation has been at all the Anniversary events so far; some of the panels show the development of the Branch in different areas – Dances, Classes, Balls, Demonstrations etc. There is a panel with photographs of the previous event and details of the next event, a panel with all the events listed, and then a panel which is different each time, so don't forget to look at it – you might see yourself!

A LITTLE QUIZ

Who is the lady in blue dancing with Jim McLucas and who is partnering Irene Mitchell? Please send your answers to the Editor.

BRANCH DANCES

CHRISTMAS DANCE

Saturday 11th December 2004
7.00 for 7.15 - 11.00 p.m.

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1.

David Hall

The Wild Geese.....	24-3
Maxwell's Rant.....	18-10
Margaret Parker's Strathspey.....	31-3
Major Ian Stewart.....	35-4
The Saltire Society Reel.....	Leaflet Book 28
The Gentleman.....	35-5
Airie Bannan.....	Foss
The Sailor.....	24-4
Mrs Milne of Kineff.....	Leaflet Book 20
Cadgers in the Canongate.....	9-10
The Reel of The Royal Scots...Leaflet Book 27	
The Bees of Maggieknockater.....	Drewry
Gang the Same Gate.....	36-4
The Earl of Mansfield.....	Leaflet Book 5
Quarries' Jig.....	36-3
The Byron Strathspey.....	Drewry
Milton's Welcome.....	33-8
Autumn in Appin.....	31-5
Follow Me Home.....	38-3
Mairi's Wedding.....	Cosh

Admission £9.50 members, £10.50 non-members, £2 children, but members' children admitted free.

BURNS' SUPPER and Ceilidh Dance

Saturday 15th January 2005
7.00 - 11.00 p.m.

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1.

Frank Reid

Come and enjoy a traditional Burns' Supper with haggis (including a splash of whisky), neaps and tatties, piped in and addressed in the immortal way.

There will be ceilidh dancing to Frank Reid's music. All the dances will be from the Collins Book and will be called. This is a great chance to bring your friends to experience the fun of Scottish music and dancing.

Admission: £9.50 for RSCDS members, £12.00 non-members, including a glass of wine and supper.

Tickets in advance (send s.a.e.)
from Peter Knight,

518 Queens Quay, Upper Thames Street,
London EC4V 3EH, tel: 020 7329
2847.peterknightqueensquay@yahoo.co.uk.

BILL IRELAND MEMORIAL FUND

Many thanks to those who have already contributed to the fund in memory of Bill Ireland. We are extremely grateful and pleased that we will be able to offer scholarships to young dancers attending summer, winter and youth schools or taking their certificates.

Any suitable applicant should write to the branch secretary in the first instance, and anyone else who wishes to contribute to this vital work of securing the future of the Society to which Bill made such an outstanding contribution for so many years should send their cheques to Simon Wales, Branch Treasurer. If you pay sufficient UK tax, we can also claim this back if you say so in your letter!

Simon Wales

PONT STREET PARTICIPATORS' DANCE

A joint event with Chelsea Reel Club, Little Ship Club, London Highland Club, St. Columba's Monday Dancers and the Scottish Clans Association of London

Saturday 19th March 2005

7.00 - 10.30 p.m.

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1.

Green Ginger

Machine Without Horses.....	12-12
The Sailor.....	24-4
Sugar Candie.....	26-9
The Diamond Jubilee.....	31-1
Kilkenny Castle.....	Forbes
Ian Powrie's Farewell.....	Hamilton
The Clansman.....	32-8
MacDonald of the Isles.....	Haynes
Mrs Stewart's Jig.....	35-1
The Eightsome Reel.....	2-12
Minister on the Loch.....	Goldring
The Last of the Lairds.....	22-5
Fire in the Rye.....	Ozorak
Cape Town Wedding.....	39-4
Swiss Lassie.....	39-1
Pelorus Jack.....	41-1
The Robertson Rant.....	39-8
The Montgomeries' Rant.....	10-1

Admission £7.50 members, £8.50 non-members, £2 children, but members' children admitted free.

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OTHER ANNIVERSARY EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 16th April..... President's Lunch. All senior members of the Branch are invited to this.

Friday 29th April..... **WORLD DAY OF DANCE:** More information in the next issue.

Saturday 21st May..... Dance: Band: **Invercauld.** We welcome dancers whose groups advertise in *The Reel* and all southeast dancers.

Saturday 11th June..... Garden Dance at Polesden Lacey. Band: **Craigellachie**

Children's Column

CHILDREN'S DAY WITH A DIFFERENCE!

Saturday 19th March 2005
St. Columba's Church, Pont St. SW1
2.00 - 4.30 p.m.

AN AFTERNOON OF DANCE
WATCH THIS SPACE
Green Ginger will be there.

CHILDREN'S RSCDS TESTS

Saturday 12th February 2005
St. Columba's Church, Pont St. SW1.
Further information please contact
Rachel Wilton.

CHILDREN DANCING?

'Dance Scottish' is a resource for teaching Scottish dancing in schools. This comprises a book, an audio CD and a video - teachers with no experience of teaching Scottish dance will find this material gives them all the resources and confidence required to enjoy learning along with their pupils. The pack is available to purchase from RSCDS Headquarters or to borrow for a short period - do you know anyone who might be interested?

Contact Rachel Wilton.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

For an experimental period these will be held

WHERE? St. Columba's Church Upper Hall, Pont St. London SW1

WHEN? Saturday mornings 11th December 2004, 8th January, 5th February and 5th March 2005.

TIME? 10.30 to 11.30 a.m.

If you know anyone in the area who might be interested please contact Rachel Wilton.

FAMILY DANCING WEEKEND

7th-9th October 2005

South Beach Hotel, Troon, Ayrshire. All the family welcome - dancers and non-dancers.

Further details from HQ, see page 2.

Application forms available in January.

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**BILLINGTON
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BRANCH CLASSES

Join a class, make new friends, meet old friends, improve your dancing and enjoy yourself.

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher / Musician
ELEMENTARY	Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3	Rachel Wilton / Jean Harrison
POPULAR S.C. DANCES	Wednesday	8.00 - 9.30	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3	Lindsey Rousseau / Ian Cutts
TECHNIQUE	Wednesday	7.30 - 9.30	St. Barnabas' & St. Phillip's School, Pembroke Mews, W8	Gaynor Curtis / Ken Martlew
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	7.15 - 9.15	<i>For details contact Gaynor Curtis, 01483 721989.</i>	Angela Young / Sandra Smith
GENERAL (Central)	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30	St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1	Jeni Rutherford

Spring term starts in the week beginning 10th January 2005 and ends in the week beginning 14th March 2004. The half term break is in the week beginning 14th February. NB: NO HALF TERM AT MARLBOROUGH SCHOOL / KENSINGTON & CHELSEA INSTITUTE
All enquiries about classes to Margaret Shaw, 020 7329 2847.

WHICH CLASS?

For those wondering which class to attend, the following guide may help:

Elementary – suitable for those with little or no experience of Scottish Country Dancing, as basic steps and formations plus simple dances will be taught.

Popular – for those with a confident knowledge of steps and formations such as Allemande, Poussette, Set and Turn Corners, Reels of Three, Rights and Lefts and Double Triangles. Other formations will be introduced and a wide selection of dances taught.

Technique – a high standard of performance and a thorough knowledge of all formations will be expected. This class will be devoted to improving performance and understanding of all dances.

General – for dancers of all ages and abilities.
Margaret Shaw

THE EDINBURGH SPRING FLING

16-35 Youth Easter School
1st-3rd April 2005.

Details from HQ (see page 2) or email
suzannerscds@btinternet.com

HIGHLAND CLASSES

Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street,
London WC2.

Teacher:**Malcolm Ferris Lay**
Musician:**Sandra Smith**

For details of classes in 2005 please contact either Malcolm on 01279 425081, email: malcolm@williamsonmagor.com, or Margaret on 020 7329 2847.

LADIES' STEP DANCING CLASSES

Sunday 13th March 2005
10.45 a.m. - 12.45 p.m., 2.00 - 3.45 p.m.

Teacher:**Jenny Greene**
Musician:**Jean Harrison**

The Guide Hall, Wallington Green,
Wallington, Surrey.

Further details: Margaret Shaw,
Tel: 020 7329 2847.

If there is sufficient demand, a further class will be arranged in May 2005.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Owen Meyer, Esq.,
Chairman,
London Branch,
The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Please convey my warm thanks to the Committee and Members of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society for their message of loyal greetings sent on the occasion of their Celebration Ball which is being held tonight at the Hurlingham Club to celebrate the Branch's seventy-fifth Anniversary.

As your Patron, I was interested to learn that the London Branch was the first branch to be established in England since when you have organised classes and workshops to spread the word about the pleasures of Scottish Country dancing. I send my best wishes to you all for an enjoyable evening during this notable anniversary.

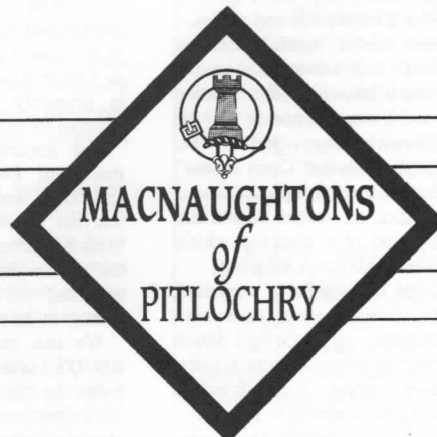
ELIZABETH R.

30th October 2004



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ENTENTE CORDIALE CELEBRATION

Saturday 18th September

Having been invited by London Branch to join them and dance in London in celebration of 100 years of Entente Cordiale, no less than 40 dancers from France (not bad, eh?) decided to accept. Travelling by car, plane or Eurostar, they made their way from different parts of France to the superb hall at St Columba's Church.

One or two who had never attended a British dance before were feeling rather apprehensive at the idea of meeting dancers from such a well established branch (75 years is quite something). However they soon realised that the atmosphere was to be relaxed and the gathering would, indeed, be 'Cordiale'.

There was a very warm welcome and together the French and British were able to share their common enthusiasm in dancing to the music of Green Ginger, whom everybody was delighted to see and hear again.

Those who were put up by local dancers will always remember the kindness of their hosts. Let us take this opportunity to thank them once again. As in all journeys, the aspect of tourism cannot be ignored and it was an opportunity to discover the pretty suburbs and learn about their past as well as their present.

We took our leave, full of enthusiasm to prolong this 'Entente' and meet together again next year – on French soil.

Fanny Moureaux-Nery

'How much English will they speak?' I wondered – as well as being unsure how much French some of us could manage – when I was organising accommodation in Dulwich for our French guests attending the Entente Cordiale weekend. I needn't have worried: all the guests and hosts seem to have got on extremely well communicating in a mixture of both languages plus a sprinkling of sign language. We all found our guests charming and most appreciative and, as those present at the Saturday night dance at Pont Street will have noticed, they are beautiful dancers with a delightfully light-hearted manner.

The French dancers able to stay for the Sunday activities in Chiswick (plus those of their Dulwich hosts not swotting for Open University exams) greatly enjoyed Alastair Aitkenhead's teaching of 'The Lancers', a formidable memory test but very stimulating. We then faced a different sort of challenge trying to emulate Mylène Rousseau's nimble footwork as she taught us some intriguing Basque dances and some from Brittany, particularly challenging if you don't have Mylène's supple feet and ankles.

After a very British 'rosbif' lunch where the animated *Français* conversation easily dominated the Chiswick branch of the 'Pitcher and Piano', we all had a very enjoyable visit in warm sunshine to Chiswick House – and for free, as it happened to be the London 'Open House' weekend. What a piece of serendipity!

Warmest congratulations to Rachel Wilton for her excellent organisation of a weekend which was obviously enjoyed by all the participants.

Footnote: we weren't particularly surprised that the delightful family staying with us wanted to spend most of Saturday up in Oxford Street but we were not expecting them to return heavily laden – not with haute couture – but with baked beans from M&S (not now available in France!)

Lindsay Merriman

[See photographs on the back page]

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BALL

Hurlingham, 30th October 2004

We knew it was going to be special. A 75th anniversary ball – at the magnificent, newly reconstructed Hurlingham Club – Highland dress/black tie specified – and dancing to Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band. An event, we reckoned, not to be missed.

Peter Knight and the committee had been planning for months ahead, and 295 tickets had sold like the hottest of hot cakes. Kilts had been cleaned and new frocks bought (some of us had trailed so long and hard round the London shops that we were in some doubt whether we would have the energy actually to dance).

The evening came, and the dancers were out in force: from London, naturally, and from all round the UK, from France and from Belgium. And we were all delighted to see London Branch President Mary Stoker as well as the RSCDS President, Jean Martin, and President-Elect Stewart Adam, with their respective partners.

Proceedings began with a champagne reception, and then a triumphant blast of music from the pipes and drums of the London Scottish Regiment. A quick warm-up by Craigellachie, and then Simon Wales was announcing the first dance and off we went. We might have worried whether Hurlingham could cope with the numbers, but no problem: 30-something sets fitted comfortably into the double hall, with the band planted neatly in the middle.

It was a perfectly balanced programme, though whoever chose Petronella should be reminded that it is a KILLER of a dance with all that

setting. Once we had reminded ourselves which was Miss Milligan's and which was Miss Gibson's Strathspey; that the Last of the Lairds does indeed require everyone to cross over as they reach the top of the reel; and that Miss Mary Douglas goes fast, then slow, and then like the clappers: it all went brilliantly. It almost seemed a pity to have to stop for a meal.

But it was worth the stop. The round tables were beautifully decorated, with blue and white balloons and vases of tall blue and white flowers (hours of work by Gill Lumbas, Davinia Miln and Cherry West must have gone into achieving the effect). The meal was delicious.

And then the second half, MC'd by Andrew Kellett. By then Craigellachie, whose playing in the first half had been one of the great pleasures of the evening, were well into their stride and playing out of their skins. Whereas the conventional wisdom is that the band should face towards the dancers, it seemed as though Criagellachie's playing actually gained intensity from their enforced arrangement, facing each other.

At the end of the evening, the dancers joined hands all around the double hall, surrounding the band, for Auld Lang Syne. Dancers who had skip-stepped, slip-stepped, set and strathspeyed lightly through the evening began to notice their sore feet. But the enjoyment on all our faces was clear to see. We had known it would be special, and indeed it was.

Valerie Strachan

BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

Parsons Green, 16th October 2004

Setting out for a Day School conjures up mixed emotions and it was no different for the four of us departing from Orpington on Saturday 16th October. Anxiety that we may get caught in traffic, excitement at seeing friends old and new, fear that we may not keep up with the class and anticipation at improving our dancing techniques. Between us, we covered all the classes so I think we were entitled to feel exhausted by the end of the evening ceilidh which was great fun and at which we encountered such talented performers.

The themes of 'Ready – and! – are we ready?' and 'Feet and Hands: the use of body language' for all abilities had us intrigued but we were put at our ease by the excellent teaching of Helen Frame and Patrick Chamoin who put so much enthusiasm into their classes that we could not help but be fired up to try our very best. It was emphasised that perhaps we may only take one or two points away with us from the day and for us I think it was that Scottish Country Dancing is primarily social dancing and should be enjoyed by one and all of every ability.

The experienced dancers were treated to themes of 'Formations: phrasing and covering' and 'Light and Shade and Seamless Transition' and our participant in this class, an associated branch teacher herself, has nothing but praise for the teaching of Helen and Patrick, whose expertise will be radiated out to groups through classes in the south east.

We can only thank the Committee of the RSCDS London Branch for working so hard to make the day such a success and so enjoyable. Well done!

**Angela Campbell, Pam French, Liz Scott and
Deirdre Wilden**

Musicians' Workshop

This year I moved from the dancing halls to the rarefied atmosphere of the musicians. The Committee had decided to change the format of the Musicians' Workshop at the Branch day school. The objective was to concentrate on discussion and demonstration of playing for Scottish Country Dancing. Numbers were limited and preference was given to new and aspiring musicians.

Keith Smith welcomed musicians playing a variety of instruments at different levels of competency with different expectations. The mandolin player had travelled from the south of France, a fiddler from Cambridge and closest to home a pianist from Barnes, just across the river. In addition we had two more keyboard players, an accordionist, another fiddler and a concertina. A daunting challenge which Keith took in his stride.

Keith brought sheet music with him chosen carefully to enable all to participate and to learn how to play the tunes to give them a distinctively Scottish feel suitable for Scottish Country Dancing. We covered jigs and reels in the morning and strathspeys in the afternoon followed by a discussion of tune selections for dances. I think everyone felt involved and benefited from the advice and guidance given by Keith.

Unfortunately the workshop ended at tea, but we had enjoyed our day so much that after tea we gathered around the piano to play through the tunes we had looked at during the day. Most of us had not met before, but by the end of the day we were enjoying a shared activity.

On behalf of all the musicians I would like to thank the Committee for enabling us to participate in such a day and of course many thanks to Keith for entertaining and educating us so enjoyably.

Joan Desborough

MANAGEMENT BOARD REPORT

The Board has met twice since the last *Reel* and the complete reports of both meetings are on the website as usual.

A lot of work has been put into the New Examination Structure; the Board congratulated the Education and Training Committee on the Structure and the wide ranging consultation which had taken place, and agreed unanimously to accept it with certain amendments.

The implementation will be gradual, beginning in March 2005.

The Committee are planning to hold an examiners' seminar during the second week of Summer School 2005. The session for training new examiners has taken place and three suitable overseas candidates as potential examiners have been identified by the selection panel.

It was reported that Winter School is fully subscribed with a waiting list.

The Manual is now in the final stages of its production and will be ready early in 2005. Mention was made of a new magazine, 'Dance On', launched by 'The Box and Fiddle'; the first issue will contain an article on the history of the RSCDS.

This was Jean Martin's last meeting as Society Chairman; in her concluding observations she made several points – the friendly atmosphere had led to good working relationship; initially there had possibly been too much emphasis on detail; the Board is for those who are interested in policy, and those who are interested in detail should be on committees; the number of people involved in the management of the Society's affairs was about right but the Management Board was still too big; more effort should be put into PR to develop the Society's image.

She expressed her appreciation of the hospitality received from Branches, thanked those whose period of office finishes in November for their contribution to the work of the Society and wished Stewart Adam every success as Chairman of the Society.

Two members whose period of office is completed are London Branch members Wilson Nicol and Andrew Kellett.

The next Board meeting, the first after the AGM, will be on Saturday 27th November 2005.

Rachel Wilton

SUMMER SCHOOL 2005

It may seem a long time away but application forms will be available at the beginning of the year.

The dates: 18th July – 14th August 2005

Come and join the nearly 800 dancers from all around the world; enjoy the social events, the classes and appreciate the Scottish music. There will again be courses for musicians in weeks 1 and 3. There may be crèche facilities or children's activities provided at the University Sports Centre. There is a range of scholarships available from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund; all members under 21 and full time students up to the age of 25 attending the school on either a residential or non residential basis are entitled to a £50.00 discount.

We also have our own Bill Ireland Memorial Fund Scholarships which will be for young people between 16-25 to attend the Society's Schools and to help young dancers in taking their teaching certificates.

For details of any of these please contact the Secretary.

Rachel Wilton

LONDON BRANCH DEMONSTRATION TEAM

Just to keep you up to speed with what the Dem Team has been up to – we have been as active as ever promoting the Branch and Scottish Country Dancing all over the place.

We started our Branch 75th Celebrations in a joint performance with members of the Paris Branch at the Entente Cordiale Dance in St Columba's. This was particularly appropriate as the London Team visited Paris in 1954 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Entente Cordiale. Both teams thoroughly enjoyed this year's collaboration – practising that afternoon, socialising over dinner and dancing together in the evening. We hope to repeat this venture next year in Paris.

The 75th celebrations continued in a lighter vein at the Branch Ceilidh with "75" shown slightly differently in simultaneous dances for 7 and 5 people. These included a very spirited ghost and just in case you didn't recognise her feet, the ghost was Catriona Stewart. The team also danced an energetic Crossed Foursome.

As well as Branch functions the team has performed at a number of private and public events – including Dance Round the World at Cecil Sharp House, an evening at Lee Abbey International Students Hostel in Kensington, Freshers Week at Regent's College and a wedding at Phyllis Court in Henley on Thames.

At the time of going to press we're busy preparing for a demonstration at the Christmas Dance and looking forward to flying the London flag as usual at the Newcastle Festival in February as well as a selection of Burns night events.

The Branch Demonstration Team has been around for over 50 years. The first formal Dem Class was taught in 1952 by Bill Ireland. Before that there were occasional displays organised by Isobel McLennan and Robert Ferguson. It is a tribute to the teachers of the class and the numerous dancers who have danced in the team that it is still thriving and continuing all the good work after all these years.

We are grateful as always to the group of musicians who have been associated with the team over the years including Joan Gilbert, Robin Ellis, Peter Jenkins and our current class pianist Sandra Smith. We have also been fortunate to work with many talented pipers when out at performances – Charlie Galloway, Bryan Bredin, and lately Sandy Walker and Neil Esslemont.

In recent months, we have been delighted to use and display the new swords, which were purchased for the Team from Bill Ireland's estate. These represent an apposite memorial for Bill and have all been engraved accordingly.

We started this season with a new teacher, Angela Young, who seems to be enjoying the experience as much as we are. We've been successful in attracting a number of young dancers who are keen to join the class and we hope this continues, as we are always happy to welcome new advanced dancers.

Anyone interested in joining the team please get in touch with Jeff Robertson on 01903 530750, 020 7730 9633 or email jtr@ctg.co.uk.

Jeff Robertson

[See photograph on the back page]

BRANCH DEVELOPMENT SELF-ASSESSMENT

The main aim of the Strategic Plan is to ensure that in all areas of its work the Society is thinking and planning ahead. With this in mind the Management Board felt it important to include Branches in this process and so put forward for consideration by Branches nine headings, with questions under each as a brief guide to help Branch members and committees focus their thinking in key areas so that Branches may play their part in achieving the Society's aims and objectives. The whole document can be seen on the Society website members' area, www.rscds.org.

The subcommittee convenors and the main committee have considered them, there was discussion at the AGM and the committee is pleased that in many of the areas mentioned the Branch is making its contribution.

Two areas that were mentioned at the AGM where development was needed were:

- 1. Publicity** – London has particular problems because of its size; The Reel and the website reach members; the website reaches those with access to the internet who are looking for information. It was felt at the AGM that the Branch needed to work in several directions – non dancers, dancers and generally raising the profile of the Branch in London. To do this we aim to allocate a advertising budget, develop the website, find ways of contacting local television/radio and sending out regular press releases effectively and appoint someone who will take responsibility for being the contact, ensure that appropriate publicity is available at every event the Branch is involved in, flyers are prepared in good time.
- 2. Youth** – while work is continuing encouraging children to dance at St. Columba's (see Children's Column page 4) there is a great need, from enquiries received, for children's classes in the suburbs, and the Branch must apply itself to arranging training for people who would be interested in teaching children to dance and locating members who might be willing to run classes in schools.

The self-evaluation will be ongoing; the Committee would welcome any feed back from members.

Rachel Wilton

ST. ANDREWS ACCORDION CLUB (Walton-on-Thames)

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HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR REEL?

If you ever fail to receive your issue of *The Reel*, please advise our Membership Secretary, Owen Meyer, 50 Bunby Road, Stoke Poges, Bucks SL2 4BP, Tel: 01753 643461, so that the matter can be investigated and rectified. Thanks.

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BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE TO HEADQUARTERS:
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four years, £2 10s; ten years, £1 10s.
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SHORTAGE OF MALE DANCERS

MODERN ballrooms exhibit a feature which would not have been socially acceptable before 1914: the spectacle of two women dancing together. Even on the television screen one can see two women partnering each other in modern ballroom dances; a team of girls dancing a country dance designed for the two sexes, and, most extraordinary of all, three girls and a boy performing a Foursome Reel.

One reason for this inequality of the sexes has been the emancipation of women, who have become accustomed to fending for themselves, going places on their own, and, if they like dancing, not bothering about male partners. They say, "If we waited for men partners we should never dance." Country dancing lends itself admirably to an all-woman cast.

But there is another, more important, reason for the shortage of male dancers. When there is a boy and a girl in the family, the girl at the age of four attends a dancing class, and receives a good grounding in the art, while the boy does not learn dancing, probably because Father considers it effeminate.

DIRECTIVES

IN a breezy yet emphatic speech to the S.C.D.S. Summer School at St. Andrews, Miss Milligan said:

"In the skip-change-of-step. The foot must not go under, but it *must* close."

"There must be *no* two-beat pas de basque. . . The jeté must *not* go out to the side or to the back."

"The travelling strathspey begins with a long slide, *not* a hop."

Our mentor led up to these remarks by saying she was perturbed by the things she had seen and heard in her peregrinations among the Branches. "There should be less quarrelsome or petulant discussion over slight variations or differences of style; the Society is now so big, *all* can't be of a pattern."

Although standards must be set—and the present basic technique was as it had existed for 150 to 200 years—no one was entitled to say whether a thing was right or wrong, except where it departed from the basic: one might only state one's preferences.

Miss Milligan began her speech with a serious exhortation, repeated later, that "the Society's first object is social." She also spoke of demonstrations, saying: "Scottish Country Dancers don't take money for demonstrations, they dance because they want to pass on to others the happiness and joy they themselves get from dancing."

DANCE POPULARITY

BY what ingenious system the dances are selected for a programme is a mystery to me. Stranger still is the success of the system because one never hears grumbles or harsh comments, just an occasional bleat, "Oh! I don't know that one."

For the idle fun of finding out which dances are more popular than others, I went through 15 London Branch dance programmes beginning with 27th November 1948, and ending with 25 October, 1950. The Branch danced Duke of Perth and The Reel of the 51st Division eleven times. She's Ower Young and Lamb Skinnit, eight times. Next came Waltz Country Dance, The New Rigged Ship, Hamilton House, General Stuart's Reel, seven times. Then, six times we danced Scottish Reform, Strathglass House, Monymusk, Mrs Stewart's Strathspey and Meg Merrilees. It is a little surprising to find we danced Glasgow Highlanders only five times, equalling the lesser known Dalkeith's Strathspey and Ladies' Fancy.

Seven dances were danced four times, viz: La Tempête, The Black Dance, The Duran Ranger, Jessie's Hornpipe, The Machine Without Horses, Miss Mary Douglas and Miss Murray of Ochertyre.

Think of any Reel Club and the frequency of Petronella. It's a relief to know we only danced it three times, together with Miss Nancy Frowns, Greig's Pipes and Grant's Rant. Seventeen dances had two appearances and 27 dances only one.

Finally: to save you the trouble, the figures are—15 evenings with 212 dances, not including an eightsome and foursome on every programme.

LETTERS

S.C.D. SCHOOL IN ENGLAND

TO THE EDITORS OF THE REEL

Sirs,—Since the War, SUMMER SCHOOLS, mainly organised by the Universities and held at large boarding schools in the country, have become very popular with thousands of students from all walks of life and of all ages. The students spend delightful holidays, studying not only the subjects of their choice, but also taking part in other social activities, such as swimming, tennis, country walks, etc.

The R.S.C.D.S. Summer School at St. Andrews is always full, and preference is given to teachers. I feel that the number of students attending S.C.D. classes in England, is now large enough to justify the organisation of a summer school in a country setting in England. As the London branch is the largest branch in England, I suggest that its committee could well organise such a school, which would become an annual event. The Committee should get help and advice from headquarters, making it clear that this school would not be in opposition to St. Andrews, but a school where ordinary keen members could put in a fortnight's intensive work in ideal conditions to improve the standard of dancing. There are enough experienced teachers in London and the provinces to provide the staff for such a school.

If this suggestion appeals to members of the Society, I ask them to help the Committee, by writing to the Hon. Secretary of the London Branch, and let other dancers who do not normally see The Reel read this letter, and if possible enlist their support.

If the Committee is to organise the first R.S.C.D.S. Summer School in England, it will need encouragement and support, so keen members who want a Summer School, are urged to write now to the Hon. Secretary.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ROBERTSON

44 Waddington Way, S.E.19.

NEW DANCES ON PROBATION

TO THE EDITORS OF THE REEL

Sirs,—I can see no objection to publishing recently-composed dances of established popularity. Somebody will collect them one day and add them to those we now call traditional. However, I do think a "probation period" of at least five years would be desirable to allow for modification or rejection, or perhaps a bit longer to allow for expiration of copyright.—Yours sincerely, Nancy R. Bartlett, Nurses' Home, St. Mary's Hospital, W.2.

TARTAN AND THE WOMAN

TO THE EDITORS OF THE REEL

Sirs,—In The Reel No. 17 you published a letter from "Tartania" on the subject of the wearing of tartan by women.

I am glad to note that she agrees that it is not desirable for women to wear the kilt.

With regard to the wearing of tartan, the Lyon King at Arms has confirmed that women should not wear tartan below the waist.

It follows, therefore, that any woman who is a member of a society pledged to further the practice of traditional Scottish Country Dances would not attire herself in a manner which is contrary to Scottish tradition.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR ROSS.

507, Keyes House,
Dolphin Square, S.W.1

UNWOUND

anged by Daniel Capron from those selected by Rachel Wilton

LONDON BRANCH COMMITTEE

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Miss Rosemary Tilden, 'Beauvallon',
Chestnut Avenue, Guildford, Surrey.

ARRAN HOLIDAY, 1960

This year, as last, the Branch organised a "reduced-rate" holiday in Arran for a week in mid-June and thirty members and friends moved into the Whiting Bay Hotel, which thereby became the island's most exclusive. This jolly throng spent the days relaxing, the evenings dancing, and the nights trying to get to sleep with a party going on in the room below. Actually, there were other people holidaying in the hotel who had intended to have their own sort of holiday, but they gave up after a while and soon came round to our way of thinking. Dancers or not, their footwork improved tremendously.

The weather was excellent for most of the week, so the open-air types were happy. Ten of us got to the top of Goat Fell (2,800 feet), while the less active played tennis or golf or went fishing. For the remainder, the hotel had the most comfortable sofa in Arran, according to those who got up early enough to bag a place on it.

Evening dancing was the thing though. Angela Stafford and David Thomas played the music, Alastair Ross was Gauleiter, and Peter Quinn piper. On occasions the piper danced a solo for the inhabitants, who still have not got over the invasion of all this talent.

We came away from Arran feeling spiritually revived, and behind us we left pleasant memories, well-fed midges and four black lines going straight on at the sharp left-hand bend in the picturesque village of Corrie.

MAIRI'S WEDDING

It would be sad if this most happy event were to be marred by discord: and to avoid any such possibility we recommend to our readers' attention the two letters printed below. The first is from the author of the dance.

To the Editor of "The Reel"

Dear Sir,

There appears to be some difference of opinion concerning the shoulder in "Mairi's Wedding". I can only say that there can be only one shoulder and that most definitely is the LEFT in any reel of four.

I cannot agree that there is any more pleasure in passing right shoulder in the centre and I have had many letters supporting this view and deprecating any alteration from the original intention of the dance.

I am

Yours faithfully

JAMES B. COSH.

12, Struan Avenue,
Giffnock,
Renfrewshire

To the Editor of "The Reel"

Dear Sir,

Some time ago I had a somewhat embarrassing experience during the performance of this lovely dance. I had obtained from the deviser of the dance, Mr. Cosh, a supply of copies of his booklet (which is sold in aid of the National Fund for Polio Research) and distributed them among members of a group with whom I have for over a year been practising Scottish country dances. When some of us joined in a dance at another centre we found ourselves colliding with other dancers who had apparently been instructed to pass, in the centre, by the right shoulder, contrary to the instructions in Mr. Cosh's book I was almost rudely told that I was doing the dance wrongly. I wrote at the time to Mr Cosh and his reply not only made it clear that he had definitely intended the dancing couple to pass in the centre by the Left shoulder (as this is, he pointed out, the correct procedure for reels of four) but had **emphasised the instruction by having it printed in italics in the booklet.**

Yours faithfully,

(Dr) CHARLES FORRESTER

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY (London Branch)

Annual Ball

Quaglino's, St. James's, S.W.1

FRIDAY, 29th MAY, 1964

8.30 p.m. to 2.00 a.m.

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CORRESPONDENCE

201 Barnsole Road,
Gillingham, Kent.
24th May, 1964

The Editor,
The Reel.

Dear Mr. Editor,

May I be afforded space to put on record once again my appreciation of the Society, its teachers and its pianists? Yesterday no fewer than 234 students registered for the Kent Association of Scottish Societies' 6th One Day School of Scottish Country Dancing, held as usual in the Medway Towns. It is the highlight of our Kent Dancing Year and so popular has it become that not only are promises made by distant students to "meet you again at next year's School" but among our attenders are groups from the London Area, from Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex and Essex.

As before, our teachers were Bill Ireland (Principal of the School), Mary Stoker and Bill Hamilton with their pianists Ivy Hayse, Phyllis Draper and James Cooper. Students were loud in their praise of the clarity of exposition and the verve and patience of their instructors and were far from unaware—as can happen—of the contribution pianist makes to teacher and dancer.

Believe me,

Very gratefully yours,

COLIN STEPHENSON,

Organiser of K.A.S.S. One Day Schools

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY (London Branch)

Annual Ball

The Hyde Park Hotel, S.W.1

FRIDAY, 27th MAY, 1960

8.30 p.m. to 2.00 a.m.

PROGRAMME

Scottish Reform
General Stuart's Reel
Lady Auckland's Reel
The Duke of Atholl's Reel
The Eightsome Reel
Strathspey and Reel of Tulloch
Lamb Skinnet
The Deuks Dang ow'er my Daddie
Scottish Waltz
New Scotland Strathspey
The Express
Duke of Perth
The Reel of the 51st Division
White Rose of Scotland
Miss Mary Douglas
La Russe
Waltz Country Dance
Bridge of Nairn
The Montgomeries' Rant
Bonnie Anne
Glasgow Highlanders
Mairi's Wedding
Hamilton House

Tickets, 32/6 (including refreshments) from
Miss J. Irene Stewart, 27 Morpeth Mansions,
London, S.W.1. Please enclose a stamped,
addressed label and mark the envelope "BALL."

ANGLO-SCOTTISH DANCE

An Anglo-Scottish Dance is being held at the headquarters of the English Folk Dance and Song Society, Cecil Sharp House, 2, Regents Park Road, N.W.1, on Friday, 19th July, from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Tickets, price 5/- double, or 3/6 single may be obtained from the Secretary of the E.F.D.S.S. at the above address, or may be bought at the door.

A buffet will be available.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Memories of Dems Past

Purley, Surrey

Dear Daniel,

We would like to congratulate the Branch Committee on its programme of Branch celebrations this year although circumstances have prevented us attending all the functions so far. The article by Robert Ferguson excellently outlines the history of the Branch but of course there are so many other interesting facets in the memories of many of the Branch members.

In the sixties and seventies the Branch Demonstration team took part in the EFDSS folk dance festival in the Albert Hall – the highlight of the dancing season. One year the programme started with two sets launching into the eightsome reel. Bill Ireland's plan was that in total darkness the sets would assemble and after the chord the lights would suddenly blaze with the circles already moving. All went to plan except that there was one set of eight and one of seven! Normally the entry was more straightforward,

But on the night in evening dress
We a' looked sned at least, I guess
The quines in white, the stags beruffed,
The noise back stage was hardly muffed.
At first some Morris, clogs and songs
Th' Armenians went like hammer and tongs.
At last 'twas time to take the floor
The band struck up and through the door
We strode across the bullring wide
While fighting off the fears inside
A chord, and off we went at speed,
Of clapping crowds we took no heed
'til minutes onwards all was over
and from th' arena we sought some cover.
Would Bill show up wi' face o' thunder,
And vitriolic cracks, I wonder?
All four shows went very well
As all who saw them will recall.
Our thanks were due to Bill and band
And all who lent a helping hand.

Quite a number of your readers will be interested to know that after 32 years in Reading we are back in the Greater London area at 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey, CR8 3QS, tel 020 8763 4173. We hope to continue our regular participation in the Branch activities for a few years yet. We also plan to dance in the Croydon area and perhaps meet former dancing friends from days gone by.

Jean and Wilson Nicol

The RSCDS in the 21st Century

Acton, London

Dear Daniel,

I am writing in response to the letter from Mary Stoker (*The Reel* No.249). Reflection is made on the numbers attending dances 40 years ago and the numbers attending to-day and wondering about the decline in attendance. It is quite obvious that there are many more diversions now than years ago. Half the population either has a computer or has access to one with all the Internet aspects, plus of course VHS/DVDs, longer club hours, a myriad of specialist societies/associations, etc. The call on peoples' time is so great these days, not only with many recreational facilities available but with a greater pressure in the workplace. Sadly, it is a fact that people spend longer in the workplace than they did years ago. Therefore, with free time being so important, to pledge oneself to a dance, weeks in advance, takes some commitment. I do not believe it is possible to compete with all these other diversions – the

RSCDS will just have to accept that numbers attending will never return to those of yesteryear.

In addition, young people on the whole want something a great deal more lively than the usual RSCDS Scottish dance, where in my experience the average age appears to be well-advanced and certainly above the average age at other forms of dance I attend, i.e. Ballroom, Line and Salsa. Perhaps like Radio 4 listeners, it is something you come to at certain age? With the demographic trend being that in 20 years time there will be more over 65 year olds than under 16 year olds, maybe in the future some will be attracted to Scottish dancing.

I do feel that the RSCDS does not reach out sufficiently to a wider audience. If an appeal that Scottish dancing is a great social activity, being not only a way of meeting people but also a good form of exercise, this may entice newcomers. Attending National Dance exhibitions together with publicity generated at shows where the Demonstration Team perform, are all to be applauded; plus classes at London-wide Evening Institutes could also assist membership (although I recognise there are only a limited number of teachers around).

However, the sad truth is, that when the current RSCDS dancers start to take off their dancing pumps membership numbers will fall off dramatically as there are too few of the future generation to take their place. At the moment some at Pont Street present a disapproving face to newcomers. It may not be until a crisis point is reached in membership numbers that a more welcoming stance is taken up; hopefully it won't be too late by then!

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Baldock

The naked truth

Hemel Hempstead

Dear Daniel,

Stephen Webb's amusing account (issue 249) of his encounter with cheeky Japanese tourists set me wondering again why some dancers submit themselves to discomfort and possible embarrassment.

Eighteenth-century Highlanders wore nothing under their kilts for practical reasons. The Highland regiments naturally continued this practice and, as the military do, erected it into a matter of pride and compulsion. Hence the nonsense of NCOs with mirrors on sticks, and prohibitions against mounting the top decks of buses, or bending to pick anything up. After the 'forty-five', Highland dress was forbidden in Scotland except to the regiments. A generation later, when the prohibition was lifted, the gentry (who were the only Highlanders to resume the dress), had to consult the regiments as the only source for how it was worn. Most of the details which are now held up as 'correct' are clearly derived from nineteenth-century military uniform. Personally I wear the kilt as modern civilian dress: neither uniform nor fancy dress.

Those dancers who do feel bound to adhere to the regimental dress codes might consider that those codes insist on underpants for sports and dancing.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Galbraith

Change of Address

Rachel Wilton writes to say that Elma Taylor has moved and would like her friends to know that her new address is:- Morlach House, Churchill, Edinburgh EH10 4BG.

Booking dances

Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks

Dear Daniel,

The evening had just started. "Would you care for the next dance?" "Sorry, I'm already booked up until the interval, but I have a couple of free slots in the second half." Sounds familiar? Probably, because this practice of booking partners way ahead is becoming all too common and can easily snowball out of control as others feel obliged to join in, just to have a chance of a dance with one or two favourite partners.

To my mind, the practice is not only contrary to the social nature of Scottish country dancing, but is also impolite to our visitors and inconsiderate to the inexperienced who often welcome an invitation to dance as the evening progresses. Of course, there will be times when you want to ask someone for a particular dance but, in general, is there any reason to book a partner for more than the next couple of dances?

Can anything be done about it? Probably not. There will always be the inveterate 'bookers' who prowl the floor, inviting the select few to dance with him or her throughout the evening but, at the very least, it should be seen as perfectly normal to decline such offers without causing any offence.

Andrew Patterson

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch costs £14.00 per annum for UK based members (£14.50 for Europe; £16.50 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*, while Society membership includes the annual dance publication, Bulletin and Newsletters. Membership applications and enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Owen Meyer, 50 Bunby Road, Stoke Poges, Bucks SL2 4BP. Tel: 01753 643461.

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AT LAST! GERMANY'S FIRST BRANCH

London Branch Member, Jim Cook, is pleased to report on the formation of the very first RSCDS Branch in Germany

I have danced in many parts of Germany in recent years and, bearing in mind the large number of clubs and the great ability and enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing which I have encountered there, I was amazed that no RSCDS branch existed anywhere in the country, that is up until now. Easter 2004 saw the formation of the Central Germany Branch. Why the delay?

I have found that many groups in Germany run evening classes under the Volkshochschule (VHS) adult education class system where courses in many subjects are offered to the public, Scottish Country Dancing being one of them. Coming under this umbrella, inbuilt publicity through the VHS system is assured and financial grants are available. However, if any such SCD group tried to establish itself as a Branch of the RSCDS, a society whose HQ is in another country, German law would cause the financial benefits to be forfeited.

Within Germany, there is clearly an affinity to the RSCDS. You only have to go to the St. Andrews Summer School to meet the many German members of the RSCDS, albeit they have probably been HQ members up to now. When I dance in Germany, at classes or balls, I see dancers striving to adhere to RSCDS standards. Now the Central Germany Branch provides an RSCDS focus within the country but allows local groups to continue functioning exactly as they do now.

Some classes I have visited have fully, or preliminary, qualified RSCDS teachers at the helm. Elsewhere, the teachers are unqualified, they being local dancers with an aptitude who do their best in this role because, simply, there is nobody else. The Central Germany Branch will make it easier for them to have access to teacher training courses. As I see it, even courses not necessarily leading to a formal qualification will be of benefit to unqualified teachers. They may never have experienced any sort of teaching course, but they are so important to the survival of small groups in far off corners of Germany. In short, the Branch is best placed to cater for Germany's special needs. **Carola Fischer** (Chairman) and **Martina Müller-Franz** (Secretary) pick up the story:

"Much discussion has taken place over the years and much preparation was necessary to ensure that the Branch would be legally acceptable under German Law. The Kuckucksnest (described in issue 235 of *The Reel*), with its in-house facilities and dance studio, has become a natural meeting place for Scottish Dancers. Its regular SCD courses and workshops, to a high standard of teaching, attract over 200 dancers each year from Germany and other countries. As it is geographically central, being 50 miles north east of Frankfurt (Main) in Schlüchtern-Vollmerz, it was decided this should be the Branch's base.

"The first Branch meeting took place at the annual Easter course, attended by dancers and teachers from all over Germany. Before classes started on Easter Saturday, the eight founding members obtained the official seal at the local registration office, after which glasses were raised. The celebrations continued with coffee and "Branch cake" before the afternoon classes commenced.

"The Branch is a tangible sign of dancers' enthusiasm and the effort involved in supporting the aims and standards of the RSCDS. Membership is now cheaper and easier to come

by. There is now official representation for Germany, and, as Jim says, the possibility of assistance in training SCD teachers.

"The Branch will organise events of its own. Indeed the first will be a workshop for teachers, whether already RSCDS qualified or not, and for potential teachers who may possibly be preparing for the teaching exams. This will be taught by Brenda Burnell at the Kuckucksnest 21-24 April 2005. Contact Martina (see below) for details. Also the Branch has asked Jim to co-organise, with Carola, our first birthday celebrations. Over to Jim."

Yes, the Branch invites dancers worldwide to join its members in a celebratory week of "Dancing and Culture" at the Kuckucksnest, 22-28 August 2005. This builds on the great success of the London Branch's "Reel Goes Cuckoo" week in 2002 (see issue 242 of *The Reel*) at which Reel readers from many countries enjoyed the dancing classes and socials, and also the organised walks and excursions to local places of interest in this historic and beautiful part of the country. Our teacher will be Anne Smyth from Fort William and the music will be supplied by Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning. If you missed out in 2002, do not ignore 2005. I have full details.

For more detail about the Branch and its activities, contact the Secretary, Martina Müller-Franz, St. Martinushof 3, 40764 Langenfeld, Germany; email: secretary@central-germany.rscds.net. But for the First Birthday Celebration week ONLY, contact Jim Cook, 59 Larkfield Road, Richmond, TW9 2PG, England; tel: +44 (0) 20 8948 5637; email: cooka@westminster.ac.uk. Information on the house and area can be found on www.kuckucksnest.com.

Scottish Dancing in Germany has just taken a major step forward. Let us give it our support.

Carola Fischer, Martina Müller-Franz,

ANNIVERSARY GARMENTS

The new range of garments sporting the Branch anniversary logo is available and examples of the first batch were on display at The Day School in October.

Order forms are available from Jeff Robertson on tel: 01903 530750 or 020 7730 9633, from jtr@ctg.co.uk, or from the Branch Website www.rscdslondon.org.uk.

These quality garments are modestly priced as follows, postage and packing being charged at cost as appropriate:-

Tee Shirts £8 Ladies Tees£10
Polo Shirts ... £14 Sweatshirts£15

The present range is offered in White, Black, Green and Navy and is available in the following sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL (smaller sizes may be available on request).

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

On light garments the design will be in blue, with a gold crown and silver lettering on the darker garments. (See back page, lower right.)

Please continue to support your Branch in its anniversary year.

Jeff Robertson

BANDS

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DANCE EVENTS

SOMERSET BRANCH RSCDS

Day School

Saturday 5th March 2005

Keinton Mandeville Village Hall.

Teacher: **Allison Russell** (Ayr)

Musician: **James Gray**

£14 for the day, including evening dance.

Details : Sheila Barnes 01458 223596.

RSCDS CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH

Day School for Dancers and Musicians

Saturday 12th February 2005

Netherhall School, Gunhild Way, Cambridge.

Teachers (Dancing): **John Sturrock**

Ruby Wilkinson (Ladies' Step)

John Wilkinson (Highland),

Teacher (Music): **David Hall**

Musicians: **Barbara Manning**

Ken Martlew, Sheena Sturrock

The Day School will finish with an Evening Dance at Netherhall School.

Full details and application forms from the Branch Secretary, Roderick McLachlan, 32 New Road, Sawston. CB2 4BW. Tel: 01223 834163, email: rmclachlan@waitrose.com.

www.rscds-cambridge.org.

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

Annual Ball

Saturday 5th February 2005

The Abbey School, Kendrick Road, Reading

Craigellachie

Programme: The Laird of Milton's Daughter, The Saltire Society Reel, Staffin Harvest, The Roselath Cross, Thomas Glover's Reel, Gang the Same Gate, The Diamond Jubilee, Milton's Welcome, The Corian Strathspey, Miss Hadden's Reel, Clutha, The Starry Eyed Lassie, Monymusk, Festival Fling, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Autumn in Appin, None So Pretty, James Gray, Minister on the Loch, Cramond Bridge.

Tickets £14 from Peter Luke, tel: 0118 957 6339.

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Annual Ball

Saturday 19th March 2005

Abingdon, near Oxford

Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

Programme and details see February *Reel*, or in early December on www.geocities.com/abscdc or phone 01235 204 155.

JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP

20th Scottish Dance Weekend

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th May 2005

At the Girls' College, Mont Millais.

Sound Company

£25 for both evenings (including buffet supper).

Details from Helen McGugan, tel/fax: 01534

854459, or Alan Nicolle, email

alan_nicolle@yahoo.co.uk, tel: 01534 484375.

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Day School and Dance

Saturday 19th February 2005

New improved venue:

Headington School, Oxford, OX3 0BL.

Teachers: ... **Anita Mackenzie, John Wilkinson**

Dennis Tucker

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Details: Gordon Lloyd, 47 Begbroke Crescent, Begbroke, Oxford OX5 1RW, tel: 01865 375799.

WEMBLEY AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball

Saturday 26th February 2005

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Eastman's Hall, Kodak, Harrow View, Harrow.

The Craigellachie Band

Programme: Pelorus Jack, Peat Fire Flame, The Gentleman, Father Connelly's Jig, Gavin's Reel, Swithland Woods, Muirland Willie, The Earl of Mansfield, Culla Bay, The Dancing Master, The Irish Rover, The Robertson Rant, My Heather Hills, Plantation Reel, Foxhill Court, The Flying Spur, J.B.Milne, Macdonald of the Isles, Diamond Jubilee, The Montgomerie's Rant.

Tickets and further details from: Mrs Patricia Hamilton, 7 Boldmere Road, Pinner, Middx HA5 1PJ. Tel: 0208 866 2841.

SCOTTISH ASSCN. FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT

New Year Ball

Saturday 8th January 2005

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Wallington Public Hall, Stafford Road, Wallington (opp Sainsbury's).

Green Ginger

Programme: Grand March, Round Reel of Eight, The Jubilee Jig, Lang Tyme Mairrit, Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Muirland Willie, The Robertson Rant, The Reel of the 51st Division, The Gentleman, Tribute to the Borders, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, The Triumph, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Sugar Candie, None So Pretty, The Wild Geese, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, The Earl of Mansfield, Monymusk, General Stuart's Reel.

Tickets £15 to include supper and wine. Details from Maggie Westley, tel: 020 8647 9899 or email mwestley@bibra.co.uk or from Gill Russell, tel: 01372 812821, email: rusmar.ashtead@virgin.net

WEST MACS

Charity Ball

Saturday 23rd April 2005

North London Collegiate School, Edgware.

Craigellachie Band

Programme and other details in the next issue. Enquiries to Pat Hamilton, tel: 0208 866 2841.



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDERS BRANCH

Christmas Social

Wednesday 29th December 2004

Church Crookham Hall (new venue),

Bring plate for finger buffet.

Contact: Jan Douglas, tel: 01189 781125

Day School for dancers and musicians

Saturday 12th March 2005

Courtmoor School, Fleet.

Teachers: **Janet Johnston, Eric Finlay**

Margaret Williams

Musicians: **Robert Mackay, Ken Martlew**

Contact: Valerie Frazer, tel: 01252 843001.

Musicians' workshop led by

David Cunningham,

Contact: May Sloan, tel: 01428 604868.

May Dance

Saturday 21st May 2005

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Contact: Shirley Ferguson, tel: 01276 501952.



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming attractions to be held at St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1.

Fridays: Upper Hall 7.30 - 10.30pm

Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 - 10.30pm

Unless otherwise stated

Saturday 18th December **Frank Reid**

Christmas Dance 7.00 - 11.00pm

Saturday 8th January **Karl Sandeman**

Haggis, Neaps, and Tatties Supper

7.00 - 11.00 p.m.

Friday 14th January ... AGM followed by dancing

Saturday 5th February **Sandy Nixon**

Annual Ball 7.00 - 11.30 p.m.

Friday 18th February **St Valentine's Night**

Saturday 5th March **Green Ginger**

Friday 11th March ... Practice night for 2nd April

All dances will be talked or

walked through on request

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

Saturday 5th February 2005

Annual Ball

St Columba's Church, Pont Street

7.00 - 11.30 p.m.

Sandy Nixon

Programme: The Bees of Maggieknockater, The Montgomerie's Rant; The Cuckoo Clock, Wicked Willie, Peggy's Strathspey, Joe McDiarmid's Jig, Hamilton Rant, Culla Bay, Miss Hadden's Reel, Scotch Mist, The Earl of Mansfield, Grand March and Eightsome Reel, Flower of the Quern, Quarries' Jig, A Trip to Bavaria, The Gentleman, The Immigrant Lass, The Irish Rover, Balmoral Strathspey, Machine Without Horses, Plantation Reel, The Belle of Bon Accord, The Reel of the 51st Division.

Tickets: (Including refreshments) LHC Members in advance £11.00. Non Members in advance £13.00. All classes on door £14.00. Highland or evening dress preferred. All enquiries to Frank Bennett 020 8715 3564, email: fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk or Roger Waterson 020 8660 5017.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE

Highland Ball

Friday 11th March 2005

7.30 - 11.30 pm

Abingdon Guildhall, Oxon.

Green Ginger

Programme: Shiftin' Bobbins, Major Ian Stewart, Bill Little's Strathspey, Summer Wooing, Pines of Pitlochry, Radcliffe Square, Twiddle in the Middle, Wild Geese, Glasgow Highlanders, Australian Ladies, Cambridge Spring Fling, Gothenburg's Welcome, Wisp of Thistle, Plantation Reel, Machine Without Horses, James Senior of St Andrews, Swiss Lassie, Wild Goose Chase, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Mairi's Wedding.

Tickets (including supper) £15 (£12 students) from Jacqui Bradley,

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jacqueline.bradley@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk

DANCE EVENTS (continued)



BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL SOCIETY

53rd Highland Ball
Saturday 15th January 2005
7.30 p.m. – midnight
Ashlyn's School, Berkhamsted.

Ian Muir Sound from Prestwick

Programme: The Sailor, Follow Me Home, Butterscotch and Honey, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Royal Yacht Britannia, Schiehallion, Cramond Bridge, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Strathglass House, The Baldovan Reel, Quarries' Jig, Old Tyme Medley, Airie Bannan, The Irish Rover, Huntly Castle, The Code Breaker, Pelorus Jack, The Byron Strathspey, The Cooper's Wife, The New Scotland Strathspey, Cadgers in the Canongate, Mairi's Wedding.

£18.00, including dinner. Licensed bar.

Details and tickets from: Mrs Linda Godbold,
'Alize', Shootersway Lane, Berkhamsted,
HP4 3NP, tel: 01442 866651,
email: lindagodbold@hotmail.com.

Highland Ball Practice: Potten End Village Hall,
Saturday 8th January 2005, 2.00 - 5.00 p.m., £3.

For more details see our website:
www.berkhamstedreelclub.org.

INTERNATIONAL WEEKEND COURSE

Budapest, Hungary

Friday 13th – Monday 16th May 2005

Teacher:Linda Gaul
Musician:Robert Mackay (piano)
Band: ..David Cunningham and his SCD Band

Further details and application forms available
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ball@bstk.hu or turig@bstk.hu
or on-line at www.bstkh.hu/en

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

50th Anniversary Ball
Saturday 5th March 2005
7.30 until 11.30 p.m.
Harpenden Public Hall
Craigellachie Band

Programme: Bratach Bana, The Reel of the 51st Division, Autumn in Appin, Gavin's Reel, The Bees of Maggieknockater, Silver Tassie, A Trip to Bavaria, Peat Fire Flame, The Belle of Bon Accord, The Pines of Pitlochry, The Irish Rover, James Senior of St Andrews, Father Connelly's Jig, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich, 1314, MacPherson's Jig, Foxhill Court, The Recumbent Stone, The Dancing Master, St Columba's Strathspey, The Royal Yacht Britannia, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Charles Millar.

Tickets £12 including supper (vegetarian option,
order before 1st March) from Val Owens,
29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts, AL3 5RE.
Tel 01727 863870

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Saturday 19th March 2005
Day School
Hugh Christie School, Tonbridge.
Contact: Pat Davoll, tel: 01732 886557,
email: pdavoll@aol.com.
Saturday 16th April 2005
Spring Dance
Venue t.b.a.
Recorded music
Contact: Sandra Ranson, tel: 01892 524022,
email: sandraranson@hotmail.com.

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

57th Annual Ball
Friday 7th January, 2005
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.
Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree,
Herts, WD6 3PJ

The Craigellachie Band

Programme: Ray Milbourne, The Luckenbooth Brooch, St Columba's Strathspey, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran, Pelorus Jack, Culla Bay, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, Jennifer's Jig, Gang the Same Gate, Fisherman's Reel, Seton's Ceilidh Band, The White Heather Jig, John of Bon Accord, Monymusk, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Joie de Vivre, Dagmar's Fancy, The Earl of Mansfield, The Cooper's Wife, Foxhill Court, The Moffat Weavers, The Montgomerie's Rant.

Tickets £15.00 (non-dancers and juniors £7.50),
including refreshments,
from Jim Henderson, Tel. 020 8954 2586,
email: jimhendersonuk@aol.com



MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB

Highland Ball
Saturday 26th February 2005
7.30pm-11.30 p.m.

Desborough School Shoppenhangers Road
Maidenhead SL6 2QB

Frank Reid and his Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Hooper's Jig, J B Milne, The Belle of Bon Accord, General Stuart's Reel, The Recumbent Stone, The Gentleman, White Heather Jig, Festival Fling, MacDonald of the Isles, Ladies of Dunse, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Blackwater Reel, Rose of the North, Wild Geese, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich, The Bees of Maggieknockater, The Silver Strathspey, The Cuckoo Clock, Black Mountain Reel, S-Locomotion, Queen's View, Mairi's Wedding. *Extras:-* Bratach Bana, West's Hornpipe

Tickets £14.50 including Supper Bring your own
wine – soft drinks provided

Dress Formal. Tickets from: Alan Pfeiffer 64
Wavell Road Maidenhead Berks SL65AD Tel/
Fax 01628 633928 Mobile 07956 233 536 An
SAE would be appreciated. Visit our website at:
www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk.

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION OF SCOTTISH SOCIETIES

SASS Charity Dance
Saturday March 12 2005
7.30 - 11.30pm

Lewes Town Hall, Lewes, East Sussex

The Craigevar Band

Programme:- Hooper's Jig, Black Mountain Reel, Cape Town Wedding, Good Hearted Glasgow, The Glenalmond Gamekeeper, The Corian Strathspey, The Moffat Weavers, The Montgomerie's Rant, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, The Midnight Oil, Maxwell's Rant, Baldovan Reel, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, The Wishing Well, The Plantation Reel, The Phantom Piper, Cashmere Shawl, The Lochalsh Reel, Cherrybank Gardens, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Bauldy Bain's Reel.

Tickets (in advance only) £10.00 dancing only.
There will be a refreshment interval so do bring
food for yourselves if you wish.

Contact Mrs Carol Catterall . 01273 564963.
Web Site www.ids.u-net.com/sass.

Why not enjoy a weekend away in South Wales
and the West Country?

RSCDS Bath Branch

Annual Ball
Friday 25th February 2005
Bath Guildhall

Hugh Ferguson and Dalriada.

There will also be a display by Corryvreckan.
Tickets £17.50, Students £11. Buffet supper
included. Contact June Hall on 01225 318906.

RSCDS South Wales Branch

Annual Ball
Saturday 26th February 2005
Hawthorn Leisure Centre, Rhydyfelin,
Pontypridd

The Alan Ross Scottish Dance Band.

Tickets RSCDS members £16 ,
non-members £17, juniors/spectators £9.
Includes a buffet supper.

Contact Irene Williams on 01348 837532
or e-mail Williams@mathry.freeseerve.co.uk .



CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB

Spring Ball
Saturday 19th March 2005
7.30 - 11.45 p.m.
Yateley Manor School, Reading
Road, Yateley, Camberley,
GU46 7UQ

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Maxwell's Rant, Neidpath Castle, Jennifer's Jig, Luckenbooth Brooch, Sugar Candie, Schiehallion, Starlight, Starry Eyed Lassie, Quarries' Jig, Polharrow Burn, The Belle of Bon Accord, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Reel of the Royal Scots, Major Ian Stewart, Ship in Full Sail, Ladies of Dunse, Minister on the Loch, Byron Strathspey, Mr. Iain Stuart Robertson, White Heather Jig, The Grand March & Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Mairi's Wedding. *Extras:* The Irish Rover, Seton's Ceilidh Band.

Tickets (including supper) £14.50, cheques
payable to Camberley Reel Club. Please order
vegetarian option before 15th March 2005.

Dress Formal.

Tickets: Maureen Lazenby, 25 Fairmile, Fleet,
Hants, GU52 7UT, tel: 01252-629785.

Please note that Yateley Manor School is a
No Smoking Area.

Camberley Reel Club dances at 8 p.m. every
Tuesday from September to May at St Paul's
Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley, Surrey.

Ball dances will be practised during the
preceding month.

Visit us at www.camberleyreelclub.org.uk

SLOUGH ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday 7th May 2005
Scottish Country and Highland Dancing
competitions for children and adults; new class
on country dance for those aged 50 or over.
Wexham School, Norway Drive, Slough, SL2.
Details from Miss J. Ferguson, 42 Northcroft,
Slough SL2 1HR. Tel: 01753 644292, or Festival
Office, tel: 01753 520685 (Answerphone).
Closing date for entries: 6th March.

RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH

Weekend School
Sat/Sun 5th - 6th February 2005
Richard Pate School, Cheltenham

Teacher:Alex Gray

Details: Shelagh Dempsey, tel: 01242 519199

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB. Dancing most Mondays 8.00-10.15 p.m. Sept to June at the Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. All welcome. Details and map see www.geocities.com/abscd or from Anne, tel: 01235 204155.
- ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15 - 10.15 p.m. September to May at Abraham Cowley Unit Hall, St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey. Details from Jane Warner, Tel: 01483 763606.
- ALDRINGTON (HOVE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday 8.15 p.m. to 10.30 p.m., September to June. Details from John Steer, 57 Hangleton Road, Hove, E. Sussex BN3 7GH. Tel: 01273 416893.
- BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB meets Tuesday evenings, September to May. Garden dances June and July. Contact: Linda Godbold, Alize, Shootersway Lane, Berkhamsted HP4 3NP. Tel: 01442 866651, www.berkhamstredreelclub.org.
- BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH R.S.C.D.S. meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth. Newcomers and Beginners 7.15 to 8.45 p.m. Improvers/Advanced 9.00 to 10.30 p.m. 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 James on 01273 737498 or Carol on 01903 207493. Website: www.rscds-brighton.org.uk
- BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Thursdays 7.30 - 10 p.m. at Balfour Junior School, Balfour Road, Brighton. Details from Carol Catterall, tel: 01273 564963.
- CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 8 p.m. 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 R.S.C.D.S. Classes for all grades. Details from Roderick McLachlan, 32 New Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4BW. Tel: 01223 834163.
- CHELSEA REEL CLUB meets twice a month from October to March in St. Columba's Church (Upper Hall), Pont Street, SW1. Beginners welcome. Instruction given. Dancing to live music. Details from Ruth Hewlett, Tel: 020 8749 5471.
- CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS Advanced class Mondays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. General class Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Bettridge School, Cheltenham. Also a Beginners class. Details: Margaret Winterbourne Tel: 01242 863238.
- CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. 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, e-mail mbsteele45@aol.com.
- CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING in the Upper Hall at St Michael & All Angels Church corner of The Avenue and Bath Rd. W4 (nr Turnham Green tube), Sundays 7.30-9.30 p.m. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details Tel: 020 8743 9385 (afternoons).
- CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details from: Dick Gray, 6 Bunting Close, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5PA. Tel: 01403 264071.
- CROUCH END SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS meet Wednesdays 8-10 p.m. Sept to July, at Union Church, Weston Park, London N8. On bus routes W3, W5, W7 and 41. Small friendly group, all stages welcome, instruction given. Tel: (evgs) 020 8348 0473.
- CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH R.S.C.D.S. Branch class - all grades, incl. beginners, with technique: Purley (Fri). Other classes in the area: Beginners: Reigate & Selsdon (Tues), Gen: Reigate (Mon), Purley (Alt. Tues), West Wickham (Fri), Advanced: Coulsdon (Wed), Reigate (Thurs). Further details: Tel: 01737 551724.
- EALING SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Thurs. 8 - 10 p.m. September to May at St Andrew's Church Centre, Mount Park Road, Ealing, W5. Details from Rena Stewart, 56 Meadvale Road, Ealing, W5 1NR. tel: 020 8998 6419.
- EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets every Wednesday, 8.00 pm at Warren Hall, Wanstead, London E11, from September to May. Details from John Tanner, Tel: 020 8504 1632. www.efsa.org.uk, e-mail: 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 8.00 p.m., 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 8.00 p.m. September to mid July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Instruction by Mrs Margaret Henderson. Details from Heather Nolan. Tel/Fax: 01784 256549. e-mail: Heather@nolan75.freemove.co.uk. Website: www.felthamscottish.fsnet.co.uk
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY dance on alternate Saturdays at various venues in the Fleet, Hampshire area, from 7.30 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. September to May. Full details from Earl Spencer, 24 Park Hill, Church Crookham, Fleet, Hants GU52 6PW. Tel: 01252 691922.
- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at the Memorial Centre, East Common Road. Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in term time. Details from Mrs M B MacKenzie Ross, Blythe Muse, Misbourne Avenue, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 0PD. Tel: 01494 874604.
- GREAT MISSENDEN: THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Thursdays 8.00 p.m. Oldhams Hall, Church Road, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs N. Merrick, 2 Hillbeck Way, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8LT.
- GUILDFORD SCDC meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford most Mondays at 8.15 from September to April. Teacher Paul Plummer, contact on 01483 236946.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION Dancing on Tuesdays Sept. - June from 8.00 - 10.00 p.m. in Elderkin Hall, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Roberdough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF. Tel: 020 8870 6131.
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday at 8.00 p.m. at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00 p.m. Details from Phil Bray, 25 St. Olams Close, Luton, Beds LU3 2LD. Tel: 01582 617734.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Classes Wednesdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., 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 8-10 p.m., 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 to 11.00 p.m. Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.
- HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. 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 SCD GROUP. Thursdays 7.30-10 p.m. at Trinity Primary School, La Grande Route de la Trinité. Details from Helen McGugan tel/fax: 10534 854459 or Alan Nicole email: alan_nicolle@yahoo.co.uk, tel: 01534 484375.
- 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 to 8.00 p.m. General 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. Tel: 01843 869284.
- 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. Tel: 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096.
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday 8.00 p.m. at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, tel: 01628 628372. www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk.
- MAIDSTONE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday 8.15 - 10.15 p.m. at The Grove Green Community Hall, District Centre, Grove Green, Maidstone. Details from Peter Green, 65 Willington Street, Bearsted, Maidstone ME15 8JR, Tel: 01622 737649.
- MARKET HARBOUROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY. Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesday 7.30-10.00 p.m. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, "Lazonby", 9 Little Lunnon, Dunton Bassett, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 5JR. Tel: 01455 209446.
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing Thursdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. at All Saint's Church Hall, Frindsbury, Rochester, Kent. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Tim Law, 44 Haig Ave, Chatham. Tel: 01634 409976.
- MID SUSSEX CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Events throughout the year at various venues. Members of SASS. Classes held before St. Andrews/Burns. Contact Mike Roberts, Bodimans, Two Mile Ash, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 0LA. Tel: 01403 732408, e-mail: mike_roberts@which.net.
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS. Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details from Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Blechley, Milton Keynes. MK3 5LP. Tel: 01908 378730, e-mail: jan@jange.f9.co.uk.
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB. Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. from September to May at Roecroft School, Stotfold. Informal Saturday Dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds. SG17 5AL. Tel: 01462 812691.
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dancing 7.45 - 10.00 p.m. most Wednesdays at Methodist Church Hall, Crayford. Beginners welcome. Details: Bill MacFarlane, 26 Lewis Road, Istead Rise, Northfleet, Kent DA13 9JD. Tel: 01474 832801.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday 7.45-10.15 p.m. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Classes Monday evgs at Chislehurst Village Hall. Details: Mrs V.J. Vincent, 2 Keith Cottages, Lusted Rd, Downe, Orpington, Kent BR6 7JY. Tel/Fax: 01959 575750.
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS. Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Gordon Lloyd, 47 Begbroke Cresc., Begbroke, Oxford OX5 1RW. Tel: 01865 375799.
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY. Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. 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 8.00 p.m. from mid September to end of May. All welcome. For information contact 020 8977 4304.
- SANDERSTEAD SCOTTISH DANCERS. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, South Croydon. Details: Joyce Patrick, tel: 020 8657 6138.
- ST. ALBANS & MID HERTS CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing most Fridays from October to March. Group meets at Homewood Road U.R. Church Hall, Sandpit Lane, St. Albans at 8.00 p.m. Details from Mrs I. Smallwood, 26 Gresford Cl, St. Albans, AL4 0UB. Tel: 01727 760878.
- ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON). The Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB. Tel: 020 8540 1755.
- ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Sept to May, 7.15 to 10 p.m. Admission free except for six 'Band Nights' when tickets cost £6 inc. supper. Beginners welcome and there is step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details from Bob Harman, tel: 020 7630 1639 (day) or 020 8642 7192 (evgs), e-mail smallpipes@aol.com.
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Penelope Fisk, Sunnysbank Cottages, 15 Maidstone Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3BY. Tel: 01732 457327.
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday from September to May 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., at the Sheen Lane Centre, SW14. Details from Brian Cresswell, 16 Cole Rd, Twickenham, Middx TW1 1EZ. Tel: 020 8892 0471.
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00 to 10.15 p.m. throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details from Terry Boorman, 15 Old Farm Road West, Sidcup, DA15 8AG. Tel: 020 8302 2974.
- SOMERSET: BROADWAY SCOTTISH DANCERS meet on Fridays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. at Ashill Village Hall near Ilminster. Social dances: January, March, June, September, December. Details from Michael Cross, Tel: 01458 252001.
- SOMERSET BRANCH RSCDS. Classes at Monteclefe School, Somerton: Beginners & others Mon. 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Experienced dancers Thurs. 7.45 - 9.45 p.m. Children Sats: 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon. Ladies Step Classes monthly Fri 8 - 10 p.m. at Kingsdon. Details from: Sheila Barnes, Tel: 01458 223596.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30 to 10.00 p.m. 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 10.30 p.m. St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near the hospital). Tuition 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Anne Chandler. Tel: 01702 294645.
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDs. Classes in Hertford, Sept to May. Demonstration (alternate) Mon 8 pm, St Johns Hall, Inter/Adv Tues 7.45 pm, Bengo School. Beginners Thurs 7.45 pm. Bengo School. Dances 2nd Friday each month 7.45 - 10.45pm. Details: Mrs Maureen Ainsworth, tel: 01279 434342 or John Brace, tel: 01438 717420.
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB meets Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15 p.m. at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details from Brenda Hinton, Tel: 01273 959017.
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday at 8 p.m. September to mid June at St. Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details from David Horwill, 32 Walsley Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY. Tel: 01932 784866.
- 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 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Tom Symington. Tel: 020 7834 7151 or 020 7828 6792.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS. Beginners, General and Advanced classes on Mon, Tues, Thurs, 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., at St. Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details from Mrs Eileen Orr, 10 Oaklands Road, Groombridge, TN3 9SB. Tel: 01892 864531.
- WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION hold weekly adult Classes for, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs Maggie Westley, 56 Mount Park, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4PS. Tel/Fax: 020 8647 9899, e-mail: mwestley@bibra.co.uk.
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Class at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey (adjacent to Bushey Golf and Country Club). Thursdays from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., Details from Stuart Krelloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford, Herts WD17 4GE. Tel: 01923 492475.
- WAVERLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Winchester, every Thursday from September to the end of June, 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details: Mrs Pat Mumford, tel: 02380 252570.
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Mondays 8.00 p.m. Dance Class. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details from Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, WD19 5HF. Tel: 020 8421 0470.
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS Classes Tuesdays 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., Club night (all abilities) Wednesday 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., Both evenings take place at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details from Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ. Tel: 01264 363293, e-mail wendy@mumford.com.
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Wednesday 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from Mrs Rita Gorrrie, 14 Coleridge Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 6DH. Tel: 01621 854006.
- WOKINGHAM: St. John's SDC meet every Thurs 8 - 10.15pm Sept to May at St. Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Tel: Sue Davis 01344 774344, 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne. Also Children's Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, tel:

Stephen Webb



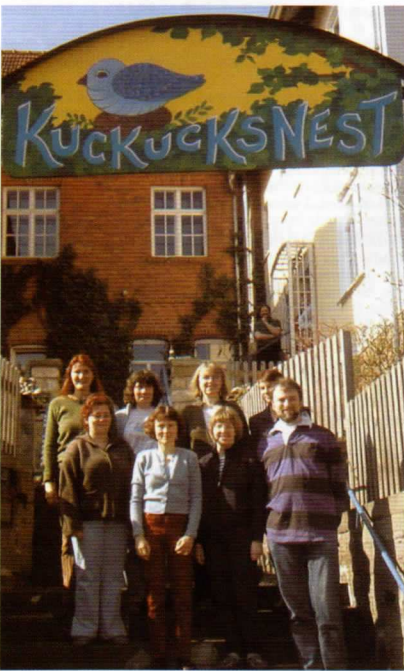
Dancers enjoying the Entente Cordiale dance in September

Jeff Robertson



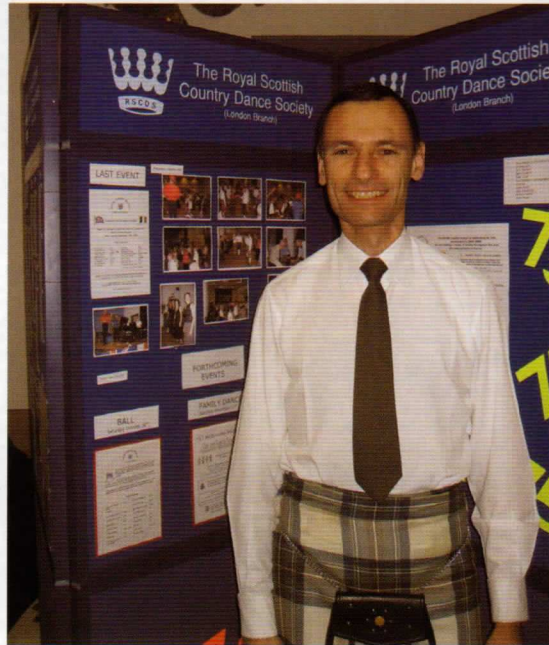
Demonstration Team at the Entente Cordiale dance

RSCDS Central Germany Branch



Founder members of the newly formed RSCDS Central Germany Branch pose on the Kuckucksnest steps
See Jim Cook's report on page 12

Patrick Chamoin, RSCDS Paris Branch, in front of the London Branch display stand at the Day School



Stephen Webb (centre and right)



Danielle and Jerry Reinstein at the Entente Cordiale dance in September

Jerry Reinstein



Left:
The men in red berets at the Pau weekend

Below:
Gaynor Curtis and Rachel Wilton model the Ladies' Tees



Stephen Webb