



# The Reel

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Scottish country dancing - for fun, fitness and friendship



## Highlights of the 2022-23 season

Top left: Burns Ceilidh at St Columba's, 14 January 2023; Top right: Day School at Paddington Academy, 15 October 2022; Bottom left: Tuesday Social at St Columba's, 25 October 2022; Bottom right: RSCDS Centenary Tea Dance at Allum Hall, 12 March 2023



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Issue 326 should be with UK based members by 25 November 2023 unless delayed in the post.

Contributions for Reel 326 should be sent to arrive by and preferably in advance of 15 October 2023 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: Joanne Lawrence



Summer is always a good time for reflection, looking back on the past year of dancing and forwards to whatever the new season has in store. This season will be our third post COVID-19. A lot has happened since our first tentative steps back onto the dance floor in 2021 and there are many good things to come in the 2023-24 season.

In our first post COVID-19 season we focused on return, recovery and belated 90th anniversary celebrations. We worked hard to create a safe dancing environment, including a regularly updated Covid Safety policy and an innovative approach to refreshments from our catering team. It was wonderful to see class and event attendances recover.

Although we had to cancel our Burns ceilidh due to the emergence of the Omicron variant, other dances, including the postponed 90th Anniversary Ball, were well attended and greatly enjoyed.

For 2022-23 our objectives included continuing recovery, developing events attractive to younger dancers and increasing the number of musicians playing for Branch activities. Dances were well supported, despite clashing with HM the Queen's funeral and a couple of rail strikes, and our Burns Ceilidh exceeded all recent attendance records. The Tuesday Social monthly session, for dancers in their 20s and 30s, has become well established with a good proportion of attendees also enjoying weekly classes and Branch dances. Classes which normally dance to recorded music now have live musicians at their end of term parties and we are looking at other ways to draw in more musicians.

Although COVID-19 presented a hard stop to our dancing activities, it is fair to say that several were faltering even before 2020. Attendance was in decline at classes for the demonstration team, for very advanced dancers and for families. With two seasons of regular classes now under our belt, a review of the classes provision was appropriate. This has resulted in a set of changes across all London Branch classes, described in more detail on p5.

Perhaps the biggest change relates to our new classes' venue, Maria Fidelis School. Located next to Euston Station, it has excellent transport connections, and offers a spacious, air-conditioned dance studio with a sprung floor, plus a smaller drama studio. The Park Walk classes will migrate there from September and the school will also host monthly classes on Tuesday evenings for advanced and very advanced dancers (the first Fast Paced Social dance class, held in early July, had three full sets and a great atmosphere) and a monthly Technique class for intermediate and more advanced dancers.

Classes for children and families are our next priority. We hope too to deliver a day school later in the season but are not yet in a position to confirm dates. However, normal day school service should be resumed for the 2024-25 season.

Information about all Branch activities is available via our new website, launched this summer. Our thanks to Chris Collings for the time and expertise he invested in developing the site and to Meryl and Ian Thomson for all their work in previous years and their support during the transition.

Finally, many congratulations to the dancers, teachers and musician who participated in the recent RSCDS Dancing Achievement Awards (Intermediate) which represented a great deal of hard work from all concerned. We hope to offer the Advanced Level Award later this season. Congratulations also to Simon Wales who received an immensely well-deserved Branch Award at this year's AGM (citation p6).

Our weekly classes resume on 20 September and our new season dance will be on 23 September. I look forward to another season of good dancing and good company.

## New Committee Member: Wendy Morris



I have been asked to introduce myself as the newest member of the RSCDS London Branch Committee so this is me. I am a retired librarian (how exciting is that?) and I live in Kingston in Surrey. I dance regularly at Surbiton & District Caledonian Society and at the Wednesday afternoon Pont Street class - and anywhere else I can manage. I have enjoyed weekend schools in Eastbourne and on the Isle of Wight and I am looking forward to attending RSCDS Summer School for the first time this year.

So how did I get involved? As so often it was a friend who dragged me along. (Thank you Sheila). I was not convinced. The 'helpful' crib she sent me in advance looked like a cross between a secret code and a knitting pattern. It did not bode well. But do you know what? It took about 20 minutes, and I was completely hooked. Music, physical exercise, mental stimulation and sociability all rolled into one. I just lapped it up. We laughed in embarrassment when we went wrong and we laughed in triumph when we got it right. I smiled for 3 hours non-stop. But of course, I am preaching to the converted. I often think Scottish country dancing should be prescribed on the NHS - for mental and physical well-being combined!

I am now well and truly embedded at Surbiton & District, taking on the role of Treasurer 4 years ago. We are a growing club and have welcomed and retained 10 new members this year - some of them under 50! Most of our joiners come through personal recommendations so perhaps we all need to introduce more 'bring a buddy' evenings?

I am very much looking forward to being part of the team at RSCDS London and working with the other committee members to support and promote Scottish country dancing in the London area. See you on the dance floor!

ROYAL  
SCOTTISH  
COUNTRY  
DANCE  
SOCIETY



Chair: William Williamson

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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:

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

# London Branch Matters

## Membership and *The Reel* Subscription

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> )	£17	£25	£30	£50	£4	£4
<i>The Reel</i> by post (UK)	£19	£27	£32	£54	£6	£6
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Europe)	£25	£33	£38	£66	£12	£12
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Rest of the World)	£28	£36	£41	£72	£15	£15

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### New Season Dance

**Saturday 23 September 2023**  
7.00 - 10.00pm  
Doors open at 6.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street  
SW1X 0BD

**David Hall and his Band**

Hooper's Jig ..... 8x32 J  
None So Pretty / London Pride ..... 8x40 R  
Culla Bay ..... 4x32 S  
Ladies' Fancy ..... 8x32 J  
Glastonbury Tor ..... 8x32 R  
Miss Gibson's Strathspey ..... 8x32 S  
The Starry Eyed Lassie ..... 8x32 J  
Scott Meikle ..... 4x32 R

The Laird of Milton's Daughter ..... 8x32 J  
The Royal Yacht Britannia ..... 8x40 R  
John McAlpin ..... 8x32 S  
The Jubilee Jig ..... 8x32 J  
The Saltire Society Reel ..... 8x32 R  
Neidpath Castle ..... 3x32 S  
The Kelloholm Jig ..... 8x32 J  
The Reel of the Royal Scots ..... 8x32 R

#### Extras:

General Stuart's Reel ..... 8x32 R  
Sugar Candie ..... 8x32 S  
Tribute to the Borders ..... 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](https://rscdslondon.org.uk)

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Send Forthcoming Events adverts to Willie  
Lawrence at: [danceads@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:danceads@rscdslondon.org.uk)

### Autumn Wednesday Dance

**Wednesday 25 October 2023**  
7.00 - 10.00pm  
Doors open at 6.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street  
SW1X 0BD

**Ian Robertson**

Good Hearted Glasgow ..... 8x32 J  
Galloway House ..... 8x32 R  
Seann Truibhas Willichan ..... 8x32 S  
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig ..... 4x32 J  
Catch the Wind ..... 8x32 R  
Monymusk ..... 8x32 S  
New Year Jig ..... 8x32 J

The Campbells are Coming ..... 6x32 J  
The Barmkin ..... Sq 88 R  
Gramachie ..... 8x32 S  
Miss Hadden's Reel ..... 8x32 J  
The Highland Rambler ..... 8x40 R  
Sandy o'er the Lea ..... 8x32 S  
The Reel of the 51st Division ..... 8x32 R

#### Extras:

Round Reel of Eight ..... Sq 88 R  
The Dundee Whaler ..... 4x32 S  
Joie de Vivre ..... 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](https://rscdslondon.org.uk)

### Dates for 2023 - 2024

23 September 2023 - New Season Dance  
25 October 2023 - Autumn Wednesday Dance  
16 December 2023 - Christmas Dance  
13 January 2024 - Burns Ceilidh Dance  
14 February 2024 - Winter Wednesday Dance  
29 May 2024 - Summer Wednesday Dance  
8 June 2024 - AGM and End of Season Dance



### Christmas Dance

**Saturday 16 December 2023**  
7.00 - 10.30pm  
Doors open at 6.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street  
SW1X 0BD

**Strathallan**

The Happy Meeting ..... 8x32 J  
The College Hornpipe ..... 8x32 R  
Miss Eleanor ..... 3x32 S  
Muirland Willie ..... 8x32 J  
Clutha ..... Sq 4x48 R  
Miss Milligan's Strathspey ..... 8x32 S  
Quarries' Jig ..... 8x32 J  
Mrs MacPherson of Inveran ..... 4x32 R

The Flight of the Falcon ..... 8x32 J  
The Rutland Reel ..... 8x40 R  
Sugar Candie ..... 8x32 S  
Farewell to Balfour Road ..... 96 J  
Sleepy Maggie ..... 8x32 R  
Montparnasse ..... 4x32 S  
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder 128 J  
The Deil Among the Tailors ..... 8x32 R

#### Extras:

Black Mountain Reel ..... 5x32 R  
Campbell of Laphroig ..... 8x32 M  
Postie's Jig ..... 4x32 J

Admission includes Christmas fare and a  
glass of wine

RSCDS Members £22, non-members £25  
full time students (with card) and  
spectators £12

Children (under 16) free

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

Those with Highland/Evening Dress are  
encouraged to wear it

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 new website or by email to: [diary@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:diary@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## London Branch Classes



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

We have classes for...

### Term Dates

Autumn Term 2023

Wednesdays 20 September -  
6 December

Half-term Wednesday 25 October

For our regular Wednesday weekly  
classes:

**General Class**  
**Mixed Ability Dance Group**  
**Beginners and Improvers**  
in Richmond

### General Class

Maria Fidelis School, 1-39 Drummond  
Crescent, London NW1 1LY

7.00 - 9.00 pm

with 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 29 November

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](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  
and live music from **Dave Hall**  
on 6 December

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

### Beginners Course 2023

Maria Fidelis School, 1-39 Drummond  
Crescent, London NW1 1LY

8 week course

Wednesdays 4, 11, 18 October and  
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 November plus  
combined end of term class on 6 December

7.00 - 9.00pm

An introduction to basic steps and formations  
for new dancers

Fee: £80 for RSCDS members  
£96 for non-RSCDS members

### Families in London Dance Scottish



We are hoping to  
relaunch this soon,  
but in the meantime  
for requests for children's activities eg  
birthdays / ceilidhs please contact :  
[classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk)

### Monthly Classes

#### Tuesday Social

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

Tuesdays 26 September, 24 October,  
14 November and 19 December

7.00 - 9.30pm

led by **Gill O'Dell**  
with 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, 1-39 Drummond  
Crescent, London NW1 1LY

Tuesdays 19 September, 17 October,  
21 November and 12 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, 1-39 Drummond  
Crescent, London NW1 1LY

Tuesdays 3 October, 7 November and  
5 December

7.00 - 9.00pm

with teacher **Pat Davoll**  
to recorded 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



As noted at the AGM on 10 June and in our annual report, post COVID-19 changes in working patterns have led to fewer people being available for classes in town during the week which has had an impact on class attendance. After lots of discussion about how we could best structure our classes to meet the needs of the London dancing community we have made some adjustments for the coming 2023-24 season.

Last season we added live music to the end of term classes for Richmond and the Mixed Ability group at St Columba's and we brought in a monthly class for dancers in their 20s and 30s. We now propose to extend the length of the Richmond class by 30 minutes to allow time to focus on the different needs of new and more experienced dancers and we're bringing in two more monthly classes - a technique class aimed at intermediate and more advanced dancers and a fast-paced social dance class for advanced and very advanced dancers. Perhaps the biggest change will be moving the Park Walk Wednesday evening classes across London to the modern facilities and better transport links of Maria Fidelis School, by Euston Station.

### Richmond class expands

The Richmond Beginners and Improvers class has flourished this year with new starters making great progress and being absorbed into a lively and welcoming dance community. Richmond is always well represented at Branch dances, several members of the class participated successfully in the RSCDS Dancing Achievement Award (Intermediate) and, by the time you read this, a significant number will have enjoyed a week in St Andrews at Summer School. The challenge is how to maintain this sense of community, welcoming new dancers, whilst offering development for those who have been dancing for longer.

Our plan for 2023-24 has several strands. On a weekly basis we will be extending the class by 30 minutes. Judith Jones will now teach from 7pm - 9.30pm each Wednesday. Beginners are encouraged to arrive for 7pm and the first half hour of the class will focus on their needs with basic steps and formations. From 7.30pm more experienced dancers will join the class and everyone will dance together until 9pm. Beginners will be welcome to stay and watch, but not dance, for the final half hour. From 9pm the class will concentrate on the improvers and more experienced dancers, giving them chance to learn more advanced technique and challenging dances.

Regular classes are to recorded music but, with Dave Hall's support, we aim to provide live music at least one time each term.

### Park Walk classes commute to Euston

RSCDS London Branch has held Beginners/Improvers and Technique classes (for intermediate and more advanced dancers) at Park Walk Primary school in Chelsea since 2017. Although we have been very well looked after there, the logistics related to its World's End location and the distance from the London Underground network proved challenging. This, coupled with post COVID-19 changes in working patterns, made it necessary for us to rethink our approach.

From September, the Wednesday evening classes will move to Maria Fidelis School, a five minute walk from Euston and King's Cross stations. All current class members are invited to join the new General Class. Led by Simon Wales, this class will meet on termtime Wednesday evenings and will focus on expanding the repertoire of dances whilst reinforcing good formations and technique.

There will also be the opportunity to join other intermediate and more advanced dancers from across London at the monthly Technique class led by Pat Davoll (see right).

In place of our previous pay as you go weekly Beginners class, we will now offer an 8-week Beginners course, also at Maria Fidelis School, beginning in early October. Fees for this course will be charged in advance, to encourage the regular attendance essential in the early days of learning Scottish country dance and will include 8 weeks of dedicated Beginners classes plus free entrance to the Autumn Wednesday dance at St Columba's (to see for themselves how much fun dancing can be and maybe try a dance or two) and to the combined end of term combined class at Maria Fidelis School.

For travel details and term dates for all classes, see p4 alongside.

### Mixed Ability at St Columba's

Wednesday afternoons have been Scottish country dance time in the Upper Hall at St Columba's for well over three decades. The RSCDS London Mixed Ability group offers a low impact social



activity suitable for dancers with at least some knowledge of basic steps and formations. From 2.30 - 4.30pm during term time, it is a convivial and welcoming session with a great sense of community and a lot of laughter. Led by Simon Wales, the emphasis is on interesting and accessible

dances, with the occasional bit of technique included for good measure. The tea break is almost as important as the dances themselves and the recent creation of a 'tea and biscuits' membership means that those with injuries or other health issues can still watch the class, enjoy the music and join in with the tea break conversation. Regular classes are to recorded music but our end of term classes are enhanced by the wonderful music of Barbara Manning.

### Monthly classes

#### The Tuesday Social at St Columba's

The Tuesday Social was launched in September 2022, aimed at people in their 20s or 30s, perhaps unable to commit to a weekly class but who love to dance or would like to learn. The monthly



session combines live music with some teaching, lots of dancing and a social break to relax and chat over a glass of wine or a soft drink. Typically, on the fourth Tuesday of the month, the class has regularly attracted 2-3 sets of dancers to the Upper Hall at St Columba's with a good proportion going on to join in the Park Walk weekly classes and the mid-term dances too.

Gill O'Dell launched the class, accompanied by Adam Brady, with Judith Jones and Jenny Kendrick stepping in as teachers whilst Gill was on maternity leave. Now that baby Erys is well established as one of the youngest members of the London Scottish dance community, Gill will be back to lead the class from September.

### Technique at Maria Fidelis School

Our new Technique class is designed for those people who want to improve their dancing technique and knowledge of formations but are either unable to commit to a weekly class or are already part of another group dancing on Wednesday evenings (when the RSCDS London weekly classes take place).

Pat Davoll will lead this class which is aimed at intermediate and more advanced dancers and will generally be on the first Tuesday of each month.



### Fast Paced Social Dance at Maria Fidelis School

Aimed at advanced and very advanced dancers, this lively and sociable class covers more advanced formations and complex dances. The pace is quick, assuming advanced knowledge of steps and

formations, and aims to make more complicated dances feel comfortable and fun. The watchwords are stretching the dancing and maximizing the enjoyment of dancing.

Our first class was held on 5 July, led by Dave Hall with music from Adam Brady. One attendee said, "It was exactly what I hope for in a class, physically and mentally demanding. The venue and location were great." The plan for the new season is to have a series of guest teachers and musicians to ensure a range of challenges and teaching techniques. Classes will typically be on the third Tuesday of the month, with the occasional adjustment to fit in with holiday dates.

## Branch Annual General Meeting Report and Accounts



London Branch's AGM took place on 10 June in St Columba's Church. Thirty Branch members attended with a further ten people joining the meeting via a live feed.

Joanne Lawrence, London Branch Chair, reported on the Branch activities for the 2022-23 season. Key events included the London Branch's RSCDS Centenary Tea Dance as well as the RSCDS Centenary Ball in Edinburgh Assembly Rooms which were attended by many London Branch members.

The Chair was pleased to report that the Branch had continued to build on the previous season's work in recovering from the COVID-19 enforced break. Numbers attending dances had held up well, supported by the Branch's increased use of social media which drew dancers in particular to our Open-Air Dancing in Kensington Gardens, to the Tuesday Social and 180 attendees to our Burns Ceilidh.

The Wednesday classes St Columba's, Pont Street and the Beginners/Improvers Class in Richmond are flourishing, but the classes at Park Walk in Chelsea suffered from changes in work patterns meaning fewer people available for evening classes in central London.

The Branch's priorities for next season will be to continue working to widen our appeal to beginners, to continue to support our Park Walk Improvers and Technique class members and to provide greater opportunities for more advanced dancers with monthly teaching sessions in accessible locations. The Branch ran a successful Intermediate Dancing Achievement Award course in 2023, and an Advanced course is planned for next season. The Branch is looking into options to provide training for MCs in the London area and has been delighted to see the progress of the 2023 serTA teacher training cohort.

Joanne highlighted the vital role played by Branch communication in keeping members informed, in particular *The Reel*, edited by Simon Wales, and the branch website, managed for more than two decades by Meryl Thomson who was now retiring. Joanne thanked Meryl and Ian for all the support they had given to the Branch and demonstrated the new website, developed by Chris Collings, which was scheduled to go live at the end of June.

The Chair then thanked all those who had contributed to make the 2022-23 season such a success. Special thanks were given to those who were stepping down from their roles at the end of the season. This included Rachel Wilton, after ten years as Branch President and Rosemary Tilden as a Vice President. Jim Cook, Chair 2019-21 and Vice Chair 2021-23, and Margaret Moore are leaving the committee. Presentations were made to Rachel and to Jim.

Members were then asked to vote on the appointments of the Branch's Office Bearers and Committee for 2023/24.

President: Andrew Kellett. Vice Presidents: Mary Barker, Jenny Greene and Danielle Reinstein to be joined by new appointments of Margaret Catchick and Rita Marlow. The officers and Committee members:

Chair: Joanne Lawrence  
Vice Chair: Richard Clarke (new appointment)  
Honorary Treasurer: Simon Wales  
Honorary Secretary: Mel Rowland  
Committee: Adam Brady, Elaine Davies, David Hall, Wendy Morris (new appointment), Thelma-Jane Robb and Margaret Shaw.

Honorary Treasurer, Simon Wales, presented the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 and his commentary is alongside. Robert Elliott, the independent examiner, is stepping down this year, and Simon thanked him for his time spent in the examination of the Branch accounts. Helen Ives was confirmed as Robert's successor.

The AGM ended in celebratory mood with the presentation of a Branch Award to Simon Wales in recognition of his thirty years, service to the Branch including twenty one years as Treasurer and three years as Chairman. Jim Cook read the citation which is printed alongside. (see also picture on p8).

### New Branch President Andrew Kellett

Long-serving President Rachel Wilton has decided to retire and we are delighted that the AGM unanimously voted for Andrew Kellett to succeed her. A former Branch Chair, and also Society Chair, no-one is better placed to follow Rachel. After a touching and sincere tribute to his predecessor, Andrew made a presentation to Rachel (see picture alongside).



## Branch Accounts



Treasurer, Simon Wales, presenting his 21st set of accounts, reported:

At 31 March 2023 the Branch's net worth of £75,046 was represented by the undernoted funds:

	2023	2022
General Fund	63,633	70,851
Ireland Fund	3,544	3,644
Anniversary Fund	2,069	2,069
Helen Brown Fund	5,000	5,000
Teaching Awards	800	
<b>Total net worth</b>	<b>£75,046</b>	<b>£81,564</b>

There was a net operating loss of £3,182 and an unrealised loss on investments of £3,337, losing almost all of the 2021-2022 gains. The Committee had approved this expenditure, investing in the future of the Branch.

### Publicity and *The Reel*

*The Reel* made a loss of £1,447. This was mainly due to a loss of advertising revenue as clubs fold, and there are no commercial advertisers. There was £1,628 expenditure on publicity for the website, and the Open Air Dancing in Kensington Gardens.

### Membership

Membership numbers have reduced but not significantly, and we are grateful to our loyal members for their continued support. Membership income to the Branch was down by £242 on last year.

### Classes

Classes cost the Branch £5,623 with nearly £1,400 attributable to the Day School. Maintaining the Beginners class in central London has been costly, and we have invested in the development of the Tuesday Socials, in an attempt to increase the numbers of younger dancers.

### Dances

Dances made a surplus of £1,961, largely as a result of an enormously successful Burns ceilidh, being run for the first time in three years.

### Investment Income

Investment income from our Charifund Units was slightly up, and contributed a total of £2,885.

### Looking forward

We have committed to spending reserves on organising activities aimed at younger dancers and broadening the range of our classes, as well as better publicity and promotion of all events.

The Committee is concerned at the ongoing cost of the *Reel*, and feels that this should not be a burden on Branch funds. A concerted effort will be made to attract new commercial advertising, and if this does not bear fruit, then we will seriously be considering moving to an electronic version only, which will save the Branch nearly £6,000 in printing and distribution costs.





## Celebrating 100 Years of the RSCDS: Angela Young, RSCDS Membership Services Convenor



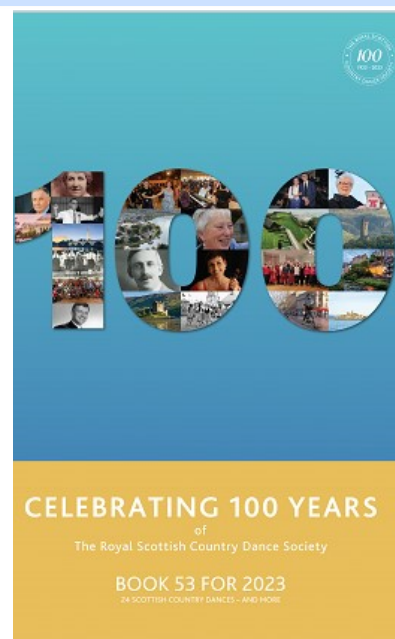
97 branches, 236 dances, 137 trial groups of Branches and Affiliated Groups - the search for the dances to include in RSCDS Book 53 saw record numbers of members and dancers involved at every stage of the selection process to create *Book 53 for 2023* celebrating the Centenary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Originally the Membership Services Committee set out to find twelve recently published and locally popular dances. However, they soon realised that some of those submitted were 'Golden Oldies' - dances that had stood the test of time for many dancing years but were not yet published by the Society. This bumper edition now looks to the future and the past as we bring a number of those dances into the RSCDS canon.

The aim was to create a book for all dancers and those interested in Scottish dance, with material from all over the RSCDS globe - sharing the stories behind the dances, information on devisers, Branches and composers, musical facts and glossy photos alongside dance instructions and named tunes. Hopefully this volume achieves that and much more as we tell the story of our recent dancing years, taking the Society firmly into the 21st century.

The book is accompanied by two new recordings - Volume 1 by David Oswald and his Scottish Dance Band, Volume 2 by Nicol McLaren and the Glencairg Scottish Dance Band. (See the reviews by Dave Hall below). And for the first time all the dance videos have been recorded to be released with the book and CDs - each danced and recorded by local members of the submission Branches. A unique insight to Scottish dancing around the world.

It is exciting to be finally delivering what has been an 18-month project and to share the contents with the worldwide RSCDS members. Thank you to everyone who took part in the process, and we hope you enjoy all aspects of *RSCDS Book 53 in 2023*.



## CD Reviews: Dave Hall



**Celebrating 100 Years of the RSCDS Volumes 1 & 2 CDs** (£14.00 each plus P&P) from [rscds.org/shop/product/books/book-53-for-2023](https://rscds.org/shop/product/books/book-53-for-2023) **Volume 1** - *The Lochalsh Reel* (8x40R), *The Water of Leith* (4x32S), *The Galloping Carousel* (4x32J), *Elspeth Gray's Reel* (8x32R), *Something in the Air* (8x32S), *Chased Lovers* (8x32J), *Toast to the Mousies* (8x32R), *The Orchards of County Armagh* (3x32S), *Niles Roberts' Farewell to Pasadena* (8x32Jig), *Falkirk Lass* (8x32S), *City of Stirling Reel* (8x32R), *Portincaple Oak* (32S/32R), *Marches, Summer Sunset, Bert's Highland Polka, Waltzes*

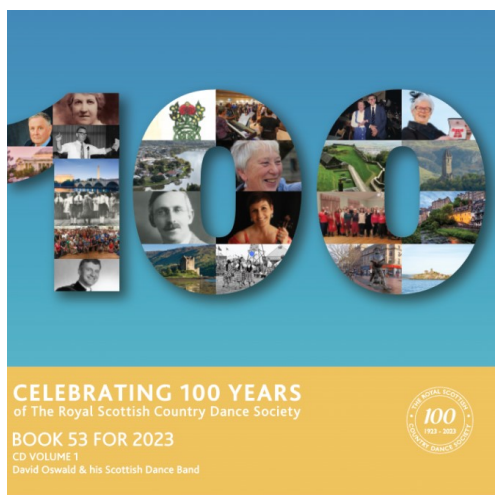
**Volume 2** - *Baldovan Reel* (4x32R), *Bonnie Gallowa'* (4x40S), *The Luckenbooth Brooch* (8x32J), *Nottingham Lace* (96R), *Ysobel* (8x32S), *Seton's Ceilidh Band* (4x64J), *The Meeting of the Waters* (8x48R), *Jennifer's Jig* (8x32J), *Schiehallion* (64S/64R), *The Willbergs of Rechberg* (4x40S), *Pinewoods Reel* (8x32R), *Inchmickery* (5x32J), *Gay Gordons, Gaelic Waltzes, Eva Three Step*

Well, there is a great deal of fine music for dancer and musician to enjoy here. In addition to all the music needed to accompany Book 53, there are some enjoyable extra tracks. These cover some ceilidh dances and also some lovely tunes to sit back, listen to and enjoy. One of my favourites is the great Jimmy Ritchie's *Bert's Highland Polka*, which I think has a great swing to it.

The two bands, led by Nicol McLaren and David Oswald, have used a selection of tunes that are drawn from a broad base of more contemporary composers. This makes for some exciting listening and will, I am sure, give plenty of energy to the dancers. It reminded me when listening to the two sets on Nicol's CD featuring Andrew Rankine and Iain MacPhail's tunes respectively, that they were considered to be 'avant garde' when I was setting out as a band leader. I also enjoyed hearing some standards from the pipe repertoire.

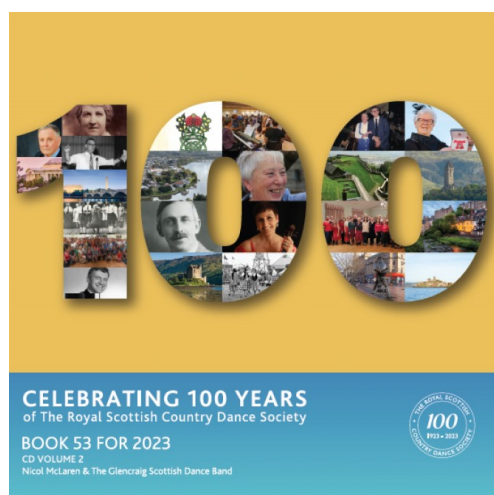
In terms of sound, there is a nice contrast between the bands and also always good to encourage new young talent heard here with Stuart Oswald on drums in his first ever recording. To my ear, a slightly stronger accordion lead in David's mix with some innovative harmonies to liven things up, the second accordion and piano working well together. The accordion/fiddle blend between Nicol and Shona was somewhat reminiscent to me at least of the Lindsay Ross/Bobby Crowe era, and I really enjoyed it. Great to have the string bass of John Sinton combining with the piano to give a most reassuring rhythmic feel. Much to enjoy from both line-ups, and some high quality playing for a wide range of tastes to enthuse over.

All in all, a great complement to a super new book, which I am sure will underpin another great RSCDS production.



**Volume 1** - David Oswald & His Scottish Dance Band is composed of: David Oswald (lead accordion), Alasdair Macleod (second accordion), Gillian Stevenson (fiddle), Graham Berry (piano & bass), Stuart Oswald (drums)

**Volume 2** - Nicol McLaren and the Glencairg Scottish Dance Band is composed of Nicol McLaren (lead accordion), Neil Caul (second accordion), Shona MacFadyen (fiddle), Isobelle Hodgson (piano), John Sinton (bass), Robert Simpson (drums). The CD brings new recordings of favourite older dances and features additional tracks for your listening and dancing enjoyment. The CD contains a small booklet with extra information on each dance.





Awards and Achievements...

...in pictures



Dancers at our Summer Wednesday dance at St Columba's Church



Peter Knight MCs with Chris Oxtoby providing excellent music at his Retirement Party dance after over 50 years MCing at the Little Ship Club, St Columba's Church Hall, 25 May 2023



Members of the successful Dancing Achievement Award class with Simon Wales, Yvonne McGuinness and Judith Jones (seated left to right )



Textbook execution of the strathspey pousette by Sam Schad, Andrew Kellett, Danielle Reinstein and Lyndsey Rousseau at the End of Season dance



Alison Carpenter and Edward Bunting on stage in the Younger Hall, St Andrews, receiving a copy of the dance devised by David Queen, with music by Susan and Shona MacFadyen to celebrate their engagement at Summer School



Retiring Vice Chair, Jim Cook presenting Simon Wales with his Branch Award



Congratulations to Colin Garratt, who received the British Empire Medal for services to violin making



Raquel Fernández and Carolyn Adrian, successful Unit 2/3 examination candidates from Barcelona, enjoy an English pint at lunchtime in a 16th century Kings Langley pub with 'stooges' Josep (also from Barcelona), Jonathan and Stephen, 24 June 2023





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 the disappearance of traditional and older dances, and their music from our programmes.

## Where have all the old dances (and their traditional tunes) gone? A personal view

I was looking through recent dance programme adverts in *The Reel* and wondered where the older traditional dances have disappeared to. The majority of dance programmes seem to contain dances published post 2000 (especially the strathspeys), whether RSCDS published or not. While it is commendable that more recently devised dances are included on dance programmes, I feel the balance has turned towards including these dances as a majority and the older traditional Scottish dances are in danger of disappearing completely.

If we travel back to the early nineteenth century for a moment, the situation with dances was much more fluid. There usually was not a dance programme as such. The decisions on which figures would be danced were decided by the couple at the top of the set. This was not necessarily an easy thing to do. Edward Payne in his *A New Companion to the Ball Room* from 1814 remarks on the worry a leading off couple might have in choosing suitable figures for a dance: "Ladies and Gentlemen who are in the habit of attending Balls and Assemblies (some of whom may be termed good dancers), when it comes to their turn to lead off the dance, (they) find themselves at a loss to form a figure and adapt a Tune to it...others again, after much hesitation, find themselves at a loss, and at last are obliged to advise with the other couples." He goes on to advertise his services, "My new method will certainly have this advantage, that a person is neither confined to one figure or one tune, but has the range from one, to one hundred and twenty." Where there are published reports of balls in this period, the names of dances are really referring to the tunes which were played for the figures chosen, and these figures could vary from one occasion to the next.

The advent, and indeed vast popularity, of quadrilles in the early nineteenth century started a change in the way dance programmes were composed. Through the century we see programmes of alternating quadrilles, waltzes, polkas and schottisches. The beauty of quadrilles was that the same quadrille set of figures could be danced to any number of different tunes which were popular at the time and therefore the same quadrille figures would appear several times on a dance programme in the same evening. First set quadrilles could, for example, be danced to music from classical operas, songs, Gilbert and Sullivan operettas etc. Often an opera composer would actually first publish a set of quadrilles based on the themes from their opera, in order to raise money to finance putting on a subsequent theatre production.

Frederick Warne writes around 1870 in his *Modern Etiquette in Public and Private* handbook that, "The number of dances patronised in the modern ball-room is exceedingly few. In old-fashioned etiquette books we find a lengthy list of country dances, and an infinite variety of fancy polkas. The Spanish dance is now only to be discovered at children's classes, the *Cellarius* and *Varsoviana* are numbered amongst the

things of the past, and of the variety of dances which once held the floor the only survivors are the valse and polka, the quadrille and the *Lancers*. Old people will regret some of the dances of their youth, but their juniors will probably hold that it is an example of the survival of the fittest. Valses form the staple commodity of the modern dance programme, and the announcement of 'square' is the usual signal for all the young couples to fly from the ball-room. The hostess should be careful, however, to include a few quadrilles or *Lancers* in the programme for the benefit of those who do not valse."

So what of Scottish country dance programmes? I took a look through editions of *The Reel* from its inception in 1951 to see what was popular. The first dance programme in *Reel 1* from September 1951 (alongside) lists 16 dances and includes the *Eightsome* and *Foursome Reel*,

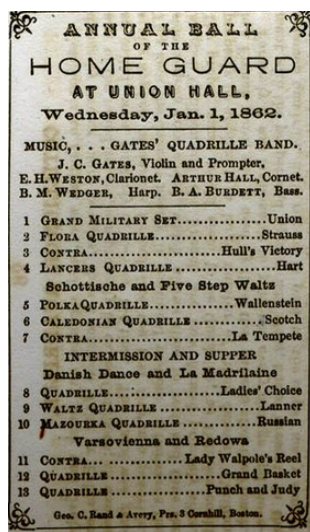
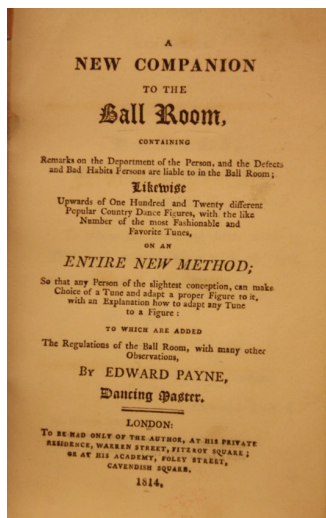
finishes with *Waltz Country Dance* and all dances are taken from RSCDS books 1-15. Dance programmes from *Reel 2* finish with *The Dashing White Sergeant* and *Waltz Country Dance* respectively. In fact, *Waltz Country Dance* seems to have been a popular finishing dance for some years. *Reel 7* (1952) gives an interesting question and answer article about the advent of 'New Dances' on a dance programme. The writer questions whether an object of the Society should be "to encourage the invention of new dances and that suitable dances should be approved by the Society." He then argues in opposition, "Think of the Dance Committees beset by eager composers furiously hawking their productions...I want to go to any dance run by any Branch of the Society with my booklets in my sporran knowing that, given a few minutes to study the booklets, I can join in any dance in the programme."

What was the view of the Society regarding newly composed dances in RSCDS books? In a committee meeting on 6 August 1948, it was proposed that, "dances composed on traditional lines should be published" but "the Council unanimously decided to continue to publish traditional dances only." Later that year this idea came up again, and it was agreed a new dance might be published but only on a special occasion. The 1954 AGM decided newly composed dances should be at least 10 years old before being considered. By 1957, "Members of the Executive Committee were asked to send in copies of recently published composed dances for the consideration of the Publications Committee at their next meeting." However, in the meeting of 10 May 1958 Mr Ross (London) queried "when a decision had been taken regarding the publication of recently composed dances." The minutes note that, "The general feeling of the meeting was that the Publications Committee should allow a certain time to elapse before considering the publication of new dances." By the meeting of 5 December 1959 there was more discussion on using recently composed dances. The Committee decided Branches should try out suggested dances in their own classes and if suitable could submit them to the Publications Committee. The problem of finding traditional dances was becoming important. In the meeting of 3 December 1960, "It was pointed out that traditional dances were becoming increasingly difficult to find. The onus of collecting suitable dances was put on the Publications Committee, Miss Milligan having intimated that she had come to an end of her own collection of dances." In March 1962 a letter was agreed to be sent to Branches advising them to pay more attention to traditional dances and to refrain from publishing new dances until such time as the Society does so. There was continued discussion five years later. In 1967, "Mrs Kemp spoke on the increasing tendency to use newly-composed dances to the exclusion of the Society's collection of traditional dances. Members were generally in agreement with this feeling but did see this could be the source of popular dances of the future. A further point was raised that dance programmes should include the minimum of these newly composed dances."

Even by 1969 the committee minutes showed concern about non-Society dances in dance programmes: "These were appearing frequently in dance programmes, and it was proposed a letter should be sent to Branches inviting them to restrict the numbers

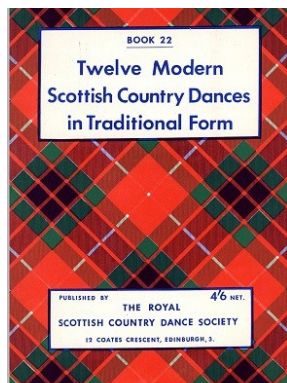
## SATURDAY 8th SEPTEMBER Programme (Frewer's Band)

	S.C.D. Book
1 Scottish Reform .....	3-1
2 Monymusk .....	11-2
3 The Montgomerie's Rant .....	10-1
4 Dalkeith's Strathspey .....	9-6
5 Lord Rosslyn's Fancy .....	15-6
6 The Camp of Pleasure .....	15-4
7 Eightsome Reel .....	2-12
8 Foursome Reel .....	3-1
9 Hamilton House .....	5-10
10 The Glasgow Highlanders .....	2-3
11 Lamb Skimmer .....	14-12
12 Jessie's Hornpipe .....	8-9
13 The Brass of Busby .....	0-8
14 Duke of Perth .....	1-8
15 La Tempete .....	2-1
16 Waltz Country Dance .....	4-8





of these used in programmes and in teaching." The minutes of May 1979 contain a report by Dr MacFadyen regarding the Society Archives: "The Society's first aim is to publish the traditional dances of Scotland and we must keep looking for these sources." Dr MacFadyen mentioned Miss Milligan's enthusiasm for traditional music... and he felt it was possibly the finest collection of SCD music that he had come across.



Of course, newly composed dances had been appearing on Scottish country dance programmes and published in books outside of the Society for some years. Since the 1960s, the overwhelming majority of Scottish country dance publications were of newly devised dances. A report of the Society AGM in Dundee in 1956 in *Reel 35* talks about a motion by Edinburgh Branch saying, "the Publications Committee should investigate the desirability of publishing as an official book or books a collection of the best dances recently devised." They stated in their

proposal, "These dances were the natural outcome of the enthusiasm and ability of the members who were as capable of creating dances today as their ancestors had been in the eighteenth century. Some of the new dances were being taught all over the country today and were extremely popular at balls and parties." In 1962 the Society published Book 22 *Twelve Modern Scottish Country Dances in Traditional Format* which contains amongst others the still popular strathspey *Neidpath Castle*.

In the early 1960s programmes in *The Reel* continued to predominantly feature RSCDS book dances. In *Reel 78* (1964) the editor mentions there having been criticisms of the dance programmes for the Members and Guest dances. He states, "Your committee is anxious to make the programmes as attractive as possible and would welcome your views." A letter in *Reel 95* (1967) questions why London Branch had asked for new dances with music to be sent for inclusion in an HQ publication when very few newer dances are included on Branch dance programmes. In *Reel 96* a letter suggests that the Committee should set out in a future *Reel* "the principles on which dance programmes are selected." In answer, a previous London Branch dance compiler states that "no principles have ever been laid down but...a variety of kinds of dances, of patterns, and a mixture of old and new, easy and difficult." The editor actually asks people to submit their programme of 18 dances for consideration. In the next *Reel* (1968) the current dance programme deviser writes on the poor response and the difficulty in creating a balanced programme over a year of dances. Another letter commends the Branch on "the good choice of new and/or little known oldies." Branch programmes by 1970 included a few non-RSCDS dances but only perhaps two or three out of 18 dances. The other dances on the programmes still ranged from early RSCDS books up to current ones (at this point Book 24).

As can be seen (right) an appeal for comments on programmes was issued in *Reel 110* (1970). Interestingly, it states "ensuring that the great majority of dances are ones that are readily available in the Society's publications. It is also intended to bring forward some of the dances from the earlier books which tend nowadays to be less frequently performed." Further letters in 1975 alternately applauded dance programmes including non-RSCDS dances or were exasperated over people wanting all new dances because the old ones are too easy.

*Reel 140* included a dance programme from The Festival of Scotland Grand Scottish Country Dance in 1977. Out of a programme of 20 dances only four were RSCDS published dances. London Branch dance programmes from the same period featured 18 dances with approximately eight non-RSCDS published - things were slowly beginning to change.

Skipping forwards to recent dance programmes advertised in *Reel 300* onwards (and especially in the last year or two) the lack of dances from older RSCDS publications is obvious. The knock-on effect of this is the disappearance of performance of much of the traditional older music from Scotland. Dances from the first 21 RSCDS books used tunes predominantly composed by masters such as Niel and Nathaniel Gow, Robert MacKintosh, William Marshall, Malcolm MacDonald, Daniel Dow, Simon Fraser etc. While there are modern composed dances with catchy tunes, and indeed a few modern dances do use traditional tunes as their original, in my opinion many of these tunes do not have the same character as the music written 200 years ago. I appreciate that dance programme devisers want to make their programmes attractive to their dancers and choose currently popular dances, however the lack of variety musically is a loss.

## DANCE PROGRAMMES

The member who has been responsible for compiling programmes for Members' and Guest Dances has recently given up this task after some years of arduous service. The Committee are grateful to him for undertaking this complicated and thankless task. Another member has been induced to take on this responsibility and the dance programmes for 1969/70 are his work.

It would greatly assist the new compiler if members would let him know of any comments that they may have on the programmes so far published. It is the compiler's intention to spread the choice of dances as widely as possible but ensuring that the great majority of dances are ones that are readily available in the Society's publications. It is also intended to bring forward some of the dances from the earlier books which tend nowadays to be less frequently performed, while at the same time repeating from time to time some of the more popular dances.

Any comments which may, if desired, be in a form suitable for publication should be sent to the Editor. Readers may also wish to bear in mind the comments on this subject of dance programmes made in an article by Hugh Foss which appears elsewhere in this issue.

This is especially true of strathspeys where the propensity for three couple dances and slow air strathspeys has led to a distinct lack of traditional strathspeys with strong Scottish original tunes on dance programmes. For a Scottish dance musician, one of the key requirements is to match a set of tunes to the original prescribed for a dance. You would not want to use 200 year old tunes to fit with a modern original for example, the feel of the music is different. The same applies matching modern composed tunes to a traditional original tune, it feels wrong musically in most cases. If many of the dances on a programme have a modern composed tune, then the

majority of the music played for that event will be modern in style. There are hundreds of collections of traditional Scottish music, most of these tunes will never see the light of day and be heard - how sad is this? One of the constraints with dances today is the link between the dance and its original tune. It was not the case back in the nineteenth century where different figures could be chosen each time to create a dance and a tune suggested (or perhaps the musicians played tunes they knew). Having a set original tune seems a good idea to ensure the tune is suitable for the dance. The problem arises in trying to create a dance programme with not only a variety of dance figures, but also a variety in the music, including traditional and modern compositions. As a SCD musician, I was always pleased to see an earlier RSCDS book dance on a programme because I knew it would have a traditional tune I was generally going to like and enjoy playing, plus I would also have the opportunity to find other similar tunes from the old collections to match with it for the dance set.

What does one mean by traditional style? The RSCDS started to accept newly composed dances in a traditional style but it is clear that the style and formations contained in many modern dances have moved on a long way from traditional dances. The same applies to the music - modern composed tunes are noticeably different to those written by Niel Gow et al. These are topics I feel might be considered in a future article!

As can be seen from the letters and articles in back copies of *The Reel*, opinions have always varied on the subject of old versus newer dances. I realise I am influenced by my love of historical music, and I have always been keen that this should have a wider audience. I can appreciate the catchiness of some modern tunes and their appeal too. I also appreciate that many of the older dances have similar figures, are perhaps not as complicated as some modern compositions and might seem boring to dance in comparison. I also realise that trying to get a balance of dances people enjoy dancing (and which encourages them to come to an event) and including lesser-known dances is difficult. However, if dance programmes are restricted to the same small number of dances, then people will not know about all the other wonderful dances available. All I would say is there needs to perhaps be a greater spread of dances in dance programmes so that all the hard work the RSCDS has done to preserve these dances and tunes from 200 years ago is not lost. Consider reviewing some of the older dances and their wonderful tunes, they have a place in the modern repertoire.

NB - The RSCDS minutes from 1924 onwards can be accessed in their archives at [archive.rscds.org/index.php/minutes-of-the-management-board](http://archive.rscds.org/index.php/minutes-of-the-management-board)

For those without the original paper copies, dances from the all the RSCDS books can be easily viewed in the [SCDDb database](http://my.strathspey.org/dd/) online at <http://my.strathspey.org/dd/>



## Surbiton's 75th: Cathy Daldy



**Alister Reid and Libby Curzon**

Coinciding with the RSCDS centenary year, Surbiton & District Caledonian Society also had something to celebrate in 2023. Feeling delighted that our club is not only still around but thriving after 75 years, we gathered together on a rather warm Saturday evening in June for a 75th anniversary dance which was a truly special occasion. A lively programme of dances chosen from members' favourites was expertly MC'd by Judith Jones, Jenny Kendrick and our Chair, Libby Curzon. Music was provided by the fantastic Craigievar band who surprised us with a new celebratory tune that Alistair Forbes had written especially for our event, the Anniversary Two-Step. Halfway through

the evening, we enjoyed a convivial break over the treat of a sit-down catered buffet with wine, followed by the ceremonial cutting of our beautiful anniversary cake, baked and decorated by our own talented member, Bridie Rust. A poignant moment followed as we watched a demonstration of a new dance devised by Alan Ip in memory of our dear friend and member Gill Shaw who sadly died last year. Bonnie Gill Shaw, a 3 x 32 bar strathspey was danced by Gill's close friends Kathy Crawford and Janice Creagh, together with Alan Ip, Hamish Todd, Judith Jones and Jenny Kendrick. Then, with full hearts, we were back up on the floor for the second half, feeling that 'joy through dancing' that our motto always promises. Long may we continue!

## London Highland Club: Catriona Bennett

### Retirement of Peter Forrow as LHC President

Peter first joined the London Highland Club committee in 1969 but his earliest involvement with the club was in the summer of 1968. At that time the LHC, in common with many other Scottish clubs and organisations, met at the Royal Scottish Corporation Hall in Fetter Lane. In the early part of 1968, the Corporation advised us all that the Hall would be closed for the whole of the month of August for refurbishment. That caused consternation - where were we to meet? One of the LHC committee members had seen some open-air events taking place in Paternoster Square (then a large area above street level but much in the same area as at present). Enquiries were made and it was found that the Square was under the administration of the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) who had offices at the Square. Peter was a frequent dancer at Fetter Lane, and it was known that he was employed by the CEGB. What a coincidence. Peter subsequently made the arrangements, including the power supply and somewhere to store the gear, with the CEGB for the Club to have use of the Square initially for the Saturday evenings of August 1968. So popular were those dances that everyone wanted them to continue, so for 24 years the London Highland Club organised dances in Paternoster Square every Saturday evening of every August.

Peter was on the committee for three years from 1969-1972. He then rejoined in 1997, became Vice President in 1998 and President at the beginning of 2014. During this time, he also obtained his preliminary and full RSCDS teaching certificates. Over the years he regularly MC'd for LHC, did our programmes, was one of our music maestros at Winter Fridays and for many a year was the chef for the BBQ at the annual camping weekend. When I stepped down at the end of 2018, he took on a lot of the Secretary's duties and also guided us through the pandemic. Peter was supported by his wife Suzanne and even though she was not on the committee, she regularly helped in the kitchen. So not only do we owe a massive thanks to Peter but also to Suzanne. Thank you both for all you have done for LHC and happy travels in your retirement.



**Peter Forrow and Catriona Bennett**

## Epping Forest: Lee Noble

### War Time Resilience lives on with Simone Jones

In 1944, after the British Normandy invasion during the Second World War, a young Ron Jones was billeted to war torn Oudenaarde in Belgium. One of the few English speakers in the village, Simone Clepkens, a 19 year old bank clerk, was sent to welcome them and her mother extended an invitation to a family lunch. But at dawn the very next day his unit was moved on and they did not see each other again. However they were determined to keep in touch. They could only write. They only met again when Ron was working for a few weeks in Brussels and eventually visited her family home. After 4 years her father allowed her to marry and Mrs Simone Jones arrived in England in September 1948.

It was only after settling in Chingford (North London) she discovered her husband did not and would not dance, while ballroom dancing was Simone's passion. The years passed. One day, sharing with a lady in church how she missed her dancing the lady suggested Scottish Country dancing assuring her she would not need a partner or to be Scottish. Her new friend introduced her to a local class and Simone was hooked.

After joining the RSCDS she learnt to teach, gaining her Preliminary Certificate in April 1968 and her RSCDS Full Certificate in April 1969. Simone was thrilled when her examiner, Miss Jean Milligan told everyone "Mrs Jones deserves special praise for teaching so well and in a foreign language!" Over the next 55 years (and coping with six major operations) there has been no stopping Simone dancing and teaching classes at all levels all over North and East London from Winchmore Hill to Wanstead, Summer Schools, Furlong holidays, Hertsmere and Epping Forest Saturday dances, travelling out across Essex and Hertfordshire. Her determination to get everyone into their shoes and dancing for every available minute is legendary.

Sadly while Simone was in hospital for heart surgery her husband Ron died after 66 years of happy marriage. She has had a new hip and needs a new knee but was too determined to take time off. Her aim is to reach 100 and in April this year (her 98th) was still teaching a class in Woodford. At present she is with her family after a short spell in hospital.

In 2016 Murrough Landon on hearing her story devised the dance *Simone's Serendipitous Meeting* in honour of her 90th birthday. The crib with full details can be found on the Scottish Country Dancing Dictionary database and he has recently released a new video with the link: [youtu.be/ReZSC8sJ9qk](https://youtu.be/ReZSC8sJ9qk)



**Simone Jones and Murrough Landon**

## The New Mr & Mrs Wilson: Jenny Kendrick

Jamie Wilson and Evelyn Norman tied the knot in Scottish style on 3 June 2023, with kilts and sashes much in evidence.

Jamie and Evelyn first met at Surbiton Caledonian Society's Thursday dancing evenings, and have regularly danced around the London area eg at Chiswick, Richmond, Wimbledon and London Branch events.

The wedding took place at St Cecilia's Church in North Cheam, followed by a reception in Carshalton, and honeymoon in Catalonia.

Evelyn's son and daughters and their families attended, some coming from as far afield as Aberdeen. Alan Ip and Hamish Todd acted as witnesses, resplendent in their kilts, and Scottish country dancing was represented by friends from Surbiton Caledonian and the London area.





## Letter to the Reel

### Etiquette: is it an important part of dancing?

Mervyn makes a good point in *Letters in Reel* 323 when he states dancers should not make up sets on the floor before a dance is announced. This 'ideal world' situation I agree with but, is it a case of 'it is easier said than done?'

I have a first edition of Jean Milligan's *Won't You Join the Dance* which sets out the three objects of the Society. I realise there has been tinkering with these over the years, but none mentions the admirable aims of restoring dancing to the ballroom through being dignified and sociable. In my mind these aims are a given. We all know about the discourtesy of making up sets ahead, but despite this, of course there can be many reasons why this happens:

1. Dance organisers publish a programme in advance to both attract dancers to an event but also inform them. After all, who does not come to a dance doing their homework first and being prepared? The MC's recap is nothing more than a reminder and certainly not a means of learning a dance there and then. Knowing the next dance on the programme instils an anticipation in the dancers which they are eager to satisfy.
2. All dances require a specific number of dancers and if a dancer joins the dance at the end of a line or late on to the floor (pushing in being frowned upon) they could be excluded from joining in, so this fact promotes a need to get on the floor as soon as possible.
3. Scottish country dancers are nothing if they are not enthusiastic about dancing and despite knowing the etiquette of forming up, they are apt to forget such niceties of waiting to be called on to the floor especially if there is what seems a long gap in proceedings.
4. As there is no set time between dances, which should be regulated between the total time available for the number of planned dances and the musicians, dancers get a feeling for when the next dance is to be announced and move forward to the floor thus maintaining a fast-moving evening. After all, the time to take a break is at the interval.
5. Sometimes what seems mistakenly as sets forming up is just dancers milling around looking for partners or chatting.

Reasons aside, if dancers can restrain themselves from an unseemly rush to make up sets but behave with dignity in this social setting, then the decorum, we should be proud of, will prevail.

Stephen Webb

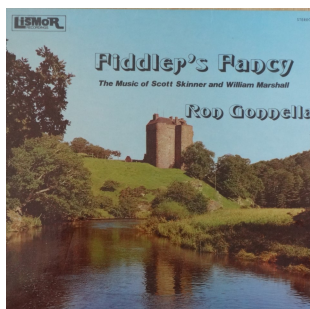
## Where is This?

Answer to 'Where is This?' on p1. Ivor Frank writes:

This unprepossessing 'slope by a thicket' or 'foot of the mountain' is the modest topographical feature that belies the fame to which its name now lays claim: Fettercairn (a derivative of Scottish Gaelic *Fothair Chàrdain*), is a village in Aberdeenshire which gained prominence after, on their visits to and from Balmoral in the 1860's, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert stayed there for refreshments at the (still excellent today) Ramsay Arms coaching inn. The name of Fettercairn spread further as whisky from Fettercairn distillery, founded in 1824, has justly become world renowned. It also features romantically in the work *Cloud Howe* by the famed local writer Lewis Grassie Gibbons in his trilogy *A Scots Quair*.

We celebrate the name in our dance *The Bob of Fettercairn* ('bob' here meaning 'a dance') an 8 x 32 bar reel for two couples in a four couple set by William Campbell in RSCDS Book 6.

Adrian Conrad has also been in touch about *Reel* 319:



"The picture of Neidpath Castle in *Reel* 319 prompted me to hunt out another picture of the castle, that I vaguely remembered as having been rather different. That other picture was on the cover of an old vinyl LP.

The cover picture seems to have been taken from precisely the opposite direction to yours, presumably from the bank of the Tweed and the prominent rectangular chimney appears in

both views - yours and the one on the LP cover."

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

## Lives Remembered

### A devoted family man

from Dave Hall



**Hugh James Ferguson**  
18 April 1936 - 8 June 2023

Hugh grew up in Bellshill, to the south of Glasgow, where he met his wife Joan when both were teenagers. He played the accordion from an early age, starting with the Chick Kelly Junior Accordion group and played widely with his own band the Dalriada, including trips to the southern hemisphere and, notably, for HM The Queen and several members of the Royal Household.

In the 1960s and 70s, Hugh made a significant contribution to RSCDS activities in the Manchester area, including being an integral part of the Rattray Band for the majority of its time. He also became engaged on the English dance scene through his work with 'The Jolly Ploughman'. Following a move to the South-west, Hugh continued to serve the Scottish dance world loyally, as a dancer as well as musician. During that period, he was a huge contributor to the activities of the Corryvreckan group.

In September 2021, Hugh received the RSCDS Scroll of Honour for his achievements, service and contributions over 60 years to the RSCDS.

A physicist by training, Hugh worked for many years with Ferranti before embarking on a teaching career, which included a long spell at Millfield School.

Hugh was a devoted family man and spent much of his retirement with his large family, including Joan and three children Iain, Bruce and Marion and many grandchildren.

### A fund of knowledge

from Rona Black and Dennis Easlea



**Ethel Hostler**  
30 September 1926 - 12 June 2023

For many years Ethel was a stalwart member of the Wednesday afternoon class at St Columba's and had a wonderful knowledge of dances and their origins. Even in her latter years when quite frail, she danced with elegance and an innate grace in her movement. Once, during a hiatus between teachers of the class, she, Dennis and Trixie undertook to organise it. Ethel immediately noticed that the set of audio tapes which they had been given by the departing teacher, were incorrectly labelled, and put this right. She always danced totally correctly and was unfailingly helpful and encouraging to others.

Ethel was an only child and started dancing from a young age. She became an English teacher, and had a great love of art. She knew her way round Tate Britain, and often guided others. She visited many galleries with Dennis Easlea, exhausting him in a Hockney exhibition which she found captivating.

Ethel was a lifelong member of the congregation of St Silas the Martyr and Most Holy Trinity in Kentish Town, visiting two or three times a week until a serious fall prevented her from making the trip from her home in Colindale. Her devotion was tangible, her tenacity remarkable. Her funeral mass took place on 28 June 2023 at the church where she had been baptised 96 years earlier.

One of life's characters, her loss will be felt by all who knew her.

We are also saddened to hear of the deaths of Jean Simpson, who taught at both Guildford and Chiswick, and Jennifer Warburton, a long time member of North Herts Reel Club. Full obituaries are planned for the next *Reel*. We send our condolences to their families.



# Forthcoming Events

ST JOHN'S SCOTTISH  
COUNTRY DANCING CLUB  
WOKINGHAM

## Annual Ball

Saturday 18 November 2023  
Emmbrook School,  
Emmbrook Road, Wokingham RG41 1JP

The Craiggellachie Band

email: [tickets.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com](mailto:tickets.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com)  
[warmweb.co.uk/stjohnssdc](http://warmweb.co.uk/stjohnssdc)



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/  
SURREY BORDER BRANCH

## Day School

Saturday 9 March 2024

Weydon School, Farnham GU9 8UG

Teacher: Kate Gentles

Class Musician: Jeremy Hill

Musicians' Day School: Ian Robertson

Evening dance with Day School musicians

Contact Paul Plummer  
[chairman@rscds-bhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@rscds-bhs.org.uk)

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



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

## Centenary Ball

Saturday 14 October 2023

Frank Reid's Scottish Dance Band  
MC Jim Henderson

7.00 - 11.00pm

Welcome drink from 6.30pm  
Lower Hall, St Columba's Church,  
Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD

Come along to celebrate our Club's first  
100 years!



*Programme:* Ecclefechan Feline, Trip to  
Timber Ridge, The Dream Catcher, Follow Me  
Home, Centenary Reel, MacDonald of the  
Isles, Midnight Oil, Glastonbury Tor, Triple  
Happiness, Jennifer's Jig, A Trip to  
Edinburgh, Midsummer Common,  
Inchmickery, John of Bon Accord, The Water  
of Leith, The Scallywag, Polharrow Burn, The  
Swan and the Tay, Swiss Lassie, The Reel of  
the Royal Scots

Tickets in advance (until midnight on  
Thursday 5 October)

LHC Members £22, non-members £25

Tickets on the door £30

Price includes welcome drink and buffet  
refreshments

For tickets, email

[tickets@londonhighlandclub.co.uk](mailto:tickets@londonhighlandclub.co.uk)  
or call Roger Keeling 020 8656 7884

Programme & cribs are on our website  
[www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk)

## Christmas Dance

Saturday 2 December 2023

Keith Smith, Anne-Laure Latour & guest  
David Hall



THISTLE CLUB

## Musicians' & Dancers' Workshops and Dance

Saturday 2 September 2023  
10.30am - 4.30pm & 7.30 - 10.30pm

Wing Village Hall, LU7 0NN

Teacher: Angelika Schmidkonz,  
Musician: Judith Muir  
Musician Tutor: Ian Muir

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

*Programme:* See Reel 324

Contact Jan Jones 07877 153259 or  
[jangeverybusy@gmail.com](mailto:jangeverybusy@gmail.com)  
[thistleclub.co.uk](http://thistleclub.co.uk)

GERRARDS CROSS &  
CHALFONTS SCOTTISH  
COUNTRY DANCE CLUB



## Tea Dance

Sunday 21 January 2024

2.30 - 5.45pm

Colston Hall, East Common,  
Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD

Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

*Programme:* Kelburn's Reel, Welcome to  
Ayr, Seattle Landing, Currie Mountain,  
Farewell to Balfour Road, Lochnagar,  
Slytherin House, Vive La Danse, The Bon  
Viveur, Berwick Johnnie, The Anniversary  
Reel, Rose of the North, The Flight of the  
Falcon, Wicked Willy, Tartan Rainbow,  
Kamo Karousel, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran

Tickets £15.00, under 30s £8.00, from  
[tickets@gxchscottish.org](mailto:tickets@gxchscottish.org)  
or call Roger on 07771 709771

Please bring a small plate of food for the  
bring and share tea

## Rehearsal

Saturday 13 January 2024  
10.00am - 1.00pm at the venue  
Tickets on the door £6.00

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

## ST COLUMBA'S DANCERS

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



Dancing on Monday evenings  
7.15 for 7.30pm

## Band Nights 2023-24

30 October 2023 - Chris Oxtoby

4 December 2023 - Dave Hall

22 January 2024 - (Burns Night)

Frank Reid Band

4 March 2024 - Ian Robertson Band

20 May 2024 - (End of Season Dance)  
Craigievar

Entrance fee on Band Nights: £13  
Burns Night: £16

Recorded music on other Monday evenings  
Charge only for tea and biscuits in the  
interval

Contact: Willie Lawrence  
[stcolumbasdancers@gmail.com](mailto:stcolumbasdancers@gmail.com)  
[stcolumbasdancers.org](http://stcolumbasdancers.org)

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

## Annual Ball: 10 Decades of RSCDS Dances

Saturday 28 October 2023  
7.30-11.45pm

**NEW VENUE:** The Manor Preparatory School,  
Abingdon OX13 6LN

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

*Programme:* Hooper's Jig, Swiss Lassie, The  
Bon Viveur, The Starry Eyed Lassie, Back to  
the Fireside, Miss Gibson's Strathspey,  
MacLeod's Fancy, The Falkirk Lass, Flowers  
of Edinburgh, The Machine without Horses,  
Scott Meikle, The Gentleman, Farewell to  
Balfour Road, None so Pretty, The Dream  
Catcher, EH3 7AF, The Reel of the 51st  
Division

*Extras:* City of Belfast, West's Hornpipe

Tickets £24 (spectators £12.00)  
Contact: Helen Houghton-Carr,  
07531 469213 or

[events.rscds-oxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:events.rscds-oxfordshire@gmail.com)  
[rscds-oxfordshire.org](http://rscds-oxfordshire.org)

Advance notices:

**Burns' Night Supper & Dance**  
20 January 2024,  
Benson Parish Hall, OX10 6LZ

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

## Day School & Dance

17 February 2024

Dragon School, Oxford OX3 7TD

## Strathallan



## ISLE OF WIGHT

### Weekend School

Friday - Sunday

16 - 18 February 2024



Teachers: Helen Russell and  
Andrew Nolan

Class Musicians: Ian and Judith Muir

Band for evening dances  
The Craiggellachie Band

Further information from  
Catherine Packwood-Bluett  
01980 621322

[iowsdwe@hotmail.com](mailto:iowsdwe@hotmail.com)  
[craiggellachie-band.co.uk/welcome-to-the-world-of-the-craiggellachie-scottish-dance-band-clone/isle-of-wight-weekend-school-24/](http://craiggellachie-band.co.uk/welcome-to-the-world-of-the-craiggellachie-scottish-dance-band-clone/isle-of-wight-weekend-school-24/)

RSCDS CROYDON &  
DISTRICT BRANCH



## Weekend School

Friday 17 - Sunday 19 November 2023

Cumberland Hotel, Grand Parade,  
Eastbourne BN21 3YT

Teacher: Anita Wilson

Music: Strathallan (Saturday evening)  
otherwise recorded

Reserve now, pay £169 in October

Contact: Roger Keeling

[rscds.croydon.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:rscds.croydon.treasurer@gmail.com)



## Forthcoming Events

### BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND REEL CLUB

#### Day School

Sunday 19 November 2023  
9.30am - 5.15pm

White Hill Centre, Chesham HP5 1AG  
Parking available, nearest station Chesham  
(Metropolitan Line)

**Teachers:** Antoine Rousseau, David Hall,  
Rose Kreloff  
**Musicians:** Adam Brady, Jeremy Hill,  
Ken Martlew

Tickets: Whole day £30.00  
morning or afternoon £16.00  
Tea, coffee and cold drinks provided,  
bring your own lunch

Applications and bookings  
Contact: Simon Cumming, 1 Fullers Close,  
Chesham HP5 1LU or 01494 782695 or  
[booking@berkhamstedreelclub.org](mailto:booking@berkhamstedreelclub.org)  
[berkhamstedreelclub.org](http://berkhamstedreelclub.org)

Date for your diary  
**Highland Ball**  
10 February 2024 at Ashlyns Hall  
(see article below)



### READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

#### St Andrew's Tea Dance & Ceilidh

Sunday 26 November 2023

2.30 - 6.00pm

The Calcot Centre, Highview, Reading  
RG31 4XD

#### Strathallan

Tickets £10 (to include refreshments)  
Contact: Duncan Barnet 0118 956 9289 or  
[sasdc01@gmail.com](mailto:sasdc01@gmail.com)

#### Anniversary Ball

Saturday 3 February 2024

7.00 - 11.00pm

The Abbey School, Reading RG1 5DZ

#### Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Tickets £25

Contact: Katy Kendall, 0118 996 8548 or  
[sasdc01@gmail.com](mailto:sasdc01@gmail.com)  
[scottishdancingreading.org](http://scottishdancingreading.org)



### LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

#### Christmas Dance

Saturday 9 December 2023  
7.00 - 11.00pm

Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Road,  
Wendover HP22 6HF

#### Ian Robertson & his band

*Programme:* EH3 7AF, Catch the Wind,  
Kilkenny Castle, John Cass, The Young  
Accordian Man, City of Belfast, Speirs  
Bruce, The Pole Star, The Portincaple Oak,  
Glastonbury Tor, The Happy Weasel, The  
College Hornpipe, Twenty-three Two  
Ninety, The Roselath Cross, Toast to the  
Mousies, Torridon Lassies, Miss Eleanor,  
James Gray, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran

All dances fully recapped

Tickets £20  
With a welcome glass of fizz and  
buffet 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 [lucyclarkscottish.org](http://lucyclarkscottish.org)

Crib also available at  
[my.strathspey.org/dd/list/42177/](http://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/42177/)



## Berkhamsted Returns to Ashlyns

Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club is delighted to be returning to the Great Hall of Ashlyns School for its Highland Ball with Ewan Galloway on Saturday 10 February 2024.

The Grade II listed Ashlyns School was built in 1935 as a new location for Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital, when it moved from its original building in Bloomsbury. The Foundling Hospital had been established in 1742 when retired sea captain Thomas Coram, deeply moved by the harsh conditions endured by many of London's unwanted children, resolved to take action. The new building at Berkhamsted was designed by the architect John Mortimer Sheppard in a Neo-Georgian style. It is a spectacular site with imposing buildings dominated by the chapel with courtyard beyond leading to the Great Hall. It became Ashlyns School in 1955. This location has been used in many TV and film productions, including *Call the Midwife* and *The Crown*.

Berkhamsted held their Highland Ball at Ashlyns from 1960 for over 20 years before returning in spectacular style for their fortieth anniversary in 1992 with the McBain's Scottish Dance Band attracting 250 dancers. Recently, COVID-19 and a relaying of the floor necessitated another break, but the Club is back for 2024. The Club also claims a direct link to the Foundling Hospital through one of its late members having been a foundling herself. A dance in her honour, *The Foundling*, was written by a former Club President. The wood-panelled Great Hall, decorated with shields and tartan swags in honour of past Presidents, is a spectacular setting for the Berkhamsted Club's Highland Ball.



Highland Ball at Ashlyn's in 2017

## Bands

### 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)

### 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)

## 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 second issue of the current cycle for *Reel* 324 - 327 and £30 is now overdue

If you wish to cancel, or pay by bank transfer, please contact [treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk)

If you require your information to also be changed in the SE Classes Listing on our website please contact Jan Collings [seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk) or call on 07803 923036

**ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Dancing most Mondays, 7.45-10.00pm, September - June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, near Oxford. All welcome. Details: [secretary@ascdc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ascdc.org.uk) or [abingdonscdc.wordpress.com](http://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](http://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](http://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 Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Jackie Cresswell, 01252 616289 or [info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk](mailto:info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk)



## Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

Continued from p15

**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 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](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](mailto:chiswickscottish.org.uk)

**CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH** Branch class in Coulsdon: General, including Beginners with technique Fridays 7.30-10.00pm Coulsdon Methodist Church, Brighton Road, Coulsdon CR5 2BE. Details: Alison Raisin, 07732 746238 or [rsdcs.croydon.chairman@gmail.com](mailto:rsdcs.croydon.chairman@gmail.com) or [rsdscroydon.org.uk](mailto:rsdscroydon.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](mailto: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 DANCE 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@gmail.com](mailto:lesteranne@gmail.com) or [fscdc.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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 British Legion Hall, 182 Oldfield Lane South, Greenford UB6 9JS. Thursdays 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Janet MacPhail [janetmcpmail54@gmail.com](mailto:janetmcpmail54@gmail.com)

**GUILDFORD SCDC** Meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from September-June. Details: 01420 362530 or [gscdc.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:mail@harrowscottish.org.uk) or 07719 985025 or [harrowscottish.org.uk](mailto:harrowscottish.org.uk)

**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](mailto:margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk)

**LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** Meets regularly at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: [londonhighlandclub.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk)

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

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

**MID SUSSEX SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP** Mixed ability group meets every Tuesday in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre BN6 9UY 7.45-10.30pm. Details: Fran Bramham [franmssd@gmail.com](mailto:franmssd@gmail.com)

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

**NORWICH 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@rsdcs-norwich.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rsdcs-norwich.org.uk)

**ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall, BR5 1LA. Beginners'/Improvers' Class every Monday 8.00-10.00pm at Crofton Halls, York Rise, Orpington BR6 8PR. Details: Deirdre Wilden [the\\_wildens@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:the_wildens@yahoo.co.uk) 07879 860463 or [orpingtonscottishdancing.com](mailto:orpingtonscottishdancing.com)

**OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Margaret Spiceley, 07985 962781 or [secretary.rsdsoxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.rsdsoxfordshire@gmail.com) or [rsdsoxfordshire.org](mailto:rsdsoxfordshire.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 [duncanbarnet@gmail.com](mailto:duncanbarnet@gmail.com) or [scottishdancingreading.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Wednesdays from 7.30-10.00pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin, 020 8856 4522

**SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Dancing Fridays, 7.30-10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808 or [graham.easton@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.easton@btinternet.com) or [seess.org.uk](mailto: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: David Horwill, [surbitoncaledonian.co.uk](mailto: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 [rsdcs.tunbridgewells.org.uk](mailto:rsdcs.tunbridgewells.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](mailto:reel@watfordscottish.org.uk)

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

**WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** Dancing at Radipole and Southill Community Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 9SS. Thursdays, 7.00-10.00pm. Details: Judie Seymour, 01305 833660

**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 Centre, United Reformed Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Audrey Kennedy, 01376 513567 or [amkenedy148@gmail.com](mailto:amkenedy148@gmail.com)

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

p1: Burns ceilidh - Joanne Lawrence (JL); Day School - Simon Wales (SDW); Tuesday Social and Tea Dance - JL; Fettercairn - Richard Webb under this Creative Commons Licence 2.0. p2: Joanne Lawrence - from herself; Wendy Morris - from herself. p5: all pictures - JL. p6: Mel Rowland - from herself; Simon Wales - Petar Petkovic; Rachel Wilton and Andrew Kellet - (SDW). p7: Angela Young - RSCDS; Dave Hall - from himself; Book and CD covers - RSCDS. p8: Winter Wednesday Dance - JL; DAA Class - Michael McGuinness; End of Season Dance - SDW; Simon Wales presentation - Willie Lawrence; Colin Garrett - from Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club. p9: Peter Knight - Stephen Webb; Alison and Edward - from Jane Rose; Exam candidates - Josep Centelles; pp10-11: Edward Payne cover - from Meryl Thomson; Boston dance card - public domain; *Reel* archive - RSCDS London; Book 22 cover - RSCDS. p12: Surbiton Caledonian - Cathy Daldy; Peter Forrow - from Catriona Bennett; Simone Jones - from Lee Noble; Mr & Mrs Wilson - Peter Kendrick. p13 Hugh Ferguson - from Dave Hall; Ethel Hostler - from Fr Graeme Rowlands; Record sleeve - from Adrian Conrad. p15: Berkhamsted at Ashlyns - Adam Trigg.

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