



The Reel

rscds
London Branch

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
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No 296

MAY TO AUGUST 2016

Scottish country dancing –
For fun, fitness and
friendship



Above: Getting to grips with the Gay Gordons. Participants in the London Mayor's Search Party initiative on 20 March were able to dance to the music of Neil Esslemont, under the instruction of Peter Knight (see p2), in Tavistock Square.

SUMMER WEDNESDAY DANCE

Wednesday 1 June 2016
7.00 – 10.00pm
Doors open at 6.30pm
St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD
Chris Oxtoby

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| It's nae Bother | Graded 2/13 |
| Nice to See You | 40/3 |
| Gramachie | MMM/28 |
| Pelorus Jack | 41/1 |
| The Dancing Bees | 24 Graded & Social/10 |
| Silver Roses | Berkhamsted Diamond/12 |
| The Deil amang the Tailors | 14/7 |
| <i>Interval</i> | |
| Kendall's Hornpipe | Graded 1/22 |
| Sands of Morar | 45/6 |
| Catch the Wind | 45/5 |
| Wisp of Thistle | 37/4 |
| Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan | 14 Social/9 |
| Postie's Jig | Ormskirk 5/1 |
| The Highlandman kissed his Mother | MMM/32 |
| <i>Extras:</i> | |
| Good Hearted Glasgow ... | Garden Festival Lft |
| 12 Coates Crescent | 40/5 |

Admission includes light refreshments
RSCDS members £9.00, Non-members £11.00
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

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS

from just £4.00 per annum

The annual cost of RSCDS membership through the London Branch starts at £22.00 per annum, including copies of *The Reel* quarterly (see p4 for details of membership options). 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 p4).

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

Saturday 11 June 2016

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

STREET PARTY 4.00 – 6.15pm

Celebrating the 90th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen, Patron of the RSCDS
Our afternoon Street Party will be a family day, a reunion, a ceilidh, a dance and part of a national celebration, all rolled into one, offering something for everyone:
dancing, entertainment and party food.

Do come and join us!

Admission: adults £5.00, full-time students £2.50, children free

AGM (6.45pm) see p3

END OF SEASON DANCE (7.30 – 10.30pm)

Barbara Manning & Calum Mitchell

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| EH3 7AF | 40/6 | The Milltimber Jig | 41/7 |
| Cramond Bridge | London 1979/4 | Linnea's Strathspey | 47/2 |
| Cape Town Wedding | 39/4 | Meg Merrilees | 1/5 |
| The Ladies of Dunse | 26/11 | Old Nick's Lumber Room | 26/6 |
| The Minister on the Loch | 4 for 2008/2 | The Belle of Bon Accord | Deeside 2/18 |
| The Reel of the 51st Division | 13/10 | Welcome to Ayr | 47/8 |
| <i>Interval</i> | | The Robertson Rant | 39/8 |
| Orpington Caledonians | 49/2 | The Deil amang the Tailors | 14/7 |

Dance admission, including light refreshments:

RSCDS members: £12.00, non-members: £14.00, full-time students (with card) and spectators £6.00, children (under 16) free. All tickets to be purchased (cash only) on the door
All dances will be recapped

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

This is my last Chairman's Column. After three years in the post I must step down at our AGM in June. When I re-joined the Committee in 2011, it was not with the intention of becoming Chairman again, but, when Angela Berry left for Scotland two years later, I was the last member of the Committee to take a step back, so the job was mine. At the time, I wrote in this column, "It's not our fault that attendances are in decline, but it is the responsibility of the Chairman, the Committee and all our members and supporters to do something about it". Well, have we?

Members have received the Branch Report 2015-16 with this issue, and will read that membership has risen, and numbers overall at classes and dances are up. These increases are modest, and don't offset the decline in previous years, but they are encouraging. We are doing more to chase up members who have forgotten to renew. Did you know you can now pay your subscription by standing order? We have started three classes in the last three years: the university class, the beginners' class in Richmond and the re-formed intermediate class, and I hope there will be another beginners' class next season. Great bands, danceable programmes and all-round value for money have helped to maintain, and in some cases, increase attendances at our dances. On top of all that, the Day School, *The Reel* and our website are as good as anything you will find anywhere in their respective fields, and we have taken significant steps to modernise our public relations.

However, if we are to secure the long-term future of Scottish country dancing in London, we must keep at it. I believe there are not enough new dancers, particularly young(ish) new dancers, taking up our wonderful hobby to sustain dancing as we know it 10 – 20 years from now, by which time many of the people on today's dance floor will have hung up their pumps. Scottish dancing will survive, but will there be enough dancers who can make sense of *The Manual* or have the patience to learn the modern dancing repertoire to maintain RSCDS (London Branch)? This is why we are investing heavily in beginners' classes and youth activities, which of course should benefit not just the Branch but affiliated groups and other clubs as well.

Three years ago, I also wrote, "We must get ourselves organised (the Committee has been under-strength for a long time)" and, I am sorry to say, we still are. We have therefore decided to change tack. A motion will go before the AGM proposing that we reduce the size of the Committee from 15 to nine. This will not necessarily mean that we have to cut back on activities. Our experience over several years has been that members are prepared to take on specific roles once regarded as the preserve of the Committee, but are reluctant to attend meetings dealing with all the bureaucracy that goes with being a branch of the Society, and a charity in our own right. I cannot say that I blame you, but we will need members to help at dances and classes and with background jobs.

I am stepping down, but I shall not be going far away. After 50+ years my love for Scottish country dancing, its music and the people I meet through it is undiminished. Thanks to you all for making the last three years so enjoyable. I continue to marvel at the energy and dedication that Committee members, teachers and many other members give to the Branch. It has been a real pleasure working alongside you all. Thank you for everything that you have done. You are too numerous to name, but I would like to give a special mention to Pam Ellam and Lena Robinson, who are leaving the Committee after long and distinguished service. They will be missed.

Good luck to the Branch, to your local groups and to you all. I am confident that together we can overcome the challenges, continue to derive immense joy from our dancing and ensure generations to come appreciate the fun, friendship and fitness of Scottish country dancing.

Happy dancing to you all.

Andrew Kellett



ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE
SOCIETY



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Objects of London Branch

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

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

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Search Party

It was brilliant to see so many groups of happy, enthusiastic people learning the *Gay Gordons* at Tavistock Square on the afternoon of Sunday 20 March. Peter Knight provided expert tuition, over and over again to the different groups, accompanied by foot-tapping pipe music from Neil Esslemont. I have never seen so many variations of an allemande hold!

The afternoon's dancing formed part of 'Search Party', a new take on the traditional treasure hunt, organised by the Major of London (though no sign of Boris himself), taking place in London's streets and parks. Searchers had to solve a series of clues, and take part in activities, to find their way to a secret party, with food and drink. It was great to hear some of the comments as they came to join in dancing the *Gay Gordons* near the end of the search: "the best thing so far", "great fun", "I loved that"! A great success, showing Londoners how much fun Scottish dancing is!

Thelma-Jane Robb
See photo p1

EDITORIAL

What has happened to the great formations of Scottish country dancing? Set and Turn Corners and Reel of Three, Set to Corners and Partner, Set in lines of three, Petronella and Poussette, for example, appear in many of the greatest of our dances, such as *Duke of Perth*, *General Stuart's Reel*, *Hamilton House*, *Flowers of Edinburgh* and *Petronella*, and many more. The music is exciting, the dances, constructed around these key, well-known formations, are accessible to all levels of dancer, encourage social interaction within the set and allow for vigorous technique; but they rarely feature on dance programmes. Several of these would commonly appear as the climax of the evening, but not so often now.

Notably, these formations, and the associated dances, involve successive bars of pas de basque, including travelling with the step. As dancers – and therefore dance programme devisers – get older, and good technique becomes less achievable, programmes are being chosen that shy away from such dances. Circles can be compromised by less mobile dancers preventing the set from moving in the required direction, and so these may be dropped as well.

Perhaps this is to accommodate the difficulty of finding decent, let alone, sprung, floors, and therefore avoiding potential injury, or exacerbation of existing ailments. However, even with the notably sprung floor of the Younger Hall in St Andrews, the programmes for dances at the Summer School have moved away from dances with these formations.



Instead, dances are being substituted that consist only of skip change of step, with a couple of bars of token pas de basque on the spot, which can be fudged. Programmes seem to comprise dances made up of chasing, and multiple variations of reels – tandem, swapping, interlocking, crossing, etc. The mantra seems to be on the flow of the dance, without the light and shade that the variety that the different dance steps, on the spot and travelling, can bring.

Even with travelling steps, whether in quick or slow time, a lot of the colour of a dance comes from the need to vary the length of one's step. *The Braes of Breadalbane* is a good example, where the full one-handed turns for first couple in bars 1-2, 5-6 and 15-16 contrast with the two-handed turn for all three couples in bars 23-24. In *The Duke of Atholl's Reel*, or *Kiss under the Stairs*, dancers are required to judge the distance and steps in order to get back to places. Modern dances are often based on a single pace throughout – what some people refer to as “flowing”.

Day and weekend schools still cover the technical skills required to dance these formations and dances, but the opportunities to put that technique into practice seem to be few and far between. That does not need to mean a whole evening of pas de basque; far from it. The idea of starting the evening with a gentle dance, while dancers warm up, remains perfectly valid, just as bands typically prefer to get their fingers warmed up before embarking on busy reels.

What is important in devising a programme to create an enjoyable evening for all, as it has always been, is striking a balance between all of the differing elements of Scottish country dancing: modern v. traditional dances; reels, jigs and strathspeys; styles of dance tune; shorter and longer dances; shapes of set; “dance with your partner” as opposed to dancing as a set; and all the formations and steps that comprise our many and varied dances.

Jeremy Hill

BRANCH NEWS

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11 June 2016, 6.45pm

The AGM of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held at St Columba's Church (Lower Hall) Pont Street, London SW1 0BD, on Saturday 11 June 2016, beginning at 6.45pm. All members of the Branch are welcome to attend. The AGM follows our Street Party in celebration of the RSCDS Patron's 90th birthday (*see p1*). A cup of tea will be available immediately before the meeting and afterwards, commencing at approximately 7.30pm, we will be holding our end-of-season dance. Supper will be served during the interval of the dance. We would love to see you at all three events, but you are very welcome whenever you arrive.

AGM AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2015 AGM
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Report on the Branch's activities 2015-16
5. Treasurer's report and statement of accounts
6. Appointment of Honorary President and Honorary Vice-Presidents
7. Appointment of Officers and Management Committee
8. Appointment of Auditors
9. Appointment of Branch proxy delegates to the Society AGM
10. Motions
11. Any other business

Note 1: As the number of nominations does not exceed the number of places available, there will not be an election under item 7. Nominations for the appointments at items 6, 8 and 10 will be taken from the floor at the meeting.

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

Note 3: One motion has been submitted. It is included in the enclosure for members only and will be voted on at the AGM.

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: Opening dance of the season with **Strathallan**

Saturday 15 October: Branch Day School and evening dance (see below)

Wednesday 26 October Half Term dance

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

Saturday 14 January 2017: Burns' Ceilidh with the **Caledonian Reelers**

Wednesday 15 February: Winter Wednesday

18 March: Family day and evening dance with **Craigievar**

Saturday 29 April and Wednesday 13 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

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

Advance Notice

Saturday 15 October 2016

Paddington Academy, Marylands Road, London W9 2DR

Teachers: **David Hall, Alice Stainer, Simon Wales, Angela Young**

Musicians: **Barbara Manning, Ken Martlew, Judith Muir, Sandra Smith**
Musicians Workshop led by **Ian Muir**

Evening Dance with Ceilidh items:
Ian Muir and the Day School musicians

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

Full details in *The Reel* 297 and www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Open Air Dancing – Kensington Gardens

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

Saturday 6 August

Saturday 13 August

Saturday 20 August

Time: 2.00 – 4.00pm

An MC will guide everyone through a programme of popular country and ceilidh dances. Families, groups, individuals with or without experience of Scottish dancing are all very welcome. Bring some friends and a picnic and enjoy dancing to some wonderful music.

Please put the dates in your diary and do come along.

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



The Country needs your *Reel* - Update

Thank you to all members who offered to donate early issues of *The Reel* to the British Library. Stephen Webb has been very busy co-ordinating and collating an unmarked collection for us to hand over. I am pleased that, thanks to your support, we were able to obtain all the editions we needed and to pass them on to the British Library to complete their collection. Above, Duncan Heyes, Curator, Printed Heritage Collections 1901–, is shown outside the Library.

The Reel will be held at British Library shelfmark ZK9b6371, which is stored off-site, so any members wishing to see issues should allow 48 hours for delivery to the St Pancras reading rooms.

Special thanks to Elizabeth Bennett, Helen Brown, Judy Dix, Jenny Greene, Betty Hoey, John Reeve, Jane Rose, Jennifer Shaw, Rosemary Tilden, Rachel Wilton and, of course, Stephen, who spotted the gap and has led this project from the start.

Andrew Kellett

Representing the Branch

The Branch runs a monthly class on Tuesday 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.

After recent opportunities to dance for and with the public in Tavistock Square (see p1 and p2), Richmond and King's Cross (see photo p8), they will be represented at the Street Party (see p1), a group of dancers will be travelling to Leeds in July to represent the Branch at the White Rose Festival, and there will also be displays at the Open Air Dancing.

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



Children's Class 2015-2016

Teachers: James Fairbairn and Jenny Kendrick

The Branch Children's Class will take place from 10.15 – 11.30am on 14 May, 21 May, 4 June and 11 June*.

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

*Please note that the class on 11 June will be held in the Lower Hall at St Columba's Church, 2.00 – 2.45 pm prior to the Branch Street Party (see p1).

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

PayPal and Direct Debit options available



London Branch members, and subscribers to *The Reel*, can now pay for their renewals and subscriptions through PayPal and Direct Debit. 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 paypal@rscdslondon.org.uk

Jerry Reinstein

BOOKSTALL

Branch Bookstall

The bookstall is at your service for the sale of books, CDs and other items. They can be bought at Branch dances or sent out by post. Current stock is listed on the Branch website, www.rscdslondon.org.uk Contact Daniel (see below) with any queries or orders.

Daniel Capron, bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk
74B Thurlow Park Road, London SE21 8HY, or on 020 8670 6918.

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 Wednesday evenings
St. Thomas' CE Primary School, Appleford Road,
London W10 5EF
27 April - 25 May 7.00 – 9.00pm
Fee per class £9 member £10 non member

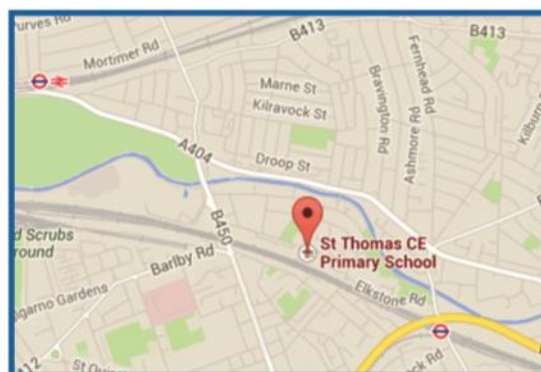
Basic Skills & Improvers
Teacher **Jane Rose** Musician **Ian Cutts**

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 **Simon Wales** Musician **Sandra Smith**

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.

Teacher **Deborah McLachlan** Musician **Fernando Martin - Peñasco**



General Classes suitable for all dancers with some experience of Scottish country dancing.

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

8, 15, 22 June 7.00 – 9.00pm Fee per class £9 member £10 non members

Special members' rate £25 for all three classes. Live music.

Teachers **Lindsey Jane Rousseau, Jenny Kendrick and Rose Kreloff**

Beginners Wednesdays 8.00 – 10.00pm 27 April – 25 May

Teacher **Judith Jones** Fee £6 per class. Recorded music

Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RT

Mixed Ability Class suitable for dancers with with at least
some knowledge of basic steps and formations. Wednesdays 2.30 – 4.30pm

20 April - 29 June (half term 1 June)

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

Fee £6 per class. Recorded music

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

University of London & UCLU Folk Society for students and staff of UCL
and University of London. **Resumes in September.** 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 either Andrew or Lena at classes@rscdslondon.org.uk



rscds
Dance Scottish

RSCDS Summer School 2016

Week 1: 17 – 24 July
Week 2: 24 – 31 July
Week 3: 31 July – 7 August
Week 4: 7 – 14 August
University Hall, St Andrews
Director: Jim Stott

- Attend as resident or non-resident, for any one or two weeks of the four. Residents can choose between University Hall and the Agnes Blackadder Hall;
- Morning classes at all levels, and optional afternoon classes/sessions;
- Social dancing every evening, with a ceilidh one evening each week.

Different features each week

- Week 1 will feature classes and examination of Teachers' Training Unit 2, along with Dancing Achievement Award (Advanced);
- Classes and examination for Unit 3 and the DAA (Very Advanced) will take place in week 2;
- Week 3 will include the Musicians' Course, and classes and examination of the DAA (Intermediate);
- Week 3 will also include the Young Dancers' Week, when 12-15 year olds may attend, with a chaperone, and join in the regular classes and activities;
- Teachers' Training Unit 5 will be covered in weeks 3 and 4;
- Week 4 will include a Social Dancing Skills course.

Bring your child to Summer School

- In addition, for the first time, the Society is piloting Junior Summer School, for 8-11 year olds, which will take place during week 3 for resident children, and week 4 for non-resident children;
- Their class will consist of a mixture of Scottish country dancing and craft activities. No previous experience of SCD is necessary. Classes will take place in a central St Andrews location, 9am – 1pm, half an hour before and after adult classes. Children may stay with dancing adults in University Hall (week 3 only) and must be accompanied by an adult to and from class, and to evening activities.

Prices

- A range of prices is available, including £635 if resident at University Hall, £840 if resident at Agnes Blackadder Hall, and £300 as a non-resident;
- Discounts are available for 8-11 accompanying children (weeks 3 and 4), 12-15 year olds (week 3) and 16-25 year olds.

All classes and courses are subject to demand. Further information and online booking are available at www.rscds.org/article/summer-school-2016. Members are required to log in to book. For log-in details, please contact Gaynor Curtis at membership@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, Margaret Catchick, via secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

RSCDS Committee Updates

Publications

- Book 50 ('Spring Fling') and its accompanying CD, recorded by the Scott band Scottish Dance Band, will be available for sale, on physical media or by download, in time for Summer School this year. A recording session for the production of a video will be held during week 3 of Summer School;
- A proposal to develop videos for all the remaining RSCDS dances in our series of books was agreed in principle, alongside the existing videos for steps and formations, with costings to be presented at a future meeting;
- A CD containing music for dances from *Miss Milligan's Miscellany* will be recorded by Luke Brady and his band and should also be available in time for Summer School;
- The 'teaching tracks' for Book 49 have been very well-received, and the possibility of producing more teaching tracks is being investigated, e.g. for Book 50, the Unit 2 dances, or the prescribed dances for the DAA;
- The Manual of Scottish Country Dancing has been reprinted with minor corrections and can be ordered on paper or as a PDF file from RSCDS HQ. A set of updated pages can be downloaded without charge from the RSCDS website at <https://www.rscds.org/document/1167>
- An augmented reprint of *Originally Ours*, including the music from the most recent RSCDS publications, is being prepared and will be available in due course.

Youth and Other Dates

- The pilot Global Youth Week in January was considered a success, though with rather limited notice. Accordingly, the next Youth Week is planned for 20 – 30 January 2017;
- In addition, a global Dance Scottish day will be established each year, with the time of year differing so that at least the dates of one of the global events should suit branches in both Northern and Southern Hemispheres;

- In 2017 the Society will promote and support a dance for St Andrew's Day, a time when many schools focus on Scottish dancing;
- Three youth workshops have been budgeted annually, one in Scotland and two in England, currently planned for:
 - 2016 – Newcastle
 - 2017 – Edinburgh and two in England, locations yet to be decided;
- The Youth Services Committee will continue its links with the University groups, Youth Organisations and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award;
- Due to the popularity of the Medal Tests for Young Dancers, the Society continues to expand the number of Medal Test Assessors, but especially in England. A training course is being run on 14 and 15 May 2016 in Bexleyheath. Qualified RSCDS teachers who may be interested to learn more should contact Julia Parr, Education and Training Administrator (email julia.parr@rscds.org)
- Winter School will be returning to the format of a weekend, running from Thursday dinner to Tuesday breakfast, 23 – 28 February 2017.

Business Plan

- A Business Plan Working Group has been established, comprising Helen Russell, Elizabeth Harry, Philip Whitley, Emma Allsop and South of England-based Ian Muir (RSCDS Music Convener) and Jane Rose, along with a process for the consultation of Committees, Branches globally and staff. The group started in March 2016 and plans to produce a draft document for 2016 AGM Open Forum and then for final development and decision at the February 2017 Board.

Recent Dance Questions Answered

Answers to any technical questions submitted on dances, formations and technique may be found on the Society's website under the menu Help – Technique Panel – Dances and – General, or via www.rscds.org/article/TechniquePanelDances. Here are some recent answers to questions on dances:

Balmoral Strathspey (22/3)

Question: Bars 9 – 12: 1st and 2nd couples, 3rd and 4th couples set and dance right hands across halfway. Bars 13 – 16: All set and, giving right hands, cross over to finish on own sides in the order 2,1,4,3. Do all four couples join hands on the sidelines on bars 9 – 10 and bars 13 – 14?

Answer: Bars 9 – 10: 1st and 2nd couples join hands and 3rd and 4th couples join hands. 2nd and 3rd couples DO NOT join hands as there is a comma separating them: "...2nd couples, 3rd..."

Bars 13 – 14: All the four couples join hands down the sidelines as the instructions say "All set..."

The Birks of Abergeldie (9/12)

Question: Could you please clarify the two handed turns in *The Birks of Abergeldie* – are they done with pas de basque, or skip change?

Answer: As the instructions state "giving both hands" in both the turns, the usual step would

be pas de basque. In order to maintain the character of the dance, in Bars 45 – 48 commencing from the opposite side of the set, it would be acceptable to turn halfway to second place own side, again giving both hands and using pas de basque step.

La Flora (27/10)

Question: I would like clarification about which dancer's hand to take and when during bars 1 – 8.

Answer: Bars 1 – 2: 1st and 2nd couples join hands briefly with the dancer diagonally opposite them as in a standard 'four hands across halfway round'. They remain in the middle where they now join right hands with their own partner.

Bars 3 – 4: 1st and 2nd couples cross right hands to own sides. The couple have now changed places.

Bars 5 – 8: 1st and 2nd couples dance as for bars 1 – 4 but giving left hands to finish in original places.

South East Region Teachers' Association

On a bright Sunday morning, we amassed at Bovingdon Hall: a group of people with many years of Scottish dancing experience between us. 'Teaching by Stealth' was led by Graham Donald, and the aim was to improve the technique of dancers and teachers in a non-dictatorial manner. We started with a warm up and *A Milford Welcome*, which gave us further opportunity to prepare for the day ahead. The importance of posture was emphasised, including holding in the 'core' (thank goodness for Pilates), presentation of hands, and foot accuracy, as these are necessary to set a good impression to be copied by class members. We then progressed to travelling step practice, Set and Link, and *The Elusive Muse*, all the time being subtly coached to tweak and improve. Strathspey travelling was then put to the test and *Lyn's Labyrinth* performed.

The onus was then switched to us, as we were split into three groups and given a dance, *On the Edge of the Sand*, and various tasks associated with teaching and recapping the dance. It was interesting to see how a group of teachers differed so much in their ability to acquire and assimilate the knowledge to carry out their task in a limited period of time. Feedback was provided by one of the groups on how it went.

The key was to demonstrate, rather than to use too many words (difficult for some), in both teaching and recapping dances, aiming for succinct, with no waffling or unnecessary detail.

After lunch pas de basque, Double Triangles, the dancing of *White Sands*, and strathspey setting step. Then Poussette right round and *Snow on the Roof*, and final group participation: assessing formations needed and finer details in phrasing, technique etc., to teach *The Shetland Fiddler*.

Music for the day was provided by Ian Robertson on his accordion, who informed us of his choices of tunes and their composers. His playing helped lift us further to improve our dancing and hopefully we will be able to relay our better understanding to our classes in future.

Sarah Kelsall-Patel

Tenth Anniversary Weekend

There are a few places left for our tenth anniversary with a weekend of dances, classes and discussions at the Piccadilly Hotel in Bournemouth from 16 to 18 September 2016. The weekend will be a very sociable occasion with the main classes taken by Pat Houghton. All dancing will be accompanied by Judith and Ian Muir. The discussion sessions will include:

- Attracting beginners and keeping them;
- Teaching mixed ability groups and classes, how to keep everyone involved;
- Keeping teenagers dancing; and
- Using the music.

There will be social dancing on Friday and Saturday evenings. Non-teaching partners and local dancers are welcome to attend the evening social dances. Local teachers and dance group leaders would also be welcomed at the classes and discussion sessions. For details, see the advertisement in *The Reel* 294, or please contact Mervyn Short at mervynshort@googlemail.com or on 01903 782413.

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

Music for *The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh*

As publication of this edition of *The Reel* falls between our Patron's 90th birthday and its official celebration, dancers may be planning an evening of suitable dances. Many of these were mentioned in *The Reel* 280, at the time of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

In this, the second of an occasional series of comparative recordings, I have looked at alternative versions of *The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh*. Anyone interested in exploring full lists of available recordings is referred to the Scottish Country Dance Database at my.strathspey.org. Across all formats, 29 versions are listed, although that includes LP and cassette formats, some duplicates, and encore tracks with different tunes. I was able to lay my hands on 10 that are generally available, on CD, iTunes, emusic or Spotify.

The old school is represented by Jimmy Shand. Although track timings are not entirely reliable indicators, at 5'07" for 8x40, this is going to be a mad dash, particularly the second eight bars of the dance – never mind the footwork! At 5'29", the Auld Reekie Scottish Dance Band recording, on their album *Capital Reels*, aimed at the reeling community, is also unlikely to be suitable for a country dance evening. The distinctive character and sound that Jim MacLeod brings on the piano shines through on his band's recording, which is also quick. Unlike others, he presents the original tune twice, then each other tune twice, which in a 40 bar dance doesn't give dancers quite the same feeling of the structure of the dance.

Some of the apparent pace is a matter of the playing style. These older recordings tend to have more activity on the side-drums, which the balance of the recordings tends to favour. More recent recordings, with better sound facilities, allow a better balance across the band, and the roles of all the instruments comes to the fore.

I have to admit a personal connection with the recording David Cunningham made of the dance, on an album available on donation to charity, in connection with the Faculty of Actuaries' 150th Anniversary and the original publication of the dance of that name. Double-tracking accordion and piano himself, with Ian Adamson on drums, it is a good clean sound, but may not fill a big hall.

Ian Holmes' and Colin Dewar's recordings are both quite a bit slower (5'45" and 5'55" respectively). Finding tunes to match the original, *Dunottar Castle*, and the nominated second tune, *Birkhall*, leads to very varied solutions. However, I find their inclusion of 2/4 marches creates some slightly unexpected changes of style between tunes.

Kenny Thomson recorded the dance for the RSCDS on its republication in Book 39. His slightly more staccato playing style creates space, and all the other players are heard to good effect. His choice of tunes is also attractive, as well as the arrangement, which highlights the "extra" eight bars for the circle. He plays the tunes as a traditional ABCBCDA sequence, leading us nicely back into the original. Another following that arrangement of tunes is Nicol McLaren, though he changes the repeats of lines within individual tunes, something I consider off putting for the dancers. His legato style is quite a contrast to Kenny Thomson, but both are excellent in terms of tempo and sound.

Iain MacPhail, on his live recording from South America, takes the alternative approach of eight different tunes, building up the excitement as the track progresses. The sound is less clear, possibly due to the live setting, and the strong fiddle-led sound may not appeal to all.

BANDS

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CALEDONIAN REELERS

Well established three-piece SCD band, consisting of accordionist, fiddler and drummer. Caller/piper can also be supplied. Available for RSCDS dances, ceilidhs, weddings, reeling. Anywhere, anytime for your function. Please contact Derek Chappell 01206 764232 / Mary Felgate 07866 757401 for further information, or derek_chappell@aol.co.uk

RECORDINGS

Sadly, no new recordings have been presented or identified for review in this issue. Recordings should be provided to the Editor (*details on p1*) for consideration.

Two other recordings feature his principal fiddler, Ron Kerr: one is with Jim Lindsay, at the Black Watch Ball, and this is a really excellent sound and combination of tunes. However, the track length of 7'09" reveals that this is a 10x40 recording – possibly useful in some circumstances, but not all. The original is repeated, following by eight others.

The final recording, by Ron Kerr and his own Scottish Dance Band, in practice offers the same tunes as Jim Lindsay, bar one, finishing on a high with the ever-popular *New Level Hornpipe* and *Billy Thom's Reel*. To add a buzz to a social dance evening, this would be my choice, with great contributions across the band and momentum sustained through the entire track, potentially creating a great finish to an evening's dancing.

Let's raise a glass to Her Majesty!

Jeremy Hill



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1-5. Combined Societies' Dance, Pont St, 19 March 2016: Dancers at the annual dance of the Societies that meet at Pont St, as captured by Courtney Stein, a dancer and teaching artist from America (see also p14). No 3, showing the *Round Reel of Eight*, also includes Ian Muir of Prestwick, who supplied the music for the evening, with Bob Parsons (drums).

6. London Cares, King's Cross, 14 May 2016: Dancers representing the Branch danced for the London Cares charity, which supports older people who are often at home on their own, and, under the direction of Chairman Andrew Kellett, they were also encouraged to have a go at some dancing.

7. 8th Quadrennial Paris Branch International Easter Weekend in Vichy, 26-28 March 2016: A baker's dozen members of London Branch and many others from the South East of England were among the 160 dancers from 13 countries attending the 8th Quadrennial Paris Branch international Easter Weekend in Vichy, France. Taught brilliantly by Graham Donald, with sublime music for the three classes and the two evening dances by Muriel

Johnstone, Ian Robertson and Jim Lindsay, the participants left exhausted but delighted with the weekend. Paris and London Branch members Danielle & Jerry Reinstein were among the London dancers and Danielle was one of the 2 MCs at the Saturday evening dance.

Vichy was a famous spa in the middle of the 19th century at the time of Napoleon III and the buildings, including the Casino (now the Conference Centre) retains the glamour of France at that time.

8. RSCDS Spring Dance, Pont St, 16 April 2016: Stephen Webb and Jane Rose dancing *None so Pretty*, or *London Pride*.

9. SERTA: Teaching by Stealth Workshop, Bovingdon, 20 March 2016: workshop teacher, Graham Donald with his musician, Ian Robertson.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tempus Fugit

Dear Jeremy,

Issue 296 of *The Reel* marks a significant milestone for me: 40 years since I first joined the RSCDS. Much has changed in that time, not least the magazine itself. *The Reel* 136, May - June - July 1976, consists of four black and white pages. These are devoted mainly to advertising, with the exception of two letters to the editor and instructions for *Glenfiddich*, a dance devised by John Drewry. There are no pictures, probably because it was published before the home computer revolution. In 1976, and for a long time after that, it was necessary to go to a professional printer for many documents, including ball tickets. Photographs were taken on film and had to be developed by a chemist; it took several days before they were ready. Cameras are now electronic and pictures can be viewed and sent to others as soon as they are taken. *The Reel* has progressed to twenty glossy pages, many of them in colour, and it is even possible to have your copy sent to you by email.

The letters are interesting. One is from Alison Foss, the widow of Hugh Foss, and tells the story behind the tune *Lennox love to Blantyre* and the dance to this tune (RSCDS Book 6, No 4). This kind of historical background information ought to be preserved along with the instructions for a dance, so that future dancers have a complete picture.

The other letter is about an alarming incident that occurred at a dance at Brent Town Hall on 2 January 1976: the wind caused a parapet to collapse on to the roof, bringing dust and light rubble down into the hall. The MC, Harry Simpson, kept the dancers calm and prevented a panic. We take it for granted that an evening will run smoothly. Any difficulties that arise are usually dealt with behind the scenes by the host club's committee without the dancers becoming aware of them, rather like a swan gliding across the water with its invisible feet paddling frantically.

I started to attend a beginners' Scottish country dancing class in September 1975. I progressed to Marie Jamieson's intermediates and then to Alex Westwood's advanced class. I met my husband, Frank, at a dance at St Columba's. In 1978, I went to RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews for the first time. I expected to meet Miss Milligan, who had a formidable reputation. She was still teaching, even though she was over 90 and had artificial knees. It was not to be: sadly, she was taken ill a few days before I travelled to Scotland, and died while I was there. Summer School was stunned, though someone said that it was appropriate that she should pass away while her Scottish dance 'family' was gathered together.

Much water has flowed under the bridge since then, yet Frank and I are still dancing in spite of numerous ailments. SCD is good exercise at any age and can keep you fit for a lifetime. The title of the first official RSCDS manual, written by Miss Milligan, says it all: *Won't you join the dance?*

Yours sincerely,
Elizabeth Bennett

Vinyl records needing a home

The Scottish Dancing Club at Morley College folded a few years ago and Elaine Andrews has a box of 23 old vinyl records needing a home. All are 78rpm, many by Jimmy Shand and his band.

If anyone is interested please get in touch to pick them up – they come in a natty hard case. Elaine Andrews, Learning Resources Manager, Morley College, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HT, 020 7450 1829, elaine.andrews@morleycollege.ac.uk

On your Feet

Dear Jeremy,

Apart from RSCDS devotees, everyone in Scotland dances traditionally in outdoor shoes, mainly light footwear but some even in brogues. So why is the Society different? Was it the adoption by Miss Milligan of a more balletic style of country dancing? Was it her concentration on footwork – style and precision? That is all conjecture and in the past so we may never know for sure.

There is a story of a well-known team taking part in a competition in Edinburgh many years ago, all dressed up in evening dress, when an elderly gentleman sidled up to one of the lady dancers and asked why she was wearing baffies with evening dress. "These are my dancing pumps," she replied. "But surely when you are wearing evening dress you should be wearing an evening shoe?" The lady replied that, in that case, she would not be able to dance her steps correctly. "Ah weel, lassie, you canna be dancing them correctly!" And who was the elderly gentleman? None other than D G McLennan, the famous Edinburgh dancing master of nearly 100 years ago. Miss Milligan herself always wore evening shoes (with heels) for formal wear at a ball.

In my earlier days, I wore evening shoes like my contemporaries when going to a dance, unless, of course, the programme was entirely country dances. In those days just after the war, dance programmes were a mixture of ballroom and Scottish dances, where precision of footwork was not the first priority, but enjoyment of the music and the company was. Nowadays, ceilidh dancing comes into the same category. Dancing in heeled shoes takes away a lot of the formality and stand-offishness often associated with the style of the Society. The increasing average age of the country dancing community makes it more likely that footwork is a secondary consideration, so is there really a need to continue wearing heel-less shoes? I have resorted to very comfortable sandals. A soft soled pump is undoubtedly right for technique classes and demonstrations, but, for other occasions, surely any comfortable and suitable footwear seems appropriate? Around 1950 the SCD steps were modified from extreme balletic style to take into account the fact that some dancers wore heeled shoes. That, as far as I know, is the style we dance to this day.

Yours sincerely,
Wilson Nicol

More on The Missing MacNabberies

In connection with Stephen Webb's MacNab article in *The Reel* 295; Rosemary Coupe kindly sent a list of MacNab set dances that had been prepared by the late Hugh Thurston. This list identified 12 other MacNab dances that were said to be unpublished, viz: *Bonnie Prince Charlie*, *The Cameronians*, *Dunvegan Castle*, *Glengarry Waltz*, *The House of Fraser*, *Lewis Bridal Dance*, *The Lovat Star*, *MacLeod of Lewis*, *Orcadian Wedding Dance*, *Portree Lassies*, *The Sailors' Knot* and *The Whirlygig*.

This list had also included *The Brooch of Lorne*, *Friockheim* and *The Waltz Cottillion*. However, this last dance was later published in *The Reel* 258. Any readers who are able to help with any descriptions of these dances are asked to contact Stephen at stphnwbb@gmail.com

Jim, a Legend in his Lifetime

Bexhill & District Scottish Society was formed on 2 May 1949. Whilst always celebrating occasions such as St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns' Night, for many years it also ran a Scottish country dance class. Initially, it was just to help its members and friends through dances such as *Gay Gordons* and *Duke of Perth*, but it soon became more RSCDS-influenced, with younger members wanting to learn more.

In 1963, the regular teacher having moved, it was decided a few members would take the class for two weeks each. The second two weeks were taken by Jim Winter, and he has been known to say it has been the longest fortnight of his life, because after more than 50 years he was still taking it! Sadly, due to lack of numbers BDSS closed in spring 2015.

With his enthusiasm for dancing and music Jim has encouraged many people to come and share his love of this great pastime. His collection of dances and country dance music, from old records to the latest CD, just keeps growing. In the early 70s, he was able to gain his teaching certificate with May Yarker, examined by Miss Milligan herself. He has taught beginners, and those who have been dancing for years, yet still find something new to learn. In the 70s and 80s, he led and coached a team of dancers who performed all over the South of England dancing in stage shows from the Festival Hall in Paignton to the Royal Festival Hall in London. Often suggested as being too professional, the team took no expenses, with all money earned from these events and others from WI socials, school fêtes, etc. being gifted to local charities. How we miss the fun and laughter of those hours of practice!

Always expecting people to dance to the best of their abilities, Jim could be a hard task master but his mantra was always "it has to be fun". We in the Bexhill Society think he has more than done his bit to spread the word of the RSCDS, and we owe him a big vote of thanks. I am sure those that have come under Jim's spell and enjoyed his teaching would like to join us in saying a sincere thank you to Jim.

Pat Noble

Ed: we understand Jim has not been well recently, and wish him all the best for a speedy recovery.



DANCING IN SOUTH EAST ENGLAND AND BEYOND

Having a Ball in Milton Keynes

RSCDS Milton Keynes Branch held their Annual Ball in Newport Pagnall on Saturday 12 March 2016. We danced to Stuart Anderson and his Band, which comprised Stuart from Hawick on accordion, Judith Linton on fiddle and Keith Lauder. They gave us superb music with the band playing in a lively uplifting manner emphasised by Keith on drums.

The usual excellent fare was provided, and three local teenagers, Abbi, Ella and Erin, had volunteered to help on the night by preparing the food, serving the puddings, making teas and coffees and doing the mammoth mound of washing up! None of the girls had ever seen Scottish dancing before. Abbi said, "I thought the evening was amazing! The dancing was great and everyone looked very nice in their attire. The band was fantastic as well. We were all in awe." They all said that it looked like fun, so we are now hoping to encourage them along to a class. Abbi is a Young Leader at 1st Amptill Brownies, and a guide, and has been chosen to go on a service trip to Romania with Girl Guiding Anglia in July this year. Our branch decided to give the evening's raffle proceeds of £167 to her as a contribution towards the fundraising for her trip.

An exciting programme of dances included *Mideltone Silver* and *Rye Twist*, both being encored, led by our happy and competent MCs, Graham Wort and Jan Jones, and it is true to say, everyone who attended had an enjoyable evening of dancing.

Jo Ross

Leaping and Dancing in Pitlochry

Monday, back home and feeling a bit disorientated. Not just because it is a leap year but also because my mind is still back in Pitlochry. At least 16 dancers from the South East of England attended this year's RSCDS Winter School from 21 – 26 February. We made up over ten percent of the total attendance, but dancers also came from much further afield – Sweden, Germany, France, Canada and Australia.

Experience in a nutshell? Beautiful countryside and setting, invigorating cold weather with a dusting of snow, inspirational teaching from Janet Johnston, Ron Wallace, John Wilkinson, Heather Cowan and wonderful musicianship from Ian Muir, Jim Lindsay, Bill Ewan, Ian Robertson and John Renton, old and new friends. From early morning swims in the pool to late night soirées in the lounge. A week's worth of escapism, try it – you will come home refreshed and keen to be a better dancer or teacher, and do not worry if you are a new dancer or have not been before. Everyone is very friendly and more than willing to help.

Thanks must go to the course organiser, Janet Johnston, to RSCDS HQ and the Atholl Palace staff for making it an experience worthy of being repeated.

Rose Kreloff



Contributors' photo from left: Fiona McDonald (Glasgow Branch Chairman), Linda Gaul, Muriel Bone, Les Lambert, Alan Munro, Ruth Beattie, Jim Healy, Johan Maclean, Muriel Johnstone, John Wilkinson, Jean Martin, Dorothy Paterson, Stuart Mackenzie and Anita Mackenzie.

Tribute and Dance in Memory of Dr Alastair MacFadyen

On Friday 4 March, over 150 dancers gathered in Giffnock, Glasgow to pay tribute to Dr Alastair MacFadyen, past President of the RSCDS. The large number attending the evening was testimony to the high regard in which Alastair was held throughout the Scottish country dancing world. Representatives from RSCDS branches throughout the United Kingdom attended, as well as the current RSCDS Chairman, Jim Healy, past Chairmen of the RSCDS, current and past members of the RSCDS Management Board, and many past Chairmen of Glasgow Branch.

Throughout the evening, much was learned about Alastair's life. He was, first, an academic having gained his doctorate in medieval Spanish political history, while learning medieval Spanish in the process! Alastair's lifelong love affair with Scottish country dancing began at Jordanhill College, where he first met Jean Milligan, co-founder of the RSCDS. The enormous contribution he made to the RSCDS as a dancer, teacher, historian, archivist, committee member in many different capacities, and chairman, was evidence to the high regard in which he was held by all who knew him. But it was Alastair's personality that distinguished him as a friend to so many. His interest in others and, above all, his wonderful sense of humour made him a person one felt honoured to have known.

For the tribute itself, Anita and Stuart Mackenzie gave interesting and amusing addresses about Alastair's life. This was followed by a demonstration by the RSCDS Youth Team dancing *Loch Linnhe* and *The President's Quadrille*, accompanied by Muriel Johnstone. Members of Glasgow Branch then performed *The Hebridean Weaving Lilt*, one of Alastair's favourite demonstration dances, dancing to mouth music sung by Johan MacLean.

Afterwards, the gathered audience heard memories about Alastair from Australia, Canada, England, Scotland, France, Japan, USA, New Zealand, South Africa and Tasmania. Muriel Johnstone concluded the programme of tributes with a wonderfully moving recital of stirring Scottish tunes, including the music for *The Glasgow Highlanders* and *Up in the Air*. Throughout the evening a display of memorabilia about Alastair, arranged by Anita and Stuart Mackenzie and Alan Macpherson, was available for all to see.

Supper and conversation followed The Tribute and then dancers took to the floor to enjoy a specially selected programme of dances that Alastair loved to the music of Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig Band.

The evening, which was organised by Ruth Beattie, Honorary President and Fiona McDonald, current chairman both of Glasgow Branch together with a sub-committee representing the branch and headquarters, was a huge success, but what would Alastair have made of it all? One can imagine the look of surprise and awe at the gathering. Some suitable humour would be inevitable in his response, but ultimately we hope he would have been honoured by this tribute because that was the purpose of the evening.

Walter Proven

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.

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

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 p4. 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

“All Stations” to Bucharest

February found me travelling by train to Bucharest. Whilst being one of the MCs for the Saturday evening dance at April 2015's Spring Fling in London, I learned that Romanian dancers were present. I thus met Alina Petrisan, the leader of the Bucharest dancers. Here was the prospect of visiting a new group, my 91st in the 24th country outside of the UK (mind you, this has taken me many years!). But what other dancing could I find en route?

I could not miss London Branch's Winter Wednesday Dance on 17 February. So, early next morning, I departed by Eurostar train to Brussels, en route to my first dancing port of call, Rheinbach, near Bonn, to dance with the Thistle Pin Dancers. Indeed I possess such a pin from a previous visit to prove it.

The Thistle Pin Dancers of Rheinbach

I rendezvoused with the group's leader Susanne Kappel-Hansen at Euskirchen, on the edge of the Eifel hills, and stayed with her in a nearby village. I have passed this way several times over the years and the group is pleased to have guest teachers. Susanne takes up the story of the group's 23-year history:

This year we again had the real pleasure of Jim Cook coming as teacher on his way to Freiburg. Also Margaret Lambourne kindly dropped in, inviting us to the May dance in Utrecht, and teaching a few dances.”

After the dancing, some beers back home to wind down were the order of the day before preparing to move on.

The Freiburg Scottish Country Dancers

Friday was an easy day. A local train to Cologne was followed by a three-hour high-speed run to Freiburg in SW Germany for their club's annual Saturday Midwinter Day School and Ball. Dancer Gisela Schindler, my hostess for the next two nights, welcomed me with an afternoon tea of cakes, bread and home-made marmalade. The nearby Kaiser restaurant was the rendezvous for dinner for those dancers arriving early.

The Day School is always fully subscribed and specifically features the more interesting dances on the evening Ball programme. This year the guest teachers, and Ball MCs, were Avril and David Quarrie (of Jig fame). Freiburg being close to France and Switzerland, dancers come from these

With this year's theme of 'Nice To See You', we enjoyed dancing to the superb music of Ilona Stitz, Christine Moos and Edwin Werner.

Early on Sunday morning, I resumed my journey. At Munich I boarded an Austrian Railjet train and visited 'Henry', the brand name of Austrian restaurant cars! In Vienna, I boarded the overnight train 'The Dacchia' to Romania. What fun to have a sleeping compartment, lying in bed watching the lights and exotic station names pass by night and the Romanian countryside by day! After 16.5 hours, I broke my journey 100 miles short of Bucharest spending a night in Brasov, a superb historic town.

Tuesday arrived, and it was time to dance again. A morning train got me to Bucharest, and with hotel and dance venue each only minutes' walk away, the logistics were easy.

Bucharest

Over a late lunch, Alina told me her story. As a teenager, Alina excelled in competitive ballroom dancing. Then she achieved an ambition of having her own well-appointed dance studio where she teaches ballroom dancing...and now SCD. In 2010, she met a Welsh lady in Bucharest who mentioned SCD. This appealed and a line of communication was established with Alison Jackson of South Wales Branch in particular. Fortnights at St. Andrews' Summer School followed and Alina was soon included in Raphaëlle Orgeret's International Team which competed at the Newcastle Festival in 2013. Attending Spring Flings in Lyon and London followed.

My presence being a novelty, I was asked to conduct the evening. Twenty capable dancers (nineteen Romanians and an Indian) enjoyed the dancing before retiring to the pub until 12.30am!

Having attained Unit 0, Alina aspires to the full Teaching Certificate, which is an expensive proposition. So a fuller report of my experiences was sent to Fred DeMarse, Chairman of the RSCDS International Branch, to enquire how its Susi Mayr Fund may help.

On Thursday I embarked on the 5.5 hour run to Sibiu, a historical gem, for an overnight stay. Next night another 'rolling bedroom' returned me to Vienna arriving Saturday morning.

With luggage dumped, I headed for the Danube town of Krems and the neighbouring villages of Und and Stein. Then back to Vienna for a 5pm meeting at the Café Ritter with the Vienna Branch dancers.

A final stop in Vienna

When this trip's plans were fermenting, passing through Vienna on Saturday 27 February was likely. Would the Branch be holding one of their monthly socials? I enquired and miraculously a venue was specially found and a dance took place. As the Branch had kindly found a venue, I offered to contribute a programme and be MC. And this is what unfolded.

Sunday was time to go home. I spent the daylight hours roaming the rails of Austria, including one of my favourite routes over the Semmering Pass, ending in the quaint lakeside town of Hallstatt which can only be reached from its railway station by boat! Heading home in the dark, I met 'Henry' again. Over dinner I toasted myself on another successful trip thanks to SCD!

Jim Cook



Tiberiu

Following his usual pattern of stops in several European cities on the journey to and from, Jim's dancing journey reached Bucharest. Here Jim is shown with his host, Alina Petrisan, in her dance studio.

“The Thistle Pin Dancers started with a weekend workshop in October 1993. Since spring 1994 we have danced weekly with four to six couples, and sometimes with two full sets when all former dancers and guests attend on the same evening. One dancer has attended since the very beginning.

Due to the immigrant situation, we lost our room last autumn. After 'travelling around', we shall now dance in the gym hall of a school in Rheinbach, hoping to return to the old room in the not-too-distant future.

On the third Saturday each January we invite families and friends to a post-Christmas Ceilidh, with Scottish country dancing, pipe band and music groups performing. This year a group of African drummers attended. We all look forward to this event with about 100 people, aged 1 to 89, enjoying the day.

We also join the balls and workshops of our neighbouring groups in Cologne and Bonn and attend the balls in Luxembourg and Oldenburg.

countries and many parts of Germany.

Club leader and secretary Kirsten Steinbach tells me about the group:

“The Freiburg Scottish Country Dancers evolved from a group of folk dancers in 1976 and, in 1978, became an RSCDS affiliated group. These ardent pioneers met twice a week and also danced in Basel on the Swiss border. Visits to St. Andrews Summer School, weekend courses in Freiburg, house balls and social outings were regular highlights. February 1978 saw the first Midwinter Ball, which soon became a popular tradition, renowned for its inspiring theme, matching decoration, entertaining performances and friendly hospitality. Later enhancements were a day school and live music from the UK and the Continent. The Ball's growing popularity required a hall for 150 eager dancers. In 2003 a new venue was found in the nearby Black Forest village of Kirchzarten where, to this day, dancers, teachers and musicians from all over the world gather to enjoy this glorious occasion.”

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Afternoon Summer Dance

Saturday 27 August 2016

Davenport House Lawn, Headington School,
Oxford OX3 0BN (indoors if wet)

Recorded music

Programme and price to be published
on our website

www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk

Annual Ball

Saturday 22 October 2016

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 Craiggellachie Band

Contact Trisha Rawlings, 01869 340830 or

trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com

Full details from www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk

ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Argyll Weekend at Dillington

House, Somerset

Dancers' Weekend School

7 - 9 October 2016

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



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming dances to be held at

St Saviour's Church Hall,

St George's Square, Pimlico,

London SW1V 3QW

Saturdays: 7.00 - 10.30pm unless
otherwise stated



Summer Ball

Saturday 4 June 2016

7.00 - 11.00pm

Ian Muir/Duncan Black All Stars

Programme: The White Heather Jig, Australian Ladies, The Belle of Bon Accord, Roselath Cross, Nottingham Lace, The Birks of Invermay, The Weathercock, The Plantation Reel, Culla Bay, The Montgomerie's Rant, Hooper's Jig, The Robertson Rant, General Stuart's Reel, The Bees of Maggie's Knock, The Gentleman, Round Reel of Eight, Miss Hadden's Reel, S-Locomotion, Spiffin', Duke of Perth

Ball Tickets:

Including finger buffet refreshments

* LHC members in advance £20.00.

* Non-members in advance £23.00.

All classes on the door £25.00.

* Advance booking price is only available on
orders received by midnight 1 June.

For tickets contact: Frank Bennett on

020 8715 3564 or fb.lhc@bluevonder.co.uk

If you have highland dress, you are invited to
wear it

Programmes and cribs are on our website

www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

For further details, contact Catriona Bennett on

020 8286 8424 or cm84scd@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so

please come along and join us for an
enjoyable evening

CREDITS

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

Elaine Davies: p1, p8 (6)

Stephen Webb: p2, p9 (9), p10

From Jeremy Hill: p3

Andrew Kellett: p4

Courtney Stein: p8 (1-5) and p14

Jerry Reinstein: p9 (7 & 8), p16 (top)

Stuart McDonald: p11

Tiberiu Dinescu: p12

Ely Serra: p16 (top)

Wendy Kellett: p16 (bottom)

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

Apologies that credits in *The Reel* 295 should
have read: John Crowder: p8 (MM & McNeil of
Barra), Wilson Nicol: p8 (*Brig o' Doon*)

RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH

Summer Dance

Saturday 21 May 2016

Churchdown Community Centre, Parton Road,
Churchdown GL3 2JH

Luke Brady's Scottish Dance Band

Contact Liz Caudle, 01242 524928

Programme and flyer on our website

www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk

HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball

Sunday 12 November 2016

Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band

Full details in the *The Reel* 297

Contact Margaret Wallace, 020 8560 6160 or

margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk

www.havesscottish.org.uk

IAN & VAL McFARLANE

cordially invite their dancing friends to another
Scottish / English dance

Sunday 3 July 2016

4.15 - 8.00pm

The Beaconsfield School, Watlington Road,
Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 1SJ

Ken Martlew & Mollie Koenigsberger

Nothing to pay, bring & share finger food

Contact McFarlane's, 01494 672782 or

www.mcf107.com

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Summer Dance

Saturday 9 July 2016

6.30 - 10.30pm

St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road,
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9HF

Ian and Judith Muir

Programme: Shiftin' Bobbins, The Flight of the
Falcon, The Blue Mess Jacket, Glastonbury Tor,
The Cooper's Wife, Cherrybank
Gardens, Blooms of Bon Accord, Gothenburg's
Welcome, The Cashmere Shawl, Ian Powrie's
Farewell to Auchterarder, Ramadan-ce, Father
Connelly's Jig, Midsummer Common, The
Plantation Reel, The Singing Sands. The
Cranberry Tart, The Falls of Rogie, Miss
Eleanor, James Gray, Mairi's Wedding

All dances, except the first and last, will be
recapped

Tickets: £13.00 in advance only

Bring-and-share buffet

Contact Frances Campbell Colquhoun,
020 8943 3773 or frances18ed@gmail.com

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 on our website soon

www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk

RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER BRANCH Branch Ball

Saturday 21 May 2016

Emmbrook School, Wokingham,
Berks RG41 1JP

Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band

Programme: Quarries' Jig, The Lochalsh Reel,
Jean Martin of Aberdeen, The Chequered Court,
Mr. Iain Stuart Robertson, Autumn in Appin,
The Castle of Mey, Best Set in the Hall,
Midsummer Common, The Fireworks Reel,
Major Ian Stewart, Clutha, Sands of Morar,
Torridon Lassies, Queen's View, Anna Holden's
Strathspey, The Laird of Milton's Daughter,
City of Belfast, The Kelloholm Jig, The
Montgomerie's Rant

Contact Gordon Anderson, 01420 362530

Strawberry Tea Party

Sunday 3 July 2016

2.30 - 5.30pm

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

Ian and Judith Muir

Contact Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831

Visit our website on www.rscds-bhs.org.uk



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.

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Midsummer Magic

Open Air Picnic Dance

Sunday 26 June 2016

5.00pm - 9.00pm

Chiswick House grounds, Chiswick,
London W4 2QN

Ian Robertson

Tickets in advance only

Tickets from tickets@chiswickscottish.org.uk

Please bring your own picnic and water

www.chiswickscottish.org.uk



An Intruder in the Ranks

You may have noticed an intruder among the ranks at some of the recent RSCDS classes and social events, bumbling through the sets, furiously writing notes in the corner, and snapping away with a camera. That would be me, Courtney Stein, a 28 year old dancer and teaching artist from America currently pursuing my Masters degree in Dance Anthropology from the University of Roehampton in London.

For my spring course in ethnographic fieldwork, I knew I wanted to research a culturally situated form that was native to Great Britain. A little internet browsing led me to the Wednesday RSCDS Mixed Abilities Class held at St Columba's Church, and through the associations I made there, I have been introduced to the wonderful world of Scottish country dance in several outlets. The research I have been conducting has centred around the social aspects



surrounding the experience of Scottish dancing, in both RSCDS settings and at reeling events with PGT Reels and London Reels, noting the generational differences as well as the innovative qualities of both styles. My focus has been in how these two sects of Scottish dance – reeling and country dancing – utilise the movement as part of social communication and of what role the ‘dance’ has in enticing participants, both returning and new.

I cannot thank the RSCDS and reeling communities enough for their co-operation in this process, for participating in formal and informal interviews, and for offering invitations to various dancing events. The inclusive nature and jovial atmosphere I have witnessed at every turn (pun intended) reassures me that I have selected the best possible dance form for scholarly exploration. On with the dance!

Courtney Stein
See photos on p8

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.brsdc@ntlworld.com

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details: Rod Burrows, 01903 783053 or chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk or www.rscds-brighton.org.uk

BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Thursdays 7.45–10.15pm at Moulsecoomb Hall, Brighton. Details: Carol Catterall, 01273 564963 or www.bhscdc.org.uk

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 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

CHELTENHAM 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

CHELTENHAM 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: Morna Partridge, 01252 711992 or morna.partridge@btinternet.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.uk or www.gxscottish.org.uk

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8–10.30pm. Details: Kate Fraser 020 8998 0571
- GUILDFORD SDCD** 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 jcchanjoy97@gmail.com
- Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@gmail.com or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com**
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** meets regularly at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1X 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: Carole Menzies 0118 942 3717 or sascd01@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.co
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Scottish country dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15–10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns' Nights when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Details: Denise Haugh, 020 8392 2920 or dhaugh200@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 grahameaston@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.sehscottishdance.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 <http://barnetcc.jalbum.net/TH/>
- 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
- 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.standrewsocietylondon.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



Above: Vichy, participants at the Paris Branch Easter Weekend (see also p9).

Below: Medal Test success in Bexleyheath

Congratulations to the following candidates, who were successful in their Medal Tests in Bexleyheath, trained by Wendy Kellett and assessed on 18 March by Marilyn Watson (C – with Credit, D – with Distinction):

Introductory: Daisy Ledger (C), Eshar Rai (C), Kathryn Tuck (D), Grace Lovegrove (D), Emile Varoquier (C);

Grade 1: Madeleine Brown (D), Lilly McGuire (D), Evie Pearson (C);

Grade 2: Hacer Bozaci, Lauren Jones (C), Molly McGuire (C), James Orchard (D), Iona Saunders (C), Sophie Spicknell (C), Lora Stancheva;

Grade 3: Isabel Howat (D), Rebekah Orchard (D), Erida Rexhepi (C), Emily Saunders (C);

Grade 4: Bethany Orchard (D).



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