

# e Reelrsco

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY Formed 1930 Registered Charity number 1067690 www.rscdslondon.org.uk

**JUNE TO AUGUST 2018** 



Scottish country dancing-For fun, fitness and friendship



Issue 304





New face, Rebecca Hare (fiddle) from London joins Ian Robertson to give a great musical experience at St Columba Dancers' Band Night with MCs Lindsey Jane Rousseau and Rachel Wilton, (5 March 2018).

# Forthcoming Branch Dances

#### **End of Season Dance**

Following the Branch AGM Saturday 9 June 2018 AGM 6.45 - 7.30pm Dance 7.30 - 10.30pm Doors open at 6.15pm Upper Hall, St Columba's Church, Pont Street SW1X 0BD Calum Mitchell

Joie de Vivre 8x32 J
Summer Wooing8x32 R
Lammermuir Hills 8x32 S
Links with St Petersburg 8x32 J
The Summer Assembly1x88 R
The Middleton Medley8x32 M
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh 8x40 R
_
The Machine without Horses 8x32 J
Bohemian Reflections8x32 R
The Haar on Skye8x32 S
EH3 7AF 8x32 J
Glastonbury Tor8x32 R
Scotch Mist 5x32 S
Quarries' Jig 8x32 J
The Highlandman kissed his Mother 8x32 R
<b>3</b>

Admission includes light refreshments RSCDS members £13, Non-members £16 Full time students (with card) and spectators £7. All children (under 16) free All tickets to be purchased (cash only) on the door.

All dances will be recapped/walked through Crib available at www.rscdslondon.org.uk

## Open Air Dancing

Saturdays 18, 25 August, 1 September 2018

#### **New Season Dance**

Saturday 22 September 2018

#### Also in this issue...

Branch AGM Please take the opportunity to join us for our Branch AGM on 9 June 2018 followed by our evening dance (see *p3*)

## Dancing in South Wales

Alison Jackson tells us about the dance scene in South Wales (see p6)

poussette all round in The Gentleman at the Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club Highland Ball, held at Ashlyns Hall, Berkhamsted (10 February 2018).

Katy Kendall and Robert Bateson dance a

Looking for another CD? Jeremy Hill reviews CDs from The Carlingwark Collection CD set and Stirling at 90 (see p7)

Around the Clubs Invitation to a 100th birthday party, Ginny Colenbrander tells us about Unit 1 and Joan Desborough visits Lucy Clark (see p10)

In My Opinion Dancing teacher Philippe Rousseau takes the opportunity to voice his thoughts and Letters to The Reel (see p12)

Lives Remembered George MacLennan and Roger Waterson (see p13)

Issue 305 will be with UK based members by 1 September 2018 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent to arrive by

## Chairman's Column by Margaret Catchick

It is hard to believe that the Branch AGM is nearly upon us and another dancing season is at its end. We have seen changes which, I hope you will agree, are for the better including a new look *Reel* which is now run by the Editorial Team and the introduction of a family class where parents, grandparents, relatives and friends can bring children, enjoy the fun of dancing with them and introduce them to this wonderful pastime which hopefully they will continue with for years to come.

The Branch Annual Report for 2017-2018 is enclosed with this issue of The

Reel together with our Priorities for the coming year. You will see from the Annual Report that numbers attending our classes has fallen and we have therefore made the decision to reduce the number of classes we hold at Park Walk next season to two - one will be a Beginners and Improvers Class and the other will be a Technique Class for intermediate and advanced dancers. By combining the Intermediate and Advanced Class the intermediate dancers will benefit from dancing with more experienced dancers and the advanced dancers will benefit from brushing up on their technique whilst at the same time enjoying the social side of dancing. We are also looking at ways of reducing the cost of the classes at Park Walk next season in an attempt to attract new and existing dancers.

Encouraging more people to enjoy the benefits of Scottish country dancing by starting a beginners' class in a different area of London and focusing our publicity efforts at not only existing dancers but also at the non-Scottish dancing public are amongst our priorities for the coming season as is building on the success of the Family Class. The Committee will do all it can to achieve these aims but we will require your help and support in order for us to do so.

Glancing over our activities over the last few months, we celebrated Christmas dancing in style to the superb music of Ian Robertson and his Band, enjoyed a hugely successful Burns' Night ceilidh with excellent music provided by the Caledonian Reelers, and an enjoyable Winter Wednesday dance to wonderful music from Sandra Smith and Christina Hood.

Although the dancing season is nearly over we still have events to look forward to over the summer months starting with our End of Season dance which follows the Branch AGM on 9 June. In addition there will be three afternoons of open air dancing in Kensington Gardens to look forward to. Looking further ahead we have our Opening Season Dance in September, our Day School and Dance in October and our Christmas Dance on 15 December. There is something there for everyone so do come along and support these events which so many people work hard in organising on your behalf.

I look forward to seeing you on the dance floor.

#### Points of interest from Joanne Lawrence

#### GDPR: getting data protection right

You may already have heard about the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which came into effect on 25 May 2018, replacing the 1998 Data Protection Act. Most of us will already have received emails from companies and clubs giving us the option to opt in or opt out of future communications.

Any change in legislation can seem daunting, particularly to the administrators of small voluntary organisations. GDPR exists to ensure that personal data is collected for a valid reason and that individuals have the right to know what information is held about them and how it is being used. Thankfully we are assured that the new regulations represent evolution, rather than revolution, consolidating existing good practice rather than demanding onerous new processes. The expectation is that organisations will have a plan in place for complying with the new regulations. No one was expected to have every detail in place immediately although they must as a minimum maintain the standards required by the 1998 Act.

RSCDS HQ has taken advice from the UK Information Commissioners Office and has provided guidance for branches. RSCDS London Branch's data needs may be slighter than large commercial organisations; however, we still maintain multiple contact

lists including members, day school and dance class attendees, subscribers to *The Reel*, musicians, bands, teachers and others. Over the next few months we will implement the guidance, making minor adjustments to branch communications and processes. In practice the difference will be very limited but if you have any queries, please contact secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

#### Making subs payments easier

London Branch members pay their annual subscription by a number of different routes - bank card, credit card, PayPal, online, cheque. One thing these payment methods have in common is that the member must remember, and take the time, to make the payment each year.

No one likes paying bills and most of us avoid the chore in other parts of our life by using direct debit. Direct debit has not previously been feasible for RSCDS London but we have identified a supplier which specialises in working with small charitable organisations and, from summer 2018, we hope to be able to accept payment by this route. If you would like to know more contact secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

All the relevant information about the different options will be included with your annual membership reminder.

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ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY



Patron: H M The Queen President: Jean Martin Chairman: Helen Russell Chairman Elect: Andrew Kellett

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#### LONDON BRANCH

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#### Committee

Elaine Davies, Jenny Kendrick, George Potts, Jerry Reinstein, Thelma-Jane Robb, Margaret Shaw

#### Sub-Committee Co-ordinators

Classes	Jenny Kendrick
Day School	Margaret Catchick
Dances	Margaret Shaw
Publicity	Elaine Davies
	Elaine Davies

#### Non-Executive roles

Non-Executive roles
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Hon. ArchivistRachel Wilton
Membership Gaynor Curtis
The Reel Editorial Team Edward Bunting
Daniel Capron, Katy Sweetmar
Ian Thomson, Meryl Thomsor
Stephen Webb
The Reel Business EditorJeff Robertson
Subscribers
Webmaster Meryl Thomson

#### Objects of London Branch

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

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

www.rscdslondon.org.uk



www.facebook.com /RSCDSLondon



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## **London Branch Matters**

#### Membership

London Branch membership benefits include reduced rates at Branch classes, dances and events, and receiving *The Reel*, while RSCDS membership includes the biannual publication, *Scottish Country Dancer*, and 10% discounts on items from the RSCDS shop. Membership may be purchased via the Branch website www.rscdslondon.org.uk using PayPal or by cheque payable to RSCDS London Branch. See full details on website. Membership enquiries and cheque payments should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989, email: membership@rscdslondon.org.uk

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

	Aged 12-17	Aged 18-24	25 and over	Second branch member	Joint (per person)
The Reel electronically	£14	£20	£24	£4	£20
The Reel by post (UK)	£16	£22	£26	£6	£22
The Reel by post (Europe)	£22	£28	£32	£12	£28
The Reel by post (Rest of the World)	£25	£31	£35	£15	£31

#### **RSCDS London Branch Annual General Meeting**

#### 9 June 2018 from 6.45pm

The AGM of the London Branch will be held at St Columba's Church (Upper Hall) Pont Street, London SW1 0BD, on Saturday 9 June 2018. Tea and biscuits will be served at 6.15pm and the meeting will commence at 6.45pm. This will be followed at approximately 7.30pm by our End of Season Dance. Refreshments will be served during the interval of the dance. We would love to see members and friends of the Branch at both events and you are welcome whenever you arrive. However, only Branch members are entitled to vote.

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies for Absence
- 2. Approval of the Minutes of 10 June 2017
- 3. Matters arising from the Minutes
- 4. Report on the Branch Activities 2017-2018
- 5. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts
- 6. Confirmation/Appointment of Honorary President and Honorary Vice Presidents
- 7. Appointment of Officers and Committee of Management
- 8. Appointment of Auditor
- 9. Appointment of Branch proxy delegates to the Society  $\mathsf{AGM}$
- 10. Motions
- 11. Any Other Business

*Note 1*: As the number of nominations does not exceed the number of places available, there will not be an election under item 7. Nominations for the appointments at items 6, 8 and 9 will be taken from the floor at the meeting.

Note 2: The Report (Item 4) has been sent to members with this issue of *The Reel*. The accounts and minutes of the previous meeting will be available at the AGM. Members can apply to: treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk and secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk respectively to see them in advance.

#### MOTIONS (Proposed by the Committee of Management)

With immediate effect the RSCDS London Branch Constitution and Rules shall be amended as follows. The amendments are written in italics and are highlighted:

#### 1. CONSTITUTION - VII Receipts and Expenditure

1. Second sentence - delete 'All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary, or in the absence of one of these officers, by the Chairman of the Committee' and replace with 'All cheques drawn on the account must be signed *in accordance with the current mandate*'.

#### 2. RULES - Membership and Subscriptions

3. Delete 'six' and replace with 'three' so as to read 'Any member whose subscription is *three* months in arrears shall be deemed to have resigned.'

#### 3. RULES - Office Bearers

6. The Honorary President shall be appointed annually for a period of up to five years which shall run consecutively. This period of appointment may be further extended on a yearly basis at the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Local Association. (amended from 'a maximum of five years which shall run consecutively')

A copy of the Constitution can be found on the Branch website www.rscdslondon.org.uk under 'Our Branch'.



#### South East Classes Listing

We regularly update the classes listing on www.rscdslondon.org.uk (under SE Events).

Would you please check your group's information and send any amendments to seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk or call Jan Collings on 07803 923036.

#### Families in London Dance Scottish

Family classes will continue to take place at the excellent new venue called Fresh Ground in Battersea Rise from September. Look out for future class dates in the next edition of *The Reel*, on the Branch website or Families in London Dance Scottish Facebook page.



#### Reel Archives on the London Branch website

The Reel was founded in September 1951, the brain-child of Hugh Foss, chairman of the RSCDS London Branch. He was assisted by Tony Lindsell-Stewart and the first editor Irene Stewart. It was originally published six times per year with up to four pages per issue, and since 2005 a quarterly publication of up to 20 pages. Many topics of interest today such as interpretation of dances, ballroom etiquette, promoting Scottish country dance and RSCDS branch membership are covered by erudite and witty articles and letters.

All previous issues of *The Reel* to date are available to view in PDF format on the Branch website under *The Reel* Archives section. There is an index page for each batch of 25 issues which includes a list of the highlights for each issue.

#### South East Dance Diary

The diary on the Branch website is regularly updated. For a hard copy please send a SAE to Caroline Hamilton.

All societies in the South East may submit their functions for inclusion in the diary by emailing diary@rscdslondon.org.uk or by post to Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW

If you wish to receive London Branch information by email (not more than once a month), please send your email address to <a href="mailto:publicity@rscdslondon.org.uk">publicity@rscdslondon.org.uk</a> and we will add you to the list.

# London Branch Dances and Classes



# Open Air Dancing in Kensington Gardens

The Branch will be running informal open air dancing during the summer in Kensington Gardens (by the bandstand near the Round Pond) on the following dates:

Saturdays 18 and 25 August 2018 and 1 September 2018 Time: 2.00 - 4.00pm

An MC will guide everyone through a programme of popular and ceilidh dances. Everyone with or without experience of Scottish dancing is very welcome. Bring your family and friends, or just bring yourself (and a picnic if you wish) and enjoy dancing to some wonderful music. Admission is free.

Please put the dates in your diary and do come along - we look forward to seeing you there!

If the weather is bad, we may have to cancel the dancing. Please check our website www.rscdslondon.org.uk or Facebook page www.facebook.com/RSCDS

# RSCDS London Dances 2018-2019 Season

The following dance dates are confirmed for next season. Events take place at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X OBD apart from the Day School.

2018

22 September Opening Season Dance

Craigellachie

20 October Day School Evening Dance

(venue see details above)

lan Robertson and Day School Musicians

and July Control Madretanic

24 October Autumn Wednesday Dance Sandra Smith and Barbara

Manning

15 December Christmas Dance

David Hall and his Band

2019

12 January Burns' Ceilidh Dance

Caledonian Reelers

20 February Winter Wednesday Dance

30 March Combined Societies' Dance Frank Reid and his Band

29 May Summer Wednesday Dance

8 June AGM Dance

For details of all our events please visit www.rscdslondon.org.uk

#### **Day School Advance Notice**

Saturday, 20 October 2018

NEW VENUE

St Helen's School, Eastbury Road, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3AS

(see website for updated information)

Teachers (in alphabetical order):

Emma Allsop Pat Houghton Tom McKinlay

Andrew Nolan

Musicians (in alphabetical order):

Barbara Manning Ken Martlew Chris Oxtoby Sandra Smith

Musicians' Workshop led by: Ian Robertson

Evening Dance with Ceilidh items: Ian Robertson and the Day School Musicians

Classes to suit everyone. DON'T MISS IT!!

Full details in the next Reel

#### **EVENING DANCE**

Saturday 20 October 2018 6.00 - 9.00pm Venue: St Helen's School lan Robertson and the Day School Musicians

The Wild Geese8x32 J
The Music Makars8x32 R
Jean Martin of Aberdeen 3x32 S
The Honey Moon (MMM)8x32 J
None so Pretty8x40 R
The Birks of Invermay 8x32 S
Red House8x40 R
The Saltire Society Reel8x32 R
Miss Hadden's Reel 8x32 J
The Silver Tassie 8x32 S
The College Hornpipe8x32 H
The Duke of Atholl's Reel 8x32 J
Culla Baysq 4x32 S
The Reel of the 51st Division8x32 R



#### Summer General Classes

Graded classes close at the end of May, but we continue with a general class suitable for our class members, and other dancers with some experience of Scottish country dancing. Please come along - all welcome.

**Wednesdays** 6, 13 and 20 June 2018, 7.00 - 9.00pm

With teachers Alison Raisin (6 June), Emma Allsop (13 June), and James Fairbairn (20 June), and musicians Barbara Manning and Sandra Smith

Class fees: £9 per night (RSCDS members), £10 per night (non-members)

Venue: Park Walk Primary School, Park Walk,

London SW10 0AY

Underground: South Kensington, Sloane

Square.

Free on-street parking available after 6.30pm

Buses: 11, 22, 19, 49, 328, 319, 345

No entry into the school permitted before 6.40pm. No smoking or vaping on school premises.

Contact: Jenny - classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

#### **Next Season**

Full details of next season's Wednesday classes at Park Walk and other venues will appear in the next edition of *The Reel*.

Park Walk Autumn Term 2018

Beginners and Improvers; Technique

Wednesdays 25 September - 28 November (half term 24 October), 7.00 - 9.00pm

Classes Christmas Party - 5 December 2018

## St Columba's Church

Upper Hall, Pont St, London SW1X 0BD

Wednesdays 2.30 - 4.30pm during term time
Summer term finishes on 27 June 2018

#### **Mixed Ability**

with teacher Jeni Rutherford

A social class suitable for dancers with at least some knowledge of basic steps and formations. Visitors welcome.

Class fee: £7 per class to recorded music

For further information contact Jeni at jrutherford@freeuk.com

Underground: Knightsbridge, Sloane Square.

Buses: 19, 22, 137, 452, C1

#### Richmond

Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RT

Wednesdays 7.30 - 10.00pm during term time (beginners 7.30 - 9.00pm, improvers 8.00 - 10.00pm)

Summer term finishes on 27 June 2018

#### Beginners and Improvers

with teacher Judith Jones

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

Class fee: £6 per class to recorded music Underground/Train: Richmond.

Buses: 65, 190, 371, 391, 419, 490, 493

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#### SERTA comes to Kings Langley by Ian Stewart

Few of us realised what a treat we had in store when Maureen Haynes came to lead the SERTA workshop 'Innovation with Simplicity' on 18 March 2018 about the dances of Derek Haynes. I have great memories of Derek teaching pas de basque at Pitlochry Winter School for 40 minutes and being gripped



the whole time as he very carefully built up the step. Those who say step practice is boring have not been taught by Derek!

Dancing dances is one thing but being able to understand how they came about adds a whole new dimension. I was fascinated by Maureen's explanations of how Derek's dances were written and I really wanted to look at them in more detail and dance more of them.

So, what was it about Derek's dances that I had not appreciated before? Their key attribute is that they are basically simple but with innovative variations, creating exciting new formations. For example, Derek's inspiration for the 'targe' came when he was watching a 'ladies chain' being danced somewhat inelegantly. One also has to laugh at the story behind Neidpath Castle - Derek only had three men for his

demonstration team, so he devised *Neidpath Castle* to overcome the problem. Derek never forgot that a dancer was dancing with their partner and gave ample opportunity in his dances to acknowledge this. Maureen demonstrated how Derek made his dances flow without challenging movements; he also gave a great deal of thought to the transition from second to third time through. Other dances came from something Derek was reading - weaving in Paisley hence *The Paisley Weavers*. Sometimes the tune inspired the dance, but more often the dance came first.

We had an excellent day thanks to Maureen's teaching, Calum Mitchell's sympathetic and uplifting playing and the superb organisation by Jane Rose and the SERTA Committee. When the end of the workshop came, there was a certain degree of sadness that it was over all too soon and there was so much more we wanted to find out - when are you coming back Maureen? (A full list of Derek's dances have been uploaded to our SERTA website and copies of his books, *The Carnforth Collection*, are available from Maureen.)

The next SERTA workshop is being held on 30 September 2018 with Malcolm Brown (Convenor of RSCDS Education and Training Committee). Our workshops are all open to both qualified and non-qualified teachers as well as those interested in considering teaching at some point in the future.

Please see our website for further information www.serta.org.uk

#### News from RSCDS HQ from Daniel Capron

#### Youth Services Committee Presents the Virtual Festival

The Virtual Festival is a new competition organised by the Youth Services Committee and all RSCDS Branches and Affiliated Groups are invited to enter. The idea is to get a group of dancers together to perform a unique dance based on the theme 'Around the World'. Although the routine must be mostly made up of Scottish country dance steps and formations, the dances, surroundings and costumes should reflect and enhance the theme.

Videos of the final piece should be submitted by Friday 5 October 2018.

Details of criteria required for the videos can be found on the RSCDS website www.rscds.org/article/virtual-festival along with a flyer and an entry form.

The videos will be judged by three judges on Saturday 27 October 2018 with the winners being announced during the RSCDS AGM and Conference Weekend on Saturday 3 November 2018.

#### Coming Soon: A New Website For The RSCDS

The RSCDS is undergoing a change to its official website. A complete revamp will aim to better suit the needs of Branches, Groups and members and appeal to the worldwide arts and dance community and those in the public who may have never heard of the Society.

A website review, lasting over 18 months, included feedback from staff at Coates Crescent, the Management Board and Committees, Branches/Affiliated Groups and members from around the world. The responses sent in were collated and formed the basis of a website brief to ensure highlighted areas of issues and the lack of functionality are addressed, rectified and improved upon.

HQ are excited to share this new website with Branches and hope to have a working development site ready for testing by all Branches in late summer, where they will ask Branches for feedback.

**Reminder:** The RSCDS Summer School 2018 takes place at St Andrews from 15 July to 12 August. For more details, and to book, see <a href="https://www.rscds.org">www.rscds.org</a>

#### Other News

RSCDS Executive Officer Chris Milne left his post at the Society at the end of May, to focus on other commitments in his personal life. News from HQ is also available in *Scottish Country Dancer*, in regular emails from HQ to members and on www.rscds.org

#### Are you going to Summer School this Year? by Stephen Webb

In 1973 the RSCDS was celebrating its Golden Jubilee and released a 16 page brochure to mark this occasion. It also had a pull-out leaflet printed on golden yellow paper entitled A suite of three dances commemorating the Golden Jubilee of the Society 1923-1973. This publication could be purchased separately on white paper and gave historic music and description of three new dances (reel/ jig/ strathspey) devised by Publications Committee. The dances were Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich/ The Jubilee Jig/ Miss Milligan's Strathspey. These dances have stood the test of time and all had at that time, unusual aspects to them which have added to keeping the dancers' interest alive over the years. Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich has a left shoulder half reel of four/ The Jubilee Jig starts with a cast off/ Miss Milligan's Strathspey has a knot - all revolutionary figures then but more common place today. John Drewry had submitted a strathspey for this book but although it was liked, the Publications Committee already had Miss Milligan's Strathspey but needed a reel so it was decided to change the tempo of this submitted dance to that of a reel. John Drewry's strathspey Ysobel can be found in The Bankhead Book Part 5 where the last half of the dance can be seen to have been changed around in Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich. John Drewry adds a humorous footnote to his instructions disliking the interference, as he put it, of his dance especially the left shoulder entry into the half reel of four and where the setting occurs.

The photo is of the 1973 Summer School staff taken on the Lumsden lawn at the University of St Andrews.

From the left

Back row: Margaret (née Church) Nelson, 1?, 2?, 3?, Dorothy Johnston, Alastair Aitkenhead, Bobby Munro,

Hope and Bill Little, Tihi West, Bill Hamilton.

Middle row: Anna Holden, Winifred Carnie, Margaret Anderson, May Yarker, Wilma Miller, Jean Milligan,

Lilian (Margaret) Ross, Nancy Arnott, Katherine (Kitty) McLauclan, Mary Stoker, Phyllis Draper, Susan Inglis, Dorothy Kinghorn.

Front row: Bill Clement, PM John (Jackie) Johnston, Jim Rae.

Thanks go to Robert Mackay for assisting with the recognition of some of the staff.

In the photo (right) three members of staff cannot be identified. Can you recognise these three ladies and if you can help please tell us at the Editorial Team at editor@rscdslondon.org.uk



#### Dancing Destination - South Wales (Cyrchfan Dawnsio - De Cymru) by Alison Jackson

"It is so far away" was the cry that went up when - many years ago - I was first involved in organising a national conference in Cardiff for a professional organisation based in London. On that occasion the initial conference had to be cancelled for lack of

numbers, and we spent the following year canvassing on behalf of Cardiff and Wales, before then running a highly successful event. Being asked by Stephen to write about Scottish country dancing in Wales for The Reel felt a little bit reminiscent of that experience. We are not that far away (in fact. Cardiff is the nearest to London of all the other UK capitals), and we do have lots of SCD. You could go to a social dance somewhere in our part of Wales most Saturday nights in the year. To my knowledge there are at least twelve different classes being run throughout our area on different nights of the week. When I say 'our area' I would like to make it clear that I mean South Wales. There is no North Wales RSCDS Branch, although I am aware that there is plenty of SCD across the north of the principality. And in both parts of Wales there are many dancers who are not RSCDS members but who enjoy regular attendance at classes and social dances

However, even South Wales as a Branch has its geographical challenges. I have already mentioned the fact that one could dance most Saturday nights. Yes, that is true. However, one would have to be prepared on some occasions (and depending on where one lives) to drive for an hour-and-a-half or two to get there. The Branch stretches from Pembrokeshire in the west to Monmouthshire in the east, and from the southern coastal strip containing Swansea and Cardiff north to Brecon and Builth Wells. If one was to mark out the land boundary of what could be defined as the South Wales Branch area, the line would run approximately south-east to north-west, from Chepstow to Aberystwyth (although, sadly, there is no longer an active dance group in Aberystwyth). By my reckoning, our total Branch area covers about nine thousand square kilometres, which is about six times as big as London. Yet our membership currently totals just over sixty. I gather that London Branch membership is about four hundred and sixty.

Solving where to Meet up: Having a relatively small membership spread over a large area does create some difficulties in planning events. Should these be held centrally so as to maximise numbers? But that means that almost everyone has to travel. Will we attract more beginners if we stay local? But that means that we reduce the support from the opposite end of the Branch. On modest numbers, can we afford a big-name band from Scotland? Should we subsidise special events? The answer is that we do all of these. For example, we have introduced the practice for some events of running two parallel dances, one in the west and one in the east. For other events we try to alternate, or we opt for the Swansea area as central and therefore equally (in)convenient for all!

**Top Musicians:** I should make it clear that much of the dancing in South Wales is organised by local clubs and groups, some affiliated to the RSCDS, some not. Apart

from during July, August and September local clubs run monthly dances in West Wales, Swansea and Cardiff. Given the wide geographical spread it is difficult to hold large-scale events, which makes paying for live music quite difficult. However, over recent years South Wales dancers have had regular (in some cases annual) visits from such top musicians as George Meikle, Frank Thomson, Iain MacPhail, Ian Muir (Prestwick), Luke and Adam Brady, James Gray, Ian Robertson, David Queen, Andrew Lyon, and Phill Jones. We have just had Marian Anderson and her Band playing for us at our Annual Ball in April, and we are delighted to be welcoming them back again for our 50th Anniversary Ball on 27 April 2019. We also have an accordionist and a keyboard player in our own area who perform as 'Take Two' and add verve and flair to lots of our events and who sometimes even stray outside Wales to play for dances elsewhere.

Our Dances and Other Events: Apart from the local dance events the Branch itself runs about ten or eleven dancing occasions each year, including a new season dance, a residential weekend, a St Andrew's Night supper, newcomers' dances, walk-through dances for less-experienced dancers, an annual ball and finally a Festival of Dance, currently held on a June afternoon in (if weather permits) the open air at the Brecon Mountain Centre and followed by an evening dance at a local village hall. We also hold day schools/half-day dance workshops and (last season) a workshop on MCing, recapping and compiling a dance programme. Speaking of dance programmes, last year two of our dancers came upon the programmes for the first Branch AGM dance (July 1969) for our first (Jubilee) ball in February 1974, with the Danelaw Band providing the music. Apart from the fact that it - obviously - features no contemporary dances, this Jubilee Ball programme could almost have been compiled today. It included such evergreen favourites as The Sailor, Hooper's Jig, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Polharrow Burn, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder and The Silver Tassie. As a commemoration, we are planning to use it for an event next season. However, given that it contains 24 dances (and three extras), and the evening was scheduled to go on until 1.00am, we may be curtailing it a little - after all, we are all 44 years older now!

Our Dance Devisers and their Dances: In terms of dances which are popular in our area, we have been lucky over the past few decades to have access to considerable numbers of dances written by devisers living

in Wales. The devisers with which others outside Wales may be familiar are Alex Gray and the late John Rigby (interestingly, both mathematicians). Alex's dances (see http:// my.strathspey.org/dd/ person/154) include favourites such as The Border Weavers, Rachan Mill, The Mathematicians, Ilka Joy and Edina's Pride (in which he originated the figure known as the Swirl). In the most recent of his four Tweeddale Collections he included a rather lovely strathspey called The Hana Strathspey which contains another of his figures, the

Helix. Alex himself recounts how he devised this to mark the occasion of the RSCDS Tokvo Branch 25th Anniversary celebration. At the first dance of the weekend the Japanese folk song Hana (Cherry Blossom) was used as an alternative tune for Miss Gibson's Strathspey, and the dance crystallised in Alex's mind. When he taught it the next day the dancers spontaneously burst into song as they danced. (Some Reel readers may also have witnessed Japanese teams performing the dance - and the song - at Summer School ceilidhs in St Andrews.) CDs for Alex's dances have been recorded by his son James and others, with the proceeds being used to help promote younger dancers.

John Rigby's dances were published by John himself in two slim volumes. These include dances (see http://my.strathspey.org/dd. person/1047) which have been adopted enthusiastically by the Cardiff Caledonian Society dancers, such as The Monday Night Reel (written specifically for the Cardiff Caledonian Society), The Weakest Link (a wry look at the well-known guiz game), and a stylish dance based on the famous gospel manuscript, The Lindisfarne Strathspey. John loved creating complex patterns based on Celtic spirals and knots, some of which have been taken up as demonstration dances in South Wales and beyond. He also enjoyed devising somewhat tongue in cheek alternatives to well-known dances, as in Six Belles of Bon Accord, and Five Couple MacDonald of the Isles (Big Mac).

In Conclusion: In common with many branches, RSCDS membership in South Wales is declining somewhat, as well as ageing. However, we do have some younger dancers, and we are delighted to see on the horizon a whole batch of babies, toddlers and young children whose parents and grandparents are avid dancers. So a new class may be in the making..... We also try to reach out to a wider public, and although we no longer have a Branch dem team, ad hoc groups perform demonstrations or run workshops at such venues as local festivals, primary schools, Brownies, or older people's clubs.

We love having visitors, and indeed we do have regular visits from some London Branch dancers who have family in our area. There have also been dancing visits from personal friends, several day school teachers from London Branch, and occasional drop-in visits from dancers who happened to be holidaying in the area. Please come and see us if you are down our way - it is not so far away after all! See our website on

www.rscds-southwales.org.uk



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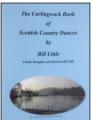
## **Music Matters**

#### CD Reviews by Jeremy Hill

The Carlingwark Collection CD set: three CDs, with music from James Coutts and his Band, Scott Band and his Scottish Dance Band, and Ian Muir and his Band: CDs available at £12, or £30 for the set of three, from RSCDS Leeds Branch shop rscdsleeds.uk as well as the Carlingwark Book, £10.

Dances: Thirty dances written by Bill Little, with additional tracks including *Mairi's Wedding* (8x40R - James Coutts) and *Fidget* (8x32R - Scott Band). See Leeds Branch website for full details.

I have only met Bill Little once, at my first ever day school, in Manchester over thirty years ago, but the class has stuck in my memory for its precision, energy and enjoyment. I also remember some of the dances we did, which I later filleted to cobble together what became *The Westminster Reel* (originally, or rather unoriginally, named *The Day School Reel*). I do not remember whether any of his own dances featured, but this book, published by Castle Douglas and District RSCDS, demonstrates that devising dances has been a constant thread in his dancing and teaching career, which continues in Castle Douglas Branch even to this day, aged 94.



This is a CD review, and it is always difficult to give a true reflection of a set of dances based purely on reading and imagining, but I like the look of the dances: built around formations combined in different ways; a good variety of dance lengths; generally they look to be very danceable across a range of standards - several were written in the context of children's classes or competition - and present something for everyone.

It is clear from the book's introduction that, for Bill, the combining of music and dance has been much of the source of pleasure, with tunes

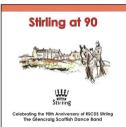
carefully chosen for the dances: 13 of the 30 dances are strathspeys, with pastoral or song tunes for seven of those. Some

original tunes will be familiar, such as *The Cradle Song* for *Jessie Cannon's Strathspey, Duncan Gray* for *The Haggis*, and Scott Skinner's *Miss Dow's Fancy* for *Rooftops* (one of a dozen dances this tune has been selected for). Around half the originals are more recently composed, including Bill's own composition for *Miss Alison Veitch*, and others by Gordon Shand, Ian Holmes and George Meikle.

Castle Douglas Branch have done Bill proud on the musical side, through the publication of three excellent CDs alongside the book of dances. The 30 dances are interspersed with some additional tracks (see above). All have been put together with real care, and each (or all) can be recommended, with strong line-ups, good clear

sound, tempi well-judged and alternatives matched. For listening purposes, the preponderance of airs and song tunes reduces variety, but all come across well for dancing purposes.

If I had to choose one of the CDs, it would be James Coutts', where Graham Berry's piano, as always, provides beautiful rhythm, harmony and counterpoint to enhance, but not supplant, the strong lead from James, but there is great playing across all three discs. Scott Band has a fiddle in the hands of Gillian Ramsay in his six-piece band, but Ian Muir equally creates variety in his four-piece, particularly through Duncan Black's second accordion. The 'filler' tracks are all good value, with James Coutts having fun with Ian Powrie's Continental Waltz Jimmy and Mickie, matched by Ian Muir's Scandinavian Waltz.



Stirling at 90: The Glencraig Scottish Dance Band: CD £12, and the book Bannockburn 700, can be obtained by sending your name and address with a cheque made payable to RSCDS Stirling for £7.30, (£6 for book + £1.30 p&p). to Jane Balman, 27 Ochiltree, Dunblane FK15 0DG.

Dances: Stirling at 90\* (32R), Bannockburn 700 (8x40J), Miss Shearer's Strathspey (8x32S), The King's Knot\* (3x32R), Jim's Haberdashery (8x40J), Janet's Cup of Tea (4x32S), Gowan Hill\* (4x32J), Argyll's Farewell to Stirling (4x40R), The Annet Burn\* (2x32S+2x32R medley), Birls Allowed (8x32J), The Walkers of Avonlea (4x32S), The Silver Castle Reel (8x40R),

Mrs Milne of Kinneff\* (4x32S), The Reel Archie! (4x32R), The Treasurer (8x32J), The City of Stirling Reel (8x32R). Ed. The book dance order differs from CD order.

Equally strong is Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig's new CD. Although entitled 'Stirling at 90' this CD contains all the music for Stirling Branch's Bannockburn 700 book, plus five other dances (instructions for which are included on the CD leaflet and indicated with an asterisk above), which were added for the 90th Anniversary of the Stirling Branch. The book was launched in the summer and comprises 11 previously unpublished dances with a connection to Stirling.

Nicol McLaren has a six-piece band including Isobelle Hodgson, another pianist whose creative contribution keeps you interested in listening throughout. There is a full sound in quite a resonant acoustic.

Original tunes, as with the Carlingwark book, include traditional, well-known, modern and freshly composed, including four of Nicol's own. The sets are nicely constructed, with Nicol contributing a number of other tunes, and sequences of tunes by Robert Mackintosh, and Michael Philip (for whose band Nicol plays second accordion). The reels come across particularly well, including Argyll's Farewell to Stirling, with Mrs MacPherson of Inveran as the lead tune (the first two turns) and other pipe tunes to follow. There is also a beautiful set for Mrs Milne of Kinneff, widely popular and included in the RSCDS 75th Anniversary leaflet.

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See www.rscdslondon.org.uk for details or contact Maggie Westley, 30 Stanley Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4LF or reelsubscriptions@rscdslondon.org.uk

#### **Branch Bookstall**

The Branch bookstall is at your service for the sale of Scottish country dance booklets and CDs and Branch badges. The small Pilling 9th Edition book is for sale at £6, and the large print version for £10. They can be bought at Branch events, or sent out by post. Daniel expects to be at the AGM and dance on 9 June with the bookstall. He also attends a number of other dances at Pont St. He does not bring the whole bookstall stock to such events, but would bring particular item(s) by arrangement in advance. Current stock is listed on the Branch website,

www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Contact Daniel (see below) with any queries or orders.

bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk 74B Thurlow Park Road, London SE21 8HY

The Dancing World...

# ...in Pictures







10. Visitors from Estonia, Ingrid and Sirli at the London Highland Club Annual Ball, with members of the RSCDS International Branch. From left: membership secretary Joan Nesbitt, Ingrid Velbaum-Staub, chairman Michael Plumley, Sirli Velbaum-Staub and treasurer and co-editor of the IB Newsletter Jan Jones, (3 February 2018).



4. Congratulations to south east SCD enthusiast Peter Dixon, who celebrated becoming an octogenarian with friends, (20 February 2018).



5. London Branch Chairman, Margaret Catchick in her other capacity as President of Wembley & District Scottish Association with Master of Ceremonies, Graham Hamilton greet their guests at the annual 'A Nicht wi' Burns' at Northwood Golf Club, (26 January 2018).



8. Frank Bennett dons his cap and coat to head off home, with his wife Elizabeth, after a great evening of dancing to the big band sound of lan Muir of Prestwick at LHC Annual Ball, (3 February 2018).









12. Maureen Campbell and Iain Farrell at the West MACS Charity Ball with Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig Band, (14 April 2018).

## Around the Clubs

# How often have you been invited to a 100th Birthday Party? by Rose and Stuart Kreloff

Never? Well, now is your chance..... Watford Scottish celebrates 100 years of promoting Scottish culture and dancing in the Watford area in 2019.



fiddle, Alex Stoll on keyboard and Dick Hobbs on double bass at Allum Hall, Elstree, (17 March 2018).

moving across the border after the Great War of 1914-18 stopped just short of London and settled in Watford to work in the printing industry. They founded a Scottish Society which is now open to anyone with an interest in Scotland and its rich traditions as well as providing the chance to learn and enjoy Scottish country dancing.

From the glory days of the 1950s and 60s when society membership was at its high point, Watford has like many other societies found it difficult to attract new members. Social mores

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have changed and there are many other calls on people's time. Our annual Caledonian Ball is still a highlight of our dancing year and attracts more than 110 dancers. We are also delighted with the success of our beginners and improvers class which now numbers a pool of 25+ members, many of whom attended this year's ball on 17 March.

As a society we want to offer the famous 3Fs that the RSCDS mentions in its strapline [fun, fitness and friendship] to our dancers while at the same time promoting technique and attention to all facets of good dancing. We plan to carry this aim forward into our next century - 100 years is one reason to celebrate and having Muriel Johnstone and lan Robertson playing for us at our Grand Centenary Ball on 16 March 2019 at Allum Hall is another. Never been invited to a 100 year birthday party? You have now! Please save the date.

See www.watfordscottish.org.uk

# Ginny Shares More - Now Unit 1

Saturday morning 3 February 2018, five candidates waited nervously in the library of St Columbus Church, Pont Street for the countdown to the Unit 1 written teaching exam. Memories of school came flooding back as I carefully laid out my pens, 6 in total (I was planning to do a lot of writing!) ready to regurgitate The Manual. Not surprisingly, in a silent two-hour exam, there are no eruptions of laughter to report, just the noise of pen on paper and the scraping of the odd chair! In the weeks leading up to the exam I had worked ridiculously hard learning The Manual inside and out resulting in my brain being swamped with historical RSCDS dates; leaving little room to think clearly when asked a simple question on foot positions and the rules for the strathspey setting step. Stepping it out around the room was not permitted but I did manage five minutes of secret foot ballet under my desk to help me think straight. The two hours whizzed by in a flash and soon the words, "put your pens down please," were voiced by Pat Davoll and the start of the anxious six weeks wait for results had begun! Thanks go

#### Joan visits Lucy Clark by Stephen Webb

It was the evening of 1 February in Great Missenden, outside it was chilly, but inside in the warmth of Oldhams Hall guest teacher Joan prepared her class by teaching A Reel for Alice as a warm up challenging the class from the beginning. Numbers fortunately were right for this five couple dance, as they mastered the overlapping figures of eight danced simultaneously on the sides. Joan Desborough, a beautiful dancer in her own right had been asked specifically to teach the poussette and for this she demonstrated the spring, beat, beat required by the pas de basque for the class to imitate. Joan, who has high standards, said that as she watched the class showing their best setting steps



that the heads settled down eventually to bobbing more or less together. Her exercise set, move, turn about and move was a preparation for the poussette which like the step improved with practice. Then, on to the dances: Joan had chosen Summer Wooing and The Reverend John MacFarlane to put what had been taught into practice. These gave extra interest in the poussette as in both cases entry was a little unusual. After the break the class was taught Dagmar's Fancy and Bobby Munro's Gothenburg's Welcome devised in 1992 with its testing three, four bar corners change, pass and set formations adapted from the original movement first seen in 1973 in Marigold by James Cosh. Joan then refreshed the class with the steps used in the highland schottische which she incorporated in to a schottische partner dance and after a suitable cool down to waltz music; this concluded a very enjoyable and social evening of Scottish country dancing.

to Pat Davoll of SE Branches for all the exam administration, organising the day and together with Rachel Wilton for invigilating. See *Reel* 303 *p12* for Ginny's Units 2 and 3 experience.

Ed. Congratulations go to the successful Unit 1 candidates Ginny Colenbrander, Fiona Henniker, Roy Southall, Kate Thompson and Ingrid Velbaum-Staub.

The next Unit 1 examination will be held on 20 October 2018. Details can be found at www.rscds.org/article/unit-1 Anybody wishing to take this in the London area should, in good time, contact Pat at patdavoll2@gmail.com

Errata: *Reel* 303 incorrectly stated the units David Smith (Somerset Branch) passed - in fact he passed Unit 5.

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#### Book review of SCD in diagrams (Pilling), 9th Edition by Daniel Capron

As many dancers will know, this small green book, better known as 'Pilling', contains cribs for a number of popular dances in very concise form in diagrams. Many find it a useful *aide-mémoire*, for dancers to keep in a sporran, handbag or pocket and use to remind them of dances. The system of diagrams was devised by the late FL Pilling in the 1940s and the first edition of the book was published in 1955 (but in a light grey cover). Since 1967 it has been updated by a small committee and new editions issued every few years. A bigger (A5) version in larger print has also been available since 1998. The 9th Edition has recently been published and follows the same format as earlier editions. It contains diagrams for 589 dances, including

most of the dances that appear on dance programmes nowadays. Dances in previous editions now danced rarely have been omitted from the book but the diagrams can be found on the website, www.theweegreenbook.org which also contains a detailed history.

I have found Pilling very useful and recommend all dancers to consider using the new edition. But it has disadvantages. It is just an aide-mémoire and the original instructions should be consulted for full and precise information. Moreover, not all dancers find Pilling diagrams easy to understand. Some find other formats more helpful, such as Minicrib or YouTube. Moreover the most recent edition of Pilling does not cover all the dances in a typical programme. The 9th Edition includes RSCDS dances up to Book 50. It will cover less as time passes and new dances are published or become popular. A more comprehensive source is the Strathspey server http://my.strathspey.org/dd, containing information on over 18,000 dances, including in many cases dance diagrams.

Pilling 9th Edition is available from the Branch bookstall (see p7).

Ed. See previous copies of *The Reel* (available on the London Branch website) No.29 p3 first 1956 review, follow-up letters No.30 p3 and No.31 p2, No.222 p8 Interesting article. Also No.287 p13 and follow-up letters No.288 p12.

#### Two of a Kind - Happy Returns



Two happy people; Berkhamsted members Judy Snook and Bill Barr have a secret which they shared last month on the May Day club evening. The day before, Judy celebrated four score years (although you will agree with all that dancing it has kept her looking young) and farmer Bill on the day after celebrated his three score and five years. So, at the dance the club members were able to wish them both Happy Birthday, in song and that was appropriately followed by Bill dancing with Judy as the first couple in the top set in the reel Happy Returns, from Miss Milligan Miscellany.



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#### Appendix to Parts 1 and 2 of Adrian Conrad's The Scottish Dancing Legacy of Hugh Foss

The Definitive List of Hugh Foss Dances 1-69 (Given as an encouragement to dancing more Hugh Foss Dances)

- J Airie Bennan GS02a1966
- S Alister McAlister GS251968 2
- J AM Shinnie AF071954 3
- S Anne CA021965
- R Auchencairn GS12 1966
- 6 S Auld Robin Gray DST011966
- R Awa', Whigs, Awa' DST021966
- J Ballochmyle House GA071964
- J Balmaclellan GS411969
- 10 J The Banks of the Devon (SU)
- J The Belfast Almanac GS241968 11
- M Belhaven B011963 12
- 13 R The Black Craig of Dee GA011964
- J Cairn Edward GA021964 14
- 15 S Cairnsmore of Carsphairn GS18b1967
- R Caller Herrin' DST031966
- 17 R The Cambridge Hornpipe L c1971
- J Captain Whiteside GA131964 18
- S Castles in the Air DST041966 19
- J The Celtic Brooch CB011964 20
- J Christie of the Clinthill WF111963 21
- 22 J The Clachan KS021960
- R Clatteringshaws CA071965
- J Coldside Jig AF151954 24
- R Cousin Jim AF111954 25
- S Crossmichael GS131966 26
- 27 S Curleywee GA031964
- 28 R Cutty Sark RC111978
- S Dandie Dinmont WF021963 29
- 30 R Draw the Sword, Scotland RC051978
- R Dr Robertson AF051954 31
- J Dugald Dalgetty WF091963
- R Duncan MacCalman CA041965

- 34 S Dundrennan GS221967
- S The Earl of Angus and Arran WS021969
- R Earlstoun Loch GS01a1966
- J Elizabeth Adair AF011954
- J Flitting GS141966
- R For Lack of Gold DST051966
- J Forteviot Jig AF101954
- J The Fountain GS111966 41
- S The Four Stringer AF131954
- 43 J Fugal Fergus WF011963
- 44 R The Gallant Weaver DST061966
- 45 R The Garple Burn KS031960
- R Gladstone GS471970
- M Glasgow Caledonian Strathspey and Reel Society AF091954
- S Glenfiddich RC041978
- 49 S Glengrant GS461970
- R Glenlochar GS161966
- S The Green Well of Scotland GS151966
- R Greenwich Hill GA101964
- J Hamilton Races GA041964
- J He Danced Awa' GS03a1966
- 55 R The Heights of Alma GS261968
- R Hey, Johnnie Cope DST071966
- J The Highland Troop GA111964 57
- S In Garb of Old Gaul DST081966
- 59 R Inver Inn GS04b1966
- S Irongray GA121964 60
- R JB Milne AF161954
- J A Jig for Liz CA031965
- J Jig Wi' the Snap AF121954
- J John Grumlie DST09 1966

- 65 S John McAlpin GA141964
- 66 S John of Badenyon DST101966
- R Ken Bridge GA051964
- 68 S The Kendoon Strathspey KS011960
- 69 S The Kirrie Kebbuck GS441970

#### Dances 70-138 will be listed in Reel 305 Key to abbreviations

- ΑF Angus Fitchet Scottish Dance Album
- Belhaven
- CA The Castledeen Album
- The Celtic Brooch CB
- DST Dances to Song Tunes
- Four Dances Sara L Gordon FD
- The Galloway Album GΑ
- GS Glendarroch Sheet
- KS The Kendoon Set of Dances
- Leaflet
- MMS The Mantua-Makers Set (leaflet)
- MJR Miss Jean Raeburn (leaflet)
- NE Notes on Evolution in SCD
- The Rose Collection (ed. Bob Donald) Posthumous Publication
- Source unknown
- WF The Waverley Fugues
- WS The Wagstaff Set (leaflet)

All Bold except blue: Dance description and/ or diagram in SCDDB on Strathspey Server Red dances referred to in The Reel Issue 302. Green dances referred to in The Reel Issue 303.

Blue **Bold** visit SDA:

www.dancearchives.co.uk/instructions.htm

# Letters to The Reel

#### The Belt and Waistcoat

Bravo, Stephen Webb on the kilt belt article. It has always been my understanding that a belt is not worn with a formal waistcoat.

I have observed on occasion a Prince Charlie waistcoat held by a pair of white clip braces to prevent the kilt slipping during an evening's dancing. The kilt retains a uniform length throughout and allows post banquet meal comfort rather than readjusting a belt. If properly placed the offending straps are hidden as are the clips at the top of the kilt which should then sit higher than the low edge of the waistcoat.

Traditionally a three-piece suit should not be worn with both belt and braces but the bottom button of the waistcoat is left undone *de rigueur*, however it should be noted that with a Prince Charlie style waistcoat that would not look quite right.

#### Jon Allen-Friend, Toronto, Canada

Ed. It is thought, among other reasons, that leaving the bottom button unfastened was a courtesy shown to Edward VII when he was Prince of Wales who through necessity did this. Not applicable to evening dress.

#### The Tune makes the Dance

As you know John Reeve dedicated much of his spare time to whipping the layout of *The Reel* into shape in a flurry of activity just prior to going to print. During those many years I worked with John, the subject that most irritated him was the playing of the 'wrong tune' as he put it by respected bands ie who should know better and should play the tune that was intrinsically linked to a particular dance. Recently, I was trawling through old correspondence with him and felt that while his memory was still fresh in all our minds I would like to air this subject for him. John wrote in February 2006:

"I was especially disappointed when name withheld played some nondescript strathspey to accompany Swithland Woods for which a special tune has been written which absolutely makes the dance. It is played by David Cunningham and is on the

Leicester Branch Silver Collection CD. Listening to some of the other tunes *name* withheld played, I realised they all came from the very limited repertoire from which they play nowadays. This saves rehearsal time of course, or it could be laziness. They did not even play the right one for Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan. No doubt Muriel would be quite hurt if she knew that!

Interestingly, the Harpenden Reel Club has a list of dances, about 20, for which they insist the correct tune is played and this sits on top of the CD case where the music is kept. The dancers themselves need to know what the tunes are. If it was known that some dancers would not attend a function if the band was not interested in playing the right music, then the host club might lean on them. Bands that are good are David Cunningham, Sandy Nixon and Ian Muir from Prestwick. Karl Sandeman will play the right music if he knows it, and is very willing to play anything that people ask. Good for Karl "

(Published by agreement of Patricia Reeve) In 2006 I was circumspect on this matter as in the south we are very lucky to have so many good bands and the last thing we should do is inadvertently alienate them, so I told him: of course, what we perceive as 'the correct tune' may simply be 'the best tune' based on custom and practice, so care has to be exercised by us or we shall shoot ourselves in the foot! And I think you will agree we need both our feet to dance with! John did have a valid point though

and it would be interesting to know if any of

Yours sincerely,

#### Stephen Webb, Hemel Hempstead

our readers also agree with him.

PS I wonder how Karl is getting on in New York, he had said he would be popping back from time to time? (See *Reel* 287 p10).

#### An Alternative to New

Dear Editors,

I read Stephen Webb's article 'John, Janet and The Belt' in *Reel* 303 with a great deal

of interest. Although, I agree that it is good to recycle dancing attire to keep the memory of the original owner alive, there is another, more practical, reason for doing so. Scottish country dancing is not in itself an expensive pursuit. It is possible to attend a Saturday evening dance to recorded music for around £5. Refreshments may be provided, or be on an American supper basis. Unfortunately men's highland dress outfits are a glaring exception to this rule. A regular dancer will need a kilt, day and evening jackets and day and evening sporrans plus various accessories. If attending St Andrews Summer School or a similar event it is preferable to have two kilts. Trying to manage with one may result in it dancing home by itself at the end of the week! To buy all this new will leave very little change from £1,500.

However, highland dress is made to last so there is a strong market for any secondhand items that become available and they are usually snapped up. I think that charity shops in St Andrews may keep any kiltrelated items they are given to one side and put them on display during the four weeks of Summer School - I have seen examples in shop windows. The difficulty is that second-hand gear is not necessarily available when needed or in the size that is needed. Is there any other solution to kitting out a new dancer without spending a fortune? Yes, there is. Men's dress hire shops such as Moss Bros. include a range of kilts, jackets and accessories in their stock lists. When they have been hired out a few times they are sold off at a discount although the choice of tartans is limited. Both these sources will help with putting an outfit together without breaking the bank, and once this is done it should last a lifetime because highland wear is almost immune to the vagaries of fashion. The exception is an evening jacket, as the buttoned-up Montrose doublet has nearly disappeared, replaced in popularity by the Prince Charlie Coatee.

Elizabeth Bennett, Worcester Park, Surrey

# "In My Opinion" by Philippe Rousseau

From 1961 to 1967 Philippe was trained in traditional and English country dance but in 1968 in Paris he found Scottish country dancing. From his first visit to the RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews in July 1969 and for the following 30

years he returned nearly every year. Philippe completed his RSCDS teaching certificates in 1982 and since then has taught classes, day schools and week-end schools mainly in France, Belgium and the London area. In 1996 he was invited back to teach for three years at St Andrews SS and in 1999 taught at the Winter School in Perth (Western Australia). More recently Philippe has taught the London Branch's Sunday technique classes. Philippe brings perception, a gentle assertiveness and conviction to all his teaching. Philippe has been a member of London Branch since 1984 (Also see Reel 295 p6 for further profile information).

Does technique matter so much in dancing? Questioning the emphasis put by the RSCDS on the importance of technique is not a new thing. There have been arguments against the standardisation 'imposed' by the Society upon a much freer tradition. Another, more widespread argument opposes the superfluous constraints of technique to the fun and enjoyment of dancing. Technique, why bother? The French sounding word conveys off putting connotations of starchy dreariness, fussy narcissism, or scholastic pedantry. It always did in some parts of the Scottish country dancing world, where the charge or mockery was usually targeted at the RSCDS. It is still the case amongst dancers with a long experience, but many young people interested in Scottish dancing do not see the point of learning how to dance properly either - they prefer to show off amidst their friends and rivals rather than enhance their pleasure through carefully executed dancing, which would also increase the enjoyment of their fellow dancers. It is a pity. I will try to explain why, and get another obstacle out of the way.

Demonstration is not the ultimate goal, nor reference, in teaching or learning technique. Dancing and demonstrating are different,

even opposite, activities. Why then should one want to work at improving one's own technique? The answer is that it is the only way to really enjoy the sort of activity that Scottish country dance was and still is.

My reasons are:

- Because our world has estranged itself from the social experience of movement which prevailed in the society from which we inherited those dances, access to that enriching and uplifting heritage requires an initiation (and the acquisition of a good technique is part of it).
- Because the better the command of elementary skills - in posture, steps, basic formations, and style - the greater the pleasure experienced in moving about easily with the body interpreting the playful directions given by the music.
- Because such ease and freedom of movement allow for a richer and more pleasurable interplay of the dancers within the reduced society of the set.

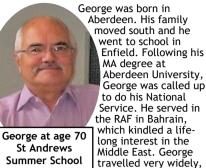
Many other good dancers can tell, from their own experience, how much their entire life benefits from such periodic breakaways into the lively, but well-regulated world of Scottish dancing.

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# Lives Remembered

#### Planner, Dancer, Pianist from Jimmie Hill, Edinburgh

George Alexander MacLennan 14 April 1936 - 24 February 2018



Summer School

especially in the Middle East and in India and Pakistan. His professional life was in town planning, first in Berkshire, then Paisley, then Clackmannanshire.

George was a keen country dancer and was often seen at dances in the company of Dorothy Leurs, Fay Golding and Sandy Gove. Having learned the piano as a child, it was a natural move from dancing to playing for dancing. Apart from playing in Edinburgh Branch, George was a regular on the staff at Summer School and greatly enjoyed the social aspect of life at St Andrews. He played regularly for day schools at home and abroad. He had a special relationship with the Eindhoven Group and the Cairngorms in London. George had a very dry sense of humour. He had strong views on country dance tunes and made it clear to a teacher if he did not like an original tune. But he always played it! Many will remember his warm-up and warm-down playing; he often finished with Plaisir d'amour.

At his memorial service in Edinburgh Robert Mackay played one of George's compositions, Claire's Quick Step. He will be remembered fondly by many country dancers both at home and abroad.

#### Travelling George from Peter Luke

The MacLennan family lived in Enfield and after University and National Service in early 1962 George joined Berkshire County Council. He also started dancing then with the local club in Reading and danced in the demonstration team. In summer 1963 George decided to return to Scotland and joined Paisley Council living in Glasgow where he got serious about dance music and purchased an accordion, but it was stolen! George then moved to the Clackmannanshire Planning Department buying a house in Alva where a short walk took one up the glen. His lounge there had a square bay window into which George fitted a small grand piano. I stayed with him and whilst there drove up to Elgin to collect his mother for a short holiday When we returned his new Hoover had been delivered so while his mother unpacked,

Sarah Burry, Peter Luke, Hazel Wainwright and George MacLennan dancing a strathspey poussette all round at Sol Joel Park in Reading in 1962 or 1963.

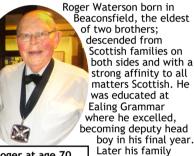


George started cleaning the lounge. His mother came down to find the boys half under the piano wondering why the Hoover had died! His mother remarked how sensible they were to have read the instruction manual before using it! The cleaner restarted once George had extracted the spare bags,

George took early retirement and moved to Edinburgh and in September 1982 he bought his home in Howe Street. George often travelled south to play for Day Schools including in Reading and in London and for many years was the musician for the Cairngorm/Munro Groups' Hogmanay parties and whilst he came down for the 2017/18 event he retired when he was told he had angina. George loved travelling - one friend was planning to visit relations in Australia so George went too and he went to Kenya with Sandy Gove. He would disappear for weeks visiting Pakistan and Gulf countries but these trips stopped when his health deteriorated. His last trip was with a friend to Portugal not long before he died.

#### A Kindly and Generous Man from Graham Cattell

Roger Stephen Waterson 15 May 1943 to 28 February 2018



moved to Purley.

Roger at age 70

Roger studied law at Magdalen College, obtaining LLB and Masters before becoming a Barrister, a career which he followed until his retirement. As a rate and taxation lawyer he would sometimes be asked for advice on any matters of concern - ever cautious, Roger's response was often prefaced by "ah, well - this is a subject upon which the law is somewhat vague".

Whilst at Oxford he took up Scottish country and highland dancing and for a time was President of the Oxford University Scottish Society. Roger also pursued his interest in the Gaelic language. He had learned the piano from the age of eight and bought his first accordion in the mid-1960s. As an accordionist, he often played for dances and

demonstrations in London but in 1971 he joined the Caber Feidh Band (formerly Bob Duncan's Band). This band played all over the south of England for more than four decades. In 1977 the Caber Feidh Band recorded an LP with 12 full length Scottish country dances.

Roger joined Jack McConachie's highland class at the Royal Scottish Corporation hall in London's Fetter Lane. Here, in the late 1960s,

Roger and I first met and, together with two ladies from the class, we formed a demonstration team called Fleur-de-Lys (named after Fleur-de-Lys Court, site of the RSC hall). As I was MC at the London Highland Club Roger soon joined. About this time the then President (Bob Gilmour) was

looking for a new treasurer - I suggested Roger - so began a 50 year commitment, during which Roger

was Treasurer. Committee Member, Vice President, and President from 1994 until 2013 then again finally a committee member. For many years he was also a trustee of the club. On 19 September 2017 the LHC presented Roger with a framed certificate



to commemorate 50 years of commitment to the LHC.

At the beginning of the 1970s the RSC decided to sell their premises. The search for an alternative venue led to the formation of the Combined Societies' Committee and Roger was appointed chairman. It was largely due to him that RSCDS London Branch, LHC and many others found a new 'home' at St Columba's Church in Pont Street.

Roger's interests were not confined to dancing and music: he was also a sports enthusiast playing rugby at school and later cricket and golf. The whole family were keen on football supporting Crystal Palace locally and even travelling as far as Finland in support of their Scottish team St Johnstone. On 26 September 1970 Roger married Annie McGowan, a fellow dancer. They had two children, Iain and Catriona. After Annie's death in 2014 Roger moved to Dorking to be nearer to his family. Bouts of ill health meant Roger was unable to spend much time in his new home. Then, from hospital he was moved to a care home. Throughout his last difficult months, Roger was realistic but remained cheerful particularly when he had visitors. Whenever possible, Fay and I met up with him. Roger kept up his standards, even never going out without his 'bonnet'. Roger passed away peacefully in Deepdene Care Home, Dorking. Roger will be sadly missed by all who knew him, particularly the Scottish dancing fraternity. He was a kindly and generous man; a staunch and loyal friend steadfast to his many commitments, who gave willingly of his time and abilities but asked for little in return.

Ed. Attending his Service of Thanksgiving, it was clear from the many friends that came that Roger was well liked and respected, all speaking warmly of him, by recalling times past often illustrated with humorous anecdotes. And as one friend concluded, "A life well lived".



From left: LHC Chief Graham Cattell, Rosalind Zuridis, Roger Waterson, Roger Keeling, Fay Cattell, Karen Barter, Suzanne Forrow, Frank Bennett, Catriona Bennett and present LHC President Peter Furrow (19 September 2017).

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#### We can help you afford it

The RSCDS and the London Branch recognise the importance of supporting the teachers, musicians and dancers of the future. RSCDS scholarships are available for young members (25 and under) to attend RSCDS residential schools as a dancer or musician. Scholarships are available to RSCDS members of any age wishing to take the Teaching Certificate at Summer School. Details of these RSCDS scholarships are available at www.rscds.org under the Courses section.

London Branch also has funds to help young London Branch members travelling to any of the RSCDS residential schools or Spring Fling. Applicants from London Branch members for any of these scholarships should get in touch with our Secretary, Joanne Lawrence, via secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

We are a charity and want to help you improve your skills and enjoyment of SCD, and to support you in passing on your enthusiasm and knowledge to the next generation.



Founder member Jean Walker returns to celebrate SEHSCDS Diamond Jubilee at their Day School by cutting the proverbial cake and then launching the Diamond Jubilee's Strathspey Collection of dances, (21 April 2018).

## The Dance Corner

In Reel 303 we asked for details of 'lost' dances particularly those of post-war significance and we were pleased and grateful to receive from Susan Robertson, Dundee; June Templeman, Pitlochry; Andrew Nolan, Edinburgh and Sue Burridge, Lymington, the offer of originals of Princess Margaret's

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Strathspey-1948, The

Men of Angus-1952 and Adrian Conrad, South Croydon who in addition to these dances supplied originals including music of The Angus Reel-1949, Lord Stormont-1951, The Reel of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo-1959, The Gallant Cameron-1959, The Grosvenor House Strathspey-1965 and Canongait-1968 all also from that early period. These originals have been supplied to the Strathspey Server team to add diagrams and descriptions

THE GROSVENOR HOL

STRATHSPEY

MUSIC AND

FORBES N

for dancers to access (diagrams already available on SCDDB) and hopefully, bring back these once forgotten dances in to our dance programmes.

#### **CAN YOU HELP?**

And as previously mentioned dances where information is still sought are: Reel 296 Mary MacNab dances - Bonnie Prince Charlie, The Cameronians, Dunvegan Castle, Glengarry Waltz, The House of Fraser, Lewis Bridal Dance, The Lovat Star, MacLeod of Lewis, Orcadian Wedding Dance, Portree Lassies, The Sailors' Knot, The Whirlygig, The Brooch of Lorne and Friockheim; Reel 302 Whigmaleerie; Reel 303 Hugh Foss - The Banks of the Devon (NB Star Petronella is now available on SCDDB).

Next Dance Corner (Reel 305) will feature a new dance by John Brenchley.

# Forthcoming Events

Event Listing in date order - 6/6-22/8 RSCDS BHS Wednesday Dances p15, 1/7 RSCDS BHS Tea Dance p15, 1/7 Ian & Val McFarlane S/E Dance p14, 1/7 Chiswick Picnic Dance p15, 1/9 Thistle M/W, D/S & Dance p14, 1/9 LHC Ball p15, 29/9 BHS Dance p15, 5-7/10 Argyll W/E p14, 27/10 RSCDS Oxfordshire Ball p14, 26-28/10 Rechberg W/S & Ball p14, 10/11 Hayes Ball p14, 1/12 Harwell Ball p14

ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING **GROUP** 

Weekend School

Friday 5 - Sunday 7 October 2018 Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset TA19 9DT

Teacher: Dave Hall Musician: Robert Mackay For further information and brochure: email dillington@somerset.gov.uk or visit www.dillington.co.uk

www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH Golden Jubilee Ball Saturday 27 October 2018 7.30 - 11.30pm Headington School, Headington Road, Oxford OX3 7TD Ample free parking On the London-Oxford bus route with a stop near to the school lan Muir and the Craigellachie Band Full details in Reel 305 or visit our website Contact Helen Houghton-Carr, 07531 469213 or impala66@hotmail.com

www.rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk

RECHBERG SCOTTISH DANCERS Autumn in Gamundia An international gathering, workshop and ball Level: experienced Friday 26 - Sunday 28 October



www.rechbergscottishdancers.de Contact Ute Pitzal, gamundia@rechbergscottishdancers.de

> THISTLE CLUB Musicians' Workshop, Day School and Dance

Saturday 1 September 2018 10.30am - 4.30pm and 7.30 - 10.30pm Wing Village Hall, Wing LU7 0NN Teacher: Jim Stott Class Musician: Calum Mitchell Musician Tutor: Keith Smith Keith Smith and the Workshop Musicians Musicians' Workshop: £19 Day School: £16 Dance £10 and shared refreshments Contact Jan Jones, 07877 153259 or

> jange@verybusy.co.uk www.thistleclub.co.uk

HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH **ASSOCIATION Annual Ball** 

Saturday 10 November 2018 Full details in Reel 305 Contact Margaret Wallace,

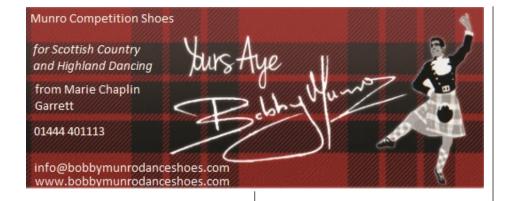
01895 633642 or margaretw4466@gmail.com

www.hayesscottish.org.uk

IAN and VAL McFARLANE cordially invite their dancing friends to a final Scottish / English dance Sunday 1 July 2018 4.15 - 8.00pm The Beaconsfield School, Wattleton Road, Beaconsfield HP9 1SJ Superb music provided by the Chris Dewhurst Band Contact Ian and Val McFarlane, 01494 672782 www.mcf107.com

HARWELL SCDC 70th Anniversary Ball Saturday 1 December 2018 Welcome drink at 7.00pm Dancing from 7.30pm Old Mill Hall, Grove, Wantage OX12 7LB Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band with supper by Grove WI

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LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming dances to be held at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1 0BD

Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 -10.30pm unless otherwise stated

Saturday 1 September: President's Night 7.00 - 11.00pm Sandy Nixon If you have highland dress, you are invited to wear it

Programmes and cribs are on our website: www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

For further details contact Catriona Bennett, 020 8286 8424 or cmb84scd@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening

#### **SCD Organisations Listing**

To update your listing below contact editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY
DANCE CLUB
Midsummer Magic
Picnic Dance

Sunday 1 July 2018 5.30pm - Dusk

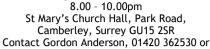
Chiswick House Grounds, London W4 2QN Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Scottish

Programme: A London Celebration, The Spring Fling Reel, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Postie's Jig, None so Pretty, Sugar Candie, Quarries' Jig, The Plantation Reel, Major Ian Stewart, Ramadan-ce, Fair Donald, The Compleat Gardener, A Trip to Bavaria, The Gentleman, The Starry Eyed Lassie, The Reel of the 51st Division

Tickets: Members £13
Students/Juniors/Spectators £6
Non-members £15
Bring your own picnic
If wet, dancing will move to the Pavilion
Contact tickets@chiswickscottish.org.uk
www.chiswickscottish.org.uk

RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH Summer Dancing Wednesdays from 6 June to 22 August 2018



events@rscds-bhs.org.uk Branch Strawberry Tea with Ian and Judith Muir Sunday 1 July 2018

2.30 - 5.30pm Carnation Hall, Chavey Down Road, Winkfield Row RG42 7PA

Dancers and ALL the family and friends are welcome to join in with a summer blend of dancing, entertainment and a cream tea Contact Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831 or

news-deborah@rscds-bhs.org.uk

Autumn Social
Saturday 29 September 2018
St Mark's Church Hall, Farnborough
GU14 6TU
Dancing to recorded music
from 7.30 - 10.30pm
Bring and share refreshments
www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

#### The Reel Advertising Rates

£6 per column cm in b/w, £8.50 per column cm in colour (three columns per page). A listing in the Other SCD Organisations section costs £7.50 per issue. All advertisers receive a complimentary copy of *The Reel*. Send adverts for the Forthcoming Events pages to Meryl at

danceads@rscdslondon.org.uk

Other adverts and enquiries on pricing to the Business Editor Jeff Robertson at businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk

# Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB. Dancing most Mondays, 7.45-10.00pm, Sept-June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details: Morag Brown, 38 The Holt, Abingdon, OX14 2DR, abingdonscdc@gmail.com or www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm Sept-May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Val Clack, 01932 845869 or www.addlestonescottish.org.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB meets in Potten End Village Hall, HP4 2QG. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15pm Sept-May, Sat. gardens June/July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8.00pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Dawn Dorman, Hill End Farm, Gorhambury, St Albans. Herts AL3 6AR. 07710 460623 or www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS. Technique Class, alternate Mondays Sept-April, 8.00-10.00pm Finchampstead Memorial Hall, RG40 4JU. General Class, every Wednesday Sept-May, 8.00-10.00pm St. Mary's Church Hall, Park Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2SR. Teacher: Mervyn Short.

Details: Alex Duncan, 01932 241615 or www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at Kinson Community Centre, Pelham's Park, Millhams Rd., Kinson, Bournemouth, BH10 7LH 7.30-9.30pm. Alternate Wednesday Technique class, by invitation. Details: Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Road, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX, 01202 698138 or margaret.brscds@ntlworld.com

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children.

Details: Rod Burrows, 01903 783053 or chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk or www.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 www.bhscdc.org.uk

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Jackie Cresswell, 01252 616289 or info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY Scottish country dancing and other events. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8.00pm from Sept-June. Details: Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or www.camscotsoc.org.uk

CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS Advanced Technique class Monday 7.30-9.30pm St Luke's Hall, Cheltenham GL53 7HP. General class Thursday 7.15-9.15pm Bettridge School, Cheltenham GL51 3AT. Beginners' class Monday 7.45-9.45pm Reddings Community Centre, Cheltenham GL51 6RF. Contact Margaret Winterbourne, 01242 863238 mj.winterbourne@btinternet.com

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30-10.00pm from October to end May, at St Andrew's URC, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN, 01242 528220 or mbsteele1945@gmail.com

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meet on Sundays 6.00-9.15pm, Sept-June, in the Upper Hall at St Michaels & All Angels Church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Road, London W4 1TX (turn right out of Turnham Green tube station, 70 yards).

Check www.chiswickscottish.org.uk for beginners and experienced dancers' start times and all activities. Details: Jacmel Dent, 07802 666 598 or secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH. Branch classes in Coulsdon: General, incl Beginners with technique (Fri); Advanced & Improvers (Wed) 8.00-10.00pm St Andrew's Church, Woodcote Grove Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2AJ. Details: Dorothy Pearson, 01737 551724

or rscds.chairman.croydon@gmail.com or www.rscdscroydon.org.uk EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Club night Mondays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at Christchurch Parish Hall, Wanstead Place, Wanstead, E11 2SW. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or angelaross87@hotmail.com or www.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 8pm, Sept-end of April at Weydon School, Weydon Lane, Farnham, GU9 8UG. Details: Pippa Peatman 01256 703909 or p\_peatman@yahoo.com or www.fscdc.co.uk

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.00pm, Sept-May. Details: Shirley Ferguson 01276 501952 or fergusonshirley7@gmail.com or fleet.rscds-bhs.org.uk

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD on Tuesdays from Sept -June. 7.30-10.00pm Visitors and Beginners welcome. Details: Suzanne Todd, 01923 283730 or info@gxscottish.org or www.gxscottish.org

GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. Meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Kate Fraser 020 8998 0571 or enquiries@greenfordcaledonian.net GUILDFORD SCDC meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford, GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from Sept-June. Details: 01483 456091 or www.gscdc.org.uk

# Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

- ...Continued from p15
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Details: Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts AL3 5RE, 01727 863870 or HSCDC.org.uk
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Also a variety of other activities. Details: Sheena Henderson, mail@harrowscottish.org.uk or 07719 985025 or www.harrowscottish.org.uk
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Fridays 8.00-10.00pm, Sept-July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, 01895 633642 or www.hayesscottish.org.uk
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB. Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 0208 440 3236 or margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS meet Wednesdays Sept-June at Holy Trinity & St John's C. of E. Primary School, St John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7.00-8.00pm. General 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Pat Gill, 01843 603391
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP. Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinity, JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or jcchanjoy97@gmail.com
  Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@gmail.com or Brenda Gale,
  01534 862357 or scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB meets regularly at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1X OBD. Details: adverts in *The Reel*, Catriona Bennett, 33 Pains Close, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1BY, cmb84scd@gmail.com or 020 8286 8424 or www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB meets Thursdays 8.00pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden, HP16 0BA. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL, 01494 562231 info@lucyclark.org.uk
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Piran's School, Gringer Hill, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7LZ. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372 or maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP meets every Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details: Dick Barford, 55 Northumberland Road, Maidstone ME25 7JG, 01622 685984
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at St Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent DA12 3HL, 01474 822919
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS. Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00-10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5LP, 01908 378730 or jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB. Dancing most Wednesdays during school term, 8.15-10.15pm from Sept-May at St Thomas' Church Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, SG6 4DZ. Informal Saturday dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds SG17 5AL or 01462 812691
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dancing 7.45-10.00pm most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: David Reid, 22 Thamesbank Place, London SE28 8PR, 020 8311 7282 or david@davidfromblighty.plus.com
- NORWICH RSCDS. Dancing on Mondays from Sept-May/June at the Dance & Drama Studio, Sewell Park College, Constitution Hill, Norwich NR3 4BX. Beginners from 7.00-8.15pm and general dancing 8.20-9.30pm. Details: Sue Petty on 01603 741639 or secretary@rscds-norwich.org.uk
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners'/Improvers' Class every Monday 8.00-10.15pm at St Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or hadyndavies@gmail.com or www.orpingtonscottishdancing.com
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS. Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Christine Jeffery 01844 278242 or <a href="mailto:christinej201@hotmail.com">christinej201@hotmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:www.rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk">www.rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk</a>
- READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY. Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading, RG1 5BD from 8.00-10.00pm, Sept-May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st & 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Sue Steele, 4 Avenue House, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, Reading RG4 7EF, 01189 464704 or suesteele43@gmail.com or www.scottishdancingreading.org
- REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets most Mondays 8.15-10.15pm, Sept-May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com or www.reigatescottish.org.uk

- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00pm from mid-Sept. to mid-June. Details: www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk or 020 8878 3445
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP. Dancing Tues 8.00pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. St Columba's Dancers meet most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10.00pm. Admission free except for Band Nights when a charge will be made. Details: Valerie Strachan, 020 8693 5355 or valeriestrachan@btinternet.com or www.stcolumbasdancers.org
- ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM meet every Thurs 8.00-10.15pm Sept-June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Sue Davis 2 Larkswood Dr, Crowthorne, 01344 774344 or alan.suedavis@gmail.com Also Children's Class Sats 9.30-11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT hold weekly social dance on Thursday evenings from 8.00-10.00pm at Collingwood School, Springfield Road, Wallington SM6 OBD. Details: Maggie Westley, 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157, or westley.maggie14@gmail.com
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB meets every Tuesday from Sept-May, 8.00-10.00pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Mrs Josephine Ellis, 26 Byng Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8EJ or josephine@ellismp.plus.com
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin, 48 Eastbrook Road, Blackheath SE3 8BT, 020 8856 4522
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Fridays, 7.30-10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808 or graham.easton@btinternet.com or www.seess.org.uk
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS. Classes for all standards, in Hertford, Tuesdays in term time. Monthly dances Sept-June, in Ware, usually second Friday. Sunday afternoon Family Dances once a term. Details: Ian, 07842 034890 or sehscds@hotmail.com or see www.sehscottishdance.org/news
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday at 8pm from Sept-June at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY or www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS. Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8.00-10.00pm and advanced classes Thurs 8.00-10.00pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9AL, Details: George Daly, 1 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells TN2 5UE, 01892 534512 or www.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 Class at All Saints' Church, The Green, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3HJ Thursdays from 8.30-10.30pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or reel@watfordscottish.org.uk
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm Sept-June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net or www.sehscottishdance.org/Welwyn
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dance Class Mondays 8pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW, 0208 866 2378 or info@wdsa.co.uk
- WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS (Formerly South Dorset Caledonian Society). Dancing at St Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177
- WIMBLEDON. St Andrew Society (London): Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm at Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1SB. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3JB, 020 8540 1755 or araffan@googlemail.com or www.standrewsoclondon.x10host.com
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS. Classes Tuesdays 8-10pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover SP10 3NQ, 01264 363293 or wendy@mumford.com
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Alex Daniel, 01621 855548 or alexsdaniel@aol.com

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

p1: Left - Ian Thomson; Right - Stephen Webb (SJW); Bottom - Adam Trigg Photography. p2: Jerry Reinstein; p3: Keith Miles cartoon - permission Joan Miles. p4: SJW. p5: SERTA - Jane Rose; St Andrews - from SJW. p6: Alison - SJW; Logo courtesy RSCDS South Wales Branch; Dem - Alan Smith. p7: Jeremy Hill - Simeon Jackson; Scan of Stirling at 90 CD - SJW. Centrefold: 1, 2, 11, 12 - Margaret Catchick; 3, 5, 8, 10 - SJW; 4 - Armaiti Bedford; 6 - Ian Thomson; 7 - Adam Trigg Photography; 9 - Tony Ellam. p10-12: SJW. p13: George - SJW; Peter and George dancing - from Peter Luke; Roger - SJW; Certificate - Catriona Bennett; Group photo from Elizabeth Bennett. p14: Dance booklets - Adrian Conrad; Jean Walker - SJW.

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