



# The Reel

**rscds**  
London Branch

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
Formed 1930 [rscdslondon.org.uk](http://rscdslondon.org.uk) Registered Charity number 1067690

Issue 330

£1.75 DECEMBER 2024 - FEBRUARY 2025

Scottish country dancing -  
For fun, fitness and  
friendship

We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## 2024 - 25 Season off to a lively start

Top left: Open Air Dancing in Kensington Gardens in August 2023; Top right: New Season Dance on 21 September 2024;  
Below: Branch Day School on 19 October 2024



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Issue 331 should be with UK based members by 22 February 2025 unless delayed in the post.

Contributions for *Reel* 331 should be sent to arrive by and preferably in advance of 19 January 2025 by email to [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

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

## From the Chair: Richard Clarke



This is an era when we are bombarded with information almost instantly. Indeed, the news headlines are often guesswork about possible future events rather than reporting what has actually happened. However, as I am beginning to write this at the end of a very wet September knowing that by the time you read it there will be a new US President Elect, the instability in the Middle-East will have moved on (for better or worse), Rachel Reeves will have pronounced on the UK finances and you are likely to be making plans for Christmas and the New Year. Someone suggested I should use an AI programme to write an interesting and relevant column....

We started the 2024 - 2025 season at a tea dance on 21 September at Maria Fidelis with Ian and Tom Robertson led by MCs Pat Davoll and Simon Wales plus a mixture of delicious sandwiches and cake from the catering team at the interval. Everyone I spoke to had a great time but numbers were little improved on 2023 and we must consider whether a dance at such an early stage of the season is still practical. Many regular dancers are still away and we propose to do without a dance in September 2025, using the day school dance as the New Season dance and bringing in the dance later in the season, maybe in spring 2026.

Our first Day School for two years went ahead at Maria Fidelis School on 19 October (see reports on pp6-7). It was a busy, enjoyable day finishing with a lively dance to the day school musicians. We have re-booked for 18 October 2025 as the Day School is especially important to the Branch as it is closely related to our charitable objectives.

Many readers will have attended the Autumn Wednesday Dance on 30 October with Chris Oxtoby. (Unfortunately I will miss this event as I will be on a delayed summer holiday in Crete.) You should have seen some new faces and the opportunity to welcome inexperienced dancers as the Beginners Course fee includes attendance at this 'half-term' dance. It is planned that this will be a regular feature of the classes we offer. Naturally not all the beginners will become regular London dancers, but they are important to maintaining numbers and attracting new faces. In the long run this is essential to sustaining our Scottish country dancing community.

Do not forget to join us at St Columba's Church on 14 December for our pre-Christmas dance when The Craigellachie Band will provide the music.

With best wishes for you and your loved ones over the festive season.

## Branch Committee Report: Richard Clarke

My first Management Committee meeting as chair was on 30 August. We were pleased to co-opt Fiona Olson to the committee and appoint her as the Secretary. Joanne Lawrence was also formally confirmed as a member, continuing her role as Classes Convenor.

It was agreed to prioritise two areas of governance during the year. The review of safeguarding policies for London Branch will be taken forward again after the promised revision to the Coates Crescent documents arrived. The preference is for the London policies to take a consistent approach, but they must be appropriate to our circumstances (the Coates Crescent policies are based on Scottish law and for example cover residential events for young people). The London constitution also needs updating to reflect both our current circumstances and align membership criteria with Coates Crescent and the licence agreement. The aim is to bring a new document to the London Branch AGM 2025.

There was a discussion on participating in a project sponsored by Coates Crescent using social media advertising to attract new dancers. This had been successfully piloted in Glasgow, Bristol and Dundee based on centrally provided material and the locations paying for the advertising clicks. The demographics in London are different and there is a greater challenge of achieving the correct response rate to match the teaching resource and hall size. It was agreed to proceed with caution.

The RSCDS AGM is in November. It is a condition of the licence agreement that members of London Branch also pay to be members of Coates Crescent and that some are identified as delegate members for the AGM in Edinburgh. The process for nominating delegates, a motion on subscription rates and for voting on the nominees for the Society board and committees were discussed.

The Classes Convenor confirmed that everything was in hand for the new season. In cases where it was not possible to have the same teacher every week, continuity would be provided by employing the same teacher on alternate weeks. Day School bookings were going well particularly for musicians - dancers generally sign up later. The main outstanding challenge was matching hospitality with the requirements of visiting teachers. Everything was up to date for the dance programme for the season.

It was agreed to seek out someone to assist with the social media accounts as readership numbers might benefit from increasing the volume of postings. The challenges for the *Reel*, created by rising postage rates and a lack of interest from commercial advertisers, were discussed.

ROYAL  
SCOTTISH  
COUNTRY  
DANCE  
SOCIETY



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Chair: Gary Coull

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### Objects of London Branch

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

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



# London Branch Matters

## Membership and *The Reel* Subscription from 1 July 2024

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

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

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

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



### Christmas Dance

Saturday 14 December 2024

6.45 for 7.00 - 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

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

The Craiggellachie Band

The Shetland Shepherdess ..... 8x32 J  
Orpington Caledonians..... 8x32 R  
Linnea's Strathspey ..... 8x32 S  
The Kelloholm Jig ..... 8x32 J  
The Black Mountain Reel ..... 5x32 R  
The Swan and the Tay ..... 3x32 S  
Muirland Willie..... 8x32 J  
The Highlandman Kissed his Mother 8x32 R

Chased Lovers ..... 8x32 J  
Nottingham Lace ..... 96R  
Argyll Strathspey ..... 8x32 S  
Quarries' Jig ..... 8x32 J  
Red House ..... 8x40 R  
The Water of Leith ..... 4x32 S  
The Starry Eyed Lassie..... 8x32 J  
Da Rain Dancin' ..... 8x32R

Extras:

The Galloping Carousel ..... 4x32 J  
The Deil Amang the Tailors ..... 8x32 R

Admission includes Christmas fare and a glass of wine

RSCDS Members £23, Non-members £26  
Full time students (with card) and spectators £13

Children (under 16) free

Tickets available on line 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 website or by email to:

[diary@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:diary@rscdslondon.org.uk)

### Burns Ceilidh Dance

Saturday 11 January 2025

7.00 - 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street SW1X 0BD

Caledonian Reelers



with MC James Fairbairn

A great opportunity to enjoy with your friends and family a traditional Burns Supper along with the fun of Scottish music and Ceilidh dancing

Dances will be a selection of all the usual favourites including:

Gay Gordons, Canadian Barn Dance,  
The Dashing White Sergeant,  
The Eightsome Reel, Virginia Reel  
and Strip the Willow (Orcadian style)

All dances will be walked through  
No experience necessary

Admission includes haggis supper  
(vegetarian option available)  
with a glass of wine

RSCDS Members £23, non-members £26  
full time students (with card) and spectators £13

Children (under 16) free

Tickets available on the door - cash or card

### Remaining dates for 2024 - 2025

14 December 2024 - Christmas Dance  
11 January 2025 - Burns Ceilidh  
19 February 2025 - Winter Wednesday Dance  
1 March 2025 - Combined Societies' Dance  
28 May 2025 - Summer Wednesday Dance  
14 June 2025 - AGM and End of Season Dance

### Winter Wednesday Dance

Wednesday 19 February 2025

7.00 - 10.00pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

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

Chris Oxtoby

Crom Allt ..... 8x32 R  
And for the Young Ones ..... 4x32 J  
Wind on Loch Fyne ..... 3x32 S  
Gaelforce Wind ..... 8x32 J  
The Sailor ..... 8x32 R  
Bedrule ..... 8x32 S  
The Piper and the Penguin..... Sq 88 R  
Inchmickery ..... 5x32 J

Granville Market ..... 8x32 J  
Mrs MacPherson of Inveran..... 8x32 R  
St Columba's Strathspey ..... 5x32 S  
Capital Jig..... 8x32 J  
Scott Meikle..... 4x32 R  
Miss Gibson's Strathspey ..... 8x32 S  
Joie de Vivre..... 8x32 J  
Reel of the 51st Division ..... 8x32 R

Extras:

St Andrew's Fair..... 8x32 J  
The Galloping Carousel..... 4x32 J  
Sandy o'er the Lea..... 8x32 S

Admission includes light refreshments

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

Children (under 16) free

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

Crib available at [rscdslondon.org.uk](https://rscdslondon.org.uk)

### *The Reel* Advertising Rates:

Per column centimetre, three columns per page: Black and white, but including colour logo: £6. Full colour: £8.50  
All advertisers receive a copy of *The Reel*.

For adverts and enquiries on pricing contact Jeff Robertson:  
[businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

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

## London Branch Classes



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

We have classes for...

### Term Dates

For our regular Wednesday weekly classes:

#### General Class

#### Mixed Ability Dance Group Richmond Beginners & Improvers

Spring Term 2025

Wednesdays  
15 January - 26 March  
Class parties 2 April

Half-term 19 February

### General Class

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,  
London NW1 1LY

Wednesday 7.00 - 9.00 pm

with 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

Wednesday 2.30 - 4.30pm

with recorded music and  
live music on 11 December and 2 April

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 throughout the year.

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

All classes are now bookable by the term online, and credit cards are taken on the door. Check [rscdslondon.org.uk](http://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

Beginners 7.00 - 9.00pm

Improvers 7.30 - 9.30pm

teacher Judith Jones with recorded music  
live music on 11 December and 2 April

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

### Intermediate Course 2025

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,  
London NW1 1LY

8 week course begins 22 January

Wednesdays 7.00 - 9.00pm

With live music

Building upon our autumn beginners course, developing confidence in basic steps and formations for new and returning dancers

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

### Children's Class



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

Sunday 1.00 - 2.15pm

8 December, 12 January, 9 February  
9 March

with teacher Rose Kreloff

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 17 December, 28 January,  
25 February, 25 March

7.00 - 9.30pm

with teacher Judith Jones and live music

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

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

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

### Fast Paced Social Class

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,  
London NW1 1LY

Tuesdays 10 December, 21 January,  
11 February, 18 March

7.00 - 9.00pm

with guest teachers and musicians

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

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

### Technique Class

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,  
London NW1 1LY

Tuesdays 3 December, 7 January,  
4 February, 4 March

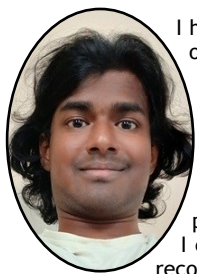
7.00 - 9.00pm

with teacher Pat Davoll and live music

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

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

## RSCDS Summer School: Cecil Cox



I had the privilege this year of attending Week 1 of the RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews for the first time, with the kind financial assistance of the London Branch. I was rather nervous setting out. I was given three rules to follow: Bring three changes of clothes per day, do not bother trying to get any sleep, and under no circumstances attempt to keep pace with the regulars of the party room. I ended up breaking all three (napping is highly recommended).

I arrived at Leuchars station on Sunday evening. A woman at the taxi rank was asking bemused tourists if they were going to Summer School, and eventually several of us piled into a taxi to University Hall. After a short orientation, the evening's dances began in the beautiful wood-panelled Old Dining Room.

A day at Summer School is a bit like a dance. The figures are the same each time - classes for 3 hours in the morning, optional workshops and talks in the afternoon, social dancing in the evening, all interspersed with meals for a breather - but there are minor variations (a different hall or instructor, a visit to the local branch, a ceilidh) - and embellishments (almost an orchestra on Saturday night courtesy of the musician's course). In Week 1 there were teaching and musician's courses running alongside the dancing, which made for a particularly varied and heady atmosphere.

Classes started on Monday with Evelyn Redmond and Michael Taylor. There were around 20 of us on the Consolidating Skills Course, from four different continents. We became fast friends, helped by the knowledge that we were stuck with each other for the next six days.

Perhaps because it was the beginning of the week, most of us were still finding our feet. Evelyn opted to focus on covering a few areas very thoroughly. For the first time I was able to execute a (reasonably) smooth strathspey travelling step. That night we decamped to Town Hall for social dancing. I was amazed at the quality of dancing on show and the lively atmosphere created by the MC and band.

Tuesday's morning session was much more fruitful, with the steps and formations coming hard and fast. We were cautioned not to steer our partner through the all-round poussette as if they were the tiller of a ship. In the afternoon, several of us attended a personal feedback session. This was a rare opportunity to have our footwork critiqued, a nerve-wracking but very rewarding experience. It was rather shocking to learn that I had been doing the pas-de-basque entirely incorrectly since I started dancing. Despite a sunny start to the day, a torrential shower in the afternoon left me drenched to the bone, a reminder that you can see four seasons in a day in Scotland. I dried off and helped prepare the refreshments for the London Branch party. The St Andrews Branch managed to poach a great many attendees that night - it was rather hard to pass up an opportunity to hear Marian Anderson play *City of Belfast*.

The most important question you will be asked about your Summer School experience is (apparently) "What flavour of ice cream did you have at Jannettas (Gelateria)?" Between classes I had zabaglione and banana (take from that what you will). On Wednesday and Thursday, I attended the first Choreography workshop held at Summer School, where Linda Henderson offered some (hands on) insights on how to put together a demonstration dance, before throwing us onto the floor to assemble our own.

For the second half of the week, our instructor was Faye McNeil and the musician the legendary Ian Muir. By this time both our legs and brains were considerably less agile (one attendee informed me that her step counter was registering 11 miles a day) but with their help we muddled through somehow. "My skills have been well and truly consolidated," declared one dancer.

Thursday night's dance in Younger Hall (my first time there) was a spectacular affair, the evening dominated by William Williamson's uproarious banter and heckling. It was a joy to dance on the

trampoline-like sprung floor (so long as you danced in time with everyone else).

On Friday night, instead of dancing there was a ceilidh (in the original sense of the word). Attendees did 'turns' showcasing their talents, with everything from music to singing to Burns poetry to Step, Malay and Chinese Dancing. Particularly memorably, the students on the teaching course turned the tables on their instructors, bemusing them with dance instructions in foreign languages before helping them through the dance with alternative methods. I was roped into a recitation by some Welsh dancers of *Sosban Fach*, an entirely bemusing experience. The week was capped off by a spectacular dance on Saturday in the Younger Hall, with the whole Musician's course taking the stage to show the fruits of their week's labour, ending with the traditional Auld Lang Syne. After a heady Saturday night, I left St Andrews on Sunday thinking I was exiting the world of dancing and stepping back into the real world at Leuchars station. That was a silly thought - as the train chugged along the Fife coast, other Scottish dancers boarded, asking us about our Summer School experiences. Other trains passed us in the opposite direction, ferrying the next week's attendees over to St. Andrews.

One sage young dancer explained to me that Scottish country dance is an entire philosophy by which life can be lived, that important truths are to be found even in the *poussette*. I'm not sure I understand what that means, but I can say that Summer School was an incredible, eye-opening experience, and I am eternally grateful to those who encouraged and helped me to attend. I improved my dancing, met dancers and musicians from around the world and made friends in the most unexpected of places. This will definitely not be my last Summer School.

## Our New Hon. Secretary: Fiona Olson



I began my dancing days as a twelve year old, dancing at our church Scottish country dance evening once a month. At the same time, I was in the St Andrews Ambulance Association and trained the local cadets not only for duty but also first aid competitions. On the back of this, it was suggested to me that I should train to teach Scottish country dancing, and this is where the journey begins.

In 1979 and 1981 I attended the RSCDS Summer School at St Andrews University and completed my teacher training qualification under Johan MacLean of Jordanhill Teacher Training College, Glasgow. Having done some English country dancing with relatives, I decided to continue my dance training and studied 15th to 19th century early dance with Joan English at Dunfermline College of Physical Education at Cramond, Edinburgh. I also studied 12th to 16th century dance with a dear lady, whose name sadly escapes me, at Glasgow University. My final study of baroque was with Phillipa Waite in London.

I taught in Scotland from 1980 to 1997 through my own classes of English and Scottish country dance and Playford. I also taught staff and students at Oatridge Agricultural College in West Lothian and with RSCDS Edinburgh Branch.

I continued to attend Summer School for around 20 years spending many years in the Younger Hall demonstration team under the direction of Bill Ireland. I also benefited from Bill's wisdom as my class teacher and Jenny Greene as my Step teacher.

My dancing life continues as a researcher and teacher of early dance both in Europe and the USA.

In my professional life, I was in the banking industry in the field of law. I have a step-daughter, a son and three grandchildren.



# RSCDS London Branch Day School and Musicians' Workshop 2024

In July 2023, RSCDS London trialled its first Fast Paced Social Dance class in the dance studio at Maria Fidelis School, near Euston Station. We loved the dance studio, with its sprung floors, aircon and mirrored wall and were made very welcome. So much so that, from September 2023, we transferred our General and Beginners' classes there in addition to our new, monthly Fast Paced Social Dance and Technique classes. The fabulous public transport links (close to Euston and Kings Cross stations) helped us to attract a greater range of teachers, musicians and dancers. Then, in October 2024 we held our day school there.

This was a completely different experience. Rather than just one class, enjoying the beautiful modern facilities and welcoming staff, the corridors echoed with music and laughter from three dance classes plus musicians' workshop, culminating in an evening dance with music from the day school musicians. Many, many thanks to our teachers, Deb Lees, Andrew Nolan and David Queen (who stepped magnificently into the breach when Graham Donald was prevented by health reasons from joining us), musicians' workshop lead Mártainn Skene and class musicians Dave Hall, Barbara Manning and Ken Martlew. Thanks also to Murrough Landon who gave a much-appreciated class featuring the dances of Hugh Foss, to our catering team, to evening dance MC Simon Wales, and to the many helpers who made the day feasible.

We had some concerns: for the musicians, how to bring in keyboards and other heavy instruments?; for those who drive, what about parking? And for the dancers, what sort of floors could we expect? Well, Maria Fidelis very kindly provided keyboards, local on-street parking proved to be immensely straightforward and with two out of three dancing rooms having sprung floors, dancers were able to retain energy sufficient to enjoy the evening dance despite the five previous hours of lessons. We will be back next year - put 18 October 2025 into your diary!

## Very Advanced Class:

Alan Ip

Is my technique up to scratch? Will I be the one not knowing what to do? Can I keep the energy levels up? These were the thoughts whirling around my head as I made my way to Euston for the Very Advanced Class at the Day School.

Of course, I should have known that all would be well. It was a pleasure to introduce Barbara Manning and Deb Lees to my fellow classmates. Barbara provided some great tunes to enhance our enjoyment of the class. The dances and formations chosen by Deb were mainly straightforward, although the inverted allemande did require a certain degree of focus, so that we could concentrate on phrasing such as 'diagonal covering' when doing a reel of three. What a revelation!

Naturally, we talked about our steps but no endless step practice. We paid attention to our feet, while not forgetting our head and body positions. We worked on keeping our feet turned out when setting and pointed when travelling. I discovered that, as my level of concentration went up, so did my toes!

We were fortunate that David Queen was able to come at such short notice. Together with Ken Martlew, a fount of all knowledge in Scottish country dance music, he made the afternoon class a wonderful experience. David managed to coax a postprandial group into concentrating on technique as well as complicated dancing. None more so than doing *Ysabel* and *Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich* together as a medley. What a brain teaser and bravo to Ken for rising to the musical challenge.

The two-hour classes went by in a flash. We all worked hard but had a jolly good time. Plenty of tips on refinement to take away which I suppose is exactly what a Very Advanced class is all about.



## Advanced Class:

Wendy Morris

After a prolonged and convoluted series of formations in the morning class at Day School on 19 October, we all ended up (predictably) exactly where we started. "So," says David Queen (our teacher for the session) - "Was your journey really necessary?" Actually, we rather thought it was! David's Tigger-like bounce and flight (unachievable for mere mortals) during the demonstration was an inspiration to us all. We looked at some unusual dances, in particular *The Laird of Dumbiedykes' Favourite*, which was tremendously engaging because we covered the original arrangement (from Book 12) in the morning and then compared it with the updated contemporary version in the afternoon. (Apart from anything else this showed great communication and forethought between our two teachers!) We finished on a high with *The Manchester Gay Gordons* - a dance devised and the music composed by David himself. Our class musician was Ken Martlew who produced some absolutely sublime renditions of countless beautiful tunes, both familiar and lesser known. I always feel you miss really appreciating the live music when you are dancing because you are concentrating so hard on technique and geography. Sometimes it would be bliss to just wallow in the wonderful music. My abiding memory of the morning however was a warmup routine that started with exercising your index fingers and your eyebrows, each individually!



Fuelled by lasagne, caffeine and sugar we moved for our afternoon session from the spacious and airy sports hall to the very polished and professional dance studio, complete with the mirrored wall of shame. The mythical image in your head of perfect posture and well-turned out feet is so often exploded by an unfortunate glimpse of the reality as you pass. Our teacher was Andrew Nolan who quickly banished the post prandial torpor with a lively class spent mainly in 1978! Aspiring to Andrew's perfect footwork, we learned so much during the class about transition from one formation to another - particularly vis a vis a nifty change of foot to set off pronto to go in a different direction.

Starting with the reel *Fife Ness* (one of the 4 dances for 1978) we encountered a fascinating formation in the centre of the dance that Andrew called 'either a flat triangle or a curvaceous straight line'!! We followed this with another choice from the 1978 collection - a strathspey called *Cuillins of Skye*. Such an elegant dance devised by Roy Goldring and the music arranged by Muriel Johnstone, played so beautifully and empathetically (along with all the other very varied accompaniments) by Dave Hall. Then back to our old pre-lunch friend *The Laird of Dumbiedykes' Favourite*. It was fascinating to dance an alternative reconstruction published by the RSCDS in 2021 in the Walter Scott book. Interesting to see how it had been adapted to suit a more modern style of dancing and fun to try out a rather challenging quick turn 'special' poussette in a strangely unfamiliar ballroom hold. As our London Branch Chair commented - 1978 held such promise for a 'disco' poussette, as yet unrealised!

Thank you so much to David, Ken, Andrew and Dave for all their preparation and enthusiastic encouragement during the day - a thoroughly enjoyable way to improve our technique and expand our dancing repertoire.

## Intermediate Class:

Stephen Hartley

The Intermediate class at this year's Day School was guided by teachers Andrew Nolan in the morning, and Deb Lees in the afternoon. It was a mixed group in terms of both age and experience, and we were able to form up two sets for most of the dances practised. Of course there was emphasis on technique, but also the opportunity to 'cheat' a little by having a preview of some of the dances featured on the evening programme.

Andrew took us through dances such as the charming *Edinburgh Toy Shop* and ended the morning on a high with the medley *Portincaple Oak*, including the *Schiehallion* reel, completed without collision or traffic controls at the centre of the square - at least by the time we had finished, anyway! All very appropriate given that we were accompanied by Dave Hall on the accordion, modestly describing the tune as 'something he knocked together' - as not only musician, but also composer in residence! Andrew left us with the immortal advice that it is all



## Musicians' Workshop and Dance: Erica Banks

It was not without a little trepidation and nervousness that I signed up for the RSCDS London Branch's Musicians' Workshop on 19 October. I had never attended one before and, although it has been a long-time goal to play Scottish repertoire in a band with others, this would be the first time. As I had imagined, most of the musicians knew each other but from the start I felt absolutely a part of everything. I found the group friendly, helpful and collaborative with a collective musical knowledge of encyclopaedic proportions. I learned a lot, upped my stamina ten-fold and had one of the best days of music ever. The day sessions were fun and creative and the evening dance was a joy. As for Màrtainn Skene ... as well as being a superb musician he created a happy and focused atmosphere for practice and great leadership. I could listen to him play all day long! A particular unexpected highlight for me was an impromptu musical get together between sessions where tunes were suggested, played and discussed in an informal, organic little session.



The day was incredibly well organised - Joanne Lawrence was a blur most of the time dashing to make sure everything ran smoothly and on time. And it did. I am in the groove now and looking out for more workshops to attend. Thank you RSCDS London Branch.

about confidence - keep the head and arms up, and the feet will simply follow!

After lunch Deb dialled up the flirt factor with *John McAlpin*, the strathspey of choice for those looking to further a relationship (I think was the word used) with their partner through its simultaneous advance from the men's line and dutiful retire from the ladies. Back in the world of jigs, *La Flora* was introduced, with its quirky opening formation of half right hands across followed by right hand turn, and then the same with the left hands. This took a little practice to coerce the brain into cooperating but satisfying once mastered. Finally, we polished up the grace of our circles, following the advice of "just let go!" to elegantly finish on the side lines. There is always a takeaway or two from every lesson!

I think it is fair to say that all who attended gained something new and beneficial from our sessions and enjoyed the efforts of the accompanying musicians. With grateful thanks to teachers, musicians, and all participants, we were well set for the evening, putting into practice those sage points from earlier in the day to feel a little more accomplished and relaxed. Thanks also to all involved in organising and running the Day School for an enjoyable and valuable day.

## Festival Class 2025

Imagine an idyllic summer scene. In the distance, the sun dappled Yorkshire landscape; nearer to, there is a grassy bank leading down to a school playing field where, in place of the usual running track, there is a grid of 16 squares marked out in white. At the side of the grid, there is a gazebo containing musical instruments. At the top of the bank are more gazebos, picnic blankets and an abundance of Panama hats, kilts and tartan sashes. Suddenly the grid-side gazebo springs into action and Scottish dance music fills the air, groups of dancers hasten down the bank and form into teams on the grid, one set per square. It is time for another dance in the White Rose Festival on the outskirts of Leeds. There are picnics, laughter and lots of dancing. In the evening, there will be a social dance plus supper in the school hall.

This annual event is a lovely, non-competitive celebration of Scottish country dance with opportunities for demonstration, massed dancers and beginners to enjoy showing what they can do. There is music, dance and conviviality to spare. But this is England, what if it rains? Well, it can, and it has, but the event goes ahead, conviviality undimmed, in the sports hall of the hosting school, instead of on its field.

RSCDS London proposes to take a team to the White Rose Festival in 2025. All levels of dancing experience are welcome. We will arrive on the Friday night and enjoy dinner together. In the morning we will have a last-minute rehearsal in the car park, or a corner of the hotel (depending upon weather) then make our way to the festival for a day of good dancing, good company and good fun. We will then return to our hotel for an after party and some well-earned rest. Interested? Then join the Festival Class which we will launch in the Spring term. We will practice the dances and then enjoy a weekend of dance together. Email [classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk) for more details.





Out and about...

...on and off the dance floor



New Season Dance at Maria Fidelis School - 21 September 2024



Gerrards Cross and Chalfonts end of term class.  
Their 50th Anniversary celebration tea dance is on 19 January 2025



Pete Clark and Muriel Johnstone at the concert in Dalkeith Palace as part of the RSCDS major donors programme



William Williamson and Graham Berry in conversation at Dalkeith Palace



Evening dance at the Day School 19 October 2024



Massed ranks of London Branch members at the Autumn Gathering Ball in Edinburgh - 2 November 2024



Cindy and Trevor Clarke lead the way in an allemande at the Branch Day School



Hard working catering team, Lena Robinson and Sarah Shaw take a break between rounds of refreshments at the Day School



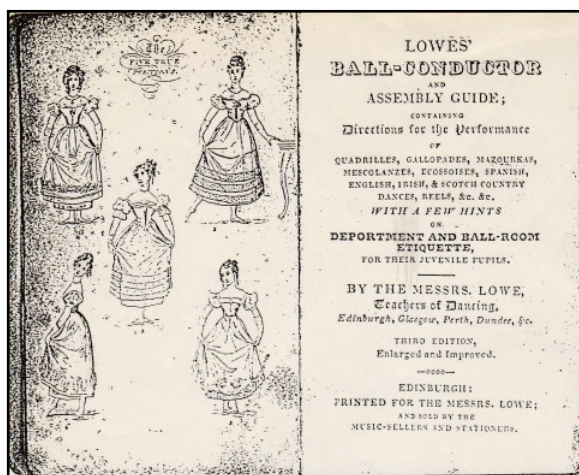
## The Story behind the Dance: Meryl Thomson



A series of articles from Meryl Thomson delving behind the history of some of our dances and their music. This time she turns her attention to a RSCDS Book 34 dance and its history and associations.

The annual customary celebrations for the birthday of Scotland's bard, Robert Burns, has Valentine's Day hot on its heels. This seems appropriate since Burns wrote so many works on this theme and led me to consider a dance which has love in its name, and its associations.

The jig *C'est L'Amour* was published in RSCDS book 34 in 1986 with the subtitle 'The Flirt'. The RSCDS had returned (briefly) to publishing historic dances after several books of modern devised dances. *C'est L'Amour* was first published in Joseph Lowe's *Ball-Conductor and Assembly Guide* of 1830. The Lowe brothers Robert, John, Joseph and James, were all teachers of dancing, plying their trade in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth and Dundee. The most famous of the four brothers was Joseph, the third brother who became well-known for teaching dancing to the children of Queen Victoria at Balmoral in autumn and at Windsor in winter during the 1850s. He wrote a fascinating journal of his visits to these castles between 1852 and 1860, published in 1992 under the title *A New Most Excellent Dancing Master* which was how Lowe was described by Queen Victoria herself in her own records.



Paul Cooper has written a detailed paper about the lives and work of the four Lowe brothers at [regencydances.org/paper024.php](http://regencydances.org/paper024.php) for those interested in reading about them.

Lowe's instructions for *C'est L'Amour* read, "The first Lady makes a chassé around, and sets between the second and third Ladies; she does the same again, and sets betwixt the third and fourth Ladies; she repeats the same, turning up behind the Ladies to her place; and when she commences dancing up, her partner dances down behind the Gentlemen with the same steps; the Gentleman finishes betwixt the third couple, and goes three hands round with them; whilst his partner does the same with the second, they pass through below the hands, meet in the middle, and pousette with the second couple". This is almost identical to the RSCDS version of the dance. The mention of a fourth couple is unusual although he could be referring to a neutral couple standing between each of the triple minor sets.

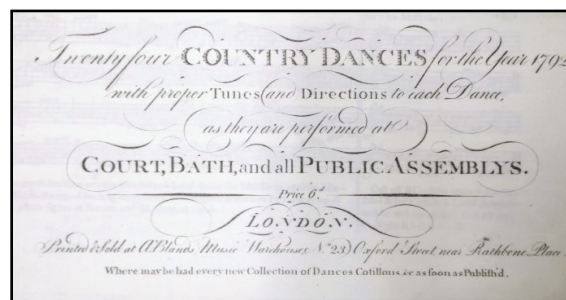
14  
27 The Pleasures of the Night.

Right Hands across round - Left Hands back again -  
Lead down the Middle up again - Hands four round at  
Bottom Right and left at top -

Interestingly, this dance comes under Lowe's section of his book entitled *English Country Dances*, alongside such dances as *La Flora*, *The Lady of the Lake*, *The Triumph* and *Petronella*. His *Scotch Country Dances* section lists dances such as *Rachel Rae*, *Meg Merrilees*, *Mrs McLeod*, *Tullochgorum* and *The Lass o' Livingston*. He also has a section on *British Medleys* where English and Scotch figures are used alternately. There seem to be no other examples of a country dance called *C'est L'Amour* previous to Lowe's 1830 entry - it is possible he composed this dance himself. The figures are different from the more usual lead down the middle and back and rights and lefts found in many country dances of this period and previously. The first lady has plenty of opportunity to flirt by setting to the second man and then the third. The last eight bars where the first couple dance under arches made by the 2s and 3s is reminiscent of dances in the historical repertoire such as *Rural Felicity* or *Haste to the Wedding* found in *Wilson's Companion to the Ballroom 1816*.

Despite Lowe publishing many other collections of dances in the following years, *C'est L'Amour* does not appear in any of them. Lowe's 1830 Guide does not provide any music or suggestion of a tune. The RSCDS decided to use the jig *The Pleasures of the Night*. Lowe, in his introduction, said "Dancing will doubtless ever be a source of pleasure to mankind" so perhaps this gives a nice link to the chosen tune.

*The Pleasures of the Night* (see bottom left) was published in 1792 by A Bland and also by Longman and Broderip with its own set of figures. It's notable that these two collections are identical in the layout of dances, music and instructions which suggests they somehow used the same printing plates (there was little in the way of copyright in those days!). If you want a reminder of the tune, you can listen to a recording Ian and I released in 2021 - [greenginger.bandcamp.com/track/the-pleasures-of-the-night-6x32-jig](http://greenginger.bandcamp.com/track/the-pleasures-of-the-night-6x32-jig)



The collection *Twenty four Country Dances for the Year 1792* was printed and sold by A Bland at their music warehouse at No 23, Oxford Street near Rathbone Place in London. Who was this A Bland? Unusually, the company was founded in or around 1784 by a woman, Anne Bland. She is possibly a relative of the London engraver, music seller and publisher John Bland who was in business from 1776-1795. He is said to have provided accommodation for Joseph Haydn above his music shop when Haydn was visiting London.

Anne Bland went into partnership with E Weller, who was a piano maker (sources are unsure whether this was a man or woman), in 1794-5 and the company became known as Bland and Weller and published annual collections of 24 country dances and other sheet music up until around 1818 when Anne either retired or died whereupon the company became Weller & Co. Their company also sold all types of musical instruments, including their own brand of pianos, and musical accessories such as strings. Several of their square pianos have been sold at auction in the last few years.

Boulogne, French dancing academy, Royal saloon, Theatre  
Boulogne, Mrs. teacher of pedal harp, piano forte and vocal music, 68, Glassford street

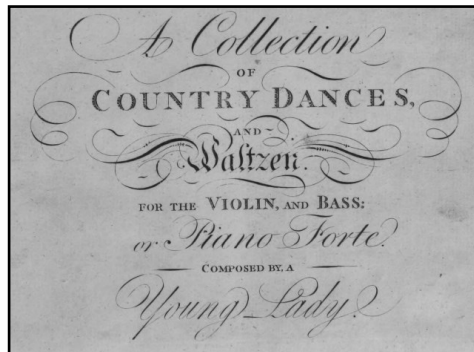
1826-1826 Scottish Postal Directory

Anne Bland is one of the first women to run a music business. There are examples of women helping in their husband's business. For example the great dancing master Thomas Wilson



and his wife Sophia in his dance academy from 1808-1814. Mr Boulogne, a dancing master based near Glasgow and author of the book *The Ball-Room* in 1827 (from where several RSCDS Book 1 dances such as *Duke of Perth*, *The Nut*, *Petronella* and *The Triumph* are sourced) is listed in the Scottish Postal Directory with his wife as a music teacher. Mrs Elizabeth Elliston, née Rundall, worked as a dance teacher and ran a family dance academy in Bath with her sister Kitty, even after she had married. She managed to do this while also having ten children during her 25 year marriage! For more about the life and career of Mrs Elliston see this YouTube video produced by The Historical Dance Society during the COVID lockdown in 2020

- [youtube.com/watch?v=JkipeFzeKAI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkipeFzeKAI)



There are also several examples of books of dances written by women such as Mrs Elliston's *Les Varietes*, a 3rd set of quadrilles c. 1812 and Mrs Taylor's 12 Original Contra

Dances c.1789. Other collections state "Composed by a Young Lady". But all the other music printers and publishers in this period appear to have been men.

There is actually a historic dance tune in jig rhythm called *C'est L'Amour* which the RSCDS might have considered choosing for the dance. The tune in dance form first appears in Joseph Hart's *Second Set of Quadrilles* from c. 1818, used for the third quadrille. A footnote suggests the tunes were taken from *Il Tancredi*. This was an heroic opera first performed in 1813, written by Rossini and based on Voltaire's play *Tancrede*, itself written in 1760. The opera tells of the love story between a soldier, Tancredi, and the daughter of a Moorish general, Amenaide.



Another version of this tune is found in the Charles James Fox manuscript 1830; he was living in Beverley, East Yorkshire while the same tune was later published in Hamilton's *Universal Tune-Book*, Glasgow 1846 called *C'est L'Amour - O! 'Tis Love*. The tune is annotated *French Air*. The tune itself is very Victorian in feel and very quadrille-like.

The RSCDS choice of the tune *The Pleasures of the Night* is in my opinion a great one. This simple but lively jig fits the dance perfectly. Sadly, the dance does not seem to be appearing on programmes as frequently as it used to. Maybe this is something to consider for a Valentine's Dance programme next year?

## Wing Musicians' Course: Colin McEwen

Ian Muir (of Prestwick, accordion) accompanied by Bob Parsons (drums) led the 16th Thistle Club Musicians' workshop at Wing on 6 September 2024. Ian Muir has served as tutor at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow and his teaching experience undoubtedly was a major input to the day.

It was obvious right at the start that general skill levels were high and that attendees had thoroughly prepared the sets sent out in advance. Topics covered include chord timing and choice of alternate tunes in sets, and we rehearsed transitions between tunes and covered details of the arrangements. We got through all of the evening dance programme in about three quarters of the time available, and this gave time for finer detail and polishing the overall performance.



Musicians hard at work during the day

The evening dance was well attended, both by dancers from the day school held in parallel with the workshop and by others who came for the evening only.

At the dance the 10-piece band had five very able fiddlers in the front row and their power and expertise were one of the highlights of the evening and that was without any PA on the fiddles! The dancers obviously enjoyed the music, evidenced both by their enthusiasm and by the encores, and with six sets on the floor right up to the end.

Thanks to Ian Muir and Bob Parsons for preparing and leading the workshop, Jan Jones for organising the day, the Thistle Club for hosting the event, and to my fellow musicians for great company and stimulating music. A fabulous day out!

## Letter to The Reel

### How Helpful should Dancers Be?

Attending a recent dance, I gave guidance as to the direction a beginner should go in. I was told by his partner that it was her responsibility to do this, not mine. Is that correct?

In this instance I would agree with her, except that whatever she had said to her partner was not clearly understood so I was simply adding to what he may have misheard. It did not seem out of place under the circumstances.

This example does though, highlight the wider question of giving help to other dancers in a set. Some aspects to bear in mind when doing this are:

- All help should always be discreetly given.
- Unwanted help should not be given by anyone to dancers that know what they are doing. I have also seen the wrong help given clearly, that is unwanted too.
- Continual help being given whether wanted or not takes away the helped dancer's ability to think for themselves which ultimately can lead to a loss of their personal confidence, I used the term 'knowing what they are doing'. I always enquire of my partner at the start of a dance, 'do you know this dance?' Obviously, a 'not sure' answer will inform me to watch for moments of hesitation in the dance to help in. 'I'm fine' reduces my state of alertness to simply enjoying the dance without a need to watch for any hesitation yet, any sign in the dance and I am on alert again.
- Concerning helping others' partners. In my view it is ok to do this if kept low key especially, where their partner can't see them or where their partner is unsure themselves. 'Low key' means preferably by gestures and not words.

I wonder what readers think?

Stephen Webb



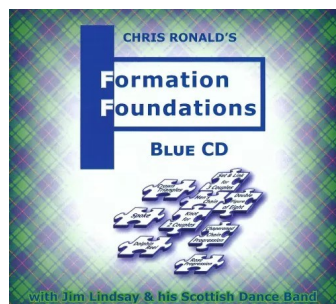


## Music Reviews: Jeremy Hill



**Formation Foundations - The Blue CD:** Jim Lindsay & His Scottish Dance Band CD (£12.00) and Book (£7.00) or £30.00 for a package of the Book with both Blue and Green CDs (all plus £1.50 for delivery) from [thesundayclass.org.uk/sales.html](http://thesundayclass.org.uk/sales.html)  
*Jack's Dance* (8x32J), *Newark's Welcome* (3x32S + 3x32J), *Little Jack Horner* (8x32R), *Three Blind Mice* (3x32J plus 3x32J encore set), *The Ship's Bell* (3x32S\*), *The Grand Old Duke of York* (8x32R\*), *The Piper's Son* (6x32S), *All Things Nice* (5x32R), *Over The Hills* (3x32S + 3x32R), *Slugs and Snails* (3x[32S+32J]), *Daisy, Daisy* (6x32J), *Red Roses* (3x32S), *The Slinky* (3x32R), *Black & White Rag* encore for *The Slinky* (3x32R), *Super Slinky* (3x32S), *Ring o' Roses* (6x32J), *Little Miss Muffet* (8x32R), *Ocean Waves* (8x32J)

News this year that Jim Lindsay is taking no further bookings for his band, intending to step down from playing at the end of 2025 caused much consternation in the dancing and dance music world. If any proof were needed that he remains absolutely at the top of his game, it is here on this CD.



This is the follow-up to the 'Green CD' that came out at the end of 2023 to accompany Chris Ronald's *Formations Foundations* book (see *The Reel* 327). It follows a similar winning pattern: the same top class line-up, alongside Jim on lead, of David Hume (second box), Mary Rutherford and Gillian Ramsay (violins), Graham Berry (piano/bass) and Malcolm Ross (drums); arrangements that allow each player to have their moments in the limelight; a great variety of tunes traditional, modern and adapted from genres adjacent to the Scottish repertoire; and tracks that are suitable for the teaching of the dances, and also wider use, e.g. as encores or for dances without named tunes.

The basic 'danceability' of every track can of course be taken for granted. I particularly like Jim's playing of the strathspeys. Without any difference in tempo to others, he provides a very solid base for the strength of the step, which makes you just want to dance when you hear it.

Every track here has something to recommend for the listener/dancer: for several, Jim has taken a familiar nursery rhyme or other tune and adapted it to fit perfectly within a set of other Scottish tunes. Who else would have imagined creating such a natural transition from *Three Blind Mice* into Robert Black's *Angus MacFadyen*? For *The Grand Old Duke*, the lead tune is Jim's own composition, *Coal for Dysart*. Listen carefully and you will hear that it allows for the Grand Old Duke himself to make an appearance in the piano part, on the repeat of the tune!

Those looking for encores may well like the *Three Blind Mice* encore, starting with another great popular tune, David Richardson's *Calliope House*, or the *Black & White Rag*, as a 3x32R for *The Slinky*, where Graham Berry takes the leading role.

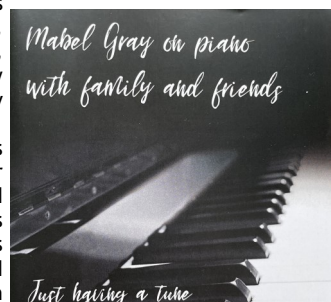
For dancers looking for demonstration music, as well as some of these shorter tracks, there are several medleys, including *Over the Hills*, which cleverly uses the same three traditional tunes in strathspey and then reel time. Other novelties include the use of John Kander's *All that Jazz* as the lead tune for *Super Slinky*.

I could go on - but all told, it is another perfect example of Jim's masterful skill in the sourcing, arrangement, presentation and playing of tracks for this purpose. I can only encourage you to try it for yourselves.

**Just having a tune: Mabel Gray on piano with family and friends** CD (£18.00 plus P&P) from [biggeordiegray@aol.com](mailto:biggeordiegray@aol.com)

Another pair of discs that has come my way recently celebrates the playing of Mabel Gray, once known as 'The Winifred Atwell of

the Hillfoots', who, over 70 years of playing for Scottish dancing, appeared with many bands, including those of Andrew Rankine, Jack Delaney, Jimmy Shand and, for 20 years, Bill Black. Now in her eighties, Mabel has been recorded here alongside her children, bass player Suzanne and drummer George (the instigators of the venture), and accordionists Nicol McLaren, Michael Philip and Bruce Peebles, fiddlers Elisabeth Maclay and Kathryn Nicoll, and singer Janine Capaldi.

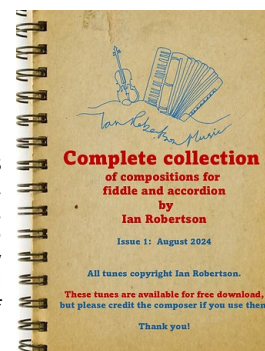


The recording demonstrates the supreme versatility of Mabel's playing, starting with solo and band Scottish medleys and sets, a handful of which are suitable for dancing; there are sets for ballroom and Latin dances, notably difficult to put across so well on solo piano - I particularly enjoyed her sambas and tangos; there is a wide range of solo sets; and she also shows her skills as the perfect partner for fiddle and vocal medleys.

There are crossovers with the first disc, since Jim Lindsay's first track features Mabel both as composer and dedicatee, and her compositions also feature on this disc, such as the well-known waltz *Suzanne* for her daughter. Finally, it is highly appropriate that this disc should also include, as its closing number, *The Black & White Rag*, her signature tune. As in the title of the 1974 film celebrating 50 years of MGM musicals, "That's entertainment!"

**New Online Resource for Musicians**  
 downloads available free at [ianrobertsonmusic.co.uk/music](http://ianrobertsonmusic.co.uk/music)

'Scottish Fiddler, Accordionist, Tunesmith' it says at the top of Ian Robertson's website, and while his expertise in the first two may be most well-known, here we have the full evidence of his exceptional skill in the latter category. Having previously published two books of his tunes and sold them as hard copies (*The call of home* in 2014 and *The heart of me* in 2020), Ian has now brought together those tunes, and others composed more recently, and made them available as a free download.



The sheer volume and variety of material is extraordinary: downloading the complete collection in Issue 1 (dated August 2024) will give you over 200 tunes, though if you prefer you can download single tunes. Practically any style you might encounter for Scottish or ceilidh dancing is available. All varieties of reels, jigs and strathspeys are represented, including a separate section of Pastoral Strathspeys, and even an alternative for the jig *The Wee Cooper of Fife*, with its 10-bar phrases. There are two-steps, marches and waltzes, and, for the more adventurous, polkas, Playford 3/2s and gavottes, plus tunes for playing away from the dance floor, including a wide range of beautiful airs.

Some of the tunes have been chosen or written as original tunes for specific dances, such as *A l'Avenir* for Ann Dix's *Vive La Danse*, published in her *Reel Friends Book 3*, and you may recognise others that have been taken up by a whole range of bands, and in some cases recorded. But that leaves a huge range of others to explore.

Musicians have different ways of matching tunes to create sets for dancing. For me, it is about considering an original tune or tunes, identifying other tunes with stylistic similarities to the original and each other, and building a combination of tunes in different keys that will allow for suitable transitions. The consistent quality of these tunes means that, again and again, as I play them through, I am marking them down as potential additions to sets, though some tricky tunes will require work to get my fingers round them.

All told, it is a wonderful addition to the resources for Scottish musicians, and will be updated regularly so do keep going back to check - thank you, Ian!



## New RSCDS Chair:

Gary Coull



30 years ago, I attended my first Scottish country dance class in Dufftown ... and I was totally hooked! That was in large part due to the enthusiastic and inspirational teaching of Jessie Stuart. She instilled in our class that Scottish country dancing is all about fun and sociability. That's what made Jessie's classes, and the Dufftown dances, so popular and has certainly formed my attitude towards this wonderful pastime!

Scottish country dancing and the RSCDS has given me so many opportunities and I feel very honoured to be Chair of the RSCDS. This is my chance to give back to an organisation and a hobby which I have gained so much from in experiences, enjoyment and friendships.

In my professional life I served as a senior councillor in Moray Council for a decade and I am currently the Employer Engagement Manager in the University of Aberdeen's Careers Service. I aim to bring that strategic and relationship building experience in my role as Chair.

Like many organisations, we face a number of challenges, and it will take collective effort and dedication from us all to tackle them successfully. However, we have solid foundations to build on. Our membership is growing and there is some great work going on around the world. One of the main roles I see for the RSCDS moving forward is utilising the strong network we have across the globe to share innovative ideas and best practice.

Success will hinge on our willingness to try new things. I know that it can be disheartening if initiatives do not work first time but as Robert the Bruce said to the spider - try, try, try again! With entertainment now easily accessible at home, we must find different and innovative ways to showcase the vibrant social experience our hobby offers and get more people dancing.

I am excited to work with you all over the next two years to continue the transformation our organisation requires to attract more members. Working together, we can encourage both new and returning dancers to join us so that they too can experience the fun, sociability and friendship that we all do.



## RSCDS AGM Report:

Simon Wales

The 95th AGM of the RSCDS took place in Edinburgh on 2 November 2024 and followed much the same format as the previous 94, most of the business being proscribed by charity law.

The annual report was adopted, accounts agreed and auditors appointed. Chair William Williamson reported on his two years, and the progress made in modernising the Society, pleased that members were happy with developments. After the heady days of the centenary, this past year was back to business as usual and building on the previous 100 years.

Then we came to the motions, all from the Management Board. The first was the proposal to increase the annual subscription by one pound (pro rata across the different categories). Unfortunately, the recent increases are not keeping up with the financial pressures - inflation, increasing employer's NI contributions - despite savings being made. This was passed.

The next set of motions were constitutional amendments to the Articles of Association, and Rules and Procedures. The first to allow members of the board and committees to re-stand immediately for a second term so that those elected for just one year could have another try immediately. The second was to bring the terms of office of Chair and Chair-elect in line with those of Convenors, ie one year as Chair-elect and three as Chair as opposed to the current two and two. This would give time to learn the role, then more time to carry it out. This was passed too, with London delegates voting in favour of all three motions.

Gary Coull was installed as the new Chair, and Sebastian Wanless of Glasgow Branch was unopposed as Chair-elect. There were elections for the vacant posts on the three committees as follows:

**Education and Training** - Convenor-elect: Graham Donald (unopposed), Committee: Abbie Brown, David Queen, Deirdre MacCuish-Bark and Fiona Grant.

**Membership Services Committee** - Beatrix Wepner, Deborah Crossley, Katharine Hoskyn, Niall Bootland, Paul McKnight and Susan MacFadyen.

**Youth Services Committee** - Emma Sellke and William Thomson.

The Society Scroll of Honour was presented to Frank Thomson (Aberdeen Branch) and Eilean Yates (Carolinas Branch) in person and Brian Charlton (Sydney Branch) in absentia.

The vote of thanks included the staff at the Meadowbank Sports Arena for their hospitality during the meetings and the two dances which were the real reason that most of us were there! (See picture of the London Branch members at the Saturday evening ball on p8)

## RSCDS Management Board:

Simon Wales



The 2024 AGM marks the end of the term of office of Helen McGinlay, Andrew Nolan and myself from the Management Board and of Angela Young as Convenor of Membership Services after an heroic seven years on the Board. The Board welcomes Christopher Smith and Carlos

Candia, and also Jeremy Hill to Chair the Membership Services Committee. London's Stephen Hartley has a further year on the Board.

The Board will have a vacancy with three retiring and two new appointments, and it is disappointing that more members are not volunteering to fill these posts. Meetings can now be held by zoom - even if the timings are not good for those in the Americas! A Society like the RSCDS needs a strong Board to hold the Officers to account and to work effectively with the staff at Coates Crescent. There are plenty of groups and working parties to get involved in.



The outgoing Management Board members on the steps of 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh

**Credits:** Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of *The Reel*, including the following for providing photos: p1: Kensington Gardens - Wendy Morris; New Season Dance - Simon Wales (SDW); Day School lunch - SDW; Day School evening dance - Willie Lawrence; Where is This? - Copyright by MacCoinnich. p2: Richard Clarke - Christopher Bowen. p3: Caledonian Reelers - SDW. p5: Cecil Cox - from himself; Fiona Olson - from herself. p6: Day School - SDW. p7: Day School - SDW; Leeds Festival - Joanne Lawrence. pp8-9: All except Gerrards Cross and Autumn Gathering - SDW; Autumn Gathering - from Grace Hill; Gerrards Cross - Stuart Kreloff. pp10-11: Meryl Thomson - from herself (MT); Lowe's Ball-Room Guide - from MT; The Pleasures of the Night and 24 CDs for the year 1792 cover - from RSCDS archives; Boulogne postal directory - National Library of Scotland public domain; A Collection of CDs by a Young Lady - Haithi Trust - public domain; Hamilton's Universal Tune Book - ITMA - public domain; C'est L'Amour quadrille - archive.org - public domain. p11: Wing Musicians - Colin McEwen. Jeremy Hill - from himself; CD covers - from the bands; p13: Gary Coull - from himself; Simon Wales - Petar Petkovic; Management Board - from Jon Berridge. p14: Malcolm Brown - from Facebook.



## Lives Remembered

### An International Dancer

from Helen Russell

**Malcolm Lamont Brown**  
29 May 1943 - 16 August 2024



The death of Malcolm Brown has left a gap in the Scottish Country Dance community, not just a local level, but also internationally. In 1975 Malcolm was co-founder, with his wife, Helen, of the York and North Humberside Branch. He taught the Friday night

Branch class for several decades, but also found time to run and tutor candidate courses, so that Branch members and others had the opportunity to train as RSCDS teachers. He was a committee member and office bearer for the Y&NH committee for many years, creating an atmosphere of inclusion and promoting the reputation of 'friendliness' within the Branch. His work for the RSCDS did not stop there. He taught day schools and other courses in the UK and was recognised internationally as a tutor and teacher, spending much time in Russia, teaching, tutoring, adjudicating and encouraging the growth of SCD in that country. He stood for election for RSCDS committees giving his time and energy as a member of the Management Board and, ultimately, as Convenor of the RSCDS Education & Training Committee. His work was recognised in 2010 with the award of the Society's scroll of honour.

As a supporter of St Andrews summer school for many years, he made videos of life at summer school, including many hours of social dancing and demonstrations, which are a valuable resource and have now found a home on YouTube and the SCD database.

He leaves a legacy of classes taught, teachers trained, dances devised, memories of notable ceilidh acts at the Branch ceilidhs, and perhaps most enduring of all will be the dedication and passion for SCD which has carried on through his family to produce three generations of SCD teachers.

(From York and N Humberside Branch).

We are also saddened to report the death on 13 September of **Patricia Reeve** widow of John Reeve, who for many years printed the *Reel*, and of **Judith Smith**, best known to London Branch as a fiddler, who lost her long fight with cancer on 2 November. Full obituaries will appear in *Reel* 331.

## Where is This?

Answer to 'Where is This?' on p1.

This is a view of Cowgate, Edinburgh, 'gate' being a Scots name for a street. The street's name is derived from the fact that cows were herded down it for Edinburgh's market days in previous centuries.

The dance referred to is *The Gates of Edinburgh*, an 8 x 32 reel published by Rutherford in around 1756 and interpreted in RSCDS Book 15 in 1949.

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

## Forthcoming Events

### RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

#### Burns Night Supper & Dance

Saturday 18 January 2025

6.30 - 11.00pm (note earlier start/end times)

Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson,  
Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 6LZ

#### Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: to be published on our website

Dances will be recapped

Tickets £22

Including haggis supper

Contact: Helen Houghton-Carr, 07531 469213

or [events.rscdsxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:events.rscdsxfordshire@gmail.com)

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

#### Day School and Dance

Saturday 15 February 2025

Cherwell School (North Site), Oxford OX2 7EE

Teachers: **Fiona Mackie, Gary Coull,**  
**Alice Stainer**

Musicians: **Jeremy Hill, Ken Martlew,**  
**Barbara Manning**

Tickets: Whole day & evening £35, Morning or  
Afternoon £12.00 each, Evening dance £20.00

Evening dance 7.00 - 10.30pm, including  
finger-food buffet

#### Strathallan Band

Programme: Happy Returns, Centenary Jig,  
Bedrule, The Bees of Maggiecknockater,  
Shiftin' Bobbins, Radcliffe Square, The Hazel  
Tree, The Rose of the North, Inchmickery,  
The Ayr Promenade, Longfield Reel, Dagmar's  
Fancy, Berwick Johnnie, The Countess of  
Dunmore's Reel, The Double Diamond  
Strathspey, City Lights, Mrs MacLeod

Dances will be recapped

Applications available from our website

Contact: Helen Houghton-Carr, 07531 469213

or [events.rscdsxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:events.rscdsxfordshire@gmail.com)

[www.rscdsxfordshire.org](http://www.rscdsxfordshire.org)



### READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

#### Annual Ball

Saturday 1 February 2025

7.00 - 11.00pm

The Abbey School, 17 Kendrick  
Road, Reading RG1 5DZ

#### Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: The Shetland Shepherdess,  
John of Bon Accord, Chasing the Eclipse,  
Major Ian Stewart, Nottingham Lace,  
Barbara's Strathspey, West's Hornpipe, The  
Sallywag, Something in the Air,  
Glastonbury Tor, Flight of the Falcon,  
Polharrow Burn, Foxhill Court, James Gray,  
Queen's View, The Bon Viveur, City Lights,  
The Wind on Loch Fyne, Chased Lovers,  
Mairi's Wedding

Tickets £25 including reception drink and  
supper with a glass of wine

Contact: Duncan Barnet, Flat 4, 8 Western

Elms Avenue, Reading RG30 2AN,

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

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

### THISTLE CLUB

#### Hogmanay Dance

Tuesday 31 December 2024

8.00pm - 12.30am

Gt. Brickhill Hall, Rotten Row MK17 9BA

#### Ian & Judith Muir

Programme: The Findlays' Jig, Scott Meikle,  
The Minister on the Loch, Staircase In  
Styria, The Galloping Carousel, Sands of  
Morar, The Wind that Shakes the Barley,  
Iona Cross, The Orchards of Co. Armagh,  
Snowdrops in the Glen, Farewell to Balfour  
Road, The Highland Rambler, Pelorus Jack,  
The Belle of Bon Accord, Maxwell's Rant,  
The Elephant's Stampede, City of Belfast,  
Miss C. M. Barbour, The Dundee City Police  
Jig, Alison Rose, The Castle of Mey, St  
Bernard's Waltz, The Bees of  
Maggielockater, The Reel of the 51st  
Division

[my.strathspey.org/dd/list/48068/](http://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/48068/)

Tickets £16 with bring and share supper

Contact Jan Jones 07877 153259 or

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

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

### GERRARDS CROSS AND CHALFONTS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB



#### Golden Anniversary Tea Dance

Sunday 19 January 2025

2.30 - 5.45pm

Colston Hall, East Common, Gerrards Cross  
SL9 7AD

#### Ian and Tom Robertson

Programme: EH3 7AF, The Young Accordion  
Man, The Music and the Dance, The  
Dancing Master, The Button Boy, Swirling  
Snow, The Committee Meeting, City of  
Belfast, The Watnish Tangle, Let's have  
Music and Dance, Portincaple Oak, "Deer"  
Friends, Dancing Spirit, The Singing Sands,  
Trip to Timber Ridge, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets £15 (to include a celebratory glass  
of fizz) from [tickets@gxchscottish.org](http://tickets@gxchscottish.org)  
or call Roger on 07771 709 771

Please bring a small plate of food for the  
Bring and Share tea

Rehearsal: Sat 11 January, 10am-2pm, at  
the Colston Hall, £7 on the door

## 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)



# Forthcoming Events

HARROW & DISTRICT  
CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

## New Year Ball

Friday 3 January 2025

7.30 - 11.30pm

Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree WD6 3PJ

**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

*Programme:* New Year Jig, City of Stirling Reel, Gang the Same Gate, Napier's Index, Toast to the Mousies, The Flower o' the Quern, Portincaple Oak, The Falls of Rogie, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Jim's Haberdashery, Bratach Bana, The Orchards of Co. Armagh, The Aviator, Trip to Timber Ridge, The Dream Catcher, Torridon Lassies, Glastonbury Tor, City of Belfast, James Gray, The Reel of the Royal Scots

Tickets, including refreshments, £26 if paid by 27 December and £28 thereafter

Juniors and non-dancers half price

Advance booking only, please

Contact Jim Henderson 07752 133652 or [jwh698@gmail.com](mailto:jwh698@gmail.com)

## Spring Dance

Saturday 15 March 2025

**Ian Muir (Prestwick) & Bob Parsons**

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



WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH  
COUNTRY DANCERS

## Spring Ball

Saturday 22 March 2025

7.00 - 11.15pm

Herrison Hall, Charlton Down DT2 9UD

**The Craigellachie Band**

Tickets £25.00 in advance only

Supper included

Contact Graeme Dickson

[Graemedickson1@aol.com](mailto:Graemedickson1@aol.com) 07831 819414



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY  
BORDER BRANCH

## Day School

Saturday 8 March 2025

NEW VENUE:

Edgbarrow School, Crowthorne RG45 7HZ

Teacher: Alice Stainer

Class Musician: Jeremy Hill

Musicians Day School: Ian Muir

Evening dance with Day School musicians

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

## May Ball

Saturday 17 May 2025 7.30 - 11.30pm

**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

Edgbarrow School, Grant Road, Crowthorne RG45 7HZ

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

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



LONDON HIGHLAND  
CLUB

## Christmas Dance

Saturday 7 December 2024

7.00 - 10.30pm

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

**Frank Reid & his Scottish Dance Band**

MC: Jan Jones

*Programme:* Bratach Bana, Montparnasse, The Cranberry Tartelette, Toast to the Mousies, Kilkenny Castle, Farewell to Balfour Road, Schiehallion, The Chequered Court, Cramond Bridge, John of Bon Accord, Neidpath Castle, Midnight Oil, Gang the Same Gate, Nottingham Lace, The Kelloholm Jig, Miss Eleanor, The Bees of Maggiecknockater, The Reel of the Royal Scots

Dances will be recapped

Tickets £20, LHC members £17  
students' concession £10

Pay online, or at the door by card or cash

Includes festive refreshments

For tickets email

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

or call Roger Keeling 020 8656 7884

Programme and cribs are on our website

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

Forthcoming LHC event

Saturday 18 January 2025

## New Year Dance

**Ian Robertson & his Band**



MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH  
DANCING CLUB

## Highland Ball

Saturday 11 January  
2025

7.00 - 11.00pm

Manor Green School, Elizabeth Hawkes  
Way, Maidenhead SL6 3EQ

**Ian Muir (Prestwick) and his Scottish  
Dance Band**

*Programme:* Happy Returns, A Capital Jig, Kilkenny Castle, Lothian Lads, Gaelforce Wind, The Minister on the Loch, The Rutland Reel, Friday's Child, The Orchards of Co. Armagh, Itchy Feet, The Shetland Shepherdess, Bratach Bana, The Silver Strathspey, The White Heather Jig, Cramond Bridge, The Belle of Bon Accord, Napier's Index, Toast to the Mousies, Miss Eleanor, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran

Dances will be walked through once

Tickets £25.00

Advance booking only

Price includes supper and a welcome drink  
Bring your own wine

Please notify us of any special dietary  
requirements when ordering tickets

Tickets from: Jane Courtier  
01628 628372 or

[chairman@maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk](mailto:chairman@maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk)

[maidenheadscottish.wixsite.com/maidenhead](http://maidenheadscottish.wixsite.com/maidenhead)



BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND  
REEL CLUB

## 73rd Highland Ball

Saturday 8 February 2025

6.30pm welcome drink for 7.00 - 11.00pm

Ashlyns School Grand Hall, Berkhamsted  
HP4 3AE

**Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band**

*Programme:* Grand March into The Shetland Shepherdess, Tambourine, The Duchess Tree, Muirland Willie, Polharrow Burn, Cherrybank Gardens, The Potten End Reel, Foursome Reel & Half Reel of Tulloch, The Kelloholm Jig, The Highland Rambler; Supper interval: Gaelforce Wind, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Catch the Wind, Portincaple Oak, Jim's Haberdashery, Neidpath Castle, Orpington Caledonians, The Belle of Bon Accord, Jennifer's Jig, The Reel of The Royal Scots

Tickets £32

Advance booking only

Welcome drink, hot supper with vegetarian  
option, bring your own drinks

Contact: Simon Cumming:

[booking@berkhamstedreelclub.org](mailto:booking@berkhamstedreelclub.org)  
01494 782695

## Highland Ball Practice

Saturday 1 February 2025

10.30am - 5.30pm

Potten End Village Hall HP4 2QG

Pay on door £10 full day; £5 half day.

Bring a packed lunch: morning and  
afternoon tea/coffee and cake provided  
[berkhamstedreelclub.org/events/highland-ball-practice-2025/](http://berkhamstedreelclub.org/events/highland-ball-practice-2025/)



RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH

## The Cheltenham Ball

Saturday 11 January 2025

7.00 - 11.00pm

Princess Hall, Cheltenham Ladies College,  
Bayshill Road, Cheltenham GL50 3EP

**The Craigellachie Band**

*Programme:* Hooper's Jig, My Spouse Nancy, The Rose of the North, Chased Lovers, Flight to Melbourne, Saint Columba's Strathspey, The Scallywag, Broadford Bay, The Gardeners' Fantasia, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Interval, Knotwork, Swiss Lassie, Girardet House, Muirland Willie, The Earl of Mansfield, The Gentleman, Quarries Jig, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, The Highland Rambler, Extras: Inchmickery, The Montgomeries' Rant

Tickets £30.00 Students £20

Advance booking only

Contact: [tickets@rscdscheltenham.org](mailto:tickets@rscdscheltenham.org)

Light refreshments included

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



# Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

To update your information in Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations contact [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk)  
This is the final issue of the current cycle for *Reel* 328 - 331 and will be renewed at a cost of £30 for *Reels* 332-335.  
If you wish to cancel, please contact [treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk)

- ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Dancing most Mondays, 7.45-10.00pm, September - June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, near Oxford. All welcome. Details: [secretary@ascsc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ascsc.org.uk) or [abingdonscdc.wordpress.com](http://abingdonscdc.wordpress.com)
- ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Meets Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm September-May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Sue Holmes, 01932 846486 or [addlestonscottish.org.uk](http://addlestonscottish.org.uk)
- BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB** Meets in Potten End Village Hall, HP4 2QG. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.00pm September-May, Saturday: gardens June/July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8.00pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.00pm. Details: Jon Mole 07956 572925 or [classes@berkhamstedreelclub.org](mailto:classes@berkhamstedreelclub.org)
- BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS** Meets at The Scottish Hall, 80/82 Shelbourne Road, Charminster, Bournemouth BH8 8QZ every Wednesday morning, 10.00am-12 noon. Details: Margaret Robson, 01202 698138 or [jl.robson@ntlworld.com](mailto:jl.robson@ntlworld.com)
- BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS** Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details: Rod Burrows, 01903 783053 or [chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk](mailto:chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk) or [rscds-brighton.org.uk](http://rscds-brighton.org.uk)
- BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets Thursdays 7.45-10.15pm at Moulsecoomb Hall, Brighton. Details: Carol Catterall, 01273 564963 or [bhscdc.org.uk](http://bhscdc.org.uk)
- CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB** Dancing every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Park Road, Camberley GU15 2SR. Details: Jackie Cresswell, 01252 616289 or [info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk](mailto:info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk)
- CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Scottish country dancing and other events. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8.00pm from September-June. Details: Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or [camscotsoc.org.uk](mailto:camscotsoc.org.uk)
- CHELTEMHAM BRANCH RSCDS** General Class/Club Night Mondays 7.30-9.30pm with Beginners' Section fortnightly at St Luke's Church Hall, St Luke's Place, Cheltenham GL53 7HP. Advanced class fortnightly on a Tuesday. Details: Lesley Taylor, 07712 578622 [cheltscdssec@gmail.com](mailto:cheltscdssec@gmail.com)
- CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets on Sundays 7.00-9.00pm in the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RG for social dancing. Beginners' courses are offered 6.00-7.00pm, please book in advance to [secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk](mailto:secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk). Details: Iris Ronayne, 07767 842670 [chiswickscottish.org.uk](http://chiswickscottish.org.uk)
- CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS** Branch class in Coulsdon: General, including Beginners with technique Fridays 7.30-10.00pm at Coulsdon Methodist Church, Brighton Road, Coulsdon CR5 2BE. Details: Alison Raisin, 07732 746238 or [rscds.croydon.chairman@gmail.com](mailto:rscds.croydon.chairman@gmail.com) or [rscdscroydon.org.uk](http://rscdscroydon.org.uk)
- EPHING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Club nights: Mondays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at St Barnabas Church, 127 Snakes Lane East, Woodford IG8 7HX; Thursdays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at St John's Parish Hall, High Road, Buckhurst Hill IG9 5RX. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or [angelaross87@hotmail.com](mailto:angelaross87@hotmail.com) or [efsa.org.uk](http://efsa.org.uk)
- EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** General dancing Mondays, 7.30-10.00pm, Tweddle Hall, St Andrew's URC, Northey Avenue, Cheam SM2 7HF. Teacher: Pauline Cashmore, 020 8686 9362. Details: Dorothy Pearson, 01737 551724
- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, September-end of April at Memorial Hall, Babbs Mead, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7EE. Details: Anne Lester, 01252 782927 or [lesteranne@ymail.com](mailto:lesteranne@ymail.com) or [fscdc.co.uk](http://fscdc.co.uk)
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** Dance in Fleet URC Hall, 25 Kings Road, Fleet GU51 3AF on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.00pm, September-May. Details: Anne Lester, 01252 782927 or [info.fleetscds@gmail.com](mailto:info.fleetscds@gmail.com) or [fleetscds.co.uk](http://fleetscds.co.uk)
- GERRARDS CROSS AND CHALFONTS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD on Tuesdays in term time from September-July, 7.30-10.00pm and also in Little Chalfont Methodist Church Hall, Chalfont Avenue, Little Chalfont HP6 6RD on Thursdays from 2.00-4.00pm. Visitors and beginners welcome. Details: Roger Stubbs, 01494 873063
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** Meets at St Thomas the Apostle Church Hall, 182 Boston Road, Hanwell W7 2AD. Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Janet MacPhail, 07787 925022 or [janetcmacphail54@gmail.com](mailto:janetcmacphail54@gmail.com)
- GUILDFORD SCDC** Meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from September-June. Details: 01483 414385 or [gscdc.org.uk](http://gscdc.org.uk)
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Classes Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm, St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Also a variety of other activities. Details: Sheena Henderson, [mail@harrowscottish.org.uk](mailto:mail@harrowscottish.org.uk) or 07719 985025 or [harrowscottish.org.uk](http://harrowscottish.org.uk)
- HERTSMERE & TALLY HO REEL CLUB** Dancing on Thursdays at 8.00pm from September to July in the hall behind Christ Church, 620 High Road, Finchley N12 0NU. Also some Saturdays 7.00pm at Tilbury Hall URC, Darnes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 020 8440 3236 or [margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk) or [hertsmereandtallyhorc.wordpress.com](http://hertsmereandtallyhorc.wordpress.com)
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** Meets regularly at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: [londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://londonhighlandclub.co.uk)
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB** Meets Thursdays at the Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Road, Wendover HP22 6HF. Beginners' class 6.45-8.00pm, Social Dancing 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Liz Mitchell, 07947 000368 or [lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com](mailto:lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com) or [lucyclarkscottish.org](http://lucyclarkscottish.org)
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** Meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Piran's School, Gringer Hill, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7LZ. Last Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 01628 628372 or [maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk](http://maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk)
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** Dancing Mondays Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst ME7 3JZ, 1.30-3.45pm; Thursdays St Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall, 63 London Road, Rainham, ME8 7RH, 8.00-10.00pm. Beginners welcome. Details: Julian Grayland 07770 380592 or [medwaycaledonians.co.uk](http://medwaycaledonians.co.uk)
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS** Mixed ability class meets Mondays 8.00-10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 01908 378730 or [jange@verybusy.co.uk](http://jange@verybusy.co.uk)
- NORWICH BRANCH RSCDS** Branch class in Norwich on Mondays from September-May/June. Beginners from 7.00-8.15pm and general dancing 8.20-9.30pm. Details: Sue Petty, 01603 741639 or [secretary@rscds-norwich.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rscds-norwich.org.uk)
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall, BR5 1LA. Details: Deirdre Wilden, [the\\_wildens@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:the_wildens@yahoo.co.uk) 07879 860463 or [orpingtonscottishdancing.com](http://orpingtonscottishdancing.com)
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Margaret Spiceley, 07985 962781 or [secretary.rscdoxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.rscdoxfordshire@gmail.com) or [rscdoxfordshire.org](http://rscdoxfordshire.org)
- READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY** Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading RG1 5BD from September-May, Wednesdays 7.30-10.00pm (general), 1st and 2nd Thursdays of each month 8.00-10.00pm (advanced). Details: Duncan Barnett, 0118 956 9289 [duncanbarnet@gmail.com](mailto:duncanbarnet@gmail.com) or [scottishdancingreading.org](http://scottishdancingreading.org)
- REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets most Mondays 8.15-10.15pm, September-May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or [wmitton517@btinternet.com](mailto:wmitton517@btinternet.com)
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm from mid-September to mid-June. Details: 07802 442435 or [richmondcaledonian.co.uk](http://richmondcaledonian.co.uk)
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD St Columba's Dancers meet most Mondays from October to May, 7.15-10.00pm. Admission free except for Band Nights when a charge will be made. Details: Willie Lawrence, 07798 640551 or [stcolumbasdancers@gmail.com](mailto:stcolumbasdancers@gmail.com) or [stcolumbasdancers.org](http://stcolumbasdancers.org)
- ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM** Meets every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm September-June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Kate Thomson, 0118 986 0681 [sec.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com](mailto:sec.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com) Also Children's Class Saturdays 9.30-11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Wednesdays from 7.30-9.30pm throughout the year at St John Fisher Hall, Thanet Road, Bexley DA5 1AP. Details: Jenny Gavin, 020 8856 4522
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Dancing Fridays, 7.30-10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808 or [graham.easton@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.easton@btinternet.com) or [seess.org.uk](http://seess.org.uk)
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Thursday at 8.00pm from September-June at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: Jane McNicholas, [secretary@surbitoncaledonian.co.uk](mailto:secretary@surbitoncaledonian.co.uk)
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS** General ability class on Tuesdays from 7.30-9.30pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9AL. Details: Colin Simpson, 01892 832712 or [rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk](http://rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk)
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Beginners/Improvers Class at Nascot Wood Recital Hall, Nascot Wood Road, Watford WD17 4YS Mondays from 8.00-9.30pm and General/Beginners Class at All Saints' Church Hall, The Green, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3JH Thursdays from 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 01923 492475 or [reel@watfordscottish.org.uk](http://reel@watfordscottish.org.uk)
- WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** Dancing at Radipole and Southill Community Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 9SS. Thursdays, 7.00-10.00pm. Details: Graeme Dickson, 07973 370389
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Road North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 01264 363293 or [wendy@mumford.com](mailto:wendy@mumford.com)
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Labour Party Hall, Witham CM8 2EE. Details: Audrey Kennedy, 01376 513567 or [amkenney148@gmail.com](mailto:amkenney148@gmail.com)

The Reel is printed by Kall Kwik, Hemel Hempstead  
[kallkwik.co.uk/hemel](http://kallkwik.co.uk/hemel) 01442 247777 [sales@hemel.kallkwik.co.uk](mailto:sales@hemel.kallkwik.co.uk)





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