



The Reel

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JUNE TO AUGUST 2022



Scottish country dancing -
For fun, fitness and
friendship

COVID-19 Forecast

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

Statement from the RSCDS Management Board on the Russia - Ukraine war

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) is a global organisation with members in 36 countries outside the UK, including Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. We are deeply saddened by the way this conflict has affected our members. We unequivocally condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine and subsequent actions by the armed forces of the Russian Federation which have led to so much death and suffering.

We are deeply worried about the fate of our dancers in Ukraine and very much want them to remain within the dancing community. As a first step, the small number of current members and the affiliated group in Ukraine will have their fees paid for the next two years using donations from members. We encourage our members and branches to participate in humanitarian relief activities already set up by various national and international organisations. The Society will continue to monitor how the war is affecting our members and will be responsive to any requests for help from dancers in Ukraine that lie within our power.

The Management Board has decided that our Society magazine will not accept articles from dancers in Russia. We realise that our individual Russian members may deplore the war as much as the rest of the world and may not have access to unbiased reports on the atrocities that are being carried out in their name. But, until the war is over, these restrictions must remain. We are still their friends and look forward to a time of peace when the great social activity that is Scottish country dancing can be global again.



Dancers enjoying the music of Sandy Nixon and his Band at the Combined Societies' Dance on 2 April 2022 at St Columba's Church

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Issue 321 should be with UK based members by 27 August 2022 unless delayed in the post.

Please check the latest situation on the London Branch [website](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk).

Contributions for *Reel* 321 should be sent to arrive by and preferably in advance of Sunday 17 July 2022 by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

The opinions expressed by contributors in *The Reel* do not necessarily reflect the official position of the RSCDS, or of the Branch.

From the Chair: Joanne Lawrence



As I write, we are enjoying a beautifully warm Easter weekend. The spring sunshine, new leaves and blossom, so welcome after the chill of recent weeks, invite comparison with the light and joy many of us have experienced as Scottish dance in London emerged from its COVID-19 induced hibernation. As with any British Spring, there have been setbacks: our Burns celebration was cancelled in the midst of Omicron fears, but our class numbers are growing, and we are seeing a gradual increase in attendance at dances as the evenings grow longer and post COVID-19 confidence increases.

Our season continues with another half term of classes and then the Summer Wednesday Dance followed by three Summer General Classes with invited teachers and musicians. The Mixed Ability Group will continue until the end of June and will include a special party for Jeni Rutherford, who retired after 20 years as class teacher at Christmas 2021.

Our AGM takes place on 11 June 2022 in the Upper Hall at St Columba's Church, followed by the End of Season Dance. We hope that many of you will join us to learn more about the life of RSCDS London, to contribute to plans for its future and to enjoy each other's company in the dance that follows. For those unable to attend in person, we will be live streaming the meeting and look forward to your virtual presence.

We have some changes to the London Branch Committee. Jenny Kendrick is standing down this year, having made a tremendous contribution as classes convenor and as committee member since 2015. We were saddened to learn of George Potts' recent death. He was a longstanding member of the Committee and the Scottish country dance community, including teacher and Branch secretary among his many roles. George will be greatly missed for his organisational memory, humour, kindness, scones and so much more.

Our recent call for nominations to the Branch Committee resulted in three excellent nominees. As we had fewer nominations than places available there will be no elections and I am delighted to confirm that Adam Brady, Richard Clarke and Dave Hall will all join the London Branch Committee after the AGM. My thanks to them and to all the current members of the Committee and other supporters who do so much behind the scenes.

Further into the summer, our annual Open Air Dancing will take place in Kensington Gardens on 13, 20 and 27 August, thanks to the work of James Fairbairn. The RSCDS Summer School at St Andrews will go ahead for the first time in three years and London will be represented by a strong cohort from Park Walk and Richmond Beginners' classes as well as more experienced dancers. We thank beginners' teachers Judith Jones and Davinia Miln, who have instilled both technique and confidence into our newest dancers. Thanks also to our other teachers Simon Wales, Pat Davoll, Maureen Campbell, Mervyn Short, Joan Desborough, Jane Rose and Roy Southall, and to musicians Adam Brady, Yvonne McGuinness, Ian Cutts and Dave Hall. London classes are flourishing, and we are grateful for all you do.

Looking still further ahead, the London Branch Day School is scheduled for 15 October, we have plans for a series of events attractive to younger dancers in the autumn and, of course, the RSCDS Centenary celebrations promise much to enjoy in 2023. It has been wonderful to dance again with you this season and I look forward to more of the same and better in 2022/23.

From the Treasurer: Simon Wales



At the London Branch AGM this year, I will be asking members to note the increase in RSCDS subscriptions agreed at the last Society AGM and adopt the proposal that London Branch fees will remain unchanged.

Currently just £8 out of the £26 membership fee for single adults is retained by London Branch, the remaining £18 is levied by RSCDS HQ where, with other membership fees from across the world, it is used to underwrite the management of the Society, staff salaries, Coates Crescent, communications, teacher training, Branch officers' support, musicians' courses, Summer and Winter School and so much more.

During lockdown, the Society's online classes, podcasts and weekly newsletter acted as a lifeline to an international dance community unable to meet and dance in person. However, the unavoidable cancellation of income generating activities meant that running costs had to be met from reserves, already depleted by the COVID-19 related drop in investment income.

As a result, the Society is implementing its first increase in subscriptions since 2015 (indeed, in 2019, it reduced its annual fees by £2 per person, encouraging Branches to use the resultant funds to promote Scottish dancing in their area). Branches will be charged £25 for each single adult member, an increase of £5 on 2019 prices. Adding on the £6 London Branch portion (no local increase is proposed this year), this will result in an annual subscription of £31 for a single adult London Branch member. To put in context, this represents just 19% increase per annum since the last price increase seven years ago.

London Branch has enjoyed a strong return to dancing since September 2021. We have had several well attended dances and our Beginners' Classes, in Park Walk and Richmond, are both sending large groups to Summer School in St Andrews this year. We have a good Management Committee with three excellent new members and our plans for 2022-23 include activities for younger dancers, dancers new to London and celebrations for the RSCDS Centenary. Building on the lessons learned in lockdown, we will be live streaming our AGM for members unable to attend in person. We hope that you will join us to learn more about plans and to add your voice to discussions about the future of London Branch.

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE
SOCIETY



Patron: H M The Queen
Chairman: Lorna Ogilvie

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The Reel Business Editor.... Jeff Robertson
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[YouTube.com/RSCDSLONDONBRANCH](https://www.youtube.com/RSCDSLONDONBRANCH)



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.

London Branch Matters

Membership and *The Reel* Subscription from 1 July 2022

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

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

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

Membership category	Junior 12-17 years	Young Adult 18-24 years	Adult 25 years +	Adult Joint (2) 25 years +	2nd Branch	<i>The Reel</i> only (subscription)
Electronic (<i>eReel</i>)	£16.50	£24	£29	£48	£4	£4
<i>The Reel</i> by post (UK)	£18.50	£26	£31	£52	£6	£6
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Europe)	£24.50	£32	£37	£64	£12	£12
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Rest of the World)	£27.50	£35	£40	£70	£15	£15

Summer Wednesday Dance

Wednesday 1 June 2022
7.00 - 10.00pm

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

David Hall

Joie de Vivre 8x32 J
The Happy Meeting 8x32 J
Balmoral Strathspey 4x32 S
Cramond Bridge 8x32 R
Sugar Candie 8x32 S
Flight to Melbourne Sq 4x32 R
EH3 7AF 8x32 J

Mrs MacLeod 8x32 R
A Capital Jig 8x32 J
Fair Donald 8x32 S
Maxwell's Rant 8x32 R
Neidpath Castle 3x32 S
Inchmickery 5x32 J
The Reel of the Royal Scots 8x32 R

Extras:

Jig to the Music 3x32 J
The Laird of Milton's Daughter 8x32 J
The Deil among the Tailors 8x32 R
Round Reel of Eight Sq 8x8 R

Admission includes light refreshments

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

Crib available at www.rscdslondon.org.uk

The Reel Advertising Rates

In black and white, but including colour logo: £6 per column centimetre.
In full colour: £8.50 per column centimetre (three columns per page).

All advertisers receive a complimentary copy of *The Reel*.

Send Forthcoming Events adverts to
Willie Lawrence at:
danceads@rscdslondon.org.uk

Other adverts and enquiries on pricing to
the Business Editor, Jeff Robertson, at:
businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk

End of Season Dance

Following the Branch AGM
Saturday 11 June 2022

Doors open at 6.15pm
AGM 6.45 - 7.30pm
Dance 7.30 - 10.30pm
Upper Hall, St Columba's Church,
Pont Street, SW1X 0BD
Adam Brady

The Jubilee Jig 8x32 J
The Royal Deeside Railway 8x32 R
The Golden Wedding Strathspey 8x40 S
The Bees of Maggie Knockater 4x32 J
Anniversary Reel 4x32 R
Wisp of Thistle 8x32 S
The Wild Geese 8x32 J

Miss Hadden's Reel 8x32 J
The Reel of the Royal Scots 8x32 R
The Royal Wedding 8x32 S
The Machine Without Horses 8x32 J
The Royal Patron 8x32 R
Balmoral Strathspey 4x32 S
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh 8x40 R

Extras:

The Happy Meeting 8x32 J
Old Nick's Lumber Room 8x32 J
West's Hornpipe 4x32 R
Round Reel of Eight Sq 8x8 R

Admission includes light refreshments

RSCDS Members £12, non-members £14
full time students (with card) and
spectators £7
Children (under 16) free
Tickets available on the door - cash or card
All dances will be recapped

Crib available at www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Dates for 2022 - 2023

17 September 2022 - New Season Dance
15 October 2022 - Annual Day School
26 October 2022 - Autumn Wednesday
17 December 2022 - Christmas Dance with
Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band
14 January 2023 - Burns Ceilidh with the
Caledonian Reelers
15 February 2023 - Winter Wednesday
31 May 2023 - Summer Wednesday
10 June 2023 - End of Season Dance

New Season Dance

Saturday 17 September 2022
7.00 - 10.00pm

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

David Hall and his Band

EH3 7AF 8x32 J
Swiss Lassie 8x32 R
The Gentleman 8x32 S
Bill Clement MBE 8x32 J
Glastonbury Tor 8x32 R
The Gardeners' Fantasia 3x32 S
Gaelforce Wind 8x32 J
Ramadan-ce 8x32 R

Kendall's Hornpipe 8x32 J
The Piper and the Penguin Sq 8x8 R
Slytherin House 8x32 S
Muirland Willie 8x32 J
Polharrow Burn 5x32 R
Cherrybank Gardens 3x32 S
The Starry Eyed Lassie 8x32 J
The Irish Rover 8x32 R

Extras:

Quarries' Jig 8x32 J
Culla Bay 4x32 S
Duke of Perth 8x32 R

Admission includes refreshments

RSCDS Members £17, non-members £20
full time students (with card) and
spectators £10
Children (under 16) free
Tickets available on the door - cash or card
All dances will be recapped

Crib available at www.rscdslondon.org.uk

South East Dance Diary

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

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

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

London Branch Classes



Set yourself a fun challenge join a Scottish country dance class

We have classes for...

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

All classes are now bookable online, and credit cards are taken on the door. London Branch will be monitoring government guidance on COVID-19 and will run classes accordingly. Check www.rscdslondon.org.uk as the latest position may change.

Park Walk Primary School

Park Walk, London SW10 0AY

Summer General Classes

Wednesdays 8, 15 and 22 June

7.00 - 9.00pm

Rose Kreloff & Adam Brady

Ginny Colenbrander & Barbara Manning

Jane Rose & Ian Robertson

Three opportunities to consolidate technique and general dancing skills acquired during the year

Fee: £7 per class for RSCDS members, £9 per class for non-RSCDS members

Underground: South Kensington, Sloane Square

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

Buses: 11, 22, 19, 49, 328, 319, 345 Park Walk is in the [Ultra Low Emission Zone \(ULEZ\)](#)

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

Contact: Margaret Moore:
classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Autumn Term 2022

Wednesday 21 September - 30 November

7.00 - 9.00pm

Half-term Wednesday 26 October

Beginners and Improvers

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

Technique Class for Intermediate and Advanced Dancers

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

Christmas Party: 7 December

St Columba's Church

Upper Hall, Pont St, London SW1X 0BD

All sessions 2.30 - 4.30pm

Summer Term 2022

Wednesdays 8, 15, 22 and 29 June

Autumn Term 2022

Wednesday 21 September - 30 November

Half-term Wednesday 26 October

Mixed Ability Dance Group

led by Simon Wales

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

Fee: £10 per session to recorded music

Underground: Knightsbridge, Sloane Square

Buses: 19, 22, 137, 452, C1

Pont Street is in the [Ultra Low Emission Zone \(ULEZ\)](#)

For details contact Margaret Moore
classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Do you love Scottish country dancing but prefer not to come into Central London for evening classes or dances? If so, the London Branch Mixed Ability afternoon group might be just what you need.

The group meets from 2.30-4.30pm every Wednesday in term time at the Upper Hall, St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street. Having been led for 20 years by Jeni Rutherford, until her retirement at the end of 2021, the Mixed Ability group has enjoyed guest teachers Simon Wales, Jane Rose and Roy Southall. From the summer term onwards, Simon Wales will be Jeni's long term replacement.

The Wednesday afternoon sessions are suitable for dancers who already have some experience of Scottish dancing - even if several years (or decades!) ago. Whilst it is low impact, with less emphasis on steps, for example, it is a high interest class which often explores interesting and unusual dances, keeping the group on their toes figuratively if not always quite so literally!

If you are looking for an opportunity to dance in the afternoon, do consider giving the Mixed Ability Group a try. It is a very friendly and sociable session with good company, good teaching, good conversation in the tea break and usually quite a bit of laughter.

Richmond

Richmond Library Annexe, Quadrant Road, Richmond TW9 1DH

Summer Term 2022

Wednesdays 8, 15, 22 June

Autumn Term 2022

Wednesday 21 September - 30 November

7.30 - 9.30pm

Half-term Wednesday 26 October

Beginners and Improvers

with teacher Judith Jones

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

Fee: £6 per class to recorded music

Underground/Train: Richmond

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

For details contact Margaret Moore
classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Families in London Dance Scottish

The Family Class is set to restart in the Autumn. In the meantime, please direct any requests for children's activities to:
classes@rscdslondon.org.uk



Members of the Mixed Ability Dance Group with teacher, Jane Rose (second from the left)

Branch Committee Report: Branch Secretary, Mel Rowland



The Committee met online on 15 March. The Chair, Joanne Lawrence began by observing that all classes were continuing to do well in terms of weekly attendance and, the Beginners classes at Park Walk and Richmond, had welcomed a number of new dancers since the beginning of term. Some of the new dancers have definitely been bitten by the Scottish dancing bug as they have recently become London Branch members and enrolled onto the RSCDS Summer School in August. It is really encouraging to know that there will be a large London Branch contingent at St Andrews this year.

Treasurer, Simon Wales, then provided an update on the Branch finances and asked the Committee to vote on several proposals which had been discussed at the Convenors' budget meeting (held on 9 March), thereby setting the budget for the forthcoming year. These included supporting activities aimed at encouraging younger people to participate in the Branch. Committee members agreed to allocate funds to relaunch the Family Class in the 2022-23 season and financially support Project 23. Joanne presented an overview of the proposed activities, aimed at attracting dancers in their 20s to mid 30s, and confirmed that marketing of the Project was ready to begin.

Committee members then turned their attention to the sub-committee convenors' reports. Classes convenor, Jenny Kendrick confirmed the term dates for 2022-2023 and has begun to book teachers and musicians. It was with real sadness that the Committee heard of Jenny's decision to step down from the Committee at the AGM. Joanne thanked Jenny for all the hard work she had contributed to the Branch since 2015.

The good news is that Jenny has passed the baton to Margaret Moore who will work alongside Jenny for the next few months in planning next year's classes.

There are plenty of events for Branch members and friends to look forward to during next season. On 13 August we hope to be celebrating HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a picnic in Kensington Gardens. The Committee, in conjunction with other South-East Branches, is planning events across the region to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the RSCDS in 2023. One of the celebration events we are planning for London is a tea dance which we think will be a very popular choice. The date and venue are still to be confirmed. As part of the Centenary, the RSCDS will be publishing a celebration book of dances (Book 53). Vice Chair, Jim Cook announced the three dances which were submitted by London Branch members to be considered for submission into the celebration book. They are: *London Nine-O* by Lizzie Conder, *1923* by Mervyn Short and *London Town* by Samantha Schad.

The last main agenda item discussed at the Committee meeting was the Branch AGM which the Committee were delighted to confirm will be held back at Pont Street on 11 June, followed by the End of Season dance. The review of the Branch's year, compiled by Chair Joanne Lawrence is enclosed, and the Annual Accounts and other AGM documents will be available to Branch members, prior to the AGM, on our web site. The Committee decided to live stream the AGM for those unable to attend in person. (Details of the link are provided in the AGM Notice alongside).

The Committee agreed that there was plenty for the Branch to look forward to in the coming months. We are planning a range of entertaining events to appeal to our members and friends and to encourage and strengthen our membership. We hope to see many of you at the AGM in June.

Inside the RSCDS

Management Board: Simon Wales

The Management Board of the RSCDS has recently updated its Strategic Plan for 2020-2024 and the four aims are listed below:

Aim 1 - To promote Scottish dancing globally as a fun, friendly and healthy activity

- Encourage and enable the Society at all levels to be more outward-facing
- Promote the health and well-being aspects of Scottish dance
- Ensure our activities are open and accessible
- Implement the marketing strategy
- Use the Centenary celebrations to promote the fun of SCD

Aim 2 - To help branches promote Scottish dancing in their area

- Provide information, advice and encouragement to Branches, and also Affiliated Groups and members
- Facilitate efficient two-way communication between Coates Crescent and Branches
- Promote networking and collaboration among Branches
- Encourage participation by all Branches in a worldwide day of dance, and other 2023 Centenary activities

Aim 3 - To provide appropriate support for Scottish dance teachers and musicians

- More communication with teachers to provide information and development
- Embed the training for teachers of social dancing
- Give greater access to music courses
- Promote the use of live music

Aim 4 - To strengthen RSCDS governance and finance

- Ensure the RSCDS follows best practice in charity governance, its management structure is fit for purpose and its decision-making processes are effective
- Greater range of candidates coming forward for the Board and Committees
- More diversified income streams

Day School 2022

Advance Notice

Saturday 15 October 2022

Paddington Academy,
Marylands Road,
London W9 2DR

Change
of venue

Teachers (in alphabetical order):

Dave Hall
Pat Houghton
Kate Gentles
Judy Valvona

Musicians (in alphabetical order):

Adam Brady
Barbara Manning
Ken Martlew
Ian Robertson

Musicians' Workshop led by: Luke Brady

Evening Dance with Ceilidh items:
Luke Brady and the Day School Musicians

Classes to suit everyone. DO NOT MISS IT!!
Full details in the next *Reel*

Summer Tuesdays 2022

SUMMER TUESDAYS ARE BACK!

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

Superb bands every Tuesday throughout
the summer
Tuesday 28 June - Tuesday 13 September
7.30 - 10.30pm

Admission £12 (Payment by card only)
Details of bands and programmes can be
found at

www.summertuesdays.co.uk
For further information, contact:
summertuesdays22@gmail.com





CD Review: Jeremy Hill

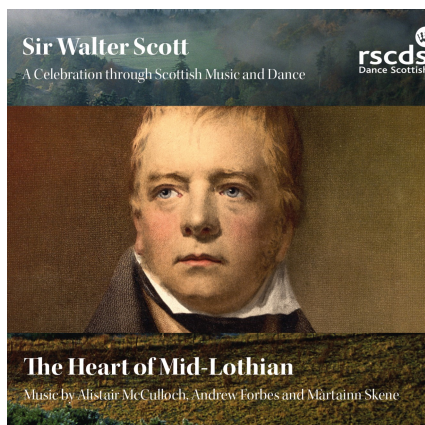


The Heart of Mid-Lothian: music by Alistair McCulloch, Andrew Forbes and Màrtainn Skene Book (£13.50) and CD (currently £10.60 plus P&P) via rscds.org/blog/heart-mid-lothian

The Heart of Midlothian (8x32R), *Reuben Butler* (8x32J), *Jeanie Deans' Strathspey* (8x32S), *The Laird of Dumbiedike's Favorite* (8x32R), *Madge Wildfire's Strathspey* (8x32S), *Madge Wildfire's Reel* (8x32R), *Kenilworth* (8x24J and 4x32J versions), *The Pirate* (8x24R and 4x32R versions), *Set of Jigs* (8x32), *Set of Reels* (8x32), *Set of Strathspeys* (3x32), *Set of Waltzes* (4x32)

In parallel with classical music's increasing interest in historically informed performance, there have been several explorations in recent years of the Scottish dance band sound at the turn of the 19th century, a highly fertile and active period for dance and music publication. Back in 2016, Professor (and pianist) David McGuinness and Concerto Caledonia shone a light on the role of the cello in Nathaniel Gow's Dance Band, alongside fiddle and piano. Their CD was an excellent showcase for the research (see *The Reel* 295), and they have also run evenings of dances for their version of the Gow Band - I've been sorry not to be able to get to any of them so far.

Amongst others, Alasdair Fraser, Muriel Johnstone and Natalie Haas have also presented traditional Scottish music as a fiddle, piano and cello trio (for example on their *Legacy of the Scottish Fiddle, Volume 2*). That was largely through medleys of tunes, for listening, rather than sets for dancing - though one could be forgiven for wanting to move back the furniture and fit dances to the wonderful playing.

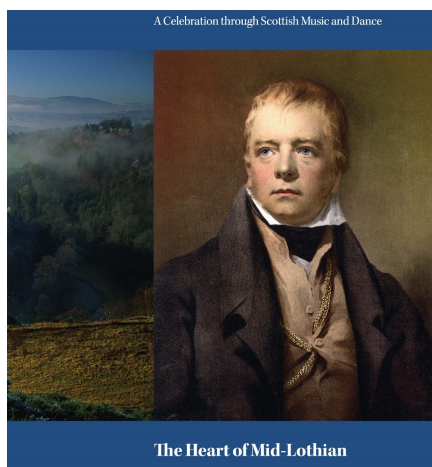


This recording, however, is specifically designed to accompany the book, in honour of the 250th anniversary (in 2021) of Sir Walter Scott's birth. At the same time as aptly presenting the 19th century piano trio sound, it does so in a form and at a tempo suitable for modern audiences to dance full-length dances, complete with chords at the beginning and end, and with tunes structured in a way that modern dancers will recognise. It is a combination that works superbly well.

Alistair McCulloch's fiddle provides a strong lead throughout, and I loved his stylish articulation and ornamentation. The piano and cello act as active, varied and rhythmic harmonic partners. With Màrtainn Skene on cello, Andrew Forbes is not vamping in the way that one would hear in a typical Scottish dance band today, but they are nonetheless providing real impetus for reels, jigs and strathspeys alike.

I also enjoyed the sets of songs for strathspeys, led off with *O My Luve is like a Red, Red Rose*, and waltzes that conclude the disc. Alternative tunes have been drawn from the period, and match perfectly, though I was surprised to hear the familiar original tune for *The Nurseryman* appear in the middle of a set.

The dances included in the book are modern interpretations of the dance instructions of the time, with two versions included for dances that come out as 24 bar dances for two couples, given how such dances are less common these days. Versions of *Madge Wildfire's Strathspey* and *The Laird of Dumbiedike's Favorite* were prepared in the early days of the Society and published respectively in books 9 and 12 of the RSCDS, but here they have been reconsidered in light of what we know now. We hope to have a chance to test out and report on the alternatives for a future issue.



Walter Scott book (above) and CD cover (left)

Both book and CD are beautifully produced, and together provide fascinating insights into the life of Sir Walter Scott; the historical context; the associations of dance with his literature; the history of dance and modern interpretation of dance instructions; and the nature of dance bands and music of the time. Many thanks are due in particular to Jimmie Hill, Angela Young and Peter Knapman for bringing this project to life in such a colourful and attractive way.

The subtitle is *Sir Walter Scott: A celebration through Scottish Music and Dance*, and the publications wonderfully live up to that celebratory billing.

Highly recommended!

Bands

CALEDONIAN REELERS

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

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

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

Open Air Dancing

The Branch plans to run informal open air dancing during the summer in Kensington Gardens (by the bandstand near the Round Pond) on Saturdays 13, 20 and 27 August 2022 from 2.00 - 4.00pm.

An MC will guide everyone through a programme of Scottish country and ceilidh dances. Everyone with or without experience of Scottish dancing is very welcome. Bring your family and friends, or just bring yourself (and a picnic if you wish) and enjoy dancing to some wonderful music.

Admission is free. Please put the dates in your diary and do come along - we look forward to seeing you there! If the weather is bad, we may have to cancel the dancing. Please check our website rscdslondon.org.uk or Facebook page [facebook.com/RSCDS](https://www.facebook.com/RSCDS).



Dancing by the bandstand in Kensington Gardens in 2018

Where is This?

Answer to 'where is this?' on p1: Castle Menzies is the ancestral seat of Clan Menzies. The rebuilt sixteenth century castle in the Highlands in Perthshire near Aberfeldy was where many early Scottish country dance manuscripts were discovered by (R)SCDS including the reels *The Montgomeries' Rant* and *General Stuart's Reel*.

Do you have any dance name related photos? Email: editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

Literary Links: Sir Walter Scott in the Context of Scottish Country Dancing: Dr Alice Stainer



Alice Stainer, a poet and lecturer in Classics and English for a visiting student programme at the University of Oxford, specialising in nineteenth-century literature, takes us deeper into the works of Sir Walter Scott.

A visitor to Edinburgh cannot fail to notice the iconic gothic spire of the world's second largest monument to a writer. In the year of the 250th anniversary of Sir Walter Scott's birth (2021), the RSCDS has produced its own celebratory monument, through music and dance, to one of the most influential figures in Scotland's cultural landscape. Here I shall offer a brief consideration of the links between Scott's work and the contents of this new book in the context of his literary significance.



Walter Scott Monument in Edinburgh

While Scott made his name as a poet, it is probably fair to say that it is as a novelist that he has been most influential. At a period when the novel had less cultural cachet than poetry, he endowed it with a new weightiness whilst establishing and popularising the genre we now know as the historical novel. Imbued from a young age with the stories and ballads of the Borders and going on to develop an interest in Highland culture, Scott had a comprehensive grasp of his raw materials and a facility for melding history with fiction, exploiting the ambiguous borders between the two. His novels characteristically set involving stories of individuals against the epic backdrop of a society's transitional moments, pitting the allure of an enduring past against various progressive forces. He was particularly interested in the phases of development through which any society passed, whilst asserting that there are "passions common to men in all stages of society", as he famously phrases it at the beginning of *Waverley*. That sense of the past as a different country that is also strangely familiar is one of his most profound legacies.

Although his somewhat prolix Romantic style can seem archaic today, he was

widely and enthusiastically read as the nineteenth century progressed. Momentous developments in the fields of palaeontology, geology, and evolutionary biology meant that the Victorians were particularly sensitised to evaluations of their place in time, and it is difficult to overstate his influence upon the literary culture of a century that had a passion for history. Nor was his influence limited to Great Britain, but extended to Europe and America, with writers such as Hugo, Balzac and Hawthorne owing a debt to his skilful interweaving of intimate history and large-scale historical movement. Thus, Scottish literature and history shifted from margins to cultural mainstream.

But how does this literary significance translate into dance? The RSCDS book centres on the seventh of Scott's so-called Waverley novels, *The Heart of Mid-Lothian*, published under a pseudonym in 1818. It is a tale of religious conviction, justice and class conflict set against the tumultuous background of eighteenth-century Scotland, now often considered his best novel. Despite its contemporary reception being less than universally rapturous, the fact that a leaflet of dances celebrating the novel and its characters was published in Edinburgh in 1820 is surely an indication of its popular success and illustrates the significant crossover from the specifically literary to the broader cultural landscape that is one of Scott's special achievements.

The RSCDS publication forges close links to the work itself through plot synopses and cameos of the eponymous characters of the dances, bringing them alive through direct quotations from the novels as well as images. *The Heart of Mid-Lothian's* memorable heroine Jeanie Deans posts two firsts amongst Scott's major protagonists: she is both the first woman and the first to come from a lower-class background. Contemporary critics registered surprise that she was rendered so interesting and indeed engaging, so she certainly deserves to have her own dance! The courage of the colourful but tragic Madge Wildfire, battling the double stigma of being a fallen and 'mad' woman and ultimately falling prey to the mob mentality Scott dramatises so effectively, is immortalised in two dances.

What seems particularly apt about this publication is that Scottish country dancing is a form that reveres its history whilst being unafraid to remake itself according to progressive ideas in terms of both content and social context. These are complex negotiations which I think Scott would have appreciated, and the book shows itself to be alert to them through its staging of dialogue between the original published form of the dances and their contemporary reconstructions; for when we take our own turn in the dance, it is set in the context of its rich history, of its conservation and development. In many ways it is Scott who taught us to explore and appreciate such interactions.

Lives Remembered

A Lifelong Dancer

From Stephen Webb

Ian Fraser Williams

7 June 1933 - 25 March 2022



Ian, from a Scots family from Gilmerton in the outskirts of Edinburgh, was born in Leicester but the family settled very soon after in Chelmsford where he was brought up. During World War Two Ian was evacuated to the Lake District. He gained his degree in chemistry from John Cass University and became an industrial chemist. Ian met Gill at dancing at the Inter-varsity Club in London in the 1960s, they moved to Hemel Hempstead in 1968 and had a son, Michael. Gill and Ian joined the Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club in 1978; they enjoyed attending balls and club evenings. He served as club treasurer in 2000 and, as a certificated teacher* in his own right, was a club MC for many years which he gave up in 2011 when he was awarded Honorary Life Membership. Ian always had a cheery manner - 'affable' describes him well. Gill and Ian were devoted to each other and were caring people having diverse interests by supporting DENS, a food bank charity, they were heavily involved in their Boxmoor church of St John's and as ushers for The Swan Theatre in High Wycombe were always promoting productions. In 1993 when Ian was 60 Ken Martlew devised a reel called *Ian Hasnae Crossed the Braes* with music which he also composed and which our club has been dancing in recent times in Ian's memory (it can be found on SCDDDB). It really goes without saying, Ian will be missed by all who knew him.

*Ian, a London Branch life member, was taught at Bolt Court in Fleet Street, London by Miss Frances Stamp in 1968 and 1969 when he respectively took his preliminary and final teacher's certificates examined by Miss Milligan on one of her many visits to London, (see *Reels* 103 and 108).

A Delightful Lady

Mary Robertson



At the time of going to print, we are deeply saddened to hear of the death of Mary Robertson, wife of former Chair Jeff Robertson, and until recently an active dancer in London, Sussex and former member of the MacLennan Scottish Group. Our heartfelt condolences go to Jeff and the family at this difficult time. A full obituary will be in *Reel* 321.



Ian Muir of Prestwick and his band with London Highland Club President, Peter Forrow at the LHC Annual Dance on 5 February. L to R - Duncan Black, Bob Parsons, Keith Anderson, Ian Muir, Neil MacMillan



Beginners' Class dancer Andrew McClean proudly displaying his very first pair of dancing shoes



Combined Societies' Dance 2 April - above, in full flight, and below, engrossed in an expert recap by MC Catriona Bennett of her own dance, *Frank Bennett's Jig*



Combined Societies' Dance 2 April 2022 at St Columba's Church



Park Walk Easter Party with MC Simon Wales (above and below)



Graham Hamilton addressing the haggis at Wembley and District Scottish Association's Burns Night 28 January 2022



First couple Robert Bateson and Liz Mitchell dancing *The Duchess Tree* at Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club's Annual Tea Dance on 3 April 2022



Dancers at Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club's Annual Tea Dance in Bovington Memorial Hall, with Mollie Konigsberger and Ken Martlew on stage



Michael Nolan addressing the haggis at Surbiton Caledonian Society's Burns Night 21 January 2022

Winter School First-timer: Stephen Hartley



After 18 months with merely an online Burns Night celebration to remind me of the reels, strathspeys and jigs of my recent past, a last minute opportunity to attend the RSCDS Winter School in Pitlochry for the first time was a chance too good to miss. A holiday in the highlands was exactly what the doctor ordered for my mental and physical well-being!



Local delicacy resisted by Stephen...

I broke my *Train Journey North* on *The Flying Scotsman* with an overnight stay beside the *Flowers of Edinburgh*, resisting the charms of the deep fried Mars bars of Fleshmarket, but very much appreciating the whisky emporium in Old Town. Refreshed, and after a sprint around Holyrood and *Arthur's Seat* in spectacularly blustery conditions, I arrived at our hotel in Perthshire.

My initial apprehension at not knowing anyone else amongst the 120 or so attendees soon diminished. All were very welcoming and patient with me, the understudy, and I learned plenty from those who were clearly Winter School regulars of many years' standing. There is much to be gained from dancing with a group of experienced dancers, many of them teachers themselves who, with a discreet gesture, nudge or shout of "Reel!" at the appropriate moment are able to ensure that one keeps up with the action! Of course, two years of Davinia Miln's tuition stood me in very good stead to maximise my enjoyment of the week, and I am very grateful for this grounding.



Stephen and friends, Lizzie Conder and fellow first-timer, Jenna Sisson

It is perhaps a cliché, but I found it incredible how quickly strangers became friends; to which my bolstered list of Facebook contacts with a shared passion for all things Scottish is testament. What a wonderful feeling to have gone on holiday and come back with new friends! Invitations to dances and schools around the country, and indeed Europe, soon followed. I began to appreciate both what an international community the RSCDS membership is, and how genuinely and generously the Scots embrace the enthusiasm of dancers from outside of Scotland for their culture and traditions.

Daytimes were filled with lessons and hiking through the snow to the local Munro, Ben Vrackie. Well almost, they did not give us that much free time! The evening programme involved dances, ceilidhs, and conversation.

Having spent a week of practising daily, I felt that my technique showed improvement. Each teacher brought their own style and perspective to class and this enabled me to focus on many aspects of my dancing. It is interesting that I now have vivid memories of not only what I was taught, but also by whom!

As well as the hotel, the Town Hall was pressed into service as a teaching venue, and the walk back gave a chance to explore the attractive small town with its tearooms and shopping. Amusingly, on one day I was stopped by a local (judging by his accent) who asked me about my kilt and just what the occasion was. I hope he was not too disappointed to hear that I was English, but I was proud to spread the word about the RSCDS - to a Scot!



At Blair Castle - Stephen with Mike Aylward and Jane and Brian Rose

The highlight of the week was the Blair Castle ball, where I found myself dancing the *Duke of Atholl's Reel* in the Duke of Atholl's ballroom, in a kilt and highland wear. The Duke himself could not be part of my set on this particular occasion, although I am quite sure he sent his apologies to the Winter School Director!

This was, undoubtedly, a most enjoyable, fulfilling and well-organised week which must have taken an enormous amount of planning and work for so many people, both seen and behind the scenes. A big thank you to them all, and especially to the teachers and musicians under the charismatic leadership of William Williamson.

Having promised to come north of the border again for the Summer School in St Andrews, I returned home with the additional weight of fond memories, a set of highland wear, and a copy of *The Manual of Scottish Country Dancing* to be read before my arrival at Euston. I smiled as I reflected on how glad I felt at having taken my first steps through the gates of Park Walk School nearly four years ago and wondered where this hobby might lead to in future years.

To anyone considering attending Winter or Summer School, I can only recommend that you do so; pack your suitcase and enjoy everything that the Scottish culture, landscape, and people, have to offer. Who knows what your luggage might contain on your way home...!



Winter School in Pictures



Lizzie Conder, Fiona Mackie, Sue Porter and Betty Bott let their hair down with the Macarena in the hotel lounge



Dancing in the Atholl Palace Hotel



London Branch members Tom and Betty Arroll

Dancing in Unexpected Places: Brenda Amanda

Scottish Country Dancing - Kampala vs London!



I was introduced to Scottish country dancing as a new student at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland in September 2012. After a bit of coaxing from my friend Carol Luwaga who remembered the dances from her days at Gayaza High School in Kampala, we set off for the ceilidh at Hillhead Hall.

Little did I know it was only the first of many great ceilidhs for years to come! Other ceilidh invitations followed from new Scottish friends, Jackie and Doug Ross, who seemed to know when and where all the ceilidhs in Aberdeenshire were happening!

When I returned to Uganda in September 2013, I thought Scottish dancing was behind me. At a job interview in October 2013, I was asked what I had loved most about Scotland, and of course said I had particularly enjoyed the ceilidhs in Aberdeen. Robert Baiget, who was on the interviewing panel, told me there was a Scottish dancing group in Kampala! I did not get the job, but I have been dancing almost every week since then.

Robert introduced me to The Caledonian Society of Uganda (CSU) which meets once a week for a social evening of lots of fun and a bit of dancing. The CSU has been in existence since 1907. The CSU members and activities have changed over the years, with the composition today being a good mix of Ugandans and expatriates from all over the world, with only a few Scots!

In Kampala, I danced nearly every week of the year at the Thursday evening dances which are hosted at a local bar and restaurant (Dancing Cup, Bugolobi). It might be noted by a keen observer that we do more talking and drinking than dancing, but I have never been known to be a keen observer. CSU is lucky to have a committed instructor in Eric Walford who each week takes the gathered dancers of all levels of expertise through a great list of 'easy' dances. Some of the favourites include *Postie's Jig*, *Mairi's Wedding*, *The Reel of the 51st Division*, *Duke of Perth*, *Hamilton House*, and *J B Milne*.



The Caledonian Society of Uganda Ceilidh 2019

The CSU annual calendar of events includes two formal events - Burns Supper and St Andrews Ball; and three or four ceilidhs. The ceilidhs are informal evenings hosted at one of the CSU members' homes, and mostly potluck meals. What fun they are!

When I informed my CSU friends that I would be moving to London for one year, I was assured there were lots of Scottish dancing clubs and I would have no trouble continuing my weekly dancing. So, I did a Google search when I moved to Kew in February 2022 and found that the Chiswick Scottish Country Dancing Club would be closest to me. I made contact and was informed they were even closer to me, dancing at St Luke's Church, Kew. I was sent through a list of the evening dances and although I did not recognise them, I knew I would manage to have a fun evening. I did not realise I had been invited to the very advanced level dancing evening. I wrote back to my CSU friends the next day asking them to imagine an evening of only demonstration dances!

For our formal events (St Andrews Ball and Burns Supper), the CSU will have a demonstration dance and I am sometimes a member of the demonstration team. The demo team will always meet to practice at least three times before the actual event, and even then, it is tough for me. So, imagine how my head was reeling (pun intended) at my first attempt at Scottish country dancing in London with a line-up of *John of Bon Accord*, *Father Connolly's Jig*, *Deer Friends*, *Polharrow Burn*, *Midnight Oil*, and *Barbara's Favourite*!



The Caledonian Society of Uganda Club Caledonian Ball 2019

The advanced dances aside, I am used to Eric calling and guiding me through each step of the dance - *rights and lefts*, *corners*, *arches*, *figure of eight*, etc. I found that there is no calling through the dances. And a totally different definition of 'walk-through'. In Kampala, walk-through means all four couple sets walking through the dance before the music is played. So, I wrote to Eric thanking him for all his years of patiently walking us through each dance, for each couple in the set, and calling through each dance so we always know where our next step should be.

The members of the Chiswick Club, notably Iris Ronayne, were all very patient with me, even as I messed up their lovely flawless dances, and encouraged me to sign up for the London

Branch Beginners' and Improvers' Class in Richmond, taught by Judith Jones. I have attended a couple of the basic classes and I am enjoying them. At my first class, we danced *The Reel of the 51st Division* and I was so happy to dance to a familiar tune as this is one of our favourites in Kampala.

One of the basic formations taught at my first evening class with Judith was the *circle*. I wrote to my CSU friends telling them we had been dancing the *circle* wrong all these years! It is great learning to dance properly, starting with the basics but I have learnt that unlearning what I have known to be correct for ten years is not an easy task. I am enjoying both the Wednesday basic classes in Richmond and the advanced classes in Kew. I believe I will return to Kampala a much better dancer than I arrived in London.

And I cannot end without encouraging anyone visiting Kampala to turn up at The Dancing Cup, Bugolobi for a great evening of fun and Scottish country dancing!



A warm welcome awaits from the Caledonian Society of Uganda Club at The Dancing Cup, Bugolobi

Letter to *The Reel*

Dear Editor

I attended Summer Tuesdays regularly during the 15 years I lived and worked in London, and have many fond memories of Graham and Caroline's contributions. After a couple of years I felt equipped with a good selection of the more popular dances, and this gave me the confidence to spread my wings even further around the South East. They should be justifiably proud of their achievements.

Robert Morgan, Winchester

From the Editor: Simon Wales

Is the balance of information, news, reports and pictures, reviews and research about right? This is a question I ask every issue and can never answer satisfactorily.

Please let me know, and more importantly send in material, reviews, pictures of dancing in the area.

I am always open to ideas and suggestions - it is your magazine after all. Just drop me a line at editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

An International Dancer

from Dan and Anthony Reinstein and Lindsey Rousseau

Jerome Alan Reinstein

30 July 1932 - 29 January 2022



Born in the Bronx, New York, Jerry, as he was known to all, received his undergraduate degree in pharmacy from Columbia University, and MSc and PhD in pharmaceutical sciences from the

University of Wisconsin and spent most of his working life as a pharmaceutical research scientist outside the USA.

He started Scottish dancing in San Francisco in 1967 and, having moved to Paris in 1976 he joined the Tartan Plaidie, at the time an Affiliated Group of the RSCDS. He was a very active and dynamic member and persuaded them to become the Paris Branch in 1984, becoming their first Chairman. He became a qualified teacher in 1987, just when his work brought him to London.

By then he was a well-known dancer, not only in Paris and London, but in Scotland and across Europe. He had met Danielle in Paris in 1980 and they married and settled in Chiswick, maintaining Paris as their principal Branch. He helped develop strong links between Paris and London Branches including celebrations of the centenary in 2004 of the Entente Cordiale on both sides of the Channel.

He was RSCDS Paris Branch's representative on the Executive Council and member of the General Purposes Committee until the formation of the Management Board, on which he served for its first four years. He was one of 32 founding members of the International Branch in 2004 - by 2020 there were over 400 members on five continents and in over 27 countries!

He joined London Branch's committee too, and he and Danielle represented the Branch in the Demonstration Team for three years. He became the first Chairman of the Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club and steered it to becoming an Affiliated Group.



Jerry (left) dancing with the RSCDS London Branch Demonstration team

Jerry gave generously of his time to all aspects of dancing. He was friends with dancers (experienced and newcomers alike) and musicians. He was never short of ideas, and yet was able to be realistic. He was an inclusive person and that extended to his dancing.

It is no wonder that Jerry was awarded the RSCDS Scroll of Honour, for services worldwide, in 2014, and in London too, he and Danielle received well-deserved recognition when they became Honorary Vice Presidents of London Branch.

A devoted father, Jerry was very proud of his two children and three grandchildren. He died at home under the loving care of Danielle. He will be remembered by all who knew him as a gracious, generous, gentle man, fiercely intelligent and hardworking, who loved to laugh and enjoyed life to the full.



Jerry and Danielle, his wife of almost 40 years, happened to live exactly opposite the hall where the newly formed Chiswick Club had chosen to dance. Having seen our banner, they joined us the very next Sunday, announcing modestly that they danced in Paris. What they didn't tell us was that they actually ran the RSCDS Paris Branch and were already well known figures on the international scene. They joined us as ordinary members, but it was soon apparent that they were anything but ordinary and soon became members of our teaching team. Jerry later became Chairman of the Club.

Jerry was a very good looking man and an elegant dancer, two attributes that might have led to him to dance only with other top dancers. Jerry however sought out some of our most hesitant dancers and encouraged them to have faith in themselves. Although we will miss you Jerry, we will never forget you.

Kay Senior, founder Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club

The Ornithological Dancer

from Nino Harvey Jones and Stephen Webb

Ian Courtney Julian Galbraith

18 August 1925 - 13 February 2022



Ian was born in Nathiagali, then India. He got a first-class degree with honours in zoology from New College, Oxford. Ian was an RAF navigator at the end of the war. He moved with his family to Berkhamsted in 1971

to take up the post of Director specialising in ornithology at the Tring Zoological Museum, when they also joined the Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club. Ian, his wife Ebba and twins Nino and Janet were taught highland and Scottish country dancing in Wimbledon from 1965 by Wil and Kathleen Raffan.

Ian was club president from 1973 to 1975 and an MC up until he found recalling dances difficult. In 2014 he was made an Honorary Life Member, only one of eight. He was a demonstration dancer for many years, enjoying performing at various old people's homes, Brownie groups and fêtes, often reciting the humorous and formidable Scottish poem entitled 'The Lum Hat Wantin' the Croon' from

memory or speaking enthusiastically about Scottish dress thus entralling the audience in the process. He loved dressing up for the club's Highland Balls wearing an amazing plaid and brooch and took a pride in dancing the dance programme well.

For 40 years BSRC adorned its ball walls with clan coats of arms but their appearance became tired. So, for the Ruby Anniversary Ball the club agreed to presidential plaques to replace them. This project was Ian's brainchild and after doing the research, fifteen were made by club members which are mostly in use to this day.



**BSRC Ashley Green c. 1977
Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord
Stephen seen on the right of Ian**

For the Golden Jubilee, a book of dances was published and Ian's two were included called *Children of the Briton* and *The Black Bear* in which the rather theatrical 'Hoi' is shouted by dancers on bar 29 the last time through, as was the case when The Cameronians returned to barracks. Ian contributed to *The Reel* by expressing his forthright views through letters from 1991 until 2008. Eight in total, on such diverse issues as the poussette, kilt repairs, stepping down, covering in reels, corruption of traditional dances and proliferation of new ones, the distinction between a woman and a lady - with such topics I think you will agree they are worth searching out and re-reading. For Ian and Ebba's 50th Wedding Anniversary a dance demonstration was given to them in their honour of *Galbraith Gold*, a hornpipe devised for them by Ken Martlew.

Ian had a clear, unclouded way of thinking. He was an academic and an intellectual and invariably had a definite opinion on any subject, which he shared with confidence.

He was a kind and considerate person too. After the loss of Ebba four years earlier in 2014, Ian moved to Bognor Regis to be close to his eldest daughter Angela. Ian would walk on the seafront with his dog, Honey. He seemed happy, but more recently COVID-19 caused him to feel very isolated in lockdown and his health steadily declined.

Ian, aged 96, passed away in hospital in Chichester. He made his mark in his profession and in Scottish dancing. He was unique in so many ways and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Lives Remembered

A Distinctive Style

from Joanne Lawrence

Deborah Ainger

1942 - 9 December 2021



Deborah came to Scottish dance late in life, beginning classes just over a decade ago after stumbling across the London Branch open air dancing in Kensington Gardens one summer. She quickly grew to love it and danced with St Columba's Dancers and the Gay Gordons as well as two London Branch classes on Wednesdays, the Mixed Ability class at St Columba's in the afternoon and the Technique class at Park Walk in the evening.

Her wide legged trousers (she abhorred dresses), fabulous large rings (a taste she inherited from her mother) and her atheist badge (worn she said, in the same spirit as others might wear a cross or a head covering to express their personal belief) all combined to create Deborah's distinctive style.

She was a woman of many interests and, after retiring from work, she maintained a high level of physical and intellectual activity. In addition to dancing, she rode regularly, latterly at stables in Wimbledon, was an active member of Humanists UK and a director of the management company for her apartment block. On the rare occasion she missed a Wednesday class, it was usually to visit an exhibition or attend a lecture and she enjoyed rigorous scientific and political discussions with her many friends.

Although Deborah attended the open air dancing in Kensington Gardens and danced with the Gay Gordons during summer 2021, she did not return to classes. She had begun to feel under the weather and finally, after seeing her GP in November 2021, was admitted to hospital for tests and diagnosed with stomach cancer. She died on 9 December having, in true Deborah style, taken care to ensure all her affairs were in order. Her funeral was private in accordance with her wishes, but we understand that a memorial event may be planned by friends and neighbours for later this year.

Deborah had a forthright manner, strong personal beliefs and great integrity. She was kind, self-deprecating, always interested and interesting, a valued friend and fun to be with. We laughed a lot with her, and she will be missed.



Deborah in Kensington Gardens August 2021

Scone Maker Extraordinaire

from Margaret Shaw

George Potts

9 March 1940 - March 2022



George was educated in Perth. Fast forward to the seventies when I met him in Mary Stoker's class. I do not know when he came to London or started working at the MOD but he started in the typing pool; his outstanding office skills were soon recognised and he became a PA. With this post came the keys to the department's stationary cupboard, which he ruled over with an iron rod; no new pencil without the old stub! He eventually received the Imperial Service Medal for his contribution to the MOD.

Our friendship was built on dancing. We were two of the twelve founder members of the Cairngorm Dancers. We went to Summer Schools together and one year George was delighted to be in the Highland Demonstration in Younger Hall. After that there was no stopping him - he was stout St James of Spain in *The Sword Dance of Papa Stour* at an Easthampstead RSCDS Weekend School, an extra in the film *Crush*, plus TV shows *Rough Necks* and *Mark Lamarr's Leaving the 20th Century*.



Cairngorm Dancers - George Potts, Judy Rambridge, Mary Barker, Gill Russell, Rita Marlow, Margaret Shaw and Peter Knight

In 1983 he qualified as a teacher and taught an Intermediate Class at Marlborough School. When Marie Jamieson retired, he took over her Mixed Ability Class at Morley College. George also found time to join the London Branch Committee and took on the job of Secretary from 1987 until 1995. He took a well-earned break and came back again in 2009, latterly on the Classes sub-committee.

Somewhere along the way he joined St Columba's Dancers and was soon elected to the Catering Committee. He was a useful pair of hands in the kitchen at Day Schools, dances and Church lunches, and was well known for his scones. George's scones only needed butter and jam but no cream (must be a Scottish thing).

George had a cocker spaniel called Smokey, which he doted on, even though he cost him a small fortune in vet's bills.

He is maybe best remembered for his sharp, but not unkind tongue - he may be no longer with us, but we all have our memories of time spent in his company.

Storyteller and Chatterbox

from Dave Hall

Raymond Dyke

8 May 1939 - 31 January 2022



Storyteller, chatterbox, team player, helper, fixer - some of the terms that spring to mind when I think of Ray. Ray was a family friend, godfather to me, best man to my aunt and uncle, fellow dancer in countless teams and overseas trips, sang in my father's Scottish choir and always present at any key family events.

Ray came to Manchester in the mid-60s for his work, and was instantly part of the dancing, singing, church and family community there. His work then took him around the world, especially North Africa, Middle East and Asia.

At a time when that sort of travel was less common, Ray was intrepid and resilient at dealing with the challenges he faced, as he installed scientific equipment into nascent institutions.

It was an ideal vocation for Ray: he could get on with anyone, had a knack of being able to turn his hand to fixing anything and everything, could hold his ground when required and was rarely phased by unexpected events. As a result, he had an array of stories to accompany his ciné films and slides: they ranged from catching malaria to tuning pianos and much else besides.

On dancing trips, he was on hand with key tips for well-being (notably a regular imbibing of vodka to keep the bugs away), supportive when there were personal difficulties, fun and life and soul of the party when a bit of downtime enabled it.

After moving south to Harlow, Ray put his energies into the dancing scene in Essex and SE Herts, both with the RSCDS and mainly with Harlow Caledonian. Alongside this was his contribution to the Church of Scotland at Crown Court. His talent as a dancer and teacher, coupled with his energy and enthusiasm made him an extremely valuable part of the Scottish dance community in this area.

Ray was resilient but he was also a helper, who cared about people and was sensitive. He was positive and constructive, not dwelling when things didn't go well. I never heard him complain for long, instead focusing on how he could make things better. These qualities were the manifestation of his Christian faith - an elder for about half a century at Crown Court, Ray preferred to live out his faith rather than broadcast it.

My memories are of Ray's loud chuckle, sense of fun and unending enthusiasm for making life as positive as possible.



A series of articles from Meryl Thomson delving behind the history of some of our dances and their music. Under the spotlight this issue is *The College Hornpipe*.



The Mystery of *The College Hornpipe*

Who doesn't like a cheery hornpipe tune to lift the spirits as you dance? The RSCDS dance *The College Hornpipe* is a staple on many Scottish country dance programmes but its hornpipe tune is not the tune called *The College Hornpipe* which has been generally associated with the dance for over two centuries.

Some dances, like *None So Pretty*, are improved by the choice of stronger music. Indeed the original dance in Wilson's *Companion to the Ballroom* 1816 was a 64 bar dance with a rather dull tune, especially when needed to be played twice over for once through the dance. The dance was altered to 40 bars for RSCDS Book 19 and given a different tune which, in my opinion, fits the dance very well.

The tune *College Hornpipe* is found throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in multiple collections. Various known as *Jack the Lad* and *Sailor's Hornpipe* amongst others, one of the earliest publications in England was in Jonathan Fentum's *Compleat Tutor for the German Flute* in 1766. It seems to have frequently appeared on the stage, used for solo hornpipe dancing.

The tune was popular in England, Scotland and America. A copy was written down by a William Clarke from Lincoln in his handwritten music book from 1770 :

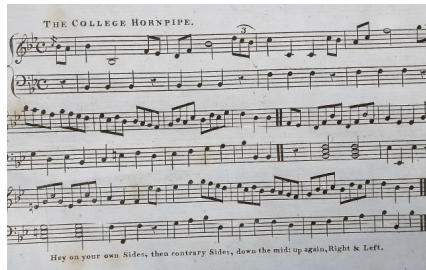


It is in North-east England-based William Vickers' tune manuscript of the same year and appears in a dance manuscript of a Nancy Shepley in Massachusetts, USA in around 1766. In Scotland we see it in Alexander McGlashan's *A Collection of Scotch Measures* c.1790 and it appears as *The Colledge Hornpipe* in *A Fourth Collection of New Strathspey Reels* by the great Scottish fiddler Robert Mackintosh c.1800.

The first occasion I have found of a dance associated with the tune is in William Boag's 1797 *A Collection of Favourite Reels & Strathspeys, By the Most Eminent Composers humbly dedicated to the Public By their most Humble Servt. The Editor*. This is the volume referred to by the RSCDS for their dance *The College*

Hornpipe published in 1957 in Book 20. Boag's dance instructions are: *First couple hands six round, three couples promenade round, then cross over two couples, lead up the middle, set cross corners and your partner and not turn.*

Purday and Button published a different version of the dance but to the same tune in their *Selection of Dances, Reels and Waltzes No 5* c.1807 in London:



The title page says their collection includes several dances composed by a Mr Bramagh. The dance is fairly standard - *hey on your own sides, then contrary sides, down the middle, up again, right and left.*

Thomas Wilson publishes a dance more similar to the RSCDS version, starting with a *circle round and back*, in his *Treasures of Terpsichore for 1809*:

College Hornpipe.
2 PARTS REPEATED.

Hands six round ↔, and back again ↔, promenade three couple ↔, and pousette two ↔.
Or thus:
The top couple swing with the right hand round the second couple, then swing with the left hand ↔, second couple do the same ↔, whole figure of your own sides ↔, and pousette

Thomas Tegg has a dance with the same *College Hornpipe* tune in his *Analysis of the London Ballroom* in 1825. His version of *College Hornpipe* starts with *swinging right hand and casting off around one couple, the second couple do the same, promenade and pousette.*

The [Traditional Tune archive](#) gives an interesting snippet of information regarding a letter to author Thomas Hardy in 1925 commenting on the reference made to *The College Hornpipe* in his novel *Under the Greenwood Tree*. Hardy replied: "I am interested to hear that you have been attracted by the old English dances, which gave me so much pleasure when I was a boy. The dance I was thinking of in 'Under the Greenwood Tree' must have been 'The College Hornpipe', as that is the only one I remember beginning with six-hands-round. I am sending you the figure as nearly as I can recall it sixty years after I last danced in it. This and other such figures have been revived on the stage here by 'The Hardy Players' (as they call themselves) since they began making plays out of my stories. Only very old country people remember the dances now. I have many such figures in old music books."

It is apparent that the tune *College Hornpipe* has been used for dances, most commonly starting with six hands round

and back, since at least 1797 and still is today by historical and English country dancers. The tune associated with the RSCDS dance, however, is something different - a tune called *Jolly Tars*. The earliest this tune seems to appear is in James Kerr's *Merry Melodies volume 4* published in the 1880s and it does not seem to have previously been associated with a dance. The mystery is why this tune was selected for a dance derived from an earlier source and which already had its own well known tune?

RSCDS Book 20 contains two dances with hornpipe music - *Captain McBride* and *The College Hornpipe* - and a total of five reel time dances. According to the RSCDS Bulletin from October 1959 the music and dances were chosen and submitted to the Publications Committee by Miss Milligan.

If the original *College Hornpipe* tune had been used it would not have been particularly similar to the tune for *Captain McBride* and in fact the *Jolly Tars* tune is far more similar in style, so this is unlikely to be a reason not to use the original. Perhaps the *College Hornpipe* tune was a victim of its own success.



Popeye statue, Segar Park, Chester Bridge, Chester, Illinois

A snippet of the tune was used in the 1930s for the credits in Popeye animated cartoons and it was partly used in the theme tune for the children's programme *Blue Peter*. And of course it has been a staple in *The Last Night of the Proms* since 1905 as part of Henry Woods' *Fantasia on British Sea Songs*, along with raucous audience participation with horns and whistles. Did this make the tune too vulgar or too well known to be used for the RSCDS dance?

Another reason could have been the link with [The Sailor's Hornpipe](#) (read the late Colin Robertson's article about the competitive dance often seen at Scottish highland games in [Reel 310](#)) which is usually danced to the *College Hornpipe* tune. Perhaps it was not considered sensible to reuse the tune for the country dance.

Of course, I can only make a guess at the reason behind the change. Perhaps simply *Jolly Tars* was preferred as a tune. If anybody can throw any more light on this, please contact [The Reel](#).

Forthcoming Events

THISTLE CLUB Musicians' & Dancers' Workshops and Dance

Saturday 3 September 2022
10.30am-4.30pm & 7.30-10.30pm
Wing Village Hall, LU7 0NN
Teacher: Gabor Turi
Musician: Phill Jones
Musician Tutor: Nicol McLaren

Workshops: Musicians £20, Dancers £16
Evening Dance £10, or £24 for both
Bring your own lunch and shared buffet
contribution

Programme: Good Hearted Glasgow, Triple Happiness, West's Hornpipe, Napier's Index, The Duchess Tree, The Reverend John MacFarlane, The Findlays' Jig, Between Yews and Willows, Anderson's Rant, The Young Accordion Man, The Nurseryman, Asilomar Romantic, Catch the Wind, Farewell to Balfour Road, The Platinum Jubilee, The Machine without Horses, The Wind that Shakes the Barley

Contact Jan Jones 07877 153259 or
jangeverybusy@gmail.com
www.thistleclub.co.uk

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB



70th Anniversary Ball with
HARWELL SCDC

Saturday 3 December 2022
7.00 - 11.30pm
Old Mill Hall, School Lane, Grove, OXON
OX12 7LB

Ian Muir and The Craigellachie Band

Full details in *The Reel* 321 or on our website

Contact: Hilary Adams
01235 528154

chairman@abingdon.org.uk
abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH Annual Ball

Saturday 22 October 2022
7.30-11.30pm

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

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Full details at a later date in
The Reel 321 or on our website

Contact: Helen Houghton-Carr
events.rscdsxfordshire@gmail.com
or 07531 469213
www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk



GERRARDS CROSS & CHALFONTS SCDC



Summer Tea Dance

Sunday 26 June 2022
2.30 - 5.45pm

Colston Hall, Memorial Centre,
East Common, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD

Ian Robertson Duo

Programme: A Highland Welcome, The Cumbrae Reel, Midsummer Common, The Rothesay Rant, The Castle of Mey, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Granville Market, The Rutland Reel, The Sailor, Miss Welsh's Reel, Slytherin House, Fisherman's Reel, Gaelforce Wind, Montparnasse, Pelorus Jack, Reel of the 51st Division

All dances will be walked through
Tickets: Adults £12, Non-dancers £6
Includes complimentary cream tea

Contact: Roger 07771 709771
or email tickets@gxchscottish.org

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB



Forthcoming dances to be held
at St Columba's Church, Pont
Street, London SW1X 0BD

Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 - 10.30pm
unless otherwise stated

25 June 2022: Summer Dance
Calum Mitchell

3 September 2022: President's Night
Calum Mitchell

Interval refreshments TBC

Details on our website:
www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so
please come along and join us for an
enjoyable evening

RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH



Summer Dancing

Wednesdays from 8th June to 24th August
2022 8.00 - 10.00pm
St. Mary's Church Hall, Park Road,
Camberley, Surrey, GU15 2SR

Contact: Christine Knox
wednesday@rscds-bhs.org.uk

Branch Strawberry Tea

Sunday 3 July 2022 2.30 - 5.30pm
Normandy Village Hall, Glaziers Lane,
Normandy GU3 2DD

Ian and Judith Muir

Dancers and ALL the family and friends are
welcome to join in with a summer blend of
dancing, entertainment and a cream tea
Contact: Deborah Draffin: 01344 776831 or
news-deborah@rscds-bhs.org.uk

Autumn Social

Saturday 1 October 2022 7.30 - 10.30pm
St Mark's Church Hall, Farnborough GU14 6TU

Dancing to recorded music
Bring and share refreshments

www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

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

If you require your information to also be changed in the SE Classes Listing on our website please contact

Jan Collings seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk or call on 07803 923036.

This is the first insertion of this cycle and the invoice for *Reel* 320 - 323 is enclosed on the reverse of the address sheet.

If you wish to cancel, or pay by bank transfer, please contact treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk

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

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

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

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS Monday Advanced class: Sept-April, 8.15-10.15pm at St Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham Without RG40 3BA. General Class: every Wednesday September-May, 8.00-10.00pm St Mary's Church Hall, Park Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2SR. Teacher: Mervyn Short. Beginners Details: Fiona Albinson, 01189 789181 or www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS Meets at The Scottish Hall, 80/82 Shelbourne Road, Charminster, Bournemouth BH8 8QZ every Wednesday morning, 10.00am-12 noon. Details: Margaret Robson, 01202 698138 or jl.robson@ntlworld.com

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

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

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

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

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

Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

Continued from p15

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

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

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

EPHING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Club nights: Mondays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at St Barnabas Church, 127 Snakes Lane East, Woodford IG8 7HX; Thursdays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at St John's Parish Hall, High Road, Buckhurst Hill, IG9 5RX. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or angelaross87@hotmail.com or www.efsa.org.uk

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

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

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

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

GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION Meets at Greenford Community Centre (Johnson Hall), 170 Oldfield Lane South, Greenford UB6 9JS. Fridays 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Janet MacPhail 020 8560 7670 or enquiries@greenfordcaledonian.net

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

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB Meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Details: Val Owens, 01727 863870 or HSCDC.org.uk

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

HERTSMERE REEL CLUB Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug and Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 020 8440 3236 or margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk

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

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

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

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

MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION Dancing Mondays Bredhurst Village Hall, 1.30-3.45pm; Thursdays Brompton-Westbrook School, Gillingham ME7 5DQ, 8.00-10.00pm. Beginners welcome. Details: Lyn Sutton-Jones, 07831 154038 or www.medwaycaledonians.co.uk

Credits: Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of *The Reel*, including the following for providing photos:

p1: Combined Societies' Dance - Joanne Lawrence (JL); Castle Menzies - Stephen Webb (SJW). p2: Joanne Lawrence - from herself; Simon Wales - Petar Petkovic. p4: Mixed Ability Class - from JL. p5: Mel Rowland - from herself; cartoon - permission Joan Miles. p6: Jeremy Hill - from himself; album and book cover - from the RSCDS; open Air Dancing - SJW p7: Alice Stainer - SJW; Sir Walter Scott Memorial - Herbert Frank Creative Commons Namensnennung - Weitergabe unter gleichen Bedingungen 3.0 Unported License; Ian Williams - SJW; Mary Robertson - from her Facebook page. pp8-9: Highland Club Dance - SJW; Andrew McClean - from himself; Combined Societies' Dance - from JL; Classes Party - JL; Burns Nights and Berkhamsted - SJW. p10: Winter School First-timer - Stephen Hartley; Winter School in Pictures - from JL. p11: all from Brenda Amanda. p12: Jerry Reinstein - from Kay Senior and Branch Archives; Ian Galbraith - from SJW. p13: Deborah Ainger - Ian Thomson; George Potts - JL; Cairngorm Dancers - SJW; Raymond Dyke - SJW. p14: Meryl Thomson - from herself; William Clarke ms - from Meryl Thomson; Purday and Button book - from Meryl Thomson; Wilson's Treasures of Terpsichore 1809 - from Meryl Thomson; Popeye statue - Wikimedia under CC licence (CC BY-SA 4.0).

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

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

NORWICH RSCDS Branch class in Norwich on Mondays from Sept-May/June. Beginners from 7.00-8.15pm and general dancing 8.20-9.30pm. Details: Sue Petty on 01603 741639 or secretary@rscds-norwich.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM Meets every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm Sept-June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Kate Thomson, 0118 986 0681 sec.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com Also Children's Class Saturdays 9.30-11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831

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

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

SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Dancing every Thursday at 8.00pm from Sept-June at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS General ability class on Tuesdays from 7.30-9.30pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9AL. Details: Colin Simpson 01892 832712 or www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

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

WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Dance Class Mondays 8.00pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex. Details: Mrs Caroline Hamilton, 020 8866 2378 or info@wdsa.co.uk

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

WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS Classes Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Road North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 01264 363293 or wendy@mumford.com

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



RSCDS London Branch Annual Report 2021-22



RSCDS London Branch Annual General Meeting Saturday 11 June 2022 at 6.45pm

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will take place on Saturday 11 June 2022 in the Upper Hall, St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD from 6.45-7.30pm, followed by our End of Season Dance.

All members and friends of the Branch are invited to attend both the AGM and the End of Season social, although only members may vote at the AGM. Building upon lessons learned during lockdown we hope to live stream the AGM for those unable to attend in person. The link will be on the website or here.

Please join us for this short (45 minutes) meeting, learn about what London Branch has been doing and be part of its plans for the future.

Share your thoughts and ideas: the Branch Committee welcomes your thoughts on the running of the Branch, throughout the year as well as during the AGM discussions. Please email secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

There will be a number of changes to the Branch management committee for the 2022-23 season. Jenny Kendrick, our Classes Convenor and Committee member since 2015 has decided to step down and we were greatly saddened by the loss of George Potts, a longstanding Committee member and former Secretary, who died in March of this year.

Following the call for nominations, which closed on 31 March 2022, fewer nominations were received than committee places available. There will therefore be no election in 2022 and the RSCDS London Branch management welcomes new members, Adam Brady, Richard Clarke, and David Hall. Joanne Lawrence, Jim Cook, Simon Wales and Mel Rowland will continue in their roles of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Margaret Moore will take over the role of Classes Convenor. Margaret Shaw, Elaine Davies and Thelma-Jane Robb have all agreed to continue in their current Committee roles.

Chair: Joanne Lawrence (2017) Vice Chair: Jim Cook (2019)
Treasurer: Simon Wales (2003) Secretary: Mel Rowland (2019)

Committee members

Margaret Shaw (2007) Elaine Davies (2009) Thelma-Jane Robb (2011)
Margaret Moore (2020) Adam Brady (2022) Richard Clarke (2022)
David Hall (2022)

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of 12 June 2021
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Report on the Branch Activities 2021-2022
5. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts
6. Confirmation/Appointment of Honorary President and Honorary Vice Presidents
7. Appointment of Officers and Committee of Management
8. Appointment of Account Checker
9. Appointment of Branch proxy delegates to the Society AGM
10. Any Other Business

Note: As the number of nominations does not exceed the number of places available, there will not be an election under item 7. Nominations for the appointments at items 6 and 9 will be taken from the floor at the meeting.

Objects of London Branch

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

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

From the Chair: Joanne Lawrence



This report, prepared by the Management Committee, will be presented to the AGM on Saturday, 11 June 2022. Members' comments are welcome at the meeting or any time via secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk.

Our priorities for the 2021-2022 season focused on rebuilding after the COVID-19 enforced break, delivering

the rescheduled 90th anniversary events, developing classes for younger dancers, modernising payment methods and digitising our archives.

The Branch COVID-19 Safety Guidelines, developed in consultations with other groups in and around London, were a vital first step before resuming branch activity. The guidelines, which detailed the Branch's commitment to reduce infection risks at branch events and set out its expectations from attendees, have been kept up to date

as conditions changed. We introduced card payment machines, in addition to existing direct debit and bank transfer payment options, which proved popular and enabled us to reduce cash handling and associated infection risks whilst meeting our objective of modernising payment methods. Work has begun on a review of the Archives.

The return to dancing began, tentatively, with the pre-season open air dances in Kensington Gardens. These became joyful reunions as we met and danced together after months

apart, and the live music attracted many of the park visitors to join in. We were delighted when several subsequently joined London Branch classes.

The new season was formally launched with the traditional dance on 18 September. Dave Hall and his SCD band played and the lower hall at St Columba's, if not quite as full as in pre COVID-19 days, was still filled with dancers keen to pick up where they left off in 2020. Once launched, the season proceeded at pace with classes, dances, anniversary events and Day School all following in quick succession.

Classes restarted in Park Walk and Richmond with more people turning up each week, particularly after the Park Walk Beginners' Class resumed in November.

Our much postponed 90th Anniversary celebrations finally happened. First, the successful completion of the 90th Anniversary dance devising competition, co-ordinated by Stephen Webb, with *London Nine O*, by Lizzy Conder, the winning entry. Then came the 90th Anniversary Grand Ball, a wonderful evening of music, dance, reunion, and rejoicing. It was worth the wait and a great tribute to the hard work and determination of the organising committee: Margaret Catchick, Rachel Wilton, George Ferrier, Jim Cook and Simon Wales.



90th Anniversary Ball at Allum Manor Hall, 16 October 2021

The 2021 Day School, the last to be organised by Margaret Catchick after almost 20 years of high-quality events, was well attended, attracting dancers and musicians from a wide area.

As the season progressed, dance attendances remained slightly below pre COVID-19 levels, but it has been heartening to see more old faces returning and new faces joining each event. We have enjoyed a great programme of dances with Autumn Wednesday, Christmas dances and class parties all providing much cause for celebration. The advent of Omicron reduced the momentum temporarily, influencing the postponement of the farewell party for Jeni Rutherford, who has retired as

Mixed Ability class teacher after 20 years, and the cancellation of the Burns Ceilidh. However, the Winter Wednesday dance went well, as did the Combined Societies' dance, hosted this year by the London Highland Club, and we still have the Summer Wednesday and End of Season dances to come.



Combined Societies' Dance at St Columba's Church, 2 April 2022

Although the pre COVID-19 decline in membership numbers continued, in part relating to the loss of long standing and much missed members, as detailed in the *Lives Remembered* section of *The Reel*, much of this was due to subscription renewal being the last thing on many people's minds during the period of no dancing. End of March figures showed 266 Annual, 53 Second Branch and 83 Life Members. We have recently contacted those members whose subscription lapsed during the COVID-19 months and have been encouraged by the alacrity with which many have renewed their membership. Equally encouraging has been the advent of new members, particularly those from the Richmond and Park Walk beginners' classes.

We were well represented at the RSCDS AGM and Winter School and have a substantial number of new and more established dancers heading for St Andrews for the first RSCDS Summer School in three years.

In October 2021 we held a very informative focus group, moderated by Alexandra Cran-McGreehin, attended by dancers and musicians in the late teens to mid 30s age group. Building on this, we hope to launch a monthly session attractive to younger dancers from Autumn 2022. We are also working, via contact with university clubs, major London employers, Scottish institutions in London and social media, to promote the range of existing Scottish dance activities available in central London to people of all ages moving to London after university or for new job opportunities.

As the 2021-22 season draws to a close, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to make it a success. I am grateful to Jeni Rutherford and Margaret Catchick,

whose decades of service to the Branch have enriched the lives of many members.

London classes are flourishing, thanks to our wonderful teachers and musicians. Judith Jones, Davinia Miln, Simon Wales, Pat Davoll, Maureen Campbell, Jane Rose and Roy Southall at regular weekly classes plus Mervyn Short and Joan Desborough at the Very Advanced Technique classes. Musicians Adam Brady, Ian Cutts, Yvonne McGuinness and Dave Hall have provided inspiration through the year.

We could not function without the talent and commitment of our many volunteers, including Webmaster Meryl Thomson, Membership Secretary Gaynor Curtis, *Reel* Editor Simon Wales, Jeff Robertson our *Reel* Business Editor and Lena Robinson our ubiquitous and massively appreciated support at Branch classes, dances and so much more.

My heartfelt thanks go to our President Rachel Wilton, Vice Presidents, Convenors and supporting Committee, for all they have done. Vice Chair Jim Cook, Secretary Mel Rowland and Treasurer Simon Wales form an unbeatable team of efficient, supportive, and innovative colleagues. I am grateful for the substantial contribution made by Jenny Kendrick who is retiring from the committee and passing the role of Classes Convenor to Margaret Moore. Margaret Shaw, as Dances Convenor, created a welcoming and reassuring environment at dances with a delicious and innovative response to COVID-19 safe catering needs. Elaine Davies has provided great support to class development and Thelma-Jane Robb ensures that London Branch presents a professional visual image to the world. The loss of George Potts, a long-standing committee member and past Branch secretary, leaves a big gap on the Committee. We will miss his organisational memory, humour, kindness, scones and so much more.

Looking to the future, I am delighted to welcome Adam Brady, Richard Clarke and Dave Hall to the London Branch Committee. All bring valuable skills and experience, and we are fortunate to have them with us.

We have had a wonderful return to dance in 2021-22 and there is much to look forward to in 2022-23, not least the Centenary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Objectives for 2022-23

1. Continuing recovery of membership numbers and boosting attendance at Branch events
2. Developing events attractive to younger dancers
3. Increasing the number of musicians playing for classes and dances
4. Celebrating the Centenary of the RSCDS in style



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