



# The Reel

**rscds**  
London Branch

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Scottish country dancing -  
For fun, fitness and  
friendship



## 2024 - 25 Dancing the Winter Blues Away

Top left: RSCDS AGM Ball on 2 November 2024; Top right: Branch Christmas dance on 14 December 2024;  
Bottom left and right: Branch Burns Ceilidh on 11 January 2025



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Issue 332 should be with UK based members by 24 May 2025 unless delayed in the post.

Contributions for *Reel* 332 should be sent to arrive by and preferably in advance of 20 April 2025 by email to [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto: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: Richard Clarke



I have just been to our Burns ceilidh dance where we welcomed nearly two hundred dancers, many of whom join us every year at this event. This resulted in posting 'sold out' on the website and the door at Pont Street - I am sorry to those of you who could not get a ticket. The demand for the event was a great endorsement of the organisers and the reputation of the catering team to deliver a delicious haggis supper to two hundred people in half an hour. The ceilidh was just four weeks after the Branch's Scottish country dance in December which prepared us for Christmas. I hope your own plans for Christmas and Hogmanay also went smoothly and you enjoyed the celebrations.

Talking of plans, we are working on London Branch dancers attending the White Rose Festival in Leeds on 12 July. In broad terms the format of the festival is a series of dances in the afternoon interspersed by Highland dance displays and demonstration dances followed by a more traditional evening dance. It successfully attracts teams from the UK and overseas and is now in its 69th year. Full details are on our website.

Another dancing day for your diary is the London Branch's day school and dance at Maria Fidelis (near Euston) on 18 October. With classes for dancers (for three levels of experience) and musicians during the day these groups combine in the evening for a traditional Scottish country dance which is open to the public. Before then there is the Combined Societies dance organised by the Highland Club on 1 March and then on 28 May our Summer Wednesday dance both of which take place at St Columba's Church in Knightsbridge.

Most readers of the *Reel* are also members of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society London Branch, which is an independent charity. Every edition of the *Reel* includes a box highlighting the objectives to promote Scottish country dancing in the London area. This edition also includes the notice of the annual meeting of the members during which an account will be given of our activities over the last year, followed by the opportunity to select the volunteers organising the charity as well as participate in a debate on our future priorities. We depend on the support of members for the charity to achieve its objects and to enable our calendar of events to continue. That includes:

- participating in the AGM
- helping run the charity overall and individual events, either formally (eg by standing for the committee) or taking on specific tasks (eg managing social media accounts, participating in the organisation of an event etc)
- advocating for Scottish country dancing to your contacts
- helping others to dance whether your partner, a dancing set or as a class teacher or musician
- attending events
- motivating and thanking our volunteers

Without everyone's involvement we cannot succeed - please take a moment to think about the ways in which you can contribute.

## Branch AGM Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held on Saturday 14 June 2025 at 6.45pm in the Upper Hall at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. It will be followed by our End of Season Dance which will also take place in the Upper Hall. Members and friends of the Branch are invited to attend both events but only members may vote at the AGM. If you cannot get to the meeting, we will still be pleased to see you at the dance.

The meeting usually lasts about 45 minutes. You will learn about the work of the Branch and our plans for the future. The Committee welcomes your comments and opinions, either through a formal motion, which must be received in writing by the Branch Secretary by 31 March 2025, or during general discussion at the meeting. The motion should be signed by the proposer and seconder, both of whom must be members of the Branch. Only motions submitted in advance and appearing on the agenda can be voted upon. An agenda for the meeting and a report covering the Branch's activities will be circulated with the next issue of *The Reel*.

Members are also encouraged to stand for election as an office holder or Committee member. Nominees should provide the Secretary with a written nomination by 31 March 2025 signed by the nominee, a proposer and a seconder, all of whom must be Branch members. There are twelve positions in total on the Committee (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and eight ordinary members). We hope that members will step forward and join the Committee to contribute to its work and support Scottish country dancing. If there are more candidates than places, ballot papers will be issued to all Branch members with the next issue of *The Reel*. It is also possible to help with various aspects of the running of the Branch without necessarily being on the Committee.

All Officers and members of the Committee are eligible for re-election. They are listed below with the date they joined or last re-joined the Committee:

Chair: Richard Clarke (2022), Vice Chair: Vacant, Treasurer: Simon Wales (2003), Secretary: Fiona Olson (2024), Margaret Shaw (2007), Joanne Lawrence (2017), Elaine Davies (2009), Thelma-Jane Robb (2011), Margaret Moore (2020), Adam Brady (2022), Wendy Morris (2023) and Vacancy (x1).

ROYAL  
SCOTTISH  
COUNTRY  
DANCE  
SOCIETY



Patron: HM The King

Chair: Gary Coull

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### 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.

# London Branch Matters

## Membership and *The Reel* Subscription Rates to 30 June 2025

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](https://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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### Combined Societies Dance

Hosted by London Highland Club

With contributions from  
London Gay Gordons, Little Ship Club,  
RSCDS London Branch, Summer Tuesdays  
and St Columba's Dancers

**Saturday 1 March 2025**

6.45 for 7.00 - 10.30pm  
Doors open at 6.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD

**The Dave Hall Trio**

The Shetland Shepherdess ..... 8x32 J  
Toast to the Mousies ..... 8x32 R  
City of Belfast ..... 3x32 S  
Spiffin' ..... 5x32 J  
Summer Superstars ..... 8x32 R  
John McAlpin ..... 8x32 S  
The 51st Travellers ..... 8x32 J  
Portincaple Oak ..... 32 S+32 R  
The Highland Rambler ..... 8x40 R

Swiss Lassie ..... 8x32 R  
The Dundee Whaler ..... 4x32 S  
Inchmickery ..... 5x32 J  
JB Milne ..... 8x32 R  
Asilomar Romantic ..... 8x32 S  
The Starry Eyed Lassie ..... 8x32 J  
The Orchards of Co. Armagh ..... 3x32 S  
Quarries' Jig ..... 8x32 J  
The Deil amang the Tailors ..... 8x32 R

All dances will be recapped

Tickets £20, students and spectators £10  
Children (under 16) free  
Pay online or on the door by card or cash

For tickets email  
[tickets@londonhighlandclub.co.uk](mailto:tickets@londonhighlandclub.co.uk)

or call Roger Keeling 020 8656 7884

Programme and cribs are on the website

[londonhighlandclub.co.uk](https://londonhighlandclub.co.uk)

### Remaining dates for 2024 - 2025

1 March 2025 - Combined Societies' Dance  
28 May 2025 - Summer Wednesday Dance  
14 June 2025 - AGM and End of Season Dance

### Summer Wednesday Dance

**Wednesday 28 May 2025**

7.00 - 10.00pm  
Doors open at 6.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD

**Chris Oxtoby**

EH3 7AF ..... 8x32 J  
The Old Man of Storr ..... 8x32 R  
The Haar on Skye ..... 8x32 S  
Jennifer's Jig ..... 8x32 J  
Toast to the Mousies ..... 8x32 R  
The Belle of Bon Accord ..... 4x32 S  
Farewell to Balfour Road ..... 5x32 J  
The Summer Assembly ..... Sq 88 R

The Wild Geese ..... 8x32 J  
Shiftin' Bobbins ..... 8x32 R  
The Minister on the Loch ..... 3x32 S  
Pudsey Bear ..... 4x32 J  
Swiss Lassie ..... 8x32 R  
The Dream Catcher ..... Sq 96 S  
Mrs Stewart's Jig ..... 8x32 J  
The Lochalsh Reel ..... 8x40 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](https://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](mailto:diary@rscdslondon.org.uk)

### End of Season Dance

Following the Branch AGM

**Saturday 14 June 2025**

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

**Adam Brady**

Good Hearted Glasgow ..... 8x32 J  
Glastonbury Tor ..... 8x32 R  
Autumn in Appin ..... 4x32 S  
Waverley/Fergus McIver ..... 8x48 J  
Staffin' Harvest ..... 4x32 S  
Ray Milbourne ..... 8x32 R  
The Dancing Master ..... Sq 96J

Napier's Index ..... 8x40 J  
Crossing the Line ..... 6x32 R  
Jean Martin of Aberdeen ..... 3x32 S  
Ecclefechan Feline ..... 8x32 J  
The Tri-Mariner ..... 8x32 R  
The Haar on Skye ..... 8x32 S  
Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh ..... 8x40 R

**Extras:**

Johnnie Walker ..... Sq 64 S+64 J  
Cumbrae Reel ..... 8x32 R  
Village Reel ..... 8x32 S

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](https://rscdslondon.org.uk)

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## London Branch Classes



# Set yourself a fun challenge join a Scottish country dance class

We have classes for...

### Term Dates

For regular Wednesday weekly classes:

**General Class**

**Mixed Ability Dance Group**

**Richmond Beginners & Improvers**

**Spring Term: 26 February - 2 April**

**Half-term Wednesday 28 May**

**Summer term: 23 April - 18 June**

### General Class

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,  
London NW1 1LY

**with live music**

**Wednesday 7.00 - 9.00 pm**

**23 April - 21 May**

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

**Summer General Class**

**4 - 18 June**

With guest teachers including Catriona Bennett and Saskia Frisby

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

### Improvers' Course 2025

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,  
London NW1 1LY

**with live music**

**Wednesday 7.00 - 9.00pm**

**5, 12, 19 March**

### Mixed Ability Dance Group

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

**with live music on 18 June**

**Wednesday 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

The London Branch runs a large number of classes throughout the year.

Some of these are regular classes during term-time; others are specialist classes in advanced technique and classes for young people.

All classes are now bookable by the term online, and credit cards are taken on the door. Check [rscdslondon.org.uk](https://rscdslondon.org.uk) for the most up to date information, or contact [classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto: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  
live music on 2 April and 18 June**

**Wednesday class**

**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

### Festival Classes

Check Branch website for details of class dates during the summer term preparing RSCDS London teams

for the  
**White Rose Festival, Leeds**  
**12 July**

Beginners, intermediate and advanced dancers all welcome

[rscdslondon.org.uk/festival-2025](https://rscdslondon.org.uk/festival-2025)

### Children's Class

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



**with teacher Rose Kreloff  
to recorded music**

**Monthly on Sunday 1.00 - 2.15pm**

**9 March, 13 April, 11 May, 8 June**

Contact: [classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk)

### Monthly Classes

#### The Tuesday Social

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

**Tuesdays 25 March, 29 April, 27 May,  
17 June**

**7.00 - 9.30pm**

**with teacher Judith Jones  
and live music**

The Tuesday Social is aimed at people in their 20s and 30s 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

**Tuesdays 18 March, 22 April, 20 May,  
10 June**

**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

**Tuesdays 4 March, 1 April, 6 May, 3 June  
plus Thursday 3 July**

**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



## Burns Ceilidh Dance - 11 January 2025

The RSCDS London Burns Night Ceilidh at St Columba's Church was once again an enjoyable and memorable experience and is now a fixture in our calendar. This was my second visit, and I felt lucky to have secured one of the last tickets to a sold-out evening. It is perfectly clear why it is increasingly popular, bringing together people of all ages and abilities, into a joyful and inclusive atmosphere.

The dancing was expertly guided by James Fairbairn, whose clear and confident calling kept even the most hesitant dancers engaged and in step. I came along alone this year, but didn't miss a dance, partnering several new-found friends. My own coordination may have faltered at times (as Joanne Lawrence's photo below kindly reveals), but in my mind's eye, I danced flawlessly - and never stopped smiling.

The traditional half-time haggis with tatties and neeps was delicious and abundant, including my preferred vegetarian option. The evening concluded with a surprisingly moving rendition of *Auld Lang Syne*, 200 voices and 400 clasped hands epitomising the spirit of friendship and celebration. Next year, I'll know the words to the second verse as well, but for now the celebration and camaraderie left me longing for more. I can thoroughly recommend coming along, but you will need to book early!

Phil Smith



Every year (apart from during COVID-19) RSCDS London Branch celebrates Robert Burns' birthday in style with a Burns ceilidh and supper complete with piper, recitation and vigorous dancing to increasingly exhilarating music - all fuelled by the traditional Burns supper of haggis, neeps and tatties. The popularity of the event has grown year on year, requiring a cap of 200 people in 2025 to ensure enough dance space and haggis for all.

Catering for such numbers is no mean feat and, for the last ten years, RSCDS London has been immensely lucky to have benefited from a dream team of dedicated caterers led by Margaret Shaw and supported by a core kitchen crew including Peter Knight, Lena Robinson, Sarah Shaw, Pam and Tony Ellam, Thelma-Jane Robb, Catriona, Eilidh and Mairi Stewart - plus many more ad hoc helpers serving up on the night. The Burns ceilidh is a fabulous opportunity to bring experienced and less experienced dancers together, a wonderful showcase for RSCDS London as a dancing community, and it could not happen without Margaret Shaw and the catering team.

After a decade of making the impossible look easy, Margaret is hanging up her Burns supper apron, although she is very happy to share her knowledge with future caterers. On behalf of RSCDS London Branch and everyone who has enjoyed this annual event - thank you!

Joanne Lawrence



The formidable Branch catering team under the firm ladle of Margaret Shaw ready for action (left) and dishing out the bill of fare (right)

On Saturday 11 January 2025, I attended my first Burns Ceilidh Dance at St Columba's Church Hall in London. This joyful gathering was a crowning achievement of my efforts over the past year to learn Scottish dancing. In January 2024, during those winter weeks when people usually return to their daily routines, my friend Joanne invited me to join The Tuesday Social, a monthly Scottish country dance session on the same day. At the time, among other personal struggles, I was in a hurry to find a new place to live. So, I politely thanked the invitation and excused myself. However, something changed my mind, and I have no regrets whatsoever.



Ernesto and Tuesday Social friends

Scottish country dancing has allowed me to enter a fascinating world. As a Mexican, I dance by moving my arms, hips, and legs freely according to the sensual rhythms of Latin American ballads rather than following group progressive patterns. This learning challenge has demanded sharpening my ears and registering new concepts. Additionally, I have attended the open-air dancing sessions at Kensington Gardens and a couple of ceilidh sessions in Vauxhall. My interest in Scottish culture has recently taken me to Edinburgh and I now want to acquire my kilt.



The venue was full of cheerful people, as all the tickets had been sold in advance. The Caledonian Reelers entertained each dance, which mixed beginners, intermediate and advanced dancers. We were delighted by the traditional Scottish dish of haggis, neeps and tatties for supper. This was preceded by a bagpipe piece and the ritual to honour the meal with a poem by Robert Burns. I was even fortunate to receive a birthday cake from friends during the interval. I can fully confirm that practising Scottish dancing is one of the best ways to start the year.

Ernesto Villarruel Alvarado





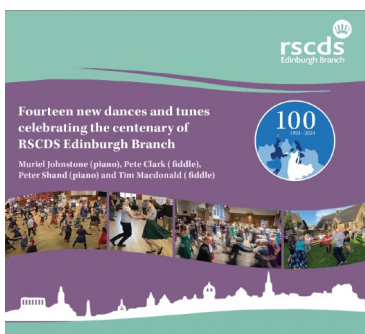
## Music Reviews: Jeremy Hill



**RSCDS Edinburgh Branch Centenary:** Muriel Johnstone, Pete Clark, Peter Shand and Tim Macdonald CD (£12 plus P&P) and book (£9.50 plus P&P) or combined pack (£20 plus P&P) from [rscdsedinburgh.org/shop](http://rscdsedinburgh.org/shop)

*Fancy That - A Hundred Years* (8x32R), *Bob Grant of Edinburgh* (4x32S), *On to New Horizons* (8x32J), *Joppa Rocks* (8x32R), *Miss Dorothy Leurs* (8x32S), *The 70th Jubilee* (8x32R), *Esmé Randall's Strathspey* (4x32S), *100 Years and Counting* (8x32R), *A Centenary Medley* (4x[32S+32J]), *Perpetua* (8x32S), *The Task Mistress* (5x40R), *The Silver Triumph* (3x32J), *Jock's Lodge* (4x32S), *The Roaring Twenties* (8x32R)

This album brings together 14 new dances and tunes by a wide range of dance devisers and composers, which together provide some wonderful colour for the history of the Branch over 100 years. Dances are deliberately varied and "range in style from traditional to modern, from simple to more complex, ready to enhance many dancing occasions." Several of the dances were displayed at the 2024 Annual Gathering and can be seen on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).



Muriel Johnstone and Pete Clark are both among the composers, and they team up for six of the tracks on the album, with Peter Shand and Tim Macdonald providing six more (a taste of which is available as they provided the music for the Autumn Gathering display). This makes for interesting listening, given the different styles, particularly between the fiddlers: of the two, Pete Clark has the smoother style, and a more rounded tone. Over the years, we have heard him to great effect in several recordings of the tunes of fiddle greats - Mackintosh, the Gows etc. - but it is great to hear him leading on these tracks for dancers.

I was not previously familiar with Tim's playing, which is freer in its approach, with adaptations of several tunes to provide variety, and adding life in some cases through double-stopping and open strings, notably in the set of tunes by James Gray for *Joppa Rocks*. Only three tunes are used in this dance, so the original comes around on turns 1, 4 and 8, which may surprise some dancers.

The balance somewhat favours the fiddles, but Muriel and Peter Shand are perfect partners throughout, taking occasional moments to add colour, for example Muriel in a set of 'lyrical strathspeys' for *Esmé Randall's Strathspey*.

The choice of tunes extends the Edinburgh-related composers further, with other originals from Moira Reekie and Iain MacPhail, and alternatives from Muriel and Pete Clark as well as Doreen McKerron, often reflecting friendships and mutual appreciation of those involved, perfectly integrated with traditional tunes.

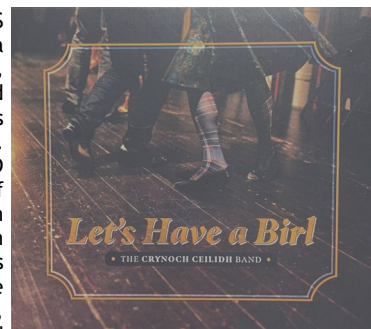
*Perpetua*, devised by Elizabeth Harry for her husband Brian, features both fiddles, with Muriel alongside, and makes the most of the opportunities of the instruments playing together and dividing to present counter-melodies in a beautifully arranged and played set of tunes.

Further opportunity for interplay is heard to good advantage in *The Roaring Twenties*, where all four players combine and have a chance to shine, starting with the tune *The Boogie Brown* by Andrew Nolan and heading into some classic reels. Written by Rachel Shankland for Ilona Brown, the dance also remembers the themed ball held in Edinburgh for the Centenary Spring Fling, and provides a suitably rousing finale to a most enjoyable disc.

**Let's Have a Birl: The Crynoch Ceilidh Band** CD (£12 plus P&P) from [sheilabain@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:sheilabain@mypostoffice.co.uk) or [ianthomsonband@btinternet.com](mailto:ianthomsonband@btinternet.com)

*Circassian Circle* (8x32R), *Riverside Jig* (8x32J), *Dashing White Sergeant* (5x32R), *Ping* (4x32J), *Joe McDiarmid's Jig* (4x32J), *Craven Twelvesome* (4x32R), *Orcadian Strip the Willow* (8x64J) plus a range of ceilidh dances and listening tracks.

For some years now RSCDS Aberdeen Branch has run a very successful ceilidh class, which offers a mixture of old favourites, new ceilidh dances and Scottish country dancing. They have sponsored this CD to show off the range of dances, and also the Crynoch Ceilidh Band, comprising Ian Thomson and Rob Ross (accordions), Willie Johnstone (fiddle), Ann Thomson (piano), Brian Cruickshank (bass) and Scott Gordon (drums).



Accordionist and composer John Burns joins them from the producer's box for a classy rendition of his waltz *Ivor Scollay*, and his compositions appear on several other tracks. Prize for the best name is the two-step *The Sniffer, the Blower, the Gulper and the Tantaliser*, a reference to soup consumption, and a great tune to boot!

Ian has also contributed some of his own tunes, including the opening marches, and a set entitled *Ping*, where a tune of that name is followed by Pong (of course), Sheila's Make Up Case and Billy's Twinkle Toes - Sheila Bain being the driving force behind the ceilidh class. There is also a well-matched pair of waltzes for two brothers, Iain and Grant Macdougall from Lochgilphead.

It is an excellent, balanced sound, and the band has a great swing and drive, suitable for the range and context of the recording, and well within the range of tempo to make it suitable either for a lively evening's country dancing or a ceilidh night. There's plenty for the listener too, culminating in a contemplative slow air, *Margaret Smith's Reunion*.

## Gerrards Cross 50th Anniversary

When Joan Desborough guided her new class through their first attempts at Scottish country dancing in 1975, she probably did not expect to be back in the same venue 50 years later, accompanied by some of her original class members. However, this did in fact happen on January 19th, when the Gerrards Cross and Chalfonts Scottish Country Dance Club celebrated its 50th anniversary with a Tea Dance.

Gold is the colour of 50th anniversaries, so the club chose to reflect this in their large 5 and 0 balloons on the stage, in the smaller balloons decorating the room and the yellow freesia buttonholes presented to the club's special guests. As well as original class members, these guests included two musicians with a long history of playing for the club, Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning. On this occasion, though, the music was provided by Ian and Tom Robertson.

All agreed that the band had played excellently, and had helped them find their way through a slightly challenging programme. This had been composed of dances designed to pay tribute to the RSCDS, past and present musicians, teachers, secretaries, and committee members. Chairwoman Suzanne Todd said that while reflecting on the past, the club also looks to the future. She was delighted that several new dancers were present and was particularly happy to welcome dancers from the Chalfont class.

As dancers left, the adjectives heard most were 'joyous', 'friendly' and 'relaxing'. Exactly the mood organisers Suzanne Todd and Rose Kreloff had hoped to achieve. (see picture on p8)



## Ian Robertson and Friends in Uganda

St Andrew's Night in Uganda? Flights and accommodation plus a 3-night safari in lieu of payment? Why not!

When the editor asked me to contribute a short article about our trip, I wondered which of the many facets I should write about.

What would best sum up the experience?



Tom Robertson, Andrew Abbess, host Brenda Amanda, Ian Robertson, and Jo Angus

I could tell you about arriving in Entebbe at dawn to a whole host of new sights, sounds and smells. We all know what the birds sound like at home, but how strange and wonderful it was to hear an African dawn chorus instead! The streets of Kampala are full to overflowing and we were glad not to have to join the throngs



Ian and local musicians

weaving through the traffic on motorcycle taxis which carried a range of improbable loads ranging from whole families to a full set of car tyres or on one occasion, another motorbike! Quite a culture shock.

Or I could tell you about the anxious wait for my accordion which was delayed for 24 hours in Istanbul along with most of our luggage. It was a tense day, and in the meantime, I played a borrowed accordion for the Chieftain's Ceilidh which included some dances called by Andrew Abbess and some tunes played alongside a bluegrass band made up of expats living in Uganda.

Or I could tell you about our Friday activities where I spent a wonderful morning at Kampala Music School teaching a tune to adult musicians on a variety of instruments. It was hugely rewarding to share the pleasure of music with some lovely people. The afternoon was less controlled but just as fulfilling. Picture a hundred children at a local school on the last day of term before the Christmas break. Imagine the scene as Andrew taught them the Virginia Reel. Outside in the sunshine. On astroturf. Without amplification.

Glorious, chaotic fun!



Ian and Tom playing for the children in a quieter moment

If I told you about the main event - the annual St Andrew's Night Ball for the Caledonian Society of Uganda - it would seem oddly familiar. Ian and Tom played, and Andrew called for an enthusiastic crowd of around 180 dancers in one of Kampala's smartest hotels. The dancing was interspersed with a 4-course meal including the full 'haggis experience'. Both Andrew and Jo Angus rounded off the entertainment with short Highland displays, expertly recalled from younger days - *The Swords (Ghillie Callum)* from Andrew and the *Lilt and Come Ashore Jolly Tar* from Jo.

But perhaps what I should tell you is that the entire experience came about because of the incredible international network of Scottish music and dance. It brings joy and connections to so many throughout the world, regardless of heritage, culture or creed. It doesn't always require precision but survives and thrives through the joy of responding to music. We should protect it and nurture it for generations to come!

See *Reel 320* for an article from Brenda Amanda who had the inspiration to invite Ian and friends to Uganda for the St Andrew's Night Ball ... and other adventures!

## Letters to *The Reel*

Square Sets - is there another way?

There is a trend developing which requires square sets to be formed initially as longwise ones. It is said that this allows a more orderly forming of the square set. It is not clear whether this is a recommendation of the RSCDS or an invention of a dance teacher.

The traditional way was simply to announce the next dance as a square set and dancers would pair up and stand in a square set formation. Spatially, there was always jostling for a comfortable space in the room, a little undignified maybe, but if the eight dancers formed a ring and these rings positioned themselves equidistant from other rings it did not seem a problem. So, why is this trend in forming a set occurring?

Personally, I am not sure. If it 'ain't broken' why fix it? Shortcomings in forming longwise sets by counting down the line are:

1. Couples who are counted as 1/2/3&4 with this method, actually become 1/ 2 or 4&3. Confused? Well, that is the feeling dancers get as they then transform from longwise sets to squares.
2. In square sets as said, men are on the left of their partners yet when lined up as longwise sets, only the third couple is in this relationship.
3. As longwise sets are then instructed to become square sets, confusion reigns as an undignified Piccadilly Circus of people occurs.
4. How does this 'simpler' system work for triangular sets or sets of five or six couples such as *Gavin's Reel* or *The Iona Cross*?
5. The grandness of a *Grand March* opening out into a square set is lost if this required reorganisation is called for.

The truth behind this trend is that it is assumed that dancers are incapable of forming up a square set on their own, which is clearly nonsense. Dancers are amazingly adaptable and are quite capable of sorting themselves out when a square or any other shape set is required. But what do other dancers think?

Stephen Webb

With reference to Stephen Webb's letter in *Reel 330*, I can remember being a beginner and not always liking it when I was helped. However, help is sometimes needed, particularly if a set is breaking down or more than one couple in the set does not know the dance. In these circumstances it may be best to briefly call out instructions, using the dancers' names if necessary to ensure the attention of the right person. Saying which, I was once faced with a set in which three of the four men were called Ian!

Elizabeth Bennett



Out and about...



Branch Christmas Dance at a festive St Columba's - 14 December 2024



A happy contingent of dancers from the CadiLonians Scottish Dancing Club in Cadiz joined a sell-out event dancing to Bob Parsons, Keith Anderson and Ian Muir of Prestwick at the Lucy Clark Christmas Dance on 14 December 2024 in Wendover. From left: Stephanie Coulshed, José Granados Menoza, Tere Marente Sánchez de la Campa, Rosetta Cumbre, Mari Fernández Arias, Carol Bone, Ursula Money, Douglas Bone and Ali Blair



Branch General Class with US visitor Donald Robertson second from left 11 December 2024



A packed Colston Hall for Gerrards Cross and Chalfonts Golden Anniversary tea dance on Sunday 19 January 2025



Ewan Galloway with Andrew Knight on fiddle played for the Crawley Scottish Country Dancing Club's autumn dance on Saturday 9 November 2024



Autumn Gathering Ball in the Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh - 2 November 2024



Craigellachie Band on stage at the Branch Christmas Dance



Ian Robertson and the borrowed accordion in Uganda



## The Story behind the Dance - Caledonian Quadrilles: 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 a Scottish themed quadrille which took the nineteenth century by storm.

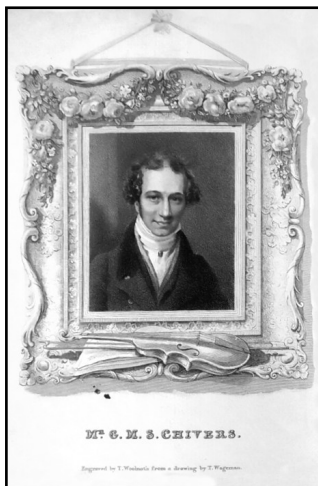
In 1822 King George IV decided to visit Scotland. He was the first reigning monarch to do so for almost 200 years. This royal visit, aided by the organisation of Sir Walter Scott, enhanced his popularity and also led to an explosion of interest in all things Scottish, including dances and music.

One of the outcomes was the addition to the quadrille repertoire of sets of quadrille music using Scotch airs. Although Scottish musicians, such as Nathaniel Gow, had produced sets of quadrilles earlier (from 1817 onwards) they had used French music, as did their English counterparts Mr Duval, Edward Payne and James Paine. Nathaniel Gow's quadrille sets had complicated figures and did not stand the test of time as people preferred familiar easier dance figures in the ballroom. Two quadrille sets, later more commonly known as *First Set* and *The Lancers*, remained popular throughout the nineteenth century and are still danced in some form today. As we shall see, a set of quadrilles with easy figures, danced to Scottish tunes, was to also become a mainstay of the quadrille repertoire - *The Caledonians*.

One of the first to produce a set of quadrilles using Scotch tunes was John H Gow, grandson of fiddler Niel Gow, in 1817. His father John led a popular dance band based in London and they ran a music shop together (read more about the Gows here - [regencydances.org/paper022.php](http://regencydances.org/paper022.php)). The familial link between brothers Nathaniel and John Gow led to music being passed from one end of the country to another with London influencing Edinburgh and vice versa.

Joseph Hart, a London-based composer of his own set of Lancers, produced eight sets of quadrilles using Scotch airs where either First Set or his own new figures could be danced. He is also one of the first to publish quadrilles with Scotch airs, his first set being advertised in 1821.

It became common for quadrilles with Scotch airs to be called Caledonian quadrilles and the earliest set I have found with this title is by the Glaswegian dance band leader and composer William Cunningham. I identified Cunningham in a previous *Reel* article as being the first person to publish *The Nut* (RSCDS Book 1) in Scotland, printed in Glasgow in the early 1820s. Cunningham and his band performed at various Balls and Assemblies in the Glasgow area. He composed many tunes and published several sets of quadrilles including at least four sets of Caledonian quadrilles, all danced to First Set figures. His first, *A New Set of Caledonian Quadrilles - As performed by Cunningham and his Band at the Assemblies and Fashionable Parties* - was published around 1820 and contains the Scottish tunes *Gin a Body Meet a Body* (aka *Coming Through the Rye*), *March to the Battlefield*, *When she came ben she bobbit* (used as the original tune for the RSCDS dance *Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel*), *Up and War them A' Willie*, and *The East Neuk of Fife* (used as the original tune for the RSCDS dance *Fife Ness*). Cunningham used traditional Scottish tunes, albeit with some bars of his own composition to help them fit the structure of the quadrille figures. Quadrille music traditionally has a section in a minor key before returning to the main tune to finish each time through and this required Cunningham to add 8 or 16 bars of his own composition, which he annotates as such on the music.



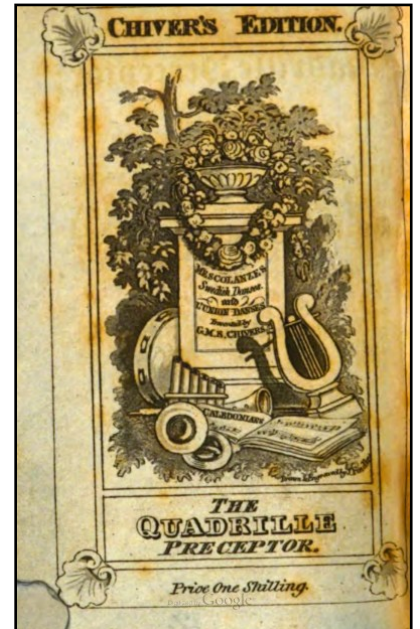
Cunningham's second set of Caledonian Quadrilles was probably published after 1830, given that two of the figures are entitled *Princess Victoria* and *William the Fourth*. His fourth set is dedicated to "The Nobility and Gentry of Scotland" and was published in Glasgow and sold by Robert Purdie in Edinburgh. Cunningham is described on the title page as "Conductor of Music at Balls & Assemblies in the west

of Scotland". This fourth set uses tunes such as *The White Cockade* (RSCDS Book 5) and *Bonny Dundee* (used for *The Isle in RSCDS Graded book* and a tune often used as lead on music for demonstrations by the late dance teacher and deviser Ann Dix).

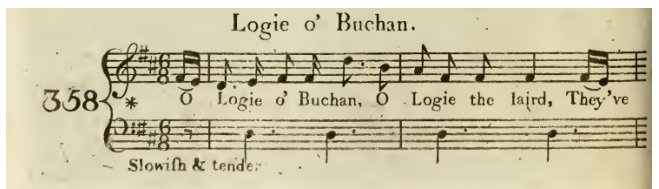
The quadrille figures which became popular throughout the nineteenth century as *The Caledonians* were devised by George Chivers, first published as a separate set in c.1821 and then in his *Modern Dancing Master* in 1822 and in his *The Quadrille Preceptor* of c.1824.

Chivers (see photo left bottom) ran a dancing academy in London and was a rival of Thomas Wilson, many of whose dances have been used as sources for RSCDS dances in their earlier books. You can read a fascinating history of Mr Chivers and his life and works, researched by Paul Cooper, at [regencydances.org/paper015.php](http://regencydances.org/paper015.php)

In his *Modern Dancing Master* Chivers titles these new figures as "Chivers Seventh Set of Quadrilles, The Original Caledonians". There are five figures and he includes music based on traditional Scottish tunes, many recognisable to SCD dancers today:



- The first figure of Chivers' *Caledonians* is danced to the reel tune *My Love She's But a Lassie Yet*. This well known tune is the original for the dance of the same name from RSCDS Book 9 and is the tune usually used for the ceilidh dance *Cumberland Square Eight*. The earliest version of the tune is in Robert Bremner's *Scots Reels of 1757 as Miss Farquharson's Reel* and it was published by James Aird c. 1785. This tune was probably the most used tune in subsequent publications of *The Caledonian Quadrilles*.
- The second figure is danced to the jig tune *Logie of Buchan*. This tune was a song with words written by George Halket who was a schoolmaster and known Jacobite, and Robert Burns added verses from another older song to this. The song and tune were first published in James Johnson's *The Scots Musical Museum* in c. 1794.

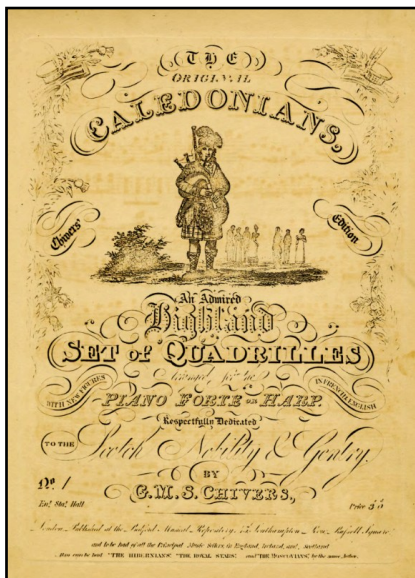


- The third figure is danced to the jig tune *The Banks of the Dee*. The tune was published in dance collections by Thomas Skillern, and by Charles and Samuel Thompson (under the title *New Lango Lee*) and is a known Cotswold Morris dance tune from the Oxford village of Leafield. The original song was said to be composed by a John Tait in 1775 and set to the Irish air *Langlee*.
- The fourth figure is danced to the jig tune *When I Parted*. This is thought to be a composition by the Scottish fiddler John Anderson in 1790. The tune is also very similar to a tune called *Tom come tickle me* in David Young's 1740 manuscript.
- The fifth figure is danced to the reel *Gordon of Lesmor*. I have been unable to trace the origin of this tune, although with its dotted rhythm it is possibly the most Scottish sounding of the five chosen by Chivers.



While the tunes are Scottish in origin, the figures are in typical quadrille style, similar to those danced in England since 1815. The popularity of Scotland and its music created an opportunity for dance musicians and publishers in England to jump on the bandwagon and use this to sell their wares. Publishers picked tunes they thought were suitably Scottish in style, even though they were usually arranged in a way which sounds distinctly Victorian and were shoehorned into the quadrille format.

Thomas Wilson was scathing of Chivers' Caledonian Quadrilles, going so far as to remark in his 1824 *Danciad*, "The author of certain Scotch Quadrilles, as he terms them, in order to prove their nationality, appears to have wholly relied on the tunes, and the print of a Scotch bagpiper in the title page - they should recollect the old adage 'Good wine needs no bush'."

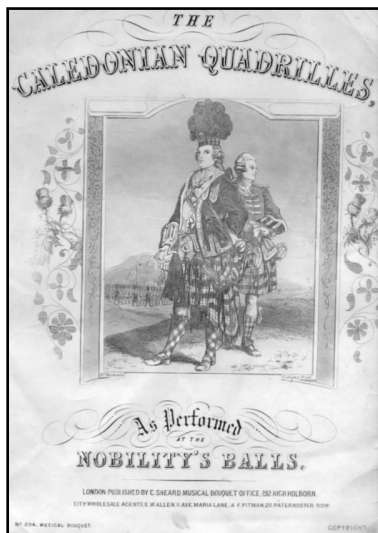


He then goes on to say, "There are several sets of what are termed 'Scotch Quadrilles', which are only Scotch as to name and tune, having no other national characteristic, being composed of French Quadrille figures and steps. In order to enable those who are conversant with Scotch dancing, to judge how far these are entitled to the appellation of Scotch, the reader is here presented with the figures of The Caledonians". Of course, Wilson had his own set of Royal Scotch Quadrilles which he felt were far superior and of

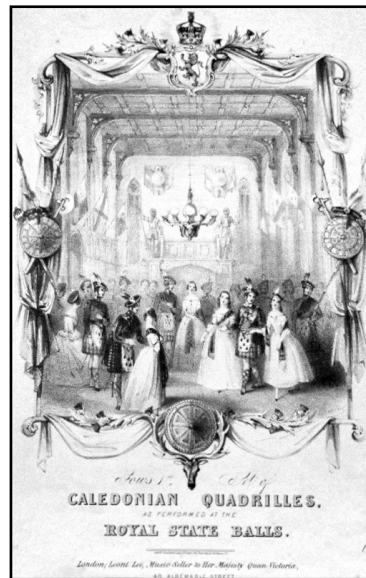
which he says "The following is a set of what the author terms 'Scotch Quadrilles', which are adapted to Scotch steps, and he submits them to the judgement of those, who are acquainted with the National characteristic". Unusually, these figures contain reels. He does not however offer music to accompany these instructions nor give notes on what 'Scottish' steps should be used. There is no evidence Wilson's version was taken up in preference to Chivers'.

Later *Caledonians* sets went a step further and used more than one tune in the same quadrille figure. Thomas Westrop published his set of *The Caledonian Quadrilles* in c.1830 in London with an exuberant figure in highland dress and giant feathers in his cap on the cover (see right).

His first figure uses eight bars of *My Love is But a Lassie Yet*, but then adds in *Duncan Gray* for bars 9-24 before returning to the first tune for the last eight bars. His second figure uses *Gordon of Lesmore* for the first and third repetitions and *There's Nae Luck about the House* for second and fourth repetitions. His third figure uses *Last May a Braw Wooer* and *Logie o' Buchan*. His fourth has *Roy's Wife of Aldivalloch* for times one and three and *The De'il's Awa' with the Exciseman* for times two and four. Finally, his fifth figure uses the reel *Green Grow the Rushes O* segueing into the jig *The Campbells are Coming*. The upshot of this change of rhythm within the dance is that the music becomes very choppy to listen to, and makes it more difficult for the dancer, particularly as the music goes from reel to jig in the space of 48 bars and then is repeated four more times. Previous quadrilles for First set and the Lancers did not change rhythm within a figure. This did become a feature of post 1850 quadrille music however.



As the nineteenth century progressed, *The Caledonians* became a staple of the ballroom. Instructions included in all the dance manuals of the period are invariably Chivers' instructions but Joseph Lowe in his *Quadrille Preceptor* of 1838 includes an alternative set of instructions in addition to Chivers'.



John H Gow was still active in 1842, publishing his *Caledonian Quadrilles* set to Chivers' figures. You can see from the cover that although the men are in Highland dress, the women are wearing Victorian dresses and have hairstyles from this period. Comparing this to his 1817 set mentioned above, his *Caledonians* uses the same tunes and with pretty much the same arrangement of music as other versions - *My Love is But a Lassie Yet*, *There's Nae Luck about the House*, *Kenmore's Awa*, *The Highland Laddie* and *Callam Shiarghlas*.

By 1858, sets of *The Caledonians* were being published across the pond in America. Laurence de Garmo Brooks published his set in New York and included the tunes *My Love She's But a Lassie Yet*, *The Campbells are Coming* (RSCDS Book 24 but to a different tune), *Logie o' Buchan*, *The Lass o' Gowrie* (used for *Mr Watson's Favourite* in the Graded Book), *The Birks of Aberfeldy* and *Rob Roy MacGregor* (RSCDS book 26 but using a different tune).

In 1879, James Scott Skinner published instructions for *The Caledonians* in his *The Ball Room Companion (dancing taught without a master) containing all the fashionable dances of the day in Aberdeen*. The terseness of the instructions suggest that this was a set of quadrilles very strongly embedded in the ballroom repertoire and which perhaps only needed a quick reminder of the figures.

On a personal note, as a musician and, having played this set of quadrilles on several occasions, I can attest to a certain dissatisfaction with the choice of tunes and the way they are used in these quadrilles. They feel as they sound, tunes cut about to fit in with the way quadrilles need to be played. In these *Caledonian* sets, particularly the later ones, the original section in a minor key is often replaced by changing from one Scottish tune to another. The feel is clunky and when we decided to make a recording of the *Caledonian Quadrilles* in 2019 we chose to replace Chivers' original music with pipe tunes from the correct period which felt much more in keeping with the style of the dance.

Without doubt a great part of the attraction of these quadrilles when first encountered must have been the inclusion of traditional Scottish music which cemented them in the ballroom repertoire, however the quadrilles themselves have nothing particularly Scottish in the figures, there are no reels for example. The simplicity of the figures though led to this set of quadrilles becoming a staple in the nineteenth century ballroom and they are still danced today (most recently at Mrs Bennet's Ballroom St Andrew's Regency Ball in Putney in November 2024).

This set of quadrilles is another example of the linking of music and dances between England and Scotland as one country influenced the other.

8

**THE CALEDONIANS.**

**1st Fig.**—Top and bottom couple hands across, set to your partners and turn, ladies chain, half promenade, half right and left.

**2nd Fig.**—Top gentleman advance and perform any step, a la pastorale, set corners and change partners, promenade each couple; repeat the same four times.

**3rd Fig.**—First lady and opposite gentleman advance and retire, advance a second time and turn in the centre, top couple lead between opposite couple, returning outside, set to corners and turn.

**4th Fig.**—Top lady and bottom gentleman advance and stop, partners do the same, turn partners to places, ladies to the right, gentlemen to the left, repeat, half promenade to places and turn partners.

**5th Fig.**—Top couple lead round in centre ladies advance in centre, curtsy and retire, gentlemen advance in centre, salute and retire set to partners and turn, half chain round, half promenade, chassez croisse, promenade finale.



## Branch Committee 25 October 2024

The main business of the 25 October 2024 meeting was the arrangements for appointing delegate members to attend the AGM of the RSCDS and the recommendations on how they should vote to represent the members in London. The main discussion was on the candidates for the various committee positions, where there was competition for some of the posts, and the voting procedure, which is by proxy in advance of the actual meeting in Edinburgh. There was also a debate on the proposal to raise the membership subscription by £1 per annum. It is a requirement of the contract with the London Branch, that we collect this and pass the money on to Edinburgh. One of the impacts of the recurring increases above inflation is to inhibit us increasing the local membership fee which is available to support activities in London. We have been pressing for evidence of the achievements and benefits from the funds rather than supporting documents based on costs. A narrow majority of the committee decided to support the increase. We will continue to advocate that subscriptions are based on value for money in achieving outcomes.

We are experiencing challenges with our bank, both with making mandate changes and the possible imposition of charges, and the possibility of moving the account was discussed. It was noted that many charities are being 'debanked'.

It was agreed the possibility of making it easier to support the charity by making donations through the website and encouraging legacies would be investigated. It is also proposed to write to the life members explaining the costs of printing and posting *The Reel* had increased significantly over the years and suggesting they switch to an electronic rather than a paper copy or consider making a donation.

We discussed the start of the season dance - this had been changed from the evening to the afternoon in 2024 but the event still didn't cover its costs. We decided to promote the dance on the evening of the day school in October as the first event in the autumn season and from 2026 incorporate a dance into the programme at Easter. (It would be confirmed with The Highland Club that their plans for a Combined Societies' Dance were proceeding for Easter 2025). The annual London Day School is directly aligned with our charitable objectives and the Committee agreed that it was appropriate to subsidise the event, however attendance has not recovered since the pandemic which is a concern. Some adjustments will be made to reduce costs but the main objective for the 18 October 2025 Day School will be to increase numbers.

The attendance at the recurring classes has generally been good although the interest in the Coates Crescent social media pilot to recruit dancers for the beginners' class had not translated into more paying attendees beyond those recruited by our own promotion.

There were reports on the preparations for future classes and dances which were progressing well. It was agreed that we would encourage online booking for dances - especially those with a significant catering requirement when predicting numbers was important.

The Chair reported that he had participated in a conference call organised by Edinburgh which was intended to become a regular event with the object of improving communication and addressing the concerns of the local groups.

### Coming Events

**White Rose Festival:** As mentioned in the last edition of *The Reel*, RSCDS London Branch intends to take a team of dancers to the White Rose Festival which takes place near Leeds on 12 July 2025 (see photo right). It is a lovely, non-competitive celebration of Scottish country dancing with opportunities for teams of demonstration, intermediate and less experienced dancers to enjoy working together on set dances and to watch others perform whilst relaxing in the company of dancers from around the UK.

We've had an encouraging response to our call for expressions of interest and will be entering a team in each of the available categories: beginners, massed dances and demonstration. Further details of plans for additional lessons and rehearsals will be shared via our website and eUpdates. Several of the set dances have also been incorporated into our Summer Wednesday dance programme and will feature in Branch classes.

**Day School 2025:** plans are advancing for our day school which takes place on 18 October at Maria Fidelis School near Euston station. We are delighted that Graham Donald, Raphaëlle Orgeret and Faye Mather have agreed to teach, and that Ian Muir (Prestwick) will lead the musicians' workshop. We are looking forward to an active and enjoyable day.



### Where is This?

Answer to 'Where is This?' on p1: Thomas Carlyle's house in Ecclefechan - a small village located 10 kilometres south of Lockerbie in Dumfries and Galloway in the south of Scotland.

The village is famous for being his birthplace. 'The Arched House' is a tourist attraction and has been maintained by the National Trust for Scotland since 1936.

Thomas Carlyle (1795 - 1881) was a Scottish historian, philosopher and mathematician who expressed himself as an essayist and satirist. In 1826 he married Jane Welsh and here is where the reference to the 'feline' part of the dance name comes in.

As found in *The Fireside Sphinx* (1901) by Agnes Repplier, "Among a series of house cats, Mrs Jane Carlyle took in a kitten, black as soot, a most agile kitten, and wonderfully confiding."

Do you have a dance related photo? Email: [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## Lives Remembered

### A Distinguished Academic

from Christina Hood

#### Christopher Hood

5 March 1947 - 3 January 2025



Chris Hood was born in Birmingham to a family with strong roots in Scotland. In his professional life he was a distinguished academic in the field of government and public administration, respected for his formidable research

output, engaging teaching style and generous mentorship of colleagues. He started Scottish dancing as a postgraduate student, meeting his wife Gillian through Malcolm Brown's classes in York, and continued dancing throughout his life, including during extended periods working overseas in Germany, Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong.

A professorship at LSE brought Chris and his family to London in 1989, where he became a familiar presence at Pont Street and other Scottish dancing activities. While generally a shy person, he was always active in welcoming newcomers, also in encouraging and supporting less experienced dancers on the floor. He was keen to share his enthusiasm for Scottish culture with his daughters Isobel and Christina, through mix-tapes, family holidays in Scotland, and even trying to receive *Take the Floor* from Radio Scotland on crackly medium wave.

Chris was an advanced student of the Gaelic language and in latter years became a committed member of London's Gaelic-speaking community. This interest extended to researching the early history of Gaelic organisations in London, including the Highland Club, and learning web development skills to create an updated website for the Gaelic Society of London.

Chris will be much missed by family, friends and colleagues. His funeral was held on 24 January 2025 at Moray crematorium, near the home of his shipbuilding forefathers.

The official announcement from the Press and Journal is available online here:

[ajl.myfamilyannouncements.co.uk/home/view/4939664/hood](http://ajl.myfamilyannouncements.co.uk/home/view/4939664/hood)

## A Gentle Lady

from Stephen Webb

### Patricia Elizabeth Joan Reeve

(née Pental)

1 April 1930 - 13 September 2024



The following has been taken in part from the eulogy delivered by the Reverend Sue McWhinney (Patricia's daughter) at Patricia's funeral.

Patricia, an only child, was born in Plymouth to parents Leslie and Annie. Her father being in the Royal Navy, it was three years before she first met him. Prior to and during the war years, the Pental family moved six times including a term in Malta. Being unsettled, it had an impact on her childhood and education. After high school, Patricia went to college in Bath to train in home economics and housekeeping, working in Residential Further Education Colleges.

Patricia always looked for opportunities to meet people, but the social activity that she most enjoyed was Scottish dancing. This is how she and John met, at weekly dances at the RN training college. They were married in 1957 in Gosport; two years later with John seconded to the Australian navy they lived in Sydney, Brisbane and Singapore. They had two children, Sue first then Paul. In 1969 John left the RN and joined Kodak residing in Watford. This was the home that they lived in until their passing. John died in 2018 (see *A Life to Enjoy* in Reel 303 p16). I first met them at Watford & West Herts Scottish Society dances and found John and I shared many interests. John worked on the typesetting and presentation of *The Reel* and I visited their house every quarter to finalise the presentation with John and came to know Patricia in the domestic setting of their lovely house and garden where she felt most comfortable. I often stayed for lunch (which John and I were required to immediately come down for when ready). It was always food grown by John and Patricia, and whilst simple fare, was always delicious. Patricia was a kind and gentle lady who was well read and gave service to CAB and nursery care. It was clear that John had found the perfect lady for them both to have a happy life together. Although Sue and Paul lived separately, some distance away they still saw them when they could and their five grandchildren, whom they clearly loved and loved to spend time with.

After John died, Patricia stopped dancing and bravely managing for some months alone, she took a tumble in the garden whilst watering her beloved begonias, breaking her hip, which also put an end to her cycling. She was very grateful for the care received from Angie for the last five years, although Patricia did continue to involve herself in the activities of her local church. In September, Patricia suffered an aneurism and passed away peacefully at home. She was a special lady and a gentle one whom all who knew her will certainly miss.

## A Very Talented Scot

from Stephen Webb

### John Renton

27 September 1942 - 17 January 2025



I first met John at the Summer School in August 2009 and discovered he lived in a remote farmhouse in Inveraray. He was playing at St Andrews for the evening dances and as we chatted, I took an instant liking to him. He played strict tempo and like many other musicians loved seeing the pleasure on dancers' faces when he played. A very accomplished accordionist and band leader with several recordings for the RSCDS to his name. He was proud of the fact that when he played for a particular dance, he would create a matched set of tunes always starting and ending with the named tune. He passed some 1,500 sets on to a fellow musician and friend when he realised due to arthritis, he could no longer play his beloved instrument. But, tunes were always in his head and when recalling one, he would simply sing or hum it - a wonderful and natural skill.

He particularly enjoyed playing strathspeys which he interpreted musically so well. Besides his playing excellence, he was also a composer of many lovely tunes in the Scottish idiom. I first discovered this in a curious way when, one morning after returning to work in that month of August and about to call in on the way to a barber for a trim, I received a call on my mobile from, to my surprise, John! He said, "I've composed a hornpipe for you Stephen, because I think it will suit you," and then proceeded to play it while I stood in the street listening. It was quite surreal but charming too. It was the first of many tunes he would compose for me to accompany dances I have devised (please see Strathspey Server if you wish to know more). In addition, he generously composed tunes for The Berkhamsted Diamond Collection and their Platinum Anniversary and London Branch's winning anniversary entry, *London Nine-O* (see *The Reel* 318, p9).

In conversation, I learned of his impending 80th birthday and told HQ, so it was kindly marked by a letter from the then chair, Lorna Ogilvie. He was very pleased to receive it. For my contribution I devised *Our Compliments to John Renton* and Ian T Muir generously composed a lovely tune to accompany it. John was again delighted by both dance and tune. Further, I encouraged other musician friends to contact John as I knew it would be an enriching experience for both and relieve some of his loneliness.

John was a very talented Scot, modest, kind and genuine and I have always felt privileged to have known him, especially by engaging in many meaningful chats over these past 15 years and I, and no doubt many others, will truly miss dear John too.

## Kind, Generous & Thoughtful

from Gary Coull

### Anne Taylor

2 September 1945 - 29 December 2024



The Scottish country dancing community lost one of its biggest champions at the end of last year when Anne Taylor, of the Banffshire Branch, passed away on 29 December at the age of 79.

Anne was an inspiring Scottish country and highland teacher, a dedicated tutor and a compassionate examiner. She served as Director of RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews, Co-ordinator of RSCDS Winter School, Convener of Education and Training committee and member of the Management Board. But most of all she was a kind, generous and thoughtful person.

Anne always taught or tutored with fun and passion and as one of her certificate class pupils I had the enormous privilege of being able to benefit from her willingness to share her knowledge and experience.

Anne's commitment to Scottish country dancing was evident right up to the last few weeks of her life. Despite recent health challenges, Anne was determined to attend and examine at the RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews in 2024 and I know that managing to do this is something that meant a lot to her.

I was also delighted that she was able to attend the recent Autumn Gathering. It was a chance for her to meet her many friends but she also told me she wanted to "cheer me on" when I became RSCDS Chair. For her to make the long journey despite the challenges for her was something which meant an awful lot to me personally.

Anne embodied the spirit of the RSCDS and Scottish country dancing and did so much to further both the activity and the organisation. In 2022 she was awarded a Scroll of Honour in recognition of her efforts and commitment. As a fellow Banffshire Branch member and having served on the MB at the same time as her I was fortunate to have seen that first hand.

Our condolences go to her husband Bob (himself a dancer), her daughters Judith and Jillian, her grandchildren and her wider family and friends... especially those in the gin palace at Summer School!

Anne will be deeply missed by us all in the RSCDS community.

*The Reel* is also saddened to receive notice of the deaths of Peter Boyce (sometime fiddler with Flora Argent), Margaret Gunning (Wembley and District), Clem Wilson and Irene Spooner (London Highland Club). Full obituaries will appear in the next *Reel*.



# Forthcoming Events

## GUILDFORD SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

### Spring Dance

Saturday 3 May 2025

7.00 - 11.00pm

Drinks Reception from 6.30pm

Normandy Village Hall

Glaziers Lane, Normandy, Surrey GU3 2DT

### Ewan Galloway Scottish Dance Band

Tickets £22.00

Tickets are limited and must be bought in advance

Cribs and videos:

[my.strathspey.org/dd/list/54004/](http://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/54004/)

All dances will be recapped

Please bring a plate of finger food for the interval buffet

Practices on Monday 14 and 28 April at 8.00pm, Onslow Village Hall GU2 7QR

Email: [dancer.scottish@gmail.com](mailto:dancer.scottish@gmail.com)

Tel: 07910 340346 (Millie) or 07747 112720 (Peter)

[gscdc.org.uk](http://gscdc.org.uk)



## LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

### Spring Dance

Saturday 5 April 2025

7.00 - 11.00pm

Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Lane, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6HF

### Ewan Galloway with Ian and Tom Robertson

*Programme:* Granville Market, Anderson's Rant, The Falkirk Lass, Toshogu Shrine, The Sailor, Bonnie Galloway, Auchinellan Jig, The Bon Viveur, Bauldy Bain's Fiddle, Pulling Bracken, The Glengarry Homestead, Pelorus Jack, The Flower of Glasgow, Midnight Oil, Jovial Jack, The Merchant City, Ways in New Hall, The Highland Rambler

All dances fully recapped

Tickets £16.00

Bring and Share Supper

Order tickets via our website:

[lucyclarkscottish.org/events](http://lucyclarkscottish.org/events)

Alternatively contact Ann Higginbottom on 01494 451374

Further information and cribs available on our website



A weekend of dancing in Somerset

12-13 April 2025

## ST MICHAEL'S SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

### Spring Dance

Saturday 12 April 2025

7.00 - 10.30pm

Davis Hall, West Camel BA22 7QX

### The Dewhurst Band

Contact Maggie Westley:

[westley.maggie14@gmail.com](mailto:westley.maggie14@gmail.com)

[stmichaelsccdclub.org](http://stmichaelsccdclub.org)



## ASHILL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS

### Easter Dance

Sunday 13 April 2025

2.00 - 5.00pm

Horton Village Hall, Nr Ilminster TA19 9QR

### Ian and Judith Muir

Tea and Cakes

Contact Anita Wilson:

[anitaandjim22@gmail.com](mailto:anitaandjim22@gmail.com)

[Ashillscd.wordpress.com](http://Ashillscd.wordpress.com)



Programmes and further information for both events will be published in the next issue of *The Carswellian* and on club websites

## RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS

### Tea Dance

Sunday 18 May 2025

2.30 - 5.30 pm

Pembury Village Hall

Pembury High Street TN2 4PH

### Strathallan Band

*Programme:* Good Hearted Glasgow, Currie Mountain Reel, The Gentleman, Starry Eyed Lassie, Meg Merrilees, Cherrybank Gardens, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Interval, Catch the Wind, Laird of Milton's Daughter, Wisp of Thistle, Bill Clement MBE, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, City of Belfast, Reel of the Royal Scots

Tickets in advance £12, on the door £15, members £10, non-dancers £5

Excellent tea provided

Contact: Daphne Males 07938571882

[malesfamily@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:malesfamily@yahoo.co.uk)

[rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk](http://rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk)



## RSCDS MILTON KEYNES

### Annual Dance

Saturday 8 March 2025

7.00 - 11.00pm

Wing Village Hall, Leighton Rd. LU7 0NN

### Ewan Galloway & Ian Robertson

*Programme:* The Provost Wynd, Kendall's Hornpipe, The Byron Strathspey, The Countess of Dunmore's Reel, The Wild Goose Chase, Gang the Same Gate, Middelton Silver, Toast to the Mousies, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, The White Heather Jig, Easy Peasy, James Gray, Jimmy's Fancy, Lady Sophia Lindsay, Ladies' Fancy, MacDonald of Keppoch, The Plantation Reel, Red Rum, Rougemont Castle, The Irish Rover

Tickets £17

Bring and share supper  
Tea/coffee provided

Contact: Jan Jones 07877 153259 or

[jangeverybusy@gmail.com](mailto:jangeverybusy@gmail.com)

[rscdsmk.co.uk](http://rscdsmk.co.uk)

## RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH

### Day School

Saturday 8 March 2025

NEW VENUE:

Edgbarrow School, Crowthorne RG45 7HZ

Teacher: Alice Stainer

Class Musician: Jeremy Hill

Musicians' Day School: Ian Muir

Evening dance with Day School musicians

Contact: Paul Plummer

[chairman@rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://chairman@rscds-bhs.org.uk)

### May Ball

Saturday 17 May 2025 7.30 - 11.30pm

### Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Edgbarrow School, Grant Road, Crowthorne RG45 7HZ

Contact: Fiona Albinson

[secretary@rscds-bhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rscds-bhs.org.uk)

Visit [rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://rscds-bhs.org.uk) for more information



**Credits:** Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of *The Reel*, including the following for providing photos: p1: RSCDS AGM dance - Petar Petkovic (PP); Christmas Dance - Simon Wales (SDW); Burns Ceilidh Dance - Willie Lawrence (WL); Where is This? - Image copyright DeFacto, [Creative Commons Licence 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), via Wikimedia Commons. p2: Richard Clarke - Christopher Bowen. p5: Burns ceilidh - Joanne and Willie Lawrence. p6: Jeremy Hill - from himself; CD covers - from the bands. p7: Ian Robertson and friends - all from Ian Robertson. pp8-9: Branch Christmas Dance - SDW; General Class - from WL; Gerrards Cross - Stephen Webb (SJW); AGM Ball - PP; Lucy Clark Christmas Dance - SJW; Crawley SCDC - Chris Pratt; Craiggellachie at the Branch Christmas Dance - SDW; Ian Robertson - from himself. pp10-11: Meryl Thomson - from herself (MT); GMS Chivers - public domain; Chivers Quadrille Preceptor - from MT; Logie of Buchan - from Johnson's The Scot's Musical Museum - from MT; The Caledonians - archive.org - public domain; The Caledonian Quadrilles by T Westrop - public domain; The Caledonian Quadrilles - John H Gow - IMSLP - public domain; The Caledonians - Aberdeen University - [abdn.ac.uk/scottskinner/ballroomguide.shtml](http://abdn.ac.uk/scottskinner/ballroomguide.shtml). p12: Chris Hood - from Christina Hood; Leeds Festival: JL; Where is this? - Text from this original *The Cat Triumphant* article on Wikisource. p13: Patricia Reeve - SJW; John Renton - SJW; Anne Taylor - from Gary Coull. p14 - Keith Miles cartoon reprinted with permission.

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[kallkwik.co.uk/hemel](http://kallkwik.co.uk/hemel) 01442 247777



51<sup>ST</sup> TRAVELLERS

# Forthcoming Events

READING ST ANDREW'S  
SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

## Spring Tea Dance

Sunday 27 April 2025

2.45 - 6.15pm

Swallowfield Parish Hall,  
Swallowfield, Berkshire RG7 1QX

David Hall

*Programme:* EH3 7AF, The Bees They are A'Drummin', The Dream Catcher, Links with St Petersburg, Crossing the Line, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, The Chequered Court, The Minister on the Loch, The Rutland Reel, The Raven's Dance, Shifftin' Bobbins, Barbara's Strathspey, Farewell to Balfour Road, Catch the Wind, The Water of Leith, Quarries' Jig, The Byron Strathspey, Trip to Timber Ridge

Tickets (in advance only) £13 and bring a plate of food to share

Hall has sprung floor

Contact: Duncan Barnett 0118 956 9289 or  
[sasdc01@gmail.com](mailto:sasdc01@gmail.com)

[scottishdancingreading.org](http://scottishdancingreading.org)



WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH  
COUNTRY DANCERS

## Spring Ball

Saturday 22 March 2025

7.00 - 11.15pm

Harrison Hall, Charlton Down DT2 9UD

The Craigellachie Band

MC: Andrew White

*Programme:* EH3 7AF, The Falls of Rogie, Midsummer Common, Bill Clement MBE, Johnnie's Welcome Hame, The City of Belfast, Father Connelly's Jig, Prince Rupert's Fancy, The Reel of the 51st Division, A Toast to the Mousies, The Moffat Weavers, Sugar Candy, Orpington Caledonians, The Scallywag, Butterscotch and Honey, Castle of Mey, Triple Happiness, The Deil Among the Tailors

Tickets £25.00

Advance Booking only please

Supper included

Tickets from Graeme Dickson  
07831 819414

Dance cribs are on our website  
[weymouthscottishcountrydancers.co.uk](http://weymouthscottishcountrydancers.co.uk)



## Bands

### CALEDONIAN REELERS

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

### THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

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

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

## President's Ball

Saturday 29 March 2025

7.00 - 10.30pm



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

Sandy Nixon & his Scottish Dance Band

MCs Sam Schad & James Fairbairn

*Programme:* The Greenbelt Jig, Ray Milbourne, Foxhill Court, Napier's Index, Rest And Be Thankful, Indian River Strathspey, Frank Bennett's Jig, Ramadan-ce, The Paisley Weavers, The Falls of Rogie, Gaelforce Wind, City of Belfast, None so Pretty, Bill Clement MBE, The Flower o' the Quern, The Ambassadors' Reel, Torridon Lassies, The Dundee Whaler, The Hazel Tree, Trip to Timber Ridge

Dances will be recapped

Tickets: In advance (until 26 March) £25,  
LHC Members £22 On the door prices: £30  
Students' concession: £10

Pay online, or at the door by card or cash

For tickets email

[tickets@londonhighlandclub.co.uk](mailto:tickets@londonhighlandclub.co.uk)

or call Roger Keeling 020 8656 7884

Programme and cribs are on our website

[londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://londonhighlandclub.co.uk)

Forthcoming LHC event

Saturday 31 May 2025

Summer Dance

Strathallan Trio

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND  
REEL CLUB

## Spring Dance

Saturday 10 May 2025

7.00 - 10.30pm

Chiltern Hills Academy, Chartridge Lane,  
Chesham, Bucks HP5 2RG

Ian Robertson  
and his Scottish Dance Band

*Programme:* Ecclefechan Feline, The Falls of Rogie, The Duchess Tree, Napier's Index, The Irish Rover, Neidpath Castle, Muirland Willie, Cherrybank Gardens, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran; Quarries' Jig, Glastonbury Tor, The Dream Catcher, John of Bon Accord, Gaelforce Wind, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, City of Belfast, The Aviator, Trip to Timber Ridge

Tickets £17.00

Bring and share supper, tea and coffee provided

Tickets from Simon Cumming  
1 Fullers Close, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1LU  
01494 782695

[booking@berkhamstedreelclub.org](mailto:booking@berkhamstedreelclub.org)

Full details: [berkhamstedreelclub.org/  
events/spring-dance-2025/](http://berkhamstedreelclub.org/events/spring-dance-2025/)



Hosted by the

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

## Combined Societies Dance 2025



Saturday 1 March 2025

7.00 - 10.30pm

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

Dave Hall Trio

MCs - Catriona Bennett, Murrough Landon,  
Joanne Lawrence, Davinia Miln,  
Brian Pierson, Roy Southall

*Programme:* The Shetland Shepherdess, Toast to the Mousies, City of Belfast, Spiffin', Summer Superstars, John McAlpin, The 51st Travellers, Portincaple Oak, The Highland Rambler, Swiss Lassie, The Dundee Whaler, Inchmickery, JB Milne, Asilomar Romantic, The Starry Eyed Lassie, The Orchards of Co. Armagh, Quarries' Jig, The Deil among the Tailors

Dances will be recapped

Tickets £20, students £10  
refreshments included

Pay online, or at the door by card or cash

For tickets email

[tickets@londonhighlandclub.co.uk](mailto:tickets@londonhighlandclub.co.uk)

or call Roger Keeling 020 8656 7884

Programme and cribs are on our website

[londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://londonhighlandclub.co.uk)

Forthcoming LHC event

Saturday 29 March 2025

President's Ball

Sandy Nixon and his Scottish Dance Band

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY

## Annual Ball

Saturday 3 May 2025

7.00 - 11.00pm

Reception 6.30pm

William Collyn Community Centre,  
Wellbrook Way, Girton CB3 0GP

Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band

*Programme:* Spring Fling, Napier's Index, City of Belfast, Toast to the Mousies, Equilibrium, Portincaple Oak, Ray Milbourne, Muirland Willie, The Tall Ship "Glenlee", Trip to Timber Ridge, Farewell to Balfour Road, The Orchards of Co. Armagh, Nottingham Lace, "Deer" Friends, Chased Lovers, Dr Windley's Stilton Strathspey, Scott Meikle, Peter Knight's Strathspey, Torridon Lassies, The Reel of the 51st Division

Tickets £20, Students £10

Advance booking only

Shared refreshments

Contact: Rachel Schicker 07944 265917  
[r.schicker@btinternet.com](mailto:r.schicker@btinternet.com)

[camscotsoc.org.uk](http://camscotsoc.org.uk)



# Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

To update your information in Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations contact [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk)  
This is the final issue of the current cycle for *Reel* 328 - 331 and will be renewed at a cost of £30 for *Reels* 332-335.  
If you wish to cancel, please contact [treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@ascsc.org.uk) or [abingdonscdc.wordpress.com](http://abingdonscdc.wordpress.com)
- ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Meets Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm September-May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Sue Holmes, 01932 846486 or [addlestonscottish.org.uk](http://addlestonscottish.org.uk)
- BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB** Meets in Potten End Village Hall, HP4 2QG. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.00pm September-May, Saturday: gardens June/July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8.00pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.00pm. Details: Jon Mole 07956 572925 or [classes@berkhamstedreelclub.org](mailto:classes@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](mailto: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](mailto:chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk) or [rscds-brighton.org.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:camscotsoc.org.uk)
- CHELTHENHAM BRANCH RSCDS** General Class/Club Night Mondays 7.30-9.30pm with Beginners' Section fortnightly at St Luke's Church Hall, St Luke's Place, Cheltenham GL53 7HP. Advanced class fortnightly on a Tuesday. Details: Lesley Taylor, 07712 578622 [cheltscdssec@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk). Details: Iris Ronayne, 07767 842670 [chiswickscottish.org.uk](http://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](mailto:rscds.croydon.chairman@gmail.com) or [rscdscroydon.org.uk](http://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](mailto:angelaross87@hotmail.com) or [efsa.org.uk](http://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@ymail.com](mailto:lesteranne@ymail.com) or [fscdc.co.uk](http://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](mailto:info.fleetscds@gmail.com) or [fleetscds.co.uk](http://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 [janetcmacphail54@gmail.com](mailto:janetcmacphail54@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](http://gscdc.org.uk)
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Classes Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm, St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Also a variety of other activities. Details: Sheena Henderson, [mail@harrowscottish.org.uk](mailto:mail@harrowscottish.org.uk) or 07719 985025 or [harrowscottish.org.uk](http://harrowscottish.org.uk)
- HERTSMERE & TALLY HO REEL CLUB** Dancing on Thursdays at 8.00pm from September to July in the hall behind Christ Church, 620 High Road, Finchley N12 0NU. Also some Saturdays 7.00pm at Tilbury Hall URC, Darnes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 020 8440 3236 or [margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk) or [hertsmereandtallyhorc.wordpress.com](http://hertsmereandtallyhorc.wordpress.com)
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** Meets regularly at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: [londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://londonhighlandclub.co.uk)
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB** Meets Thursdays at the Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Road, Wendover HP22 6HF. Beginners' class 6.45-8.00pm, Social Dancing 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Liz Mitchell, 07947 000368 or [lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com](mailto:lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com) or [lucyclarkscottish.org](http://lucyclarkscottish.org)
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** Meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Piran's School, Gringer Hill, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7LZ. Last Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 01628 628372 or [maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto:jange@verybusy.co.uk)
- NORWICH BRANCH RSCDS** Branch class in Norwich on Mondays from September-March/June. Beginners from 7.00-8.15pm and general dancing 8.20-9.30pm. Details: Sue Petty, 07568 550504 or [sec.rscds.norwich@gmail.com](mailto:sec.rscds.norwich@gmail.com)
- 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](mailto:the_wildens@yahoo.co.uk) 07879 860463 or [orpingtonscottishdancing.com](http://orpingtonscottishdancing.com)
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Margaret Spiceley, 07985 962781 or [secretary.rscdoxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.rscdoxfordshire@gmail.com) or [rscdoxfordshire.org](http://rscdoxfordshire.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 Barnett, 0118 956 9289 [duncanbarnett@gmail.com](mailto:duncanbarnett@gmail.com) or [scottishdancingreading.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:stcolumbasdancers@gmail.com) or [stcolumbasdancers.org](http://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](mailto:sec.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com) Also Children's Class Saturdays 9.30-11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- ST MICHAEL'S SCDC, SOMERSET** Meets Thursdays, 7.30-9.30pm, Davis Hall, Howell Hill, West Camel, Yeovil BA22 7QX. Details: Elspeth Wright, 07972 125617 or [stmichaelscdc.org](mailto:stmichaelscdc.org)
- 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](mailto:graham.easton@btinternet.com) or [seess.org.uk](http://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](mailto:secretary@surbitoncaledonian.co.uk)
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS** General ability class on Tuesdays from 7.30-9.30pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9AL. Details: Colin Simpson, 01892 832712 or [rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk](http://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](http://reel@watfordscottish.org.uk)
- WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** Dancing at Radipole and Southill Community Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 9SS. Thursdays, 7.00-10.00pm. Details: Graeme Dickson, 07831 819414
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Road North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 01264 363293 or [wendy@mumford.com](mailto:wendy@mumford.com)
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Labour Party Hall, Witham CM8 2EE. Details: Audrey Kennedy, 01376 513567 or [amkenney148@gmail.com](mailto:amkenney148@gmail.com)



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