



# The Reel

**rscds**  
London Branch

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
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**No 286**

**DECEMBER 2013 TO FEBRUARY 2014**

Scottish Country Dancing –  
For fun, fitness and  
friendship

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



Demonstration from the dem team ladies and the Gay Gordons at Kensington Gardens, 31 August (see report p3).



Birthday girl Margo Priestley, and pianist Barbara Manning, at the London Day School (see report p4).

## LONDON FESTIVE FLING

Saturday 14 December 2013

6.45 for 7.00 – 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

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

**Ian Muir of Prestwick Scottish Dance Band**

The Machine without Horses .....	12/12
Miss Ogilvie's Fancy .....	20/8
Red House .....	7/2
Pelorus Jack .....	41/1
The Robertson Rant .....	39/8
Flowers of Edinburgh .....	1/6
Old Nick's Lumber Room .....	26/6
Argyll Strathspey .....	35/3
The Buchan Eightsome Reel .....	21/8

Scottish Reform .....	3/1
The Braes of Mellinish .....	25/12
Lady Susan Stewart's Reel .....	5/9
The New Rigged Ship .....	9/7
The Dundee Whaler .....	Ormskirk 1/4
The Triumph .....	1/2
The Duchess Tree .....	Brodie/11
Argyll's Fancy .....	Graded 1/23
The Montgomeries' Rant .....	10/1

RSCDS members £18.00, non-members £20.00

Children £10.00 (members' children free)

All tickets to be purchased on the door

All dances will be recapped

Those with highland/evening dress are encouraged to wear it

## BURNS' SUPPER & CEILIDH DANCE

Saturday 11 January 2014

6.45 – 10.45pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

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

**Strathallan**

Come and enjoy a traditional Burns' Supper with haggis (including a splash of whisky), neeps and tatties, piped in and addressed.

This is a great chance to share with your friends the fun of Scottish music and dancing.

Dances will include: Gay Gordons, Britannia Two Step, The Dashing White Sergeant, Canadian Barn Dance, The Eightsome Reel, Swedish Masquerade, Cumberland Reel, St Bernard's Waltz, Virginia Reel, Boston Two Step, Strip the Willow and many others.

RSCDS members £13.00, Non-members £17.00

Children £7.00 (members' children free)

All tickets to be purchased on the door

All dances will be called and walked through

## STOP PRESS

It is with great sadness that we heard in going to press of the recent passing of Ann Dix, Bill Hamilton and Irene Fidler. Full tributes will appear in the next issue of *The Reel*. In respect of Ann, see also [www.andix.blogspot.co.uk/p/home-page.html](http://www.andix.blogspot.co.uk/p/home-page.html) set up by her sons.

## WINTER WEDNESDAY DANCE

Wednesday 19 February 2014

7.00 – 10.00pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

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

**Sandra Smith and Christina Hood**

EH3 7AF .....	40/6
The Borrowdale Exchange .....	Carnforth 2/9
Lady Lucy Ramsay .....	MMM 47
Kendall's Hornpipe .....	Graded 1/22
The Barmkin .....	Graded 2/6
Balmoral Strathspey .....	22/3
Jessie's Hornpipe .....	8/9

Inchmickery .....	14 Social for 2000/7
Easy Peasy .....	Graded 2/8
Miss Ogilvie's Fancy .....	20/8
The Starry Eyed Lassie .....	23/11
Mrs MacLeod .....	6/11
The Wind on Loch Fyne .....	Dunedin 1
The Deil amang The Tailors .....	14/7

Extras:

The Waratah Weaver .....	Graded 2/4
Round Reel of Eight .....	27/7
12 Coates Crescent .....	40/5

RSCDS members £9.50, Non-members £10.50

Children under 16 free

All tickets to be purchased on the door

All dances will be recapped

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Wherever you dance, I hope your season is in full swing. The Branch had a rousing start to the dancing year thanks to the stirring music of Craigellachie at our Autumn Assembly. We have welcomed Jane Rose as teacher of our basic skills class, and we are very grateful to James Fairbairn for stepping in to take the demonstration class as well as our children's class. It is also really good to report a new joint venture with the Folk Society at University College London where we are running a SCD class for students led by Lindsey Jane Rousseau and a team of teachers and musicians. The day school was again an outstanding success with a large crowd of dancers enjoying expert tuition and talented musicianship. Thank you, too, to the members who submitted entries to our Book 49 competition. You can read more about some of these activities in this issue of *The Reel* and on our website.

A great start to the season, but we all know the challenges facing Scottish country dancing and I warned in my previous column that some things would have to change. With fewer dancers of the right calibre able to make a regular commitment to the team we have decided to take a different approach to Branch demonstrations. Regrettably the Committee has concluded that a weekly demonstration class is no longer viable, but we are determined that demonstrations should remain an important aspect of the life of the Branch. We have some plans in place and others will follow. Already this season the Committee has had in depth discussions about the future of demonstrations and classes, and in the next couple of months we will be taking a detailed look at dances and publicity. Early in 2014 we will decide our priorities for next season which should give us time to get things organised. I will keep you posted, and let you know how you can help (with the bookstall, perhaps? See p4).

Happy dancing everyone, and thank you to the many members who already give their time and effort so that we can continue to enjoy Scottish country dancing in London. I look forward to meeting you on the dance floor and hearing what you think about the future direction of the Branch.

Andrew Kellett



## ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Patron  
H.M. The Queen



Chairman – John Wilkinson

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Margaret Shaw, Anna Twinn, Elaine Wilde

### Co-ordinators:

**Classes:** ..... Margaret Shaw  
**Day School:** ..... Margaret Catchick  
**Dances:** ..... Marjory Reid  
**Demonstrations:** ..... Elaine Wilde  
**The Reel:** ..... Jeremy Hill  
**Youth:** ..... Marjory Reid

### Non-Executive roles:

**Bookstall:** ..... see p4  
**Hon. Archivist:** ..... Iris Anderson  
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**The Reel Assistant Editor:** ..... Katy Sweetman  
**Subscribers:** ..... Wilson Nicol  
**Webmaster:** ..... Meryl Thomson  
**Website:** www.rscdslondon.org.uk

### Objects of London Branch

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

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

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership rates for the RSCDS and London Branch (effective 1 July 2013) are £22.00 per annum for UK based members (£28.00 for Europe; £31.00 elsewhere). There are discounts of £8.00 for members aged 12 – 17, £3.00 aged 18 – 25 and £3.00 for each of two members living at the same address. Members of other Branches can join London Branch for £6.00 per annum if they live in the UK (£12.00 in Europe and £15.00 elsewhere). London Branch membership brings benefits including reduced rates at Branch events and receiving *The Reel*, while Society membership includes the bi-annual dance publication, *Scottish Country Dancer*.

Membership forms can be downloaded from the Branch website. Membership applications and enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989 or membership@rscdslondon.org.uk

## RSCDS AGM 2013

The RSCDS AGM was held on 2 November 2013 during the Annual Conference Weekend in Perth. A report will appear in the next issue and there is a summary of the proceedings on the RSCDS website. Decisions included a £2.00 increase in the RSCDS basic full annual subscription, with effect from July 2014.

## RSCDS SUMMER SCHOOL

### 2014

20 July—17 August  
University Hall, St Andrews  
**Director: Ruby Wilkinson**

- Attend as resident or non-resident, for any one or two weeks of the four
- Morning classes at all levels, and optional afternoon classes/sessions
- Social dancing every evening, with a ceilidh one evening each week
- Unit 2 & Unit 3 courses in weeks 3 and 4 respectively
- Unit 5 course in weeks 1 and 2
- Musicians' course in week 1
- Young Dancer Week – in week 3, 12-15 year olds may attend, with a chaperone, and join in the regular classes and activities
- Tutoring Skills Course in week 3

All classes and courses are subject to demand. Further information and, for the first time, online booking are available at [www.rscds.org/events/summer-school](http://www.rscds.org/events/summer-school)

See also "We can help you afford it" on p3.

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## Open air dancing

On two sunny Saturday afternoons, 31 August and 7 September, a mixed crowd of regular dancers, occasional dancers and tourists, including a number of children, enjoyed open air dancing in Kensington Gardens.

As usual there was a demonstration each time. On 31 August it was given by four ladies of the Branch dem team and four men of the Gay Gordons. The dem was of high quality, the Gay Gordons matching the high standard set as ever by the dem team ladies, and the eight dancing well together.

On 7 September, a technical problem with amplification meant that Frank Reid's Band could only play for a few dances. The day was saved by Neil Esslemont, who played his pipes for a number of dances, including a memorable *Eightsome Reel*. Tourists will have gone away with the mistaken idea that dancing to the bagpipes on grass is easy!

The other two planned open air dances were unfortunately spoiled by rain. Only about an hour's dancing was possible on 17 August, and the dancing on 24 August was cancelled. But thanks are due to London Branch for providing two and a half enjoyable open air dances.

See photos p1 and p20

Daniel Capron

## End of an era

Following a review of the London Branch demonstration class/team the Committee has decided to cease the weekly demonstration class from the end of the Autumn term 2013. The difficult decision was made because of two main inter-relating reasons: falling demonstration dancer numbers, with now no men left in the team, and the resulting cost of subsidising the class due to low numbers; and decreasing number of paid dems per year. That said, it was acknowledged that London Branch values the part the team plays to both the Branch, as a 'shop window', and the wider Scottish dance community, so wishes to continue supporting its ability to still carry out dems when requested, and to attend festivals, both social and competitive. To this end it is envisaged that current team members and potential new members will be asked if they wish to volunteer whenever the need arises, with the appropriate number of practice sessions being provided by the Branch. The first event that this new process will apply to will be the Newcastle Festival next February; please see the Call for Dancers following this piece.

I cannot finish this update without thanking both present and past members of the demonstration class/team for their hard work, great commitment and generosity that they have given to the Branch. Thank you so very much.

Happy dancing

See photos p1 and p20

Elaine Wilde

## Call for Dancers – Your Branch needs You

All members, who are currently good dancers, are invited to come forward to form a London Branch team or teams to compete at the Newcastle Festival on 8 February in Gateshead. This really great Festival has teams competing from all over the UK, plus some from Europe each year; not to be missed.

Depending on the level of support we may enter the ladies' team, men's team, mixed team and display classes. Sufficient practice sessions will be arranged in order to prepare well for this fantastic yearly event. If interested, or you would like more information before deciding, please contact Elaine Wilde on 01582 834815, 07779 202529 or demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk by 12 December at the latest (entries close on 14 December).

## EDITORIAL

The RSCDS published Book 47 and its accompanying CD of music this summer (see review of the CD on p9); at the same time dances for Book 48 have been tried out in over 100 branches around the world; and London Branch, along with other branches, has run a competition to find a dance to put forward for Book 49, details of which are on p6. The thirst for new dances seems insatiable. But I would ask: how many new dances are genuinely memorable? What value does yet another new figure bring to the practice of traditional Scottish country dances?

Our objects, shown on p2, do include "furthering the practice", which we might cover through developing new dances, but also "preserving", and I always think, when I look at dance programmes, or the frequently danced dances (see letter, p12), how few of our traditional dances, typically included in the early books of the RSCDS, are included.

### The Dem Class

To the left, you will see confirmation that the Committee has concluded that a different approach to demonstrations is necessary, which no longer includes a weekly class. As a long-time member of the class, where I also met my wife, I am naturally sad that this should be the case, and in particular that this opportunity for real quality dancing should fall away. The reasons are several, including:

- The financial environment means that fewer organisations are organising functions, or, if they are, they are doing without significant assistance – a CD player and caller rather than a team of dancers;
- At the same time, even if University clubs are sustaining interest, lack of work opportunities means that fewer graduates are coming to work in or near London, with a consequently reducing pool of dancers, including good dancers who might join the dem team. The Branch's own recent initiative to start a London University class has had some success (see p6), though it will be some time before such dancers will aspire to demonstrate their expertise.

I very much hope that a formula can be found that allows the Branch to offer good quality dancers a regular opportunity to practise and to display the key aspects of country dancing as a team, which are at the heart of social dancing. I believe there are more than enough such dancers around the area, and it may be a practical matter of finding the best way to bring them together.

### Quality versus Novelty

It's perhaps not surprising that as a family we've enjoyed very much the series of BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing* over the years. Even if we don't know all the 'celebrities' we can admire wonderful dancing, and the work of the professionals in choreography and teaching. Increasingly, however, we see that the quality of dancing is secondary in the presentation to the novelty factor. Hallowe'en, film or love themes abound. In the last edition I watched, Dave "Hairy Biker" Myers re-connected with his time in Scotland, wearing a kilt and eating haggis, but it didn't improve his standing, with the lowest marks for quality of dancing from the judges. However, his stay for so long on the programme seems to suggest that for the broader voting public, his entertainment value outweighed his "dance dis-a-asters".

### Back to the beginning

The RSCDS was set up in 1923 at exactly the time of novelty dance crazes sweeping in from the US, with the intention that the traditional forms would be preserved – as in our objects. For example, we read in histories that movements such as the poussette were being replaced with waltz turns to progress. Of course there were matters of debate about what was genuinely traditional, which have continued ever since. One recent letter I received made an interesting observation in relation to the comments on etiquette and harassment in *The Reel* 285: that Miss Milligan's preservation of tradition at that time involved excising all the movements that involved too much body contact, perhaps specifically to avoid these issues.

What Miss Milligan and Mrs Stewart did was to create a fantastic, strong body of dancing in a particular style, allying traditions with strong technical dancing. But I fear today we are again at a point where novelty is getting in the way of traditions. How are new dancers possibly expected to remember so many dances? Elizabeth Bennett's letter (p12) refers to the value of attending classes. In the past, learning the figures and steps in a class provided the building blocks for the vast majority of dances. Now, this only scratches the surface in the face of multiple dances and new moves. Recaps are required in order to remind people how the dances go, and I note that at least four dance events referred to in this issue are preceded by practice events to learn the specific dances. The result: technique is forgotten (or never learnt) in order to cope with the complications. Attending dances I feel that many dancers feel satisfied merely in getting through the latest dance, as opposed to dancing well. The opportunities for genuinely social, good quality dancing of traditional dances are increasingly limited.

### Building on tradition

Recent issues have mentioned 'core dances' (as used in New Zealand, *The Reel* 285) and grading or colour coding of dances to assist newcomers (*The Reel* 283 and others). Linking these ideas back to the core of our Society – its traditional dances – we still have an opportunity to connect our social dance back to basics, in order once again to allow the development of high quality technique. I suggest it is time for the Society, or the South East Branches working with clubs in the area, to take the lead and provide a focused approach to encourage new, developing and high quality dancers for the future.

Jeremy Hill



## WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT

The RSCDS and the London Branch continue to see the importance of supporting the teachers, musicians and dancers of the future. As such, funds are earmarked for scholarships, for young people (up to the age of 25) to attend RSCDS Residential Schools as a dancer or as a musician; and for any member attending Summer School with a view to taking the RSCDS Teaching Certificate. London Branch also has funds available to give support to any event promoting Scottish country dancing among young people.

Don't be shy about asking for assistance. We are a charity and we are here to help you improve your skills and enjoyment of Scottish country dancing, and to support you in passing on your enthusiasm and knowledge to the next generation. If you think you might benefit from a scholarship pick up the phone or drop an email to any member of the Branch Committee, or you could start with our Secretary, Margaret Catchick, via secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

## The London Day School

A perfect autumn Saturday morning, with blue sky, sunshine and little traffic on the roads, boded well for the annual day school in London. A warm welcome and the pleasure of seeing familiar faces again successfully eclipsed Paddington Academy's coffee experience (I'll stick to tea next time!). Technique classes are always something I look forward to, because learning to dance precisely, with attention to small details and in harmony with others, enhances the enjoyment of any dance for me – although the downside is that I'm too often reminded of how my technique has lapsed since the last class!

Our day started in upbeat style with Angela Young, who somehow gave the impression of thoroughly enjoying herself with her wayward charges, in spite of a croaky voice. It was good to work on a couple of terrific dances I already knew – *Links with St Petersburg* and *Linnea's Strathspey* – which made it easier to concentrate on improving technique. I can only hope that concentrating on it actually led to an improvement in my dancing, but the jury's out on that! The day school is great for having certain details clarified, such as Angela's confirmation that in the Allemande for three couples, we don't step to the right on the first bar, thus allowing the 3rd couple time to line up on the side-line with decorum. Because we were dancing in the large gym, Angela encouraged us to make full use of the area, rather than huddle together for safety, insisting (rather mischievously, I thought) on us leaving enough space between the men's and ladies' lines for a bus to get through. This certainly proved a challenge when attempting Hello/goodbye setting, in both reel and particularly in strathspey time. I'm sure my legs were longer after the session than before. As well as fantastic, clear teaching, another joy of the day is the accompaniment of brilliant musicians, and it was a real privilege to have Ian Muir's playing to carry us seamlessly through the morning.

Lunch consisted of huge quantities of appetising comfort food, with the welcome treat of a glass of wine – something which Margo Priestley, our teacher for the afternoon, suggested we might like to forgo next year, in order to make us slightly lighter on our feet at the start of class. Poor Margo was also suffering from a virus onslaught, and her voice was on the verge of disappearing altogether. However, she carried on regardless, in Braveheart fashion, still managing to transmit warmth, humour and patience. As we quietened down in order to hear her, I'm sure we were also (once the effects of lunch had worn off) more silent on our feet. Accompanied by the energising music of Barbara Manning on piano, it was interesting to practise two new dances containing the Swirl – neither of which was *The Dream Catcher* – one strathspey and the other a reel (*Melville Castle*).

As always, the day sped by, with a healthy mix of achievement, enjoyment, frustration and exhausted little grey cells, and I was sorry not to have been able to stay on for the later session to revise dances from the new Book 47. I can imagine how much work must be involved in arranging a day like this and appreciative thanks go to everyone involved.

**Katy Kendall**

### Frank Thomson and the Musicians

Frank Thomson, the Aberdeen accordionist, gave the students on his course a wonderful day of entertainment, enjoyment and a chance to practise their musical skills. We were not required to play for the ceilidh in the evening, so we had not been sent a huge mound of music to practise beforehand. Frank did put together a Trio of himself, Joan Desborough (keyboard), Calum Mitchell (electronic accordion) to play for the *Mairi's Wedding*, just to show what he could do, and allow Ian Muir a break and the opportunity to dance himself during the evening.

Frank told us that his earlier career had been as a bank manager, but that since taking early retirement, the world had become his oyster and he was constantly receiving invitations from USA, Canada and Europe to play his accordion or provide a band. The friends he had met along the way were legion, he said. The Queen liked to see him at Balmoral for her official Balls, and the RSCDS had used him for the AGM Weekends and at the Summer School in St Andrews.

His style is very 'traditional', full of good tunes, interesting harmonies, and played at ideal tempos for dancing. He knew exactly the Scots idiom he was looking for from his students. At the end of the day he declared he was delighted by the "tight sound" we had developed, and that he was impressed by the fluency of the fiddlers, Scotch snaps and all, despite them saying they normally played in orchestras or classical music. The viola player, Vincent, was a joy, demonstrating that, in the right hands, the viola is capable of the lyricism of a fiddle.

Frank had sent out music covering a range of Scots styles, from a waltz, to marches, reels, jigs, strathspeys in traditional and 'pastoral' styles, so that we had plenty of variety to work on. He played a CD of his own 5-piece recording band for us to analyse, criticise and comment upon, to say what we did or didn't like about the music. There was plenty of time devoted to discussion, and Frank is a master of the witty anecdote, so there was never a dull moment! The afternoon concluded when some of the dancers and teachers joined us for Frank's talk on his view of the relationship between the music and the dancers, the problems that can arise and how they can be solved. It was a day very well spent and Frank says he will be returning to London in Spring 2014, so fans should be on the lookout for that!

**Tom Cooper**

### Evening Ceilidh

The day ended with a splendid ceilidh for all the day's participants. Ian and Judith Muir provided the dance music for a mixture of familiar and less familiar ceilidh and country dances, including *The Loch Ness Monster*, *The Inverness Progression*, *J.B. Milne* and an *Orcadian Strip the Willow*.

The varied entertainment included Jeremy Hill accompanying himself on the piano singing Tom Lehrer's *Masochism Tango*; a *Scottish Lilt* danced by Elaine Davies and Katy Sweetman; Andy Petersen, lately off the plane from San Francisco, showing us his juggling skills; and Angela and Graham Berry playing a piano duet including a 6/8 march written by Graham's dad for their wedding in 2011.

Thanks to James Fairbairn for bringing it all together – a great way to round off a highly successful and enjoyable day!

*See photos p1, p10 and p20*

### CREDITS

Many thanks to the following for providing the photos in this edition:

Marjory Reid: p1 (Kensington), p20 (1)  
Stephen Webb: p1 (Day School), p2, p10 (2 & 4), p11 (8 & 9), p13, p20 (2 & 3)  
Chris Twinn: p6

Jill Forbes: p8  
Helen Dorman: p10 (1)  
Fiona Grant: p10 (3)  
Lorraine Reed (WI): p11 (5)  
Catriona Bennett: p11 (6 & 7), p14  
Thanks also to Stephen Webb for additional reporting and co-ordination around the clubs.

## Jigs & Reels

*Jigs & Reels* is a fantastic new publication for teaching Scottish country dancing to children and young people. It includes a book of lesson plans for 25 dances and 5 party dances, a CD of the music, and a DVD illustrating each dance.

It can be used by teachers of very little experience, and is supported by an RSCDS Continuing Professional Development course. Although linked to the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence, the format of the lesson plans will enable the pack to be used worldwide.

*Jigs & Reels* is available for purchase through the RSCDS shop at [www.rscds.org/shop.html](http://www.rscds.org/shop.html)

## BOOKSTALL

Over the years Branch members have received an excellent service from our Bookstall: new publications, advice about recordings, and uncovering obscure leaflet dances. Ian Anderson did a terrific job, and Ian Rutherford kindly volunteered to fill his shoes, but sadly he too, has to call it a day. We are therefore looking for a new Bookstall manager.

We are also in a new technological age. Members can access a lot of information through the internet, and it can also be easier to purchase books and music direct from RSCDS HQ and other suppliers. Despite these changes we still believe there is room for a personal service. Members have really appreciated the opportunity to browse through the Bookstall at Branch events, such as the Day School, and a conversation with the Bookstall manager has been very helpful, especially for new dancers. So the first task for the new manager, along with the Committee, is to think about the role of our Bookstall in 2014. We don't want to replicate what others already do, but we believe there is a place for the Bookstall in our plans.

Our secretary, Margaret Catchick would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the Bookstall. Please contact her at [secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk). You can help to write your own job description, but you should have access to a car, storage space and have a good knowledge of Scottish country dancing.

Please think about it – this may be your way to help the Branch promote SCD in the London area.

## FOCUS ON YOUTH

### Children's Class

The Branch children's monthly class continues on Saturday mornings, as follows:

14 December	10.15 – 11.30am	PS
18 January	10.45 – 12.00pm	CC
15 February	10.15 – 11.30am	PS
29 March Family Day	from 11.30am	PS
17 May	10.15 – 11.30am	PS
14 June	10.45 – 12.00pm	CC

Dates marked "PS" are held in the Upper Hall, St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD.

Those marked "CC" are at the Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin St, London SW1X 7DR.

**Teacher: James Fairbairn**  
**Class Price: £3.00**

### Newcomers are always welcome!

For further information please contact either  
James Fairbairn at [st48@btinternet.com](mailto:st48@btinternet.com) or  
07930 949599 or  
[youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk)



# Set yourself a fun challenge Join a Scottish Country Dancing Class

We have  
classes for...

**CHILDREN** monthly class in central London.

Email James Fairbairn: [childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk) for details.

**ADULTS** every **Wednesday evening** during term time, 7.00pm - 9.00pm  
at Park Walk School, Park Walk, King's Road, Chelsea, SW10 0AY.

RSCDS members £75 per term or £9 per night,  
non-members £85 per term or £10 per night.

Lower Hall for steps, formations and easy dances with

**Jane Rose** and musicians **Ian Cutts & Jane Ng**.

Term dates as for Upper Hall Classes

Upper Hall for more experienced dancers wishing to  
improve their technique with

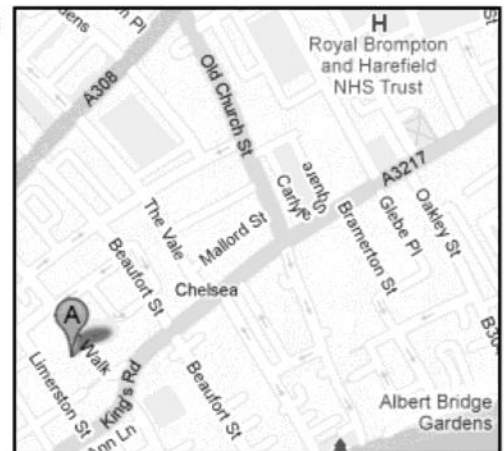
**Paul Plummer (15 January - 12 February)**

**Elaine Wilde (26 February - 26 March)**

**Lindsey Jane Rousseau (30 April - 21 May)**

Musician **Sandra Smith**

The school is served by buses 11, 19, 22, 49, 319  
and 328. Parking available at the School.



**Wednesday afternoons with Jeni Rutherford** dancing to recorded music

2.30pm - 4.30pm at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD.

Classes £5 per class. Term dates: Current term ends on 18 December.

8 January - 2 April (half term 19 February) 30 April - 2 July (half term 28 May)

Suitable for dancers with some knowledge of basic steps and formations.

Email Jeni Rutherford: [jrutherford@freeuk.com](mailto:jrutherford@freeuk.com)

Nearest Underground Stations: Knightsbridge, South Kensington and Sloane Square.

## DEMONSTRATION CLASS

for experienced dancers with a high personal standard.

Email Elaine Wilde: [demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk) for more information.

## SUNDAY CLASSES

are held at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, TW9 2RT (minutes from Richmond Station). 11.00 am - 1.00 pm RSCDS members £10, non-members £11 per class.

**Advanced Technique with Philippe Rousseau**  
**15 December, 19 January, 16 February and 23 March.**

**Highland Dancing with Kathleen Gilbert**  
**12 January and 30 March.**

For further details of all classes, please email either Margaret or Lena  
at [classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## In 15 Minutes – Anna Twinn

Anna Twinn joined the Committee in September, and kindly took the time to answer some questions about her dancing.

**How old were you when you started dancing?**  
Six years old.

**What first started you dancing?**  
Family.

**Where did you learn your dancing?**  
Leeds.

**Who has been the biggest influence on your dancing and why?**

The teachers who taught me as a child: Brenda Burnell & Doreen Dewhurst.

**Where do you dance now?**  
London, mainly.

**What do you enjoy most about Scottish dancing?**

The exercise is good for you, and it's good for the soul!

**Whose dancing have you most admired?**

There are a great many people whose dancing I have admired over the years, but the most admiration goes to those people who clearly enjoy their dancing and whatever their 'style' of dance it goes a long way in my book.

**What is your favourite dance and why?**

A hard call – there are many dances that come to mind. I can't decide between these two: *Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterader*, along with

the wonderful tune that goes with the dance; it brings through to me the joy of social Scottish country dancing. On the other hand *The Dream Catcher* is a beautiful dance – the music is mesmerising and the dance brings a certain elegance to the dance floor.

**Who is your favourite dance band and why?**

An unfair question, as there are many bands who I really enjoy dancing to! But if I really have to choose, it would probably be Craigellachie, a band you can dance to and sit and listen to with equal enjoyment.

**What is your best dancing memory?**

Dare I say when I met my husband?

**What would you like to change in the dancing world?**

To be able to show the 'outside masses' that Scottish country dancing is for everyone to enjoy.

**How do you think we can encourage more young people to dance?**

My answer would be to ask the young people who already dance – and they are out there – how we could encourage more youth? Also by social media.

**What do you see as the future of Scottish dancing?**

To move into the 21st century we have to try new ways to introduce new people, of all ages, again perhaps through the social media.

**What do you do when you are away from the dance floor?**

My day job is administration in a primary school. The 'administering' covers a whole range of themes! Any other spare time is spent tap dancing, singing, walking, but the most enjoyable is time spent with the family.



## RSCDS SPRING FLING 2015: LONDON Save the Date

Spring Fling will be held in London on the weekend of 17 – 19 April 2015. The weekend will consist of classes during the day on the Saturday, a dancing activity on the Sunday morning and dances on the Friday and Saturday evenings. The event is available to young dancers aged 16 – 35 with the evening dances open to all ages. The weekend will be run alongside the London Branch Musicians' Day School with young musicians being invited to the Musicians' Workshop. Music for the Saturday evening dance will be provided by the musicians from the workshop.

Further details will follow in future editions of *The Reel*. Contact Elaine Davies at laneypops83@yahoo.co.uk

## London University Class

This term has seen London Branch start a new University class at University College London (UCL). It has been an excellent opportunity to engage younger dancers and also to give our own young teachers a chance to teach a regular class.

The UCL Folk Society was launched this term, providing students with access to folk music and dance in the London area. They are also forming a ceilidh band. The class is held on a Monday evening at UCL, Gower Street (opposite Euston Square underground station), and is working on dances that will be done at the Folk Society's first ceilidh in December. We have a teaching team consisting of Charlotte Sandifer, Judith Jones and Gillian Frew, with Lindsey Jane Rousseau co-ordinating and Ian Cutts playing for the class. For more information about the class please contact Elaine Davies at laneypops83@yahoo.co.uk

## RSCDS SPRING FLING 2014: LYON

18 – 20 April 2014 (Easter weekend)

**For dancers aged 12 – 35**

The Spring Fling classes will be at four levels, ranging from beginners to very advanced. There will also be optional highland dance and musicians' classes.

**Teachers: Patrick Chamoin,**

**Antoine Rousseau, Avril Quarrie and**

**Raphaëlle Orgeret**

**Musicians: Kevin Williams, Lindsey Ibbotson, Adam Brady and Martainn Skene**

Make sure you book early, numbers are limited!

For more details visit [www.rscdsspringfling.fr](http://www.rscdsspringfling.fr)  
Lyon Branch are also organizing a weekend school in parallel, open to everyone, with teaching from David Quarrie (further details from raphorgeret82@yahoo.fr)



## SOUTH EAST DANCE DIARY

The diary is available through the Branch website at [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://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 a 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](mailto:diary@rscdslondon.org.uk) or by post to the above address.

29 March: Family Dance (afternoon) and Spring Dance with **Kafoozalum**

10 May: Combined Societies Dance hosted by London Highland Club with **Alasdair Macleod**

## CHOOSING A DANCE FOR BOOK 49

The RSCDS has invited Branches to submit one dance for consideration for inclusion in Book 49 to be published in 2015. The London Committee invited submissions and received 17 dances, some with original tunes.

Ken Martlew and I presented the dances anonymously to the Dem Class who, augmented by a number of volunteers, tried out all 17 dances over two weeks in October. Two sets were available and, with only two exceptions, the same people were present both weeks so that they were able to assess all the dances.

It is hard to define what makes a dance a winner. Every RSCDS book published has a few dances that catch the general imagination and start to appear on programmes all over the world; others never seem to rise off the page. With well over 600 dances published by the Society and an internet database of over 10,000 one wonders if we need any more; but people keep writing them! Often they are for a special occasion or by way of homage to a respected individual, but others are just because the deviser has an idea.

Of the submissions, eight were reels (including one hornpipe), four jigs, three strathspeys and two medleys (S and R). In considering the dances we thought about how interesting they were (which figures were employed), whether they were easy and enjoyable to dance, any awkward bits and whether we would like to see them on a dance programme. Dances were marked on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best, with each dancer having one vote, and a weighted average calculated. At the end of the second week three dances came out on top and, after a 'dance-off', one was chosen on a straight majority vote.

The winner was the hornpipe, 'Dance no. 10', which, as we found out later, is written by Ken Martlew. Ken has introduced a variation on corners pass and turn which involves the otherwise standing corners dancing half-way round the set as the dancing couple and the other corners pass and turn. All agreed that this worked well and that once the geography was clear it made the dance a lot of fun as it also turns the set on its head each time through. This will now go forward to HQ and we wish it well in the final selection for Book 49. The two runners-up were also considered fine dances and although the deviser wishes to keep them private for the time being we hope they will be published in some format.

Of the other dances, a round the room medley that was submitted as a general dance and as a demonstration dance with Highland setting steps gained the overall highest mark in its demonstration form. We wondered, though, if it was suitable for inclusion in a book of general dances. The other medley was also much enjoyed, but there was some doubt about the accordance of its figures to the music.

We would like to thank all the devisers for giving us the fun of trying out their dances. Thanks also to Jane Ng the Dem Class pianist (have score, will play) and to Margarets Shaw and Catchick for co-ordinating the submissions.

**James Fairbairn**

## FUTURE BRANCH EVENTS

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD  
Evening dances: 7.00 – 10.30pm  
Doors open at 6.30pm

17 May: Musicians' Day and Dance led by **Ian Robertson**

May: Summer Wednesday (to be confirmed)

14 June: AGM and June Jig with **Green Ginger**



# South East Region Teachers' Association (SERTA) Meeting 29 September 2013

Forty-five people attended the SERTA workshop in September, held in Wallington, reports of which are below. After tea, we had a lively discussion of the reasons for the written test in Unit 1 of the RSCDS teaching certificate, and the risk that people who would make good teachers were put off by the requirement to complete a written paper.

The next meeting will be in Finchampstead on Sunday 16 March 2014, with Anselm Lingnau covering SCD resources on the web. Sue Porter will lead our workshop on 28 September 2014 in Hemel Hempstead, further details of which will be in the next issue of *The Reel*.

SERTA is open to anyone who leads a 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](mailto:mikejohnson@waitrose.com) at 4 Gatehampton Cottages, Gatehampton Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9LX or on 01491 873 026. See [www.serta.org](http://www.serta.org) for further details.

Mike Johnson

## The Role of an MC (Andrew Kellett)

Anyone who thinks that all an MC does is stand at the front and announce then recap dances should have attended the SERTA session on 29 September on being an MC, where experienced MC and London Branch Chairman Andrew Kellett took us through the detailed ins and outs of the role.

He began with the musicians playing eight bars of *The Wild Geese*, then he asked for sets to be made up and counted, a quick recap and we were off dancing. A lovely, lively start but then the work began! Before he even began to talk about being an MC, WE had to tell him all the things an MC would have done before that first 8 bars of music were played.

### Advance planning

First, the preparation: remind yourself of the dances and decide on the best way to present them. Then, think about what may be a problem: it may be a difficult dance, or possibly two very similar dances adjacent; or a sequence of 4 couple dances that may leave a number of people sitting out when they don't want to. You may want to find out the likely standard of dancing: new dancers need more information in their recaps, for example. You can't make definite decisions about how to address these issues, as you need to get the feel of the dance, but have some ideas: plan your timings (Andrew recommends working on the basis of six dances an hour), making sure you know from the organiser when the interval will be, how long it will be and what is happening during the interval. Drawing raffles during the interval, for example, often leads to the interval over-running. While you are planning the timings think about what may be encored, and whether the group expect to end with *Auld Lang Syne* and a waltz or polka.

### On the night

You've done the planning and it is the big day! Get there in good time, so the organisers don't panic, you have time to review the hall layout, talk to the musicians, get answers to any outstanding questions, check whether you make the housekeeping announcements, and if so, exactly where the fire exits are. Then there are some logistics: where is the best place to stand while announcing dances; is there somewhere out of the way on stage where you can keep an eye on the dancing; have you got a microphone and how does it work?

Talking to the musicians is critical: introduce yourself. Different bands work different ways: do they like to introduce themselves or be introduced? Are they happy to play 8 bars before you announce the dance? Check how many times they expect to play a dance through. If there are some that you may want to encore have they got the music? Suddenly asking for 10 times through rather than 8 will not go down well.

### On with the dancing

You are now ready to BE the MC. Announce the first dance and make sure the lines are counted. Don't use too much time trying to get sets fully made up, but be prepared to adapt: have a 5 couple set, but ask 4s and 5s to dance once each. Recap the dance: keep it short but clear; the words in the instructions are for teaching, so find an easy way, e.g. "to your right" is likely to require less thought for the dancers than "with 3rd couple". Your planning will have prepared you to recap the 'meanwhile' and tricky formations. Remember: you are on stage so you can see the dancers, but they can also see you, so look cheerful and enthusiastic. First dance over, allow breathing space but not long enough to let the atmosphere flag.

You are in the swing of things now, so start thinking about encores. These must be what the dancers want encored, so listen for a really enthusiastic call from the floor. Don't encore 8x32 strathspeys! Andrew also said, don't start encoring too early in the programme as it can really upset your timings and sets a difficult precedent. However, do plan for an encore of the last dance.

### Finishing on a high

Time to plan how to end the dance so it finishes on a high and the dancers will want to return. Get as much of the detailed thanks done at the interval, e.g. listing all those who did the food, so the final thanks can be brief. As MC it is your job to thank the band, and much of it should have been planned in advance, e.g. *Auld Lang Syne*, etc. Make sure everyone who wants to dance the last dance can do so.

Well done. You have MC'd a successful dance. What have you learned? An MC projects enthusiasm, good humour and warmth, but avoid humour for its own sake. Be organised but flexible, appear confident and decisive, especially about encores, know (not read) your recaps, project your personality, protect the band, make sure the tempo is right.

Alison Raisin

## Preparing a Dance Programme for Dancers and Musicians (Ian Muir)

For many years we have enjoyed dancing to the music of Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band, so it made a very interesting change to hear Ian's views expressed, not only through his music, accompanied by Judith Muir, but in his own words too.

As inspiration, Ian had taken Shakespeare's "If music be the food of love, play on." The objectives of the session were to explore the nuances and issues around what makes a good programme, look at the contribution that music makes to the dance in terms of variety and atmosphere, 'unpick' the different tune types and think about what makes a nightmare programme, from the musicians' point of view. All were interspersed with dancing to illustrate the points.

### Basics of Programme Engineering

Given the aim of attracting people to come to a dance, we need to engineer our programme to maximise this. The main considerations are the dancers' expertise and difficulty of the dances, first and last dances, 'pot-boilers', how many dances are in each half, walk-throughs, a balance of formations, modern or old dances, formations and their sequences and the type of people you wish to attract (novices for instance). Those to avoid are definitely programmes by committee; or 'everyone's favourite dance', as balance is lost; nor is it a good idea to have a programme with half the dances devised by local dancers and therefore unfamiliar to others.

### The Musicians' Perspective

Ian entreated us to think of the musicians, especially for the first dance, when they, just like dancers, have to warm up; we should consider the variety of styles and types of tune, as well as the key of the original; what are the acoustics like in the hall? An echo, for example, causes the band to play in a completely different way. Musicians have to watch the floor and make sure they slow down if the dancers need it. Think about the length of dances – too many 40 and 48 bar dances can be killers for the musicians AND the dancers. Encores and the end of the dance are all part of the musicians' preparations.

### Tune Types

Continuing the theme of Shakespeare with "Though this be madness, yet there is method in't", we then looked into tune types linked to dances and found "but, for mine own part, it was Greek to me." Ian painstakingly described and played the different reel types which occur: a single reel, hornpipe, double reel and pipe reel. We then went on to dance *The Montgomeries' Rant* to each of the four tune types, to appreciate the difference. Careful thought is given by the bands to sets of tunes to complement the dances, and the range of music is severely limited if, say, all the reels on a programme use only one of the four reel types.

Moving on to jig time, we looked at examples of a single jig, double jig and pipe jigs. For strathspeys, we sometimes find that all the dances on a programme are danced to slow airs (such as *Miss Gibson's Strathspey*), but the one tune type that defines the whole of Scottish country dancing, and is unique to the Scottish tradition, is the strong strathspey, often characterised by the 'Scotch snap'; all programmes should include at least one dance with this type of tune.

### Original Tunes

"To play or not to play the original tune, that is the question", the 'old chestnut', and, as Ian freely admitted, he has got into trouble over the years for not playing the original tune! However, there is probably a very good reason why this happens. Scottish music is both stylistically and technically demanding, and some tunes composed for one instrument can be very difficult on others; or they may be so distinctive that finding a matching set of tunes can be a bit of a nightmare. Some we are simply used to and actually prefer without the original, such as *The Montgomeries' Rant*. We learnt of dances that share the original tune and could thus be duplicated in an evening. Original tune or not? The jury is still out!

We then analysed 'nightmare' programmes where too many dances were danced 4/5 times through, had 40+ bars or tricky tunes or were not well-known. Ian's view is that, if we are struggling to get people to come, we must think more deeply.

"This is the true beginning of our end" brought to a close a very thought-provoking afternoon.

Deborah Driffin

## Craigievar Band – What's in a Name?

**Background:** Our story starts back in 1864, when my grandfather, Thomas Forbes, was born in Banffshire. At an early age, he acquired a set of bagpipes, which he played proficiently throughout his life. He married my grandmother, who was a teacher at Shielburn Public School, and they had nine children. One of them was my father, John, and another was my uncle, the renowned dance teacher Bill Forbes.

When my career took me to London in 1972, I lodged with Uncle Bill for about three years. He introduced me to Scottish country dancing and, at one time, I was treasurer at Maidenhead Club and chairman of St John's Scottish Dancing Club, Wokingham. In 1978, I booked Iain MacPhail and his Band to play at Wokingham and this had a profound effect on my attitude towards Scottish dance music. This music suddenly became, to me, exciting and inspiring, and I decided to start practising my violin again, after about 12 years of neglect.

**Early years:** In 1981, I formed the Reading Scottish Fiddlers, joined Woodley String Orchestra (classical music) and started playing in a couple of English barn dance bands. By the late eighties, Uncle Bill already had his Craigievar team of dancers. This name came from Craigievar Castle, the seat of the Clan Forbes in Aberdeenshire.

At this time, my younger son was attending Ann Walker's children's country dance class on a Saturday morning. The pianist was my good friend Ray Milbourne and I would often join him on fiddle. After a while, we would get asked to play at birthdays, small parties and ceilidhs. The caller would be either Ann Walker or Uncle Bill. We had to give ourselves a name and in 1987 the Craigievar Band came into existence. My wife, Jill, who was taking the dance class at Bracknell, learned to call for the ceilidh dances.

**The Nineties:** By the mid 90s, Alex, my older son, who did his first paid gig when he was still at primary school, had joined us on double bass. Alistair, my brother, played accordion with us and we were doing about thirty gigs a year. I fitted this around my regular commitments to other bands and we invited other musicians and deputies, as we always have done and still do.

In 1996 Alistair took over the management of the band for about ten years or so, while I began to recover from some health problems. Alex got to grips with the keyboard and this meant that we now had a much stronger team. Up to that point, our main gigs were ceilidhs and small parties.

**The Reading Scottish Fiddlers** ran from 1981 until 2010. We had a number of guest evenings over this period. In 1988, I had the sudden impulse to invite Iain MacPhail to play for us at such an evening. This spawned a long friendship, which meant a number of trips to Shetland, both for Up Helly A' and for the accordion and fiddle festival in October. It also included 19 trips to South America, trips to Hong Kong and Taiwan for about ten years, and several country dance holidays. In addition, I produced four of his CDs, and even played on one of them. The experience gained through playing in Iain's band over many years as a part-timer proved to be most valuable.

It was at a country dance holiday with the MacPhail Band that I met John and Sheila Tanner of the Epping Forest Scottish Association. Sheila asked me if I knew of a couple of musicians who could come and play for their summer dance. I grasped the opportunity and Alistair and I played for the Craigievar Band's first country dance in Epping. It was around the late 90s, and we developed the country dance side of the band from there.

**Craigievar Band Today:** Although, we may be seen to be a family-run operation, the truth is that we all have played for, and still do play for, other bands and we happen to be in the same band at the moment. We are all there on merit and not because of family ties. I do not see my brother, my son or my wife with the band. I just see an accordionist, pianist and caller respectively. The band at present is run by Alistair and me, with the help and support of Alex and Jill. At present, we do about 20 – 25 country dances a year. This is about 30 percent of the total gigs, with rest being weddings, Burns' Nights, birthdays, celebrations of all kinds as well as a few reeling parties.

We have recorded a couple of CDs and have travelled abroad to Caracas, Oman and Thessaloniki. In addition, our gigs included The Black Watch Summer Ball, Essex Caledonian Ball, Brighton Ceilidh with 500 dancers, boat parties, a punting party, a cherry-picking party, entertainment in a garden centre and a boat launching party, not forgetting an appearance in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

**Support Musicians:** Most of the playing is done by Alistair, Alex and me, with Jill being the main caller when required. Because of work, family and the constraints of modern life, it is imperative to have support musicians

available to help as necessary. This is common to most busy bands. Alastair Cameron (accordion), Diana Mitchell (fiddle) and Bobby Reid (drums) have helped us with the ceilidhs. Bronia (Alistair's wife) and Wendy Mumford have helped with calling. Bob Parsons (drums) has helped with a number of country dances.

**Afterthought:** You may recall that I mentioned my grandfather's pipes earlier on. Well, about 10 or 15 years ago, while I was visiting my parents. I noticed the box containing the pipes and I discussed their fate with my late father. He said that if I could do something useful with them, then I should take them away, as they were doing no good where they were. I took them back to Reading and they lay in my house, making no further useful contribution to anything. Roger Huth, the well known piper got to hear of them and I entrusted them to his care. In January 2012, while we were playing for the London Highland Club New Year dance, I met up again with Roger, who was also playing there. It transpired that these were my grandfather's pipes, and so I heard them again, for the first time since the Coronation in 1953!

**Stuart Forbes**

**Alistair Forbes adds...**

Having first been involved in my teenage years in Scotland, before taking up the saxophone as my main instrument for about twelve years, my re-introduction to Scottish dance music was during a flying visit to Stuart's house before going back to Philadelphia where I was studying for a few years. He happened to put on a tape of Iain MacPhail's SCD Band in absolute full swing, recorded at some country dance. It resonated with my earlier musical heritage, but also incorporated drive, rhythm and modern harmonies that brought new colours to the traditional idiom. When I returned from the US a year or so later, I was very keen to get back to Scottish music, and managed to get involved with a number of bands in the

London area, including about five years with the St Andrews Band before teaming up with Stuart in the Craigievar Band.

I get involved in arranging many of the sets, and I spend a lot of time trying to find four tunes that sit together well. Different tunes have different pace or energy, level of harmonic complexity, etc. Some tunes are great start-off tunes, good for establishing the basic story; some tunes are great finishers, adding a tingle of excitement in the last few bars; others are great at building on the story before setting up a finale; some tunes are awful and should never be played.

**Alex Forbes' story**

As a young child our house was filled with music. Whether it was the various instruments my siblings and I were learning, or the various musical groups

my dad was part of, music was a huge part of my childhood. With my dad, Stuart, running the Reading Scottish Fiddlers, we were all involved in assisting with any events, whether it was selling raffle tickets, helping with catering or just trying to behave for a few hours.

I had started playing piano and violin when I was younger, but I wanted to learn the double bass, and had my first lesson when I was about eight. Stuart played with Craigellachie on a regular basis at this point, and Iain Muir asked if I wanted to sit in with them. It was Pont Street, it was hot, I was ten and it was a great night. After this I was lucky enough to play with Craigellachie on a regular basis for a number of years, which gave me a fantastic opportunity to witness and learn from superb pianists like Liz Muir, Maureen Rutherford and Iain himself! At the same time I was also playing with Stuart and Ray Milbourne, including recording *The Crookit Bawbee* CD. I have been lucky to play with some great musicians over the years both with their bands and with them as guests with Craigievar.

It was in the mid to late 90s that uncle Alistair suggested that I try playing piano for Scottish music. I had played one gig on fiddle, but we don't mention that! I already played piano classically so Alistair gave me some lessons on what I needed to do for Scottish music and how it was different to classical playing. I was lucky enough to spend a few hours with Maureen Rutherford working on my piano playing and Iain Muir gave me lessons as well. I have certainly been blessed with some great teachers. I believe a lot of my style when playing the piano is down to my years as bass player, giving the dancers a solid beat that they can dance to, as well as a platform from which Stuart and Alistair play the tune and harmonies. Playing with the band has given me a lot of wonderful experiences and also lets me spend some quality time with my family. Twenty years on from my first gig and I'm still enjoying it. I just wish there were more hours in the week to fit everything in!



# NEW RECORDINGS

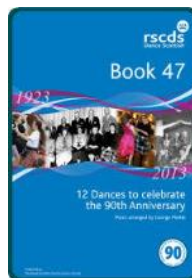
**RSCDS Book 47** – Gordon Shand and his Scottish Dance Band. CD (£14.30) and Book (£7.78) available from [www.rscds.org/shop](http://www.rscds.org/shop). A 10% discount applies to members – contact [membership@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:membership@rscdslondon.org.uk) for details.

12 Dances celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Society, with an introduction by outgoing President, Dr Alastair MacFadyen: *Bill Clement MBE, Linnea's Strathspey, Flight to Melbourne, Aging Gracefully, Vintage Simon, The One o'Clock Canon, Memories of Mary Ann, Welcome to Ayr, The Kissing Bridge, It wisnae me, Glastonbury Tor, The Mentor.*

When it published Book 27 back in 1975, the Society issued the first in a series of recordings: a cassette by the Olympians Scottish Dance Band. Fast forward 38 years, and all the Society books and leaflet dances have an accompanying CD. This latest one is without doubt one of the very best. Gordon (accordion) and Alison Smith (fiddle) provide a fulsome melody line, and there are some truly amazing harmonies from Jim Lindsay (second accordion) and Graham Berry (piano). Gordon Smith is the drummer.

There is a good use of traditional and modern tunes. I particularly like the strathspeys (a good number in flat keys), which have very strong downbeat to support the dip in the step. The jigs and reels are equally impressive. All in all, an excellent recording.

John Laurie



## THE REEL

*The Reel* is published four times a year by the London Branch. It is posted free to all Branch members (membership enquiries to Gaynor Curtis, see advert p2).

Non-members may subscribe to be on the mailing list, and Clubs can negotiate bulk copies for their members. Enquiries to Wilson Nicol, see advert on p18.

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 or

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

## Archive Photos

There were several takers to provide information on the photos shown on p11 of *The Reel* 285, but some gaps still remain. So far the information provided shows the following:

**Photo 9, from left to right:** Men: John Armstrong, Bill Ireland, Imrie Stoker, Robert Ferguson, Unknown. Ladies: Unknown, unknown, Ellen Garvie, Mary Stoker, unknown.

**Photo 10, from left to right,** taken at one of the London Branch's Balls at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, probably 1983, when Margaret Parker was Chairman of the Society: Imrie Stoker, Robert Mackay, Andrew Kellett, Wendy Kellett, Judy Dix, Andrew Brown partly hidden behind Judy, Marjorie Brown with John Laurie then Gerald Hitchcock behind, John Stoker, Margaret Shaw, with Alex Westwood then Howard Booth behind, Margaret Parker, Stella Booth, Bill Ireland behind, Muriel Gibson, Jenny Greene, Chris Dix behind, June Rose, Colin McEwen behind, Mary Turner.

The photos are contained in *The Reel* 285, which may be found at [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk) in *The Reel* section under the Publicity tab. If you can add any further information, please email to [archives@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:archives@rscdslondon.org.uk)

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## MUSICIANS' DAY

**Led by Ian Robertson**

Calling all Musicians!  
"SAVE THE DATE"

The Musicians' Workshop will take place on Saturday 17 May 2014 at St Columba's Church, Pont Street. This is for all musicians who want to learn more about playing for Scottish country dancing and wish to be involved in the playing for the Branch Dance that evening.

Further information available in the next edition of *The Reel*.

## Dancing with the Cars

Idle thought on a car journey suggested a dance programme for car lovers, with thanks to other contributors, including Meryl Thomson and Simon Wales. Any other suggestions?

Minimusk	The Triumph
Lamborghini Skinnet	Irish Landrover
Fiat about the Fireside	Porschester Hall
Wee Mini Cooper of Fife	Ferrari airts
Porsche about the Jorum	Round Reel of 4x4
Diamondoe Jubilee	Morris' Wedding
The Dunedin Fiestaval Dance	Arthur's Seat
Bonnie Lass of Honda Accord	Lanes of Audi
Rantin' Rovin' Reliant Robin	The Lancias
The Dacia White Sergeant	Bonnie Vanne
Anna Holden's Strathspey (for the Australians)	
Toyotaboys of Toowoomba	Strip the Volvo
51st Morris Travellers	Anglia MacLeod
Ford Teviot Jig	From Skoda's Shores.....
Vauxhall Change	Hillman Impigrant Lass
Beetles of Maggie Knockater	Nursierraman
Buickan Eightsome Reel	Roadster Mallaig
Lord Kiamory's Delight	

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# THE DANCING WORLD



**1. Berkhamsted Lions Fête, 28 August:** Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club's dancers demonstrate the strathspey *Silver Roses* in the arena at the Lions for Berkhamsted fête for the August Bank Holiday charity event.

**2. Sidmouth Folk Weekend, 10 August:** Frances Richardson, with Mollie Koenigsberger, ran a SCD workshop this year (see letter *The Reel* 284).

**13. Tourists in Turku, Finland, 16 – 19 August:** Participants in the Dancing in Finland/Estonia Weekend also enjoyed some time as tourists (see article p13).

**4. RSCDS London Branch Day School, 18 May:** Andy Peterson from RSCDS Berkeley Branch, entertained with his juggling skills at the evening ceilidh (see report p4). See also article by Andy in *The Reel* 281.







5



6



7

**5. Hayes and District Scottish Association helped celebrate Pinner Women's Institute Anniversary.** Dancers (from left): Michael Brain, Mary Barry, Michael Nolan, Valerie Cambridge, Val Roig, Peter Wilson, Marcia Wilson and Sheila Smith.

**London Highland Club 90th Anniversary Ball, 5 October** (see report p14)

6. A full hall dancing large circles in *Monymusk*.

7. Chief Graham and his wife Fay Cattell cutting the celebration cake.

8. **Oxfordshire Branch Annual Ball, 26 October:** first half multi-tasker MC Dennis Tucker now looking after the social imbiber's needs during the interval.

9. **RSCDS AGM 2013, Perth, 1 November:** London Branch president, Rachel Wilton, acting as a steward, welcoming Kaoru and Aad Boode to the Friday night dance at the Bell's Sports Centre in Perth. A full report on the AGM will appear in the next issue of *The Reel*.



8



9

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Popular and Frequent Dances

Dear Jeremy,

Once again I have looked at the frequency of dances received in the e-mail alerts in the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, together with the programmes for Summer Tuesdays 2013, comprising 113 events, with 2192 dances in total. The most frequent dances were as follows:

Dance	Number of appearances	Percentage of total events	Ranking 2013	Ranking 2012
The Dream Catcher	31	27%	1	6
Scott Meikle	25	22%	2	40
Shiftin' Bobbins	24	21%	3	45
Mairi's Wedding	23	20%	4	1
MacDonald of the Isles	21	19%	5	16
The Montgomeries' Rant	21	19%	5	2
Pelorus Jack	21	19%	5	3
Quarries' Jig	21	19%	5	45
The Wild Geese	21	19%	5	50
The Minister on the Loch	20	18%	10	16
The Belle of Bon Accord	19	17%	11	7
The Dancing Master	19	17%	11	16
James Gray	19	17%	11	7
The Lochalsh Reel	19	17%	11	91
Mrs MacPherson of Inveran	18	16%	15	23
The Plantation Reel	18	16%	15	11
The Reel of the 51st Division	18	16%	15	56
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder	17	15%	18	16
The Irish Rover	17	15%	18	11
Maxwell's Rant	17	15%	18	3
Napier's Index	17	15%	18	27
The Reel of The Royal Scots	17	15%	18	9

Iain Ross

## To Dance or not to Dance?

Dear Jeremy,

There have been conflicting opinions on the letters pages of the last two issues of *The Reel*, from Daniel Capron and Graham Hamilton, about how to treat beginners on the dance floor. Although we should encourage newcomers to get up and dance, SCD is a complex discipline. We cannot therefore expect them to dance without guidance, the lack of which may put them off further attempts.

It is sometimes possible for competent dancers to assist beginners through even a complicated dance. For example, in bars 9 – 24 of *The Bees of Maggie Knockater* it is sufficient if either the two men or the two ladies out of the four people dancing in promenade hold know the figure. This ensures that the other two dancers will always dance the promenade loops with someone who knows which way to go. It is therefore advisable to make sure that beginners are not all in the same set, and that they avoid dances where they are away from their partners for much of the time.

Remember that newcomers are not the only people who may have difficulty with a dance. 'Experienced' does not always mean 'competent' in the dancing world. There are some dancers who have still not grasped the basics, in spite of attending classes for years, and it can be very hard to help them.

There are those, myself included, whose dancing is hindered by a disability. They can often manage by making minor adjustments to dances or avoiding the more strenuous ones. It is possible to execute most reels and jigs using a brisk walking step.

Then there are people who do not realise the complexity of our style of dancing. They may dance once a year, on Burns' Night. It is not uncommon to receive the following enquiry: "I am going to a Highland Ball in Scotland in a few weeks' time, and need a crash course in Scottish dancing". If such a course could be devised, it might also be possible to arrange flying lessons for farm animals. It takes time and patience to achieve a good grasp of SCD.

However, it is possible to learn unfamiliar dances on the dance floor, provided you understand dance terminology and know the basic figures. This is why it is so important that new dancers go to classes if they can. We need to be supportive to newcomers without discouraging the old hands so it would be very useful to have the information Daniel suggests on programmes. SCD is an activity for which co-operation is essential and a little give and take is needed for all to enjoy it.

Elizabeth Bennett

## Be Prepared

Dear Jeremy,

I am sorry my letter in *The Reel* 284 caused Graham Hamilton dismay. I did not intend to discourage anyone. I was suggesting that beginners should find out about dances in advance, in particular the programme, and how much recapping and walking through there would

be, and then make an informed decision whether the dance was appropriate for them and how they might prepare for it. In that way they would get the most out of the event. This would mean in the case of Summer Tuesdays they should learn in advance any dances that they wish to dance but do not already know. May I take the opportunity of

## Opportunity in Ottawa

Dear Jeremy,

Having played at classes and schools both in the UK and abroad, it was a refreshing surprise when an invitation to teach at the Dance Scottish weekend in Ottawa, Ontario appeared in my inbox. Once I had clarified that they did indeed want me to teach rather than play, I set to work preparing my lessons and planning my trip. I immediately realised that the weekend would be totally different to the week's teaching I had delivered in Russia earlier in the year: this time I would have live music, I would be teaching to dancers whose first language was English and I wouldn't have to change hats to play for exams in the afternoons!

For various reasons, I was only able to go for the weekend itself so I set off on the drizzly lunchtime of 20 September, arriving later that afternoon only to find that the weather had followed me over the Atlantic. Nonetheless, Jody Williams, the course organiser, made sure I was swept away from the airport and I was soon teaching at the first social class with fellow teacher Chandi McCracken and weekend musicians, Dave Wiesler and David Knight. Although my brain thought it was the middle of the night, there was still a little energy left for the traditional after-class party.

The afternoon classes on the Saturday were graded, and I refreshed the basic steps and some formations with the beginners. I felt that this group would take a greater sense of achievement from mastering a technical dance well and they performed *The Fête* with great style and perfectly positioned poussettes every time. The experienced class was a lot of fun to teach and, with thanks to Mervyn Short for some excellent ideas for imaginative warm ups, the class was soon ready to tackle *Alltshellach* and *The Charmer* – chosen both for formations or technique but also because of their tunes.

The course was treated to a concert that evening by the two Davids, and the Gala Dance on the Sunday was a relaxing way to top off an action-packed weekend. Before I knew it, I was on the overnight flight back to Edinburgh and in the lab, rather bleary-eyed on the Monday morning.

SCD teachers don't just appear out of nowhere, and I'd like to record my thanks to RSCDS Edinburgh Branch for supporting me through my teaching certificate. I'd also like to thank Jody Williams for having the courage to invest in newly qualified teachers, a practice that some Branches are often too slow in adopting. Far too often, musicians and teachers languish on lists (if they get onto them in the first place) before they are considered 'experienced enough' to play or teach. I hope that the London Branch committee, in a forward-looking approach, will take a maple leaf from this Canadian Book.

Kind regards,  
Andrew Nolan

## Kilt for Sale

Ancient mute (hunting) Sutherland kilt. Waist 36"-39", drop 25 1/2", made by Alex Dalgety & Son, Forfar. Also available: black leather belt, black leather sporran, matching tartan flashes, ancient Sutherland tie, Ancient red Robertson tie, three pairs gillie dance shoes size 8 1/2. Price £70. Please contact Brian Challis 01903 246105 (Worthing).

thanking Graham for the wonderful Summer Tuesdays in 2013. I arranged my holidays so that I got to every one!

Daniel Capron



# AROUND THE WORLD

## SCD in Abu Dhabi

One thing I've realised is that no matter where you go to in the world – a Scotsman will have been there before you! Although in our expatriate life, my husband and I had encountered numerous Scots, we somehow hadn't found Scottish country dancing until we arrived in Taipei in 2000. But at the very first practice for the St Andrew's Ball (a major event in the British expat calendar), we were hooked. I searched out the SCD group when we relocated to Singapore, again when we moved to Dubai, and now Abu Dhabi in the UAE.



The St Andrew's Society in Abu Dhabi was formed in 1969 and holds two popular black tie balls a year, with dancing to a ceilidh band from Scotland. For the first time this year, I also organised two smaller ceilidhs (though without live music), which were both well-attended.

We meet every Sunday evening at 'The Club', dancing in the studio of the health complex. The transitory nature of expatriate life is such that the group membership fluctuates (only one person from the group we joined in 2010 is still here). Currently, we are waiting to restock, as it were, as after the summer we saw a number of people relocate. At the moment we have only twelve in the group and up to eight for a class (mostly beginners). It's very informal, but we have fun and we usually finish up in the bar afterwards (yes, alcohol is available in the UAE)! Current members are from Scotland, England, South Africa, Mexico and New Zealand (the latter also filling the role of the ADScots Society's piper).

We use a laptop for music (what a luxury for me to dance to a live band when I visited Summer Tuesdays in London in August!) and I decide/call the dances. Favourite dances in the group are *Postie's Jig*, *Pelorus Jack*, *Mairi's Wedding* and *A Trip to Bavaria*. At the end of last season, with a consistent group for a few months, we managed *The Irish Rover*. My dream is for us to dance *The Bees of Maggie Knockater*, but we're a little way off that at the moment!

We welcome beginners and visitors. Further details of classes can be found on [www.adscots.com](http://www.adscots.com)

Francine Quastel

## Dancing in my socks for Michael Buerk

Dear Jeremy,

You may have seen something about a new ITV documentary series called *Inside the National Trust*, where Michael Buerk ventures behind the scenes at six English properties to learn more about the work that goes into opening these attractions to the public. Among others, the programme looks at Wimpole, the Farnes Islands, and Wordsworth House and Garden, where I work. The crew had a lot of fun filming here: getting Michael to dress up as a costumed servant, covering him in 18th century make-up and getting his hands dirty in the garden.

A few events were also captured, including a wedding where the couple dressed in Georgian costume to surprise their guests. There were a few Scots, and a piper turned up, at which point one of my colleagues let slip that I do a bit of Scottish dancing. The crew later caught me on my own and requested I demonstrate something for them. Unfortunately I had not prepared for this, so my

## Dancing in New Places

The "new place" this time was Finland. About 90 people, not all dancers, collected in a very comfortable hotel in Turku to begin a four day dancing weekend, with splendid teaching from Pat Houghton and excellent music from Andrew Lyon and James Gray, followed by six days of sightseeing, first around the Turku area, on the southwest coast of Finland, then Helsinki, and then a ferry trip across to Tallinn in Estonia. Here we danced with the Tallinn dancers, with Sue Bollans of Munich taking advantage of a beautiful instrument to provide superb piano music for our ball, and enjoyed exploring the city.

The group overall comprised 15 nationalities: dancers had come from Australia, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Norway, Scotland, Sweden and Switzerland, and non-dancing partners/friends were also made very welcome.

The organisation was superb: hotels and meals were ready wherever we arrived, coaches were waiting when required, many of the tours had French, Japanese and English speaking guides; a range of experiences had been arranged – walking tours of course but also a wonderful evening spent at an outdoor smoke sauna, an organ recital in Turku Cathedral, a visit to the magnificent Finnish Parliament to name but a few; the meals were all delicious, and the tour culminated with a dinner cruise in the Helsinki archipelago on a calm and beautiful evening with the sun setting and the moon rising. I understand that the weather in Finland is not always as good as it was while we were there!

In addition, two afternoon sessions of Scottish dancing for beginners had been advertised in the local newspaper, so, at the hotel in Turku, Jim Cook and James Gray were able to welcome 24 prospective dancers each afternoon and now, with material help from RSCDS International Branch, a Scottish country dancing group has been started in Turku, the first group in Finland – well done Jim and Katalin Konya who organised the trip, and thank you for a wonderful holiday.

Katalin and Jim's next venture will be based in Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains, followed by a tourist programme and further dance in Krakow, in Poland (see further details on p17).

Rachel Wilton

See photo p10

## Cologne Ball

Friendships made at the Summer School, St Andrews, over the years often lead to unexpected travel. I was delighted to be invited to the Cologne Annual Scots Ball, usually sold out in advance owing to the limited size of the hall, the attractive programme and the musicians playing for it. I was pleased by the number of faces I recognised from other places, either Germany, or elsewhere on the continent, mainly Belgium, Holland and France. The ball is from 7.30pm until 12.30am, when, come hell or high water, they will have done every dance on the programme, and as many extras as the dancers wish, while the band has sufficient energy. They allow time for a brief recap (in English) for each dance, but printed crib sheets in English and Pilling diagrams are liberally available. With a substantial buffet during the interval, who could find fault with that?

Modern high-speed train travel takes a few minutes less each year and I found my way to the Abtei Brauweiler, an abbey of imposing appearance, in the countryside outside Cologne. The organisers have held the ball there successfully for years, but are wondering what to do from 2015, when the price of hiring will rise from €600 to €1600. The Group arrange an afternoon walk-through session at the hall, where the hardest dances are carefully explained. This is invaluable, for although many dances on the programme are well-known in the UK, many are written by German devisers and not danced over here. A short break after the walk-throughs led to participants crossing the road to the Eiscafé (ice cream parlour) for some relaxation, coffees and lavish concentrations of exotic ice creams, ready for the exertions of the ball ahead.

At short notice, the ball this year had to be transferred from the usual softly-sprung wooden floored hall, because of renovation works. We were moved upstairs to the legendary Kaisersaal, full of paintings, works of art, glass lamps from the ceiling – superb and evocative surroundings suggesting an Empire long-since vanished. The evening began with an authentic pipes and drums marching band, based in Germany, who played several medleys and for the first dance. I fancied I saw some of the faces in the legendary paintings winking at the loudness of this band.

The floor here was composed of some of the hardest and most uneven paving stones known to man, and this made for a memorable evening for our dance shoes, and one to reminisce about for years to come. We survived it, due to excellent music by a six-piece band led from the piano by Edwin Werner of Holland. Edwin had been a great hit at dances and classes at St Andrews over the summer, and in Cologne he fielded his complete band, who live in Holland or Germany. They have acquired an excellent reputation around the balls in Germany.

The MC was Margaret Lambourne of UK, currently based in Holland, whose husband John was on bass-guitar in Edwin's band. It all went extremely well and made for a very jolly evening. I got the impression that the Germans, often quite youthful, are prepared to travel long distances to balls run by other clubs, in order to keep their hand in. My thanks for all the hospitality received!

Tom Cooper

 Find us on Facebook

The London Branch Facebook page is constantly updated, with information, photos and news. It can be found at [www.facebook.com/pages/RSCDS-London-Branch/207567162643075](http://www.facebook.com/pages/RSCDS-London-Branch/207567162643075) or via the QR code shown. Please do visit the site and add your comments and photos!



## HELP NEEDED

We are seeking someone with an interest and/or expertise in photography and layout to assist in preparation of *The Reel*. Please contact [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk) if you might be interested.

# NEWS FROM CLUBS

## The London Highland Club 90th Anniversary Ball

On Saturday 5 October, Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig Band came down from Scotland to play for the Anniversary Ball to celebrate 90 years of the London Highland Club, and they delighted us with brilliant music and an excellent selection of tunes. With Nicol (lead accordion), Gordon Howe (fiddle), Isobelle Hodgson (keyboard) and Robert Simpson (drums), on this special occasion we were treated to one of the best Scottish country dance bands.

We had been looking forward to this ball for quite some time. The atmosphere was bubbly from the start, and when I looked down the many lines after the first dance was announced, it was a feast for the eyes to admire with the beautiful dresses, sparkling ball gowns and so many men in their highland dress. Over a hundred people filled the lower hall at St Columba's Church, Pont Street in Knightsbridge, some of whom had travelled a long way to be there. Peter Forrow, the current Vice-President, was our cheerful and efficient MC, and the well-balanced dance programme of 20 old favourites was just excellent.

There could be no such celebration without a special cake and the very talented Annie Waterson made this masterpiece with the club motto and coat of arms professionally iced on top. Special guests, Graham and Fay Cattell, who were introduced by President Roger Waterson, cut the cake.



For half-time a finger food feast had been prepared for us by committee members and helpers under the guidance and co-ordination of Karen Barter. She reminded us that many of the treats were in fact from Claire Wright's past recipes. The food was very tasty, clearly labelled and there was plenty of it. I have never seen the like anywhere else. Simply superb! Everyone had received a piece of celebration cake to go with our glass of wine. The President invited a toast and with charged raised glasses we cheered to the wonderful London Highland Club's Anniversary of 90 years!

Graham Cattell then gave a speech, and enlightened us with his reminiscences about the past. He was, for many years, the President of the London Highland Club and since his retirement from that role in 1995 he has been the Chief. It was interesting to learn about the rich history of the LHC. It was more of a society back then, with poetry recitations, singing and the performing of music as typical elements of an evening. In later years, the emphasis on dancing increased. At one ball, held at Porchester Hall, 500 people turned up and there was hardly any room to move.

## Musicians' Courses – Wing and Ilminster

The Thistle Club, Wing, Buckinghamshire

Just like the dancing season, September brings the start of the season of courses for musicians. The Wing course has become a much anticipated event each September, when Jan Jones persuades a well-known Scottish band leader to run a day of tuition for musicians, and lead them to play for an evening of general dancing. This year's event on 7 September was even better-attended than before. A dance class during the day with Eric Finley and Ian Robertson added to the entertainment, while the musicians ran through scores of tunes in the side room, ready for a public performance at 7.30pm. We were privileged by the visit of our tutor, Dr Sandy Nixon, all the way from Scotland with his Clinkscales accordion, bringing his own brand of enthusiastic music and encouragement to players keen to absorb his advice. His aim, he said right at the start, was to "make it fun" and for all of us to "have a very enjoyable day". So it proved, as we waded into reams of tunes from his own band book. "Watch my head", became Sandy's byword for the timings, changes in rhythm that he uses with his regular band. We soon got the hang of it, and at times we felt they were actually in the room with us. Any difficulties were ironed out with very amicable explanation.

Sandy really was very inspirational and enthusiastic in his approach to music-making. The day passed extremely quickly and we could not believe how many different tunes, arrangements and sets we had practised by the time it was over. Breaks for coffee, tea, lunch, and a meal at a local pub in Wing, had been meticulously planned, to ensure we were on stage for the arrival of a full house of dancers. It resulted in a most exhilarating evening of dancing and music, where Sandy sat at the front playing his accordion with full PA enhancement and urging along the musicians from the course. He said he was greatly encouraged by the way we responded, passing on our pleasure and excitement to the dancers. We expressed our thanks to Sandy, who had worked extremely hard throughout the day, for a most memorable event, and look forward to his return to the South with his popular band soon.

### Argyll Scottish Dancing Group Weekend, Ilminster, Somerset

A month later I was at Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset, where the manager reminded us in his introductory speech that this was the 10th year the Argyll Scottish Dancing Group had held their weekend house party of Scottish dancing. Every home comfort is provided here with plenty of excellent cuisine. For a second time, Ian Muir of the Craigellachie Band offered to run a musicians' course alongside the dancing events. It proved a very scholarly and valuable course of instruction for each of the five participants. This was a much smaller number than two years previously and probably had to do with the present financial climate, and not a reflection on the very high quality of Ian's teaching.

We arrived on Friday evening, and those musicians who wished to were encouraged to join in dancing to superb music from the Ian and Judith Muir duo. We could see what standard we had to face up to for the Saturday night dance, to match the lift of all those tunes from the Craigellachie band book. Saturday morning and afternoon were the practice sessions in a delightful studio with a large plate glass window overlooking a splendid view across the countryside, just in case the playing was not enough excitement!

Ian had sent out his music in advance and it was complete to suit every dance for Saturday's programme. Our instruments comprised one fiddle, two accordions, one keyboard, and drums. Ian's aim was to weld these players into a unique sound by Saturday night that dancers would enjoy. He has years of experience as a music teacher and it seemed to come naturally to him. The harmonies were often complex and subtle, but he was able to call out the exact notes required for the difficult chords and the easiest ways of fingering them – a great source of comfort for our keyboard player, as Ian is a very accomplished pianist himself. He played his Italian piano accordion most of the time, where the electronically-enhanced MIDI bass gives a very balanced bass line for a band. Ian had arranged counter-melodies, 'breaks' in the music and rhythmic punctuations, which we had to learn and master.

The final effect during the dance was a credit to all concerned, when we were joined by Judith Muir on keyboard, after her stint playing for the daytime dance classes. Any lapses in the playing were only minor and, as far as I know, the dancers did not notice anything amiss.

Sunday morning's playing session was reserved for tunes unsuited to the previous night's dancing. There was a captivating waltz, a melancholy air and lament, and a stirring two-step Ian had recently written for Trish and Mick Rawlings of RSCDS Oxfordshire Branch. Called *The Middle Barton Two-Step*, this was entirely in the character of a vintage Shetland two-step. We enjoyed it all, and were ready for our magnificent Sunday lunch, when the weekend drew to a close.

**Tom Cooper** (see also comments on the London Branch event on p3)

### ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Day School

Saturday 26 April 2014

Edgbarrow School, Sandhurst Road, Crowthorne,  
Berks RG45 7HZ

**Teachers: Joan Desborough and Linda Gaul**

**Musicians: Robert Mackay and Judith Muir**

For further information: 0208 858 7729 or  
[argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk](mailto:argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk)

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26th Annual Ball and Outing

Saturday 14 - Sunday 15 June 2014

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## Index to Scottish Country Dances

Updated versions of the *Index* are available free of charge to all RSCDS members as downloadable and printable PDF files in the members' section of the RSCDS website at [www.rscds.org/about-us/useful-documents/index-to-dances.html](http://www.rscds.org/about-us/useful-documents/index-to-dances.html) Log-in details may be obtained from [membership@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:membership@rscdslondon.org.uk)

**Iris Ronayne**

*See photos p11*



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Tea Dance

*A fun way to spend a dark winter afternoon!*

Sunday 19 January 2014

2.15 – 6.00pm

Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre, East Common  
SL9 7AD

### Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

*Programme:* The Frisky, The Deil amang the Tailors, 12 Coates Crescent, Inchmickery, The Piper and the Penguin, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, The White Heather Jig, The Findlays' Jig, The Fireworks Reel, The Minister on the Loch, The Highland Rambler, Johnnie Walker, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Montgomeries' Rant

Tickets £8.50

Bring and Share refreshments

Tea, coffee and squash provided

All dances will be talked and walked through

Contact Anne Ratcliffe, 01923 771535,

anne.ratcliffe@hotmail.co.uk or

info@gxscottish.org.uk

### Practice

Saturday 18 January 2014

9.45am – 12.45pm

Garden Room, Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre,  
East Common SL9 7AD

Tickets £5.00 no booking necessary

Further info/cribs available at

www.gxscottish.org.uk

## ISLE OF WIGHT

Weekend School

Friday 14 – Sunday

16 February 2014



**Teachers: Graham**

**Donald and Angela Berry (Young)**

**Musicians: Robert Mackay, Ian Muir and  
Craigellachie**

Contact Catherine Packwood-Bluett,  
01980 621322 or catherinepb@hotmail.co.uk

## WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Caledonian Ball

Saturday 15 March 2014

7.30 – 11.30pm

Allum Hall, Allum Lane,

Elstree, Herts WD6 3PJ



### Ian Muir of Prestwick Scottish Dance Band

*Programme:* The Jubilee Jig, Catch the Wind, Alison Rose, Best Set in the Hall, Baldovan Reel, Sands of Morar, Summer Wooing, Flower of Glasgow, The Findlays' Jig, Swiss Lassie, Johnnie Walker, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, None so Pretty, Gang the Same Gate, My Heather Hills, Da Rain Dancin', Airie Bennan, The Blue Mess Jacket, Major Ian Stewart, The Reel of The Royal Scots

Tickets £20.00 includes Buffet Supper and sparkling wine reception

Ball Practice: Sunday 9 March 2014,

2.00 – 5.00pm

St Thomas' URC gymnasium, Langley Road,

Watford WD17 4PN

Please contact us if you wish to attend

Rose Kreloff, 07880 842370,

rkreloff@hotmail.co.uk or

tickets@watfordscottish.org.uk

All are welcome to our **Christmas Dance Party**

Thursday 19 December 2013

See [www.watfordscottish.org.uk](http://www.watfordscottish.org.uk) for details

## OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE

Highland Ball

Saturday 22 February 2014

7.00 – 11.30pm

Chesterton Community

College, Gilbert Road,

Cambridge CB4 3NY



### Luke Brady's Scottish Dance Band

*Programme:* Mrs Stewart's Jig, Inverneill House, Argyll Strathspey, The Express, Miss Ella Catherine Hughes, Butterscotch and Honey, The Duke of Atholl's Reel, Broadford Bay, The Dark Mile, Rothesay Rant, Sleepy Maggie, Elegant Lassies of Elgin, Falls of Rogie, The Bees of Maggieknockater, Gang the Same Gate, Muirland Willie, Catch the Wind, Wisp of Thistle, Follow Me Home, Tambourine Reel

Tickets £15.00/£20.00 including meal

Contact Edmund Croft, 07837 648198,

Churchill College, Storey's Way, Cambridge

CB3 0DS or ewc20@cam.ac.uk

cusarc.soc.srcl.net/events.php

## JERSEY CALEDONIAN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

29th Annual Dance Weekend

Thursday 22 - Sunday 25 May 2014

**Thursday Night**

8.00 – 10.30pm

Run through some of the dances on the weekend programme. Includes refreshments

**Saturday Morning**

10.00am – 12.30pm

Walk throughs

**Saturday Evening Ball**

7.00 – 11.30pm

Includes a buffet supper and a glass of wine

**Sunday Evening Dance**

7.00 – 11.30pm

Includes a buffet supper and a glass of wine

Dancing two nights to

**Strathallan**

Tickets £40.00 whole weekend

£35.00 until 28 February 2014

For more information on

flights and accommodation

visit the Jersey Tourism [www.jersey.com](http://www.jersey.com) or

01534 448850 for a Jersey Tourism Brochure

Contact Joy Carry, 01534 862205 or

chanjoy@jerseymail.co.uk

Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or

alan.nicolle88@gmail.com

scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.

blogspot.co.uk

## WEMBLEY AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball

Saturday 22 February 2014

7.30 – 11.30pm

Nower Hill School, George V Avenue, Pinner,

Middlesex HA5 5RP

**The Craigellachie Band**

**M.C. Mrs Caroline Hamilton**

*Programme:* Joie de Vivre, West's Hornpipe, The Belle of Bon Accord, The Cranberry Tart, The Reel of The Royal Scots, The Gentleman, The Diamond Jubilee, Mrs Stuart Linnell, City of Belfast, Major Ian Stewart, The Recumbent Stone, The Flower o' the Quern, Torridon Lassies, The Plantation Reel, Kinfauns Castle, Equilibrium, John of Bon Accord, The Minister on the Loch, The Bees of Maggieknockater, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran

Tickets £17.00

Contact Brenda Manbuhar, 0208 933 9169,

info@wdsa.co.uk or [www.wdsa.co.uk](http://www.wdsa.co.uk)

## RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Burns Night Supper & Dance

Saturday 18 January 2014

7.00 – 11.30pm

Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson,

Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 6LZ

**Ian Muir and The Craigellachie Band**

*Programme:* Anderson's Rant, Granville Market, The Rose of the North, The Piper and the Penguin, Links with St. Petersburg, The Flower of Glasgow, Pelorus Jack, "You Cannot Go Wrong", The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Les Noces d'Or, The Dream Catcher, Napier's Index, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, The Double Diamond Strathspey, Scott Meikle, The Starry Eyed Lassie, The Belle of Bon Accord, The Reel of the 51st Division

Tickets £15.00

Contact Trisha Rawlings, 01869 340830,

29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Oxon OX7 7ET

or trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com

### Day School and Dance

Saturday 15 February 2014

Headington School, Oxford, OX3 7TD

**Teachers: Pat Houghton, David Queen and**

**Dennis Tucker**

**Musicians: Chris Oxtoby, Jeremy Hill and**

**Ken Martlew**

Tickets: whole day £24.00 morning or afternoon

classes £8.00 evening dance £14.00

**Evening Dance**

*Programme:* Good Hearted Glasgow, Maxwell's Rant, Sugar Candie, The Nurseryman, Back to the Fireside, Radcliffe Square, The Wild Geese, Bill Little's Strathspey, The Montgomeries' Rant, It's Nae Bother, The Reverend John MacFarlane, The Robertson Rant, Napier's Index, The Black Mountain Reel, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Pelorus Jack, The Reel of the 51st Division

Applications available from

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

Contact Trisha Rawlings, 01869 340830,

29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Oxon OX7 7ET

or trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com

## RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY

**BORDER BRANCH**

**Christmas Social**

Saturday 28 December 2013

7.45 – 10.45pm

St Paul's Parish Rooms,

Reading Road, (opp. Holt Lane), Wokingham

RG41 1EH

Dancing to recorded music

Bring and share refreshments

Contact Mervyn Short, 01903 782413

### Day School

Saturday 8 March 2014

Garth Hill College, Bull Lane, Bracknell

Berks RG42 2AD

**Teachers: Raphaëlle Orgeret,**

**Margie Stevenson, Chris Brown**

**Class Musicians: Robert Mackay,**

**Barbara Manning**

**Musicians' Day School: Ian Robertson**

Contact Paul Plummer 01252 404639

### Branch Ball

Saturday 17 May 2014

Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP

**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

Contact: Gordon Anderson 0118 961 7813

Visit our website on [www.rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://www.rscds-bhs.org.uk)



## **RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY**

Valentine Ball

Saturday 15 February 2014

7.00 – 11.00pm

Hampton School,

Hanworth Road, Hampton, Middx TW12 3HD

**Craigievar**

*Programme:* Bratach Bana, Best Set in the Hall, The Gentleman, The Recumbent Stone, The Wee Cooper of Fife, The Singing Sands, The Fireworks Reel, Angus MacLeod, Gang the Same Gate, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The Deil Amang the Tailors, The Chequered Court, Culla Bay, Mrs Stuart Linnell, The Immigrant Lass, Kilkenny Castle, The Plantation Reel, The Hazel Tree, MacDonald of the Isles, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets £25.00 including buffet supper  
Contact Frances Campbell, 0208 943 3773,  
france@btinternet.com or  
www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk



## **RSCDS CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH**

**Youth Workshop**

for dancers aged 12 – 35

Saturday 18 January 2014

10.30am – 4.30pm

Chesterton Community College, Cambridge  
CB4 3NY

**Teachers: Mervyn Short and Kate Gentles**  
**Musicians: Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith**

**Evening Dance – see below**

Classes: advanced, intermediate SCD and  
highland/ladies' step

Tickets £15.00 (£18.00 Non-RSCDS members)  
including workshop, lunch and evening dance

**Winter Dance**

Held jointly with Cambridge University  
Strathspey & Reel Club and in conjunction with  
the RSCDS Youth Workshop  
Saturday 18 January 2014

7.30 – 11.00pm

Impington Village College, Impington  
CB24 9LX

**Keith Smith and Muriel Johnstone**

Tickets £18.00 (£12.00 students and spectators)

All ages welcome!

Contact Lindsey Ibbotson,  
lindsey.ibbotson@gmail.com

## **BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS**

Christmas American Supper Dance

Saturday 14 December 2013

7.00 – 11.00pm

**Craigievar Scottish Dance Band**

Tickets £12.00 plus contribution to supper

**New Year Charity Dance**

Saturday 4 January 2014

2.30 – 6.30pm

Dancing to CDs

Tickets £7.00 plus picnic tea

Venue: Corfe Mullen Village Hall, BH21 3UA

Contact Camilla Beaty, 01202 540120 or

cbeaty2000@yahoo.ca

## **HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY**

**Annual Ball**

Friday 3 January 2014

7.30 – 11.30pm

Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree,  
Middx WD6 3PJ

**The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band**

*Programme:* Jennifer's Jig, The Last of the  
Lairds, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Napier's Index,  
Nottingham Lace, The Cashmere Shawl, The  
Cranberry Tart, Swiss Lassie, Mrs Milne of  
Kinneff, Father Connelly's Jig, The Glenalmond  
Gamekeeper, The Robertson Rant, Torridon  
Lassies, The Reel of The Royal Scots, The  
Flower o' the Quern, The Flying Spur, The  
Plantation Reel, The Garry Strathspey,  
MacLeod's Fancy, The Montgomerie's Rant

Tickets £18.00 (Non-dancers and Juniors £9.00)

up until 23 December

£20.00 and £10.00 thereafter

including refreshments

Contact Lorraine Robertson, 0208 427 7694 or  
muffinrobertson@btinternet.com

Cribs are available on our website:

www.harrowscottish.org.uk

## **HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB**

Annual Ball

Saturday 1 March 2014

7.30 – 11.30pm

Harpenden Public Hall, Harpenden,  
Herts AL5 1PL

**Craigellachie**

*Programme:* The Salmonfield Poacher, A  
Capital Jig, The Flower o' the Quern, Johnnie  
Walker, Aird of Coigach, Cuillins of Skye, Land  
of the Prince Bishops, Crossing the Line, Jean  
Martin of Aberdeen, The Irish Rover, The  
Jubilee Jig, Blooms of Bon Accord,  
Inchmickery, The Rose of the North, Dundee  
Dragon, The Cooper's Wife, Scotch Mist, The  
Falls of Rogie, Greetings from St Ninian's, The  
Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord, The Flying Spur,  
Mairi's Wedding

Tickets £18.00 including supper  
(Students 16 – 21 £12.00)

Contact Val Owens, 01727 863870 or  
www.HSCDC.org.uk

## **GUILDFORD SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB**

Spring Dance

Saturday 3 May 2014

Normandy Village Hall,

Glaziers Lane, Normandy, Surrey GU3 2DT

7.30 – 11.30pm

Drinks Reception from 7.00pm

**Iain MacPhail and his Scottish Dance Band**

Tickets £15.00, on sale from February 2014

For full details of programme

contact Fiona Yeomans,

preferably at fiona@yeomans.org.uk

or 01483 302334

www.gscdc.org.uk



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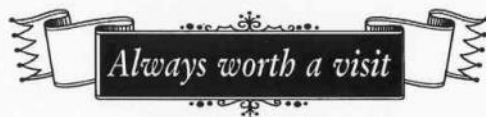
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## LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming attractions to be held at St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD



Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 – 10.30pm unless otherwise stated

Saturday 7 December: Christmas Dance

**Frank Reid**

Saturday 4 January: New Year's Dance with Haggis Supper 7.00 – 11.00pm **Craigievar**  
Thursday 16 January: **AGM**

Upper Hall 7.30 – 10.30pm

Saturday 1 February: Annual Ball (see below)

Saturday 1 March: **Frank Thomson Duo**

Saturday 5 April: **Kafoozalum**

Saturday 10 May: Combined Societies Dance hosted by London Highland Club

**Alasdair MacLeod**

Saturday 7 June: Summer Ball 7.00 – 11.00pm

**Ian Muir of Prestwick**

### Annual Ball

Saturday 1 February 2014

7.00 – 11.00pm

**Iain Cathcart**

*Programme:* Good Hearted Glasgow, The Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord, J.B.Milne, Postie's Jig, The Gentleman, Nice To See You, The Frisky, The Garry Strathspey, Gavin's Reel, Fugal Fergus/ Fergus McIver (Waverley), The Last of the Lairds, Drumelzier, Cadgers in the Canongate, The Tolsta Rant, Summer in Assynt, Nottingham Lace, The Machine without Horses, The Blue Mess Jacket, Major Ian Stewart, A Trip to Bavaria

Ball Tickets:

(including finger buffet refreshments)

\*LHC Members in advance £14.00

\*Non-members in advance £16.00

All classes on the door £18.00

\*Advance booking price is only available on orders received by midnight 29 January

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

**Cribs are now available on our website:**  
[www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk)

For further details contact: Frank Bennett on 020 8715 3564 or [fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk), or Roger Waterson on 020 8660 5017. Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening.

## RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 11 January 2014

Pittville School, Albert Road, Cheltenham GL52 3JD

**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

Tickets £18.00 (including light refreshments)

Programme and flyer available on website  
[www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk)

### Day School

Saturday 5 April 2014

Reddings Community Hall, Cheltenham GL51 6RF

**Teacher: Fiona Grant**

**Musician: Jeremy Hill**

Contact Margaret Winterbourne, 01242 863238 or [mj.winterbourne@btinternet.com](mailto:mj.winterbourne@btinternet.com)

## MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB

Highland Ball

Saturday 11 January 2014

6.30 – 10.30pm

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

**Craigievar Band**

*Programme (\*recapped):* Hooper's Jig, The Earl of Mansfield, The Blue Mess Jacket, The Bees of Maggiecknockater, The Recumbent Stone\*, Mist o'er the Loch\*, Jennifer's Jig, Flight to Melbourne\*, The Singing Sands, Tribute to the Borders, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Thomas Glover's Reel, James Gray, Kilkenny Castle, The Reel of the 51st Division, James Senior of St. Andrews, Angus Macleod\*, Mrs. Stewart's Jig, The Byron Strathspey, The Montgomerie's Rant, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterader. Extras: Scott Meikle, The Starry Eyed Lassie

Tickets £19.00 before 21 December

£21.00 after 21 December

Price includes supper and a welcome drink

Bring your own wine

Dress Formal

Contact Jane Leach, 01753 869557,  
16 Brudenell, Windsor, Berks SL4 4UR. Please send a SAE with cheque; otherwise tickets for collection on arrival.

[www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk](http://www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk)

## RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Day School

Saturday 29 March 2014

Mascalls School, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge Kent TN12 6LT

**Teachers: Kate Gentles, Mervyn Short and Jane Rose**

**Musicians: Barbara Manning, Ian Cutts and other to be announced**

For application form please contact Pat Davoll, Cambridge Cottage, Crockham Hill, Kent TN8 6RD (SAE), [patdavoll2@gmail.com](mailto:patdavoll2@gmail.com) or Kay Dunlop, 32 Beulah Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2NR (SAE), [kaydunlop@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:kaydunlop@blueyonder.co.uk)

### Date for your Diary

Spring Dance

Saturday 3 May 2014

7.00 - 11.00pm

Venue as above

Tickets £5.00 plus a plate

Dancing to recorded music

Details in the next issue of *The Reel* or at [www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk](http://www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk)

## READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

Annual Ball

Saturday 8 February 2014

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

**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

*Programme:* St. Andrew's Fair, The Reel of The Royal Scots, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Best Set in the Hall, Scott Meikle, The Moray Rant, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, Anniversary Reel, Linnea's Strathspey, Swiss Lassie, Pelorus Jack, John of Bon Accord, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, The Dancing Master, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Culla Bay, The Capital Jig, MacDonald of the Isles, The Bees of Maggiecknockater, The Montgomerie's Rant Extras: James Gray, The Diamond Jubilee

Tickets £18.00 including sherry reception and supper with a glass of wine

Contact Anne Wyatt, 01189 404012,  
Crescent Key, The Crescent, Shiplake, Oxon RG9 3LL or [sascdol@gmail.com](mailto:sascdol@gmail.com)  
[www.scottishdancingreading.org](http://www.scottishdancingreading.org)

## DANCING IN POLAND

Dance Course and Evening Dances

Thursday 29 May – Sunday 1 June 2014

Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains / Poland

4-star Belvedere Hotel with full board

**Teachers: Atsuko Clement and**

**Graham Donald**

**Musicians: Keith Smith and**

**David Cunningham**

Tickets: €350 early price until 10 December (€370 thereafter)

### Optional Holiday

Sunday 1 – Friday 6 June 2014

5 nights in 4- and 5-star hotels

Full board and lots of programmes including:

UNESCO World Heritage sites at Krakow,

Wieliczka Salt Mine with SCD ball,

Auschwitz (optional)

Tickets: €720 early price until 10 December (€750 thereafter)

Contact Jim Cook, 0208 948 5637 or

Katalin Konya or Jim Cook at

[dancingnewplace@yahoo.com](mailto:dancingnewplace@yahoo.com)

## WEST MACS

Charity Ball in aid of Kidney Kids Scotland

Saturday 12 April 2014

Bushey Meads School, Bushey, WD23 4PA

**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

Programme and other details in the next issue

Tickets from Judy Snook, 86 Church Lane,

Rickmansworth, WD3 8HE, 01923

774789 or Stuart Kreloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road,

Watford, WD17 4GE, 01923 492475

[westmacs@watfordscottish.org.uk](mailto:westmacs@watfordscottish.org.uk)

## MILTON KEYNES RSCDS

35th Annual Ball

Saturday 8 March 2014

Time: 7.30 – 11.30pm

Lovat Hall, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes,

Bucks MK16 0EJ

**George Meikle and the Lothian Scottish**

**Dance Band**

Tickets £18.00

Contact Jan Jones, 07877 153259,

[jange@verybusy.co.uk](mailto:jange@verybusy.co.uk) or [www.rscdsmk.co.uk](http://www.rscdsmk.co.uk)

## BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB

62nd Highland Ball

Saturday 8 February 2014

Ashlens School, Berkhamsted,

Herts HP4 3AE

**Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig Scottish Dance Band**

*Programme:* Miss Allie Anderson, Happy Returns, The Braes of Tulliemet, The Dundee City Police Jig, The Castle of Mey, The Robertson Rant, Friday's Child, Flowers of Dunbeg, Schiehallion, Lord Brownlow's Strathspey\*, The Frisky, The Barmkin, Major Ian Stewart, Gang the Same Gate, Catch the Wind, The Cooper's Wife, Linnea's Strathspey, The Deil among the Tailors, Best Set in the Hall, The Foundling\*, Inchmickery, Mairi's Wedding

\*Berkhamsted Diamond Collection will be recapped and walked

Tickets £22.00 including dinner and a welcome drink

Contact Gerry Elliott, 01442 832753 or

[events@berkhamstedreelclub.org](mailto:events@berkhamstedreelclub.org)

Ticket also available via website and PayPal

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

### Highland Ball Practice

Saturday 1 February 2014

11.00am – 5.00pm

Potten End Village Hall, Berkhamsted, HP4 2QG

£5.00 on the door

Bring a packed lunch,

morning & afternoon coffee & tea provided



## SUBSCRIBE TO THE REEL

If you are not a member of the London Branch, you can order copies of *The Reel* from Wilson Nicol, 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS or  
reelsubscriptions@rscdslondon.org.uk

For individual subscribers the annual cost is £6.00 if resident in the UK, £12.00 for other European residents and £15.00 if resident elsewhere. There are special rates for bulk orders. Remittances in sterling please, payable to RSCDS (London Branch).

### RSCDS BATH BRANCH

66th Annual Ball

Saturday 15 February 2014

The Guildhall, High St, Bath, BA1 5AW  
Hugh Ferguson and the Dalriada Scottish  
Country Dance Band

*Programme:* The Machine without Horses, The Peat Fire Flame, St Columba's Strathspey, Tribute to the Borders, The Sailor, The Dancing Master, Sugar Candie, Baldovan Reel, Equilibrium, The Irish Rover, Shiftin' Bobbins, The Hazel Tree, Polharrow Burn, The Rose of the North, Blooms of Bon Accord, Joie de Vivre, Nottingham Lace, The Singing Sands, Pelorus Jack, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran

Tickets £25.00

Contact June Hall, 01225 318906,  
jdandjhall@btinternet.com or  
rscdsbath.btck.co.uk

### RSCDS CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH

60th Anniversary Ball

Saturday 26 April 2014

Croydon High School for Girls,  
Old Farleigh Road, Selsdon, CR2 8YB

#### Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band

*Programme:* Grand March, Maxwell's Rant, The Gentleman, Barton Chase, Fraser's Favourite, The Dream Catcher, EH3 7AF, Flowers of Edinburgh, The Windmill of Croydon. Light and Airy, Anniversary Reel, Autumn in Appin, John of Bon Accord, MacDonald of the Isles, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The Irish Rover

Tickets £20.00 Croydon members

£21.00 Non-members

Contact Mary Courtney, 0208 651 0704 or  
maryc285@gmail.com

## OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

### ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE

CLUB. Dancing most Mondays, 8–10.15pm, Sept to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details: Morag Liddell, 38 The Holt, Abingdon OX14 2DR  
moragian@sky.com or  
www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

### ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH

SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15–10.15pm September to May at St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Monica Johnson, 01276 472756 or  
www.addlestonscottish.org.uk

### BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL

CLUB meets in Potten End Village Hall, HP4 2QG. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15pm September to May, Sat. gardens June/July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Gerard Elliott, 10 Dinmore, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 0QQ, 01442 832753 or  
www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

### BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH

RSCDS. Technique Class, alternate Mondays, starting on Monday 9 September 2013, 8–10pm Finchampstead Memorial Hall RG40 4JU. Details: Shirley Ferguson, 01276 501952. General Class, every Wednesday, starting on Wednesday 12 September 2012, 8–10pm, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church Hall, Frimley GU16 7AA. Teacher: Mervyn Short. Details: May Sloan, 01428 604868

### BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets

every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth 7.30–10pm. Alternate Wednesday Technique class, by invitation. Details: Camilla Beaty, Flat 4, 85 Alumhurst Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH4 8HR, 01202 540120

### 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 7.30–10pm at Balfour Junior School, Balfour Road, Brighton. Details: Carol Catterall, 01273 564963

### CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every

Tuesday 8pm at St. Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Janette Walton, 32 Moulsham Lane, Yateley, Hants GU46 7QY, 01252 875511

### 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 to June. Details: Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or  
www.camscotsoc.org.uk

### CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS Advanced

class Mondays 7.30–9.30pm. General class Thursdays 7.30–9.30pm. 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  
mbsteele45@aol.com

### CHELMSFORD: SANDON SCOTTISH

COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets on Monday evenings 8–10pm at Springfield Park Baptist Church, Springfield Park Road, Chelmsford CM2 6EB. Beginners welcome. Details: Esther Wilkinson, 01206 240132 or  
ewilkin@gmail.com or  
www.sandonscotdance.org.uk

### CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

CLUB meet on Sundays 6–9.15pm, September to 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. Contact Heather Nolan, 01784 256549 or  
secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk

### CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

CLUB meets Thursdays 8–10pm September to June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details: Mrs Pip Graham, 57 Milton Mount Ave, Pound Hill, Crawley, W. Sussex RH10 3DP, 01293 882173

### CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH. Branch

classes in Coulsdon: General, incl Beginners with technique (Fri); Advanced & Improvers (Wed). Details: Sue Hassanein, 01737 358401 or  
suehassanein@tiscali.co.uk or  
www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

### EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.

Club night Mondays (all year) 8–10pm at Woodford Green Prep School, Glengall Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0BZ. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or  
angelaross87@hotmail.com or  
www.efsa.org.uk

### EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN

ASSOCIATION holds weekly adult dance classes for beginners and intermediate/advanced levels (September to March), including informal dances. Details:

Dorothy Pearson, 366 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon CR5 3BF, 01737 551724 or  
pearson2902@tiscali.co.uk

### FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8pm, September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details: Mrs Annette Owen, 19 Park Prewett Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 9RG, 01256 959097 or  
www.fscdc.co.uk or  
annetteowen@hotmail.co.uk

### FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH

ASSOCIATION meets Tuesdays 8pm, September to mid-July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Details: Ann or Paul Brown, 01784 462456 or  
07801 160643, or  
p@ulfbrown.co.uk

### FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE

SOCIETY dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30–10.30pm, September to May. Details: Morna Partridge, 01252 711992 or  
morna.partridge@btinternet.com

### GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY

DANCE CLUB meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays from September to June. Beginners 7.30pm, General 8.15pm. Details: Celia Stuart-Lee, 01753 884217 or  
info@gxscottish.org.uk or  
www.gxscottish.org.uk

### GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN

ASSOC. meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8–10.30 p.m. Details: Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF, 0203 078 0018

### GUILDFORD SCDC meets at Onslow Village

Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8pm from September to June. Details: 01483 456091 or  
www.gscdc.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. Classes on Thursdays from 8pm. Details: Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St. Albans, Herts AL3 5RE, 01272 863870

### 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,



## OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS (continued from previous page)

- Pinner HA5 3QR, 020 8428 6055 or [www.harrowscottish.org.uk](http://www.harrowscottish.org.uk)
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8–10pm, September to 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. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield EN2 8LN, 020 8367 4201
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** meet Wednesdays September to 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, Jersey JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or [chanjoy@jerseymail.co.uk](mailto:chanjoy@jerseymail.co.uk) Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or [alan.nicolle88@gmail.com](mailto:alan.nicolle88@gmail.com) or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or [scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com](http://scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com)
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Details: adverts in *The Reel*, Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG, 020 8715 3564 or [www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk) Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL, 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8pm at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. 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](http://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
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB** meets every Monday evening from September – June at 8.15–10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details: Mrs Jane Whittington, 5 Coldharbour Rd., Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AE, 01474 359018
- 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](mailto:jange@verybusy.co.uk)
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays during school term, 8.15–10.15pm from September to 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. Details: Hadyn Davies, 0208 658 9188 or [hadyndavies@gmail.com](mailto: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, September to May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Margaret Spiceley 0118 978 7181 or [sascdo1@gmail.com](mailto:sascdo1@gmail.com) or [www.scottishdancingreading.org](http://www.scottishdancingreading.org)
- REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets most Mondays 8.15–10.15pm, September to May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or [wmitton517@btinternet.com](mailto:wmitton517@btinternet.com)
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8pm from mid Sept. to end of May. Details: 020 8943 3773 or [www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk](http://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](mailto:gwood@gna.cc)
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Pont Street. 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](mailto:dhaugh200@btinternet.com) or [www.stcolumbasdancers.org](http://www.stcolumbasdancers.org)
- ST JOHN'S SDC WOKINGHAM** meet every Thurs 8–10.15pm Sept to 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](mailto:alan.suedavis@gmail.com) Also Children's Class Sats 9.30–11am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS,** Luton, meet every Wednesday, September to June 8–10pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road, Luton, Beds. Details: Sarah Kelsall-Patel, 01296 681968 or Ted Andrews, 01582 508580 or [www.saintniniansluton.org.uk](http://www.saintniniansluton.org.uk)
- SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT** hold weekly classes for all levels of dancers on Monday evenings from 7.30–9.30pm at Collingwood School, Springfield Road, Wallington SM6 0BD. Details: Maggie Westley, 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157, or [westley.maggie14@gmail.com](mailto:westley.maggie14@gmail.com)
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8–10pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Philip Howey, 53 Asher Reeds, Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0AR, 01892 862094 or [philip.howey3@virginmedia.com](mailto:philip.howey3@virginmedia.com)
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from September to May, 8.15–10.15pm, in Barnes. Details: Fiona Jack, 07780 671021 or [jack\\_fiona@hotmail.com](mailto:jack_fiona@hotmail.com)
- 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 8556 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, 7.30–10.30pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30–9pm. Details: Janice Rose, 01702 585473
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDs.** Classes in Hertford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Hollybush School, Hertford; Beginners Thurs 8pm, Guide Hut, West Street, Hertford; Demonstration 2nd Mons 8pm, St. John's Hall, Hertford. Details: Diana Ross, 01920 870189
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8–10.15pm at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W Sussex. Details: Julie Howell, 63 Mile Oak Rd, Portslade, Brighton, East Sussex BN41 2PJ, 01273 415778 or [Julie@howell.name](mailto:Julie@howell.name)
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday at 8pm from September to 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](http://www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk)
- 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](http://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 Krelloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or [reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk](mailto:reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk)
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Wednesdays 8–10pm September to June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or [welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net](mailto:welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net)
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dance Class Mondays 8pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford WD19 5HF, 020 3078 0018
- 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](mailto:araffan@googlemail.com) or [www.standrewsoclondon.net/ne.net](http://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](mailto:wendy@mumford.com)
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8–10pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Beryl Munro, 01621 850838 or [beryl.munro@btinternet.com](mailto:beryl.munro@btinternet.com)



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## Open Air Dancing in Kensington Gardens, 31 August & September 2013 (see report p3):

1. Dancing for all.  
2. London Branch dem team dancing to Neil Esselmont's excellent piping keeps passing tourists entertained.

3. **London Branch Day School, 9 October:**  
Anna Twinn, who introduced and thanked on behalf of the mixed ability class Mervyn, with Mervyn Short and Branch Secretary and School co-ordinator Margaret Catchick (see report p4).



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