



The Reel

rscds
London Branch

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Scottish country dancing -
For fun, fitness and
friendship



Celebrating Musicians

Top: Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band playing at the Branch 90th Anniversary Ball

Below: Ian Robertson and his Band playing at the Branch Anniversary Tea Dance

Right: Chris Oxtoby keeps the Winter Wednesday dancers on their toes



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Issue 329 should be with UK based members by 24 August 2024 unless delayed in the post.

Contributions for Reel 329 should be sent to arrive by and preferably in advance of 14 July 2024 by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

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

From the Chair: Joanne Lawrence



This will be my final column 'From the Chair' as my 3-year term comes to an end. It has been a privilege to work with so many committed and talented people and I am grateful to everyone who has contributed to the life of RSCDS London Branch over this period. I am delighted that Richard Clarke, who has been a tremendous support since he joined the committee in 2022, will, pending ratification at the AGM, take over as Chair.

This season has been one of innovation and change. An encouraging start with great attendances at our pre-season dances in Kensington Gardens, was followed up with several new monthly classes from September, adding a Technique class (for intermediate and more advanced dancers) and a Fast-Paced Social Dance class (for advanced and very advanced dancers) to the Tuesday Social (launched in September 2022 for dancers in their 20s and 30s). These have all proved popular and the convenience of a new venue at Maria Fidelis School near Euston Station has widened the range of people able to attend. In partnership with St Columba's Church, we re-introduced a monthly children's class at the beginning of 2024, and this is also flourishing.

Our new 8-week Beginners' course, launched in October 2023, attracted 17 new dancers, many of whom stayed on for an Improvers course in January 2024 and are now active members of our General class (more news on these and all regular classes on p4). Six of our younger dancers travelled to Cambridge for Spring Fling (p13) and RSCDS London will be very well represented at Summer School too.

We had hoped to run another DAA course this year, but enthusiasm was limited. We propose instead to launch a 'Festival' Class in the new season. The objective will be to take a team of dancers to a dance festival in summer 2025. The festival we are considering welcomes dancers of all experience levels and we hope, if enough people are interested, to offer our intermediate as well as more advanced dancers the opportunity to take part.

Dance attendance has continued to strengthen, including a phenomenally well attended (and well catered) Burns event in January. The new season dance has been the exception to this encouraging trend for some years, perhaps because many people are still in holiday mode in September. We have decided to try something new next season and our new season dance will be an afternoon tea dance rather than an evening event (see p3).

After a break in 2023, whilst we secured a suitable venue, the RSCDS London Day School and Musicians' Workshop returns on 19 October at Maria Fidelis School with an excellent array of teachers and musicians (more information p5). Looking toward the future, the committee reviewed the bursaries previously available via the Branch and has approved an extended set of funding opportunities for dancers, musicians and teachers to access training and extend their experience. More information on p6 and on the Branch website.

I look forward to sharing details of this year's activities with you at the AGM on 8 June and take this opportunity to thank our teachers, musicians, MCs, caterers, organisers and, of course, dancers. It is a continuing joy to dance as part of RSCDS London Branch.

Branch AGM Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will take place on Saturday 8 June 2024 in the Upper Hall, St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London, SW1X 0BD from 6.45-7.30pm, followed by our End of Season Dance.

All members and friends of the Branch are invited to attend both the AGM and the End of Season social, although only members may vote at the AGM. We hope to live stream the AGM again this year for those unable to attend in person. tinyurl.com/RSCDSLONDONAGM Please join us for this short (45 minutes) meeting, learn about what London Branch has been doing and be part of its plans for the future.

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

There will be a number of changes to the Branch management committee for the 2024-25 season. Joanne Lawrence steps down from her role as Chair, as she has served her three-year tenure. She will be replaced by Richard Clarke, who is currently the Vice-Chair. Also, Melanie Rowland, Branch Secretary has decided to step down this year. We thank them for the hard work they have done to support the work of the Branch.

Following the call for nominations, which closed on 31 March 2024, fewer nominations were received than committee places available. There will therefore be no election in 2024. Richard Clarke will take over the role of Chair and Simon Wales will continue in his role of Treasurer. Margaret Shaw, Elaine Davies, Thelma-Jane Robb, Margaret Moore, Adam Brady, David Hall and Wendy Morris have all agreed to continue in their current committee roles. Joanne Lawrence has indicated her willingness to be co-opted as Classes Convenor, and Adam Brady and David Hall have also agreed to be co-opted onto the Committee for another year.

Chair: Richard Clarke (2022)

Vice Chair: Vacant

Hon. Secretary: Vacant

Hon. Treasurer: Simon Wales (2003)

Committee:

Margaret Shaw (2007)

Elaine Davies (2009)

Thelma-Jane Robb (2011)

Margaret Moore (2020)

Adam Brady (2022)

David Hall (2022)

Wendy Morris (2023)

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE
SOCIETY



Chair: William Williamson

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Jenny Greene, Rita Marlow,

Danielle Reinstein

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Adam Brady, Elaine Davies, David Hall,

Margaret Moore, Wendy Morris,

Thelma-Jane Robb

Non-Executive roles

Hon. Archivist..... Simon Wales

Membership & Subscribers .. Gaynor Curtis

The Reel Edward Bunting, Simon Wales

The Reel Business Editor.... Jeff Robertson

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[@LondonRSCDS](https://twitter.com/LondonRSCDS)



YouTube.com/RSCDSLONDONBranch



Objects of London Branch

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

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

Membership and *The Reel* Subscription from 1 July 2024

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

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

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

Membership category	Junior 12-17 years	Young Adult 18-24 years	Adult 25 years +	Adult Joint (2) 25 years +	2nd Branch	<i>The Reel</i> only (subscription)
Electronic (<i>eReel</i>)	£18	£26	£32	£53	£5	£5
<i>The Reel</i> by post (UK)	£20	£28	£34	£57	£7.50	£7.50
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Europe)	£26	£34	£40	£69	£15	£15
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Rest of the World)	£29	£37	£43	£75	£20	£20

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

End of Season Dance

Following the Branch AGM

Saturday 8 June 2024

Doors open at 6.15pm

AGM 6.45 - 7.30pm

7.30 - 10.30pm

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

Adam Brady

2024 marks the 35th anniversary of the retirement of Bill Ireland from teaching the London Branch RSCDS Demonstration Class for over 35 years. This programme is a celebration of some of the dances associated with him in that period.

The Happy Meeting 8x32 J
General Stuart's Reel..... 8x32 R
The Duchess Tree 8x32 S
Newton Park 8x32 J
Neidpath Castle 3x32 S
Cramond Bridge 8x32 R
The Dancing Master..... Sq 96 J

Foula Reel 4x48 J
Lauderdale Lads..... 8x32 R
The Ennismore Strathspey 4x32 S
Old Nick's Lumber Room 8x32 J
Westminster Reel 8x32 R
The Robertson Rant Sq 80 S
Mairi's Wedding 8x40 R

Extras:

John of Bon Accord 8x32 R
Porchester Hall..... 8x32 S
Jennifer's Jig 8x32 J

Admission includes light refreshments
RSCDS Members £17, non-members £20
full time students (with card) and
spectators £10

Children (under 16) free

Tickets available online and on the door

All dances will be recapped

Crib available at rscdslondon.org.uk

South-east Dance Diary

The diary is continually updated and all societies in the South-east may submit details of their functions via a form on the website or by email to: diary@rscdslondon.org.uk

New Season Tea Dance

Saturday 21 September 2024

2.00 - 5.30pm

Doors open at 1.30pm

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,
London NW1 1LY

Ian Robertson and his band

Hooper's Jig 8x32 J
Fight about the Fireside..... 8x32 R
The Birks of Invermay 8x32 S
The Flying Scotsman 4x32 J
Fidget..... 8x32 R
S-Locomotion 4x32 S
Jennifer's Jig 8x32 J
Midsummer Common 8x32 S
Dashing White Sergeant 6x32 R

Kendall's Hornpipe 8x32 J
Lammermuir Hills 8x32 S
Rutland Reel 8x40 R
The Cumberland Reel 4x32 J
Linnea's Strathspey..... 8x32 S
The Royal Yacht Britannia 8x40 R
Good Hearted Glasgow 8x32 J
Jean Martin of Aberdeen..... 3x32 S
The Reel of the 51st 8x32 R

Admission includes light refreshments

RSCDS Members £17, non-members £20
full time students (with card) and
spectators £10

Children (under 16) free

Tickets available online and on the door
All dances will be recapped

Crib available at rscdslondon.org.uk

Dates for 2024 - 2025

21 September 2024 - New Season Tea Dance
19 October 2024 - Day School and Musicians' Workshop
30 October 2024 - Autumn Wednesday Dance
14 December 2024 - Christmas Dance
11 January 2025 - Burns Ceilidh
19 February 2025 - Winter Wednesday Dance
Tba - Combined Societies' Dance
28 May 2025 - Summer Wednesday Dance
14 June 2025 - AGM and End of Season Dance

RSCDS Membership Rates

The Society element of the membership subscription will be increasing by £2 from 1 July 2024 as a result of the decision taken by the RSCDS AGM last November. The new rates are in the table above.

The RSCDS membership year runs from July to June and there are some of our members who pay in June for that new year so direct debits and paypal payment rates will be changed in June.

At the AGM, the London Branch delegates voted against the increase, but it was felt necessary to increase to help the Society regain a better financial basis following the lean years when Summer School and Winter School could not run and generate surpluses. The Management Board has also been reviewing other significant savings which will be discussed at this year's AGM.

Open Air Dancing



Saturdays 17, 24 and 31 August

The Branch plans to run informal open air dancing during the summer in Kensington Gardens (by the bandstand near the Round Pond) on Saturdays 17, 24 and 31 August 2024 from 2.00 - 4.00pm.

An MC will guide everyone through a programme of Scottish country and ceilidh dances. Everyone with or without experience of Scottish dancing is very welcome.

Bring your family and friends, or just bring yourself (and a picnic if you wish) and enjoy dancing to some wonderful music.

Admission is free. Please put the dates in your diary and do come along - we look forward to seeing you there! If the weather is bad, we may have to cancel the dancing.

Please check our website rscdslondon.org.uk or Facebook page facebook.com/RSCDSLONDON

London Branch Classes



Set yourself a fun challenge join a Scottish country dance class

We have classes for...

Term Dates

Regular Wednesday weekly classes:
General Class, Mixed Ability Dance Group
Beginners and Improvers

Summer Term 2024
Wednesdays
5, 12, 19 June
Summer Wednesday Dance 29 May

Autumn Term 2024
Wednesdays
25 September - 11 December

General Class

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,
London NW1 1LY

7.00 - 9.00 pm

teacher Simon Wales
and live music

A class to consolidate and build on basic skills and technique whilst developing a deeper knowledge of dances in a social environment

Fee: £8 per class for RSCDS members
£10 per class for non-RSCDS members

Underground: Euston, Euston Square,
King's Cross, Warren Street
Buses: 14, 18, 24, 27, 29, 30, 46, 68, 73, 88, 134,
137, 168, 196, 390, 205, 214, 253

Mixed Ability Dance Group

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

led by Simon Wales with recorded music
and live music from Barbara Manning
on 19 June
2.30 - 4.30pm

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

Visitors welcome

Fee: £10 per class for RSCDS members
£12 per class for non-RSCDS members
£2 non dancers

Underground: Knightsbridge, Sloane Square
Buses: 19, 22, 137, 452, C1

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

All classes are now bookable by the term online, and credit cards are taken on the door. Check rscdslondon.org.uk for the most up to date information, or contact classes@rscdslondon.org.uk for details of any of our classes.

Beginners and Improvers

Richmond Library Annexe, Quadrant Road,
Richmond TW9 1DH

teacher Judith Jones with recorded music
and live music from Dave Hall
on 19 June

Beginners 7.00 - 9.00pm

Improvers 7.30 - 9.30pm

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

Fee: £7 per class for RSCDS members
£8 per class for non-RSCDS members

Underground/Train: Richmond
Buses: H37, 65, R68, R70, 110, 190, 371

Summer General Class

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,
London NW1 1LY

Wednesdays 5, 12, 19 June

teachers Rose Kreloff, Jan Collings and
Elaine Lloyd

and live music
7.00 - 9.00pm

Three classes for all, combining technique and the social aspects of Scottish country dancing to round off the year

Fee: £8 per class for RSCDS members
£10 per class for non-RSCDS members

Children's Class



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

Sunday 1.00 - 2.15pm

9 June, 8 September, 13 October,
10 November, 8 December
with teacher Rose Kreloff

Contact : classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Monthly Classes

Tuesday Social

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

Tuesday 18 June

Autumn Term 2024

24 September, 22 October,
26 November, 17 December

7.00 - 9.30pm

led by Gill O'Dell, music from Adam Brady

The Tuesday Social is aimed at people in their 20s and 30s who cannot commit to a weekly class, but who love to dance, or would like to learn. This monthly session combines live music with some teaching, lots of dancing and a social break to relax and chat with a glass of wine or soft drink

No need to bring a partner, everyone dances with everyone in this friendly, fun and sociable way to dance

Fee: £10 per session for RSCDS members
£12 per session for non-RSCDS members

Fast Paced Social Class

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,
London NW1 1LY

Tuesday 18 June

Autumn Term 2024

Tuesday 17 September, 15 October,
19 November, 10 December
7.00 - 9.00pm

with guest teachers and musicians

A lively and sociable class, covering more advanced formations and complex dances. The pace will be quick, assuming advanced knowledge of steps and formations, and aims to make more complicated dances feel comfortable and fun

Fee: £10 per class for RSCDS members
£12 per class for non-RSCDS members

Technique Class

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,
London NW1 1LY

Tuesday 4 June and Thursday 4 July

Autumn Term 2024

1 October, 5 November, 3 December
7.00 - 9.00pm

with teacher Pat Davoll and live music

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

Fee: £10 per class for RSCDS members
£12 per class for non-RSCDS members

London Branch Classes

The 2023-24 season has been a very busy one for classes. At the start of the season, we knew that we would be launching a Beginners' course and introducing 2 new monthly classes (the Fast Paced Social Dance class, for advanced and very advanced dancers, and the Technique class, for intermediate and more experienced dancers). This seemed like plenty for one season, and we were delighted when the new classes proved popular. However, there was more to come. The success of our Autumn Beginners' course encouraged us to follow up with an Improvers' course in the Spring term, whilst a serendipitous conversation with a member of St Columba's congregation blossomed into the reintroduction of monthly Children's dance classes in Pont Street from the start of 2024.

The Children's class, taught by Rose Kreloff, is a joyful event with lots of laughter and some impressive dancing from its young attendees. As a joint venture between RSCDS London Branch and St Columba's Church there is no charge for the classes (RSCDS London Branch paying for the teacher and St Columba's the venue) although, following a request from some of the parents, St Columba's has nominated a children's charity, [Firefly International](#), should anyone wish to make a donation in lieu of class fees. Classes take place in the Lower Hall at St Columba's on the second Sunday of each month, and we welcome children of primary school age and above (p4 for details).

The Richmond Beginners' and Improvers' class started the season with a new structure allowing separate time slots to focus on beginner and more experienced dancers as well as a core hour where they could all dance together. Under teacher Judith Jones' leadership, this class offers a convivial and constructive opportunity to develop Scottish country dancing skills - plus a regular debrief in the pub afterwards!

The graduates from our Maria Fidelis Beginners' and Improvers' courses are now regular members of the General class. They have acquitted themselves with style at various Branch dances and several have signed up for Summer School at St Andrews. We are grateful to James Fairbairn and Dave Hall, the architects of the course who, supported by Jenny Kendrick and our wonderful class musicians, turned the original idea for an intensive 8 week course, into a successful reality.

On the subject of musicians, we have been fortunate in gaining fiddlers Heather Jeffery and Erica Banks, in addition to long standing and much appreciated, class musicians Adam Brady and Ian Cutts. Thanks to their support we can now offer live music at all our Maria Fidelis classes as well as the Tuesday Social. Dave Hall and Barbara Manning provide music for the end of term classes, on Wednesday afternoons and at Richmond, whilst the accessible location of our new venue at Maria Fidelis school has allowed us to draw on ad hoc musical support from further afield, including Lindsey Ibbotson and Ken Martlew.

Our Mixed Ability dance group, led by Simon Wales, continues to offer good company and interesting dances on Wednesday afternoons at St Columba's. Simon then travels up to Marie Fidelis School, by Euston Station, where he takes the popular weekly General Class. Maria Fidelis also hosts the new monthly Technique class, taught by Pat Davoll, and Fast Paced Social Dance class, whose roster of teachers this season includes Sam Schad, Jeremy Hill, Kate Gentles, Dave Hall, Grace Hill, James Fairbairn, Alice Stainer, Joan Desborough, and Mervyn Short. The traditional Summer General Class, after the May half term break, will welcome Elaine Lloyd, Jan Collings and Rose Kreloff as guest teachers.

The Tuesday Social, for dancers in their 20s and 30s, continues to flourish on the fourth Tuesday of the month at St Columba's. Several of our Tuesday Social dancers represented the Branch at the recent Spring Fling in Cambridge (p13), as well as bringing a team at the St Columba's Quiz night in February. Thanks to Gill O'Dell and Adam Brady, our original teaching and musical team for all their hard work, supported by Jenny Kendrick, Judith Jones and Heather Jeffery.

After an enforced hiatus this season, due to lack of suitable venue, the RSCDS London Day school will reconvene on 19 October 2024 at Maria Fidelis School in Euston. With teachers Graham Donald, Deb Lee, and Andrew Nolan, class musicians Heather Jeffery, Barbara Manning, and Ken Martlew plus Musicians' Workshop lead Mártainn Skene and a Hugh Foss dance class led by Murrough Landon, we are looking forward to an exceptional event.

2023-24 has been a hard working but enormously satisfying season of classes. Thank you to everyone who made it happen - teachers, musicians, helpers and dancers all.

Day School Saturday 19 October 2024

Maria Fidelis School
Drummond Crescent, London NW1 1LY

Teachers (in alphabetical order):

Graham Donald
Deb Lees
Andrew Nolan

Musicians (in alphabetical order):

Heather Jeffery
Barbara Manning
Ken Martlew

Musicians' Workshop led by:

Mártainn Skene

Evening Dance with Ceilidh items:

Mártainn Skene and the Day School Musicians

Classes to suit everyone. DO NOT MISS IT!!

Full details in *Reel* 329



serTA Basic Skills Course: Alan Ip

When I opened an email from one of the teachers and MCs at Surbiton asking if I would be interested in attending the Basic Skills Course, my initial reaction was, "No way, José! It is far too scary to stand up in front of a hall full of people recapping dances!" Well, it must have piqued my curiosity, as on a cold Sunday morning in January, I found myself sitting in the hall with several other participants eagerly waiting to find out what the Basic Skills course, led by Jane Rose, entailed. See sertascd.org/

Before the day, we were given some homework to do (nobody had said anything about that!) where we had to analyse a dance and prepare another one for recapping. Analysing a dance in such detail is very different from knowing it from memory in preparation for a ball. It took a bit of work to break the dance down and to identify all the pitfalls from every dancer's position in the set, such as a change of foot or an awkward turn, and basically teasing out all the tricky bits which may catch people out. Being aware of them helped the whole process of recapping, allowing us to have light and shade and knowing when to use hand gestures to emphasise the point.

We took turns at recapping our dance during the day. Yes, it was nerve-wracking, even in a sympathetic and nurturing environment. Then again, unless you do it, you will never learn and pick up new skills. As always, it turned out better than expected, and Jane's helpful critique was most definitely a confidence boost.

The second day of the course followed a couple of weeks later and this time we were given more advanced dances to analyse and to recap. We were so lucky to have Ken Martlew who was there for the whole morning to talk about dance music and working with a musician. Such a fount of knowledge and what a treat to be able to ask so many questions. The day had a more relaxed vibe altogether. Aside from another opportunity to practise recapping, from memory this time, we also worked on the planning process for a social dance as well as for formal balls. I never thought I could use an Excel spreadsheet for this exercise. This is absolutely transformational!

I am so pleased that I plucked up the courage and signed up for what turned out to be a thoroughly enjoyable course. I learned an enormous amount from Jane as well as my fellow students. My eyes were opened to all the subtleties of how to be a good caller/MC. Hats off to all MCs! I now know how much work goes on behind the scenes and how difficult it is to make it look easy and effortless.

If you get the chance to do this course, grab it with both hands!



Branch Treasurer's Report: Simon Wales



I will once again be presenting the Branch accounts at the AGM in June. The accounts are not yet finalised, but here is some advance information.

The Branch remains in a very secure financial state, even though we have been investing in the future of the Branch by spending some of our reserves. The Committee agreed to invest funds into classes and developing activities for younger dancers, as well as for providing more bursaries (see below). As you will see from elsewhere in *The Reel*, this is starting to bear fruit.

One area of concern is the cost of producing and distributing *The Reel*. Advertising revenue is decreasing as postage costs rise and this has led to a cost to the Branch of £1,600. As this is taking funds from more productive activities, we propose to have another appeal to our Life members who paid for membership of the Society many years ago, but this did not include payment for membership of a Branch; and also to increase the cost of subscribing to *The Reel*, and for second Branch membership. As the RSCDS subscription is set to rise by another £1, we plan to leave our own Branch membership fee at £6.

Funding - We Can Help: Richard Clarke

After the pandemic, the Branch's priorities were to re-establish Scottish country dancing in London in the context of a challenging financial environment both for our members and the organisation. Now we are getting back to 'business as usual' it is time to turn from short-term issues to longer-term success.

The Branch is a charity working in association with, but separate from, the RSCDS. Our legal obligation is to use our resources to educate the public in the London area in traditional Scottish country dancing. To achieve this, we have set ourselves aims, such as the numbers of attendees at classes and events, combined with a financial budget to invest in these activities and with a focus on attracting new dancers and musicians. We have also looked at our approach to bursaries for dancers and musicians. Our aim is to make them more accessible to Londoners and reinforce beneficiaries' commitments to promote Scottish country dance in London. We have therefore extended the amount and value of bursaries available, please see our website for greater detail. If you have any questions about support for training or attendance at specific events, please do contact us via secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

The overall aspiration is to make Scottish country dancing attractive to an ever-increasing number of people in London, thus improving the long term resources available to run events for members and to make these more attractive to all.

Branch Committee Report: Mel Rowland



Meeting 22 March 2024

The Committee met online on 22 March 2024. Chair, Joanne Lawrence began by updating the members on the Branch activities which had taken place since the previous committee meeting. The Children's Class is now running monthly at St. Columba's Church with an encouraging number of children having attended the first two sessions. The Basic Skills (MC) course organised by serTA was attended by several London Branch members. The Combined Societies dance which took place in March was well attended and was a fun evening of great music and dance.

Treasurer, Simon Wales, then provided an update on the Branch finances and outlined the 2024 - 2025 budget. The Committee supported the budget proposals which had been agreed by the officers and convenors at the Convenors' meeting (held on 9 March). The Committee is committed to continuing to invest in the future of the Branch with the aim of attracting more members, especially younger ones. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that greater clarity was needed on the procedures for applying for Branch funding to attend RSCDS events. The updated guidelines will appear on the Branch website. It is hoped that this will encourage more members to apply for Branch funding.

The Committee members next turned their attention to the sub-committee convenors' reports. The venues and dates have been booked for next season's classes. Plans are progressing well for the Day School to be held in October. The teachers and musicians have been booked for the classes and planning is still ongoing for the late afternoon sessions. The plans for the New Season Dance, which this year will be a tea dance, are also nearly finalised. Tea dances have proved to be very popular events in the Branch's calendar and the Committee hopes that September's dance will appeal to wide range of Branch members and friends.

The final agenda item discussed at the Committee meeting was the Branch AGM to be held at Pont Street on 8 June, followed by the End of Season dance. Once again, the AGM will be available on a live stream for those unable to attend in person. tinyurl.com/RSCDSLONDONAGM

The AGM documents, (the end of year accounts and budget, the review of the year and last year's minutes) will be available to Branch members, prior to the AGM, on our website.



Cheerful Tuesday Social dancers enjoy their break

RSCDS Management Board: Simon Wales



Management Board members on the steps of 12 Coates Crescent where they met in person rather than on zoom, including those from Canada and the US!

Some highlights from the March meeting:

Events Group

Andrew Nolan will lead an events working group tasked with reviewing the current RSCDS programme of events and making recommendations for new events and improvements to existing events. The group will include a representative from each of the standing Committees.

Budget

Management Board received an update on the financial performance for the year ending 31 March 2024. Due to a strong shop performance with sales of Book 53 and other Centenary merchandise exceeding expectations, the RSCDS is forecast to achieve budget for 2023-24 despite lower than expected contribution from membership subscriptions and schools.

Management Board approved the budget for the year ending 31 March 2025 as a deficit budget of £29,000 for the General Fund.

Management Board discussed feedback from branches on the impact of annual increases in the main membership subscriptions has on the ability to increase Branch fees. Management Board approved the intention to recommend a one year pause in subscription increases over the five year forecast period. A consultation will be undertaken with Branches over the summer as to whether this one year happens for the membership year starting July 2025 or July 2026. The above is subject to the usual AGM processes surrounding the subscription motion.

President

The Board members are all agreed that now is the right time to look to appoint a suitable person for the role of President, particularly at a time of change within the Society. The role needs to be clearly defined and a selection process agreed.

Membership Numbers

The Board discussed the need for clarity around the annual membership number. There is no deadline for branches to submit membership information to Coates Crescent, and Branches have different membership year cycles, so there is no date when we can make a definitive count.

Education & Training

The board approved a proposal to raise exam fees for Units 2,3 and 5 from £35 to £40, unit 4 from £25 to £30.

Membership Services

A New Members welcome pack has been completed. It will be sent to new members (in digital format as a default) on joining the RSCDS. It will also be made available to Branches for promotional purposes.

Youth Services

Elizabeth Witter has been co-opted to Youth Services.

Lucy Clark Scottish Country Dance Club:

Liz Mitchell, Chair

Still flourishing after 70 years

Our club's Annual Spring Dance in March was a special one, when we celebrated 70 years since Lucy Clark started her first class in Amersham (Buckinghamshire).

Tickets sold out well ahead of the event which ensured that Wendover Memorial Hall was filled to capacity, with very happy dancers who enjoyed a programme of popular dances, including the lesser-known *Miss Lucy Clark* devised by Valerie Farr. We were delighted to welcome for the first time The Craigellachie Band whose exhilarating music kept the dancers on the floor all evening.



At the end of a marvellous supper, Club Chair, Liz Mitchell, spoke about Lucy Clark herself - a trail blazer, who brought the arts to her local community.



Lucy used her skills as a musician, teacher and dance doyenne, setting up classes in village halls. Her zest for Scottish country dancing was infectious; indeed, she played her accordion while demonstrating dance steps!

Lucy's exam for her Teacher's Certificate was conducted by Miss Jean Milligan herself in 1955, when she praised the high standard of the candidates. Lucy went on to train over 200 pupils for Scottish country dancing Medal Exams and teams entered for competitions in London and the Home Counties won several cups.

Following Lucy's death, at a relatively young age, her dancers decided to rename the group in her honour, making it the only club named after a person and giving those that followed the freedom to move locations, which is how we came to be in our present 'home' in Wendover, where we take full advantage of an easily accessible, dancer-friendly space. The club is thriving with a growing membership, qualified teachers and two tuition classes. Liz emphasised the Committee's desire to look forward by marking this milestone in a practical way, while acknowledging the club's roots. She outlined the creation of 'The Lucy Fund' which will be used to increase the amount of live music at the club by having musicians in classes and to provide funding support to teachers and MCs in their continuing professional development through the SE Region Teachers' Association.

Following this announcement, Liz invited everyone to toast the continued success of the club - a truly worthy memorial to Lucy Clark - the remarkable lady who started it all.



Bournemouth Branch:

Margaret Robson, Branch Secretary

Marilyn Watson's retirement from Bournemouth Branch

On Saturday 24 February, Bournemouth Branch hosted a tea party for Marilyn when approximately 50 dancers came from various corners of the south to pay tribute to Marilyn for her many years of service and dedication to teaching Scottish country dancing.

For 26 years from 1986 - 2012, Marilyn and Margaret (our Branch Secretary) ran a children's class named the Macaulay Dancers who gained some distinction at the annual Slough Festival, winning numerous trophies over many years. It was a real treat to have four of those dancers, Sarah Latto, Laura Brown, Helen Cleaves and Hannah Ferguson, now competent adults, come from St Albans, Exeter, London, and Reading to dance for us - they put together a fabulous display of highland, step and country dance outfits. They are now members of the prestigious Corryvreckan Dance Group based in Bristol that recently won the display section at the Newcastle Festival.



Marilyn and some of the former Macaulay Dancers

There were many photographs and memorabilia on display from the Slough Festival, the children's class, Branch events and the Scottish Tattoos held in the Royal Albert Hall when many of Marilyn's teams took part and for which Marilyn choreographed the dances, a favourite being *A Millennium Welcome* which our more senior dancers performed.

This was followed by a delicious tea provided by the committee and more entertainment in the form of a poem written by one of the Branch members, Marion Searle, and *The Skye Boat Song* sung by the youngest member of our Branch, Edie Lin.

Marilyn was presented with flowers, cards and a memory book in which many dancers (including the Society Chair and Treasurer) from far and wide had contributed messages of congratulation on her commitment to teaching, tutoring, mentoring, examining and adjudicating.



Hannah Ferguson making the presentation to Marilyn

It was a truly splendid afternoon and a fitting tribute to Marilyn for her years of service to the Branch and the RSCDS.



Branch Secretary Margaret Robson and Chair, Mervyn Fraser either side of Marilyn Watson



Close-up of the cake

Out and about...



Dancers from all our classes putting their learning into practice at the Winter Wednesday dance on 14 February 2024



Two Branch teams supporting the St Columba's Quiz Night - Tuesday Social Team on the left and various Wednesday class dancers on the right



Combined Societies' Dance at St Columba's on 2 March 2024

...on and off the dance floor



Technique class dancers putting their best foot forward with teacher Pat Davoll in the mirror in the dance studio



Carol Cuthbertson and Marion Miers turn to dance reels of three across in *The Irish Rover* - the last dance at the Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club's Spring Tea Dance on Sunday 7 April 2024 in the Bovington Memorial Hall



A London set attending Spring Fling - Cecil Cox, Malcolm Davis and Declan Taylor, with Annie Lennam, Louise McCaul, Rowena Jackson, Tria Lawrence and Michelle Chong in front



Cecil Cox and Krystyna Huszcza leading the way at the Winter Wednesday dance



The Story behind the Dance: Meryl Thomson



A series of articles from Meryl Thomson delving behind the history of some of our dances and their music. This time she turns her attention to two gentlemen who contributed to the music used for RSCDS dances.

A tale of two Henry Bishops - one a dance master and a composer of dance music and the other an operatic and Scottish tune impresario

Our first Henry Bishop was a dancer, dance master, musician and composer of dance music. There are two Sun Fire Office insurance records for a Henry Bishop. The 1772 record for £100 lists a "Henry Bishop Junior in Charlotte Street near Rathbone Place - dwelling place not exceeding seventy pounds - a Musician with musical instruments therein not exceeding thirty pounds." The record for 1776 for £400 details thus "Henry Bishop at No 15 Batemans Buildings Soho Square - Dancing Master on his Household Goods - in his now dwelling House only situate - as aforesaid Brick not exceeding Three hundred pounds - Wearing Apparel therein only not exceeding fifty [pounds] - On Musical Instruments therein only not exceeding Fifty Pounds." By 1784 he had moved to 20 Howland Street, Tottenham Court Road and by 1794 to 45 Paddington Street. An entry in *The Traditional Tune Archive* mentions that "Bishop participated in concerts at the New Musical Fund". This fund was established on April 16, 1786 'for the relief of decayed musicians, their widows and orphans'. It goes on to say that Bishop "was probably among the violinists performing at the Handel Memorial Concerts in 1784. He was nominated for the Royal Society of Musicians but was ultimately rejected for membership, the votes six to one against him for reason that he was 'a professed Dancing Master.'"

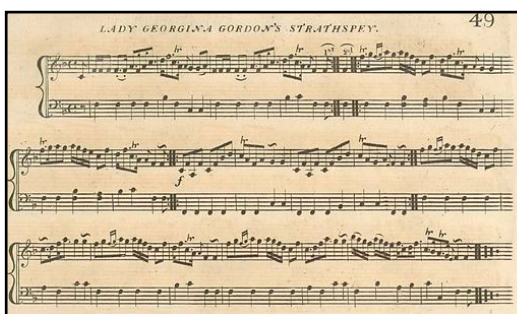
His theatrical debut as a dancer came on 23 November 1776 at the King's Theatre, Covent Garden. There was a performance of a mainpiece called *Zenobia* which featured new dances and decorations, followed by an afterpiece called *The Seraglio*. Bishop performed a new *Pastoral Dance* with Senora Rosa Tinte and this was his first appearance on any London stage. On 18 February 1777 he danced *A New Hunting Dance* with her. Although it appears Bishop did not have many solo or duo spots on the programmes, he was a frequent member of group dances when they were performing pantomimes and pastorales. He had a benefit on 26 April 1777 at which, during performances of the comedies *The Suspicious Husband* and *The Country Wife*, he danced in a new dance, *The Serenade* including a *minuet de la Cour* with Senora Tinte, a *Pastoral Dance*, as in 1776, and a *Minuet* danced with a Young Lady (his Scholar). Bishop also worked during this period as a dance teacher and choreographer and the last record of him at Covent Garden is on 7 June 1780 where he is shown as being one of those involved in selling tickets for a production.

In 1788 he produced a book, *Six Minuets and 12 Country Dances for the year 1788*, published by Longman and Broderip.

One of the



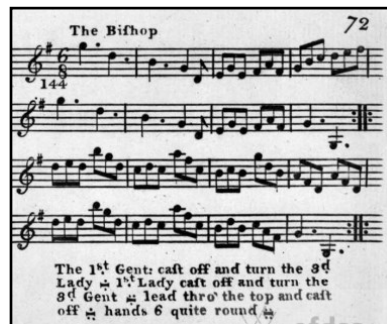
country dances is the strathspey *New Park* which appears in RSCDS Book 19 published in 1957. The dance was probably intended to be danced in reel rhythm as the tune is in 2/4 time and written as two 8 bar phrases repeated. The RSCDS chose to turn this dance into a strathspey and therefore preferred to use another tune *Lady Georgina Gordon's Reel* by the great fiddler William



Marshall written at a later date between 1820-1833. The other interesting fact is that *New Park* has the first example of what is termed *The Diamond Poussette* formation (read more history of this in Bob Grant's [article](#) in the *SCD-er* Issue 13). Other dances in the Bishop collection were named after places such as Maidstone Park, Leather Lake House, Parsons Green, Finchley Lodge, Knowles Park, Stanstead Hall, Somerset House, Hill House, New Bath Crescent and Portland Place.

He went on to publish another book of *Six New Minuets and Six Cotillons to which is added a minuet and gavot by Mr Gardel* in 1790.

He has a dance named after him, *The Bishop*, which appears in *Thompson's 24 Country Dances for the year 1778* and his slightly later *Compleat Collection of 200 Favourite Country Dances vol 4* (1780). Modern folk dance tradition substitutes *The Bishop* tune for an alternative - both tunes were printed in the 1780



edition. This foreshadows the substitution of the dance and music for one of our other Bishops' dances, *The Dashing White Sergeant*, in 1890 in Anderson's *Ballroom Guide*. *The Bishop* later appeared in John W. Mitchell's *Whethery Book 24* using the original tune as the recommended music.



By George Henry Harlow

Our second Henry Bishop, no relation, is the much better known Sir Henry Rowley Bishop (18 November 1787 - 30 April 1855). Born in Great Portland Street, London, Henry's father Samuel was a watchmaker and haberdasher but Henry left school at the age of 13 and started working with his cousin as a music publisher. He is said to have taken lessons in harmony from Francesco Bianchi who was an Italian opera composer. Perhaps this connection is what led Bishop towards writing for the London stage in later life.

Although having started writing music for theatre at the precocious age of 15, his earliest published musical work was in 1804, a musical farce called *Angelina*, which was performed at the Theatre Royal, Margate. He quickly went on to write ballet music for performances at Drury Lane and King's Theatre, Haymarket. His work *Tamerlan et Bajazet* in 1806 led to him securing a permanent position at the King's Theatre. His opera *The Circassian Bride* was performed in Drury Lane on 23 February 1809 but disaster struck when the theatre burned down, including the loss of his opera score, forcing Bishop to rewrite his whole score from memory! Publications from 1809 show a title cover (see right) with a burning building and a phoenix rising from the flames with the note "as performed at the late Theatre Royal Drury Lane".



After the theatre company moved to the Lycaean Theatre, he wrote *The Knight of Snowdown* based on the story of *The Lady of the Lake* (the RSCDS published a dance called *Lady of the Lake* aka *The Water Kelpie* in Book 25). Bishop was a prolific writer of operas and became director of music at the King's Theatre in 1816-17. His works were performed regularly at the Haymarket, Covent Garden and Vauxhall Gardens Theatres into the 1830s.

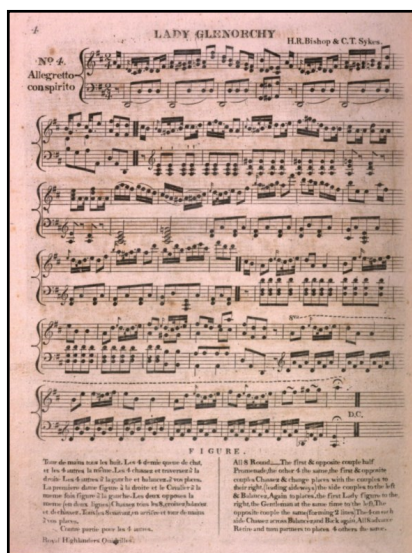
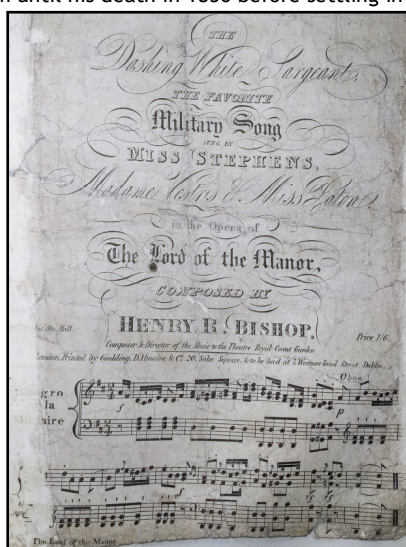
Bishop also became Professor of Harmony and Composition at The Royal College of Music, Reid Professor of Music at Edinburgh University (1841-3) and Professor of Music at Oxford University in 1848. He was also knighted in 1842, becoming the first musician to receive this honour.



Anna Bishop née Rivière

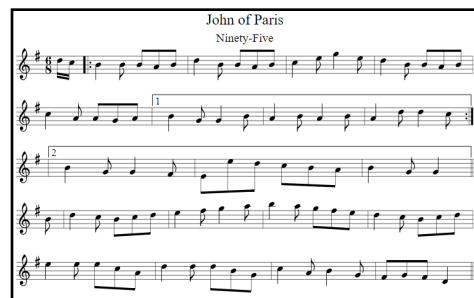
who performed at Vauxhall and embarked on a tour of the provinces in 1839, followed by a tour of some 260 concerts in the main cities of Europe including St Petersburg. She followed this with tours of the USA, Mexico and Australia, becoming the most widely travelled opera singer of the era. After having three children with Bishop, in 1839 she ran off with the impresario harp player Nicholas-Charles Boscha and stayed with him until his death in 1856 before settling in New York where she remained until her own death from apoplexy in 1884.

What of the connection to Scottish music and dance? Readers of *The Reel* might remember my short article in [Reel 311](#) about the 24 bar dance *The Nut* (RSCDS Book 1). The original tune for this dance came from one of Henry Bishop's compositions called *Annette*. His best known work for Scottish audiences is the tune for *The Dashing White Sergeant*. The original composition was as "The Favorite Military Song sung by Miss Stephens, Madame Vestris and Miss Paton" in the



opera of *The Lord of the Manor* from 1812. This tune was later used in a set of quadrilles with dance instructions by Charles T Sykes in 1821 called *The Royal Highlander Quadrilles*, being the fourth quadrille in the set called *Lady Glenorchy*. I talked more about the origins of the *Dashing White Sergeant* dance in a video RSCDS London produced during COVID lockdown for Burns Night in 2021 which you can watch here: [youtube.com/watch?v=qOUtZkQzae8&t=3707s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOUtZkQzae8&t=3707s)

Bishop also composed various tunes for dances including *John of Paris* (from his opera of the same name 1814) - see an autographed manuscript of the score at



[imslp.org/wiki/John_of_Paris_\(Bishop%2C_Henry_Rowley\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/John_of_Paris_(Bishop%2C_Henry_Rowley)).

On receiving a bad review, Bishop himself remarked "The airs of the lighter kind, including the trifling dance which has since obtained some popularity, and is generally known by the name of 'John of Paris', being bona fide composed, without the necessity of 'pillaging' from any scores, either 'foreign' or otherwise, by myself." The tune is still used by Morris dancers under the name *Ninety-Five* and is used as a regimental parade march. The overture to his opera *Guy Mannering* features arrangements of Scottish song tunes as do his 1819 ventures *The Heart of Midlothian* and 1820 *The Antiquary* and various other of his later works. He continued to arrange many Scottish songs and tunes throughout his career.



His best known work is probably *Home Sweet Home* which was composed for a book of National Airs published by Goulding and D'Almaine in 1821. As he could only dredge up 11 suitable tunes, he decided to include his own composition as a Sicilian Air. He reused the tune in his opera *Clari* or *The Maid of Milan* in 1823. Apparently *Home Sweet*

Home was banned from Union Army camps during the American Civil War because those in charge worried it might lead to desertion!

Despite his great success and career in the London theatre and elsewhere, Sir Henry Rowley Bishop died in an impoverished condition at his home in Cambridge Street, Hyde Park, on 30 April 1855. He was interred at East Finchley Cemetery where there is a headstone on display. He is also commemorated among the artists on the Albert Memorial in Kensington Gardens, being the only 19th century British composer listed.



Why not consider adding *New Park* to your next dance programme?



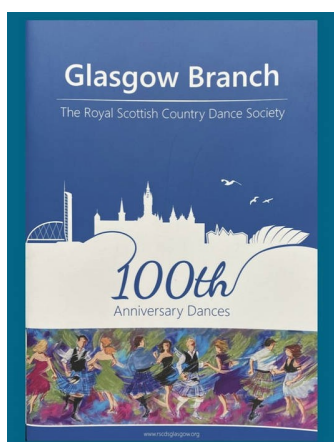
Music Review: Jeremy Hill



Glasgow Branch 100th Anniversary Dances: Màrtainn Skene's Scottish Country Dance Band download with unlimited streaming (£18) from glasgowrscds.bandcamp.com/album/100th-anniversary-dances

Centenary Jig (8x32J), *Seeing Stars* (5x40R), *Compliments to Glasgow* (4x32S), *The Faerie Pools* (3x48R), *Glasgow City Strathspey* (8x32S), *Jordanhill* (8x32R), *Manual Memories* (8x32J), *A Change of Pace* (2x32S + 2x32R), *The Athenaeum* (3x32S), *A Glasgow Welcome* (8x32J), *A Hundred Years Since* (8x32R), *In Celebration of Glasgow Branch* (4x32J), *The Tall Ship 'Glenlee'* (8x32S)

Glasgow Branch's centenary book, published in January 2023, received a positive review in the October edition of the *Scottish Country Dancer*, and the dances are already featuring widely on dance programmes and at day schools. Since then, they have taken a multi-media approach in support: the print run of the book sold out, but it is still available in pdf form from collacha@btinternet.com; they followed with an excellent series of videos of the dances on the Branch's YouTube site, curated by Eilidh Hart, with Màrtainn Skene accompanying; those at the Annual Gathering in Glasgow in November will have seen that featured many of the dances in a medley youtu.be/BHnpgz4Ac1w?si=xE_9-kL0R4nQR4s and Màrtainn was subsequently asked to record music with his band for wider use.



Rather than a CD, the music is being made available to purchase on Bandcamp, 'an online record store and music community' that

deliberately aims to provide a better deal than some better-known brands in terms of proceeds for artists (or, in this case, the Branch). You can listen to each track without payment a limited number of times, before being asked to purchase, for a minimum of £15.00 plus VAT, unlimited streaming and download of MP3 or high-quality audio tracks.

Màrtainn recently picked up the David Flockhart Shield for Best Piano Player at the National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Clubs' Festival, but here he is leading on accordion, with Colin Garvin on piano and Nicky McMichan on drums, and together they present a crisp, tight-knit sound. The clean, articulated playing of the accordion differs from what we hear from many other dance bands, but is none the less effective in driving the music for dancing. Tempi are just right, and even with three players, there is plenty of rhythmic and harmonic variety to catch the ear in an attractive way.

The original tunes for the dances are a mixture of modern and traditional, with Màrtainn himself responsible for three of them. The tunes for the reels are all what may be described as 'whizzy', including two of Màrtainn's and an arrangement by Gordon Shand of *Daffy Don't You for Jordanhill* that even adds complexity to an already tricky tune. Of course, Màrtainn has no problem getting his fingers round it, and turns this track into one of the highlights. Elsewhere, Niall Bootland shows his versatility, supplying both original tune and dance for *A Glasgow Welcome* (the tune having the intriguing title *Malin's Wandering Piano!*) and *The Tall Ship 'Glenlee'*.

For alternatives, Màrtainn leans towards the fiddle masters (the tunes of William Marshall feature strongly, including two for *Jordanhill*) and traditional tunes, but these are always well-matched with originals. I would only challenge the inclusion of Marshall's *Miss McPherson Grant's Jig* - the very recognisable original tune for *The Nurseryman* - as an alternative to *In Celebration of Glasgow Branch*.

All told, the recording is a very suitable partner for the book, in celebration of the Branch's Centenary, and I hope many will seek it out and try out the dances.

A Branch member writes from afar

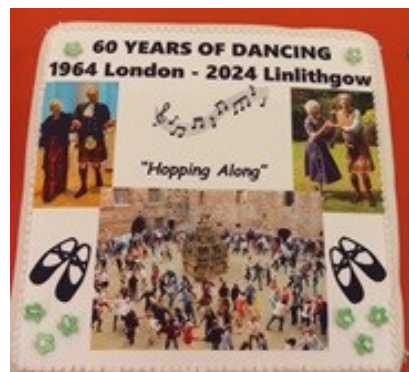
Janet Carswell (Dawton)

I recently celebrated 60 years of Scottish country dancing pictured in the cake at my local club here in Linlithgow, and wondered if you might be interested in my story?

After university I needed a new interest and distinctly remember my first experience of Scottish country dancing was at the Monday evening social at St Columba's, Pont Street on the first Monday of February 1964. I was instantly hooked and soon discovered the Inter Varsity Club, Highland Club, Reel Club etc. The first actual class I ever attended was Bill Ireland's Demonstration class which I found hugely stimulating and I thoroughly enjoyed the hard physical work and striving for perfection that Bill demanded. Soon after I met my future husband, John, dancing of course, we married, went abroad, returned to London, started a family and that was the end of the perfection part of my dancing career!



We have lived in Linlithgow for 45 years now, mostly social dancing and enjoying the fun, friendship and physical exercise this entails. We also enjoy encouraging non-dancers to have a go with some interesting results - eg Linlithgow Scotch Hop which John started in 1989. As I retain my membership of the London Branch, I am pleased to keep a beady eye on things via *The Reel* and enjoy seeing photos of St Columba's Lower Hall where it all started for me.



Another celebratory cake!

From the editor: We are always delighted to hear from some of the more remote members of the Branch. Please keep those stories coming in!

London Branch Dancers on their Travels

RSCDS Winter School:

Janet Parrott



The imposing Atholl Palace Hotel

This was my first experience of Winter School, and I travelled by train to Pitlochry via Edinburgh. Winter School is based at the Atholl Palace hotel which proved very comfortable, and the weather was balmy. Participants had come from as far away as Northern California though the majority were from Scotland. East Coast mainline is one of the most scenic rail routes in the UK with wonderful views of Peterborough Cathedral, Doncaster Minster, York

Minster and Durham Cathedral and castle. The bridges over the Tyne at Newcastle and a misty almost mystical view of Lindisfarne appeared but I missed the Angel of the North.

Winter School follows a similar pattern to Summer School with classes in the morning and social dancing in the evening. Janet Johnston, Fiona Mackie, Pat Houghton and Samuele Graziani, the four teachers, taught each class for one day with a remarkable level of coordination. Similarly, the four musicians (Mo Rutherford, David Oswald, Neil Copland and Gillian Stevenson) rotated, which meant we also enjoyed a slightly different musical experience each day. The Intermediate class that I attended was friendly and worked well.



Winter School Intermediate Class with teacher Samuele Graziani - Janet Parrott is fourth from the right in the back row

On three afternoons further activities were arranged, a talk on the music of Scottish dancing from Muriel Johnstone, musician and composer, a presentation by Jon Berridge, RSCDS Chief Operating Officer with reflections on his first year in post, and an outside visit for a gin tasting. There was a walk through for the social dancing each afternoon and a ceilidh.

The week ended with a Highland Ball at Blair Castle. This started with a Grand March, a fascinating formation with the dancers processing into the ballroom and joining horizontally into ever expanding lines. The Intermediate class did well, helped by provision of an easy guide to the difficulty of each dance on the basis of their being designated with one, two or three crowns.

On the return journey the train went all the way from Pitlochry to Kings Cross. Just after going through Newcastle, there was Anthony Gormley's Angel of the North spreading its wings against the hillside for at least a minute. Maybe the train was going a little more slowly or those days of dancing meant I was refreshed and more attentive.

A very enjoyable experience and grateful thanks to all the teachers, musicians and Head Office staff.



Spring Fling in Cambridge:

Tria Lawrence and Louise McCaul

Thanks to the support of the London Branch Bill Ireland Fund, we set off to Cambridge for the RSCDS Spring Fling 2024 on Friday 12 April, checking into the hostel, then meeting up with other RSCDS London Branch members and some new friends before the Welcome Dance at St Barnabas Church. Although we had studied the cribs beforehand, we were slightly taken aback by the lack of walkthroughs, which



Rowena Jackson, Tria Lawrence, Louise McCaul, Annie Lennam and Michelle Chong line up for the obligatory selfie

meant that starting as first couple in an unfamiliar dance with just a recap did not go particularly well. However, our fortunes improved (especially once we discovered the dance star rating system), and we found our feet in the energetic environment and met young dancers from all over the world (from at least 4 continents!) as we danced to the wonderful music of David Hall and his band.

Saturday's programme was daunting to look at, so we fuelled up on the hostel's full English breakfast before heading off to our morning of classes at Hills Road Sixth Form College. Slightly unsure of the levels of each class, we both opted for Intermediates and met several of our London Tuesday Social friends there. The classes worked a little on technique and covered a number of the dances on the evening ball programme, which definitely instilled some extra confidence!

For the afternoon class, we had selected Highland, on this occasion taught by William Williamson, Chair of the RSCDS. Having never danced more than the odd Highland Schottische before, we were thrown into both quick time and strathspey travelling steps and about five different setting steps as we danced the *Foursome Reel*, with mixed success coordinating all arms and legs appropriately.

Leaving Highland with several new bruises from repeatedly kicking our own legs, we decided a rest (and some revision) was in order before the evening ball. There was a slight hiccup that delayed dinner, but it gave us plenty of time to get to know Ilona and her sister Csilla, who had travelled to Spring Fling from Budapest. We had a very quick change into our finery and headed over to St Barnabas for the ball.

Thanks to that day's lessons (and a hasty bit of poussette revision), we kept up with the dances far better than the previous night and we enjoyed finding opportunities to dance with new and old friends alike.

The final dance, *Mairi's Wedding*, had us ending the night on a jubilant note, with the pipes joining for the final couple and spurring us on to the end of the evening. We then retired to the nearest pub with new friends from the US, Japan, and all over the UK.

Sunday morning arrived very quickly as we packed up to leave the hostel after another substantial breakfast. The morning's combined general class had a focus on fun as we were split into two rooms to undertake challenges such as dancing with all rights and lefts swapped, dance name charades and guess the dance from the music. The second session included dancing a dance backwards (including a backwards poussette, which was mind bending), blindfolded dancing and dance writing consequences, with some very entertaining results!

The event ended with the announcement of Brighton being the location for Spring Fling 2025 and a lunch of many, many sandwiches. We bade farewell to our new friends to navigate the rail replacement bus options back to London for a well-earned rest!

The Consummate Professional

from Michael Nolan

Stewart Murray
6 March 1947 - 4 March 2024



When Scots meet one another abroad, they tend to do a bit of what is now called 'geographical bonding'. And so, it was when Stewart turned up at one of the Feltham Scottish dance nights, we established that he was from Glasgow and that I was from Edinburgh, or as the Glaswegians say, the 'Far-East'.

from Edinburgh, or as the Glaswegians say, the 'Far-East'.

He had joined London Branch RSCDS and was on a mission to visit as many local country dance groups as possible across London, just to see and experience the wealth and breadth of the Scottish country dance world in London. What a smart idea, I thought. Get out and see what is happening elsewhere. He enjoyed the evening, and I went on to meet him at various events after that, he was clearly taken by the spirit of the dance. We were about the same vintage and from Scotland, so it is likely that, like me, his first introduction to country dancing would have been in the gym hall in primary school.

Stewart joined the committee of London Branch RSCDS and as Branch secretary gave a huge amount of time and service, willingly and in a very professional way - in fact he approached everything in that way.

Nearer his home area of London, he found that there was very little in the way of dancing, so he started the Raynes Park Boppers, an unusual name for a dancing club,

but to me it was Stewart not taking himself too seriously. Once again, he managed that enterprise with great care, interest and enthusiasm.

Our paths crossed again at Surbiton & District Scottish Association, near enough for Stewart and his wife Jill to travel to and for him to bring along not only his dancing skills but his skills as a piper. For several years he was honorary piper. He piped many a haggis to table at Burns Suppers and was always good company. He would lead the Association's float at the annual Surbiton Festival drawing great attention from the bemused public (and quite a few new recruits too). I recall with fondness one year when, after completing the parade route, he was looking rather parched. I suggested that we repair to the 'Surbiton Flyer' pub for refreshment. Rarely have I ever heard a more positive 'yes' in many a day. To the amusement of the landlord, the pair of us kilties swaggered in, he clutching his trusty pipes and me elbowing my way to the bar. Two pints of your best ale, we said and promptly downed them, meantime the customers were insisting on a photo with the kilties. A happy encounter.

Stewart had a penchant for the five-couple country dances, which are not always easy to include in a dance programme, so typically he would put word around of an evening of five-couple dances, which he would organise and teach. I say typically, because he was always someone who put his money where his mouth was.

When his illness struck, he quietly withdrew, concentrating on his treatment and wanting no fuss to be made. I think this was the mark of the man from Glasgow, looking out, not in. We will miss you, Stewart.



Letter to The Reel

Extras or Encores?

Why are we seeing up to four extras being included in London Branch dance programmes? If one looks back over past copies of *The Reel* at dance programmes it can be seen extras were not included before 2013, only appearing on the half-term dance programmes, but fast forward to June 2022 when extras become *de rigueur* across all London Branch dance programmes. Looking at other clubs across the South-east, their programmes very rarely included extras but, it does happen.

The question really is why have any extras? I will now pose some reasons why but, not reasons why I am in favour of including them!

How to use an extra. The use of extras goes to the heart of planning a dance programme - timing! For eight times through dances, nine minutes is allowed for strathspeys, and five for quick-time dances with four minutes between. Obviously, another two minutes is required for a talk-through which seems popular these days and a further four minutes required for a walk-through. By using these rough guidelines, a timed evening can be planned. I have for many years used Excel to summate. For a ball/dance programme consideration such as introductions/food break/thank yous must be included in the timing. So why is an extra needed? Well, really it is not. If all goes

well then, it is job done before the evening even starts.

The use of an extra would be where planning is poor or if dancers formed up much quickly than expected, we must always remember that the band needs to be ready before dancers come on to the floor. The band gives dancers a great evening, so we dancers need to not put them under pressure in that way. Consideration and respect in all things. But say, the programme gets ahead of the timings, then an extra could be inserted. There are big caveats in doing this:

1. Get agreement in advance and discreetly, from the band.
2. Warn dancers preferably two or at least one dance ahead because this affects inviting partners and avoids confusion and embarrassment.
3. It needs to be slotted in, in a balanced position eg not to have two similar tempo dances or similar figure dances sequentially.

I once was at a dance in home counties where out of the blue the MC announced as dancers were forming up that that dance was an extra, giving the name of it. He talked it through. In the dancers' minds was "I need to keep the same partner for the next dance", in a social setting two together, not generally done. And would you believe it, further down the programme, again with no advance notice,

he axed a dance saying they were short of time. The outcome was that a very nice event otherwise with a great welcome, nice floor, good food and an excellent band was spoiled just because of poor MCing without proper planning. I've even been at a dance where the extra was added on at the end! This, as a dancer I found intolerable and clearly, should never be done.

My view is: work to a timed programme, build into it the expectation that certain dance encores will be called for from the floor by dancers indicating they want it again, and use encores to take up the slack. A caveat though is do not push an encore on to dancers that do not want it just because the pre-planned timing expected one there, or the band has prepared a set of other tunes for it and wants to use them. Once again when this happens, and it unfortunately happens a lot, it spoils a nice evening. Adding encores has, though, to be done sensitively and with band and dancers' agreement. It is worth noting that at the beginning of the evening (or preferably even a few days before) the MC should check with the band leader as to which dances he does *not* want to encore.

I hope these comments prove useful to all who read them.

Happy dancing, Stephen Webb

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Where is This?

Answer to 'Where is This?' on p1.

Stephen Webb writes:

The Wardlaw Wing of University Hall at St Andrews, built in the Scottish Baronial style, which became part of the university in 1947. In the past it formed part of the RSCDS Summer School accommodation. I have had a room in the turret with curved windows and great views out to sea. It is named after the founder of the first university in Scotland, Henry Wardlaw, Bishop of St Andrews in 1411. Bishop Henry was tutor to James I of Scotland.

Do you have a dance related photo?
Email: editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

Bands

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

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

p1: Craigellachie Band - Alternative Images); Ian Robertson Band - Simon Wales (SDW); Chris Oxtoby - SDW; Where is This? - Stephen Webb (SJW). p2: Joanne Lawrence - from herself. p3: Open Air Dancing - from Joanne Lawrence (JL). p5: Basic Skills Course - Jane Rose. p6: Mel Rowland - from herself; Tuesday Social - JL; Simon Wales - Petar Petkovic; Management Board - from Jon Berridge. p7: Lucy Clark SCD Club dance - Sarah Crowther; Lucy Clark - from Liz Mitchell; Bournemouth Branch - all from

Margaret Robson. p8-9: Winter Wednesday Dance - SDW; Quiz Night, Combined Societies' Dance, Technique Class - all JL; BS&RC Tea Dance - SJW; Spring Fling - from Rowena Jackson. pp10-11: Meryl Thomson - from herself; New Park, Lady Georgina Gordon, The Bishop, The Circassian Bride, Dashing White Sergeant, Lady Glenorchy, Home Sweet Home - all from Meryl Thomson; Portrait of Sir Henry Bishop - by George Henry Harlow 1 January 1989 - public domain; Anna Bishop - Batchelder & Co, Australia 1868 - public domain; John of Paris - Traditional Tune Archive; Bishop Memorial - No Swan No Fine under creative commons licence CC BY-SA 4.0 DEED. p12: Jeremy Hill - from himself; Book cover - from Màrtainn Skene; Janet Carswell - Mary Steven. p13: Atholl Palace Hotel - from the hotel; Intermediate Class - Deborah Horton; Angel of the North - from Janet Parrott; Spring Fling - Michelle Kong. p14: Stewart Murray - Michael Nolan.

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Forthcoming Events

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Our Centenary season's summer event



Summer Dance

Saturday 15 June 2024

Nicol McLaren & the
Glencraig Scottish Dance
Band

MC Caroline Hamilton

7.00 - 10.30pm

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

Programme: The Findlay's Jig, Glastonbury Tor, The Minister on the Loch, The Elephant's Stampede, Maxwell's Rant, Gang the Same Gate, The Nurseryman, Centenary Reel, The Blue Mess Jacket, Tribute to the Borders, The Moffat Weavers, The Falls of Rogie, Drumelzier, The Muirs of Greywell, The Countess of Dunmore's Reel, The House Keys of Lisbon, Bratach Bana, The Bon Viveur, Torridon Lassies, Trip to Timber Ridge

Tickets £18, LHC Members £15

Pay online, or at the door by card or cash

Includes buffet supper

For tickets, email

tickets@londonhighlandclub.co.uk

or call Roger Keeling 020 8656 7884

Programme & cribs are on our website

londonhighlandclub.co.uk

Forthcoming LHC event:

Saturday 14 Sept 2024 - Autumn Dance

Ian Muir

and the Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band



SUMMER TUESDAYS

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

Superb bands every Tuesday throughout
the summer

Tuesday 25 June - Tuesday 10 September
2024

7.30 - 10.30pm

Admission £16 (Payment by card only)

Details of bands and programmes can be
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For further information, contact:

summertuesdays22@gmail.com

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Autumn in Gamundia

An international
gathering, workshop and
ball

Level: advanced/very advanced

Friday 25 - Sunday 27 October 2024

Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany

Teacher: Deb Lees

Class Musician: Kevin Lees

Ball: Kevin Lees, Phill Jones,
Martainn Skene

Full details and application on
rechbergscottishdancers.de



BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND REEL CLUB

Dancers' Workshop

Sunday 17 November 2024

9.30am - 5.15pm

White Hill Centre, White Hill, Chesham HP5
1AG

5 minute walk from Chesham station
(Metropolitan Line)

Teachers: Antione Rousseau, Carolyn
Catterall, Grace Hill & Jan Collings

Musicians: Ian Robertson, Jeremy Hill, &
tbc

Morning and afternoon classes followed by
tea and afternoon dance

Bring own picnic lunch; tea and coffee
provided, cake provided before afternoon
dance

Bookings: Simon Cummings:
booking@berkhamstedreelclub.org
01494 782695

berkhamstedreelclub.org



THISTLE CLUB

Musicians' & Dancers' Workshops and Dance

Saturday 7 September 2024

10.30am-16.30pm & 19.30-10.30pm

Wing Village Hall, LU7 0NN

Teacher: Mathias Ferber

Musician: Judith Muir

Musician Tutor: Ian Muir (Prestwick)

Workshops: Musicians £21, Dancers £18,
Evening Dance £12 or £28 for both

Bring your own lunch and shared buffet
contribution

Programme: St Andrew's Fair, The Golden Wedding Strathspey, Longfield Reel, Fair Enough, Annan Gold, Bob Shakespeare's Jig, Swiss Lassie, The Orchards of Co. Armagh, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, The Flight of the Falcon, The Royal Yacht Britannia, Cape Town Wedding, A Starter for Ten, Toast to the Mousies, Fare Thee Well, The Galloping Carousel, Sleepy Maggie

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

Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

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

This is the first issue of the current cycle for Reel 328 - 331 and £30 is now due.

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

- ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Dancing most Mondays, 7.45-10.00pm, September - June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, near Oxford. All welcome. Details: secretary@ascsc.org.uk or abingdonscdc.wordpress.com
- ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Meets Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm September-May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Val Clack, 01932 845869 or addlestonscottish.org.uk
- BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB** Meets in Potten End Village Hall, HP4 2QG. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15pm September-May, Saturday: gardens June/July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8.00pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Petula Martlew 01442 261525 or berkhamstedreelclub.org
- BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS** Meets at The Scottish Hall, 80/82 Shelbourne Road, Charminster, Bournemouth BH8 8QZ every Wednesday morning, 10.00am-12 noon. Details: Margaret Robson, 01202 698138 or jl.robson@ntlworld.com
- BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS** Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details: Rod Burrows, 01903 783053 or chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk or rscds-brighton.org.uk
- BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets Thursdays 7.45-10.15pm at Moulsecoomb Hall, Brighton. Details: Carol Catterall, 01273 564963 or bhscdc.org.uk
- CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB** Dancing every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Park Road, Camberley GU15 2SR. Details: Jackie Cresswell, 01252 616289 or info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk
- CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Scottish country dancing and other events. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8.00pm from September-June. Details: Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or camscotsoc.org.uk
- CHELtenham BRANCH RSCDS** General Class/Club Night Mondays 7.30-9.30pm with a separate Beginners' Section fortnightly at St Luke's Church Hall, St Luke's Place, Cheltenham GL53 7HP. Details: Lesley Taylor, 07712 578622 cheltscdssec@gmail.com
- CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets on Sundays 7.00-9.00pm in the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RG for social dancing. Beginners' courses are offered 6.00-7.00pm, please book in advance to secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk. Details: Iris Ronayne, 07767 842670 chiswickscottish.org.uk
- CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS** Branch class in Coulsdon: General, including Beginners with technique Fridays 7.30-10.00pm at Coulsdon Methodist Church, Brighton Road, Coulsdon CR5 2BE. Details: Alison Raisin, 07732 746238 or rscds.croydon.chairman@gmail.com or rscdscroydon.org.uk
- EPHING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Club nights: Mondays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at St Barnabas Church, 127 Snakes Lane East, Woodford IG8 7HX; Thursdays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at St John's Parish Hall, High Road, Buckhurst Hill IG9 5RX. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or angelaross87@hotmail.com or efsa.org.uk
- EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** General dancing Mondays, 7.30-10.00pm, Tweddle Hall, St Andrew's URC, Northey Avenue, Cheam SM2 7HF. Teacher: Pauline Cashmore, 020 8686 9362. Details: Dorothy Pearson, 01737 551724
- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, September-end of April at Memorial Hall, Babbs Mead, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7EE. Details: Anne Lester, 01252 782927 or lesteranne@yahoo.com or fscdc.co.uk
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** Dance in Fleet URC Hall, 25 Kings Road, Fleet GU51 3AF on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.00pm, September-May. Details: Anne Lester, 01252 782927 or info.fleetscds@gmail.com or fleetscds.co.uk
- GERRARDS CROSS AND CHALFONTS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD on Tuesdays in term time from September-July, 7.30-10.00pm and also in Little Chalfont Methodist Church Hall, Chalfont Avenue, Little Chalfont HP6 6RD on Thursdays from 2.00-4.00pm. Visitors and beginners welcome. Details: Roger Stubbs, 01494 873063
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** Meets at St Thomas the Apostle Church Hall, 182 Boston Road, Hanwell W7 2AD. Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Janet MacPhail, 07787 925022 or janetmcpail54@gmail.com
- GUILDFORD SCDC** Meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from September-June. Details: 01483 414385 or gscdc.org.uk
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Also a variety of other activities. Details: Sheena Henderson, mail@harrowscottish.org.uk or 07719 985025 or harrowscottish.org.uk
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- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** Meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Piran's School, Gringer Hill, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7LZ. Last Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 01628 628372 or maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** Dancing Mondays Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst ME7 3JZ, 1.30-3.45pm; Thursdays St Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall, 63 London Road, Rainham, ME8 7RH, 8.00-10.00pm. Beginners welcome. Details: Julian Grayland 07770 380592 or medwaycaledonians.co.uk
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS** Mixed ability class meets Mondays 8.00-10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 01908 378730 or jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORWICH BRANCH RSCDS** Branch class in Norwich on Mondays from September-May/June. Beginners from 7.00-8.15pm and general dancing 8.20-9.30pm. Details: Sue Petty, 01603 741639 or secretary@rscds-norwich.org.uk
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall, BR5 1LA. Details: Deirdre Wilden, the_wildens@yahoo.co.uk 07879 860463 or orpingtonscottishdancing.com
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Margaret Spiceley, 07985 962781 or secretary.rscdsxfordshire@gmail.com or rscdsxfordshire.org
- READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY** Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading RG1 5BD from September-May, Wednesdays 7.30-10.00pm (general), 1st and 2nd Thursdays of each month 8.00-10.00pm (advanced). Details: Duncan Barnet, 0118 956 9289 duncanbarnet@gmail.com or scottishdancingreading.org
- REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets most Mondays 8.15-10.15pm, September-May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm from mid-September to mid-June. Details: 07802 442435 or richmondcaledonian.co.uk
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD St Columba's Dancers meet most Mondays from October to May, 7.15-10.00pm. Admission free except for Band Nights when a charge will be made. Details: Willie Lawrence, 07798 640551 or stcolumbasdancers@gmail.com or stcolumbasdancers.org
- ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM** Meets every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm September-June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Kate Thomson, 0118 986 0681 sec.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com Also Children's Class Saturdays 9.30-11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Wednesdays from 7.30-9.30pm throughout the year at St John Fisher Hall, Thanet Road, Bexley DA5 1AP. Details: Jenny Gavin, 020 8856 4522
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Dancing Fridays, 7.30-10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808 or graham.easton@btinternet.com or seess.org.uk
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Thursday at 8.00pm from September-June at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: Jane McNicholas, secretary@surbitoncaledonian.co.uk
- TALLY HO & HERTSMERE REEL CLUB** Monthly dances on third Saturday (except August and September) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 020 8440 3236 or margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS** General ability class on Tuesdays from 7.30-9.30pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9AL. Details: Colin Simpson, 01892 832712 or rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Beginners/Improvers Class at Nascot Wood Recital Hall, Nascot Wood Road, Watford WD17 4YS Mondays from 8.00-9.30pm and General/Beginners Class at All Saints' Church Hall, The Green, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3HJ Thursdays from 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 01923 492475 or reel@watfordscottish.org.uk
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- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. Hatfield Peverel Village Hall, Hatfield Peverel CM3 2HW. Details: Audrey Kennedy, 01376 513567 or amkenedy148@gmail.com



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