



The Reel



Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
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No 275

FEBRUARY to MAY 2011

80th Anniversary pull-out colour supplement inside

WINTER WEDNESDAY

Branch Dance

Wednesday 16 February 2011

7.00 - 10.00pm

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

Strathallan

Espie McNabb	MMM1/14
Maxwell's Rant	18/10
Rakes of Glasgow	11/11
Kendall's Hornpipe	Gr 22
The Sailor	24/4
The Byron Strathspey	Drewry
Round Reel of Eight	27/7
Joie de Vivre	39/2

Flowers of Edinburgh	1/6
The Birks of Invermay	16/2
Mrs Stewart's Jig	35/1
The Reel of the 51st Division	13/10
The Dream Catcher	45/9
The Montgomeries' Rant	10/1

Admission including light refreshments £8.50
Members, £9.00 non-members, £2 Children,
but member's children admitted free.



Stephen Webb

Above: Chiffon and her friend Strip the Willow at the Branch Burns' Night to the excellent music of Strathallan.

COMBINED SOCIETIES DANCE

A joint event with Little Ship Club, London Highland Club, St Columba's Dancers, and Scottish Clans Association of London, and hosted this year by The London Highland Club.

Saturday 2 April 2011

7.00 - 10.30pm

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

Ian Robertson and his Band

Hooper's Jig.....	MMM2/15
The Plantation Reel	Pinewoods 2/23
MacDonald of the Isles.....	Haynes
The Duke of Atholl's Reel	16/3
Nottingham Lace	Bradley
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	3 for 2006/2
Machine without Horses.....	12/12
Flowers of Edinburgh.....	1/6
Margaret Parker's Strathspey	31/3
The Deil among the Tailors	14/7

Seton's Ceilidh Band.....	Morison's Bush
Catch the Wind	45/5
The Robertson Rant	39/8
Napier's Index	45/8
John of Bon Accord.....	Goldring
Neidpath Castle.....	22/9
A Capital Jig.....	5 for 2009/3
Swiss Lassie.....	39/1
The Dream Catcher.....	45/9
Mairi's Wedding.....	Cosh

Admission £7.00

Enquiries: Frank Bennett 020 8715 3564

email: fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk

Late News: Sadly as *The Reel* goes to print we have just heard that Bruce Frazer – teacher, tutor, examiner and friend – passed away on Saturday 22 January in Dundee.

Bruce will be missed for his wise and calm words. Our thoughts go out to Valerie and his family.

Ian Robertson leading the fiddlers *et al* at the 25th Chiltern Fiddle Rally with Landing Party musician Rosie le Good and previous organiser Peter Macfarlane just behind. (see report on page 10)



Stephen Webb

BRANCH DANCE

'Easy and Enjoyable'

Saturday 26 March 2011

7.00 - 10.30pm

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

Ian Robertson and his Band

Come Under My Plaidie ..	Children's Book/10
Maxwell's Rant.....	18/10
Rakes of Glasgow	11/11
St Andrew's Fair.....	5 for 1982/2
Catch the Wind	45/5
Neidpath Castle.....	22/9
The Machine without Horses.....	12/2
The Birks of Invermay.....	16/2
Round Reel of Eight	27/7

Joie de Vivre	39/2
The Reel of the 51st Division	13/10
The Silver Tassie.....	Leaflet
The Wild Geese.....	24/3
Flowers of Edinburgh	1/6
Seann Truibhas Willichan.....	27/9
Pelorus Jack.....	41/1
The Minister on the Loch..	Dances for 2008/2
The Deil among the Tailors	14/7

Admission: Members £8.50,

non-members £9.50,

Children £2:50, members' children free

Issue No 276 will be with UK based members by 30 April 2011 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent preferably by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk. Postal contributions should be sent to Wilson Nicol, 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS to arrive by 2 April 2011. (Issue No 277 will arrive by 3 September 2011).

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

BRANCH AGM

6.30 for 7.30pm on 17 June 2011

ROYAL SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCE
SOCIETY

Patron
H.M. The Queen



The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch will take place in the Upper Hall of St Columba's, Pont Street, at 7.30pm on Friday 17 June 2011. The meeting will be preceded by tea, by courtesy of the Vice-Presidents, at 6.30pm and as usual, the AGM will be followed by dancing.

All members of the Branch are welcome to attend the AGM, which represents an ideal opportunity to meet fellow members, to find out what has been achieved in the current year and to contribute to the Branch's plans and thinking for the year ahead. In addition to the formal business of the meeting, such as the presentation of the accounts for approval and the election of officers, the meeting will consider the Branch Report for the year (which will be circulated with the next Reel together with the Agenda for the meeting).

Any member can propose a motion for consideration at the meeting as long as it is received in writing by the Branch Secretary by 31 March, duly signed by both the proposer and a seconder (who must also be a member). Although any subject can be raised under Any Other Business, only proposals submitted in advance and appearing on the Agenda can be voted on.

If you wish to stand for election or propose another member as an officer or as one of the eleven ordinary members of the Committee, a written proposal, signed by the nominee, the proposer and seconder (all of whom must be members) must be submitted to the Secretary by 31 March. If necessary, the Secretary will arrange for a postal ballot of all members via the next edition of *The Reel*. The officers and members of the Committee, with the dates when they joined or last re-joined the Committee are shown below. Apart from the Chairman, who is required to step down after his three years of chairing the Committee, all current members are eligible for re-election at the AGM.

Chairman	Jeff Robertson	1999
Vice-Chairman	Angela Young	2000
Secretary	Stewart Murray	2006
Treasurer	Simon Wales	2003

Gillian Bloomfield 2007, Margaret Catchick 2003, Elaine Davies 2009, Wilson Nicol 2005, George Potts 2009, Marjory Reid 2009, Jerry Reinstein 2009, Lena Robinson 2010, Margaret Shaw 2007 and Elaine Wilde 2010.

Stewart Murray

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As we look back at our successful Anniversary year I do hope that many of you have participated in the various celebratory events.

Our Christmas Dance on 11 December provided a fitting culmination to our special year with excellent music from Marian Anderson and her Band, all the way from Scotland.

We had record numbers at our successful Burns' Supper and Ceilidh Dance and the hall was jumping to the music of Strathallan under the guidance of MC Peter Knight. A huge thank you to Jenny Sweeney and her many helpers for all their hard work in preparing the Haggis, Neeps and Bashit Tatties, much appreciated by all. The ceremonial haggis was dispatched in due style by Ian Rutherford to the accompaniment of our trusty piper Bob Harman.

In addition to dances and events we also run classes at various levels and you may wish to try these and even encourage friends to come along with you. If you do not attend a class there is still time to enrol and you are sure to find one that matches your needs. By attending classes you improve your own standard and this leads to more enjoyment at dances.

In view of the encouraging feedback we are proposing to repeat our mid-week Winter Wednesday dance which will be held at Pont Street on 16 February.

The Branch AGM will soon be upon us when you may have your say and even consider putting yourself forward for the Committee to contribute and help to make sure that things are done.

London Branch has now been at the forefront of Scottish country dancing for over 80 years setting standards by which others are judged. Please join me in wishing your Branch continued success for many years to come.

I look forward to seeing you on the dance floor in 2011.

Jeff Robertson

EXCHANGE MAGAZINES

The Branch has a magazine exchange with many other RSCDS branches and other organisations around the world. Many of these magazines appear at times on the mobile stand at our functions at St Columba's. Some magazines arrive electronically and will not be printed in future but will be available electronically on request.

BRANCH COMMITTEE

During the coming quarter, the London Branch Committee will meet on 31 March and 5 May. There will also be a meeting of the Convenors of the sub-committees on 10 March. Suggestions for items to be discussed should be sent to the Secretary at least two weeks before the dates of the meetings.



EDITORIAL

They say that the willing horse gets all the work but this can be eased by many hands making light work. Running the Branch takes a lot of voluntary effort. This can be made easier if more members volunteered to do

their bit. There will be a number of vacancies on the Committee come the AGM in June, so now is the time to make a resolution to volunteer. Even if you cannot make a commitment to join the committee there are plenty of other things you can undertake to share the load. Modern life places such a burden on our time it would ease the load on the willing horses if more of us lent a helping hand. Don't procrastinate! Speak to the Chairman or Secretary and let them know of your willingness to lend a hand!

Wilson Nicol

President – Dr Alastair MacFadyen
Chairman – Ruth Beattie

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LONDON BRANCH

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Mary Stoker

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John Laurie, Owen Meyer, Rosemary Tilden.

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SUB-COMMITTEES

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

*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

Website: www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Objects of London Branch

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

- 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.

BRANCH DANCE



Musical May

Saturday 14 May

7.00 - 10.30pm

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

Angela Young and the Musicians

Hooper's Jig	MMM2/15
Back to the Fireside	38/4
Lady Lucy Ramsay	MMM2/24
Links with St Petersburg	46/10
The Missing Turn	46/5
12 Coates Crescent	40/5
Ladies' Fancy	13/12
Adieu Mon Ami	24/11
The Sailor	24/4

EH3 7AF	40/6
Perth 800	Perth Branch Leaflet
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	Leaflet
Mrs Stewart's Jig	35/1
The Ladies of Dunse	26/11
Up in the Air	20/2
Airyhall Delight	40/8
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	3 for 2006/2
Duke of Perth	1/8

Admission: Members £8.50,
non-members £9.50, children £2.50,
members' children free

DEMONSTRATION CLASS

Winter, as is usually the case, is a busy time for the demonstration team. Although the team is currently a little reduced in numbers its members make up for it in quality by good teamwork and continuing to work hard on both their technique and covering requested demonstrations. This has resulted in us being able to perform at a variety of events towards the end of last year including the Day School in October, the family dance in November and a London college in December. We were honoured to be invited to perform at The Borderline Charity carol service reception, an event that was very well attended, and we were very pleased to be able to demonstrate the Newcastle Festival 2010 winning display at our December dance. January will see the team performing at several varied Burns' events in addition to our preparation for the Newcastle Festival in February and other events already booked for this year. And so it goes on, with Angela keeping the pressure on us to perform to the best of our ability in order to ensure that the team continues to be excellent ambassadors for the Branch [and Society].

As stated in my last newsletter report, we are looking for new members to join us from the many advanced dancers in our midst. If you would like to try for the team you are invited to attend three classes on 8, 15 and 22 March 2011; please contact either Angela Young vicechairman@rscdslondon.org.uk 07976 353608 or me, Elaine Wilde, demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk or phone 01582 834815 or 07779 202529 or speak with either of us at one of our Branch events.

Elaine Wilde

NEWCOMERS – CONFUSED? YOU SHOULD BE!

Chatting the other day with a dancing friend we were discussing the demise of numbers in Scottish country dancing. But of course I said, it can all be so confusing, it is like learning a new language! So to learn SCD not only does a newcomer have to wrestle with the concept of progression, dance direction, terminology, eye contact, hearing the beat and various formations but also contradiction!

"What do you mean by contradiction," he said? Well, go to a dance, dance at a dance, dance a dance! To set, form a set, a set dance, tartan sett! Reels are sometimes also Hornpipes, Jigs or Strathspeys or figures i.e. reel of three or four! Rants are Reels or Strathspeys but it is also a dance step! Confused? You should be! It may help to think of the term 'Reel' simply as the word 'Dance'.

"Can all this be unravelled? a thesis might shed light on it but for most dancers these contradictions are taken on board organically – a sort of slow realisation over time that they exist and an equally slow understanding of their differences." "In a way," I said, "such contradictions add to the colour and appeal of SCD."

Trying not to be too obtuse I shall give the main examples of what I mean with dance names – newcomers may find this list helpful (RSCDS Dance Book ref. follows name):

Reels and Rants that are Strathspeys:

The Axum Reel 18, The Caledonian Rant 16, The Cameronian Rant 2, Coulterall's Rant 34, The Countess of Crawford's Reel 17, Duke of Hamilton's Reel 5, Grant's Reel 14, Invercauld's Reel 11, Keppoch's Rant 17, Lady Auckland's Reel 18, Lady MacIntosh's Rant 3, The Lerwick Reel McN, Lochiel's Rant 19, Lord Elgin's Reel 26, Lord Hume's Reel 16, McLachan's Reel MMM2, Miss Betty Boyle's Reel MMM2, Miss Devon's Reel 20, The Moray Rant Drewry, The Munro Rant MMM1, Oxtou Reel 6, The Robertson Rant 39, Ruffian's Rant MMM1, Village Reel 20.

Reels and Hornpipes that are Jigs:

Cumberland Reel 1, The Duke of Atholl's Reel 16, The Foola Reel 4, Kendall's Hornpipe Gr, Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel Gr, Laird o'Dochart's Reel McN, The Marchioness of Blandford's Reel 21, Miss Hadden's Reel 23, Miss Welsh's Reel Gr, Mrs Stewart Sinton's Reel Gr, The Moray Reel Gr, Ninesome Reel 2, Watson's Reel Gr.

Thank goodness for the considerate band that plays the tune before the dance starts as this will always confirm the tempo to be danced!

Stephen Webb

Footnote: To clarify; the Rant Step – this is a fast time step danced thus: stamp (crossing over), hop, change, (pause) danced in such English country dances as Morpeth Rant and in Scots speech, a rant is a frolic, song, romp or revel!

BOOK 46

Teaching the dances

Wednesday 6 April 2011, 7 to 9pm

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

Teachers and Musicians

Angela Young/Dave Hall

Following on from the success of our September Class, there will be a chance for dancers to complete learning Book 46, as well as revise any requested dances. Additionally, there will be a chance to dance The Kandahar Reel.

Come along and learn the correct way and enjoy the new dances more!

HOW DOES THE RSCDS GO ABOUT PRODUCING A NEW BOOK?

London is one of the Branches who have tried out dances for new RSCDS books, with book 46 being the latest one we have been involved in. However, having danced them, ranked them and made our comments we know nothing more until the new book appears. At the teachers' conference the day before the RSCDS AGM, in Perth 2010, Jim Healy spoke about the selection process for the new books, most specifically for Book 46.

Branches were sent dances to try out, mark and comment upon. These never came with suggested music so the teacher had to find something that fitted and hopefully something that would not influence the decision one way or another. Once the marking sheets were all returned scores and comments were consolidated. In the case of Book 46 a handful of dances came back with comments that they were really demonstration dances and these went through a separate selection process, the outcome being the President's Quadrille. The low scoring dances were eliminated in stage 1. High scoring dances and those few that fell into a 'love or hate' category (with some branches giving them top marks and others giving them the lowest) went through to stage 2. All dances in stage 2 were danced by a dedicated team of volunteers (they had to be dedicated to dance and comment on over 30 dances in one day!) and a final set of dances agreed.

The wording of these was then reviewed to ensure clarity and consistency with the standard terminology. The revised drafts were then sent to the compilers to check and confirm. Some found errors so these were corrected then checked again for clarity and against standard terminology. Meanwhile the Music Director and team were deciding on tunes; some came with suggested tunes but others did not. Where the suggested tune was already the main tune for a Society dance a new tune had to be found. Tunes that were considered not to fit the dance properly also required a suitable tune, a task carried out by the committee. Only when all this was complete could the book be put together.

It was very clear from Jim that this is a long and very demanding job and we should be grateful to the many volunteers who helped to bring the new book to us, thank you from us all.

Alison Raisin, Elaine Wilde

BRANCH BOOKSTALL

At your service

Books and CDs for Scottish Dancers

Mail order from Ian Anderson,

104 Whitedown Lane, Alton,

Hants GU34 1QR

Tel: 01420 84599

email: bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk.

10% reduction on RSCDS publications
and recordings bought by members.
Please state your Branch when ordering.

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

BRANCH CLASSES

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

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher / Musician
BEGINNERS	Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Davinia Miln / Jane Ng
IMPROVING YOUR SOCIAL DANCING	Wednesday	8.00 - 9.30	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Rachel Wilton / Ian Cutts
TECHNIQUE	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Maureen Campbell / Ken Martlew
GENERAL	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30	St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD	Jeni Rutherford
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	<i>For details contact Elaine Wilde 01582 834815</i>		Angela Young / Sandra Smith

Term ends Wednesday 30 March. Half term will be on Wednesday 16 February 2011 and Wednesday 23 February 2011 (two week break). The Summer term starts Wednesday 27 April 2011 and ends on Wednesday 25 May 2011. There will then be a one week break for half term (no class Wednesday 1 June 2011) which will be followed by four General Classes (details in the next Reel). For members and non-members the half term costs £35.00. The cost per session is £8.00.

The term for the Wednesday afternoon General class ends on 6 April 2011 (half term is on 16 February). The Summer term starts on 4 May 2011 and ends on Wednesday 29 June. Half term will be on Wednesday 1 June 2011. For further details regarding the Wednesday afternoon class please contact Jeni Rutherford, email: jrutherford@freeuk.com

FORTHCOMING DANCES

Saturday 11 June..... **Ian Robertson**
 Saturday 17 Sept..... **Jim Lindsay**
 Saturday 26 Nov..... **Kafoozalum – Family Day**
 Saturday 17 Dec..... **James Coutts**

SUNDAY ADVANCED TECHNIQUE CLASSES

Band Hall, Coram's Fields
 93 Guilford Street, WC1N 1DN
 11.00am - 1.00pm

Sunday 27 February 2011

Teacher..... **Joan Desborough**
 Musician..... **Barbara Manning**

Sunday 27 March 2011

Teachers..... **Philippe & Lindsey Rousseau**
 Musician..... **Angela Young**

Nearest underground station: Russell Square
 Cost: £8.00 Free on-street parking available
 Local establishments available for lunch
 Further details from Margaret Catchick on
 01494 772305 or
 email: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT!

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

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

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

secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

or youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk.

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

Think about it.

We want to help

HIGHLAND/STEP ONE DAY WORKSHOP

Oddfellows Hall, 15 Parkshot, Richmond, TW9 2RT

(minutes from Richmond Station)

Sunday 10 April 2011

The last in this series of one day workshops incorporating Highland Dancing in the morning and Ladies' Step in the afternoon which has replaced the previous Highland and Ladies' Step classes.

The teachers for this Workshop are:

Highland:..... **David Hall**
 Ladies' Step:..... **Angela Young**

All those attending are welcome to stay for the whole day or come for either the morning or afternoon sessions. The cost will be:

All day.....£18.00 (RSCDS member)
 £20.00 (non-RSCDS member)
 Half-day.....£9.00 (RSCDS member)
 £10.00 (non-RSCDS member)

The Highland class will commence at 10.30am and run till 12.30pm (morning coffee at 10.00am). The Ladies' Step class will commence at 2.00pm and run till 4.00pm.

There are local establishments nearby for lunch. Contact Margaret Shaw on 020 7329 2847 or email: classes2@rscdslondon.org.uk

BRANCH BADGES

The Branch Badge is based on the rectangular Reel masthead logo and is available in a smart enamel and polished finish. These are modestly priced at £4.00 and are available from Jeff Robertson on 01903 245718, 020 7730 9633 or chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk, or from Ian Anderson at the Branch Bookstall on 01420 84599 or bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk. Please continue to support your Branch.

Jeff Robertson

REQUEST FOR FIRST AIDERS

Recently at Branch functions we have had the occasion to require a First Aider, and it's good that dancers are willing to volunteer on the spot. The Committee feel that where possible we should identify a qualified First Aider at our events.

If you hold a current First Aid Certificate and would be willing to act in this capacity at any dance please let a member of the Committee know – either on the night, or by email.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

Children's Classes

The Branch children's class continues on Saturday mornings

12 March, 9 April, 21 May 2011
 10.15 - 11.30

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

Teacher: **Angela Young**

Newcomers are always welcome!

Family Day - 26 March

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

11.30am - 1.00pm

Children's Class

followed by lunch for all dancers

2.00 - 4.30pm

Dance to the music of **Dave Hall**

Dances will include: The Barmkin, Cumberland Reel, The Dashing White Sergeant, The Dhoon, Easy Peasy, Loch McNabb, The Flying Scotsman, The Loch Ness Monster, Le Papillon, Petronella, Reel for Jeannie, and Round Reel of Eight. Everyone is welcome for all or part of the day, and the dances in the afternoon will be talked through.

For more details please contact
 Angela Young on 07976 353 608
 youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch costs £19.00 per annum for UK based members (£19.50 for Europe; £21.50 elsewhere). There is a discount of £3 for members aged 18 to 25 and for each of two members living at the same address. For members aged 12-17 there is a discount of £7.50. Current members of other Branches can join London Branch for £4.00 per annum if they live in the UK (£4.50 in Europe and £6.50 elsewhere).

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

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

SOUTH EAST REGION TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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

The next workshop will be in Purley, Croydon on 13 March. It will be led by Robert Mackay and include discussions on music in Scottish country dancing and the history of dancing and dances. The following meeting will be on 25 September in Hemel Hempstead and will include Marilyn Watson's postponed session on teaching SCD to children.

Several SERTA members attended the Teachers' Association conference which preceded the AGM in Perth last November. Jane Rose's report appears below.

Mike Johnson

THE FIRST TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 5 NOVEMBER 2010

On a cold wet morning in Perth, over 80 teachers of Scottish dancing from all over the world, gathered in a hall within St Ninian's Cathedral in Perth. Alex Gray, the then Chairman of the RSCDS, welcomed everyone to the very first Teachers' Conference, which had been organised by Helen Russell, ably assisted by Moira Thomson from HQ.

The morning session comprised presentations by representatives from the four current Teachers Associations:

Teachers' Association of Scotland (TAS)
Australian Teachers' Alliance Inc (ATA)
Teachers' Association of Canada (TAC)
South East Region Teachers' Association (SERTA)

Each association explained why they had been formed, how they were administered, what workshops and courses they run, the numbers of members and other services provided.

Both the Australian and the Canadian Associations had been formed originally, mainly to run tutor courses for future teachers. Although their stated aims and objectives are now a more generalised encouragement of Scottish dancing they both still train teachers and also to give qualified teachers opportunities to meet and discuss matters pertaining to teaching. TAC had been formed in 1958 and the ATA more recently in 1990 and both were only open to qualified (or part-qualified) teachers. TAC has grown to 691 members, 35% Canadian, 40% from the US and the remainder from overseas. They also run the Canadian Summer School, their Ask TAC web forum, TAC Notes for teachers and a book/music online store.

TAS and SERTA (formed in 2004 and 2006) were each formed with the intention of encouraging and creating opportunities for continuing teacher development. Both associations have run various practical workshops and discussion opportunities for

teachers on a wide variety of subjects. TAS is open to teachers and those leading Scottish country dance groups providing they are members of the RSCDS whilst our SERTA is of course open to anyone teaching Scottish dancing.

After each presentation, the representatives answered questions from the floor and finally a general discussion took place. This mainly concentrated on whether associations should allow any Scottish dance teachers or only RSCDS qualified ones. It was particularly interesting to hear tales from colleagues in Canada and Australia of the distances involved in attending workshops and courses (sometimes an 8 hour journey each way!) – we are very lucky in the South East Region!

After a long lunch break (time for most to enjoy some of the many eateries in the city centre but I managed to visit some of Perth's wonderful shops) we reconvened. Unfortunately, Linda Gaul was unable to lead the expected practical session on the teaching points for the new Book 46, so Jim Healy kindly explained to us how the dances for the new book had been collected, tried out, scrutinised, reworded, appropriate music selected and finally published and then inaccuracies found! He also explained why it had been decided to publish on the main RSCDS website, the teaching notes to accompany the new book. It seems as if everyone had tried their best to incorporate dances which would be enjoyed the world over, but Jim realised that this doesn't mean that everyone's favourite new dance was in the book!

Jean Martin then gave an excellent talk bringing everyone up-to-date with the current situation regarding the teaching of Scottish dancing in primary schools in Scotland. As a former schoolteacher and former Chairman of the RSCDS, Jean is well-placed to understand the current situation. Before the 1970s all trainee PE teachers in Scotland took the RSCDS Prelims, and some the Full Certificate, resulting in many children having dance lessons on rainy PE days. Sadly, several generations have grown up without this and Jean explained the various initiatives which had been taken by, for example Bruce Frazer, Helen Russell, Ruth Beattie (new current Chairman), Jimmie Hill and herself, to move Scottish dancing back into schools in Scotland.

Continuing with the theme of young dancers, Deb Lees led a presentation and discussion session about recruiting and retaining young dancers. Small groups were formed to allow for greater inclusion but at the end of the afternoon it seemed to me as if we had all come up with similar points most important of which was that we should learn to be inclusive of young people and young families. Unfortunately, Deb collected all our notes and my memory doesn't recall any more!

At the end of the day, Helen Russell concluded that the first conference seemed to have been a great success and it was up to us, the teachers, if they wished to meet again. Thanks must be given to her and Moira for organising this event. It was a most interesting day and I particularly enjoyed meeting and hearing from fellow teachers from overseas. I am looking forward to attending the next conference when the AGM moves to Glasgow in November 2011.

Jane Rose

(The various presentations with full details are to be put on the RSCDS website, as are the notes on teaching points for Book 46.)

THE NOVEMBER FAMILY DAY



I think lots more children and adults should come because at first I didn't want to come but when I started coming it was great! My favourite dance is Dashing White Sergeant.

Isobel aged 8

I think that the Scottish dancing is a really good activity because it is good fun and energetic



and you can make lots of new friends there. You get to do lots of different things like lessons and family days. It's really easy when you do it lots, but the hard thing is remembering what the dances are. The best bit of my day was doing the Dashing White Sergeant, the one where you dance in threes. We came from Malmesbury in Wiltshire on the train to the children's day.

Jessica aged 10 1/2

As we have no convenient children's classes near where we live, we try to make a special trip to the London Branch Children's days so that Jessica and Isobel can enjoy the fun of Scottish Country dancing that I experienced as a child and adult. The combination of Angela's excellent class followed by the afternoon dance makes the trip worthwhile and allows us to get back home at a reasonable hour. We really do enjoy the day – the train trip, the dancing, pizza lunch, the band and the obligatory whiz round Harrods toy department afterwards!

Gill Shaw, their Mum

BRANDED GARMENTS

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

Order forms are available from
Jeff Robertson on tel: 01903 245718;
or 020 7730 9633;
chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk,
or from the Branch website:
www.rscdslondon.org.uk.

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

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

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

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

Jeff Robertson

THE HILL FAMILY AT THE CHRISTMAS DANCE

Zoë says:

I was excited when Mummy and Daddy said we were going to go to the Christmas Dance, though I was a bit nervous whether I would know anyone, or any of the dances. The dancing had already started while we got changed, and so the first dance I did was *The Starry Eyed Lassie*. Mummy and Daddy were in the set with us, as well as some other people we knew, and we managed fine.

Later I danced *None so Pretty* with our friend Stephen Webb, but the best dance was the *Deil Amang the Tailors*. I danced with my brother Joshua and we went down the middle as quickly as we could. We sometimes forgot we had to come back. The food in the interval was great, particularly the chocolate brownies. I also liked the music.

Unfortunately we had to go during the second half, just as the band started playing Christmas carols for the dancing! I hope we will go to a dance again soon.

Mummy (Grace) says:

Just getting to the hall and on to the dance floor with the whole family was somewhat nerve-racking, with the Christmas traffic (not to mention the road-works), but it was well worth it. It was lovely to see the hall so full, and to see so many friends, though of course with the children, there's less chance to get around to speak to everyone. We were particularly pleased to see friends from afar, such as Judith Rousseau, Andrew McCausland and Graham Berry.

It's great fun dancing with the children, and they have done enough dancing (and remain malleable enough) to get through almost anything, particularly Joshua, so we weren't too concerned on that score.

The recaps were excellent – though our children tend not to listen (where did they pick up that habit?) It does mean keeping an eye on them, as their enthusiasm sometimes spills over into dangerous and I get a little anxious when they dash off to the top of the hall without me. It is lovely that other dancers seem more than happy to have them in their set, once at least!

Marian Anderson and the Band were as always great fun to dance to, and we also enjoyed seeing the demonstration. It was a shame but perhaps not surprising that the band didn't play for it, given the great range of music and dances. The demonstration was a trip down memory lane with familiar dances from my days in the team and all danced in an imaginative display that I was relieved not to be a part of!

Our enjoyment of any event is always greater when our children are enjoying it with us and the Christmas dance was no exception. I was reminded of how much I enjoyed coming to the same dance with my mum and realised that many of the things Zoe loved I had too, and still do!

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to sponsoring young dancers at Spring Fling, the Branch awards scholarships to young dancers, musicians and prospective teachers to help them attend Summer School at St. Andrews. The qualifying criteria are the same as for Spring Fling and details of Summer School are on the RSCDS website. If you wish to apply please get in touch with the Youth Co-ordinator Angela Young or the Branch Secretary Stewart Murray - contact details on Page 2.

This summer I was again dancing at Kensington Gardens and was treated to the excellent pipe playing of London Branch Piper, Roger Huth, who was accompanying the demonstration team display at the interval. It was then that Roger kindly agreed to give us an insight into the world of piping for the Scottish country dancer.

Stephen Webb

BAGPIPES FOR SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Just because I thoroughly enjoy playing the Great Highland Bagpipe for Scottish Country and Highland Dancing, it no way makes me expert on the subject.

Ever since Graham and Fay Cattell asked me to play at The London Highland Club way back circa 1969 and someone in the audience said he thought it was Jim Caution, my bagpipe teacher, who was playing, I was hooked.

Although I also enjoy competing on the Solo Piping Boards and at Piping Recitals; there is something particularly rewarding to me when our community take to the floor and rely on me to deliver something they can enjoy dancing to.



Stephen Webb

The Great Highland Bagpipe

When the drones and chanter notes are all perfectly in tune with each other then pipes can be played with minimum effort and plenty of comfort; this is so essential for any performance, let alone *The Eightsome Reel*. But this only happens with planning and preparation, so before any performance, the bag, reeds, valve and hemp on the tuning pins, including all emergency spares are inspected and all are hopefully found working.

Rhythm and Tempo

Without the attributes of rhythm and tempo it is impossible to play for dancers. It is one of the hardest of lessons for a piper, to play beat notes on the beat, and to understand both the compound jig and the simple reel pulses. If not, the piper floats around in the darkness hoping to get it right. The biggest luxury for me is when the dance band joins in and I can rest on the drummer's beat and give the music all my attention. I have found that tempo is the hardest thing to control when I'm excited or nervous.

Counting the Bars

Four by 32 jigs and eight by 32 reels – these are easy for me to remember as the tunes are played straight. Anything times 32 or 64 is easy but five by 40 etc. requires a tiny bit of maths and remembering to play an extra 8 bars that fit in with the dance.

Also, it is essential to ascertain whether dancers require a 4 or 8 bar intro to their dance.

Generally, I have found it is a 4 bar intro that is preferred.

Wrong Notes

When playing for dancing, a piper does not have the luxury of stopping and starting again; especially if it is a competition or public performance. If something goes temporarily haywire with the fingers, the piper has to hang on in there playing until the music slots in properly again. Thankfully, this doesn't happen too often with me, but it is scary when it does occur and the dancers have always kindly adjusted with a knowing smile.

Tunes for the Dance

Not all particular dance music tunes can be played on the Great Highland Bagpipe single octave chanter but a number can be accommodated with some minor adjustments. Trial and error will often find the best tunes for dancing to. For instance, the London Branch demonstration team will not experience me playing 'Itchy Fingers' for their reels again. Although 'Itchy' is a great popular tune in simple reel time it is not ideal to dance to as the team and I realised as we all cringed through it on one occasion!

In conclusion, I am sure that highland piping for highland and Scottish country dancing will always be wanted.

Pipe Major Roger Huth

ST ANDREWS DANCE 2010

Considering the threat of snow, diabolical congestion and the many other distractions a goody number enjoyed a splendid day of dancing to Iain Cathcart and his Band. The inner warmth of our welcome glass of wine and sympathetic lighting added to the cosy intimate atmosphere of our evening Ceilidh dance.

Our MC Andrew Kellett managed to inject that sparkle and keep the party spirit going so that we all ended on a high. An added bonus was the *Riverside Jig* which seemed to go down rather well.

We are sometimes criticised for the expense of bringing bands all the way from Scotland but the strength and quality of the performance proved us right beyond all doubt.

The pies and beans were an inspirational choice and much appreciated by all.

An excellent effort all round; well done!

Jeff Robertson

THE SPRING FLING

Edinburgh 25 to 27 March 2011.

The Spring Fling is an annual event of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society that is organised by young people for young people. After a successful Spring Fling in Edinburgh in 2005, the weekend of good music, excellent teachers, a few laughs and plenty of dancing will be returning to the capital of Scotland in 2011. Over the weekend there will be various dance classes, a Ceilidh on the Friday evening and a Scottish Dance Challenge on the Sunday morning. However the highlight has to be the formal dance on the Saturday night, with a wine/sherry reception, in George Watson's College to the toe tapping music of Graeme Munro. There is plenty of opportunity to meet new dancers from around the world and catch up with those friends you haven't seen in years. Accommodation and meals are provided in a nearby hostel (for 16-35 year olds attending all of the weekend) and of course those over the age of 35 are more than welcome to join us for the evening ceilidh and ball.

More details and booking on www.rscds.org



There are records of sword dances being performed in ancient Greece and Rome. Writers have misquoted Tacitus as referring to Scots performing sword dances when the Romans invaded Britain; claiming that the natives of Scotland stuck their swords point upwards in the ground and danced among the blades. Tacitus was actually describing a German dance and made no reference to hilts being stuck in the ground.

Sword dances exist in many forms in different countries and although there are records of several early Scottish sword dances, unfortunately no instructions have been traced for the majority of them.

In the majority of early sword dances the swords were carried, as they are in current Arab sword dances. Rutherford published a sword dance to the tune of the 'Reel of Tulloch' in which swords were carried. In 1806, at the Edinburgh Theatre, a sword dance 'McAn Fhairsair' (The Forester's Son) was performed in which the participants waved swords in the air, but no details have survived. All the early references to sword dances referred to dances where the performers brandished their swords in the air, however, no such Scottish dance is currently being performed.

There were country dances performed to sword dance music and referred to as 'The Sword Dance'. Playford published a 'Sword Dance' (named after the tune) in 9/8 time for which two different sets of instructions exist. In these dances swords could not be carried (hands are never given to anybody carrying a sword). It is difficult to imagine either being performed over swords laid on the floor.

Later references were mainly to 'hilt and point' longsword dances, similar to 'The Sword Dance of Papa Stour'. Up until the early 17th century, hilt and point sword dances existed in many parts of Scotland, but here again instructions for most of them have not survived. The majority of surviving dances of this nature, some of which are associated with miracle plays, come from Northern England or continental Europe. These dances appear to have been introduced to Britain from external sources and probably originated in Scandinavia or Germany.

Thus, there are three distinct types of Scottish sword dance to be considered: swords held by hilt and point, swords waved in the air and swords laid on the ground. All three types continue to exist in other cultures, but details of most of these old traditional Scottish dances have not been traced, probably because they could not be performed during the period of proscription after 1745. A faint memory of them might have been retained by some who had seen them in their youth prior to that period; but these dances would have been taught by word of mouth with no written instructions.

In most countries where sword dances are still performed, the swords are carried. These dances in different countries probably had a common origin.

When considering the dances below it should be noted that the whole character of the Introduction has changed during the course of the 20th century. Nowadays the performers march on with their swords at the carry, recover with military precision, and place their swords on the ground.

Argyll Broadswords

There are several different versions of this dance for four men. Each Scottish Regiment has its own unique version. Its origin is uncertain but

SWORD DANCES

may well predate the 1745 Act of Proscription as the Military were not banned from continuing with the traditional Highland dress or carrying weapons.

The Dirk Dance

MacLennan recalled that in 1830, two of his grand-uncles performed the 'Dirk Dance' 'Bruicheath' in London. One of his uncles gave him a copy of the instructions for a version of this dance which involved two dancers, each carrying a dirk and a targe indulging in mock fighting whilst performing highland steps. If his copy of the instructions can be traced this might make an interesting revival.

Joan and Tom Flett interviewed people who had seen several different dirk dances performed, but were unable to obtain sufficient information to enable them to be reconstructed. At least one dance was performed round a dirk stuck hilt first into the ground, although most appear to have been performed with dirks waved in the air or round dirks laid on the ground, similarly to the majority of Scottish sword dances.

Mrs Mary Isdale MacNab used to teach a version of one such dance, but the rather expensive instructions have not become generally available and as a result it is relatively unknown outwith her classes.

Ghillie Chaluum

The solo sword dance to the tune 'Gillie Chaluum' is probably the best known of the Scottish Sword dances. It is surprising that a 19th century Ball in Scotland would always end with the gentlemen present dancing the solo sword dance. If that was the tradition, it might be interesting to revive it. It is more probable that the dance 'Babbity Bowster' was performed to the tune 'Ghillie Caluim'.

There are several legends about the origin of this dance, all of which appear to be the products of very imaginative 19th century minds. The modern version originated early in the 19th century, when a decision was made to replace the earlier sticks or handkerchiefs with swords, to make it more interesting and spectacular. According to Emmerson it was in 1832, that this dance was first performed at a competition in Edinburgh. Initially it was performed to a dance band, the change to performing it to a piper being made in 1838. The earliest description of the dance as now performed was recorded by Queen Victoria, on 7 September, 1842, by which time it appears to have become established in the repertoire.

The SOBHD has laid down definitive instructions for the performance of this dance in competition.

Jacobite Sword Dance

This dance for two dancers is performed over two swords using some steps from 'Ghillie Chaluum'. It must be performed very carefully, not only to avoid kicking the swords, but also so that the dancers avoid contact (other than hand holds) with each other. At one demonstration the two dancers were evidently worried about this eventuality and performed the whole dance round the swords, without getting over them – although the steps were beautifully executed, the audience must have wondered why they had bothered to put the swords on the floor!

Lochaber Broadswords

The original 'Lochaber Broadswords' appears to have been forgotten, except by name. According to one legend, when Prince Charlie landed at Moidart and raising his standard at Glenfinnan, the eight men of Moidart were dancing it. Other legends indicate that the eight MacDonalds were dancing a country dance to keep warm. Other records indicate that only seven MacDonalds joined the Prince on that day. It is doubtful if a sword dance was performed on that occasion, but this legend gives a Jacobite connection.

The modern 'Lochaber Broadsword' for four dancers with four swords, as collected by Mary Isdale MacNab is similar to the 'Argyll Broadswords' and does not appear to correspond with any earlier description of the dance. Although the 'Argyll Broadswords' has several variations, built up from a common series of steps in different sequences and combinations, the 'Lochaber Broadswords' has a fixed sequence. Mrs MacNab collected her version of this dance in Prince Edward Island. It has since been widely circulated and taught in classes as it is in some ways simpler than the Argyll Broadswords.

The Perth Glover's Sword Dance

According to MacLan, it was called 'An baiteal' and performed by 13 persons at Perth in 1633 before King Charles. MacLennan also mentions this performance of what, in his opinion, must have been a well known dance.

It was unlikely to have been a demonstration by a hand picked team, because the Provost of Perth is said to have joined in as one of the protagonists. This probably originated as a Morris Dance as MacLennan quotes a report that the Perth Guild of Glovers had preserved one of the dancer's costumes, which was described as: 'A Morrice dancers attire with 250 small bells in 21 sets of 12 bells all different sizes.' The dance which was performed at Perth in 1633, has been described and clearly identified as a 'hilt and point chain' dance (similar to the Sword Dance of Papa Stour). It is presumed that the brethren of the Perth Guild of Glovers performed a 'hilt and point' sword dance in connection with their Miracle Play. (The Miracle plays were banned during the Commonwealth period and the details of the majority were lost). Unfortunately the available description is so vague as to render it impossible to attempt a reconstruction. The description indicates that it involved 13 men, but does not indicate if they were all dancing with swords, or if this included a 'fool' or the musicians.

The Sword Dance of Papa Stour

Lockhart described this dance and noted the existence of other similar dances – mainly in the North of England, but makes no mention of any solo sword dances. He may have intentionally concentrated on 'hilt and point' dances similar to this. Hibbert also described this dance, but made no mention of other sword dances. The 'Sword Dance of Papa Stour' is unique in being for seven dancers representing the Seven Knights of Christendom (all other similar dances being for six or eight dancers) and occurs as the culmination of a short Miracle Play. George Emmerson recorded the full text of the play. MacLennan indicated that this dance was first recorded by Lowe, in 1770, and that Sir Walter Scott copied it from a manuscript dated 1780. MacLennan learnt the dance in 1926, and included the instructions in his book, likening it to 'La Danse Du Bacchu-Bar', a 'Danse Pyrique' or 'Danse Gaulloise' which used to be performed at the Fête d'Hameau on 16 August, each year at Briancon in the Haut Alpes, by nine to eleven dancers wearing white shirts and trousers and carrying brass handled swords.

Solo Dances

There is a large number of old Scottish solo dances, for both ladies and gentlemen, which are known to have existed. Some have been performed continuously up to the present day, a few have been discovered, and revived from old records, and others have vanished without trace. The 18th century solo dance 'The Girl I left Behind Me' was performed continuously until early in the 20th century, being handed down verbally by dance teachers; but it appears never to have been written down and has disappeared from the modern repertoire.

John Mitchell

80th Anniversary Supplement Photographs – Captions in Detail

- Anniversary Cake by Pauline Cashmore, cut at Weekend School.

- 1 **Weekend School:** The Musicians play for the Saturday evening dance.
- 2 **Anniversary Ball:** Iris Sin See leads Valerie Strachan down the middle in *Miss Mary Douglas*.
- 3 **Kensington Gardens Garden Dance:** The pavilion, dancers, audience and Liam Stewart and his Band.
- 4 **80th Anniversary Tea Party:** All smiles from dem dancers Marjory Reid, Kate Sweeney and Marian Morris.
- 5 **DSW Dancing in Kensington Gardens:** Judy Hall and Emily promenading in an 'around the room' dance.
- 6 **DSW Dancing in Kensington Gardens:** Fun for all in the *Circassian Circle*.
- 7 **Kensington Gardens Garden Dance:** The LB dem team provide the interval display.
- 8 **Kensington Gardens Garden Dance:** Under the arches in the *Cumberland Reel*.
- 9 **80th Anniversary Tea Party:** The children and adults afternoon dem team led by Angela.
- 10 **80th Anniversary Ball:** Jean Nicol with her 80th birthday cake while Wilson applauds.
- 11 **80th Anniversary Tea Party:** Jeff Robertson with LB Hon. Auditor Robert Elliott.
- 12 **RSCDS London Branch Day:** School Janet Johnson confers with Andrew Lyon.
- 13 **Anniversary Christmas Dance:** Philippe and Danielle L. with Jerry and Danielle R. dance the rondel in *The Silver Tassie*.
- 14 **Kensington Gardens Garden Dance:** Tom Cooper in sunshine mode.
- 15 **Weekend School for Dancers and Musicians:** Phill Jones with his accordion.
- 16 **CCPR:** London Branch dancers rehearsing

for the evening RAH arena display in the shadow of The Albert Memorial.

- 17 **80th Anniversary Tea Party:** Christine Meyer joins Vice- Presidents Andrew Cockett and Mary Barker.
- 18 **80th Anniversary Tea Party:** Blake, Thomas, Andrew and Maddie with Iris.
- 19 **Weekend School for Dancers and Musicians:** Swanwick Conference Centre in Derbyshire.
- 20 **Weekend School for Dancers and Musicians:** Graham Donald instructs on double triangles.
- 21 **Weekend School for Dancers and Musicians:** Geoffrey Hodges leads Marian and Jeff in *Ladies' Fancy*.
- 22 **80th Anniversary Tea Party:** Joan Desborough with Ann Dix.
- 23 **DSW RSCDS London Open House:** Janet Rudge looks after newcomer Sam and a beardless Jim Cook claps in support.
- 24 **DSW Scotland in September:** Graham Hamilton, Patsy Reid, Graham Berry and Nicol McLaren provide the evening's music.
- 25 **80th Anniversary Tea Party:** providing some of the afternoon entertainment accompanist Angela with bass singer Matthew Kellett who sang for us Annie Laurie and the Impossible Dream..
- 26 **DSW Scotland in September:** Patsy Reid delighted the dancers with her exquisite playing.
- 27 **DSW Ceilidh:** Committee Member Elaine Davies with friend Nicola.
- 28 **DSW Scotland in September:** Elizabeth and Frank Bennett dance *None so Pretty*.
- 29 **Weekend School for Dancers and Musicians:** Alan and Anna Crawford with Nicol McLaren.

- 30 **Dance through the Decades:** Philippe leads Thelma and Lindsay with Dick following in *The Glasgow Highlanders*.
- 31 **Dance through the Decades:** John Raymond leads Anne Milligan up the middle in *Seann Truibhas Willichan*.
- 32 **Burns' Supper and Ceilidh Dance:** Jeff, a haggis and a bottle of 'gravy' with helpers Hilary Fitzhugh and Gill Lumbus.
- 33 **80th Anniversary Ball:** a "Reigate" table, Left at the front: Ray Charman, then clockwise round the table: Alex Harvey Agnes Dell, Bill Dell, Irene Edgar, Bob Harman, Rosemary Harvey, Dennis Simmons, Sheila Doherty, and front right Meg Harman.
- 34 **80th Anniversary Ball:** Alex Grey, RSCDS Chairman and principal guest dances in a circle of four with Mary Robertson.
- 35 **80th Anniversary Ball** Jane Rose, Rachel Wilton and Bar Martlew looking lovely.
- 36 **80th Anniversary Tea Party:** Margaret Shaw with Peter Knight.
- 37 **Winter Wednesday:** Rachel Wilton with Renata Stankova (Assistant Branch Photographer).
- 38 Jane and Andrew's Summer Class (1 of 5) held in Marlborough School.
- 39 **RSCDS London Branch Day School:** Graham and Angela play a duet.
- 40 **RSCDS London Branch Day School:** Ian Robertson leads the musicians' class.
- 41 **Weekend School:** for Dancers and Musicians Jeff gives 'man of the match' Margaret Catchick a hug of thanks.

The captions will be available shortly to download from the Branch website for those who wish to associate the captions with the supplement without having to break up their copy of this Reel.


The 80th Anniversary picture Supplement can be detached if preferred



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leeds

Bit by the Quadrille

Dear Wilson,

John Mitchell has quoted from the journals of Elizabeth Grant to illustrate the change in lifestyle that accompanied the 19th Century decline of traditional Scottish dance forms and customs in the Highlands. (Life Style Changes, Reel No 274).

In the passages cited, she is recalling, with nostalgia, the scenes of her childhood on the Speyside family estate. All that had certainly changed by 1830, not least because the family fortunes had declined and the estate had been run down. However, we should not overlook her account of life in Edinburgh in 1816/17. There, she and a group of similar-minded friends formed a set of enthusiasts who took the social scene by storm as they demonstrated the attractions of the new dances.

Elizabeth Grant noted that the custom of holding large balls had declined.

“A much pleasanter style of smaller parties had come into fashion with the new style of dancing. It was the first season of quadrilles, against the introduction of which there had been a great stand by old fashioned respectables. Many resisted the new French figures altogether, and it was a pity so entirely to give up the merry country dance, in which the warfare between the two opinions resulted; but we were all the young people bit by the quadrille mania, and I was one of the set that brought them first into notice. We practised privately by the aid of a much better master than Mr Smart. Finlay Dunn had been abroad, imported all the most graceful steps from Paris; and having kept our secret well, we burst upon the scene at a select reunion at the White Melvilles.”

Evidently, Elizabeth (age 20) and her friends had the resources to support their endeavours. This was at a time of post-war euphoria; change was in the air and novel forms of enjoyment were welcomed. Those who had the means could travel to France again.

In the course of time, the new ways would spread through all levels of society. If lifestyle was the vehicle of change, then fashion was the spur.

Dr Gordon J. Bennett

Bromley

Paternoster Square

Dear Wilson,

Elizabeth Woodman has stirred my memory when she wrote about Paternoster Square. How true it was that dancing shoes were cut to ribbons after one evening of dance! – Plimsolls were the order of the day.

But these Summer Saturday evenings were magical! The dancing started in daylight, with the sun shining in the sky, and then it grew gradually darker and suddenly we were dancing in the dark with just the lamps of the Square showing us where we were going. St Paul's, nearby, chimed away the hours and it was every bit as fast and frantic as a Summer Tuesday.

I also remember a special lunchtime dance that was organised in the Square the day before the wedding of Prince Charles and Diana. This too was a very happy occasion and very well attended considering that it was a weekday lunchtime.

Afterwards, I walked back to Charing Cross, by way of Fleet Street and all along the way offices and public houses were hung with banners, bunting and flags. An immense air of expectation and excitement hung in the air. The weather was perfect and everyone was in a happy mood!

Still thinking of dance venues which were memorable, Porchester Hall was a wonderful one. The floor of the Ballroom was beautiful to dance on and the surroundings were so very elegant with a sweeping staircase and hanging chandeliers. It really inspired great dancing! I am sure many of us remember the very last dance there when all the men looked so dashing in their Highland outfits and the ladies in their beautiful ball dresses. I like to remember all of this as I dance *Porchester Hall!*

Heather Edwards

THE TEA CEILIDH

We are all aware that the age range of *The Reel's* readership is moving upwards and some are now finding dancing a trifle onerous. Take heart because there is an alternative as bandleader Robin Ellis has found out.

Robin has hit upon the idea of a Tea Ceilidh which he has been running successfully now for over a year. Basically it is an afternoon of self entertainment for those interested, but as it turns out the participants are to a large extent ex-dancers. The arrangements are simple: hire a hall with facilities for making tea and invite the audience to step up to the podium and perform. The last meeting at Petts Wood, Robin reports, had around 50 present, with the audience providing music from accordionists, fiddlers and pianists plus singing and recitations, such is the versatility of older folk. It is a proper ceilidh – not just dancing of which there was none! An important element though is the tea and cakes and the opportunity to talk and socialise.

It is an idea which could be copied locally around the capital amongst dancing groups, and church halls would be glad of the extra revenue for afternoon meetings. Is this something that our Branches and dance clubs might like to explore in suburbia? As Robin said “I am quite overwhelmed by its popularity”.

Wilson Nicol

Hove

More about Caddam Wood

Dear Wilson,

My grateful thanks to Bill Clement for his valuable insight regarding the tune. I am always keen to expand my knowledge of Scottish dance and music and the information that this particular tune originated in the Netherlands came as quite a surprise.

It was Miss Milligan who denounced Caddam Wood at the Younger Hall and a piper who was next to me remarked “The bagpipe does not have all the notes needed to play that tune”.

During the course of the nineteenth century a number of country dances were devised to be performed to waltzes and polkas. There are several medleys which comprise sixteen bars of reel or jig and sixteen bars in waltz time. One advantage of using such music was that it enabled poussettes to be performed from unconventional positions, (e.g. one couple on the ladies' side and the other on the men's side). It was also useful in ecossoise dance where the first couple should commence on the opposite side of the set. Wisely the Society has ignored the majority of these dances in its publications. Unfortunately a few ecossoise dances have been republished by the Society – but with the first couple dancing on their own side of the set (e.g. Royal Albert Country Dance in Book 34), which has introduced unnecessary movements, rendering these dances unlikely to revive the popularity which they originally had.

I was unaware that Miss Milligan chose the music for *Bonnie Anne* and *MacDonald of Sleat*; and understood that Mrs MacNab's instructions for *Bonnie Anne* indicated that the first 64 bars should be performed to “The Sweet Maid of Glendaruel”, changing to “The Glendaruel Highlanders” for the last 32 bars during which the music should be played faster, to make the finale more exciting; Surely Mrs MacNab used these tunes when she discovered these dances and used them when trying out the dances in America prior to sending them to Miss Milligan. It was a sensible decision by Miss Milligan that when publishing *Bonnie Anne* it should be performed with the same music at a constant speed throughout. Possibly one of our American friends could provide more information regarding Mrs MacNab's development of these dances.

John Mitchell

THE REEL

The Reel is published four times a year by the London Branch.

It is posted free to all Branch members (membership enquiries to Gaynor Curtis, see advert page 4).

Non-members may subscribe to be on the mailing list, and Clubs can negotiate bulk copies for their members. Enquiries to Rita Marlow, see advert on page 11.

Articles and advertisements for *The Reel* should be sent to the Editor, see foot of front page.

Advertising rates are £12 per column inch in black and white, £18 per column inch in colour (on back page). Enquiries to the Business Manager Jeff Robertson, see column 3 on page 2 for details.

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NEW RECORDINGS

O'er the Border – Jimmy Shand (BRHCD39)
Step We Gaily – Jimmy Shand (BRHCD42)
Heather Medley – Jim Johnstone and his Band
Special Requests Volume 8 – Colin Dewar (SRDC 008)

Back in 1933 a relatively unknown Jimmy Shand recorded his first two 78s at Abbey Road Studios in London. Fast forward to 1958 when Jimmy was invited to record his first 12 inch LP (he had already recorded six 10 inch ones) in London. Jimmy's hectic schedule meant that he could not make it to London, and the LP was recorded at the fifth Festival of Scottish Dancing organised by the Leeds Scottish Country Dance Club at Leeds University. This recording O'er the Border has now been released on CD (BRHCD39) as has his second LP issued in 1960 Step We Gaily (BRHCD42). Frankly, they are far too fast for today's standard; 8x32 Jigs and Reels at 4 minutes 12 seconds and a Strathspey at 7 minutes 28 seconds. Why do we now dance so much slower? Nevertheless, I am sure the CDs will become collector's items. Does anyone want my LPs?

Also now on CD is a real classic recorded in 1969; Heather Medley by the late Jim Johnstone and his Band. This is indeed a medley of Scottish

country and old time dances and is superb. Dance tracks are only 4x32 except for *The Swilcan* which is 8x32!

Colin Dewar's latest CD Special Requests Volume 8 (SRDC 008) is I think his fifteenth and it is as good as ever. He started in the Top Flight and remains there. Tempo is just right and the six piece band makes a tremendous sound. The music included a warm up march and waltz and 15 full length dances which are mostly modern ones. Special mention must be made of *The Duchess Tree*. Colin does not follow the original with further Scott Skinner tunes but with three recently composed airs including Pam Wilkie's evocative When the Swallows have gone. Beautiful!

Next time, more nostalgia with a tribute to Jim Johnstone by Ian Hutson's Band, and memories of Andrew Rankine by Iain MacPhail.

Any questions, please call me.

John Laurie 020 7286 1923



BANDS



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FIDDLE LEGACY ENDS – OR DOES IT?

The Chiltern Fiddle Rally on Sunday 16 January 2011 ended a legacy begun by Alan Robertson 25 years ago. Originally called The Fiddle Rant held in a village hall with a few dedicated musicians and a small audience it grew to a fiddle orchestra of around 100 fiddlers and other musicians playing to an audience in excess of 800 in a theatre. Ian Robertson, Alan's son, took over many years ago with the background support of his sister Judith (Muir), his wife Ann and with a brief interlude from Peter Macfarlane leading, it grew to its current successful size. Participants have all given their time freely with thousands of pounds going to charities over those years. Ian remains deeply involved in traditional music and has launched a new band with Rob Alderton called Landing Party. This 7-piece

Band of expert musicians plays music written by Ian and Rob which sees British traditions arranged to include influences from across the musical world. The audience was treated to a sample of this at the fiddle concert. Four pieces were played, including one lively number called Calypso Bay which interestingly included the steel drum! Their next concert is at Tring, Hertfordshire on Friday 11 February (Ring 07543 560478 to book - *act now!*).

If you are interested in carrying on a great tradition and organising the 26th Chiltern Fiddle Rally do contact Ian on 01296 630682.

Stephen Webb

MUSICIANS' DAY

This year our musicians' workshop will take place on Saturday 14 May 2011 at St Columba's Church, Pont Street with coffee from 10.30 for 11.00am start.

This is for all musicians who want to learn more about playing for Scottish Country Dancing, and wish to be involved in playing for the Branch Dance that evening.

The dances have been chosen to spark musical discussion and to bring together different musical styles into a fun day of Scottish Music.

The Workshop will be led by Angela Young, and all musicians are welcome to come along and join in. The cost will be £20 for RSCDS members and £22 for non-members.

For further information and an application form please contact Margaret Catchick classes@rscdslondon.org.uk or 01494 772305

Application forms are also available to download from the website.

Want to Advertise in The Reel?

Contact Jeff Robertson, Tel 020 7730 9633 or 01903 245718.
email: chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk.

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JAMES OSWALD

When I was compiling the series on Dancing Masters a year or two back, I swithered whether to include James Oswald because he is principally known as a musician.

He was a Fifer born in Crail in the East Neuk in 1710 into a musical family (his father was a drummer!). He soon took an interest in music and at the age of 20 published a song book. By 1734 he was a dancing master in Dunfermline advertising his publication of a collection of Minuets which he had composed. By 1736 he was living in Edinburgh, teaching the violin and composing. In 1740 he published *A Curious Collection of Scots Tunes* dedicated to the Duke of Perth who clearly had a musical bent. Some of the earliest extant records of Scottish Music and dance are the Duke of Perth's manuscript dated 1737, now at Drummond Castle, and the Castle Menzies manuscripts dated 1749 now in the Sandeman Library in Perth.

Robert Bremner published in 1757 in Edinburgh his collection of Scots reels and country dances. James Oswald was therefore at the forefront of Scottish music at the time and was part of the flood of music and dance publications in the subsequent decades. Freemasonry was very influential in Scottish music circles then and most well-known musicians were members to help their career progression. To this end, Oswald wrote his own setting of the Freemason's Anthem. Oswald's next move was to London where he worked for the music publisher, John Simpson, who incidentally published his collection of curious tunes. This was followed in 1744 with the second collection dedicated to the Prince of Wales, thus playing both sides of the Jacobite rebellion.

In 1745 Oswald started a series of publications called the Caledonian Pocket Companion running eventually to 12 books during the years up to 1760. Later, the 12 books were published in two volumes, a copy of the second volume is in the Wighton Heritage Centre in Dundee Central Library. Facsimile versions of both volumes have been produced on CD (nickparkes@btinternet.com) with introduction and notes by John and Barbara Purser. The notable feature of the collection for us dancers and musicians is the first publication of a strathspey in Book 3, although the form was being used by musicians before that date. From then it became much more widely used and typified most effectively by Neil Gow and family, the Mackintosh family and James Scott Skinner.

When in 1747, Simpson died, Oswald set up his own very successful publishing business near St-Martin-in-the-Fields and successfully petitioned for royal patronage. The business survived to his death in 1769.

Wilson Nicol

GEORGE MEIKLE LEADS AGAIN

Let's hear it for Jan Jones of the Thistle Scottish Dance Club for organising, almost single-handedly, such a classic and memorable day in September in the Wing Village Hall near Leighton Buzzard.

Boarding an early train, I began to wonder if I would last out the long day to play my drum right through the evening Dance – 7.30 to 10.30pm. However all was structured to ensure that every musician who wished to, would have every encouragement and rehearsal to show off their musical skills during the excellent evening Dance. The event was led by George Meikle who travelled from Scotland with his versatile Roland electronic accordion and compact PA system. We had been sent, several weeks earlier, a "Workbook" covering all the tunes to be played at the Dance. Plenty of time for the homework. The tune arrangements were meticulous. A couple of the tunes had deliberately been printed without the "chording", with the object of making the musicians consider what chords they themselves would use. During the course of the day these chords were tested and amended as necessary, for best musical effect. Some slight printing errors were ironed-out and the order in which some of the tunes in the "Sets" were played was changed after discussion, to get the best results for the dancers.

The 10 musicians attending were invited by George "to drive it" and to play a "running bass line" and to be careful to avoid a "stodgy and lethargic" style of playing. Some of the players brought up on the "English" dance scene found it hard to get into this mindset. By the evening everyone had settled into a groove of crisp "Scottish-ness" – A tribute to George's skill as a tutor.

"Leave space between the notes", was another of George's pearls of wisdom to take home and ponder. The whole day passed very quickly. Coffee, breaks, even a visit to the pub along the road for a meal prior to the Dance, made for an excellent social scene. The musicians had come from a wide area, covering West Midlands, Yorkshire, Nottingham, Leicester, Oxford, London, as well as more locally, so there was a great deal to talk about. During the Dance there was an opportunity for the musicians to dance, too, from time to time as George had chosen to play solo on some of the programme, when he demonstrated in full his virtuosity at the vertical keyboard. A great event. George has said he is due a break, for now, as he has travelled four times from Scotland to handle this Dance. However we keep our fingers crossed that there will be a repeat of some kind next year.

Tom Cooper – London Branch.

DANCE EVENTS

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Annual Spring Dance
Saturday 26 February 2011.
7.30 - 11.30pm

Pittville School, Albert Road,
Cheltenham, GL52 3JD

Iain MacPhail and his SCD Band

Programme: Grand March, Nottingham Lace, St Andrews Fair, The Belle of Bon Accord, The Lochalsh Reel, Pelorus Jack, Heather Dewar, Gavin's Reel, Gothenburg's Welcome, The Glengarry Homestead, Milton's Welcome*, Thirteen-Fourteen, The Flying Spur, The Flower of the Quern, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, Quarries' Jig, Sauchie Haugh, The Sailor, Follow Me Home, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Mairi's Wedding.

Tickets £13 from John Marshall, 17 Gratton Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BT duracellbunney@tiscali.co.uk Cheques to "Cheltenham Scottish Society" with SAE please.



HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Spring Dance
Saturday 21 May 2011
7.00 - 11.00pm

Methodist Church Hall,
Heston Road, Heston, TW5 0QP

Craigievar Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Jennifer's Jig, Scott Meikle, Twa Bonnie Lassies, Aird of Coigach, Bratach Bana, The Wind on Loch Fyne, The Montgomeries' Rant, The Wee Cooper of Fife, The Dundee Whaler, Pelorus Jack, The Piper and the Penguin, The Bees of Maggieknockater, Mairi's Wedding, The Robertson Rant, The Sailor, Seton's Ceilidh Band, St Margarets Loch, Duke of Perth, The Highland Rambler, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, The Irish Rover, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, *Extras:* Hooper's Jig, The Peat Fire Flame.

Tickets £12.00/£6.00 non-dancers & juniors
paid for by 14th May
(£13.00/£7.00 on door) including refreshments.
Contact: Denise Smith, Tel: 0208 715 9521.

Further details and map on our website
www.hestonscottish.co.uk

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SYLVIA EDIE

Sylvia Edie passed away in January after a long association with dancing in the Croydon area. She was a very active teacher at one time taking as many as four classes a week. In addition she ran a successful children's class. She served on the Croydon Branch committee and was President for a number of years. A member of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, she won the Jack McConachie Memorial Sword twice – in 1984 with the square set reel *Michaelmas*, and in 1985 with the Strathspey *The Queen of Hearts*. She ran charity ceilidhs raising considerable sums for many good causes including the Alzheimer's Society.

DANCE EVENTS (continued)



WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Caledonian Ball
Saturday 19 March 2011
7.30-11.30pm
Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane,
Elstree, Hertfordshire. WD6 3PJ

Ian Robertson and his Band

For programme see *The Reel 274* or
www.watfordscottish.org.uk

Tickets include Buffet Supper: £17.50
Highland or Evening Dress preferred
Contact Jan on 07762 079083, Rose on 07880
842370 or tickets@WatfordScottish.org.uk.
A Ball practice will be held on Sunday 13th
March from 2-5pm at Allum Hall



BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND REEL CLUB

Spring Dance
Saturday 21st May 2011
7:30pm - 11:30pm

Boxmoor Playhouse, St John's Road,
Hemel Hempstead HP1 1NP

Band: Ceol na h-Alba

Programme: Joie de Vivre, The Baldoan Reel,
The Byron Strathspey, Kendall's Hornpipe,
Domino Five, Butterscotch and Honey, Best Set
in the Hall, New Scotland Strathspey, J.B.Milne,
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Rest and
be Thankful, The Bees of Maggielknockater,
Miss Gibson's Strathspey, The Recumbent
Stone, Quarries' Jig, Up in the Air, Fife Ness,
The Minister on the Loch, Pelorus Jack, The
Montgomerys' Rant.

Admission by Programme - £10.

Licensed Bar. Bring and share supper. Raffle.

Details and tickets from: Mrs Janet Halse,
1 Highcroft Road, Felden,

Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 0BU,
Tel: 01442 246381.

e-mail: events@berkhamstedreelclub.org
www.berkhamstedreelclub.org



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER BRANCH

Branch Day School

Saturday 12 March 2011

Court Moor School, Fleet GU2 7RY

Teachers: **Craig Houston, Helen Russell,
Margaret Williams**

Class Musicians:..... **Robert Mackay,
Ken Martlew, Judith Muir**

Musicians Day School:..... **Gordon Simpson**
Suitable for musicians 14 and over with a
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Followed at 7pm by an evening dance with
Gordon Simpson and the Day School students.
Contact: Dancers; Chris Brown 01252 674708,
Musicians; Mervyn Short 01903 782413

Branch Ball

Saturday 21 May 2011

Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Contact: Catherine Smith 01483 502422

Summer Open Air Dance

Saturday 18 June 2011

Details to be confirmed

Contact: Rhoda Finch 01276 681820

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



ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

60th Anniversary Ball
Saturday 12 March 2011
7.30 pm to 11.30pm
New Venue

Benson Parish Hall, Benson OX10 6LZ

Ian Robertson and his Band

Programme: Clutha, EH3 7AF, The Singing
Sands, The Recumbent Stone, Jennifer's Jig, The
Minister on the Loch, Anniversary Reel, The
Flying Spur, The Rose of the North, Mr Iain
Stuart Robertson, The Diamond Jubilee, Bratach
Bana, Cherrybank Gardens, The Cooper's Wife,
The Sailor, Kilkenny Castle, Ian Powrie's
Farewell to Auchterarder, Scott Meikle, Indian
River Strathspey, Mairi's Wedding.

Tickets £17 sit-down supper;
vegetarian if requested.

Cheques (Abingdon Scottish Country Dance
Club) to Pat Berry 2 Drysdale Close, Radley,
Oxon OX14 3BU (please enclose sae)
01235 526192/204155



ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Day School

Saturday 16 April 2011
Edgbarrow School,
Sandhurst Road
Crowthorne, RG45 7HZ

Teachers: **Dave Hall,
Margo Priestley, Catherine Smith**

Musicians: **Phill Jones,
Robert Mackay, Caroline Sloan**

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

Argyll Weekend

at Dillington House, Somerset
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Dancers Weekend School

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Musicians: **Robert Mackay, Judith Muir**

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Sunday 28 August 2011

2.30 - 6.30pm

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Dancing to recorded music

Ticket prices and programme will be published
on our website

Tea and Biscuits provided

Annual Ball

Headington School, Oxford, OX3 7TD
Saturday 22 October 2011

Ian Muir and The Craigellachie Band

Programme and ticket details in next issue
Contact: Trisha Rawlings, Tel. 01869 340830
Email: trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com
www.rscdoxfordshire.org.uk



CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY BALL

Saturday 26 March 2011
7.00 for 7.30 - 11.30pm
Emmbrook School,

Emmbrook Road, Wokingham, Berks RG41 1JP
Strathallan Band

Programme: Maxwell's Rant, Lady Catherine
Bruce's Reel, The Flower of Glasgow, Quarries'
Jig, Polharrow Burn, Gang the Same Gate, Best
Set in the Hall, The Hamilton Rant, Culla Bay,
James Gray, The Cuckoo Clock, Ian Powrie's
Farewell to Auchterarder, Anniversary Reel,
Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Major Ian Stewart,
Nottingham Lace, Margaret Parker's Strathspey,
The Earl of Mansfield, Pelorus Jack, The Byron
Strathspey, The Montgomerys' Rant, Mairi's
Wedding. *Extras:* Duke of Perth, The Reel of the
51st Division.

Celebratory drink on arrival, supper with wine.

Dress Formal. Tickets (including supper with
wine) £19, cheques payable to Camberley Reel
Club from Janette Walton, 32 Moulsham Lane,
Yateley, Hants, GU46 7QY. Tel: 01252 875511
email: tickets@camberleyreelclub.org.uk
www.camberleyreelclub.org.uk

Please order vegetarian option before
22 March 2011.

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY

75th Anniversary Ball
7 May 2011

7-00 for 7-30 till 11-30pm

Long Road Sixth Form College

Danelaw Band

Programme: The Wild Geese, John of Bon
Accord, The Blue Mess Jacket, James Gray, The
Recumbent Stone, The Robertson Rant, Major
Ian Stewart, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan,
McDonald of the Isles, Father Connelly's Jig,
The Hamilton Rant, Royal Wedding, Lady in
Red, Scott Meikle, The Dream Catcher,
Equilibrium, Anniversary Reel, Indian River
Strathspey, The Flying Spur, Mairi's Wedding.

For tickets (£12.50), shared refreshments,
please ring Donald Wilson on 01945 210683.
Details on www.camscotsoc.org.uk

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball

Saturday 5 March 2011

7.30 pm - 11.30 pm

Harpenden Public Hall, Harpenden, Herts AL5 1PD

Kafoozalum Country Dance Band

Tickets £17 including supper

Students (16-21) £10

Tickets and enquiries: Val Owens 01727 863870

Programme on our website:

www.HSCDC.org.uk

HUNTINGDON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Diamond Anniversary Ball

Saturday 9 April 2011

Commemoration Hall, Huntingdon PE29 3AQ

Frank Reid and his Band

Tickets including supper from Laura Slater
01480 417475 www.hdc.org.uk

DANCE EVENTS (continued)

JERSEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE WEEKEND

Bank Holiday Weekend

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 May, 2011

Dancing to Craigeallachie

£30.00 per person for two evenings incl. supper.

Saturday Ball Programme: 7.00 - 11.30 pm

Scott Meikle, Major Ian Stewart, The Bonnie Tree, The Wind on the Heath, Macleod's Fancy, Ettrick Water, Mrs Stuart Linnell, The Chequered Court, Kilkenny Castle, High Society, Jim's Haberdashery, Peggy Spouse MBE, The Kilt Maker, Alison Rose, Clutha, Kamo Karousel, The Gardeners' Fantasia, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, A Diamond for Belfast, Tom Steele, John of Bon Accord.

Sunday Dance Programme: 7.00 - 11.30 pm

Maxwell's Rant, Inchmickery, Linnea's Strathspey, The Reverend John MacFarlane, The Flying Spur, Burns' Bicentenary Strathspey, Fife Ness, Joie de Vivre, Culla Bay, Hairy Mary, A Capital Jig, The Brigs o' Ayr, Polharrow Burn, The Gentleman, The Peat Fire Flame, Quarries' Jig, Lomondside, The Summer Assembly, The Wild Geese, The Singing Sands, General Stuart's Reel.

Please visit the blog below for more information and recent updates

Contact: Mr Alan P Nicolle, 88 La Ville du Bocage, St Peter, Jersey, JE3 7YT Tel 01534 484375, email alan.nicolle88@googlemail.com <http://scottishcountrydancingjersey.blogspot.com/>

MACLENNAN SCOTTISH GROUP

30th International Folk Dance Concert and Music Festival

Weekend 28 -29 May 2011

Saturday 28 May

7.30 - 11.00pm

International Folk Dance with our international and local guests including groups from Kent, Latvia and more.

Adults £7.50, (Conc. £6.00) Children £3.00

Sunday 29 May

2.00 - 5.30pm

International Fold Dance Concert

Adults £7.50 (Conc. £6.00) Children £3.00

Venue for both events:

Langley Park Boys' School

South Eden Park Road, Beckenham

Kent, BR3 3BP

(Rail: Eden Park Station from Charing Cross)

Licensed bar, refreshments and stalls.

Family and weekend discounts available.

Tickets from Jean Webb: 020 8300 0621

Email: festival@msg.org.uk

www.msg.org.uk

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE WEEKEND

for Advanced Dancers

13-16 January 2012

Prince Regent Hotel, Weymouth DT4 7NR

Teacher:.....Mervyn Short

Pianist:.....Robert Mackay

Further details:Dr John Allen

allen.john2@googlemail.com

Tel. 01903 782413

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCDC

50th Anniversary Dance

Saturday 14 May 2011

Woolmer Green Village Hall SG3 6XA

David Hall Band

Ticket £12 including supper, £8 non-dancers.

Call Hayley or Douglas 01582 469928

e-mail welwyn.scdc@ntlworld.com



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming attractions to be held at St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St, London SW1X 0BD

Fridays: Upper Hall 7.30-10.30pm
Saturdays: Lower Hall 700-10.30pm
..... unless otherwise stated

Friday 11 Feb St Valentines

Saturday 5 March Green Ginger

Saturday 2 April Ian Robertson

Hosting Combined Societies Dance

Friday 15 April Spring Ceilidh

Recorded and live music

Saturday 7 May Musicmakers

Saturday 4 June Karl Sandeman

Summer Ball (Full details in Reel No 276)

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

Please visit our website at

www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk for the latest

news and programmes of our dances

Club de Danse Écossaise de MONTPELLIER, FRANCE

-O-

23rd ANNUAL BALL and OUTING

Weekend of 11-12 June 2011

Dancing to The Craigeallachie Band

Dancing, eating, drinking, more dancing followed by a jolly outing with even more eating and drinking.

Rendez-vous with sunshine and social warmth.

Contact: William Whyte +33 467 868 919 or

wwhyte@buzig.com

Our photograph gallery plus the 2011 booking

form is now available on our website

<http://danseecossaisemp.free.fr/>

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Spring Formal Dance and Buffet

Saturday 12 March 2011

7.30 - 11pm.

Reigate School, Pendleton Road,

Reigate, RH2 7NT

David Hall and his Band.

Tickets £12 at the door

Contact Wendy Mitton, Tel 01737 766244

RSCDS BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Summer Ball

Saturday 21 May 2011

7.30 to 11.30pm

Dame Alice Harpur School, Cardington Road,

Bedford, MK42 0BX

Ian Robertson and his Band

Programme: The Montgomeries' Rant, Pelorus Jack, MacDonald of the Isles, Blooms of Bon Accord, The Chequered Court, The Dream Catcher, The Plantation Reel, Major Ian Stewart, Sands of Morar, J B Milne, The Moray Rant, Bratach Bana, Napier's Index, The Dundee Whaler, The Irish Rover, The Ship in Full Sail, Foxhill Court, The Glenalmond Gamekeeper, Scott Meikle, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterader.

Tickets: £15 each, inc. dinner; available from

Alex Lawton Tel: 01234 831036

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH

Day School

Saturday 19 March 2011

Mascalls School, Maidstone Rd, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, TN12 6LT

Teachers: Deb Lees, Suzi Mayr, Wendy Mumford

Musicians: Robert Mackay,

Barbara Manning, Ken Martlew

Further details and application forms from: Pat Davoll, Cambridge Cottage, Crockham Hill, Kent, TN8 6RD. Tel 01732 866557.

Email: pdavoll@aol.com

www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

Spring Dance

Saturday 16 April 2011

7.00 - 11.00pm

Mascalls School, Maidstone Rd, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, TN12 6LT

Dancing to recorded music

Tickets £6.50 on/before 9 April £8 on/after 10 April plus a plate of food to share at a sit down buffet

Contact Sue Fergusson, Tel: 01892 513514 or

email: socialsec@rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

website: rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

WEST MACS CHARITY BALL

In aid of Children 1ST

Saturday 9 April 2011

7.30pm until 11.30pm

Brentside High School, London W7 1JJ

Ian Muir and the Craigeallachie Band

Programme: The Luckenbooth Brooch, The Lochalsh Reel, The Dream Catcher, The Flying Spur, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Gang the Same Gate, James Gray, Mrs Stuart Linnell, The Flower o' the Quern, Maxwell's Rant, The Hazel Tree, Kinfauns Castle, Anniversary Reel, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterader, The Minister on the Loch, The Plantation Reel, The White Heather Jig, The Moray Rant, The Bees of Maggieknockater, Mairi's Wedding. Extras: A Trip to Bavaria, Napier's Index

Tickets: £18, including supper, from

Margaret Wallace: 020 8560 6160 or email

margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk

HARWELL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

May Ball

Saturday 14 May 2011

Old Mill Hall, Grove, Oxfordshire, OX12 7LB

Ian Muir & the Craigeallachie Band

The ball programme is on our website

www.harwellscdc.mno.org.uk

Tickets £17.50, inc supper by Grove WI from

Lesley Austen 01235 533626

Email ball@harwellscdc.mno.org.uk

SAE to 11 Corn Avill Close, Abingdon,

OX14 2ND.

RSCDS MILTON KEYNES

32nd Annual Ball

12 March 2011

Lovat Hall, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes,

MK16 0EJ

Robert Whitehead & Danelaw Band

7.30 - 11.30pm

Enquiries and tickets at £16 each

From Jan Jones 07877 153259

jange@verybusy.co.uk

www.rscdsmk.co.uk



THOUGHTS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

On February 14th it's Saint Valentine's Day,
When thoughts turn to love, so they say.

But we've come here to dance, I hear you retort,
To do reels and strathspeys, not things of that sort!
But look at the list of the dances we've learned,
It would seem that you're wrong, I would say.

"I'll mak' ye fain to follow me"
Said **Peggy's Love** to **Peggy**.
But your kiss is a **kiss for nothing**, said she,
"Will ye go and marry **Ketty?"**
"She's the bonniest lass in all the world,"
Thinks **Willie** with his **tartan trews**.
I want to **tie the lover's knot**,
But **my love she's but a lassie yet**.

My only Joe and dearie O, an' thou wert my only dear,
Miss Nancy Frowns and the **widows** talk
That **she's ower young to marry yet -**
But **what a beau my granny was**
When **woo'd and married and a' that**.
"Ha! Ha! The wooing o't"
That's what **Mairi** is saying today,
For **Braw St John** is **Mairi's Fancy**
And **"Haste to the Wedding"** they're soon going to say.

19th of December is too cold and raw
For a **trip o'er the Tweed** or to **Holland**
But **autumn in Appin's** a beautiful sight,
So the **Honeymoon** will be spent in **Scotland**.

19th of September the wedding will be.
The **Gathering** will surely be splendid,
And many of the people will go **two and two**

By the time the party has ended!

The Campbell's are coming to help celebrate,
The Dashing White Sergeant too.
The merry dancers will dance to **Greig's pipes** at the ball -
Let's hope they all know what to do.

So **Marie's Wedding** was held at **Holyrood House**.
The Priest and his books were there.
The Duke of Perth's partner is **Mrs Mcleod**,
They met at the **Rothsay Fair**.
Macleod has a fancy for my friend **Joe**,
Putting **Cupid's revenge** to the test,

While there's none so pretty as the fairest of women,
Says the **hopeful lover** with zest.
Wicked Willie is dancing the **flirtation jig**
With the **belle of Bon Accord**,
While **"kiss me quick"** says the **bonnie lass**
For my **mither** is coming for sure.
Prince Rupert's fancy is not **bonnie Anne**,
But the **Rose of the North**, we are told,
While the **starry-eyed lassie** has **J.B. Milne** in her gaze,
But is afraid he will think her too bold.

Lord Kilmory's delight is **Miss Nancy Arnott**,
"It's just for fun" is his cry.
But **"Hey Johnny Cope"** she calls as she leaves,
Now his hopes are beginning to die.
"Fly not yet" he called sadly, then went **toldeen hame**.
Fiddle faddle he said to himself
She's not the **blithest lass that ever was seen**.
I hope she'll be left on the shelf.

"O whistle and I'll come tae ye my lad"
To fair **Donald** so said **pretty Polly**.
The **Kiss under the stairs** must be **short and sweet**,
For my **mother's coming in** - I'm sorry!
Sleepy Maggie is tired, and so **off she goes**,
Off she goes in the north to **New Park**.
"Come under my plaidie" the **charmer** called out
But **Maggie** would not - she's too smart.
The Australian ladies want to **tarry awhile**
By the **Birks of Invermay**,
But **"Adieu, mon ami"**, says the **Wee cooper of Fife**
"Let's meet again some day!"

A wedding's a time when **good friends meet**,
And **auld friends meet** for a day.
Ye'll aye be welcome back again
For the **golden wedding strathspey**.
If they **rest and be thankful** and stay **quiet and snug**
There should be no cause for **dismay**,
And **fifty years on**, there'll be **happy returns**
Of those who were there on that day.

They'll sing **"Auld Lang Syne**, and start **dancing around** -
The Pensioner's Reel they'll be prancing
Happy Meeting's there'll be of **happy dancers** with **glee**
For **Happiness is Scottish Country Dancing!**
Ann Kendall

Ann, who lives in Canada dances in Edmonton and on occasions, attends weekend schools where she invariably would entertain at the Ceilidh with a verse or two: this one she penned and recited about five years ago. Here she has cleverly woven 97 dance names into a versed story for Valentine's Day. She invites you to enjoy it. It is best when read out!

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Dancing most Mondays, 8.00 - 10.15pm, Sept to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details: www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com or Carol Gibbins 01235 527211 cgibbins60@hotmail.com

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

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

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

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

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details from Clive Hamblin on 01273 723761 or enquiries@rscds-brighton.org.uk. http://www.rscds-brighton.org.uk/

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

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

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for all grades. Details: Jacqui Brocker, 24 Hemingford Rd, Cambridge, CB1 3BZ. Tel. 07916 892611, jacqui_brocker@yahoo.com.au.

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

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

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30 to 10.30pm from October to end May, at The Reddings Community Centre, The Reddings, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN. Tel:01242 528220, mbsteele45@aol.com. .

CHELMSFORD: SANDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets on Monday evenings 7:30-9:30pm at Columbus School & College, Maltese Road, Chelmsford. Beginners welcome. Details from Esther Wilkinson, email: ewilkin@gmail.com or tel. 01206 240132. www.sandonscotdance.org.uk

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Upper Hall at St Michael's & All Angels' church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Road (turn right out of Turnham Green tube) W4.

Sundays from 27 Sep till 4 July with Xmas and Easter breaks. Midsummer Magic open air evening dance in Chiswick House grounds 11 July. Beginners class at 6.00 till 7.10. General class 7.15 till 9.20. Advanced dancers evenings with musicians twice each term. Tel 020 8743 9385 (afternoons only) / www.chiswickscottish.org.uk.

CIRENCESTER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets most Wednesdays 8:00 - 10:00pm September to end June at the Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester. Details: Mrs Val Williams, Leaholme, Broadway Lane, South Cerney, Glos. Tel 01285 860660. williams147@btinternet.com

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

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH: Branch classes:- General, incl Beginners with technique Coulsdon (Fri). Advanced (Wed) Coulsdon. Details: Sue Hassanein 01737 358401 www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Club night Mondays (all year) 8-10 pm at Woodford Green Prep School, Glengall Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0BZ. Details: www.efsa.org.uk or Angela Ross, 02085043376, angelaross87@hotmail.com.

EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. holds weekly adult dance classes for beginners and intermediate/advanced levels, (September to March), including informal dances. Details from Dorothy Pearson, 366 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon CR5 3BF. Tel 01737 551724

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS (continued from previous page)

- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details from Mrs Annette Owen, 47 Beauclerk Green, Winchfield, Hook, Hants RG27 8BF. Tel: 01252 845187.
- FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Tuesdays 8.00pm, September to mid-July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Details from Ann or Paul Brown, tel: 01784 462456 or mobile 07801 160643. Email: p@ulfbrown.co.uk
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.30pm, September to May. Full details from Vikki Spencer, 24 Park Hill, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 6PW. Tel: 01252 691922.
- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays from September to June. Beginners 7.30pm, General 8.15pm. Details from Jeanette Patterson: 01753 890591; info@gxscottish.org.uk; www.gxscottish.org.uk.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- GUILDFORD SCDC** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from September to June. www.gscdc.org.uk or tel 01483 502422.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept.-June from 8.00-10.00pm in Elderkin Hall, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF. 020 8870 6131.
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00pm. Details from Phil Bray, 25 St. Olms Close, Luton, Beds LU3 2LD. Tel: 01582 617734.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm. St. Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner HA5 3QR. Tel: 020 8428 6055. www.harrowscottish.org.uk.
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8-10pm, September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.
- HEREFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS:** Dancing in this beautiful holiday area every week of the year. Visitors always welcome. Contact Brian on 01568 615470 email brianraasay@btinternet.com
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.
- HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15pm. September to July, tuition followed by social dancing. Also monthly Saturday dances and ceilidhs. All at Heston Methodist Church Hall. Details from Mrs Rosemary Mitchell, Tel: 01483 202386.
- JERSEY CALEDONIAN SCD GROUP.** Contacts: Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel/Fax 01534 854459; Alan Nicolle 01534 484375, alan.nicolle88@googlemail.com; or Brenda Gale 01534 862357. See www.scottishcountrydancingjersey.blogspot.com.
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** meet Wednesdays September to June at Holy Trinity & St. John's C. of E. Primary School, St. John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7.00-8.00pm. General 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. 01843 869284.
- LEICESTER BRANCH RSCDS** meets Thursdays, Holy Cross Centre, Wellington St., Leicester. 4 classes - Beginners, Intermediates, Social, Advanced. 7.30-8.30p.m., followed by Social dancing until 10p.m. Also Tuesdays 1.30-3.45p.m. General class at same venue. Contact: Mrs. Pamela Hood 0016 2753886, jdjimps@talktalk.net.
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Some major functions held at other London venues. Details: adverts in *The Reel* or contact Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG. 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096. www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372. maidenheadsottishdancing.org.uk.
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP** meets every Wednesday 7.30-10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details from Jane Masters, 251 Robin Hood Lane, Blue Bell Hill, Chatham, Kent ME5 9QU. Tel. 01634 864007.
- MARKET HARBOROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesday 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, "Lazonby", 9 Little Lunnon, Dunton Bassett, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 5JR. 01455 209446.
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at St. Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 3HL. tel 01474 822919.
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB** meets every Monday evening from September - June at 8.15-10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details from Mrs Jane Whittington. 5 Coldharbour Rd. Northfleet.Kent.DA11 8AE, 01474 359018.
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS.** Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00- 10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Blechley, Milton Keynes. MK3 5LP. 01908 378730, jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. from September to May at Roecroft School, Stotford. Informal Saturday Dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds. SG17 5AL. Tel: 01462 812691.
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dancing 7.45-10.00pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9JN. Tel. 01634 254451.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners/Improvers Class Every Monday 8.00-10.15pm at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Pam. French, 20 Beaumont Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent, BR5 1JN. 01689 873511.
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET. Tel: 01869 340830.
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00-10.00pm. September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Rita Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Tel: 0118 975 7507, www.scottishdancingreading.org.
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00pm from mid Sept. to end of May. For information contact Marshall Christie 020 8977 5237 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk.
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP.** Dancing Tues 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc.
- ST ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON).** Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB. or Elizabeth Bennett 020-8715 3564, libennett@blueyonder.co.uk. www.standrewsoc london.netne.net.
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns Nights' when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details: Denise Haugh 020 8392 2920, email dhaugh200@btinternet.com.
- ST JOHN'S SDC WOKINGHAM:** meet every Thurs 8-10.15pm Sept to June at St. Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Sue Davis 01344 774344, 2 Larkswood Dr, Crowthorne, alan.suedavis@live.com. Also Childrens' Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, Deborah Draffin 01344 776831.
- ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS,** Luton meet every Wednesday, September to July 8.00-10.00pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road, Luton, Beds. Contact: Pat Hamilton, 01462 671156 or Sheila Harris, 01525 875060.
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00-10.00pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Rebecca Evans, 2 Vestry Cottages, Old Oford Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5EH 01732 456382 beccab31@hotmail.com .
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from mid-September to May 8.30-10.30pm, in Barnes. Further info: Denise Haugh, 6 Medcroft Gardens, East Sheen, SW14 7RN, 020 8392 2920, email dhaugh200@btinternet.com..
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details: Pauline Cameron, 7 Wayne Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 9TS. Tel 01689 838395.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesdays, 7.30-10.00pm. Details from Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ. Tel: 01305 265177.
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Fridays, 7.30 to 10.30pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details Mrs Edna Carroll, 01702 428974.
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS.** Classes in Hertford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Bengoe School, Hertford; Beginners Thurs 7.30pm. Millmead School, Hertford. Demonstration Alt. Mons 8.0pm. St John's Hall, Hertford. Details: Chay Smith 01992 442154.
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details: Martin Heath, 01273 478069, m.j.heath@talk21.com.
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** dancing every Thursday at 8pm from September to June at St Matthew's School, Langley Road, Surbiton KT6 6LW. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx, TW16 7TY. http://www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk.
- THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON** meets at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1, every Tuesday from October to end of May for Scottish Country Dancing, 7.00-10.00pm. Details: Tom Symington, 020 7834 7151 or 020 7828 6792.
- THE SCOTS SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW SLOUGH & DISTRICT** meets every Wednesday (September to May) 8.00 to 10.15pm at Trinity ERC Hall, Windsor Rd, Slough SL1 2JA. Scottish Dancing and other social events. Details from the Sec: Carol Berry, tel:01628 620 072 or 01771 223 8165.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 7.30-10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8-10pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details: Sue Bush, 33 St Luke's Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9JH. Tel: 01892 615269, website: www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk.
- WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** hold weekly adult Classes for, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs Maggie Westley, 30 Stanley Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4LF. Tel: +44 (0) 20 8647 9899, website: westley3148@tiscali.co.uk. www.wallingtonscottish.org.uk.
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** General and Beginners/Improvers Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Krelloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE. 01923 492475, reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk.
- WAVERLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Winchester, every Thursday from Sept to the end of June, 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Pat Mumford, 02380 252570.
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Wednesdays 8 to 10 pm September to June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. email welwyn.scdc@ntlworld.com or telephone Douglas Wood 01582 469928.
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Mondays 8.00pm. Dance Class. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford. WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Both evenings take place at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ. 01264 363293, wendy@mumford.com.
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from Beryl Munro, tel 01621 850838 or email: beryl.munro@btinternet.com .

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Right:
Christmas Dance watchers in awe of
the London Branch interval dem display

Below:
Dem team members at the interval
performance

Centre Right:
A great musical trio, Max Ketchin, Marian
Anderson and Isobelle Hodgson

Bottom Right:
Brian Sweeney leads Heather Edwards
down the middle in *The Silver Tassie*

(All photos by Stephen Webb)



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