



The Reel

rscds
London Branch

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SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2016

Scottish country dancing –
For fun, fitness and
friendship



Above: At the Branch AGM on 11 June, President Rachel Wilton presents Vice-President, and former Editor of *The Reel*, Wilson Nicol with his Branch Award, accompanied by Wilson's grandson Euan Miller (see p7).

Left: On a beautiful afternoon for open air dancing in Kensington Gardens (6 August), Andrew Kellett dances up with Catriona Stewart during an interval demonstration of *The Happy Meeting*. Chris Walker and Barbara Manning provided the music on the bandstand.

NEW SEASON DANCE

Saturday 10 September 2016

7.30 – 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

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

Strathallan Scottish Dance Band

The Laird of Milton's Daughter	22/10
The Kissing Bridge	47/9
Lord Elgin's Reel	26/5
The Weathercock	Graded 2/16
General Stuart's Reel	10/3
The Glasgow Highlanders	2/3
The Frisky	26/10
Autumn in Appin	31/5
The Countess of Dunmore's Reel	49/12

Tribute to the Borders	Leaflet
Cadgers in the Canongate	9/10
Culla Bay	41/2
The Starry Eyed Lassie	23/11
The Cumbræ Reel	28/8
Up in the Air	20/2
Jennifer's Jig	Silver City/4
City of Belfast	48/6
Sleepy Maggie	11/5

Admission includes reception drink and refreshments

RSCDS Member: £12.00, Non-members: £15.00

Full time students (with card) & spectators £6.00

All children (under 16) free

All tickets to be purchased (cash only) on the door

All dances will be recapped

Crib available on the website

LONDON DAY SCHOOL EVENING DANCE

Saturday 15 October 2016

6.00 – 9.00pm

Paddington Academy, Marylands Rd,

London W9 2DR

Ian Muir and the Day School Musicians

The Laird of Milton's Daughter	22/10
The Piper and the Penguin	Scotia Suite/6
The Lea Rig	21/5
Napier's Index	45/8
West's Hornpipe	5 for 1965/3
The Gardeners' Fantasia	46/2
Quarries' Jig	36/3

The Ladies of Dunse	26/11
Major Ian Stewart	35/4
Culla Bay	41/2
Catch the Wind	45/5
The Nurseryman	37/7
Johnnie Walker	Whisky Collection/7
The Reel of The Royal Scots	Leaflet

Evening dance with ceilidh items will follow the

London Day School

RSCDS members £7.00, Non-members £8.00

Tickets available in advance or on the door
See p3 for details of the Day School, or visit the
website for more information and to download the
application forms

www.rscdslondon.org.uk/

All dances will be recapped

Crib available on the website

AUTUMN WEDNESDAY DANCE

Wednesday 26 October 2016

7.00 – 10.00pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

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

Sandra Smith & Christina Hood

EH3 7AF	40/6
A Highland Welcome	Craigievar 1/8
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	Leaflet
Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel	Graded 1/7
Fisherman's Reel	Dunblane Holiday Bklt
Seann Triubhas Willichan	27/9
The Montgomeries' Rant	10/1

Joie de Vivre	39/2
The Royal Deeside Railway	40/9
The Haar on Skye	Graded 3/7
Knit the Pocky	11/1
The Dream Catcher	45/9
Berwick Johnnie	Graded 1/14
Mr Michael Bear's Reel	Graded 2/5

Extra:

The Reel of the 51st Division	13/10
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Admission includes light refreshments

RSCDS members £10.00, Non-members £12.00

Full time students (with card) and spectators £5.00

All children (under 16) free

All tickets to be purchased (cash only) on the door

All dances will be recapped/walked through

Crib available on the website

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

I am pleased and honoured to be Chairman of London Branch. Thank you to Andrew Kellett for his leadership over the last three years, and to all the members of the Committee and volunteers who have worked hard on behalf of the Branch. Thank you also to those members who came to our AGM and endorsed not only the various changes to the Constitution but also our priorities for the 2016-2017 season, which are:

- Maintain the upward trend in membership and numbers attending our classes and dances,
- Give more opportunities for beginners to learn SCD, and
- Make better provision for advanced dancers.

The Committee will do its best to achieve these aims, but your support is also needed in order for us to do so. We run classes at every level, and currently run two classes for beginners. In addition, we are starting a new beginners' class in Stanmore in September (*see p5*), but it is also our aim to make better provision for advanced dancers. So please support our classes as well as supporting our dances. If you are not a member of the RSCDS and London Branch then consider the benefits of becoming one, not least of which is being part of a world-wide organisation and discounted entrance at functions organised by the Branch.

At the recent AGM, Andrew Kellett, Pam Ellam, Lena Robinson, Lizzy Conder and James Walker stepped down from the Committee. On the plus side we are pleased to welcome Jenny Kendrick on board. If you were there, you will know that no nominations were received for the position of Branch Secretary. However, since that time, the Committee has appointed Ireen Goulding to this position until the next AGM, and we are very grateful to Ireen for agreeing to this. The AGM also agreed to a reduction in the size of the Committee (*see AGM report, p4, and Committee listing, right*). This does not reflect any reduction in the activities of the Branch. Therefore, if you are able to offer any practical help to enable us to achieve our aims, please do get in touch with either myself or a member of the Committee. Help of any kind is always appreciated.

When I first joined the Committee in 2003 I said that I hoped to be able to inspire others with my enthusiasm, and my love of Scottish country dancing, which is without doubt the most sociable and enjoyable form of dance. I hope you all agree and that you too will inspire others accordingly.

We will be holding our New Season Dance in September, which will be to the music of Strathallan, and in October we will be holding our Annual Day School & Musicians' Workshop. We also have a number of other events and classes planned for you in the future, so please do come along, support your Branch and support all those on the Committee who work so hard on your behalf.

I look forward to meeting you all.

Margaret Catchick



ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE
SOCIETY



Patron: H M The Queen
Chairman: Jim Healy

HEADQUARTERS:

12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF
Tel: 0131 225 3854
info@rscds.org
www.rscds.org

LONDON BRANCH:

Hon. President:
Rachel Wilton

Hon. Vice-Presidents:
Mary Barker, Jenny Greene, Owen Meyer,
Wilson Nicol, Rosemary Tilden

Chairman:

Margaret Catchick
251 Botley Road, Ley Hill, Chesham,
Bucks HP5 1YD
01494 772305
chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk

Hon. Secretary:

Ireen Goulding
6 Church Lane, Kings Langley,
Herts WD4 8JS
secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

Hon. Treasurer:

Simon Wales
Flat 6, 86 Worcester Rd, Sutton,
Surrey SM2 6QQ
020 8643 0952
treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk

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
Youth: Elaine Davies

Non-Executive roles:

Bookstall: Daniel Capron
Hon. Archivist: Rachel Wilton
Membership: Gaynor Curtis
The Reel Editor: Jeremy Hill
The Reel Business Editor: Jeff Robertson
The Reel Assistant Editor: Katy Sweetman
Subscribers: Maggie Westley
Webmaster: Meryl Thomson

Website: www.rscdslondon.org.uk

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@LondonRSCDS



Objects of London Branch

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

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

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DANCE COMPETITION

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of St Columba's Church and Hall, where we have enjoyed so many happy hours of dancing. Among the celebrations to mark this event, the Church is holding a ceilidh on Saturday 5 November. Tickets for the ceilidh will be on sale at St Columba's on Sunday mornings during October, after the service.

The Scottish dance community has been asked to devise a dance, to be called *St Columba's 60th Anniversary*, that will be part of the programme at the ceilidh, and we hope at dances and ceilidhs thereafter.

The RSCDS is inviting all country dancers, reelers and ceilidh dancers to put forward a new dance for selection (by a panel of dancers and Church members) as the anniversary dance. The dance must be something that anyone can do and enjoy, whether or not they have dancing experience. There is no stipulation about music, but if you want to devise a tune or recommend something with the appropriate permissions, please do.

To enter the competition, please send your dance to Ireen Goulding, 6 Church Lane, Kings Langley, Herts WD4 8JS, or secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk by 1 October. Good luck.

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

Saturday 15 October 2016

Paddington Academy, Marylands Road, London W9 2DR

This year the classes will be Very Advanced, Advanced, Mixed Ability and Improvers levels.

Morning: 10.30 – 12.30

Very Advanced (*Applicants must be able to perform and execute all steps and formations to a very high standard of dancing*):

Teacher: **Angela Young** Musician: **Sandra Smith**

Advanced (*Applicants must be very good dancers with a sound knowledge of all steps and formations*):

Teacher: **David Hall** Musician: **Ken Martlew**

Mixed Ability (*suitable for those with a good standard of dancing and a sound knowledge of steps and formations*):

Teacher: **Alice Stainer** Musician: **Barbara Manning**

Newcomers and Improvers (*suitable for those with some knowledge of basic steps and formations*):

Teacher: **Simon Wales** Musician: **Judith Muir**

Lunch: 12.30 – 2.00pm

A lunch may be purchased comprising a baked potato or rice with a choice of fillings and dessert. Alternatively, there are facilities for packed lunches, or pubs and cafes in the local area.

Afternoon: 2.00 – 4.00pm

Very Advanced:

Teacher: **David Hall** Musician: **Ken Martlew**

Advanced:

Teacher: **Angela Young** Musician: **Sandra Smith**

Mixed Ability:

Teacher: **Simon Wales** Musician: **Judith Muir**

Newcomers and Improvers:

Teacher: **Alice Stainer** Musician: **Barbara Manning**

Optional Extras: 4.30 – 5.30pm

After tea, served from 4.00pm, there will be three optional classes to choose from. These are:

Dances from Book 50 (the new book):

Teacher: **Alice Stainer** Musician: **Ken Martlew**

Highland:

Teacher: **David Hall** Musician: **Sandra Smith**

Ladies' Step:

Teacher: **Angela Young** Musician: **Barbara Manning**

If you do not wish to do anything too active you may prefer to enjoy some free time before the evening dance. The choice is yours.

Musicians' Workshop

Led by accordionist and band leader **Ian Muir (Craigellachie)**, this will take place in both the morning and afternoon. The workshop is open to players with a suggested minimum of Grade 5. The workshop is principally aimed at giving musicians a grounding in good technique in playing for dancing, and will cover such areas as: the instrumental techniques that are uniquely Scottish; the characteristics of the reel, jig and strathspey; phrasing, sequencing and repertoire; securing drive and lift. The differences in playing for a dance class and playing for a dance will also be covered. It is also hoped there will be an opportunity to explore tempos and genres that are not usually encountered on the Scottish country dance floor, including slow airs, waltzes, two-steps and the scope that these give bands and musicians to explore harmony and rhythm through arrangement.

Evening Dance with ceilidh items: 6.00 – 9.00pm

This will follow the Day School. Dancing will be to **Ian Muir and the Day School Musicians**. Tickets are available in advance from Margaret Catchick and on the door.



Teachers and musicians, clockwise from bottom left: Simon Wales, Ken Martlew, Barbara Manning, Ian Muir, Judith Muir, Angela Young, Alice Stainer, Dave Hall and Sandra Smith



For an application form containing further details for both the Day School and the Musicians' Workshop, please contact Margaret Catchick, 251 Botley Road, Ley Hill, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1YD, enclosing an SAE, on 01494 772305, or margaretcatchick@hotmail.com

Application forms may also be obtained from the London Branch website, at Branch dances, or from your class teacher.

CLASSES TO SUIT EVERYONE – DON'T MISS IT!!

London Branch AGM 2016

Andrew Kellett, chairing the AGM for the last time, thanked the members present for attending. He summarised the Branch Report for 2015-2016 which had been sent to London Branch members with *The Reel* 296, after which Simon Wales presented the accounts.

On behalf of the Committee, Andrew put forward a motion proposing a number of changes to the Branch Constitution (*The Reel* 296), the most important of which was to reduce the size of the Committee from 15 to 9 and to dispense with the office of Vice Chairman. After much debate this motion was carried.

Margaret Catchick was elected Chairman to replace Andrew Kellett, who had completed his three year term of office. No nomination had been received for the post of Secretary. However, since the AGM the Committee has, under the terms of the Constitution, appointed Ireen Goulding to this position until the next AGM. Robert Elliott was thanked for his work as our independent examiner, and Wilson Nicol was presented with a Branch Award in recognition of his exceptional service to the Branch (see p7).

Finally, Simon Wales proposed a vote of thanks to Andrew Kellett for his Chairmanship over the last three years.

Margaret Catchick

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH ACCOUNTS 2015 -2016

As promised at the recent AGM, here are my comments on the accounts, with apologies once again that the tight timescales and *The Reel* publication dates make it impossible to circulate these to all members before the AGM. I emailed a set of accounts to three members.

The accounts show a net incoming resource figure of £1,335 – this is after an unrealised gain on investments of £2,502, and also includes planned expenditure from our legacy funds of £2,059.

The net operating surplus this year is £1,778, which is over our breakeven budget, but comforting that it is over not under!

The accounts are constructed in such a way as to make it easier to work out how each area of Branch activity has performed – classes, youth activities, dances, publicity, bookstall and demonstration team – you just have to subtract the costs from the income.

Classes

Fees, less hire of halls, less teachers and musicians expenses: £15,329 - £8,635 - £9,098 = £2,404 deficit. This is within budget, and is accounted for almost entirely by the heavy losses on the technique, intermediate and Richmond classes. The Richmond class is now running with recorded music. The Day School made a healthy profit of £588.

Youth Activities

Income less expenditure: £1,701 – £4,738 = £3,037 deficit. This reflects the subsidy paid to the UCL class of just over £800 (£450 from the Anniversary Fund), with the children's class subsidised by £1,033 from the Telfer donation. The costs reflect the support from the Branch for the three dances and the classes. The Telfer funds will last only a few months at this level of expenditure, but the Anniversary Fund for youth outreach remains largely unspent.

Dances

Income less expenditure: £13,409 - £11,685 = £1,544 surplus, which is £1,000 over budget. Christmas and Burns' Night dances recovered their attendance this year, but some other dances still attracted too few dancers. The dances held on the half-term Wednesday evening have proved popular and are covering their cost.

Publicity and *The Reel*

The net cost of publicity this year was £446 – after the Twining fund contribution of £958 to the cost of the Open Air dancing. *The Reel* made a profit of £741 after the apportionment of the Life Members' appeal.

Bookstall and other trading

This generated a small surplus of £280 now that Daniel Capron is attending many Branch events.

Demonstration team

This appears as 'fundraising activities' i.e. £2,003 - £1,899 = £104 surplus which is a good turn round from an expected £350 subsidy.

Administration Costs

The only other figure to comment on is the admin costs (£519) – up on last year. This is made up as follows: postage and secretarial (£210), insurance (£115), archives (£75), Membership expenses (£74) and AGM (£45). Thanks to the hospitality of Peter Knight and Margaret Shaw, there were no costs for Branch Committee meetings this year.

We are very fortunate to have the various bequests that enable us to tackle projects in the knowledge that we have sufficient funds to back them up. Open Air dancing in Kensington Gardens was funded by the Twining legacy, but the Youth class is now in its last year of funding, although the Bill Ireland legacy remains largely untouched. Waverley Scottish Dancers have made a generous donation of £300 following their winding up and this has been added to the Bill Ireland legacy as their aims are the same.

Donations raised a further £4,500 for designated funds, and just over £400 to support *The Reel* in the Life and Long-Term members' fund. Most donations benefited from the tax reclaim from HMRC for gift aid.

Membership income remained steady, but the declining number of members seems to have rallied in recent months. Our share of subscription income has slipped slightly to £2,372.

Investment income was slightly up, and contributed a total of £1,758.

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow officers and convenors, who are always on top of their paperwork and enable me to keep the accounts on the straight and narrow. Also to Lena Robinson who acts as classes cashier and is the most conscientious in her banking, and will be sorely missed as she is retiring from the Committee. As ever, the biggest thanks are due to Robert Elliott, the independent examiner, who does so much to pull these accounts together.

Simon Wales, Branch Treasurer
11 June 2016

CAN YOU HELP?

The Editor is very grateful for the support of various people in editing, preparation and reviewing to create the issue you see, but could always use more assistance. Some technological interest would be useful. If you think you might be able to help in some small way, please contact editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH EVENTS 2016-17

Events take place at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD, from 7.00 – 10.30pm (doors open at 6.30pm), except where noted.

Saturday 10 September: New Season Dance with **Strathallan** (see p1)

Saturday 15 October: Branch Day School and evening dance with **Ian Muir and the Day School Musicians** (see p1 & 3)

Wednesday 26 October: Half Term dance with **Sandra Smith & Chris Hood** (see p1)

Saturday 17 December: Christmas Dance with the **Glencraig Scottish Dance Band**

Saturday 14 January 2017: Youth Workshop, and Burns' Night Ceilidh with the **Caledonian Reelers**

Wednesday 15 February: Winter Wednesday

Saturday 18 March: Family Day and Evening Dance with **Craigievar**

Saturday 29 April and Wednesday 31 May: to be confirmed

Saturday 10 June: Family Day and AGM Dance

For further details see future editions of *The Reel* and www.rscdslondon.org.uk



Children's Class 2016-2017

Teachers: **James Fairbairn and Jenny Kendrick**

The Branch Children's Class will take place from 10.15 – 11.30am on 17 September, 1 October (taught by Andrew Nolan), 8 October, 5 November and 19 November (see below) in the Upper Hall at St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. A further class will take place on 3 December – venue to be confirmed. Please check the website nearer the time.

Class & Family Day Dance

On 19 November there will be a class and Family Day Dance at St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street. Music for the Family Day Dance will be provided by **Sandra Smith & Christina Hood**.

Class Fee: £5.00 per child per class

Newcomers are always welcome!

For further information please contact either James Fairbairn on 07930 949599, or email

childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk or youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

RSCDS

Teaching Certificate Course

The Committee of the South East Branches RSCDS are considering running a course for Units 2 & 3, and possibly Unit 5, from December 2016 until about May 2017. These courses are hard work but enjoyable and very rewarding! If you are interested in taking part, or would just like to talk to someone about it, please contact Pat Davoll at patdavoll2@gmail.com

Set yourself a fun challenge Join a Scottish Country Dance Class

We have
classes for...

CHILDREN in central London.

Email James Fairbairn: childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk for details

ADULTS - Classes start on Wednesday 21 September

St. Thomas' CE Primary School, Appleford Road,
London W10 5EF

21 Sept – 7 Dec (half term 26 Oct) 7.00 – 9.00pm

Basic Skills & Improvers

Teacher **Jane Rose**

Intermediate for dancers with at least a year's experience of Scottish country dancing who want to improve their technique and develop their repertoire.

Teacher **Gillian Frew**

Technique for good dancers who want to develop their personal technique, improve their team-working skills and gain even more enjoyment from Scottish country dancing.

Teachers **Simon Wales** (up to half term) **Pat Davoll** (after half term)

Musicians: **Sandra Smith, Ian Cutts and Raymond Yiu**

Class Fees: £75 per term or £9 per night for RSCDS members,
£85 per term or £10 per night for non-members



Mixed Ability Class suitable for dancers with at least some knowledge of basic steps and formations.

Wednesdays 2.30 – 4.30pm

21 Sept – 14 Dec (half term 2 Nov)

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

Teacher **Jeni Rutherford**: jrutherford@freeuk.com

Fee £6 per class

Beginners Wednesdays 8.00 – 10.00pm 21 Sept – 7 December (half term 26 Oct)
Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RT

Teacher **Judith Jones**

Fee £6 per class.

**NEW
CLASS**

Beginners Tuesdays 7.30 – 9.30pm (starting 20 September)

Blackwell Hall, Uxbridge Road, Stanmore HA3 6DQ

Teacher **Rose Kreloff**

Fee £6 per class.

There is car parking at the hall and it is on the 340 and H12 bus routes

University of London & UCLU Folk Society for students and staff of UCL and University of London. Thursdays 5.30 – 7.00pm Term time. Fees £2 per class. Live music
Teacher **Lindsey Jane Rousseau** with **Lizzy Conder**

For experienced dancers interested in giving demonstrations

Email Elaine Davies at demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk

Contacts for all classes Jenny at classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

London Branch Membership

The annual cost of RSCDS membership through the London Branch is as follows:

	<i>The Reel</i> electronically	<i>The Reel</i> by post (UK)	<i>The Reel</i> by post (Europe)	<i>The Reel</i> by post (Rest of the World)	RSCDS membership cost included
Aged 12-17	£13.00	£15.00	£21.00	£24.00	£9.00
Aged 18-25	£18.00	£20.00	£26.00	£29.00	£14.00
Over 25	£22.00	£24.00	£30.00	£33.00	£18.00
Second branch member	£4.00	£6.00	£12.00	£15.00	Not applicable
Two adults at the same address	£37.00	£41.00	£53.00	£59.00	£29.00

London Branch membership benefits include reduced rates at Branch 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 can be purchased on the Branch website at www.rscdslondon.org.uk/shop. Membership enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989 or membership@rscdslondon.org.uk

Payment for membership and subscription to *The Reel* may be made through PayPal or standing order. Those members who wish to continue to use cheques will be able to do so, but cheques are being used less and less and being replaced by internet transactions, which most people who are on the internet find greatly simplifies payments. These payment options are available via www.rscdslondon.org.uk/shop

Using PayPal, payment can be made simply by entering card details at the time of payment, or through setting up a PayPal account. Account set up requires just an email address and password, or mobile number and PIN, in which case there is no need to re-enter your card details every time you pay. In order to cover costs, a small charge of 50p will be levied for payment by PayPal. For example, when you pay London Branch membership by PayPal, the cost will be £22.50, if you choose to receive *The Reel* in electronic format only, or £24.50 if you choose to continue to receive *The Reel* in the post in the UK. Electronic subscription will cost £4.50. If you have any questions, please email Jerry Reinstein at paypal@rscdslondon.org.uk

In response to members' requests, it is also now possible to set up a standing order to pay your annual membership subscription. Please contact the Treasurer by email at treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk for the necessary form. Please note this is not a direct debit, and, should the subscription rate increase, you will need to increase your standing order accordingly. Failure to do so will mean that your membership will revert to the level covered by your old payment.



Representing the Branch

The Branch runs a monthly class on Tuesdays for advanced dancers, taught by Jeremy Hill, with music provided by Sandra Smith, to work on a repertoire of dances that can be used for public displays. Classes are held from 7.00 – 9.00pm in the Upper Hall at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD.

If you have a sense of fun and the ability to reflect the joy of Scottish country dancing to the general public, do come along and give us a try. Anyone interested in joining is asked to have a good grasp of Scottish dance steps and formations. For further information please contact Elaine Davies at demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk

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. As such, scholarships are available for young people (25 and under) to attend RSCDS residential schools as a dancer or as a musician, and for any member to take the RSCDS Teaching Certificate at Summer School. The RSCDS website has details under Courses.

London Branch also has funds to support any event promoting Scottish country dancing among young people in the London area. 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. If you are a London Branch member interested in a scholarship, please get in touch with our Secretary, via secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

This fund has been increased thanks to a generous donation following the closure of the Waverley Scottish Country Dance Club, for which London Branch is very grateful.

EDITORIAL

As usual, this edition has been pulled together over the period of the RSCDS Summer School, where dancers from all over the world congregate in St Andrews to enjoy the best quality teaching, dancing and music, fulfilling the aims of the School's origins. London and South East Branches were well-represented in several of the weeks (see p20).

I was there with my family during the third week, when it was encouraging, for the supply of future teachers, to see that there were sufficient candidates for two Unit 5 classes. At the same time, the musicians' course, run by Ian Muir and Judith Smith with huge dedication, skill and military precision, was a great success, with 28 players on the stage for a rousing final night in the Younger Hall.

Most encouraging, though, was the inclusion of young dancers and musicians in the classes and dances. For a few years, one of the weeks of the School has been opened up to include 12-15 year olds in the classes, and the number of teenagers attending has been steadily increasing.

This year, for the first time, a further group was set up for 8-11 year old children to enjoy some dancing and play time. Marilyn Watson and Ann McArthur did a wonderful job with the nine children this year.



Both groups were able to participate in all the afternoon and evening events. As a result, we saw some highly talented youngsters dancing in the Step and Highland demonstrations in the Younger Hall on the Thursday evening (some of whom had not even executed a step before arriving in St Andrews), and performing at the ceilidh. The sight of one young lad performing the *Skye Boat Song* on the guitar whilst in the half lotus position is one I think I can safely say has never been seen at a ceilidh before! Don't try this at home.

The enthusiasm, energy and excitement that these younger dancers demonstrated throughout the week rubbed off on all the dancers present. It was a great demonstration of the enjoyment to be experienced by all ages in combining through Scottish country dancing.

Jeremy Hill

The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations 11 and 12 June 2016

London Branch held an indoor Street Party to celebrate the 90th birthday of the RSCDS Patron, HM The Queen, on 11 June. Those attending were treated to sandwiches and cakes, as well as singing, dancing and entertainment from Highland dancers, the Branch Children's Class, and the Branch demonstration team (see right, and photos p11).

The following day, Peter Knight, Margaret Shaw, Margaret Catchick and Pat Davoll were among twelve members of the RSCDS who attended the Patron's Lunch on the Mall. Despite poor weather, it was a spectacular event. The RSCDS were represented in the parade by a team of dancers from the South East, brought together by Elaine Davies, who walked and danced the length of The Mall in both pouring rain and sunshine. A truly memorable day!

Margaret Catchick

Save the Date

Youth Workshop

London

14th January 2017

- Workshop during the day
- Burns' Night Ceilidh in the evening

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Wilson Nicol: Branch Award

The AGM featured a presentation of a Branch Award to Branch Vice-President Wilson Nicol. Here is the citation that accompanied it:

Wilson joined London Branch in 1957 having danced extensively in his native Scotland. He became a member of the demonstration class, and remained with the team for thirty years, promoting Scottish country dancing around south east England. He was also a keen member of the Reading St Andrew's Society. He met his wife, Jean, at the RSCDS Summer School, and in due course they encouraged their children and grandchildren to enjoy Scottish dancing and its music. As well as being an accomplished dancer, Wilson is an enthusiastic musician and on occasions accompanied dancing.

He wanted Scottish country dancing to thrive and kept the Branch Committee on its toes through probing questions at AGMs and thought-provoking letters to *The Reel*. Having gained a reputation for Chairman-baiting, Wilson joined the Committee in 1989, becoming Chairman in 1993 with the objectives of encouraging young dancers, giving members good value for money and running things efficiently. Under his stewardship London Branch continued to prosper and he guided the Branch through the process of becoming a charity.

He served on the RSCDS Management Board for a couple of years, and then re-joined the Branch Committee in 2005 to become editor of *The Reel*, a post he held for seven years despite, at times, having to cope with illness. He even edited one issue while visiting family in New Zealand. He included colour photographs on a regular basis, and his editorials and articles revealed the depth of his knowledge about SCD and its music. Above all, he insisted that dancing should be fun.

Now a Branch Vice-President, Wilson remains a loyal and interested member. His advice on constitutional matters is still eagerly sought, but it is Wilson's friendship, his love of Scottish dance and his exceptional service over many years that we most value.



Andrew Kellett, in suitably patriotic headgear, enjoying cake at the Street Party for HM The Queen (see left).

Will the real Lady Mary Douglas come forward?

At the beginning of the 19th century the jig tune *Lady Mary Douglas* was a very popular 'Scottish' melody in the south of England. The source for the tune in the RSCDS Archive is Campbell's 18th Book of Country Dances, published in London about 1790. According to the Sussex Tune Book, the melody appeared in the Welch Family Ms (1800), from a Sussex mansion. The music subsequently appeared in *Wheatstone's Selection of Elegant and Fashionable Country Dances, Reels, Waltz & For the Ensuing Season*, 1808 and George Forrester's *The Flute Player's Pocket Companion* of 1816. The implication is that the tune is English.

In those days dance instructions were produced spontaneously by the MC, and it is believed that there were many different sets of figures to this melody. Most are unrecorded, but a version published by Thomas Wilson in his book *A Companion to the Ballroom*, 1816 has been used for two dances of this name. The late Professor Hugh Thurston analysed the original dance in Wilson's book in *The Reel* 26 as follows:

Hey on your own sides: the three men reel together on their own side while the three women do likewise; the reels are symmetric, right shouldered for the men and left shouldered for the women.

Chain figure of six: Grand chain as we know it.

Lead down the middle and up again and lead through the top couple: two bars down and two up either taking nearer hands using the chassé step or taking both hands using the side step. The lead through is a four bar cast on own side with the second couple moving up.

Whole figure round the bottom couple: Whole figure means what we call figure of eight, and this particular one is like the figure of eight in *Corn Rigs*.

Turn corners: the dancing couple turn their first corners with both hands, dance round each other, turn second corners with both hands and dance back to their own sides.

Whole figure contrary corners: the dancing couple in second place, cross over, cast off one place, dance up to the top, cross over and cast one place. In this way each dancer has described a figure of eight round two diagonally opposite corners.

Thurston taught this version to several groups and it always went down well. In fact he preferred it to the Book 10 version. It should be noted that Wilson's chassé for travelling forward is very similar to what we know as skip change of step. In his copious notes on SCD, bequeathed to the London Branch, John Mitchell notes both Dukes in *A concise and Easy Method of Learning the Figuring Part of Country Dances* (1752) and Welch in *A Variety of English Country Dances for the Present Year* (1767) as confirmation that the initial right shouldered reel was intended by Wilson to be a mirror reel.

Two modern versions have arisen from Wilson's book, and Wilson's version is closely following in the *Lady Mary Douglas* published in the *Imperial Book of Scottish Country Dances* by Jack McConachie and Edna Russell.

The second is in RSCDS Book 10. This would appear to have been cobbled together without the help of Wilson's helpful definition of the terminology in use at that time, published separately in *The Complete System of English Country Dancing*. Without understanding the terminology of the time, the Book 10 dance strays from Wilson's original version. It makes a mockery of the objectives of the Society at that time to preserve old dances when Wilson is cited as the source yet the dance in Book 10 is so different from the original.

When I started dancing in the 1940s, the dance in Book 10 was *Lady Mary Douglas*, but on reprinting in 1947 it became *Miss Mary Douglas*. There is no record in the archives why the name was changed and no one now seems to know why the change was made. Gow's second collection has a reel entitled *Miss Mary Douglass's Reel*, but it is a real reel, and quite different from the jig *Lady Mary Douglas*. The Society's change of name must be considered anomalous considering the tune is older than any of the dance versions. The Society would do well to revert to the original name of *Lady Mary Douglas* at the next revision of Book 10, or publish Wilson's version as the real *Lady Mary Douglas*.

And who was Lady Mary? Well Mary Douglas is a common name in the border clan Douglas and there are several contenders for the honour of having a tune named after her. One such put forward by both Thurston and Mitchell is Lady Mary Douglas (1773-98), daughter of the fourth Earl of Selkirk and an acquaintance of Robert Burns. She was quite a beauty: her painting, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, now hangs in the Musée des Beaux Arts in Brussels. Another contender is Lady Mary Douglas, daughter of James Douglas, 2nd Earl of Queensberry. She married Alexander Stewart, 3rd Earl of Galloway, but, living in the 17th century, may have been too early to be the subject of this tune. Heather Clarke, researching colonial records in Australia, provides a further possibility: the particular Lady Mary Douglas she cites was born in 1737, the daughter of James Douglas, 14th Earl of Morton. Lady Mary married Charles, 4th Earl of Aboyne in London on 14 May, 1774. Their only child, Douglas Gordon (1777-1841), succeeded to his father's titles in 1794. She died in Edinburgh on Christmas Day, 1816.

My conclusion is that the tune and the dance, although with Scottish connotations, emanated in London.

Wilson Nicol

I am indebted to Heather Clarke in Australia for her help and advice in putting together this article.

South East Region Teachers' Association

SERTA is open to anyone who leads an SCD group, whether qualified or not, those with a dance teaching qualification and those taking teaching courses or interested in doing so. If you wish to join the mailing list or have any queries, please contact me at mikejohnson@waitrose.com at 4 Gatehampton Cottages, Gatehampton Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9LX or on 01491 873026.

Mike Johnson

South East Classes Update

We are updating the classes listing which appears on www.rscdslondon.org.uk under SE Events. Would you please check the information we currently hold for your group, to ensure its accuracy, and send any amendments, as well as email and website address if you wish these to be added, to seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk or please call Jan on 07803 923036.

DANCING LIVES

Bill Forbes

11 August 1921 – 2 July 2016



William Middleton Grey (Bill) Forbes was born into a musical household. His father, Thomas Forbes, was a sheep farmer and piper who would play the pipes at local picnics, school fêtes and highland games. Bill's parents would regularly host dances at their farm, Maryhill, situated above Buckie in Banffshire.

Once into his late teens and twenties, Bill would travel to local dances. In the mid-1950s, he moved to London and stayed with his sister, Janet, in Heston. Very quickly he found where Scottish country dancing was taking place in London, and would dance each week at Fetter Lane, the then hub for Scottish country dancing in the London area. There, he met his future wife Colina (already a Forbes!), and together they danced in the London Demonstration Team. Colina and Bill moved to Bracknell in 1958. They became friends of Ken Milne and his wife. Ken was teaching at the Bracknell Scottish Dance Club, and Bill became a regular member of the Club.

In 1973 he was invited to take on the key role of teacher at St John's Scottish Country Dance Club, which was then newly formed, and continued to teach there until very recently. Over the years, Bill's teaching commitments have also included Maidenhead Scottish Country Dance Club, their demonstration team, and students at Reading University.

Bill attended the RSCDS Summer School at St Andrews in 1977 where he qualified as a teacher. He was very pleased to be recognised as such, and believed that the RSCDS should continue to set the 'standard' for Scottish country dancing around the world.

In 1978 Bill formed a ladies' team, the Craigievar Dancers, in order to compete at the Slough Arts Festival. They won that year, and continued to win on the two following years. The team competed in The Festival of Scotland in London, and they won there too! This was the result of Bill's meticulous attention to detail with regard to lines, hands, and foot positions, and adhering to the codes and heritage of RSCDS dancing.

Bill began to devise dances, and published around 60 dances in a series of books, named *Craigievar Dances*. He continued to devise new dances, and many of these are due to be published in the near future. A CD was produced for some of his dances. Amongst his most well-known dances are *Findlater Castle*, which he devised in 2004 for the Jubilee Book of the Banffshire Branch of the RSCDS on their 75th anniversary in 2003; *The Ship in Full Sail*; and *Kilkenny Castle*, and *The Queen's View*, devised in 1997, and also included in *Three Hands Across*, published by the RSCDS BHS Border Branch in 2011.

From the early 1970s, Bill's expertise as a dance teacher was called upon by many. This included assisting with the choreography of the Scottish wedding in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. His love of Burns made him a popular figure at many Burns' Nights where he would recite poems from memory and teach the dances.

Bill had an incredibly good memory for so many dances, and even when still teaching earlier this year would run an entire evening without referring to any dance instructions or notes. In his dance classes, he always spotted a new or less-experienced dancer, and would give them special encouragement. Bill was also keen on more challenging dances, and was very good at encouraging everyone to dance to their best ability. He brought a unique blend of teaching and encouragement, which in turn engendered enthusiasm, friendliness and good spirit in the clubs at which he taught.

In 2014, Bill was nominated for a Branch Award with BHS Border Branch for services to Scottish country dancing. The award was duly granted, and he received the award that year at a special ceremony held at St John's Scottish Dance Club. Members of St John's Scottish Dance Club and Maidenhead Scottish Dance Club, in particular, have very fond memories of Bill - these thoughts are encapsulated in the following contributions:

"He will be greatly missed, as he was an amazing person. The stories he had to tell! He led such a full life in which his love and knowledge of Scottish *Country Dancing* and its music took him all round the world. He loved people and always made time to chat and share his knowledge. He enriched our lives."

"It was very much Bill's enthusiasm and his unique style that has made our Club so popular. It's now up to us all to maintain the same ethos."

The chairman of St John's Scottish Dance Club commented: "I am very lucky to be the chairman of one of the best Scottish country dancing clubs in the country, and it is all down to the manner in which Bill taught us. His infectious enthusiasm, along with his encyclopaedic knowledge of dances and their music engendered a spirit of fun while still managing to get us to actually perform properly. Anyone who has spent even a little time with Bill came away enriched - whether it was through dancing or just listening to him talk (which he could do endlessly!)."

Very sadly, Bill Forbes passed away in the Royal Berks Hospital on Saturday, 2nd July 2016, having been hospitalised a few weeks earlier. He was a highly respected Scottish country dance teacher in his local area and far beyond, and had been an ambassador of Scottish country dancing for over 55 years. He was very proud of the rich traditions, heritage and etiquette surrounding dancing, and was keen to introduce people to dancing to ensure that the traditions are continued and that the clubs continue to thrive.

We have a great deal to live up to!

John Fletcher

Sir William Nicoll

28 June 1927 – 26 February 2016

Sir William was the earliest surviving editor of *The Reel*, a post he held in 1954 and 1955. It was to be another 50 years before another of (almost) the same name became the editor! William Nicoll was born in Dundee, the only child of humble parents. His father was a joiner, and the family lived in a tenement. His first memory of SCD was the youthful disgust of wee laddies at primary school being made to dance with girls, something like *Petronella* for parents' evening. That apart, he passed the entrance exam for Morgan Academy, then won a scholarship to University College, Dundee, which was then part of the University of St Andrews. He passed the civil service exams and moved to London in 1949 to join the Board of Trade.

He met Helen Morison while Scottish country dancing with the London Branch, and married her in 1954, at the same time becoming Editor of *The Reel*. The next year he was posted to Calcutta as trade commissioner, cutting short his editorship. Within ten years he had risen to become private secretary to Douglas Jay, the Labour heavyweight whom Harold Wilson had appointed president of the Board of Trade. From there he was seconded to the Foreign Office and served 20 years as one of our senior men in Brussels. He had a narrow escape from an IRA letter bomb while there.

Sir William was a lifelong teetotaler, but he had a jolly side and liked to teach his fellow eurocrats how to dance *The Eightsome Reel*. He rose to become Director General of the Council of the European Communities, and was knighted in 1992. In retirement, he lectured, edited the European Business Journal, wrote books on the European Union and advised candidate countries hoping to join it. He did not survive to participate in the recent referendum!

Wilson Nicol

See also article on Sir William in *The Reel* 273

Jim Winter

Jim peacefully passed away at Ninfield, near Bexhill on 24 July 2016, aged 80. A short article on Jim's contribution to SCD was included in the previous edition of *The Reel*.

Gordon Simpson

We were also sorry to hear that fiddler Gordon Simpson passed away in June 2016. Born and brought up in Dundee, Gordon was one of the most respected fiddlers in Scotland, and very well-known throughout the RSCDS. He played at many classes, events and functions, and tutored at the RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews.

He featured in bands for many years and as well as playing and recording with the Ian Muir Sound, was regularly seen and heard with Colin Dewar's Band, Ian Holmes, John Renton and many more, including many trips to play for dances in London. His broadcasting career started with the great Ronnie Easton Band in the 70's and continued with Colin Finlayson until Colin's untimely passing.

Away from the band he had a busy family life, and was a chartered accountant and partner at Thomson McLintock, subsequently KPMG.

Jeremy Hill

NEW RECORDINGS

RSCDS Book 50, with music from Scott Band & his Scottish Dance Band: CD available at £14.30 (100% discount available for Society members) from the Branch Bookstall (see below) or www.rscds.org/shop, or to download from iTunes for £9.99.

Dances: *The Spring Fling Reel* (8x40R), *Les Remparts de Séville* (8x32J), *There's Something about Thirty* (3x32S), *192 Miles Home* (4x48J), *The Doonhamer Delight* (6x32R), *Mathilde is a Delight* (3x32S), *The Wandering Wallaby* (4x32J), *Double Trouble Triangles* (4x48R), *Shadow* (3x32J), *A Trip to Applecross* (6x32R), *Dancing Spirit* (8x32J), *La Baratte Your Way Home* (4x40R), plus *Odd Thoughts* (8x32S) from *Miss Milligan's Miscellany* and band tracks – Continental Waltz, Polka and Retreat Marches.

RSCDS Book 50 arose from the idea that Elaine Davies had, whilst organising the Spring Fling in London in 2015, to hold a competition to devise a dance. As reported in *The Reel* 292, there were 46 entries, with the winner devised by London's own Samantha Burton. Originally entitled *A Reel Joy*, and dedicated to her parents, it is now *The Spring Fling Reel*, and first in the new book. Given the overall quality of dances submitted, it was agreed to include more of them in this publication, which was supported by Helensburgh & District Branch in memory of the late Mrs Norah Dunn (1913-2015), Honorary President of that Branch, and RSCDS Examiner.

Two other dances in the book were also devised by dancers in the South East of England: *192 Miles Home* by Katy Sweetman, Assistant Editor of *The Reel*, and *There's Something about Thirty* by Lindsey Ibbotson. Lindsey also had the dance *Midsummer Common* published in RSCDS Book 49, and wrote the music for both dances as well. Other dances in this book originate from France, Germany, New Zealand and San Francisco, as well as England and Scotland.

Only three of the dances are "full length", eight times through with a standard progression, instead offering a variety of set dances, for three or four couples in a straight or square set, which may appeal to groups putting on displays; *The Doonhamer Delight* is a round the room dance. In any case, first impressions are that most would be more suited to advanced dancers. There are only two strathspeys in the book, both three times through, though the album also includes a full-length recording of *Odd Thoughts* from *Miss Milligan's Miscellany*.

The music for the recording has been provided by Scott Band & his Scottish Dance Band, a new name to me. The band was formed around 2012 to audition for BBC Radio Scotland's Take the Floor, and broadcast first in 2013. Scott is joined by Gillian Ramsay on fiddle, Steven Carcary on second accordion, Suzanne Croy on double bass, Bill Ewan on piano and Graham Sherrit on drums, and they produce an excellent, full sound. I noted in reviewing the last recording for the RSCDS, by D.u.K., that the double bass featured prominently, and the same is true here. If this is a new trend in band sound, it is one I heartily applaud, giving real depth and drive to the sound. The fiddle and accordions provide a strong lead and good rhythmic support.

Musically, the majority of original tunes are modern tunes. As well as Lindsey's tune, mentioned above, originals have also been chosen from South East musicians Ian Muir (RSCDS Music Director), Tom Robertson (son of fiddler and accordionist Ian) and Alistair Forbes. Scott Band and Steven Carcary from the band have also had tunes selected. In selecting the accompanying tunes, Scott has largely used modern alternatives, some of them very well-known. John Renton's original for *The Spring Fling Reel* (his first to feature in an RSCDS book) is followed by three Iain MacPhail tunes, and there is a roll-call of other band leaders and musicians of the last 50 years, but very good matching.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the recording, with lots of interest throughout, particularly on the bass and second accordion, including a very slick and well-orchestrated Continental Waltz. Tempi are on the faster side, but suitable for the dances included, where plenty of lively dancing is called for (not much in the way of traditional figures). I look forward to hearing more from the band.



BRANCH BOOKSTALL

The aim of the bookstall is to provide a service to members by selling books, CDs and Branch badges. Book 50 and its CD are among the publications which can be bought at the Branch New Season Dance on 10 September, the Day School on 15 October and other Branch events, or sent out by post. Current stock is listed on the Branch website, www.rscdslondon.org.uk. Contact Daniel Capron with any queries or orders at bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk 74B Thurlow Park Road, London SE21 8HY, or on 020 8670 6918.

One interesting dancing point: the book introduces the formation *La Baratte* to the RSCDS dance repertoire, having previously featured in dances including John Drewry's *Hunter's Moon*, *Micmac Rotary* and the Oxford Branch dance *Radcliffe Square*. A slightly different approach to dancing the formation is put forward for *La Baratte Your Way Home*: in joining hands, the man is asked to put his hand palm upwards into his partner's hand. This allows the last half turn of the move to be carried out with a normal shake hand grip, rather than the potentially ugly 'claw' hold that most have used in the past. It remains to be seen whether this becomes adopted in other instances of the formation.

Jeremy Hill

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from just £4.00 per annum

In addition to membership options (see p6), for £4.00 for four issues, non-members of the Branch can join as second branch members, or subscribe to *The Reel*. Electronic subscribers receive four pdf editions of *The Reel* each year, in full colour throughout.

Rates to receive four hard copies, by post, are £6.00 if resident in the UK, £12.00 for other European residents and £15.00 if resident elsewhere. There are special rates on request for bulk orders. Remittances in sterling please, payable to RSCDS (London Branch), or you can pay by PayPal via www.rscdslondon.org.uk/shop (see p6).

All subscription requests or enquiries should be sent to Maggie Westley, 30 Stanley Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4LF or reelsubscriptions@rscdslondon.org.uk



1. Chiswick Scottish's Midsummer Magic, in the grounds of Chiswick House, Saturday 26 June 2016: as always, Chiswick House provides a beautiful backdrop to circles in *The Birks of Invermay*.

2. Midsummer Magic: dancers remained cheerful and colourful, in spite of somewhat dull weather. Here Peter Dixon and Katrina Osborne turn on the corner in *The Barmkin*.

3. Guildford Spring Dance, Normandy Hall, Guildford, Saturday 30 April 2016: Scotch Measure, the band for a highly successful evening, comprising Lindsey Ibbotson, Andrew Lyon (from Manchester) and Tom Ibbotson (see also p20).

4. Cambridge Scottish Society 80th Anniversary Dance, Impington Village College, Cambridge, Saturday 7 May 2016: Patrick Schicker, current President of the Society cuts the anniversary cake, with Chairman Donald Wilson looking on.

Branch Chairman Christine Napier (right) (see p13).

6. London Branch Street Party, Pont St, Saturday 11 June 2016: the Branch Children's Class, complete with appropriate headgear, dance *Charlestown Chaser*.

7. Street Party: Six couples from the Branch demonstration team presented a medley of dances for The Queen: *EH3 7AF* (representing the Queen's patronage of the RSCDS), *Balmoral Strathspey* (shown here) and *The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh*. A video of the demonstration is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=xK3N8OCzNw4&feature=youtu.be

8. RSCDS Dancing Achievement Award, Pont St, Wednesday 25 May 2016: Congratulations to the six candidates, all of whom were successful in the DAA. Kiyoko Saito and Roger Keeling were successful in the Intermediate Award and, shown here, the Advanced group, from left: Fernando Martin-Penasco (pianist), Jacmel Dent, Jane Fisher, Deborah McLachlan (teacher) Elinor Bailey and Roy Southall.

All worked very hard, under the tuition of Simon Wales, teaching the Intermediate Class, and Deborah McLachlan, who was taking the Technique Class. Thank you to their fellow class members who supported them through the course and to the dancers who made up the sets for the assessment. Many thanks too to our pianists, Sandra Smith and Fernando Martin-Penasco, and to the assessors, Marilyn Watson and Grace Hill.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Returning to the Dance Floor

Dear Jeremy,

Your editorial on the disappearance of the great formations and wonderful favourite dances of my youth echoed my own thoughts on these. There are so many new dances being devised that these more traditional ones are no longer known by many who have taken up SCD within this century. They are a great part of our heritage and enormous fun to dance so I would plead that all teachers and programme devisers have another look at them and bring some of them back.

I have not actually danced for some years now, but, when I did, I found that dances were a serious memory test throughout, as programmes were becoming more and more geared to new dances. The ones one knew 'backwards' no longer featured so that there were no easy fun breaks between the less familiar dances.

Wilson Nicol's letter was most heartening. My reason for not having danced for about ten years is that I had two major bunion operations, eventually having my big toes fused so that my feet could no longer point correctly. Having learnt ballet and danced to a high standard all my life (I was in the Branch Demonstration team at the same time as Wilson, and later attended the very advanced class at Finchampstead, and a highland class), I could not resign myself to my reduced capability. However, I very recently met a lady of roughly my own age who had taken up SCD only three years ago in Berkhamsted. She reminded me of how much I had always loved it, and encouraged me to try again. Wilson's common-sense approach to footwear has made me realise that it was a mistake to decide that "If I can't dance to perfection, I shan't dance at all". Perhaps, with practice, I may again achieve some precision in timing, if not in footwork, and experience the delight of dancing.

I have just had an operation on my right shoulder so turning Corner, Partner, Corner, Partner will have to wait a few more months but in the Autumn, I hope to return to the joy of Scottish Country Dancing once again.

Yours sincerely
Jane Bennett-Rees



Mackie's Summer School Contest!

Mackie's are celebrating their 30th year of making ice cream with a contest to win two places at Summer School 2017 (winner plus guest)!

Visit their website (see below) for full contest details, how to enter, and of course to check out the amazing products offered by Mackie's. The closing date for the competition is Friday 28 October 2016.

Three runners up will receive an RSCDS booklet of 12 dances with accompanying CD. All winners will receive eight free tubs of Mackie's ice cream — for your *Eightsome Reel* dessert.

www.mackies.co.uk/friends-of-mackie-s/win-with-mackie-s/scottish-dancing-summer-school-competition.html

The right time to birl?

Dear Jeremy,

As a dancer since the age of two, I have been to my fair share of dances of many different styles. In particular, I have enjoyed attending ceilidhs with my family, and the exhilaration of spinning at every available opportunity. But at some dances, that doesn't happen. This caused me to question: "when, and with whom, is it the 'right' time to birl?"

Ceilidhs are a good starting place when wishing to spin, since many of the dances are written to include spinning, such as my favourite, *Strip the Willow*. However, I sometimes find that a few of the more basic dances included in the programmes do not leave much room for birling, and are sat out, or danced with little to no extra flair. At more formal dances, such as the Branch dances at Pont Street, the occasional spin is allowed, for example when first couple have a four bar turn in *White Heather Jig*, or at the end of a dance, but only when it is not going to interfere with other dancers. Any more than this can be inappropriate and disrespectful in this situation.

As for the dancers themselves, you must first take into account the abilities in the set. Less experienced dancers may be unwilling to do a lot of spinning, as they are adjusting to the dance itself. They may also be put off if other dancers introduce variations unexpectedly.

A dancer must address the needs of their partner, in case they suffer from injuries, which hinder their spinning ability, or simply prefer not to spin. Many dancers are also unwilling to birl near the beginning of the dance, as they are not fully warmed-up and are getting accustomed to the floor. It is vital for conversation regarding this to occur before the music begins, so no one is caught unaware and is spun against their will. The method of spinning should also be agreed.

In conclusion, a dancer must be aware at all times of the formality of the dance, their set, and, most of all their partner, before birling. Keep spinning!

Zoe Hill

Should every Club have one?

Dear Jeremy,

Activity at any age carries risks: the news of Bolton Wanderers' central midfielder Fabrice Muamba, then aged 23, who collapsed on the pitch in March 2012, shocked many. He survived through the prompt use of an AED (automated external defibrillator) and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), and has gone on to campaign to get defibrillators into shops, businesses and gyms.

Some older dancers may remember a smiley and friendly social dancer called Tony Robb, who sadly collapsed, and died, with a heart attack at a Luton Scottish Reel Club dance in November 1992. You might say, a good way to go, for an enthusiastic dancer, but one we would all like to avoid, if possible. When someone goes into cardiac arrest, every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces their chances of survival by 10%. Sadly, the value of such help was not readily recognised in Tony's day. So, what can be done?

You might have individuals within the club who are knowledgeable, preferably trained/experienced, who can be on hand to give CPR or mouth to mouth resuscitation whilst paramedics are on the way. At Berkhamsted, we have gone one stage further, and when we bring out the music equipment for a class, or prepare for a dance, we also bring out the first-aid box and a defibrillator. We know that time will be of the essence should such a dilemma occur. We are prepared — are you?

Yours sincerely,
Stephen Webb



RSCDS

Teachers' Conference 2016

The 4th RSCDS Teachers' Conference will take place on Friday 4 November 2016 (the Friday of AGM Conference weekend) at Bell's Sports Centre in Perth, 10.30am – 4.30pm. The cost is £20 per person, which includes lunch and refreshments throughout the day. The conference programme is available by visiting www.rscds.org/article/teachers-conference-2016

If you have any queries, please contact Moira Thomson at moira.thomson@rscds.org

Newcastle Youth Workshop

Saturday 8 October 2016

The next RSCDS workshop for those aged 12 - 35 years old is being held in Newcastle. During the day there will be two workshops at Intermediate and Advanced level. The teachers will be Paul Plummer (London) and Rachel Shankland (Edinburgh) with music from Luke and Adam Brady (Dundee).

The evening dance is from 7.30 – 11:00pm, hosted by RSCDS Newcastle Branch, with music from Luke Brady's Scottish Country Dance Band. Price for both the workshop and dance: £18 (unwaged) and £20 (waged). For more information see www.facebook.com/events/159718911110808/

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

87th Annual General Meeting & Conference Weekend 2016

Friday to Sunday, 4 – 6 November 2016
Location: Bell's Sport Centre, Hay Street, Perth PH1 5HS

Friday

10.30am – 4.30pm: Teachers' Conference (see box left)

8.00 – 11.30pm: Dance (informal) to the music of Marian Anderson's Scottish Dance Band

Saturday

9.30 – 10.20am: Open Forum
10.30am – 12.00pm: General Class, taught by Heather Cowan, with musician James Gray
2.00pm: Annual General Meeting
7.00 – 7.45pm: Civic Reception
8.00 – 11.30pm: Ball – music by Jim Lindsay and his Scottish Dance Band (formal dress preferred)

Sunday

10.30am – 12.00pm: General Class – teacher to be confirmed, with musician Ian Muir

Full details and online application, are available via www.rscds.org/article/87th-agm-conference-weekend-2016

DANCING IN SOUTH EAST ENGLAND AND BEYOND

The Sunday Class

Is The Sunday Class unique?

Why should it be? The Sunday Class – TSC for short – is a Scottish dancing class on a Sunday. It is aimed at more experienced dancers who like the challenge of trying different dances, and meets twice a month alternating between two village halls, either side of the A1, one in Lincolnshire and the other in Leicestershire.

TSC started in January 2010, and numbers of dancers vary from a minimum of 6 to over 20, with an average attendance of 12-16, with many people travelling up to an hour or more to get to the venue. My ambition to hold a dance and get Marian Anderson's Scottish Dance Band from Scotland to play was realised in March 2011, and the band have played every alternate year since, with Nicol McLaren & the Glenraig Band and The Chris Dewhurst Band playing in the intervening years. TSC also holds a St Andrew's Dance in November, when Ian Slater has been a regular performer.

Class programmes and cribs are posted on the website: www.thesundayclass.org.uk and a news email is sent out after each class to nearly 150 interested dancers worldwide.

Still not unique

In 2013, after 18 months of hard work, The Sunday Class Dance Book 1 was published, with an accompanying CD recorded by Marian Anderson and her Band. This book contains dances written by TSC regulars including *The Rutland Reel* by Robert Senior, which was later accepted by the RSCDS for Book 48, and the CD also contains two 'bonus' tracks including music for John Drewry's *Ramadan-ce*. The eagerly awaited Book 2 and CD, again by Marian, is scheduled for publication this autumn, and to celebrate this, Marian Anderson's Band will be playing for a special St Andrew's Dance on Sunday 27 November.

TSC has also re-issued the Belfast Diamond Jubilee CD and commissioned Nicol McLaren to record a new Christmas CD this year.

Still not unique?

From the early days of The Sunday Class I was involved in organising Scottish dancing holidays in Portugal and Spain. Developing from this, under the umbrella of TSC, there is a UK-based holiday in September and two holidays in February-March in southern Europe. Next year, for the first time, there will be a Beginners' School in Sorrento in March, which will hopefully encourage some of the newer members of our dancing world to improve and enjoy a holiday at the same time!

Is The Sunday Class unique?

Amanda Peart

Norwich Celebrates at Sixty

RSCDS Norwich Branch held their 60th Anniversary Ball at The Willow Centre, Cringleford, Norwich on Saturday 14 May 2016. Over 100 guests attended, who were welcomed by local piper Stan Hebborn. Once inside the decorated reception area there was a choice of welcome drinks and favours were handed out to the ladies. When everyone had arrived they moved on into the hall to find their allocated tables, and a super buffet supper awaited them with drinks from the bar.

After the meal the chairman, Christine Napier, welcomed guests and members of Norwich, then she introduced our special guest and current RSCDS Headquarters chairman, Jim Healy, who had travelled down from Perth with his wife, Marilyn to be with us. Jim commented how he had been very warmly welcomed by the Norwich Branch and what a pleasure it was to be there for the Anniversary Ball with congratulations on achieving 60 years. Christine then asked for the two celebration cakes to be cut and this was done by Jean Duffell, the Branch's longest term member and Claire Read, the youngest.

It was now time to start the dancing! The music was played by Sandy Nixon and his Band, who had arrived safely from Scotland. All the dances were talked through admirably by Les Burden, who had, with his wife Dawn, travelled up from Bude in Cornwall. There were a few quick walk-throughs, which always helps. The dance programme included the *Norfolk Broads Hornpipe*, which had been devised by former Norwich member, Roger Belshaw. About halfway through the dancing there was a coffee break, accompanied by anniversary cake. Back to the dancing, this continued on very happily, until nearly midnight. All the Committee had done a splendid job in making the evening go so well with special thanks for all members involved.

Rosalind Palmer
See photo p11

Dance with Your Soul in Seoul

The St Andrew's Society of Seoul is the glue which binds together the British, indeed the expatriate, community in the Republic of Korea. There are some 2,000 British nationals in Korea, including babes in arms and children. Of these, around 800 are in the capital, Seoul; many of the remainder are associated with the shipyards in Ulsan and Koje, or are young people working as teachers of English as a foreign language.

The Society runs three events a year: a St Andrew's Ball, a Burns' Supper, and an informal dance to recorded music: 'The Muckleshunter'. The Muckleshunter was an idea from Hong Kong where it was known as 'The Muckle Chunter', i.e. much chattering. The typo was inspirational and has remained ever since its first appearance in 1989. These events are renowned for being informal – and fun – even if some couples end up not speaking from time to time!

At the time of the first St Andrew's Ball in 1976 a curfew required people to be off the streets between midnight and 4am, so the Ball went through the night till breakfast at 5am. The curfew has long been lifted – Seoul is a true 24 hour city – but the Ball still ends with breakfast.

The St Andrew's Ball usually attracts around 200, the Burns' Supper around 100, and The Muckleshunter about 80. There is a constantly changing expatriate scene, held steady by a small number of long-term residents. Many people like me owe much to a dedicated team led by Gavin and Maria Mackay who, year after year, conscientiously, and with good humour, train successive waves of newcomers to a standard sufficient to make the balls and dances go smoothly. The St Andrew's Society runs ten evening practices before the St Andrew's Ball and four before The Muckleshunter, generally in Broughtons' Bar at the British Embassy. The usual repertoire runs to fifteen dances plus our own *Gavin's Reel of Seoul*, which Gavin devised.



Ian Cowan (blue shirt) and Gavin Mackay are joined by some of the Korean traditional folk dancers who now also teach Scottish country dancing.

Inevitably, there are occasional injuries, with the more serious having gone into folklore: the Deputy Head of Mission who broke his leg in *Postie's Jig*; the ambassador's wife who suffered a broken nose in a rather vigorous *Strip the Willow*; and another ambassador's wife who snapped a tendon in her leg during *The Machine without Horses*.

The Society's influence has spread, so much so there is one special group of Korean traditional folk dancers who teach Scottish country dancing to their compatriots at weekends.

In years past a band flew in from Scotland, assisted by sponsorship from British Airways and Cathay Pacific. But the cost became prohibitive, so the society approached the Camarata Music Company, run by an American-Korean couple, which puts on choral and orchestral concerts. Through this connection there is now a four-piece band – the McCamarata Scottish Country Dance Band. In place for the last three years, it ably accompanies all sixteen dances.

The 2016 St Andrew's Ball will be on 26 November at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Seoul. Do consider taking part if life takes you to Korea at that time. And you would get a great welcome even if you could only take part in an evening practice or two: the more experienced dancers in a set, the easier for newcomers to learn. Take a look at the Society's website www.standrewssocietyofseoul.weebly.com

I am much indebted for help in preparing this piece to Gavin Mackay, five times Chieftain over the last quarter century, Ian Cowan, Chieftain in 2011 and 2012 and Liz McClune, Chieftain in 2005.

Jim Thomson

With his late wife, Angela, Jim Thomson lived in Seoul from March 2001 to January 2006, where he was introduced to – and enjoyed – Scottish country dancing.

When Bournemouth became Fifty

Tucked away in the woods is the village of Minstead and at the village hall we, that is 112 guests, met, to celebrate the founding of RSCDS Bournemouth Branch's 50th Anniversary. For me, travelling to an event is usually confined to local dances up to 25 miles but here I was travelling four times that distance; well, I have good friends in the New Forest area to see, it was a great band and it was a special occasion, so three good reasons. Others had also travelled some distance, including from Jersey and Brittany.

It is always a good start to an evening to be greeted on arrival, and I was warmly welcomed by Marilyn Watson, Branch chairman and teacher, dressed suitably in gold, and Margaret Robson, Hon. Sec. Not wishing to arrive unduly early I arrived precisely on time: "Wine reception at 6.30pm", stated the delightfully produced ticket booklet with its wee tartan bow; only to find everyone else was already there milling and socialising, bubbly in hand. Many were taking advantage of the option of a photographer to catch them in their finery. I joined the throng of black jackets, kilts and charming evening dresses generally reflecting spring time.

We were then officially welcomed from the stage when Marilyn read out a letter of congratulations she had received from HM The Queen. She commented she had written to her only a week before the event, telling her of the achievement of the Branch, and was amazed to receive by return of post her lovely greeting. A framed photo of it was on the stage for all to see.

A short time later we were invited to take our seats. Tables were allocated for all, and an enjoyable meal was served with more wine following. The Branch Committee and spouses had it all in hand, so much so that the word "clockwork" came readily to mind. These days eating first, i.e. before dancing, is a novelty, but it was the right decision, and "got it out of the way", you might say.

Marian Anderson and her SCD Band or, as I think of them, simply Marian, Max and Issy, soon struck up for the guests to enjoy the first dance, *Pelorus Jack*. The band was uplifting from the start and maintained a selection of great sets to complement the original tunes, playing them in their own distinctive style, including, for one dance, a drum solo from Max Ketchin. We were treated to music from a band that clearly is good together playing for dancers enjoying their music. This combination works well, and I am sure dancing standards and enjoyment levels are raised when this happens. The dance programme was nicely balanced with some interesting, new to me, dances on it. Marilyn's jig *Celebrating 50 Golden Years* and the late founder Ron Watson's 48 bar jig, *Sixth of August*, were highlights. We were treated to several encores during the evening, and in the second half, after a coffee and biscuit interval, we enjoyed the three-couple strathspey, *City of Belfast*, of course dancing to Marian's own tune. A brief re-cap for each dance was enough for all to be able to enjoy the dancing, without detracting from the atmosphere and many were grateful for it.

I noticed that Marilyn, who was the consummate MC; stayed on stage throughout refusing entreaties to take a turn on the floor. The evening ended at 11.15pm as it had begun, on a high note.

Generous thanks were given to the band and the hard-working and totally organised Branch Committee who, with Marilyn at the helm, had made this celebration the success it surely was. Marilyn was appropriately given a small gift of thanks along with some humorous comments from Grahame McLachlan, a chosen Branch member, to mark the occasion. Now we have some more good memories to add to that store that SCD brings us every week.

Marilyn commented: "it was wonderful to see everyone mixing so well, with tremendous smiles on their faces – truly heart-warming. Not one person went home early, they all danced to the very end. This really was our most successful event ever and a great deal of this was due to our long-standing secretary Margaret Robson and treasurer Ann Pattison, who worked tirelessly for a year to make it happen. Branch Committee members and spouses (and a 16 year old member) gave of their all providing food and dressing the tables, and we also had tremendous help from other groups in the area who helped us out with providing things that we needed and helping to decorate the hall. Many thanks to everyone for making a special evening."

Stephen Webb



Branch Chairman and teacher Marilyn Watson with a display celebrating the 50 years of Bournemouth Branch

Memories of Lucy Clark

In 2016, the Lucy Clark SCD Club celebrates 50 years since being renamed after founder Lucy Clark. This milestone prompted Club members today to wonder how things differed when Lucy was in charge. Lilian Podbury, the Club's 'senior member', shared her memories with Liz Mitchell.

LM: Lilian, I believe you've been dancing for about 60 years and it all started with Lucy Clark. How did you come to meet her?

LP: I heard that there was a lady doing Scottish country dancing for a WI class in the village hall and I went along. I'd danced at school so I was probably the only person there who knew what to do with my feet! At the end of the session Lucy suggested that I join her weekly class in Amersham, and I've been dancing ever since.

LM: Tell me more about the lady herself.

LP: Well, she was a very strong character who commanded great respect. She was a hard taskmaster and a perfectionist. If she didn't think you were making the effort, she would let you know! Looking back now, I think she was an amazing lady.

LM: What was the dance group like at the time you joined?

LP: We had just enough members to make up a set (so there was no hiding place!). Things were more formal then – and quite serious. For instance, we were encouraged to wear kilts (ladies too) with white blouses or shirts. We also kept the same dancing partner – very different from nowadays. Everyone was of a good standard, but Lucy was keen for us to improve further. She arranged for us to be tested by examiners from the RSCDS, and the whole class progressed through the bronze, silver and gold standard.

LM: What was the format for the weekly sessions?

LP: We spent about 50% of the session on step practice and I remember a mirror was placed at the end of the hall to help us perfect the steps. Lucy ran the Club by herself and I don't remember any recorded music. However, Lucy was also an accordionist and she would play while demonstrating the steps!

LM: I believe Lucy also organised monthly dances with live bands?

LP: Yes, these were held in Amersham and, despite Lucy vetting those who wanted to come to make sure they were of a minimum standard, over 100 people attended regularly and tickets were like 'gold dust'. People would queue up in the interval to buy tickets for next month's dance!

LM: In the 50s and 60s you would have performed the dances of the time. So many new dances have been introduced over the years. How do they compare?

LP: I think a few of the newer dances are more complicated, but I find we always return to the older dances, e.g. *The Irish Rover*, *Mairi's Wedding* that we did with Lucy. The enjoyment never fades.

LM: Lucy clearly made a great impression on her students. Why do you think that was?

LP: Oh, she made us believe that dancing to a high standard was what we should be aiming for.

LM: Moving forward to the present day, how do you feel the Club has changed since the early days?

LP: It's less formal now and more fun. Newcomers to the Club enjoy dancing in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere which they find encouraging – and they stay! Our new website and the recent introduction of social dances and tuition sessions have been a great benefit to the Club and its members. As a Club, we should be proud of what we're doing.

LM: It's now 50 years since Lucy's students renamed the Club in her honour. Why do you think it has endured for so long?

LP: The Club's always had a reputation for being friendly and welcoming and we've always enjoyed our dancing so much. A new member told me recently that he joined the Club because he noticed we were having so much fun that he thought he'd give it a go!

LM: Finally, Lilian, we can only guess what Lucy would think of the Club today – what are your thoughts on that?

LP: I think she'd be proud the Club is still going strong with a healthy weekly attendance. I'm still dancing at 82 and it's been a lifeline for me. I wonder how many others like me would be dancing if it wasn't for Lucy? What better legacy could there be than that? There isn't another like the Lucy Clark Club.

Liz Mitchell

(see advertisement p16)



The SCD Scene in Germany



Scottish country dancing has been popular in Germany for quite some time. A number of clubs have already celebrated their 50th or 40th Anniversary, for example Schwäbisch Gmünd, Stuttgart, Frankfurt and Cologne. Well-known workshops in Rechberg, Munich, Freiburg and Hamburg have for many years attracted dancers not just from all over Germany, but from the UK and Scotland, too. Musicians like Muriel Johnstone, Keith Smith, Luke and Adam Brady and James Gray – just to name a few – have been invited to Cologne, Oldenburg and Frankfurt to play for annual balls and for day schools. The SCD clubs there are closely connected to clubs in Eindhoven and Utrecht, Paris and Brussels etc. and visit each other regularly.

The Kuckucksnest (Cuckoo's Nest), in Schlüchtern-Vollmerz, near Frankfurt, deserves a special mention (see also *The Reel* 250). It could be called the heart of the German SCD scene – lots of German dancers took their first Scottish dancing steps there. This very special place has got an excellent dance floor, comfortable accommodation and is frequently visited by experienced teachers, from the UK, France, the Netherlands and Germany, who are invited to

teach at residential courses for all levels. Here you can also enjoy dancing to many fabulous German musicians, like pianists Anselm Lingnau, Stefan Schatz and Silke Grosholz and accordionist Wolfgang Mueller, who play for balls and day schools elsewhere as well, as do, for example Christine Moos (violin) and Ilona Stitz (recorder). Closely related to the Cuckoo's Nest is the so called Silvesterkurs at a Youthhostel in Schleiden-Gemünd/Eifel, another well-known workshop (eight days, three parallel classes for Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced dancers), which for over 30 years has also given many dancers their first experience of dancing.

With more than 45 clubs, the SCD scene in Germany is a very active one. Unlike in Scotland and England, these clubs are not RSCDS branches, but connected to the RSCDS as affiliated groups. There is one exception: in 2004, the Central Germany Branch was founded, the "headquarters" of which is the Cuckoo's Nest (see *The Reel* 235). The reasons for establishing this Branch were not only to represent German dancers and their clubs at the AGM of the RSCDS, but, no less importantly, to support local clubs in organising workshops with musicians and to further the

education of SCD teachers, who, for example, want to obtain an RSCDS teaching certificate. The Central Germany Branch also distributes information about dance events in Germany and abroad – and of course information about what is going on at RSCDS headquarters in Edinburgh. Recently, it has also become responsible for the workshop programme of the Cuckoo's Nest, after its founder, Carola Fischer retired.

Last but not least, I would like to introduce the local club where I share the teaching with others: Skua Dubh, in Bonn, was founded more than 30 years ago as a "culture group" of the university, to which it is still closely connected, and encompasses dancers aged from 14 to more than 65. In March we held the 5th Bonn Spring Workshop – a day school with a concept that is much appreciated by all participants: six teachers, each teaching a two-hour class about a (more or less) specialised, or even, unusual SCD subject, such as: covering, special formations, unusual dances, use of hands, or not panicking on the dance floor. Two classes are taught at the same time, and dancers can spontaneously decide which one to take part in.

Some of you may already have noticed a growing number of enthusiastic young dancers as well – not only does a German team regularly take part in the Newcastle Festival, but there are also more than 15 dancers attending this year's Spring Fling in Edinburgh.

And from there we can look forward to other great things ahead! In 2017, Bonn is proud to be the second town outside the UK, after Lyon in 2014, to host the RSCDS Spring Fling. Spring Fling 2017 is being organised by a committee of young dancers from all over Germany. There will also be a Spring Fringe running in parallel, a two-day residential course with teachers and musicians from the UK and overseas. Spring Fling and Spring Fringe 2017 take place in Bonn from 28 to 30 April – save the date! We would be very happy to welcome you in Bonn and do look forward to dancing with you!

Eva-Maria Beckmann

Some useful weblinks to the German SCD scene described:

www.celtic-circle.de
www.scd-germany.de
www.skua-dubh.de



Above: Teachers, musicians and participants at the 5th Bonn Spring Workshop.
Below: Step practice (Eva-Maria is at 10 o'clock in the inner circle).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP



Argyll Weekend at
Dillington House, Somerset
Dancers' Weekend School
7 – 9 October 2016
Dancers Weekend School
Teachers: **Diane Rooney and Mervyn Short**
Musicians: **Robert Mackay and Barbara Manning**
For booking contact: Dillington House,
Ilminster, Somerset TA19 9DT, 01460 258613
For further information and brochure:
dillington@somerset.gov.uk or
www.dillington.co.uk or see
www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Tea Dance

Sunday 22 January 2017
2.15 – 6.00pm

Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre,
East Common SL9 7AD

Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

Programme: The Welcome Reel, The Luckenbooth Brooch, Deer Friends, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Fisherman's Reel, Montparnasse, Pelorus Jack, The Rutland Reel, The Piper and the Penguin, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, J B Milne, Aird of Coigach, The Flower of Glasgow, The Morrison Measure, The Reel of the 51st Division

Dances will be walked and talked through
Tickets £8.50

Bring and share refreshments
Tea, coffee and squash provided

Tea Dance Practice

Saturday 21 January 9.45am-12.45pm
Garden Room, Memorial Centre, Gerrards Cross
SL9 7AD £3.00

Contact Celia, celiastuartlee@gmail.com
or Rose, 07880 842370 or
rkreloff@hotmail.co.uk
visit our website www.gxscottish.org

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB

Day School

Sunday 20 November 2016
Abbots Hill School, Hemel
Hempstead, HP3 8RP

Teachers: **Janet Johnston (Stirling)**

Paul Plummer (BHS Borders)

Deborah McLachlan (London)

Musicians: **Jim Lindsay, Ian Robertson and Ken Martlew**

Full Day £22.00 | Half Day £12.00 (am or pm)

'Drewry' Dance

Saturday 19 November 2016
7.30 – 11.30pm

Bovingdon Memorial Hall,
Bovingdon, HP3 0HJ

Jim Lindsay and Ian Robertson

Bring and share refreshments

Contact Janet Aylward,

dayschool@berkhamstedreelclub.org

For details of these & other events
please visit our website

www.berkhamstedreelclub.org



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming Saturday dances:
7.00 – 10.30pm unless otherwise
stated



Saturday 3 September (7.00 –
11.00pm)

President's Night

St Saviour's Church Hall, St George's Square,
Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW

Craigievar

Saturday 1 October:

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD
Ian Muir (Prestwick)

Saturday 3 December:

Christmas Dance

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

Programmes and cribs are on our website

www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

For further details, contact Catriona Bennett on

020 8286 8424 or cmb84scd@gmail.com

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

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH

Autumn Dance

Saturday 15 October 2016

7.00 – 11.00pm

Mascalls Academy, Maidstone Road,

Paddock Wood TN12 6LT

Dancing to recorded music

Tickets £5.00 plus a plate of food to share

Contact Colin Simpson, 01892 532712 or

socialsec@rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

80th Anniversary Ball

Saturday 18 February 2017

7.00 – 11.00 pm

Hampton School, Hanworth Road,

Hampton, Middx TW12 3HD

Iain MacPhail and his Scottish Dance Band

Further details in *The Reel* 298 and

on our website

www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk

CREDITS

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

Stephen Webb: p1 (left), p3 (four pictures),

p7, p10/11 (4 & 6), p12

Elaine Davies: p1 (right)

Chris Collings; p2

RSCDS London/Stephen Webb: p3

From Jeremy Hill: p6

St John's Club: p8

Jacmel Dent: p10 (1 & 2)

Peter Loveland: p10 (3) and p20 (top)

Grace Hill: p11 (7)

Andrew Kellett: p11 (8)

Ian Cowan: p13

Michael Schillo: p15

Christine Davies: p20 (bottom)

Thanks also to Stephen Webb for additional
reporting and co-ordination.

Lucy Clark



Scottish Country
Dance Club

50th Anniversary Dance

Saturday 10 December 2016

7.00 – 11.00pm

Prestwood Village Hall, 1 Wycombe Road,
Buckinghamshire HP16 0NZ

Ian Robertson and his Band

Programme: Miss Lucy Clark, Glastonbury Tor,
Golden Anniversary Strathspey, The Flight of
the Falcon, Cramond Bridge, St Columba's
Strathspey, Anniversary Reel, Ramadan-ce,
Crossing the Line, Lucy's Fancy, Fifty Years On,
Sands of Morar, John Cass, A Golden
Celebration, Miss Eleanor, Todden Hame, The
Montgomerys' Rant, Extra: The White Heather
Jig

Some dances will be walked through if required

Tickets £15.00 and are limited

Welcome glass of fizz and
celebration buffet included

Contact Dick Field, 01494 562231 or

Dickandrosief@aol.com

Further information and cribs available on

www.lucyclark.org.uk

HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

60th Annual Ball

Saturday 12 November 2016

7.30 – 11.30pm

New venue: Swakeleys School, Clifton Gardens,
Hillingdon UB10 0EJ

Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Blooms of Bon Accord, Torridon
Lassies, Margaret Parker's Strathspey,
Nottingham Lace, Father Connelly's Jig, The
Moray Rant, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Best Set in the
Hall, The Dream Catcher, The Plantation Reel,
The Diamond Jubilee, Culla Bay, Castle of Mey,
Olive MacNeil of Hayes, The Winding Road,
The Cranberry Tart, The Recumbent Stone, Miss
Eleanor, The Dancing Master, Ramadan-ce

Tickets £18.00 (including buffet)

For tickets, map and travel directions

Contact Margaret Wallace, 0208 560 6160 or

margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk

Cribs available on the website:

www.hayesscottish.org.uk

RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH



Autumn Social

Saturday 1 October 2016

7.45 – 10.45 pm

St Mark's Church Hall, Farnborough GU14 6TU

Dancing to recorded music

Bring and share refreshments

Contact Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

Christmas Social

Wednesday 28 December 2016

7.45–10.45 pm

St Paul's Parish Rooms, Wokingham RG41 1EH

Dancing to recorded music

Bring and share refreshments

Contact Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

Day School

Saturday 11 March 2017

Contact Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

Visit our website

www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

**ASHDOWN SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCE CLUB**

Charity Dance
for

Community First Responders

Weald Cottage Hospice

Wild Life A & E

Saturday 17 September 2016

7.30 – 11.30pm

Beacon Academy, East Beeches Road,
Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2AS

Marian Anderson

and Her Scottish Dance Band

MCs Caroline and Graham Hamilton

Programme: The Lochalsh Reel, Quarries' Jig, Linnea's Strathspey, The Ruby Rant, Father Connelly's Jig, St Columba's Strathspey, Mrs Stuart Linnell, The Glengarry Homestead, The Irish Rover, MacDonald of Keppoch, Pelorus Jack, Butterscotch and Honey, The Flying Spur, Staircase in Styria, Gothenburg's Welcome, City of Belfast, Band Sol, The Recumbent Stone, The Minister on the Loch, Hooper's Jig, Ramadan-ce Extras: Bauldy Bain's Fiddle; The Blue Mess Jacket

Tickets in advance only

Tickets £13.00 Children and Spectators £8.00

Plus bring and share food

Contact Michael Copeman, 01892 655971 or

copemanmc67@yahoo.com

**RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH
Annual Ball**

Saturday 14 January 2017

Pittville School, Albert Road,

Cheltenham, GL52 3JD

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Tickets £18.00 including light refreshments

**CHISWICK SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCE CLUB**

Kilts & Posh Frocks

Sunday 11 December 2016

St. Benedict's School Hall,

16 Marchwood Crescent, Ealing, W5 2DZ

Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band

Tickets in advance ONLY from

tickets@chiswickscottish.org.uk

Visit our website for details

www.chiswickscottish.org.uk



**RSCDS CROYDON AND DISTRICT
BRANCH**

Weekend School

Friday 11 – Sunday 13 November 2016

Cumberland Hotel, Grand Parade,

Eastbourne BN21 3YT

Teacher: **Mervyn Short**

For further details

Contact Mary Courtney, maryc285atgmail.com

*Join us at Cober Hill Hotel
for a Fantastic
Scottish Dancing Holiday*

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Friday 17 – Sunday 19 February 2017

Teachers: **Antoine Rousseau and**

Pat Houghton

Musicians: **Robert Mackay,**

Ian and Judith Muir

Band for evening dances:

Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band

Contact Catherine Packwood-Bluet, 01980

621322 or catherinepb@hotmail.co.uk

www.craigellachie-band.co.uk/

isle_of_wight.html

**Maintaining Contact
Email addresses**

The Branch continues to use various means to keep in touch with members, on the website, Facebook, Twitter, through *The Reel* and regular email.

If you wish to receive information by email (not more than once a month), please send your email address to Jerry Reinstein jar@reinsteinassociates.com and we will add you to the list.

Note: the list is not used for any other purpose and not shared with any other organisation.

SOUTH EAST DANCE DIARY

The diary is available through the Branch website at www.rscdslondon.org.uk and is regularly updated. If you don't have internet access and would like a hard copy of the latest version please send an SAE to Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW.

All societies in the South East are invited to submit their functions for inclusion in the diary by emailing Caroline Hamilton at diary@rscdslondon.org.uk or by post to the above address.

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH Annual Ball

Saturday 22 October 2016

7.30 – 11.45pm

Headington School, Oxford OX3 7TD
Ample free parking and on the London to
Oxford bus route – bus stops near to the school

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Anderson's Rant, Hooper's Jig,
The Birks of Invermay, The Rutland Reel, The
Starry-Eyed Lassie, Scotch Mist, Summer
Wooring, MacLeod's Fancy, The Rose of the
North, General Stuart's Reel, Antarctica Bound,
The Saltire Society Reel, Miss Eleanor,
Jennifer's Jig, Polharrow Burn, Midsummer
Common, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, The
Dream Catcher, Tribute to the Borders, The Reel
of the 51st Division

Tickets £18.00 (spectators £9.00)

Including supper

Contact Trisha Rawlings, 01869 340830 or
trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com

Advance notice:

Burns' Night Supper & Dance, 28 January 2017,
Benson, OX10 6LZ

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

BATH RSCDS

Autumn Dance

Saturday 19 November 2016

7.30 – 11.00pm

Selwyn Hall, Valens Terrace, Box, Corsham
SN13 8NT (just off the A4, three miles from
Bath towards Corsham) plenty of parking

The Craigievar Scottish Dance Band

Tickets £12.00

Anniversary Dance

Saturday 11 February 2017

7.30 – 11.00pm

Saltford Community Hall, Wedmore Road,

Saltford, Bristol, BS31 3DJ

Midway between Bath and Bristol

Plenty of parking

Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band

Tickets £12.00

Spring Dance

Saturday 6 May

7.30 – 11.00pm

Conygre Hall, North Road, Timsbury, BA2 0JQ

Plenty of parking

Strathallan Scottish Dance Band

Tickets £12.00

Contact Maggie Webb, mawebb58@gmail.com
or Anne Jarrett, 01225 722309,
annejarrett@btopenworld.com

ST. JOHN'S SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball

Saturday 26 November 2016

7.30 – 11.45pm

Welcome Drink 7pm

for 7.30pm start

Emmbrook School, Wokingham

RG41 1JP



Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band

Programme: Good Hearted Glasgow, The
Queen's View, Midsummer Common, Major Ian
Stewart, Findlater Castle, The Singing Sands,
James Gray, The Royal Deeside Railway,
Autumn in Appin, General Stuart's Reel, EH3
7AF, The Whistling Wind, Miss Gibson's
Strathspey, Gothenburg's Welcome, Round Reel
of Eight, Kilkenny Castle, The Ship in Full Sail,
The Saltire Society Reel, City of Belfast, The
Reel of the 51st Division

Tickets £22.00

Including soft drinks and wine with supper

Contact Louise Peddie, SAE to 41 College

Road, Sandhurst, Berks GU47 0RA, 01276

34648 or loupou42@aol.com

Rich Lavis, SAE to 96 Park Road, Farnborough,

Berks GU14 6LT, 07921 654094 or

lav6226@icloud.com

THE REEL

The Reel is published four times a year by the London Branch and posted free to all Branch members. Membership options are shown on p6. Non-members may subscribe to be on the mailing list, and clubs can negotiate bulk copies for their members. Enquiries to Maggie Westley (see advert on p1).

Articles and advertisements for *The Reel* should be sent to the Editor, address at the foot of the front page. **Advertising rates are £13.00 per column inch in black and white, £19.50 per column inch in colour.** Enquiries to the Business Editor: Jeff Robertson at businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB. Dancing most Mondays,
8–10.15pm, Sept–June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All
welcome. Details: Betsy Wu, 42 Ock Bridge Place, Abingdon, OX14 5FW,
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 8pm,
Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Dawn Dorman, Hill End Farm,
Gorhambury, St Albans, Herts AL3 6AR, 01727 853908 or
www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS. Technique Class,
alternate Mondays, Sept–April, 8–10pm Finchampstead Memorial Hall,
RG40 4JU. General Class, every Wednesday, Sept–May, 8–10pm, Our
Lady Queen of Heaven Church Hall, Frimley, GU16 7AA. Teacher:
Mervyn Short. Details: Paul Plummer, 01252 404639 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 7–10pm. Alternate Wednesday Technique class, by invitation.
Details: Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Road, Broadstone, Dorset
BH18 8BX, 01202 698138 or margaret.brseds@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 Moulseccomb Hall, Brighton. Details: Carol Catterall,
01273 564963 or www.bhscdc.org.uk

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 8pm at St Paul's Church
Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Jackie Cresswell, 01252 616289 or
info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for all grades. Details:
Lindsey Ibbotson, 07977905291 or lindsey.ibbotson@gmail.com

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY Scottish country dancing and other
events. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8pm from Sept–June. Details:
Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or www.camscotsoc.org.uk

CHEL TENHAM BRANCH RSCDS Advanced class Mondays 7.30–9.30pm
Christ Church Infants School. General class Thursdays 7.15–9.15pm.

Bettridge School, Cheltenham. Also a Beginners' class. Details: Margaret
Winterbourne, 01242 863238

CHEL TENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30–
10pm 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–
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:
Heather Nolan, 01784 256549 or secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk

CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets Thursdays 8–
10pm Sept–June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue,
Pound Hill, Crawley. Details: Mrs Lee Pratt 01403 269439 or
chrisp@fastnet.co.uk or www.crawleyscdc.btck.co.uk

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH. Branch classes in Coulsdon: General,
incl Beginners with technique (Fri); Advanced & Improvers (Wed) 8 – 10pm
St Andrew's Church, Woodcote Grove Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2AJ. Details:
Ian Tucker, 01306 741690 or ian.tucker.at.home@gmail.com or
www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Club night Mondays (all year)
8–10pm 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 – 10pm, Tweddle Hall, St Andrew's URC, Northey Avenue,
Cheam, SM2 7HF. Teacher: Pauline Cashmore, 020 8686 9362. Details:
Dorothy Pearson, 01737 551724 or pearson2902@tiscali.co.uk

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 7.30–10pm, 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. Beginners 7.30pm, General 8.15pm. Details:
Celia Stuart-Lee, 01753 884217 or info@gxscottish.org or www.gxscottish.org

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** Meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8-10pm. 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 8pm from Sept-June. Details: 01483 456091 or www.gsdc.org.uk
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept-June from 8-10pm in The Parlour, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF, 020 8870 6131
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday at 8pm 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. Details: Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner, HA5 3QR, 020 8428 6055 or www.harrowscottish.org.uk
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8-10pm, Sept-July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, 020 8560 6160
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11pm, 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 7-8pm. General 8-10pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent, 01843 869284
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP.** Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinity, JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or jchanjoy97@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 0BD. 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 8pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden, HP16 0BA. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL, 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8pm 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 7.30-10pm 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 8-10.15pm 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 8-10pm. 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 7.45-10pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 9JN, 01634 254451
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 8-10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners'/Improvers' Class every Monday 8-10.15pm at St Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. 'Young at Heart' class on Mondays 2-4 pm at St Johns Church Hall, Lynwood Grove, Orpington BR6 0B Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or hadyndavies@gmail.com
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET, 01869 340830
- READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading, RG1 5BD from 8-10pm, Sept-May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st & 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Rita Cane 0118 975 7507 or sascdo1@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
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8pm from mid Sept. to end of May. Details: 020 8943 3773 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP.** Dancing Tues 8pm 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, 7.15-10pm. 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 8-10.15pm Sept-June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Sue Davis 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne, 01344 774344 or alan.suedavis@gmail.com Also Children's Class Sats 9.30-11am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT** hold weekly social dance on Thursday evenings from 8-10pm at Collingwood School, Springfield Road, Wallington, SM6 0BD. Details: Maggie Westley, 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157, or westley.maggie14@gmail.com
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from Sept-May, 8-10pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Mrs Josephine Ellis, 26 Byng Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8EJ or josephine@ellismp.plus.com
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from Sept-May, 8.15-10.15pm, in Barnes. Details: Sheena Clarke, 07954 350899
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin, 48 Eastbrook Road, Blackheath SE3 8BT, 020 8856 4522
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30-10pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Fridays, 7.30-10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9pm. 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. Details: Ian, 07842 034890 or sehscds@hotmail.com or www.sehscdsdance.org/news. For Demonstration class contact Anne Nutt 01992 550923
- 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
- TALLY HO SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS.** Thursdays, 7.45-9.45, in the hall behind Christ Church, 620 High Road, Finchley N12 0NU. Details: Lucille on 01707 691 522 or www.tallyhodancers.org
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8-10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8-10pm 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.** General and Beginners'/Improvers' Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey, WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8-10pm. 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 8-10pm 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
- WIMBLEDON.** St Andrew Society (London): Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8pm 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.net/ne.net
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS.** Classes Tuesdays 8-10pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8-10pm. 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 8-10pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Alex Daniel, 01621 855548 or alexsdaniel@aol.com



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For more information, contact Kathleen:
misshighlandk@gmail.com
07442 407484
www.tartanthistledancers.co.uk

Above: Name those hands! Band members at the Guildford Spring Dance, Saturday 30 April 2016 (see p10 for the answer).

Below: Over the four weeks of the course, various London and South East Branch members featured in demonstrations in the Younger Hall, as part of the Summer School in St Andrews. The first week country demonstration team comprised, front left, William and Helen Crawford, from Inverness; then, from left, Mervyn Short (teacher), Andrew Nolan (pianist), Catriona Bennett, Paul Plummer, Elaine Davies (all from the South East) and Lars Oldson (Central Germany).

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