



# The Reel

**rscds**  
London Branch

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Scottish country dancing -  
For fun, fitness and  
friendship

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



## 2025 Summer's last events

Above: RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews. Below: RSCDS London Branch's dancing in Kensington Gardens



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Issue 335 should be with UK based members by 21 February 2026 unless delayed in the post.

Contributions for *Reel* 335 should be sent to arrive by and preferably in advance of 11 January 2026 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



A few days ago, a ceasefire in the Middle East hit the headlines only to be replaced by news of more deaths and the challenges of progressing to a permanent peace. Domestically the press is fascinated by Andrew's role in the Royal Family, speculating on Rachel Reeves' second budget whilst using the benefit of hindsight on the handling of the pandemic. Some days it seems very challenging to distinguish fact from conjecture - maybe I am wrong to care.

Over the summer we danced in Kensington Gardens - the weather forecast for sunny intervals was kind to dancers with only a few drops of rain to disturb our choreography. As always, many passersby stopped to watch - with some joining in and others collecting information on our activities. Earlier this month (October) I went to the Paris dance weekend which fortunately was held in English and attracted a sizeable contingent from the UK as well as many other overseas visitors. It was pleasing to meet attendees who had enjoyed dancing in London on their way to France. Many of the international travellers continued their journeys to a dance weekend in Budapest but I returned to London for our own Day School and New Season dance (see the reports later in the Reel).

Our August committee meeting was cancelled due to holidays and sickness, so the main news is the resignation of Fiona Olsen as the Secretary as a result of an increase in her other commitments. We thank her for the contribution she has made. In other committee news, Mel Rowland has agreed to be co-opted back onto the committee following a rest after her duties as Secretary.

Meanwhile 12 Coates Crescent assure us that steady progress is being made to implement their new strategy. Apart from placing the charity on a firmer footing, a redesigned website is coming which will be easier to navigate with the development of more modern branding to attract the next generation. The biggest day to day impact may come from the introduction of new membership software with the aim of eliminating most of the duplicated effort capturing data by the local associations and transferring this to 12CC. The current system is labour intensive and inevitably prone to error and confusion. A new membership recording system also has the potential to transform governance with everyone having a direct say in 12CC, rather than the local associations appointing a handful of delegates to vote on behalf of their area.

It is evident from the papers for the 12CC AGM that finding candidates to fill the various Board and Committee roles is a challenge and there will be a number of posts left unfilled. I empathise! We are currently looking for a Vice Chair, Secretary and several committee members in London. Are you interested in the future of Scottish country dancing in London and willing to contribute your ideas? We normally have five online meetings a year, so the fixed time commitment is less than a dozen hours. Please consider standing for the committee at our 2026 AGM! For more information you can talk to one of us at a dance or class or use the contact links on the website.

## Etiquette: Joanne Lawrence



Scottish country dance is a traditional dance form and, in part, it is the traditions of Scottish country dance, connecting us to past generations of dancers, which add so much to our enjoyment of the dance. Yet, as with so many things, evolution is essential if Scottish country dance is to survive and grow, and sometimes older ways of doing things have to give way to the new.

A welcome example of this was the RSCDS Etiquette guide, which, published in 2023, empowered dancers (particularly younger women), to refuse politely an offer to dance, without being then obliged to sit out the dance as had previously been the case.

The guide also encourages dancers to enjoy dancing on both sides of the set, regardless of their sex. However, although many people now are happy to do precisely this, there is still a tendency for others to attempt to 'split up the ladies' if two men are without female partners, or vice versa. We suggest that, if two people are lined up in a set ready to dance, that is their choice and they will not necessarily be grateful for any 'knight in shining ghillies', counting down the set, who tries to impose a partner of the opposite sex onto them.

Of course, not everyone will be confident in dancing as the opposite sex, nor should they be forced to do so. However, women have danced together, whether through necessity or preference, for many years and an increasing number of men are showing that they are just as capable in this area. RSCDS London Branch strongly encourages Branch members to respect their fellow dancers' choice of dance partner and to avoid trying to impose changes on them in the name of tradition. (click below to open the guide)



ROYAL  
SCOTTISH  
COUNTRY  
DANCE  
SOCIETY



Patron: HM The King

Chair: Gary Coull

HEADQUARTERS

12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF

Tel: 0131 225 3854

[info@rscds.org](mailto:info@rscds.org)

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

LONDON BRANCH

Hon. President

Andrew Kellett

Hon. Vice Presidents

Mary Barker, Margaret Catchick, Jim Cook,

Jenny Greene, Rita Marlow,

Danielle Reinstein, Lindsey Rousseau

Chair

Richard Clarke

Tel: 020 7582 0934

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

Vice Chair

Vacant

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

Hon. Secretary

Vacant

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

Hon. Treasurer

Simon Wales

Tel: 01622 761753

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

Committee

Joanne Lawrence (Classes Convenor),

Margaret Shaw (Dances Convenor),

Elaine Davies, Wendy Morris,

Thelma-Jane Robb, Mel Rowland

Non-Executive roles

Hon. Archivist..... Simon Wales

Membership & Subscribers .. Gaynor Curtis

*The Reel* Editor ..... Simon Wales

*The Reel* Business Editor.... Jeff Robertson

Web Admin ..... Joanne Lawrence

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

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



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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.

## Membership and *The Reel* Subscription Rates from 1 July 2025

As a member of RSCDS London Branch, you enjoy the following benefits: reduced rates at London Branch classes, dances and events; four issues per year of *The Reel*; 10% discount on items from the RSCDS online shop and two issues per year of the RSCDS magazine *Scottish Country Dancer*. UK Members wishing to pay by direct debit may do so by completing a payment mandate 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> )	£20	£29	£34	£56	£5	£5
<i>The Reel</i> by post (UK)	£22.50	£31.50	£36.50	£61	£7.50	£7.50
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Europe)	£28.50	£37.50	£42.50	£74	£15	£15
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Rest of the World)	£31.50	£40.50	£45.50	£80	£20	£20



### Christmas Dance

**Saturday 13 December 2025**  
6.45 for 7.00 - 10.30pm  
Doors open at 6.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street  
SW1X 0BD

**Dave Hall and his Band**

Miss Allie Anderson .....	8x32 J
The Music Makars .....	8x32 R
Sugar Candie.....	8x32 S
Major Ian Stewart.....	8x32 J
The Hyperactive Reel .....	8x32 R
The Water of Leith .....	4x32 S
Les Remparts de Séville.....	8x32 J
Tempest in a Teacup.....	3x64 R
Chased Lovers .....	8x32 J
John of Bon Accord .....	8x32 R
The Sauchie Haugh .....	8x32 S
Inchmickery.....	5x32 J
The Piper and the Penguin .....	Sq 88 R
The Balmoral Strathspey.....	4x32 S
Best Set in the Hall .....	8x32 J
Sleepy Maggie .....	8x32 R

**Extras:**

Tap the Barrel.....	3x32 R
The Jubilee Jig.....	8x32 J

Admission includes Christmas fare and a glass of wine  
RSCDS Members £24, non-members £27  
full time students and spectators £14  
Children (under 16) free  
Tickets available online and on the door  
All dances will be recapped  
Those with Highland/Evening Dress are encouraged to wear it  
Crib available at [rscdslondon.org.uk](https://rscdslondon.org.uk)

### Future Dates

- 19 January 2026 - Burns Ceilidh Dance
- 18 February 2026 - Winter Wednesday Dance
- 18 April 2026 - Combined Societies' Dance
- 27 May 2026 - Summer Wednesday Dance
- 13 June 2026 - End of Season Dance
- 17 October 2026 - Day School/Musicians Workshop
- 17 October 2026 - New Season Dance
- 28 October 2026 - Winter Wednesday
- 19 December 2026 - Christmas Dance

### Burns Ceilidh Dance

**Saturday 10 January 2026**  
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 (Oradian style)

All dances will be walked through  
No experience necessary

Admission includes haggis supper (vegetarian option available)  
cash bar available

RSCDS Members £25, non-members £30  
full time students and spectators £15  
Children (under 16) free

Tickets available in advance online only via [rscdslondon.org.uk/burns-ceilidh](https://rscdslondon.org.uk/burns-ceilidh)

### *The Reel* Advertising Rates:

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[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)

### Winter Wednesday Dance

**Wednesday 18 February 2026**  
7.00 - 10.00pm  
Doors open at 6.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street  
SW1X 0BD

**Chris Oxtoby**

Good Hearted Glasgow .....	8x32 J
The Bramble Circle.....	32 R
Gramachie.....	8x32 S
The Galloping Carousel.....	4x32 J
The Sailor.....	8x32 R
Cherrybank Gardens .....	8x32 S
Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel.....	8x32 J
Leap Year.....	8x24 J

The Provost Wynd .....	8x32 R
Jig to the Music.....	3x32 J
The Dancing Bees.....	4x32 S
The Barmkin .....	Sq 88 R
The Yorkshire Rose.....	8x32 J
The Belle of Bon Accord.....	4x32 S
The Waratah Weaver .....	4x32 J
The Reel of the Royal Scots.....	8x32 R

Admission includes light refreshments

RSCDS Members £18, Non-members £21  
full time students and spectators £11  
Children (under 16) free

Tickets available online and on the door

All dances will be recapped / walked through  
Crib available at [rscdslondon.org.uk](https://rscdslondon.org.uk)

### Combined Societies' Dance

Hosted by RSCDS London Branch

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

**Saturday 18 April 2026**

**Susan MacFadyen and her Band**

Full programme in *Reel* 335

## London Branch Classes



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

## We have classes for...

### Term Dates

For regular Wednesday weekly classes:

**General Class**

**Mixed Ability Dance Group**

**Richmond Beginners & Improvers**

**Spring Term: 14 January - 1 April**

**Half-term: Wednesday 18 February**

### General Class

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,  
London NW1 1LY

**Wednesday**  
7.00-9.00pm

**Teachers include**

**Pat Davoll and Rose Kreloff**  
and class musicians

**Ian Cutts, Adam Brady, Erica Banks &  
Heather Jeffery**

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

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

### Mixed Ability Dance Group

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

**Wednesday 2.30 - 4.30pm**

**Teachers include**

**Pat Davoll, Peter Knight and Rose Kreloff**

**Recorded music, live music from  
Barbara Manning on 25 March 2026**

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

### Children's Class

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

Check website for details

Term fee £10 per child, £20 per family  
£5 per individual child

[rscdslondon.org.uk/children](http://rscdslondon.org.uk/children)

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

**Teacher Judith Jones with recorded music live music from Dave Hall on 1 April**  
**Wednesday**  
Beginners 7.00 - 9.00pm  
Improvers 7.30 - 9.30pm

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

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

### Improvers' Course 2025

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,  
London NW1 1LY

**Wednesday 7.00 - 9.00pm**  
**21 January - 18 March**

8 week course building on basic skills, giving a thorough grounding in key steps and formations for new Scottish country dancers

**Teaching team led by James Fairbairn with class musicians**

Fee: £80 per 8 week course for RSCDS members, £96 for non-RSCDS members

Course includes 8 lessons, entry to Winter Wednesday dance and end of term joint session with General class

### Festival Class 2026

We are heading back to Leeds for the White Rose Festival in July 2026.  
Interested?

Put the weekend of 11 July 2026 in your diary. More information about practices and logistics in the spring term.

### Monthly Classes

#### The Tuesday Social

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

**Tuesday 16 December, 27 January,  
24 February and 24 March**  
7.30 - 9.30pm

**with teachers Gill O'Dell & Judith Jones plus class musician Adam Brady**

The Tuesday Social is aimed at people in their 20s and 30s who love to dance, or would like to learn. This monthly session combines live music with some teaching, lots of dancing and a social break to relax and chat with a glass of wine or soft drink.

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

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

#### Fast Paced Social Class

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,  
London NW1 1LY

**Tuesday 9 December**  
**with Joan Desborough and  
Neil Esslemont on small pipes**  
7.00 - 9.00pm

**Tuesday 20 January, 17 February and  
17 March**

**With guest teachers: Pat Davoll, Atsuko  
Clement, and William Williamson  
plus class musician Adam Brady**

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

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

#### Technique Class

Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent,  
London NW1 1LY

**Tuesday 6 January, 3 February,  
3 and 31 March**  
7.00 - 9.00pm

**with guest teachers Kate Gentles,  
Catriona Bennett, Lindsey Rousseau  
plus class musician Heather Jeffery**

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

## Paris Weekend: Murrough Landon

It is always satisfying to be able to combine pleasures and recently, a number of the Gay Gordons and several others from the wider London region made the trip to the Paris Branch RSCDS advanced weekend from 10-12 October 2025.

The Gay Gordons did not organise our own residential event this year, so several of our members were looking for an alternative and Paris seemed to fit the bill as we were also able to meet up with one of our members who now lives there.

After mentioning the idea to a number of other people, we ended up with a group of about a dozen participants, probably the largest non-French contingent at the weekend. There were enough of us to organise a little practice session for many of the dances on the evening programmes.

On the dancing side, there was a Friday evening welcome dance and the main Saturday evening ball. For both of these, we had live music from Andy Imbrie and Caroline McCaskey who had come over from California. For part of the time, the professional duo was augmented by many members of the local Paris Scottish country dance band. The daytime schedule included two excellent classes on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning taught by Andrew Nolan.

Although the venue was in the southern outskirts of the city, several of us thought it was more fun to stay in the atmospheric area of St Germain. We had ample time for sightseeing and fine dining in La Ville Lumière (*The City of Light*) - a nickname for Paris and also the title of one of the locally devised dances on the programme. Two other local dances were *The Partisan* and *Rendez-vous à Vichy*.

One of the UK contingent was Margaret Catchick. I had written a strathspey the week before as a gift for her celebration dance (not officially related to any significant birthday!) It is called *The Doyenne of the Day School* in recognition of the many years she organised the London Branch RSCDS day school. We realised we had enough people who knew Margaret to give the dance its first test during a short break. (See photo p8) I was very relieved that it seems to work and especially that Margaret also liked it! Both dance and video can be found via [my.strathspey.org/dd/dance/23103/](https://my.strathspey.org/dd/dance/23103/)

In other intervals in the schedule, we could also meet up with both local dancers and many international visitors, including some from North America and New Zealand. Many European Scottish dance groups, including Paris, have a younger age profile than dancers in the London area which adds a buzz to the event.

The Paris weekend is an annual event. We all enjoyed it - but if you missed out this year, put 9-11 October 2026 in your diary! Or if you fancy combining dancing with travel a little further afield in Europe, the Celtic Circle website has a list of many events planned for the next year or two. See [celtic-circle.de/events.html](https://celtic-circle.de/events.html)

## Wing Musicians' Workshop: Colin McEwen

The Thistle Club, based in Milton Keynes, ran a combined Day School and Musicians' Workshop in Wing Village Hall on 6 September 2025. The tutor was Susan MacFadyen on accordion accompanied by Bob Parsons on drums.

There was a problem at the start because delivery of Susan's accordion was delayed. This was swiftly solved by loan of a club member's keyboard followed by one of the musicians very generously lending his own accordion. Susan rose to the challenge of running the workshop successfully despite having to play three different instruments during the day.

Playing for the dance afterwards went well and was a lot of fun. Musicians commented:

"Thanks for an exceptional Music Workshop and the dance - the standard of playing was really good."

"Wow! What an amazing day you produced yesterday. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the musicians and playing for the dance. Such a friendly bunch and the organisation was brilliant."

"Thanks for a super day at the Musicians' Workshop. It was a most enjoyable day spent among kindred spirits."

Susan commented, "Could I ask you to pass my thanks on to the Musicians' Workshop participants for all their hard work prior to and on the day of the course and for a fabulous performance on Saturday night."

Thanks to Susan MacFadyen for coping so well with the challenges and tutoring the workshop, Jan Jones for organising the event, the Thistle Club for hosting the day, and to my fellow musicians for their friendly company and support.

Special thanks to Ros and Roger Whatmore of the Thistle Club for kindly loaning a keyboard, and Derek Chappell for generously giving up his accordion to Susan.



Wing Musicians with Susan MacFadyen on one of the three accordions on the right

## Budapest Weekend: Catriona Bennett

On 15 October 2025 I went to Budapest for a week to participate in the 14th International Weekend Course of Scottish country dance. I had been looking forward to it for some time as it is one of my favourite events and I clearly was not the only one, as it had sold out quickly, with 165 participants from 22 different countries, including many familiar faces from the London area!

Aside from the weekend of dancing, for those who wanted to extend their stay, there was a tourist programme for three days either side of the weekend, all organised by members of the Budapest Scottish Dance Club. The tourist programme included the Royal Palace in Gödöllő, Szentendre, Visegrád, and various places in Budapest, including one of the many spas. I did not participate in this, as instead I spent time with Zsolt doing our own tourist programme, along with prepping for our various weekend tasks. Being club members, we had volunteered to help with the running of the weekend.

Dancing began with the Thursday club night at St Columba's (yes there is a Scottish church called St Columba's in Budapest!), with music provided Ewan Galloway and Shona MacFadyen. Gábor Turi taught dances written by club members and his daughter Julia, taught *The Ruby Rant* from Book 49.

Friday evening was when the weekend got underway at Hotel Bara and followed the traditional weekend school pattern. A Welcome Dance on Friday evening, classes on Saturday and Sunday morning taught by Heather Cowan, and a walk-through on Saturday afternoon (taught by Zsolt and me) for the Ball in the evening. Heather taught a variety of interesting dances and throughout the weekend we had fantastic music from Ewan and Shona, resulting in many, many encores! The Ball on Saturday evening started with a grand march to the wonderful piping of Gergő Schmidt. On Sunday afternoon Ewan and Shona played a concert at Nádor Hall, which is a beautiful concert hall in a school for the blind.

The final dancing event was the Tuesday club night at Lipták Villa, which is the usual club venue, where we (Zsolt and I) taught a selection of simpler but fun dances using recorded music.

All in all, it was a fantastic weekend of music, dance, fun and friendships. I am already looking forward to the 2027 weekend!

See p8 for photos



It is now two years since we began holding RSCDS London Branch classes at Maria Fidelis School, and one year since our first Maria Fidelis day school. It is a great venue, highly convenient for public transport, being so close to Euston and Kings Cross stations, and blessed with great facilities and wonderfully accommodating staff. We have been extremely well looked after by them and have just enjoyed our second annual day school there.

On Saturday 18 October 2025, we welcomed dancers from across the UK, attracted by the excellent teaching team which comprised Graham Donald (prevented by health reasons from teaching last year) as well as Raphaëlle Orgeret from Lyon, and Faye McNeil (Mather) from Edinburgh. The intermediate, advanced and very advanced dance classes were supplemented by optional late afternoon classes featuring MacNab dances, personal critique, and dances from the evening programme. All dance classes were ably accompanied by Barbara Manning, Adam Brady and Heather Jeffery. RSCDS Music Director Elect, Ian Muir (Prestwick) led 18 musicians through an intensive musicians' workshop, culminating in an amazingly high energy band which played for our evening dance.

Thank you to all the day school teachers and musicians, to the Maria Fidelis site staff and caterers, to our own catering team, evening dance MC Simon Wales, and to the many helpers who made the day such an enjoyable experience. Essential also to thank the fantastic day school musicians who made the evening dance such a great experience and, of course, to the dancers throughout the day and evening and all those who contributed items at the evening ceilidh.

If you were not able to make it this year - put Saturday 17 October into your diary for 2026. Ian Robertson will lead the musicians' workshop and RSCDS Chair Gary Coull will join the day school staff. More information to come in the new year as plans are confirmed.

Joanne Lawrence

## Advanced Class

Our teacher for the Advanced Class morning session, Graham Donald, was instantly warm and welcoming and told us that his style was "to teach dancing, not dances" and to tend not to walk through first but go straight in. That set the tone! We focussed first on steps in reel and jig time and practised correct phrasing of the *allemande*, including a reminder that the final two steps back should be skip change, not pas de basque as is often seen. Dancing *The Rakish Highlandman* put this into practice, as well as the technique of keeping strong arms with elbows in for corner partner turns. Moving on to strathspey step, we all visibly relaxed but that soon went out of the window once we started concentrating on dancing the *knot*, ready for *Triple Happiness*. Graham also pointed out some beautiful extra covering we could do after the strathspey corner pass and turn, adding to the elegance of the dance. This dance has a lovely tune composed by a famous Japanese pianist, beautifully played for us by Barbara Manning. Graham often selects dances because he has heard and liked the music first, including the next challenge for us in the form of *Mr Wilson's Hornpipe*. By the time *Falls of Rogie* came along, our brains were needing lunch!



Faye McNeil and Adam Brady brought their youthful energy to our afternoon session which began with *Le Palindrome*, which had the unique structure of reversing itself as the name suggests. Faye had deliberately chosen dances with interesting or different elements, the next being *Ruby Hornpipe* which included an unusual counting of steps and an inverted *allemande*. In strathspey time we got to grips with half grand chain and half circles for Castles in the Air, followed by the formation En Ronde in the dance *St Andrew's Gardens* which was new to all of us and involved another brain-scrambling move of pulling your left shoulder back to go out of the set. Our final dance of the afternoon was the *Happy Meeting*, the first 16 bars of which I have never got, so thanks to Faye for making it all clear at last! As ever, Adam's music was wonderful to dance to throughout the afternoon.

Cathy Daldy

## Very Advanced Class

It was the first time I attended a very advanced dance class and to be honest I was quite apprehensive about it. With the usual stretching routines well before the proper dancing starts, I can get things wrong already and feel off balance. This time the warmup was different. The teacher for the morning class was Raphaëlle Orgeret and we started with an energetic warm up in Charleston style with clapping of the hands and free-style movements. It certainly got us warmed up and out of breath too. Following on from that we learned a dance with 3-bar phrasing; quite a challenge for us dancers as well for Heather Jeffery on the violin because not a lot of dance tunes are written in 6-bar phrases. Although baffling, we all managed it with Raphaëlle's sometimes non-verbal instructions. A wink and a gesture and a tiddy-pom-whoosh but we all understood exactly what she was getting at. Our covering skills were literally put to the test by standing behind our partners in front of the mirror in the dance studio. If you cover properly, you should not see yourself in the mirror at all. This might seem straightforward doing strathspey setting steps; but how about setting with random arm movements from your partner?



We learned some interesting dances: One, *The Bus Monitor*, had a *hello-goodbye pousette* in it (a lovely formation that was new to me) and *Rod Hand*, a pun on Rodin (if pronounced quickly with a French accent) inspired by the sculptor renowned for dramatically sculpted hands. This dance was devised by Raphaëlle herself. Everybody's favourite probably was *La Ville Lumière*, a hit from Paris which I hope will find a place on dance programmes on this side of the channel too.

In the afternoon we were taught by Graham Donald. After going through some of the finer points on getting our steps right, Graham explained how to link nicely in *set-and-link* and we put it all into practice in some well-chosen dances. Graham had selected dances with his favourite tunes and Barbara Manning on the piano gave us some background on the music. Clearly none of us quite realised what a lot of effort goes in selecting well matching tunes for a dance. We consolidated the work we had done in the morning and Graham congratulated us on how well we were covering.

It was a challenging day for the joints and I had to make my choice between arnica, G+T or more *pas de basque* (to quote from one notable ceilidh item!) but my lasting memory is that it was such fun.

Adam Bakker

# RSCDS London Branch Day School and Musicians' Workshop 2025

## The experience of two intermediate dancers at the Day School

We both attended the London Branch Day School on 18 October at Maria Fidelis School. The first impression we got when we strolled into the school cafeteria was that it was well-subscribed. The morning biscuits, beverages, and conversations were an excellent way to wake us up for the day. Once the cups were emptied, it was time to join the intermediate dance group, filled with smiling and enthusiastic faces. The group was supported by Jim Cook, who kindly presented our teachers.

The first lesson was in the charge of Faye McNeil, accompanied by Adam Brady at the piano. Our freshly caffeinated brains, particularly our left-right coordination, were promptly put to the test with *The Palindrome* as a warm-up dance. Several figures and step practice followed this, as we were patiently nurtured along. It is the mark of a good teacher if energy levels are sustained, or even increased, throughout the morning, and it felt like that at the Day School. The morning flew by, progress was made, and suddenly it was time for lunch. We trotted off into the cafeteria to enjoy lasagne served by the catering team. This carb-heavy, tasty main dish was just what we needed to sustain us through the afternoon.

Raphaëlle Orgeret taught our next class, accompanied by Heather Jeffery on the violin. We should have known what we were in for from the modern, energetic warm-up routine. The carbs from lunch were much needed throughout as the class built on the momentum (dare we say, added a layer on top) of the morning: precise step feedback was given, when was appreciated. Then things got turned up a notch: *Poussettes! Pas de basque travelling! Covering! More Poussettes!* We could feel first-hand that we will be in for an exciting, whirlwind weekend at Spring Fling next April. It was fantastic to have such excellent teachers and musicians for both sessions.



After the classes, the day was not over by a long shot, as we attended the optional additional class with Faye McNeil and Adam Brady in the large sports hall where the evening dance would later take place. The two worked well together to efficiently walk us through the evening programme. Attending turned out to be a great decision, as it significantly increased confidence for some of the more complex evening dances.

Speaking of the evening programme: Simon Wales as MC ensured a welcoming atmosphere and that all the dancing was enjoyable. We were able to get ten sets together at peak time, paired with the invigorating and powerful musical accompaniment of eighteen musicians. Throughout the evening, energy was carefully managed, with dances interleaved by both upbeat and dramatic ceilidh items. Additionally, there was an intermission in the middle of the programme for a bagel dinner and an alarmingly large amount of sweets.

The calf pain that lasted several days after the Day School was worth it. The event was a total success. Things were incredibly smooth, even if you booked your ticket at the last minute! In large part, this must surely be due to the London Branch team, especially Richard Clarke, Joanne and Willie Lawrence, who organised and ran the event on the day, and to all the dancers who participated - a heartfelt thank you for a great day!

Christoph Ulshoefer & Ernesto Villarruel Alvarado

## ... and from the musicians



This year's London Day School Musicians' Course was led by the brilliant Ian Muir (Prestwick). Having recently been appointed as RSCDS Music Director, we knew we were in expert hands, and Ian's collection of fun, and sometimes challenging, sets definitely proved this. Rehearsing the music for a whole evening programme of dances in just one day was no easy feat, but Ian kept us on track, and we managed to cover everything at least twice. A highlight of the arrangement process was letting our eight strong fiddle section loose for sixteen bars by themselves in *Tribute to the Borders*.



Performing for a live floor of dancers always adds an extra boost of energy, and during the evening dance our orchestra of musicians seem to come into their own. We played everything better than when we had been rehearsing during the day, and a few of the dances were even encored. I particularly enjoyed the set we played for *Bohemian Reflections* (chosen as a tribute to the late Judith Smith who composed the music), and the dancers seemed to enjoy it too! The evening dance was also punctuated by ceilidh items, including some items from the very talented participants on the musicians' course.

Thank you to Ian for leading such a fun day of music making, and to Joanne for organising and running the Day School so effectively, and for dealing with the day's hiccups so calmly. It was lovely to be reunited with lots of musicians I had met on the RSCDS Summer School musicians' course, and also to meet some new faces, and I am already looking forward to next year's London Day School and Musicians' Course.

Antonia McClintock

## Leeds White Rose Festival 2026

A year ago, I wrote in *The Reel* of our ambition to take a London team to the White Rose Festival in Leeds. It had been some time since RSCDS London had been represented at this lovely, outdoor festival. We were encouraged to return in 2025 by a change in the festival arrangements which now included dances accessible to beginners as well as the established demonstration and massed dances. It seemed the perfect opportunity for dancers from our weekly classes to join more experienced dancers and enjoy dancing together in a different environment. 32 London dancers, including those from the MacLennan Scottish Group, had a fabulous weekend in July (see *Reel* 333 for reports) and now we would like to do it all again. We will follow a similar pattern to 2025, running Festival classes at Maria Fidelis School from March onwards. Check the classes page on the Branch website in the new year for more details [rscdslondon.org.uk/classes](https://rscdslondon.org.uk/classes)

Joanne Lawrence

# Out and about...

# ...on and off the dance floor



Massed ranks of dancers at the Budapest Weekend



New Season Dance after the Day School



Demonstration dance at the Gay Gordon's Ceilidh, with the Caledonian Reelers on the stage



Branch Vice-President Jenny Greene, with a picture of her dancing with Bill Ireland found in the archives



Day School musicians keeping the dancers on their toes



Dancing *The Doyenne of the Day School* with the doyenne herself, Margaret Catchick, in the centre



Canadian Barn Dance at the Gay Gordons' Ceilidh 25 October 2025



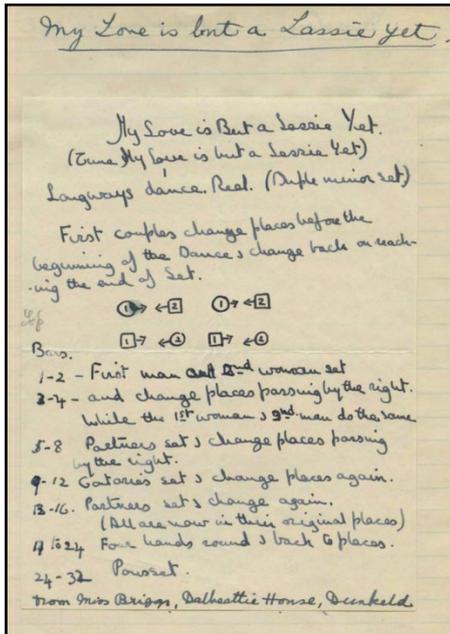
New Season Dance after the Day School

## The Story behind the Dance - My Love She's But a Lassie Yet: Meryl Thomson



A series of articles from Meryl Thomson delving behind the history of some of our dances and their music. This time she looks at a well known tune which has been associated with different dances and songs through the centuries.

As Burns' season approaches in the New Year and Scots prepare to celebrate the birthday of their national bard, I take a closer look at a tune which became associated with Robert Burns' well-known song but has also been used for various dance forms for over 250 years.



*My Love She's But a Lassie Yet* was published in RSCDS Book 9. Its tune is the well-known tune which is the subject of this article and which by this time was known by the title *My Love is But a Lassie Yet*. The source of the dance is stated in Mrs Stewart's notebook YS 1-9 to have been Mrs Briggs at Dalbeattie House, Dunkeld. All of Mrs Stewart's original notebooks are available to view online in the [RSCDS archive](#).

The earliest known version of the tune is found in Robert Bremner's *A Collection of Scots Reels or Country Dances* c. 1757 but under the name *Miss Farquharson's Reel*.



In Woods' edition of the *Songs of Scotland* 1857 there is an annotation which suggests the tune and an associated dance had appeared previously under the title *Lady Bradnet's Scots Reel*. He may be referring to a dance called *Lady Bradnet's Scots Reel* which sounds remarkably similar, published by David Rutherford at his shop in St Martins Court near Leicester Fields, London in his *12 Selected Country Dances with their Bases for the year 1763* (NB *The Figures or Directions to each Tune by Mr Bernard Rose*). This is the earliest dance I have found associated with the tune, however the dance bears no relation to the RSCDS dance in Book 9 and is a rather standard "Hey Contrary Sides - then on your own Sides - Lead down one Couple hands four with the third Couple - foot it Right and Left at top."

**Miss Farquharson's Reel** 75

The 1<sup>st</sup> C. crosses over and turn  $\frac{1}{2}$  then crosses over the 3<sup>rd</sup> C. and turn  $\frac{1}{2}$  Lead up to the Top, foot it and cast off: hands fix round.

Chas and Sam Thompson, publishing in London, issued a collection of *Twenty Four Country Dances for the Year 1771* which contains a dance with the same tune (see bottom left) but under the name *Miss Farquharson's Reel* - presumably a misspelling of the Bremner title from 1757. The dance is different from the Rutherford version. However, this shows the tune must have travelled from Scotland to England at some point.

Robert Bremner was probably born in Edinburgh and set up a music publishing business there, for clients including the Edinburgh Music Society. He travelled to London on the search for musicians to perform for the Society's concerts and eventually opened a publishing shop in the Strand. The later edition of his collection, which included *Miss Farquharson's Reel*, was printed by Preston and Son in the Strand. This collection incidentally, is the first time tunes described as strathspeys are included in a publication. Preston and Son went on to purchase all Bremner's London stock and printing plates after his death in 1789. As one publisher often took dances and tunes from another, Bremner's London location could be how the tune was found and copied by the Thompsons.

The tune appears in the manuscript tune book of a Northumbrian musician called William Vickers in around 1770. Not much is known about Vickers - but his tunebook contains some 588 tunes although 31 pages are missing. He includes a note on the front pages which suggests a sense of humour:

Musicks a Crotchet the Sober thinks it Vain  
The Fiddles a Wooding Projection  
Tunes are but Flights of a Whimsical Brain  
Which the Bottle brings best to Perfection  
Musicians are half witted mery and madd  
And Those are the same that admire Them  
Theyr fools if they Pley unless their Well Paid  
And the Others are Blockheads to Hire them.



Vicker's tune (see above) is called *My Lover's Butt a Lady Yett* which appears to be the first time this tune is connected with the name we know it by today.

The first time the tune *My Love She's but a Lassie yet* (see image below) appears in Scotland with this name is in James Aird's *A Selection of Scotch, English, Irish and Foreign Airs Vol II* dated c. 1785 and published in Glasgow. Aird's collection of six books with 1200 tunes were published between 1779 and 1795 (vols 1-4) and after his death in 1795 vol 5 was published in 1797 and vol 6 in c. 1800 and they were arguably the most popular Scottish music books during the 18th century.



Two songs called *My Love She's But a Lassie Yet* became known, one version by Robert Burns published in James Johnston's *The Scots Musical Museum* in 1790, the other by James Hogg, aka "The Ettrick Shepherd", published in the *Edinburgh Journal* in 1831, both using the subject tune. The words for each of these songs are shown on the SCDDB database at [my.strathspey.org/dd/dance/4862/#extrainfo](http://my.strathspey.org/dd/dance/4862/#extrainfo). The title of Burn's popular song could well have been what led to the name becoming standardised and linked definitively with the tune.

Having become known as *My Love is but a Lassie yet*, the tune first appears as a dance tune at the start of the 19th century when Thomas and William Cahusac publish a version in their *Annual Collection of Twenty four favorite country dances for the year 1800*. Their dance is a standard country dance of the day - *Right hands across, foot it - & left hands back again - Lead down the middle up again & cast off - hands 6 round.*

65  
**MY LOVE IS BUT A LASSIE YET** (Old Scotch)  
 Allegro

**SINGLE FIGURE** (Each strain repeated)  
 Hands 3 round on the ladies side hands 3 round on the gent: side ♪ lead down the middle up again & set to the top Cut ♪

**OR THUS** Set & change places with 2<sup>d</sup> Cut set & back again ♪ swing with right hands round the 2<sup>d</sup> Cut & then with left ♪

**DOUBLE FIGURE** (Tune played twice thro' with repeat)  
 The 3 ladies join hands the 3 gent: join hands set & lead thro' set & back again ♪ lead down the middle up again right & left with top Cut ♪ set con- trary corners ♪ & the double triangle ♪

By 1816, Thomas Wilson includes the dance in his *Companion to the Ballroom*, giving his usual three versions to choose from (see left).

The dance then goes off on a tangent

after G M Chivers decided to use the tune to accompany the first quadrille in his new set of quadrilles *The Caledonian Quadrilles* published in his *Modern Dancing Master* in 1822 (see more on this in my article in [Reel 331](#)). This cements the tune in the ballrooms of the UK and abroad for the next 100 years or more. This could explain why no other country dance to this tune seems to be published during the nineteenth century, since quadrilles had become far more popular in the ballroom than country dances at this point. None of the usual ballroom manuals of the period: J Boulogne *The Ballroom* 1827, Joseph Lowe in the 1830-50s, Mozart Allan in the 1880s and David Anderson in the 1890s, have this dance in their collections.

There is one example, however, found in the handwritten manuscript of Frederick Hill dated 1841. Entitled *My Love She's But a Lassie Yet*, this dance is similar to the RSCDS dance. There is no suggestion of 1s starting on opposite sides as in the Book 9 dance and 1s dance down the middle and back rather than circle, but both end with a poussette. Frederick Hill was living in Aberdeenshire when he noted down country dances in his notebook. The RSCDS

4, P.  
 2/4 Time.

Two top couples change sides with right hands "Round four" two Ladies and the two Gentlemen change places with their right hands "Round four" change sides again with right hands "Round four" two Gentlemen change places with right hands "and the two Ladies the same "Round four" - Start count down the centre, and return a couple down - Powell

reprinted his manuscript in 2021 and copies can be ordered at [shop.rscds.org/product/books/frederick-hills-book-of-quadrilles-country-dances-etc-etc/](http://shop.rscds.org/product/books/frederick-hills-book-of-quadrilles-country-dances-etc-etc/)

This proves that *My Love is But a Lassie Yet* was being danced in regions of Scotland throughout the nineteenth century. According to research J P and T M Flett carried out in the 1960s, and published in their *Traditional Dancing in Scotland* in 1964, a country dance called *My Love is But a Lassie Yet* was being taught in Angus and Perthshire by "Dancie" Reid who was active between 1890 and 1942. A teacher called Mr Fletcher taught classes in Oxton in West Berwickshire and included this dance in his repertoire. So the dance was still being danced in some areas even if it was not being published in printed collections.

MUL TUM IN PARVO  
 OR A  
 COLLECTION  
 OF  
 ENGLISH, SCOTCH, IRISH,  
 WELSH TUNES.  
 For the  
 VIOLIN, PIANO, & GUITAR.  
 CONTAINING  
 1260  
 THE NEW EDITION, BY THE AUTHOR, FOR HIS OWN USE, IN HIS NEW SYSTEM, 1840.

The tune with the *My Love is..* title had continued to be found throughout the UK in the manuscript books of musicians such as fiddle player Richard Hughes in Whitchurch, Shropshire (1823), entitled *Scotch Set of Quadrilles*, the collection (see image left) of John Rook from Cumbria (1840), J Alexander's *New Scrap Book* (c. 1845), and John Roose's manuscript (Manchester c. 1850), among others. The tune does appear in T Westrop's printed collection

120 *Scottish Country Dances* from 1830, annotated with the subtitle 'Country Dance'. The tune also travelled to Ireland and to America where it appeared under various names.

A strathspey version of the tune was published by Robert Petrie of Kirmichael, Perthshire in his *Third Collection of Strathspey Reels and Country Dances* in 1802. He calls the tune 'The Gordons has the Girding o't' and annotates it as a strathspey, although it does not have any dotted notes.

The Gordons has the Girding o't a Strathspey

The tune incidentally was also much later published in the *Athole Collection of the Dance Music of Scotland* in 1884 with the same name, also in strathspey rhythm complete with dotted notes and Scotch snaps. This shows how the relationship between reel and strathspey rhythm at this time meant tunes could be played as either, depending on the speed they were played at and the style used.

Looking at the RSCDS version of the dance, having the first couple start on opposite sides is unusual for an older country dance. One origin possibility for this type of formation, is the *Ecossoise*. Mentioned by Thomas Wilson in his *Ecossoise Instructor* of 1816 and GM Chivers in his *Modern Dancing Master* of 1822, the history of these dances is unclear, thought to be French in origin and then transferred to Russia, but they are danced in longways duple minor sets of 1s and 2s with the 1s starting on opposite sides ie in an "improper" position and then they cross to own side when they reach the bottom of the set. Chivers notes regarding *Ecossoises* that, "It is the general custom of leading off every two couple." This is in contrast to the customary way where only the topmost couple in the entire longways set starts the dance.

Dances in Sicilian Circle format also have couple facing couple, but around the room and Hillgrove in his *A Complete Practical Guide to the art of dancing* published in 1867 states that the figures are performed in the same manner as the first number of a quadrille. As we know, the tune *My Love is But a Lassie Yet* was most commonly used for the first quadrille in the *Caledonian Quadrilles* set. The RSCDS dance *Circassian Circle* from Book 1 is basically the first quadrille from Paine's 1st set 1815. The dancers in a quadrille are in square formation with each man having his partner on his right. They start the first quadrille, Pantalon, by dancing rights and lefts, set to partner, and turn partners around. This is similar to the first 24 bars of the RSCDS Book 9 dance. Could it be that our nineteenth century country dance was influenced by the quadrille? As I said in my previous *Reel 331* article, Scottish musicians such as William Cunningham published sets of Caledonian quadrilles to 1st Set instructions before Chivers composed his own version with its own formations in 1822.

( 32 )  
**POLKA COUNTRY DANCE.**

The first couple having changed places before commencing, set and change places with second couple at sides. Set and change places with partners. Set and change places at sides again. Set and resume places.  
 Down the centre, back again, and poussette. The polka step is used throughout.

A dance which is also very similar to our Book 9 dance is *Polka Country Dance* from Book 31. The earliest source I have found is W P Reid's *The Ball-Room Companion* published in Glasgow 1859 and from where many dances later found in collections of such as Mozart Allan, and David Anderson seem to be sourced. The dance is virtually the same, other than having a down the middle and back in bars 17-24 instead of circling with the 2s. This suggests that this is a variation of the earlier *My Love is But a Lassie Yet*.

As for using two chords, there is no suggestion in historical records that two chords were ever played to allow couples to cross over. A topic for another article perhaps...

In the spring, with some apprehension and encouragement from Judith, my regular Richmond dance class teacher, I signed up for Week 4 of the 2025 RSCDS Summer School. I already knew that at least two others from my class would be attending. As the weeks approached Week 4, it turned out, to my delight, that eight Richmond Wednesday class attendees including Judith were attending St Andrew's that week. Judith made a WhatsApp group, and in the days beforehand, I asked the more experienced dancers what I absolutely needed to take and got the reply: paracetamol, ibuprofen and ibuleve. Plasters! Armed with these items and much additional orthotic padding, I bravely made my way to Kings Cross and had a most enjoyable journey to Leuchars. The transfer was made so much easier by two Richmond dancers being on the same train and helping me with the journey to St Andrews.

We were the last train to Edinburgh from London as Scotland prepared for Storm Floris, and this meant we needed to leave the train at Edinburgh and transfer to another so that our train could return to London prior to the storm. The storm really had no other impact - a bit windy on the first two days but nothing dramatic.

Once settled into accommodation, I soon found my way around the various halls and places to be in University Hall. All of this was facilitated by knowing so many dancers from my regular class, and others from London Branch, although everyone is so welcoming and friendly, that I feel sure that had I been there on my own, I would have soon been swept up by kind people to show me the ropes.

I joined one of two Intermediate classes of 20 dancers. I am still so impressed by the amazing skill, kindness and humour of the two teacher we had - Graham and Faye, and the incredibly talented and knowledgeable musicians, Leonard and Ian, who played for us live every class. I can honestly say I learnt so much, and this was put straight into practice every afternoon with walk-throughs before the evening dances. These were held in various venues - the Town Hall, Younger Hall and in University Hall. And, as is always the case in Scottish country dancing, everyone was welcoming and helpful, so if you were not feeling as confident in a dance, there was someone more experienced to give you gentle reminders along the way.

By Thursday I could scarcely stagger out of bed or a chair! And to my surprise it was my hips that hurt the most as I had worried about my feet (they were fine!). A good dose of painkillers and carrying on through worked. It was too exciting to miss much, although I did manage to sneak in the occasional afternoon rest and one early evening, as well as several rather too late nights. The next mornings were a struggle! I would just add: Tesco's is open late but there are time restrictions on buying wine... The all-important visit to

## RSCDS AGM 2025: Simon Wales

A smaller contingent from London than recent years travelled up to Glasgow for the Autumn Gathering Weekend 7 - 8 November, but the event ran like a well oiled machine.

The formal part was the 96th Annual General Meeting itself on the Saturday afternoon, which featured upbeat reports on the past year's activities and plans for next. The only votes to be counted on the day were for the Management Board motion to increase the subscription to £30 for an individual member and to narrow the differential benefit for two members at the same address. This was passed. Elections for Management Board and Committees were only necessary for the Youth Services Committee where the successful candidates were Julia Turi and Ilona Brown. Other committees will have vacancies. Thanks to London's Stephen Hartley who has completed his term on the Management Board. Society Scrolls were awarded to Alanna Creighton, Jim Lindsay and Rosalind McKie.

Susan MacFadyen and Marian Anderson's bands played for the Friday dance and Saturday ball respectively to great acclaim.

Put 6 - 7 November 2026 in your diaries now!



London Branch Richmond Class gathered in St Andrews

Janetta's was made by a group of us and the queue was not even that long! My yardstick is chocolate - if that is great, the rest is good to go. It was outstanding.

One day, I skipped lunch in order to sample the fish and chips at Cromar's and walked my delicious smelling packet to the castle and sat on a bench overlooking the sea. A very polite seagull paced nearby but kept a respectful distance. I walked to the fishing harbour and back again. I found time to have a walk to the golf course and along a while, getting the spectacular view of St Andrew's when walking back. It is definitely worth making some time to look around including a spot of shopping!

The final dance at Younger Hall on Saturday night was completely brilliant. Like other nights, the live music was beautiful, and I enjoyed the dances that I sat out to just listen to the music and watch the dancing, as much as those I danced.

Leaving on Sunday I found time to walk some of the Lade Braes Walk nearby before the trip to the Leuchars station. I departed with mixed feelings: with sadness that it was finishing, with relief that I had made the week despite the physicality and with a heartfelt promise to return to this amazing, intense, welcoming and fun experience filled with warm, funny and enthusiastic people.

Ingrid Kosch

## Where is This?

Answer to 'Where is This?' on p1:

**Mallaig Harbour** - driving the 43 miles from Fort William along the road to Mallaig, also known as the road to the isles, one leaves the A82 and journeys west along the scenic A830, built by engineer Thomas Telford in 1812, passing Loch Eil, through Glenfinnan following the shore line past Loch Eilt and on through Arnipol with Loch nan Uamh where on 20 September 1746, Prince Charles Edward Stuart sailed away to France after the failed Jacobite rebellion a year earlier. This is marked with a cairn.

The road very much follows the railway completed in 1901 passing Arisaig and Morar (both place names associated with dances) eventually arriving at the picturesque fishing harbour town of Mallaig. From here ferries leave for Skye and the small isles of Eigg, Muck, Rum and Canna.

The four-couple 32 bar strathspey called *The Road to Mallaig* was devised in 1990 by Jack Frodsham from the Leamington Spa Branch.

With thanks to Stephen Webb.

Do you have any dance related photos?

Email: [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

# Lives Remembered

## A smiling presence

from Andrew Kellett

Judy Dix

31 March 1941 - 10 October 2025



Judy danced with the Cambridge University Strathspey & Reel Club while working at Adenbrooke's Hospital. She moved to London and, with husband, Chris, was an enthusiastic member of the Branch demonstration team in the 1970s. In 1979 they relocated to Suffolk and joined the Anglo-Scottish Group in Ipswich. Armed with the RSCDS Teaching Certificate, Judy started an advanced class at Nacton just outside Ipswich, a class that is still running today. Her dance, Nacton Hall, with music by Dave Hall, was published in *The Reel* 165 and in the London Branch 75th Anniversary Book.

On moving to Devon in the 1980s, Judy pursued other interests but stayed in touch with her London dancing friends, who remember her as a kind and caring lady, a loyal supporter of the RSCDS and a smiling presence on the dance floor. Our sympathies are extended to her daughters, Katharine and Lindsey.

## A proud Aberdonian

from Simon Wales

Elma McCausland MBE

1936 - 2026



With the passing of Elma McCausland shortly after her 90th birthday, the RSCDS has lost one of its most illustrious ambassadors.

Examiner, teacher and regular at RSCDS summer school, Elma was awarded the MBE for her services to Scottish country dancing. She made Belfast her home, but was a proud Aberdonian.

See *Reel* 316 for her *In My Opinion* article

## A dancing doctor

from Simon Wales

David Parkin

18 March 1940 - 5 September 2025



*The Reel* is saddened to hear of the death of Dr David Parkin.

He was a qualified RSCDS teacher and well known in Berkshire and the surrounding areas.

## A font of dancing knowledge

from Fiona Rawlings

Iris Anderson née Barker

11 June 1942 - 7 August 2025



Iris was born in Castle Gresley in South Derbyshire. She was the eldest of three children having two younger brothers. Iris did well at senior school and was awarded a number of prizes for good academic achievement. She then went on to study chemistry at Bedford College, University of London.

Following the completion of her degree, Iris took some time out, which was unusual in those days. She went to work in the USA, lodging with an American family while she was there. On her return to England she started work as a research assistant in the Medical School at Guys Hospital London in 1964. It was here that she met Dr Ian Anderson.

Ian and Iris married on 18 September 1965. Ian was a widower and already had two children, Alasdair and Fiona, when they married. A few years later, Stuart and Neil joined the family. It was Ian that introduced Iris to Scottish country dancing and as the family lived in Sutton, Surrey at this time, they both danced in London, attending weekly dancing classes as well as the regular weekend dances. This was supplemented by day schools and weekends away. Ian had already been a member of the Demonstration Class for many years and Iris too reached a high enough standard with her dancing to join him there. They enjoyed a number of trips abroad and even when Ian had stopped dancing at this level, Iris continued for a while. The most memorable trip for her was to Taiwan, although she loved to be part of the dems wherever they were.

In 1994 Iris was asked if she could put a scratch team together to dance in a film being made called *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. They were to dance in the Scottish wedding scenes and for this, Stuart and Neil grew beards to join their parents for the filming. They all loved this experience.

Having moved to Alton, Hampshire in 1977, Iris and Ian continued to attend social dances in London for many years and Iris went up weekly to dance in the Dem class. When this was too much for them both, they transferred to a more local group in Guildford dancing weekly as they had done for a long time. When Ian died in 2013, Iris not only lost her dance partner but the love of her life. She continued dancing for a while but in the end, ill health stopped her dancing. Iris was always a font of dancing knowledge as over the years she had met and knew many Scottish dancers. Her contribution to the RSCDS both in London and in Surrey will be missed.

The thanksgiving service for Iris was held in Alton Methodist Church on 16 September 2025 followed by an afternoon tea attended by a mixture of people from all the interest groups Iris belonged to, including the Scottish dancers.

## Memories of Iris

I first met Iris in about 1981 when I joined the RSCDS London Branch Demonstration Team. Iris was already a well-established dancer and, as we were often paired together in a team, I found her a very reliable and supportive dance partner. Over the years we discovered that we had a couple of connections: Iris attended the Ashby Grammar School for Girls in the 1950s at the same time as my sister when we lived in Ashby de la Zouch. Iris and I became chemistry teachers, with the consequence that we could communicate in arcane language that others could not understand. We went on several overseas trips with the RSCDS. The chemistry proved useful for one trip that was cancelled. In 1986 we had been invited to a dance festival in Poland downwind from Chernobyl. British students evacuated from Kiev had their clothing analysed at the hospital where Ian worked. Before the Foreign Office was informed, through Ian and Iris we had information about the severity of the explosion and release of radioactive fallout which enabled us to advise the team about the risks of travel to the area.

Iain Farrell

Iris was one of those neat and ordered people - in her appearance, her dancing and her intellect. She was ideally suited to the role of Branch Archivist, painstakingly cataloguing and identifying people in photographs.

As well as the London Branch Demonstration Team, our paths crossed at the Cairngorms Hogmanays which Iris and Ian regularly attended. Somehow she always managed to make her fancy dress as revealing as possible, but never cheap!

She was also involved in many activities outside dancing, usually in an organisational role. One such was treasurer of the Friends' tea bar at the local hospital, and she asked me to check her accounts. Needless to say, there was never anything to correct!

Simon Wales



Iris and Ian Anderson dancing at St Columba's, Pont Street

## Out and About

### Gay Gordons Ceilidh:

Steve Oakes

On Saturday 25 October 2025, it was almost exactly 20 years since two men, Daniel Capron and John Tyler decided to start a Scottish country dance group for gay people and their friends. The London Gay Gordons is the first LGBTQIA+ Scottish country dance group in the UK, perhaps the world. We welcome everyone, regardless of gender, as long as they are happy to dance with anyone else. To celebrate the founding of the London Gay Gordons we decided to hold an Anniversary Ceilidh in the lower hall of St Columba's Church. The mood was festive, attracting a lively crowd, many were old friends, some were newer dancers. People came from all over the UK as well as Switzerland, France and the Netherlands. Arthur Govan, an expert piper, played his pipes to much applause.

It was especially poignant that John Tyler, our wonderful teacher for many years was able to come, and to see our tribute to him, in the form of a demonstration. We danced parts of five dances written by John, plus a last dance *Thanks to Daniel*, which celebrates the contribution of Daniel Capron, our other founder, who sadly died in May of this year. These interesting and approachable dances are collected together in *Reels & Rainbows*, which can be bought in paper form or as a downloadable pdf from the Leeds bookshop.

Our expert MC for the ceilidh was Simon Wales (who has called for every ceilidh we have had) and the lively tunes of the Caledonian Reelers contributed to the party atmosphere. Huge thanks go to everyone who contributed to the party, it was a night of fun and laughter. The whole event felt like a celebration of inclusivity and the joys of Scottish dance.

See picture on p8

*Credits:* Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of *The Reel*, including the following for providing photos: p1: All Stephen Hartley; Where is This? - Stephen Webb. p2: Richard Clarke - Christopher Bowen; Joanne Lawrence - from herself. p3: Caledonian Reelers - Simon Wales (SDW); p5: Wing Musicians - Jan Jones. pp6-7: Day School - all SDW. pp10-11: Budapest Weekend - Doyenne of the Day School - Mariko Hurano; Jenny Greene - Peter Knight; Gay Gordons ceilidh - Murrrough Landon; New Season Dance - all SDW. pp10-11: Meryl Thomson - from herself (MT); My Love - from Mrs Stewart's Notebook - RSCDS archive; Miss Farquharson's Reel - Bremner 1775 - from MT; Miss Farquharson's Reel - Thompson 24 CDs 1771 - IMSLP, public domain; My Lover's Butt a Lady Yett - William Vicker's Tunebook - public domain; My Love She's But a Lassie yet - Aird Selection Vol II - IMSLP, public domain; My Love is But a Lassie Yet - Wilson Companion 1816 - public domain; My Luv She's But a Lassie Yet - Frederick Hill Ms - from MT; Multum in Parvo - Rook manuscript - public domain; The Gordon's Ha' the Girrding o't - Petrie 3rd Coll - IMSLP, public domain; Polka Country Dance - W.P. Reid collection - from MT. p12: Summer School - from Mel Rowland; Simon Wales - Petar Petkovic. p13: Judy Dix - from her daughters Katharine and Lindsey; Elma McCausland - from herself; David Parkin - Stephen Webb; Iris Anderson - from London Branch archives.

## Forthcoming Events

### READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

#### Annual Ball

Saturday 7 February 2026  
7.00 - 11.00pm

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

#### Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

*Programme:* The Lady Wynd, Orpington Caledonians, The Robertson Rant, Torridon Lassies, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloch, Slytherin House, Ray Milbourne, Best Set In The Hall, Broadway, Toast to the Mousies, Swiss Lassie, City Lights, Neidpath Castle, The Countess of Dunmore's Reel, The Ship in Full Sail, Sands of Morar, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The Castle of Mey, Triple Happiness, Glastonbury Tor

Tickets £28 including reception drink and supper with a glass of wine

Contact: Katy Kendall, 07890 153294 or  
[sasdco1@gmail.com](mailto:sasdco1@gmail.com)

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



### BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB

#### 74th Highland Ball

Saturday 14 February 2026

6.30pm welcome drink  
7.00-11.00pm dancing

NEW VENUE: Berkhamsted Town Hall,  
196 High Street, Berkhamsted HP4 3AP

Free parking available nearby (see website for details), 5 min walk from Berkhamsted Station

#### Nicol McLaren and the Glenraig Scottish Dance Band

*Programme:* Hooper's Jig, Maxwell's Rant, City of Belfast, Neil M Grant, Blooms of Bon Accord, Applecross Strathspey, Airie Bannan, Orpington Caledonians, The Robertson Rant, Trip to Timber Ridge, Interval, Joie de Vivre, Ray Milbourne, Schiehallion, The Waternish Tangle, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Jennifer's Jig, Toast to the Mousies, The Byron Strathspey, Pelorus Jack, The Reel of the Royal Scots

Tickets £33.00

Book early as space is limited

Supper served at the interval, paid bar available

Contact Simon Cumming, 01494 782695

[booking@berkhamstreedreelclub.org](mailto:booking@berkhamstreedreelclub.org)  
[berkhamstreedreelclub.org/events/highland-ball-2026/](http://berkhamstreedreelclub.org/events/highland-ball-2026/)

#### Highland Ball Practice

Saturday 7 February 2026, 10.30am-5.00pm

Potten End Village Hall, Berkhamsted  
HP4 2QG Parking available

Bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee available

£11 full day, £6 half day, pay on the door

[berkhamstreedreelclub.org/events/ball-practice-2026/](http://berkhamstreedreelclub.org/events/ball-practice-2026/)



### WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS

#### Day School

Saturday 24 January 2026  
10.00am - 4.00pm

Portesham Village Hall,  
Malthouse Meadow DT3 4NS

Teacher: Sue Locke

Tickets £10 Optional Lunch £5

Tea/coffee and biscuits at 9.30am on arrival

Please email the following information to Liz Mason: Name, email address, phone number, dancing experience and meal preference i.e. BYO/pay £5

Make payment by BACS to Weymouth Scottish Country Dancers  
Sort Code 30-99-56, Acct No 00713729

Please use DS<your name> as BACS payment reference

Contact Liz Mason (Treasurer)  
[WSCD1314@gmail.com](mailto:WSCD1314@gmail.com)

#### Highland Ball and Supper

Saturday 21 March 2026  
7.00 - 11.15pm

Herrison Hall, Charlton Down,  
Dorchester DT2 9UA

Contact Graeme Dickson  
[graemedickson1@aol.com](mailto:graemedickson1@aol.com)

### HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

#### New Year Ball

Saturday 3 January 2026  
7.30 - 11.30pm

Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree WD6 3PJ

#### Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

*Programme:* New Year Jig, The Lochalsh Reel, Linnea's Strathspey, The Waternish Tangle, The Falls of Rogie, MacDonald of Keppoch, Jim's Haberdashery, Ray Milbourne, Indian River Strathspey, The Rutland Reel, Napier's Index, Scott Meikle, The Swan and the Tay, Bauldy Bain's Fiddle, The Dancing Master, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, The Plantation Reel, The Water of Leith, The Aviator, Trip to Timber Ridge

All dances will be recapped

Tickets, including refreshments, £28 if paid by 27 December and £30 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 7 March 2026

Colin Dewar and Bob Parsons

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



# Forthcoming Events

RSCDS MILTON KEYNES

## Annual Dance

Saturday 14 March 2026

7.00 - 11.00pm

Wing Village Hall, Leighton Rd. LU7 0NN

Ian Robertson's Band

*Programme:* EH3 7AF, The Code Breaker, Slytherin House, Macleod's Fancy, The Falls of Rogie, The Darlington Dancer, Liquid Assets, The Highland Rambler, Butterscotch and Honey, Chased Lovers, Granville Market, Trip to Timber Ridge, The Gentleman, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Maxwell's Rant, The Garry Strathspey, The Golden Sun of Early Spring, Bratach Bana, Miss Eleanor, Miss Lucy Clark

Tickets £17

Bring and Share Supper

Tea/coffee provided.

Contact Jan Jones, 07877 153259 or

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

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

THISTLE CLUB

## Hogmanay Dance

Wednesday 31 December 2025

8.00pm - 12.30am

Gt. Brickhill Hall, Rotten Row, MK17 9BA

Chris and Julie Dewhurst

Programme

[my.strathspey.org/dd/list/57705/](http://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/57705/)

Tickets booked in advance £17

Bring and share supper

Contact Jan Jones 07877 153259 or

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

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

MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB



## New Year Dance

Saturday 10 January 2026  
6.00 - 10.00pm

Carnation Hall, Chavey Down Road,  
Winkfield Row RG42 7PA

Ian Muir (Prestwick)  
and his Scottish Dance Band

*Programme:* New Year Jig, Reel of the Royal Scots, City of Belfast, A Tribute to West Renfrewshire, Whistlin' in the Kitchen, Thank You Patricia, The Ship in Full Sail, Thomas Glover's Reel, The Winter Garden, Duke of Perth, EH3 7AF, Miss Lucy Clark, The Bonnie Lass o' Bon Accord, Toshogu Shrine, Miss Johnstone of Ardrrossan, The Daffodil, The Bees of Maggie Knockater, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, The Zoologist, Trip to Timber Ridge

Dances will be walked through once

Tickets £22.00

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

Tel: 01628 628372 or

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

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

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB



## Christmas Dance

7.00 - 10.30pm

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

Frank Reid's Scottish Dance Band

MCs Cindy & Trevor Clarke

*Programme:* The Lady Wynd, John of Bon Accord, Indian River Strathspey, The Aviator, Sleepy Maggie, Tartan Rainbow, St Andrew's Fair, Sands of Morar, The Fireworks Reel, Mairi's Wedding, The Singing Sands, The Moffat Weavers, The Plantation Reel, The Minister on the Loch, Fugal Fergus, MacDonald of the Isles, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Trip to Timber Ridge

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 & cribs are on our website

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

Forthcoming LHC event

Saturday 31 January 2026

## New Year Dance

Dave Hall Trio

RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH

## The Cheltenham Ball

Saturday 10 January 2026

7.00 - 11.00pm

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

## The Craigellachie Band

*Programme:* Ecclefechan Feline, Earl and Countess of Wessex, Midsummer Common, The Chequered Court, Castle of Mey, Sandy's Scotch Broth, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Currie Mountain, Far North Queensland, The Dancing Master, Waternish Tangle, Flower of Glasgow, Forty and Counting, The Dreamcatcher, It's Just for Fun, The Sailor, The Water of Leith, Farewell to Balfour Road, The Reel of the Royal Scots

Tickets £35.00 Students £20.00

Advance booking only

Light supper included

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

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

## 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)

RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY  
BORDER BRANCH



## Day School

Saturday 14 March 2026

Venue: Edgbarrow School, Crowthorne  
RG45 7HZ

Teacher: Fiona Mackie

Class Musician: Adam Brady

Musicians Day School: Luke Brady

Evening dance with Day School musicians

Contact: Paul Plummer

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

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

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

## Burns Night Supper & Dance

Saturday 17 January 2026

6.30 - 11.00pm

(note earlier start/end times)

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

Ian Muir & Craigellachie Band

Programme: to be published on our website  
Dances will be recapped

Tickets £24

Including haggis supper

Contact: Helen Houghton-Carr

07531 469213 or

[events.rscdsoxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:events.rscdsoxfordshire@gmail.com)

## Day School and Dance

Saturday 21 February 2026

10.00am - 4.30pm

Cherwell School (North Site)  
Oxford OX2 7EE

Teachers: Lindsey Ibbotson,  
Alasdair Brown, Alice Stainer

Musicians: Jeremy Hill, Ken Martlew,  
Barbara Manning

Tickets: Whole day & evening £38  
Morning or afternoon £12 each  
Evening dance £20  
Evening dance 7.00 - 10.30pm, including  
finger-food buffet

## Strathallan Band

Programme: Good Hearted Glasgow, Catch the Wind, Linnea's Strathspey, The Jubilee Jig, The Provost Wynd, Radcliffe Square, The Moudiewort, The Athenaeum, J.B. Milne, Kendall's Hornpipe, Allt An Duin, Midsummer Common, Miss Allie Anderson, Starlight, The Swan and the Tay, Farewell to Balfour Road, The Deil among the Tailors

Dances will be recapped

Applications available from our website

Contact: Helen Houghton-Carr  
07531 469213 or

[events.rscdsoxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:events.rscdsoxfordshire@gmail.com)  
[rscdsoxfordshire.org](http://rscdsoxfordshire.org)



[www.rscdsoxfordshire.org](http://www.rscdsoxfordshire.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 third issue of the current cycle for *Reel* 332 - 335.

If you wish to cancel for the next cycle, 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, Northcourt Road, Abingdon OX14 1NS. All welcome. Details: [secretary@ascdc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ascdc.org.uk) or [Abingdonscottish.wixsite.com/abingdon](http://Abingdonscottish.wixsite.com/abingdon)
- ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Meets Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm September-May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Brenda Walton, 01483 829097 or 07747 025175 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](http://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](http://camscotsoc.org.uk)
- CHELTHENHAM BRANCH RSCDS** General Class/Club Night Mondays 7.30-9.30pm with Beginners' Section fortnightly at St Luke's Church Hall, St Luke's Place, Cheltenham GL53 7HP. Advanced class fortnightly on a Tuesday. Details: Lesley Taylor, 07712 578622 [cheltscdssec@gmail.com](mailto:cheltscdssec@gmail.com)
- CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets on Sundays 7.00-9.00pm in the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RG for social dancing. Beginners' courses are offered 6.00-7.00pm, please book in advance to [secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk](mailto:secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk). Details: Iris Ronayne, 07767 842670 [chiswickscottish.org.uk](http://chiswickscottish.org.uk)
- CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS** Branch class in Coulsdon: General, including Beginners with technique Fridays 7.30-10.00pm at Coulsdon Methodist Church, Brighton Road, Coulsdon CR5 2BE. Details: Alison Raisin, 07732 746238 or [rscds.croydon.chairman@gmail.com](mailto:rscds.croydon.chairman@gmail.com) or [rscdscroydon.org.uk](http://rscdscroydon.org.uk)
- EPPING 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)
- 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@gmail.com](mailto:lesteranne@gmail.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.fleetscdds@gmail.com](mailto:info.fleetscdds@gmail.com) or [fleetscdds.co.uk](http://fleetscdds.co.uk)
- GERRARDS CROSS AND CHALFONTS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets Tuesdays 7.30-10.00pm in the Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre SL9 and Thursdays 2.00-4.00pm in Little Chalfont Methodist Church Hall, HP6 6RD. Beginners and visitors welcome. Details: Suzanne, 01923 283730 or [gxchscottish.org](http://gxchscottish.org)
- 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 [janetmacphail54@gmail.com](mailto:janetmacphail54@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, Darkes 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)
- 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.rscdsxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.rscdsxfordshire@gmail.com) or [rscdsxfordshire.org](http://rscdsxfordshire.org)
- READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY** Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading RG1 5BD from September-May, Wednesdays 7.30-10.00pm (general), 1st and 2nd Thursdays of each month 8.00-10.00pm (advanced). Details: Duncan Barnet, 0118 956 9289 [duncanbarnet@gmail.com](mailto:duncanbarnet@gmail.com) or [scottishdancingreading.org](http://scottishdancingreading.org)
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Wednesdays 8-10pm with beginners' classes from 7pm during term time. Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RG. Details: Iris Ronayne, 07767 842670 or [richmondcaledonian.co.uk](http://richmondcaledonian.co.uk)
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD St Columba's Dancers meet most Mondays from October to May, 7.15-10.00pm. Admission free except for Band Nights when a charge will be made. Details: Willie Lawrence, 07798 640551 or [stcolumbasdancers@gmail.com](mailto:stcolumbasdancers@gmail.com) or [stcolumbasdancers.org](http://stcolumbasdancers.org)
- ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM** Meets every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm September-June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Kate Thomson, 0118 986 0681 [sec.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com](mailto:sec.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com) Also Children's Class Saturdays 9.30-11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- ST MICHAEL'S SCDC, SOMERSET** Meets Thursdays, 7.30-9.30pm, Davis Hall, Howell Hill, West Camel, Yeovil BA22 7QX. Details: Elspeth Wright, 07972 125617 or [stmichaelscdc.org.uk](http://stmichaelscdc.org.uk)
- 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: Alan Ip, [secretary@surbitoncaledonian.co.uk](mailto:secretary@surbitoncaledonian.co.uk)
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS** General ability class on Tuesdays from 7.30-9.30pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9AL. Details: Colin Simpson, 01892 832712 or [rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk](http://rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk)
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Beginners/Improvers Class at Nascot Wood Recital Hall, Nascot Wood Road, Watford WD17 4YS Mondays from 8.00-9.30pm and General/Beginners Class at All Saints' Church Hall, The Green, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3HJ Thursdays from 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff [reel@watfordscottish.org.uk](mailto:reel@watfordscottish.org.uk)
- WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** Dancing at Radipole and Southill Community Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 9SS. Thursdays, 7.00-10.00pm. Details: Graeme Dickson, 07831 819414
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Road North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 01264 363293 or [wendy@mumford.com](mailto:wendy@mumford.com)
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Labour Party Hall, Witham CM8 2EE. Details: Audrey Kennedy, 01376 513567 or [amkenney148@gmail.com](mailto:amkenney148@gmail.com)

## 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)

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