



The Reel

rscds
London Branch

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SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2014

Scottish Country Dancing—
For fun, fitness and
friendship



Above left: Dancers on tour enjoyed an unusual dance setting, 800 steps down, in the Wieliczka Salt Mine, near Krakow (see p14).

Above right: Following the Branch AGM on 14 June, webmaster Meryl Thomson was presented by Chairman Andrew Kellett with a beautiful orchid, in appreciation for all her work to maintain the Branch website. As part of Green Ginger, Meryl played for the June Jig that followed.

AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

Saturday 13 September 2014
7.00 – 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD
Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band

The Happy Meeting	29/9
Sugar Candie	26/9
Anniversary Reel	36/7
Joie de Vivre	39/2
The Gentleman	35/5
Red House	7/2
The Starry Eyed Lassie	23/11
1314	Rondel/20
The Royal Yacht Britannia	43/3

The Immigrant Lass	39/5
Gang the Same Gate	36/4
The Music Makars	33/1
Miss Mary Douglas	10/11
Autumn in Appin	31/5
Sleepy Maggie	11/5
EH3 7AF	40/6
The Dream Catcher	45/9
The Montgomeries' Rant	10/1

Admission includes light refreshments
RSCDS members £10.00, Non-members £12.00
Students (with student card) and spectators £5.00
All children (under 16) free
All tickets to be purchased on the door
All dances will be recapped

AUTUMN WEDNESDAY DANCE

Wednesday 29 October 2014
7.00 – 10.00pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD
Christina Hood & Sandra Smith

Cutty Sark	40/2
Nice to See You	40/3
12 Coates Crescent	40/5
Joie de Vivre	39/2
Flowers of Dunbeg	Dunbeg Primary Lfht
Rakes of Glasgow	11/11
My Mother's Coming In	15/1

Lady Home's Jig	MMM 46
Fisherman's Reel	Dunblane Holiday Bklt
Monymusk	11/2
The Duke of Atholl's Reel	16/3
Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel	Graded 1/7
The Belle of Bon Accord	Deeside 2/10
The Highlandman kissed his Mother	MMM 32

Extras: Jig to the Music (Graded 2/7), The Byron Strathspey (Deeside 2/10), Catch the Wind (45/5)

Admission includes light refreshments
RSCDS members £9.00, Non-members £11.00
Students (with student card) and spectators £5.00
All children (under 16) free
All tickets to be purchased on the door
All dances will be walked through

FESTIVE FLING

Saturday 6 December 2014
7.00 – 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD
Ian Muir & the Craigellachie Band

The Laird of Milton's Daughter	22/10
Maxwell's Rant	18/10
John McAlpin	3 for 2007/2
The Cocket Hat	44/5
The College Hornpipe	20/12
Margaret Parker's Strathspey	31/3
Granville Market	Graded 2/18
The Robertson Rant	39/8
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh ...	39/7

Follow Me Home	38/3
John of Bon Accord	33/5
The Braes of Tulliemet	7/12
Links with St Petersburg	46/10
The Earl of Mansfield	Leaflet 5
The Duchess Tree	Brodie/11
Argyll's Fancy	Graded 1/23
The Byron Strathspey	Deesside 2/7
Duke of Perth	1/8

Admission includes light refreshments
RSCDS members £18.00, Non-members £20.00
Students (with student card) and spectators £9.00
All children (under 16) free
All tickets to be purchased on the door
All dances will be recapped
Those with highland/evening dress are encouraged to wear it

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



Welcome to a new dancing season with RSCDS London Branch. I know for some of you dancing never stops with Summer School, Summer Tuesdays, but ever since our schooldays September does seem to mark the start of something new, and a great opportunity to resolve to enrol in a class, to make the effort to go to a dance, or just to do something in gratitude for all those wonderful years of fun, friendship and fitness we have enjoyed. The Committee has been working hard to get ready for this dancing year: organising classes and dances, publicising events and dealing with all the administration that goes with being part of a worldwide, charitable organisation. Thank you, on your behalf, to them and thank you to those members who came to our AGM and endorsed our priorities for the year, top of which is getting more people into Scottish country dancing. We have to attract new dancers if we are to keep SCD alive.

Also at the AGM we thanked Elaine Wilde, who stepped down from the Committee and her role as Demonstration Co-ordinator, and we welcomed

Ireen Goulding as a new Committee member. We were also able to show our appreciation to Meryl Thomson for her hard work in keeping the Branch website in good order. Meryl isn't a member of Committee but like many dance enthusiasts she does her bit (more than a bit actually) to help the Branch; so too does James Fairbairn, who once again organised the dancing in Kensington Gardens, and it is a pleasure to see Daniel Capron, who has taken over the Bookstall, involved once again, and Rachel Wilton, our President, adding the role of Branch Archivist to her already impressive CV in the service of the RSCDS. If you think you can help in anyway do please get in touch with Margaret, our Secretary, or myself.

So, let's get on with the dancing. We have some fantastic music lined up, we have booked some terrific teachers and we are holding events in several parts of London. All we need now is you, and a great time Scottish country dancing is assured. See you on the dance floor.

Andrew Kellett

EDITORIAL



The Commonwealth Games recently concluded in Glasgow offered great opportunities for record attempts. The Society has broken all records with its publication in 2014 of 91 dances in four books: Book 48, collecting 15 modern dances; The Third Graded Book, also 15 dances from around the world, now adopted by the Society; Dances to Song Tunes, Hugh Foss' book of 1966; and the Imperial Book of Scottish Country Dances, Volumes 1-3, covering 46 dances first published in three volumes by order of The Council, Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing. So what does this mean?

Playing for classes at the Summer School this year, I saw a blur: teachers hurried through a mass of dances; dancers (including those in the "High Impact" or Very Advanced class) struggled to remember dances they had learnt only two days earlier, and insisted on walking through from every position in order to grasp the complexities; despite efforts to standardise wording, Imperial Book dances left themselves open to various interpretations; immediate impressions

condemned some Book 48 dances to the rubbish pile ("wouldn't work in the ballroom").

I came away thinking the Graded Book dances, combining known figures in new and unusual dances had a great deal more going for them; but I suspect most will consider them 'second class' and spend time attempting Book 48 and Imperial Book dances. Very few will be retained in people's heads and the constant round of pre-ball practice sessions, walk-throughs and recaps will continue. It used to be said that the Society focused on teaching dancing not dances. Can we still say that is true?

Jeremy Hill

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Maintaining Contact – email addresses

The Branch continues to use various means to keep in touch with members, on the website, Facebook, Twitter, through *The Reel* (now available electronically – see p4) and regular email.

If you are not receiving emails from the Branch Committee on a regular basis with information on forthcoming Branch events, we may not have your current email address. If you wish to receive information by email (not more than once a month), please send your email address to Jerry Reinstein

jar@reinsteinassociates.com

and we will add you to the list. Note: the list is not used for any other purpose and not shared with any other organisation.

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE
SOCIETY



Patron H.M. The Queen
Chairman – John Wilkinson

HEADQUARTERS:

12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF

Tel: 0131 225 3854

info@rscds.org

www.rscds.org

LONDON BRANCH

Hon. President:

Rachel Wilton

President Emeritus:

Mary Stoker

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

Mary Barker, Jenny Greene, John Laurie,
Owen Meyer, Wilson Nicol, Rosemary Tilden

Chairman:

Andrew Kellett,
22 Chestnut Drive,
Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 4EN
020 8301 1403

chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk

Hon. Secretary:

Margaret Catchick
251 Botley Road, Ley Hill, Chesham,
Bucks HP5 1YD
01494 772305

secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

Hon. Treasurer:

Simon Wales,
Flat 6, 86 Worcester Rd, Sutton,
Surrey SM2 6QQ
020 8643 0952

treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk

COMMITTEE

Elaine Davies, Pam Ellam, Ireen Goulding,
Jeremy Hill, George Potts, Marjory Reid,
Jerry Reinstein, Thelma-Jane Robb,
Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw, Anna Twinn

Co-ordinators:

Classes: Margaret Shaw, Lena Robinson

Day School: Margaret Catchick

Dances: Marjory Reid

Demonstrations: Anna Twinn

The Reel: Jeremy Hill

Youth: Marjory Reid

Non-Executive roles:

Bookstall: Daniel Capron

Hon. Archivist: Rachel Wilton

Membership: Gaynor Curtis

The Reel Business Editor: Jeff Robertson

The Reel Assistant Editor: Katy Sweetman

Subscribers: Wilson Nicol

Webmaster: Meryl Thomson

Website: www.rscdslondon.org.uk



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Branch:

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@LondonRSCDS



Objects of London Branch

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

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

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

Saturday, 18 October 2014

Paddington Academy, Marylands Road, London W9 2DR

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

Morning: 10.30 – 12.30

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

Teacher: **Graham Donald** Musician: **Sandra Smith**

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

Teacher: **Pat Houghton** Musician: **Micah Thompson**

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

Teacher: **Di Rooney** Musician: **Judith Muir**

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

Teacher: **Lindsey Rousseau** Musician: **Barbara Manning**

Lunch: 12.30 – 2.00pm

A baked potato and dessert lunch may be purchased. Alternatively there are facilities for packed lunches, or pubs and cafes in the local area.

Afternoon: 2.00 – 4.00pm

Very Advanced:

Teacher: **Pat Houghton** Musician: **Micah Thompson**

Advanced:

Teacher: **Graham Donald** Musician: **Sandra Smith**

Mixed Ability:

Teacher: **Lindsey Rousseau** Musician: **Barbara Manning**

Newcomers and Improvers:

Teacher: **Di Rooney** Musician: **Judith Muir**

Optional Extras: 4.30 – 5.30pm

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

Dances from Book 48 (the New Book):

Teachers: **Pat Houghton and Di Rooney**

Musician: **Micah Thompson**

Highland: The Foursome Reel and Reel of Tulloch

Teacher: **Graham Donald** Musician: **Sandra Smith**

Ladies' Step:

Teacher: **Joan Desborough** Musician: **Barbara Manning**
"Do You Know What You Are Getting": **Ian and Judith Muir**

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

Musicians' Workshop

Led by accordionist and band leader **Ian Muir**, this will take place in both the morning and afternoon. The workshop is open to players with a suggested minimum of Grade 5. The class is principally aimed at giving musicians a grounding in good technique in playing for dancing, and will cover the characteristics of the Reel, Jig and Strathspey, the instrumental techniques that are uniquely Scottish, phrasing, sequencing and repertoire, and the body language associated with drive and lift.

Evening Ceilidh: 6.00 – 9.00pm

This will follow the Day School and once again we anticipate much fun and entertainment. Dancing will be to **The Craigellachie Band**, with the musicians attending the Musicians' Workshop joining the band for the first four dances. Tickets are available in advance from Margaret Catchick and on the door.

For an application form containing further details for both the Day School and the Musicians' Workshop, please contact Margaret Catchick, 251 Botley Road, Ley Hill, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1YD, enclosing a SAE, on 01494 772305, or margaretcatchick@hotmail.com. Application forms may also be obtained from the London Branch website, at Branch dances, or from your class teacher.

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

DANCE SEASON 2014-2015

The Branch is delighted to announce that the 2014-2015 Season will open on Saturday 13 September with the Autumn Assembly programme devised by Iain Farrell. We will all have the pleasure of dancing to the wonderful music played by Strathallan.

The Wednesday dances make a return to Pont Street with the Autumn Wednesday dance on 29 October, when we welcome back the ever popular duo of Christina Hood and Sandra Smith. Jim Cook has devised the programme and will be your MC for the evening. Do come along as you may have the opportunity to dance once more to the Gilbert & Sullivan music played by Christina and Sandra at the Summer Wednesday dance, or perhaps the ladies will have another surprise in store for dancers!

On Saturday 6 December we invite you to join us for some Festive Fling and enjoy the music of regular favourites Craigellachie heralding the festive season. Come along and enjoy dancing to a programme devised by John Laurie.

Many thanks to Iain, Jim and John for devising the programmes. You may find your favourite dance(s) in the programmes, so do come along and join in the dancing.

We look forward to welcoming all dancers to the Branch dances during the coming months. Dance cribs are available on the Branch website.

Look out for what will be coming up in 2015 in the next *Reel*!

Marjory Reid, Dances Co-ordinator

FUTURE BRANCH EVENTS

Except where noted, events take place:

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

Time: Evening dances 7.00 – 10.30pm (doors
open at 6.30pm)

SEASON 2014-15

Saturday 10 January: Burns' Supper and Ceilidh
Dance **Caledonian Reelers**

Wednesday 18 February: Winter Wednesday
Dance (7.00 – 10.00pm)

Sandra Smith & Jane Ng

Saturday 21 March: Family Day (2.00 – 4.30pm)
and Spring Dance **Kafoozalum**

Friday 17 – Sunday 19 April: Spring Fling (see
p7), incorporating a Musicians' Day (from
10.30am) and Evening Dances open to all

Jim Lindsay and the Musicians

Saturday 13 June: Family Day (musicians tbc)
AGM (6.45pm) and June Dance

Barbara Manning and Callum Mitchell

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday 31 October: RSCDS London Branch
85th Anniversary Celebration Dance

Ian Muir & the Craigellachie Band

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

Teachers' Certificate Courses

There was sufficient interest for the RSCDS SE Branches to combine to run a course towards the RSCDS Unit 5 teaching examination starting next April. This course is now full.

The Branches also hope to run a Unit 2 and/or 3 course earlier in the year. If you are interested in participating please contact the SE Branches secretary, George Ferrier, george2542@hotmail.co.uk

Branch Membership and Electronic *Reel* Subscription

The Branch AGM agreed revised Branch membership subscription rates, including a new membership rate incorporating electronic subscription to *The Reel* instead of a hard copy through the post. Access will be provided via an email containing a link to the pdf file held in the website hosting area.

Therefore, with effect from 1 July 2014 the London Branch fee will be reduced to £4.00 a year for members who choose to receive *The Reel* in electronic format. Members choosing to receive *The Reel* in hard copy will pay the existing Branch fee of £6.00 a year if based in the UK (£12.00 if based elsewhere in Europe and £15.00 in the rest of the world). This coincides with a £2.00 a year increase in the RSCDS subscription (agreed at the Society's AGM in November 2013). This means that the annual cost of RSCDS membership through London Branch will be:

- £22.00 (£18.00 RSCDS subscription plus £4.00 Branch fee) for members who choose to receive *The Reel* in electronic format only, **irrespective of where they live**.
- £24.00 (£18.00 RSCDS sub + £6.00 Branch fee) for UK-based members who receive *The Reel* through the post,

- £30.00 (£18.00 RSCDS sub + £12.00 Branch fee) for European-based members who receive *The Reel* through the post, and
- £33.00 (£18.00 RSCDS sub + £15.00 Branch fee) for members in the rest of the world who receive *The Reel* through the post.

Discounts apply of £9.00 for members aged 12-17, £4.00 aged 18-25 and £3.50 for each of two members living at the same address. Members of other branches can become 'second members' of London Branch by paying the appropriate fee.

London Branch membership benefits include reduced rates at Branch events and receiving *The Reel*, while RSCDS membership includes the bi-annual publication, *Scottish Country Dancer* and discounts on items from the RSCDS shop.

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

In addition, a new electronic *Reel* subscription rate of £4.00 per annum will also be made available (see p15).

Having a Fling! Why Not Try Highland Dancing?

For many years the Branch has run classes in Highland dancing, and we are delighted that Kathleen Gilbert, who has competed and taught extensively in Canada, has recently become our regular teacher.

Kathleen took up Highland dancing at the age of 8, competed extensively in British Columbia and Washington State and qualified as a Highland dance teacher aged 17. Over the years, she has taught both recreational and competitive Highland dancers. She ran her own dance studio in Vancouver and is also a qualified tap dance teacher. Kathleen's main occupation is as a choreographer, developing new musical theatre projects. In August this year, she spent some time back in Victoria, British Columbia, as a judge for the Highland competitions at the Saanich Fair where, as a young girl, she had first been captivated by Highland dancing.

The class meets in Richmond on Sunday mornings and covers both Highland and Scottish National dances. Recent dances include the *Highland Fling*, *Foursome Reel*, *Argyll Broadsword*, *Irish Jig* and *Wilt Thou Go to the Barracks, Johnnie?* While some have danced for many years, others are new to Highland dancing. Kathleen has a real ability to cater for a wide range of experience, guiding beginners through the basic steps, while also challenging the more proficient dancers with advanced steps and finer points of technique.

Sue Lownds says she was "hooked" at her first class a few years ago and she regularly makes the 150 mile journey from Staffordshire to attend. "When I first started to become interested in Highland I had only heard of the *Fling* and the *Sword Dance*, but the London Branch classes have opened up for me a whole world of Highland dances of different grades of difficulty and considerably different styles. I love the variety of dances taught at these classes, the different teaching styles and the enthusiasm of the participants. After a morning's energetic dancing, I often join the others for a pub lunch before journeying home. For me, Highland dancing has been a skilful, rewarding and tremendously enjoyable activity and I must commend London Branch for putting on these excellent classes."

We would be very pleased to welcome new people, whether beginners or experienced. Why not give it a go? Perhaps, like both Kathleen and Sue, you will be "hooked"! For more information, see the advertisement opposite.

Graham Miller

CLASSES 2014/15

London Branch runs a variety of classes throughout the year, and has something for all ages and abilities, including a fortnightly children's class held in central London (see details p7).

We have a new venue in Sloane Square for our Wednesday evening Basic Skills and Technique Class (see below). Jane Rose will continue to teach the Basic Skills class, and an excellent team of teachers will take the Technique class. For those attending the Technique Class, Pat Davoll will be teaching dances from Book 48 over the course of four weeks. In addition, for those who enjoy a class in the afternoon, Jeni Rutherford will be continuing her Wednesday general class at St. Columba's Church in Pont Street.

This year we are introducing a Beginners' Class, which will take place at the Oddfellows Hall in Richmond, also on a Wednesday evening (see below).

In addition to the above classes we are continuing with our Highland Class, which will be taught by Kathleen Gilbert, and our Sunday Technique Class, which will be taught by Philippe Rousseau, both held at the Oddfellows Hall in Richmond on specific Sunday mornings.

So join us at one of our many classes – there is something for everyone!

New Class in Richmond

One of our priorities this year is to give more people the opportunity to learn Scottish country dancing. We already have a successful Basic Skills class in central London, but many potential dancers will be reluctant to travel into the centre to try a new hobby, so we have been looking to start a class in the suburbs. Only a few local clubs run a regular beginners' class. We have therefore decided to try one in Richmond, an initiative welcomed by the Richmond Caledonian Society.

If you live or work nearby do encourage people to give SCD a try, the first class is free. We would also like to hear from members who can help us publicise this new venture. Please contact us at classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

New Wednesday Evening Class Venue

We have secured a superb venue for our Wednesday evening classes in the Francis Holland School, which is an independent girls school located at 39 Graham Street, SW1W 8JF just two minutes' walk from Sloane Square Station. The school is a little gem and once inside it is hard to believe you are in Central London. It is a charming building, which has been modified to make it suitable for its purpose. For those who wish to travel by car, there are streets nearby with parking meters (free after 6.30pm), the closest of these being in Holbein Place just around the corner from the school.

With the excellent teachers and musicians we have lined up for the coming year, and with such a superb new venue, our classes should not be missed. So put Wednesdays from 24 September, 2014 in your diary now and join us for our weekly classes – we are sure you will not be disappointed.

House Rules

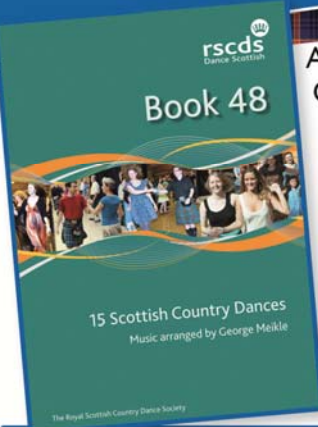
To gain access to the building before 7.15pm, please press the button on door marked 'Reception'. After 7.15pm please call Lena on 07803 054936, or Margaret on 07935 285874.

Please note that only soft shoes may be worn in the halls and gym. If you require water, please bring your own; nothing fizzy or sticky may be taken onto the premises. Smoking is not permitted in the school or grounds.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Classes Sub-Committee

New Book of Dances for 2014 RSCDS No.48



As part of the Wednesday Technique Class, **Pat Davoll** will be teaching the **new dances** over a period of 4 weeks,
24 September to 15 October,
7.00 – 9.00pm at
Francis Holland School,
39 Graham Terrace,
London, SW1W 8JF
Teachers and Advanced Dancers Welcome

RSCDS members £9 non-members £10 per class

Set yourself a fun challenge *Join a Scottish Country Dance Class*

We have
classes for...

CHILDREN in central London.

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

ADULTS - Classes start on Wednesday 24 September

**NEW
CLASS**

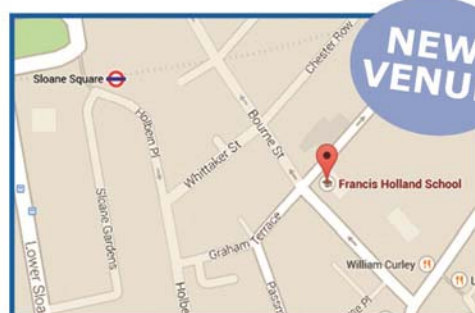
Beginners 8.00 - 10.00pm at The Oddfellows Hall,
Parkshot, Richmond, TW9 2RT
with **Alex Harvey** and musician **Ben Moss**

Basic Skills & Improvers 7.00 - 9.00pm

with **Jane Rose** and musicians

Ian Cutts and **Jane Ng**

at Francis Holland School, 39 Graham Terrace,
London SW1W 8JF



**Experienced dancers wishing to improve
their technique** 7.00 - 9.00pm,

venue Francis Holland School as above, with

Pat Davoll (24 Sept – 22 Oct) **Maureen Campbell** (5 Nov – 3 Dec)

Paul Plummer (14 Jan – 11 Feb) **Lindsey Rousseau** (25 Feb – 25 Mar)

Debbie McLachlan (29 Apr – 20 May)

Musicians **Sandra Smith, Ian Cutts** and **Jane Ng**

Class Fees: £75 per term or £9 per night for RSCDS members,

£85 per term or £10 per night for non-members

Wednesday afternoons, 2.30 - 4.30pm

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

17 Sept – 17 Dec (half-term 29 Oct) Fee £5 per class

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

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

For experienced dancers interested in demonstrations

Email Anna Twinn at demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk

SUNDAY CLASSES

Are held at The Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RT 11.00am – 1.00pm

RSCDS members £10 per class, non-members £11 per class

Advanced Technique with **Philippe Rousseau**

on 26 October, 14 December, 18 January and 15th February

Highland Dancing with **Kathleen Gilbert**

on 23 November, 11 January and 29 March

Contacts for all classes either Margaret or Lena at
classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Meet Ireen Goulding

Before the Editor is inundated with letters regarding the spelling of my first name please be assured **Ireen** is the way it is spelt. Now that's cleared up I can

introduce myself as the newest member of the Committee.

I was a late starter to Scottish country dancing, having only been dancing for six or seven years. At school in Scotland we were only taught



ceilidh dancing. From an overheard conversation, I found out that Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club had a beginners' class, which I joined and where I learnt that there were more steps than just the 'Paddy Bar', which was the only one I knew. So a big thank you to Jane Rose for getting me started on my Scottish country dancing journey.

Berkhamsted is still where I do most of my dancing, though, now I feel more confident, I have spread my wings to Watford and Lucy Clark, which are quite local to me. I have been enjoying the Wednesday technique class in London and have also attended various day schools as well as summer and winter schools. I find it great fun meeting and dancing with people of all abilities and particularly enjoy, as well as the social side, learning new dances and improving my technique with the help of more advanced dancers.

I have found the teaching within the various groups that I have been involved with to be of a very high standard and rewarding, and would particularly like to mention, to name but a few, Mervyn Short, Paul Plummer and Pat Houghton, whom I have found very inspiring and who have shown me that dancing is fun and to be enjoyed.

I enjoy many dances but I have to admit to two favourites: *Culla Bay* by the late Ann Dix, for its grace and flow, and *The Bees of Maggie Knockater* by the late John Drewry, for its buzz and liveliness.

This year I have branched out and gone to a few of the Summer Tuesday dances, which are good fun and it's lovely to be able to dance to live music. I wholeheartedly recommend them.

Dancing at Blair Castle at the end of Winter School was really memorable. A wonderful setting, great music and musicians, exhilarating dancing, and a good time had by all.

For me Scottish country dancing is about fun, enjoyment, exercise and the people involved, and I look forward to meeting many of you soon.

Ireen Goulding

HELP NEEDED

The Reel is very fortunate in receiving a good number of contributors of photographs of dancing, dancers and dancing events. Sadly, they cannot all be accommodated. We are seeking someone with an interest and/or expertise in assisting with editing and layout of photographs in the preparation of *The Reel*. Please contact editor@rscdslondon.org.uk if you might be interested.

Inspiring a Love of Dancing

Despite my Celtic roots – my father from Inverness and my mother from Dunblane – I had my first experience of Scottish dancing last summer, whilst on a trekking holiday in the Cairngorms. We attended a local ceilidh in Nethy Bridge, run by the Abernethy Scottish Country Dance Club. We had so much fun and laughed our way through the whole evening; by the end I had completely fallen in love with the music and the joy of the dancing.

I moved to London in September 2013 to complete my one year PGCE Secondary English teacher training at King's College London. Having just graduated and moved to 'The Big Smoke', I wanted to join a new social group and to try something completely different. Spurred on from the ceilidh in the summer, I decided to attend the RSCDS London Branch Beginners' Classes taught by Jane Rose at Park School in Chelsea, where weekly class sizes ranged from 15 to 30 people.

I learnt very quickly that, whilst there are similarities, Scottish country dancing is very different to a casual ceilidh in a barn wearing jeans, drinking beer and skipping merrily along – suddenly my red hair and springy step were not enough to carry me through a dance unscathed. Jane's unwavering patience, enthusiasm and encouragement meant that all of us beginners began to feel very proud when we finished our attempted dances, with fewer and fewer casualties each week. Where I had merely loved the spirit of the music and the dancing in Nethy Bridge, I fell in love with the steps and formations and the pure excitement and joy of Scottish country dancing. Apparently a first in the world of RSCDS, each week we had more men than women attend the classes, and it became necessary to differentiate partners accordingly with a tartan 'lady-band'. The weekly classes provided me with a much needed and highly enjoyable break from the pressures of my teacher training course; the energetic jigs and reels allowing me to dance away thoughts of detentions, lesson planning and rowdy 15-year-olds. The live music from Jane Ng and Ian Cutts was terrific and brought the whole thing to life for us all, thank you.

My highlights of the year were the Winter Wednesday and Summer Wednesday dances held at St Columba's Church on Pont Street. It was wonderful to dance with such passionate and experienced dancers, who showed us beginners nothing but patience, and encouraged us to get stuck in and enjoy it, despite us frequently forgetting steps, turning the wrong way and very nearly colliding – apologies to all those who had me hurtling towards you at top speed.

My teacher training now complete, I am moving up to Loughborough to start my teaching career. I hope to be able to continue dancing with the RSCDS Nottingham Branch. Thank you to everyone in the London RSCDS Branch, especially my fellow beginners, to Peter Knight and George Potts for their patience and guidance, and to Jane Rose, who has inspired my love of dancing and has made this whole experience incredibly special.

I have learned a lot this year, not just how to do a reel of three and a strathspey travelling step, but how the beauty of Scottish country dancing can unite people, and how friendships can be forged through the shared experience of a dance – no matter how many extra beats I keep putting in my pas de basque.

Alice Whitehead

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH ACCOUNTS 2013 – 2014

Below you will find my comments on the Branch accounts, with apologies once again that the tight timescales and *The Reel* publication dates make it impossible to circulate these before the AGM. I emailed a set of accounts to three members.

The accounts show a net incoming resource figure of £2,784 – with £1,310 of planned expenditure from designated funds. We have plans for spending this surplus on developing better publicity to attract new members, and to achieve greater attendance at branch classes and dances. We are starting a new beginners' class and continuing to support the University College London student class.

The last year's unrealised gain of £4,336 in our investments has continued with a further unrealised gain of £3,563 this year.

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

Classes: Fees, less hire of halls, less teachers' and musicians' expenses: £13,910 - £7,302 - £6,757 = £149 deficit. This is nearly £1,000 better than last year, and well within budget, showing that the remedial financial steps we have been taking are working. Class fees were increased from September 2012 and the number of teachers and musicians has been rationalised. Class numbers have also been on the increase. The Day School made a healthy profit of £146.

Youth activities: Income less expenditure: £1,305 - £2,870 = £1,565 deficit. This reflects the subsidy paid to the UCL class of £975, with the children's class subsidised by £209 from the Telfer donation. The costs reflect the support from the Branch for the two dances and the classes. The Telfer funds will last six more years at this level of expenditure, but the Anniversary Fund for youth outreach remains unspent.

Dances: Income less expenditure: £8,534 - £7,213 = £1,321 surplus, well over its budget. Christmas and Burns' night dances recovered their attendance this year, but some other dances still attracted too few dancers. The dances held on the half-term Wednesday evenings have proved popular and are covering their cost.

Publicity and The Reel: The net cost of publicity this year was £1,414. However, the Westwood fund contributed the £975 cost of the Open Air Dancing. The Westwood legacy can fund about three more sessions of this activity before it is exhausted. We have three sessions planned for this year. *The Reel* made a profit of £744 after the apportionment of the Life Members' appeal. This reflects the removal of the subsidy on postage costs of overseas members.

Bookstall and other trading: This generated a small surplus of £91 of sales of the written-off Anniversary books. This has been a difficult year again with the illness of Ian Rutherford.

Demonstration team: This appears as 'fundraising activities' i.e. £1,650 - £2,329 = £679 deficit. The class will no longer function in the same way, but there will still be a budget for rehearsals of dancers to represent the Branch when needed.

Administration costs: The only other figure to comment on is the admin costs (£342) – down on last year. This is made up as follows: postage and secretarial (£179), insurance (£109) and donations (£55). Thanks to the hospitality of Peter Knight and Margaret Shaw, there were minimal costs for Branch committee meetings this year and the bulk of the £165 reflects the cost of the AGM – hall hire and printing.

Continued opposite

FOCUS ON YOUTH



Friday 17 – Sunday 19 April 2015	
Friday 17	7.30pm 'Nice and Easy' dance in West London, open to all ages.
Saturday 18	Morning and afternoon classes for ages 12-35. Beginners to very advanced, followed by optional classes for Highland/Birling/Ladies' Step. Musicians' Workshop hosted by RSCDS London Branch lead by Jim Lindsay. Open to all ages. 7.00pm 'Dance to the Musicians', co-hosted by London Branch, open to all ages. St Columba's Church Hall, Pont St, London SW1X 0BD.
Sunday 19	10.00am Judging entries for the new dance book 1.30pm Buffet Lunch
For further information contact Elaine Davies rscdsspringfling2015@yahoo.co.uk or www.rscdsspringfling.wix.com	

Dance Competition

In connection with Spring Fling 2015, the RSCDS is holding a competition for young dancers to devise Scottish country dances to be published by the RSCDS. Entries are invited from devisers who are under 35, anywhere in the world, with or without original music. Full details are available at www.rscds.org/document/536

Final judging will take place at the London Spring Fling on Sunday 19 April 2015. The winning dance will be named *Spring Fling*. The remaining dances will be considered for future publication. The closing date for submissions is Monday 10 November 2014 via <http://eval.rscds.net/p/ysc2015/>

For further details on the competition please contact Roy Bain at ysc@rscds.org

London University Class

London Branch's university class at University College London (UCL) continues to engage younger dancers and also to give our own young teachers a chance to teach a regular class. It is run in conjunction with the UCL Folk Society, which provides students with access to folk music and dance in the London area. They have also formed a ceilidh band, which played at the Folk Society's first ceilidh in December.

The class is held on a Monday evening at UCL, Gower Street (opposite Euston Square underground station). The teaching team consists of Charlotte Sandifer, Judith Jones and Gillian Frew, with Lindsey Jane Rousseau co-ordinating, and Ian Cutts playing for the class.

If you know any students who might be interested, or for more information, please contact Elaine Davies at laneypops83@yahoo.co.uk

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

Children's Class 2014-2015

Teacher: James Fairbairn assisted by Grace Hill & Jenny Kendrick

The Branch Children's Class will take place as follows:

13 & 27 September, 11* & 25 October, 8 November, 22 November (Family Day – see below), 6 December, 10 & 24 January, 7 & 28* February, 14 March, 21 March (Family Day – further information in *The Reel* 290), 18* April, 2 & 16 May, 6 June, 13 June (Family Day – further information to follow)

Dates marked * will be held at The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR, from 10.45am – 12.00pm

All other dates will be held in the Upper Hall, St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD, from 10.15 – 11.30am

Class Fee: £5.00 per child per class

Newcomers are always welcome!

See photo p11

Family Day

Saturday 22 November 2014

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

11.30 am – 1.00pm Children's Class

Followed by lunch for all children

2.00 – 4.30pm **Dance to the music of**

Christina Hood & Sandra Smith

Dances will be chosen from: The Barmkin, The Charlestown Chaser, Cumberland Reel, The Dashing White Sergeant, The Dhoon, Domino 5, Easy Peasy, Espie McNabb, The Flying Scotsman, It's all right, The Loch Ness Monster, Le Papillon, Round Reel of Eight – *as well as your usual favourites!*

Special Day Ticket (includes class, lunch & dance): £7.00 per child

Dance Admission only: £3.50 per person

All young dancers, their families, friends and teachers are welcome. The dances in the afternoon will be talked and walked through.

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

childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk or

youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

Representing the Branch

From September 2014, RSCDS London Branch will be starting a monthly class, to be held on a Tuesday evening 7.15 – 9.15pm, with the aim of putting together and rehearsing a repertoire of dances that can be used for public displays. Previous performances include shows at the Royal Albert Hall, celebrity birthday parties, open air dancing, and participation in festivals across the UK.

If you have a sense of fun and the ability to emanate the joy of Scottish country dancing to the general public, do come along and give us a try. Anyone interested in joining is asked to have a good grasp of basic Scottish dance steps – knowledge of a few Highland steps would be an advantage, but not essential. Classes will be held at the Francis Holland School (see details p5). Dates for the autumn term will take place on: 23 September, 14 October, 18 November and 2 December.

For further information please contact Anna Twinn at demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk

RSCDS London Branch Accounts 2013-14 continued

We are very fortunate to have the various bequests that enable us to tackle projects in the knowledge that we have sufficient funds to back them up. Open air dancing in Kensington Gardens and the Youth class continue to be the main beneficiaries of these funds, and there was one funding request this year from the Bill Ireland fund. The Life Members' Appeal to cover the costs of *The Reel* dispatch raised a further £50 and benefited from the tax reclaim from HMRC for gift aid. Other donations remained at last year's level if the anniversary appeal donations are excluded.

Membership income was up slightly on last year, thanks to the decision to increase membership rates, but the declining number of members continues to be a concern. Investment income and bank interest was slightly up, and contributed a total of £1,621.

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

Simon Wales, Branch Treasurer, 31 May 2014

STRATHSPEY OR NOT STRATHSPEY?

Dancers read in *The Manual* of the RSCDS that “the strathspey is unique to Scotland, but its evolution is not clearly documented...almost certainly it came from the Spey valley area near Inverness”. Education Scotland teaches that the “strathspey is said to have originated from the Strathspey area, the strath or broad glen of the River Spey, in North East Scotland. It was originally written for the fiddle and used for dancing to: nowadays, the strathspey is played on many different instruments. It is actually a slow and stylised form of reel and was originally called a ‘Strathspey reel’ while the standard reel was known as an ‘Atholl reel’. Like the standard reel, it is in 4/4 time, but it sounds quite different because it is slower and contains dotted rhythms.”

Research by Dr William Lamb, Lecturer in Celtic and Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh, points to a single 1791 source for this standard account for the strathspey’s origins: Thomas Newte’s *Prospects and Observations: On a Tour in England and Scotland*. Newte was the pseudonym of Rev. Dr William Thomson, a Scottish fiddle-playing minister. As a Scot and a fiddler one might consider him a reliable source. However, as a non-Gaelic speaker, when the Highlands were predominantly Gaelic-speaking at the time, he is less than ideal. When we realise that he did not even visit Speyside on this visit, questions may start to arise. Dr Lamb’s research, published over the last 12 months, explores and starts to call into question the very origin of the strathspey.

Before going any further we must consider the relationship between music and dance, which is nothing like as tidy as modern dancers may imagine. The following quotation from 1790, in which a jig is danced as a minuet to the tune of a reel, exemplifies this fact:

“[W]hen we had danced the minuet, I asked the favour of the lady to dance a jig; she answered she would. She buttoned up the skirts of her gown, and I called for *Lady Kitty Carstairs’s Reel*. We both danced together in the form of the minuet, though quick.”

The link between specific dance forms and the music used to accompany them is not always clear. For instance, the strathspey can accompany the *Highland Fling*, the *Foursome Reel*, and the *Highland Schottische* as well as the country dance strathspey. *Strip the Willow* may be danced to reels and jigs (both 6/8 and 9/8); musicians often switch from one to another in the middle of a set. We find inconsistency in the written record as well. Early notated reels are across a range of time signatures, including ‘typical’ common time reels, but also a fair number of other ‘tune types’:

The Comers of Largo A reel 9/4, published by Playford (1700)

Reel of Harden 9/8 Oswald (1743-1759)

Miss Colquhoun’s Reel 6/8 Bremner (1757)

Miss Murray’s Reel 3/2 Bremner (1757)

Even if we stick to the common time signature of 4/4, the boundaries between strathspeys and reels are not well-defined, and many of the early published tunes may be played equally in fast or slow time.

So what distinguishes the strathspey music?

Music students are taught to recognise the Scotch snap, the distinctive combination of semi-quaver and quaver, present in so many traditional strathspey tunes, such as the first down beat of *The Braes of Breadalbane* (think of the short-long stresses in pronouncing the word ‘rhythm’). The link between the Scotch snap and Gaelic song has long been recognised. In *A Social History of Scottish Dance: Ane Celestial*

Recreation George Emmerson stated, “[I]t is not possible to claim that the rhythm is peculiar to the district of Strathspey, for it has an obviously ancient hold on the vocal dance music of the Gael”.

Dr Lamb goes further, to point out that the Scotch snap of the strathspey is ubiquitous across Gaelic songs that pre-date the 18th century fiddle movement: not only is the rhythm a feature of dance song, but it is also found across various types of work song, such as waulking songs, quern songs and lullabies. He suggests that what we now take to be the ‘strathspey’ was, at some point in the past, simply the distinctive rhythm with which Gaelic speakers sang and played for dancing, but that the rhythm is embedded in a deeper tradition of Gaelic ‘movement song’.

Lamb goes on to provide evidence that suggests the form was more widely distributed than the Strathspey region. For example, dance master

the border of the Gaelic-Anglo divide; it was ‘known’ to Anglo society in a way that Gaelic-speaking areas to the west and north were not. The strathspey, as a tune type, is therefore a hybrid idiom – a ‘culture graft’, showing both native, Gaelic elements and influences from early modern Anglo musical society.

This conclusion accounts for its origins in an earlier tradition of Gaelic movement song and its conventionalisation as a classically influenced variety of instrumental music. Analysis of the place-names of fiddle tune titles shows that Strathspey was in the right place, and at the right time, as it were, for culture graft to have occurred. The development of roads in the region at the time, and the burgeoning interest in Scottish dance music, provided the conditions necessary for the musical form to be popularised, and its association with Strathspey reinforced. Key to all of this was the arrival of the European violin.



A woodcut from *A Tour in Scotland* by Thomas Pennant, showing women waulking (fulling) cloth.

Francis Peacock (1727–1807), who worked with students from across the Gàidhealtachd, writes that the strathspey “is, in many parts of the Highlands preferred to the common Reel”. Peacock’s statement is supported by evidence from an early collection of Gaelic music, which contains traditional melodies described as strathspeys from the North Highlands (e.g. Sutherland), Perthshire and the Western Isles. Of course, a distinctive form of dance-music could have diffused across the Highlands and Islands over time.

On the other hand, the testimonies of Newte and others give us reason to believe that the Spey river valley spawned something. There has to be a reason that the strathspey got its name.

The Strathspey region was an influential hotspot of musical activity from the 17th century onwards, at least. Through mapping the place-names of 18th century fiddle tune collections, Dr Lamb identified the part it played as a region on

Although we will never know the exact developmental path taken by the strathspey as it evolved into the tune type that we recognise today, perhaps it resembled the following: sometime in the latter half of the 17th century, Gaelic-speaking musicians in Strathspey began playing dance-songs on the newly-arrived modern violin. The violin was available to them due to Strathspey’s culturally peripheral status and the presence of musically-interested gentry in the area. In instrumentalising their songs, the Gaelic-speaking fiddlers responded to the opportunities afforded by the violin, as well as the classical aesthetic and technique that followed it. Anglo gentry – or dance musicians in their employ – took notice of the resultant tunes and some aspects of Strathspey traditional dance, and the resulting form became popular in *haute* society as an alternative to the common Reel.

As the Scotch snap travelled from a lower to a higher status group, at the same time, the modern violin and the classical aesthetic that followed it travelled in the opposite direction. The evolution and diffusion of the strathspey tune type was a product of the Anglo musical sphere, although its roots are in a form of Gaelic tradition that preceded it and co-existed with it for many years.

Freely adapted by Jeremy Hill from research and writings of Dr William Lamb, Lecturer in Celtic and Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Alternative theories have also been put forward, and research by Dr Lamb and others continues on the subject.

The tune *The Braes of Breadalbane* featuring the characteristic Scotch snap.

NEW RECORDINGS

RSCDS Book 48 (CD 077) – Susan MacFadyen and her Scottish Dance Band. CD (£14.30) and Book (£7.78) available from www.rscds.org/shop. A 10% discount is available to Society members on all publications.

Dances: *Newburgh Jig* (8x32J), *The Rutland Reel* (8x40R), *The Golden Years* (8x32S), *Monica's Way* (4x32J), *Rye Twist* (5x32R), *City of Belfast* (3x32S), *Sunshine and Sweetie's Jig* (8x32J), *The Tri-Mariner* (8x32R), *A Summer Meeting* (3x32S), *The Festival Man* (8x32J), *The Fireworks Reel* (8x32R), *Rougemont Castle* (3x32S), *Lady in Red* (5x32 slow J), *Farewell to Helensburgh* (8x32S), *MacLeod's Wedding* (5x48R)

This is Susan MacFadyen's debut album, and she very ably leads her six-piece band through the 15 dances in Book 48. The best praise I can give is "I hope she records another CD soon." Mention must be made of pianist Stuart Cameron, who plays some fine harmonies. Tunes are well matched, with a complete sets of Robert Mackintosh and Iain MacPhail tunes selected to accompany originals by those composers. Some of the reels and jigs are on the slow side, with 8x32 bars at over five minutes. Blame the Society people who supervised the recording.

John Laurie

RSCDS: A Third Book of Graded Scottish Country Dances (CD078) – George Meikle & Gordon Simpson. CD (£14.30) and Book (£7.78) available from www.rscds.org/shop

Dances: *Tap the Barrel* (3x32R), *Bethankit* (8x32J), *Friendships* (4x32S), *Crom Allt (The Crooked Burn)* (8x32R), *The Paisley Weavers* (3x32S), *Craigleith* (88R), *The Haar on Skye* (8x32S), *The Shetland Shepherdess* (8x32J), *Karin's Strathspey* (8x32S), *The Captain's House* (8x32R), *Bill Little's Strathspey* (4x32J), *Gaelforce Wind* (8x32J), *Out of Thin Air* (3x32S), *The Compleat Gardener* (8x32J)

The CD by George and Gordon is also a debut album; they have each played and recorded many times before, but never together. Scott Cunningham accompanies on drums. They blend very well, but I feel that a piano would have helped to strengthen the overall sound. Jig and reel tempo is fine, but some of the strathspeys are faster than they should be: less than 8 minutes for 8x32 is uncomfortable! JL

Dances to Song Tunes: Music for Fifteen Scottish Country Dances by Hugh Foss (CD079) – Iain Cathcart and his Band. Double CD (£19.80) and Book (£6.67) available from www.rscds.org/shop

Dances: *Auld Robin Gray* (8x32S), *Awa' Whigs, Awa' (8x32R)*, *Caller Herrin' (8x32S)*, *Castles in the Air* (8x32S), *For Lack of Gold* (8x32R), *The Gallant Weaver* (8x32R), *Hey, Johnnie Cope* (8x32R), *In the Garb of Old Gaul* (8x32S), *John Grumlie* (8x48J), *John of Badenyon* (4x48S), *My Mither's Aye Glow'rin' Over Me* (8x32J), *My Tocher's the Jewel* (8x32J), *Somebody* (5x16S), *Wha'll Be King But Charlie* (8x32J), *The Wee Cooper o' Fife* (8x40J)

Hugh Foss published his book of fifteen dances in 1966, and it has now been reprinted by the RSCDS with this CD by Iain Cathcart. It is an amazing effort! The Band change tunes for every repetition of the dances, ending up with 108 different tunes. Every tune on the CD is a song tune, from traditional, including many used for Burns songs, through to Harry Lauder, and a few more modern ones from the folk scene of the 1950's and 60's. Do you remember *Doon in the Wee Room?* and *The Jelly Piece Song?* The playing is exceptional throughout – one of the Society's best CDs to date. Again it is a six-piece band, with Alistair McCulloch on fiddle and Graham Berry (piano). JL

RSCDS Commonwealth Ceilidh music downloads – various bands. Tracks or whole album available to download (79p per track or £7.99 for the album) from itunes.apple.com/gb/album/commonwealth-ceilidh/id881841876?ls=1, and also from www.emusic.com (via subscription).

Dances: *Gay Gordons*, *The Radical Road* (4x32R), *The Virginia Reel* (8x40R), *The Reel of the 51st Division* (8x32R), *The Pride of Erin Waltz* – all played by Iain MacPhail & His Band; *The Dashing White Sergeant* (6x32R), *Military Two Step*, *Granite City* (6x32R), *Canadian Barn Dance*, *Strip the Willow* (4x56J) – Tom Orr's Scottish Dance Band; *St Bernard's Waltz*, *Postie's Jig* (4x32J), *The Britannia Two Step*, *The Clydeside Reel* (4x32R), *The Eightsome Reel* (4x48R) – Luke Brady's Scottish Dance Band.

Somewhat beneath the radar, the Society has also issued a download-only album for all the dances for the Commonwealth Global Ceilidh (see p15), including the three newly devised dances. Tracks are divided between three bands, all of which producing cracking sets in lively arrangements that would make for a great evening's ceilidh (or country) dancing, as well as entertaining listening. **Jeremy Hill**

In the next issue: new CDs by Muriel Johnstone, Marian Anderson, Luke Brady and Craigievar.

LONDON BRANCH MUSICIANS' DAY AND DANCE

People arrived at St Columba's Church, Pont Street on the morning of Saturday 17 May, some looking as if they had come for the weekend, pulling long handled cases on wheels while others carried their 'luggage' on their backs. All of us were musicians who had come to the Musicians' Workshop that preceded the evening dance. We numbered four accordionists and one concertina player, five violinists, one keyboard player and one drummer, all to learn from Ian Robertson, who was our leader and teacher for the day. Ian is a well-known country dance accordionist and violinist, as well as composer, and he gave us a great time, teaching us the finer points and techniques of playing jigs and reels as we practised for the evening.

With so much energy expended we were most grateful to a stalwart group of Branch members who had prepared snacks and drinks, as well as an excellent cooked lunch for us all. More sandwiches and cakes were gorged in the evening! Nothing was done in half measures.

The dance was successful and although the hall was not full, there being conflicting events elsewhere, the dancers danced and the musicians played hard all evening, repeating so many reels and strathspeys that we musicians felt our fingers might drop off! But it was FUN and many thanks go to Ian for making it so.

Annie Askew

See photo p10

BANDS

THE INVERCAULD SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

Scottish Dance Band for Dances, Balls, Ceilidhs and Weddings in Jersey, Channel Islands and in the UK. Please contact **Lilian Linden** at lilian.linden@virgin.net or on 01534 789817 or 07829 722446. CDs £12.00 each (+£1.00 p&p in UK) www.invercauldband.com

CALEDONIAN REELERS

Well established 3-piece SCD band, consisting of accordionist, fiddler and drummer. Caller/piper can also be supplied. Available for RSCDS dances, ceilidhs, weddings, reeling. Anywhere, anytime for your function. Please contact Derek Chappell 01206 764232 / Mary Felgate 07866 757401 for further information, or Derekdexie@aol.com

KAFOOZALUM COUNTRY DANCE BAND

Music for Scottish country dancing anywhere, anytime. For further details and availability, please telephone Peter Jenkins on 020 8581 0359, peter@kafoozalum.co.uk or our Ceilidh website at www.kafoozalum.co.uk

M C Scottish N S
Country B A I Dance
M C B Band I N S

Contact: Mike McGuinness Tel: 020 8398 6799 or Tel/Fax: 020 8546 0075 (business hours)

Soloist: PETER JENKINS

Solo accordion for workshops, classes, day schools and 'smaller functions'. 020 8581 0359 or peter@kafoozalum.co.uk

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

Broadcasting band for Scottish Country Dances, Reeling, Ceilidhs and Weddings. Any size of band from one to seven with PA to match from 100 to 2000 watts. Particularly interested in any ideas for expansion of ceilidh market. The Granary, Park Lane, Finchampstead, Wokingham RG40 4QL, Tel/ Fax: 0118 932 8983 or reel@frankreid.com

BOX & FIDDLE CLUB ST ALBANS

Meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, from 10 September, at St Stephen's Church Hall, 14 Watling Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 2PX

For further details, please contact Chris Walker, Pinetops, Birklands Lane, St Albans AL1 1EE, cwalker3707@btinternet.com or 01727 822143

BOOKSTALL

Daniel Capron is taking over running the Branch Bookstall. Up to date information is on the Branch website, www.rscdslondon.org.uk Look out for the Bookstall at future Branch events. You can contact Daniel at bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk 74B Thurlow Park Road, London SE21 8HY, or on 020 8670 6918.



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1. RSCDS London Branch June Jig, 14 June 2014: Iris Ronayne and Iain Farrell turning in *John McAlpin*.

2. Branch Hon Vice-Presidents: (from left) Wilson Nicol, Owen Meyer, Jenny Greene and John Laurie.

3. Chippenham Folk Festival May Bank Holiday Weekend, 25 May 2014: at St Andrews Hall, Chippenham, Colin Hume teaching corners pass and turn in the strathspey *Moment of Truth* (see report p14).

4. Combined Societies Dance, 10 May 2014. Dancers from RSCDS London Branch, St Columba's Dancers are hosted by the London Highland Club at Pont St.

5. RSCDS London Branch Musicians' Workshop, 14 May 2014: versatile fiddler and accordionist Ian Robertson leading the assembled musicians through a set of tunes (see p9).

6. Summer Tuesdays Team. Back: MCs Graham and Caroline Hamilton, with the sound of Summer Tuesdays, Frank Reid, between them. Front: Maureen Dempsey and Clem Wilson on the welcome table.

7. RSCDS Peterborough & District Branch, 6 May 2014: Jean Goodman, current Branch Chairman, presenting a RSCDS Branch Award to Maimie Clarkson on her retirement from teaching. Maimie has been a leading light in the life of Peterborough & District Branch ever since its beginnings in the early 1980s and has contributed greatly to the welcoming and friendly atmosphere of the ongoing classes in Peterborough. She has been teacher, dancer, Branch Chairman, committee member, and much more over the years.

8. RSCDS London Branch Children's Class, 14 June 2014: under the instruction of James Fairbairn, children enjoying the last children's class of the season, at The Caledonian Club (see p7).

9. RSCDS London Branch Commonwealth Ceilidh, 21 June 2014: dancers taking the opportunity for a birl (see report p15).

10. RSCDS Summer School, St Andrews, 1977: the company assembled on the lawn at University Hall includes London Branch President Emeritus, Mary Stoker, Vice-President, Wilson Nicol, and family, former Chairman, Andrew Cockett, John Drewry, Stephen Webb (see article p13), and many others from London Branch and across the dancing world. Who else can you spot?



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More on Taking the Lead

Dear Jeremy

In "Taking the Lead" (*The Reel* 288), Stephen Webb implied there is, or should be, a consensus within SCD that, in figures such as Down the middle and up, 'dancing' and 'leading' should mean the use of linked nearer hands and right hands respectively. Unfortunately, that consensus does not exist. Existing dance instructions use the terms quite inconsistently, and also quite a few dancers nowadays seem to have ceased to care about which hands should be used.

Quite a few movements can be done quite comfortably with different use of hands. For example, the movement of dancing down the middle from the top of the set, before crossing over at or near the bottom and then casting up on opposite sides, can be done using nearer hands, right hands or indeed left hands. Of course, when you are dancing down and up, using joined right hands rather than nearer hands lets you turn inward and dance back up again without releasing hold, but there can also be quite a difference in how the hands are held in the two cases.

When I was first taught SCD nearly 50 years ago, to begin 'down the middle and up', the man passed his right arm across in front of him with the forearm horizontal and thus slightly just above waist level, proffering his hand palm up and pointing to his left. The lady then placed the fingers of her right hand, held flat and palm down with fingers pointing forward, onto the fingers of the man's hand, and the man then gently placed his thumb on the back of the lady's hand to form the hold. Leading down was then a matter of the man *carrying* the lady's hand down the dance, and indicating that the lady should follow, and similarly when returning (the hold being adjusted for the return up the middle).

Similar considerations can be applied to the linking of hands in promenades, and I also recall Bill Ireland saying at a day school that the left hands served to lead in the allemande; he emphasised that the hands should be held forward and relatively low down, not raised and closer to the body.

As to inconsistencies in instructions, here is one example: Bars 17-24 of *The Silver Tassie*. All three couples dance down the middle in order 1, 2, 3 and return in the same order, with the 2s and 3s parting in turn to let the preceding couple(s) pass through. In the instructions published in the 9th MacNab set, the 1s followed by the 2s and 3s were asked to "lead down" and up. When re-published as RSCDS Leaflet 1, these instructions had changed to "dance down".

What was the original intent, and did that intent change? Unless anyone can state John Drewry's intentions with authority, we all now have to make our own interpretations; and judging by the many events where this dance is performed, we do so pretty arbitrarily. My preference is for the use of right hands throughout, but the neatest practical rule is for the 2s & 3s to match whatever the 1s do.

The only way for teachers and dancers to be sure which hands are to be given in a figure is for the deviser to cover this explicitly in the dance instructions, and NOT to rely on any convention regarding the interpretation of the words 'lead' and 'dance'. When Roy Clowes first published *Shiftin' Bobbins* (in his sixth *Book of Ormskirk Scottish Dances*), he wrote for Bars 13-16 that "1st couple meet and giving inside hands, lead down centre followed by 2nd and 3rd couples." The intent was clear, and the term "lead" had no special significance.

One last point: it may irk some SCD pundits that dancers sometimes 'use the wrong hands', but perhaps there are worse things happening in SCD. For example, in dancing down and up (and also in many other figures) far too many dancers nowadays seem to spend their time mostly looking at the floor! They seem barely to glance at each other except when taking hands. Similarly, dancers often trundle through reels like robots, passing without eye contact. Readers can no doubt add to these examples of not-very-social dancing. Compared with this sadly common aspect of SCD today, how people link hands may not seem so important.

Adrian Conrad

'Scottish Reform'?

Dear Jeremy,

The Scottish referendum is approaching fast. Although the result is not in the hands of RSCDS members living in London, it may affect us if Scotland decides to go its own way. Will we need passports to go to St Andrews for Summer School? Will we have to change English pounds for Scottish bawbees or even Euros?

One thing it will not do is to break up the United Kingdom. We will simply revert to the situation that existed before the Treaty of Union in 1707: two separate countries headed by a single Monarchy. This came about because James IV of Scotland married Margaret Tudor, sister of Henry VIII of England. Their great grandson, James VI of Scotland, became James I of England on the death of Henry's daughter, Elizabeth Tudor, because he was next in line to the English throne. It was not until a century later, in the reign of Queen Anne, that the parliaments of the two countries were united. Therefore, even if Scotland becomes politically independent once again, it is impossible to break up the United Kingdom without abolishing the monarchy in at least one of the two countries. The Queen is descended from the Royal Houses of both England and Scotland and has inherited the thrones of both countries.

As usual, the Deil is in the detail rather than 'amang the Tailors', where he belongs. If Scotland becomes both politically independent and a republic, while England retains the monarchy, our society could still have the Queen as Patron, as she has graciously consented to hold this office at our request. However, our headquarters is in Edinburgh. If Scotland becomes a republic, could we still use our proud title 'The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society'? The lawyers would still be arguing the point in 2023, when we celebrate our centenary.

The 'Moment of Truth' will soon arrive.

Elizabeth Bennett

The Little Green Book

Dear Sir,

It has been many years since I have put pen to paper to write to *The Reel*, but thought I would send the attached photographs which may be of interest to some of your readers after the letters about "The little Green Book". Some years ago at a book sale I picked up a copy (in good condition) of the Second Edition of the book published in 1958; it is not green but a dull grey with the title in red. The very first edition was published in 1955, but my copy dated 1958 acknowledges Dr Hugh Thurston's corrections and suggestions.

The front cover of the book also has a statement "with acknowledgment to the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society on whose publication this book is based". The statement no longer appears on any of the more recent editions. One could argue that there are more non-RSCDS dances in the book now, but the concept was still based on Society publications.

Other interesting changes you would note: this edition has a wire spine (so that book could be folded back to any page); no sources are shown for any of the dances; there are 48 pages with 5 dances to a page, all so different to the current edition. The cost in 1958 was 2/6d post free = 12.5p, or £2.63 in today's money.

F.L. Pilling says at the end of the Preface that he hoped that his book may continue to further the enjoyment of Scottish country dancing everywhere and is signed off as Leeds, July 1958. I think we can all agree it has indeed.

Yours faithfully,
H.K.W.T.

Box & Fiddle

Dear Sir,

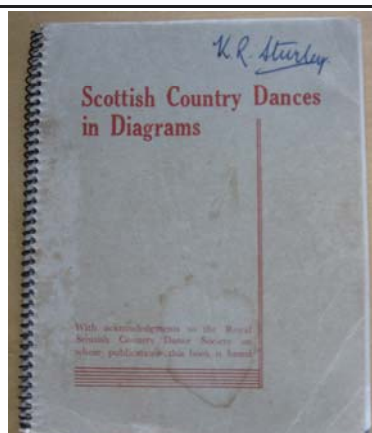
I enjoy reading the letters and correspondence that appear in your columns from time to time about things musical in the Scottish dance field. It is a year or two now since I stopped running the St Albans Fiddlers Rally, and sadly the Aylesbury Rally stopped shortly after. Both events were popular over the years, but organisational problems and workload became increasingly problematic. I wonder if anyone will come along and revive them.

Not wishing to lose contact with local musicians who played at the St Albans Rally over the years, I have been running a twice-monthly group for fiddlers and accordionists in St Albans for some fifteen years, which, judging from the support, is satisfying an interest. It is not an instrumental teaching group as such but it provides an opportunity for players of all abilities to play together and improve confidence and expertise. Some play with other folk groups but we stick largely to the Scottish traditional forms.

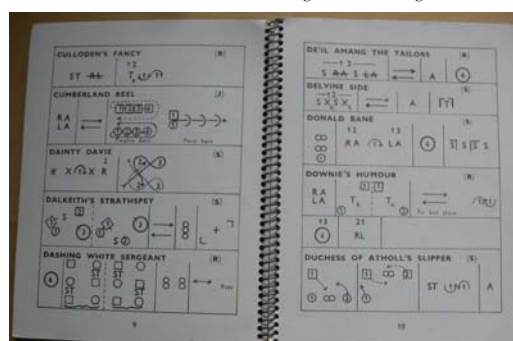
If any of your readers would, as musicians, like to know more about our activities and even come along to one of our meetings, we would be very pleased to hear from them.

With best wishes,
Chris Walker

See advertisement on p9



Above and below: Pilling, 1958 vintage



LIVES REMEMBERED

Phyllis Draper (11 August 1919 – 17 July 2014)

Phyllis Draper was one of six sisters, born on a farm near Inverness. She and her husband Harry moved south to London, where Phyllis soon got involved in playing for Scottish country dancing.

My mother, Mary Stoker, and Phyllis were friends from the very moment they met. Phyllis played for my mother's classes in Pinner every Thursday, and then later for her Tuesday class up in town, at Quintin Kynaston School, in Swiss Cottage. Phyllis played for other teachers in the London Branch, most notably for Bill Ireland, but for over 25 years it was the Stoker-Draper combination that is remembered. They were a great team – Glasgow and Inverness! My mother, a consummate perfectionist, loved having Phyllis to play for her; Phyllis was a sensitive and thoughtful pianist, and took a great deal of pleasure in anticipating my mother's musical needs. As an accompanist for SCD, Phyllis was *par excellence* – she danced herself, so knew the steps and the tempo and how the music helped the dancers. Like my mother, she was a great believer in each dance's designated tune, which was played at the beginning of the dance and then repeated at the end, telling the dancers they were coming to the final turn.

The pair of them travelled all over England when my mother would take weekend and day courses. For my mother, it was great to have someone playing for her who knew her style, standards and was really being with her as she taught. Phyllis did not just sit at the piano and play; she observed and watched the dancers, as well as the teacher.

But it was not only professionally that Phyllis and Mary got on; socially Phyllis and Harry were great friends with my parents. Sherry after church was the norm, and as for Hogmanay, they were always with them, and what fun they had! I remember my mother and Phyllis having great laughs together – of the times they both got their OAP travel cards and each protected the other's back as they got their ticket – neither wanted anybody to know their age!

My parents missed Phyllis and Harry greatly when they moved back North. Phyllis would come down to see my mother when she was teaching at RSCDS Summer School at St Andrews. I was very fortunate to visit Phyllis when they were in Nairn, a visit that was meant to be a cup of tea at the very most. For Phyllis that didn't enter the equation – it was a full blown meal. What a spread! I think we eventually left to drive back to Nethy Bridge well after 11pm, having arrived for a cup of tea at 3pm! But that was Phyllis – hospitable and welcoming.

Our thoughts are with her remaining sisters in Inverness, and her daughter Pat who lives in Texas.

Carole Stoker

The strathspey Miss McLean of Inverness, devised by Jackie Johnstone of Dumfries, with music by Charlie Galloway, was dedicated to Phyllis Draper, née McLean. First published in 1976 in The Reel 137, it was reprinted in London Branch's 75th Anniversary Book of 13 dances in 2005.



Phyllis Draper with Peter Luke at a London Branch Autumn Weekend School

A Dancer's Appreciation of John Drewry (14 July 1923 – 18 June 2014)

I first met John Drewry in 1977 when I was at St Andrews Summer School (see the group photo on p96 of the Jean Milligan biography *Dance with your Soul*, reproduced on p11 of this issue). John liked to pop down from Aberdeen to see the Younger Hall demonstration, which frequently included one of his dances; he would gaze down approvingly from the spectator's seating. I didn't know John well, but we would exchange a few words *en passant*. On one of these occasions, about 15 years ago, I asked, "How many is it now, John?", and he modestly answered, "750, I think!" Of course, John was referring to dances he had devised. Jean Martin once told me that she would get a call from John when he had designed a dance, but wanted to check it out with a dance-through before finalising it. Jean said, the dancers' incentive to go along was a meal afterwards cooked by him – I believe there was more to it than that.

John was a very prolific deviser of Scottish country dances. Like most of us, I suppose the first of these I met was *The Silver Tassie*. This included his new progression the Rondel, a name suggested by Jean Milligan, first, and unusually, published by the Society in the 9th Set of MacNab Dances. Then, in Book 23, published in 1967, John's strathspey *Mrs Hamilton of Wishaw* again adopted the Rondel. This dance is currently on the prescribed teachers' candidate's list, so it is respected and has obviously stood the test of time.

In 1973 the Society published a suite of three dances commemorating the Golden Jubilee. The devising of these was ascribed to The Publications Committee. John had devised a strathspey, *Ysobel*, but the Society had already chosen a strathspey, so John's dance was 'converted' by the Committee into the reel that we know today as *Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich*, leaving John feeling as he put it, disappointed. He did not like the second half diagonal reel of four beginning with a left shoulder, or the dance ending by setting – in *Ysobel* he has the setting at bars 25-26. He added that he felt Mrs Stewart was never the same woman again after she was interfered with by the Committee!

Separately from the Society and between 1964 to 1968, John had been devising dances for his first three books (all of which he signed for me), *The Bon Accord Book*, *The Rondel Book* and *The Silver City Book*. Many have remained favourites with dancers (see table). Of the 22 dances in *The Rondel Book*, seven employ the Rondel progressions or variations, not just in strathspey but quick time too. During the 1970's, in addition to these books of SCD, John was publishing single leaflets of new dances; personally, I have a large collection of these, and during this time some of his dances were also being published in *The Reel*. Being invited to teach or visit somewhere John would devise a dance(s) especially for the occasion, a person or his classes. Take *Glavya* for instance, a dance devised in 1976 for Mary Prentice in Ibiza, when John gives us another new progression the Espagnole, or his new figure Dance to Each Corner and Set, found for the first time in 1977 in *The Courage Reel*, and also in the strathspey *Foxhill Court*. The link between the dance name and who he is meeting, or where he is going, runs like a life thread through his dances. Reading through John's dances, one always gets the feel of this thread, as he accompanies the dance with an explanation of whom or what it is for, and when and often where it was written. John was also careful to recommend an appropriate tune with the right impetus and fit, sometimes even giving the full set, as in the dance 1314. He frequently gave references to a recording of the dance – this simply showed, I believe, that he wished his dances to be seen and enjoyed by dancers through his eyes just as he envisaged them, in every detail.

John combined many of his single leaflets into books of dances, such as *The Canadian Book* published in 1977 and *The Brodie Book* published in 1994, so named after Muriel Spark's Miss Jean Brodie. John describes the dances that he chose to include paralleling them with her pupils as *La Crème de la Crème*. This book includes *The Micmac Rotary* immortalised by Pat Batt in her poem *The New Dance*. Another dance from this time is *The Dancing Master*, devised to mark the retirement of Bill Ireland as teacher of the London Branch Demonstration Team in April 1989 (See *The Reel* 189).

John was awarded the Society's Scroll in 1999 in honour of his contribution. A deviser is so delighted if just one dance is published by the Society, but to have so many, John must have felt proud. To mark this event, *The Reel* ran a caption competition, with a photograph of John with his head in the open jaws of a dinosaur. The judge, John himself; the prize, a signed copy of John's new strathspey, *Drumheller* (Drumheller is the location of the museum in Alberta where the dinosaur resided). John liked my caption best – 'John having teething troubles devising a new dance'. *Drumheller* was also published in *The Reel* 231.

John gave so much to us dancers, his modesty at his ability shone through when generously giving to others. He replies, as written in *The Canadian Book*. 'I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and hospitality of the dancers – I only hope that they will get sufficient enjoyment from these dances to repay their generosity'. He received many accolades, among them the strathspey tune *John Drewry* by Muriel Johnstone (the named tune for John's dance dedicated to Anna Holden, *Largo Bay*), and the often danced reel by the late Roy Goldring inscribed to John Drewry of Aberdeen, *John of Bon Accord*, to be found in Book 33.

John Drewry's legacy is that it will never be surpassed in quantity of quality. Also, John will never be missed, since hardly a dance programme is prepared without at least one of his amazing and much appreciated dances on it – John the person has sadly left us but John the deviser lives on through this legacy of dances and I am sure that is just as he would have wanted it to be!

A selection of other John Drewry books and dances:

- **RSCDS Leaflets/books**
The Earl of Mansfield
Margaret Parker's Strathspey
Autumn in Appin
Macleod's Fancy
Inverneill House
Major Ian Stewart
Miss Florence Adams
Anna Holden's Strathspey (my particular favourite)
50 Years On
The Royal Yacht Britannia
Strathmore
- **The Bon Accord Book**
Bratach Bana
A Trip to Tobermory (John's first significant dance)
Mrs MacPherson of Inveran
The Peat Fire Flame
The Bonnie Lass O' Bon Accord
- **The Rondel Book**
Marischal College
Twa Roguish Een
- **The Silver City Book**
Jennifer's Jig, and
The Moray Rant (both dedicated to sublime pianist and John's friend from Elgin, Jennifer Wilson)

Stephen Webb

CLUB AND OTHER NEWS

Colin Hume does Scottish

For all of my adult life I have intended to do Scottish country dancing. During Freshers' Week at university, I joined their club and attended for a couple of weeks, but then discovered that I didn't have time to dance Scottish as well as be fully involved with the folk dance society and the hiking club and, because of the friendships I had made, it was the Scottish club that I abandoned.

Moving on 43 plus years, I decided to attend a 'Scottish Dance Workshop' at the Chippenham Folk Festival, which is a thriving festival of dance and concerts, held each year over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. The workshop was described as offering 'Scottish for English Dancers' – so, perfect for me.

Colin Hume, who lives in Letchworth, is well known as a composer and teacher of English and American style dances. He enjoys dancing Scottish too, but he was relieved, on checking at the start of the workshop, that there were no RSCDS teachers in the room, because he made it clear that he did not profess to be an expert teacher of the style; he just wanted to give us a taster. Our music was provided by Deo Volente, aka Dave and Victoria Yeomans from Nottingham, an accomplished accordion and flute duo, who are renowned for achieving a measured rhythm, but are not accustomed to playing for Scottish dancing.

Colin encouraged us to practise both skip-change and strathspey steps before trying actual dances. He suggested we concentrate on covering the ground and appreciating the patterns, rather than worry about "pointy toes" and other style details. We were relieved to have Colin calling the moves throughout, as being expected to remember the whole dance is an aspect of Scottish that alarms people like me! We danced *Mrs Stewart's Jig* and *Scott Meikle* to experience a jig and a reel, and *Mrs Milne of Kinneff* and *Moment of Truth* to use the strathspey steps.

I thought Colin was very successful in his attempt to give us a flavour of this similar, yet very different, style of British traditional dance. Deo Volente gave us delightful music, managing to sound quite authentic despite the flute being an unusual instrument for the occasion.

So, now I have retired and (in theory!) I have lots more time to pursue leisure interests, maybe I will finally start doing some Scottish dancing, after really enjoying Colin's introductory session. But will my memory be up to it?

Helen Battilana

See photo p10

Dancing in New Places – Poland

Following last year's successful venture in Turku, Finland, as organised by "Dancing in New Places", this year 79 people made their way to Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains in Poland. The participants were mainly dancers, but non-dancing partners/friends were made very welcome. Dancers came from Hungary, Poland, Australia, Denmark, Switzerland, Japan, France, Germany, Belgium and the United Kingdom. The hotel in Zakopane was comfortable, central and very accommodating to our needs. The dancing over the first three days was excellently taught by Graham Donald and Atsuko Clement, with Keith Smith and David Cunningham playing, and every evening we danced to some marvellous tunes, energetically played by Keith and David, who appeared to be thoroughly enjoying themselves – what a treat for the dancers who showed their appreciation every night.

An article in the local newspaper attracted local people one afternoon for a successful Scottish dance taster session conducted by Jim Cook, honoured with music provided by both David and Keith.

As it was last year, the weekend was followed by another action-packed tourist programme: in Zakopane a trip in horse drawn carts, several trips up mountains by cable car, chair lift and funicular railway; the Tatra Mountains are magnificent, but disappointingly covered by cloud nearly all the time we were there. There was a visit to thermal baths and a trip by large wooden punt through a gorge in a national park, and then off to Krakow, halting on the way at Wadowice, birthplace of Pope John Paul II. In Krakow there was a walking tour (what a beautiful city it is), a Chopin concert, a boat trip – in the sun this time, and finally to the 'new place', down 800 steps in the Wieliczka Salt Mine. After a tour we were taken to an unexpectedly delightful room with salt crystal chandeliers, a wooden floor and tables laid for dinner. Dancers from Krakow joined us for the dance, and after the meal we were entertained by a small group of very professional dancers and musicians, who then encouraged us all to join in with something far more simple! Fortunately there was a lift to return to the surface!

The last day saw the visit to Schindler's Factory and Auschwitz, an option that some elected not to choose, followed by a meal in the Jewish quarter and then back to the hotel to pack, ready for an 8.00am start, some to Vienna via Bratislava and some to make their various ways home.

Katalin Konya is to be congratulated once again on the amount of care and attention to detail that went into her planning – a wide range of activities, guides speaking English, Japanese and French, transport and accommodation always in the right place at the right time, detailed information distributed to all participants, delicious food – will we ever be hungry again? – all the participants said a big thank you to Katalin and Jim Cook for everything they did to make it such a good trip.

Where next you may wonder? Information is already available for another 'new place' – Lapland, to dance in the Arctic Circle in February! (see p17)

Rachel Wilton

See photo p1

RSCDS Medal Test Results

Congratulations to the young dancers from The Upland Dancers in Bexleyheath who were successful in the RSCDS Medal Tests this summer. Marilyn Watson from Bournemouth was the assessor.

Introductory Grade

Lanre Akinjayeju.....	C
Tallulah Breeze.....	C
Madeleine Brown.....	C
Lilly McGuire.....	D
Evie Pearson.....	C
Laila Queen-Lock.....	C
Euan Saunders.....	D
Zhi Xia.....	C

Grade 1

Hacer Bozaci.....	P
Lauren Jones.....	C
Daisy Kerr.....	C
Molly McGuire.....	C
James Orchard.....	D
Iona Saunders.....	C
Sophie Spicknell.....	C
Lora Stancheva.....	P

Grade 2

Rosabella Camm.....	P
Isabel Howat.....	C
Niamh O'Toole-Mackridge.....	C
Rebekah Orchard.....	D
Erida Rexhepi.....	C
Emily Saunders.....	D
Emily Stockbridge.....	P

Grade 3

Bethany Orchard.....	C
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Grade 5

Elena Anderson.....	C
Holly Bolan.....	C
Abbie Edwards.....	D
Megan Stockbridge.....	D

P = Pass; C = Credit; D = Distinction

May Sloan (22 March 1934 to 22 July 2014)

May died unexpectedly at home, late on Tuesday 22 July. She had lived with Parkinson's for a number of years, but we knew of nothing that would result in her sudden death.

In her youth May was a superb Highland dancer. In the 1940s and 1950s she was Argyllshire champion three times, and Western Isles champion three times in succession. She came fourth in the World Juvenile Championships and, aged 18, she came third in the Adult World Championships.

She was also a beautiful country dancer, and was a member of the demonstration teams wherever she lived: in Dunoon, Castle Douglas and then Carlisle. She gained her Full RSCDS teaching certificate in 1965. Living in Dunblane in the 1980s, she danced at the Dunblane Hydro with Jim McLeod and his band. Her final move in 1986 to Hampshire brought her to the BHS Border Branch area, where she danced competitively as part of the Badenoch dancers (directed by Bruce Frazer), and joined the Branch committee. She became the Branch chairman in 2004 and its president in 2011.

In 2009 she received a Branch award in recognition of her outstanding services to Scottish country dancing in our area. She had been chairman of the Farnham SCD club for the past nine years, and she featured in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* with many other members of our Branch.

She also had an active life in her local community, playing short-mat bowls and badminton as well as "helping the elderly". We shall remember May as an elegant dancer with a youthful and indomitable spirit. She never let difficulties with Parkinson's stop her enjoying life. She will be sadly missed.

Paul Plummer
Chairman, BHS Border Branch



May at the RSCDS HQ AGM Ball,
November 2010

COMMONWEALTH GLOBAL CEILIDH

Just as the baton passed around the world in anticipation of the Commonwealth Games in July in Glasgow, so the idea was conceived of a "ceilidh around the world."

The Ceilidh began in New Zealand at 7.30pm local time on 21 June then moved westward, crossing time zones, to complete an epic journey in Hawaii 24 hours later. The Commonwealth Ceilidh embraced events across Australasia, Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. Ceilidhs took place in village halls, in the heart of rural communities, in bustling city centre venues, in locations as far afield and diverse as Tasmania, Sydney, Cape Town, St Petersburg and Jamaica. Closer to home, ceilidhs were held in London, Belfast and Scottish towns and cities including flagship events in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. It has been calculated that, over 24 hours, the Commonwealth Ceilidh travelled a staggering 18,250 miles across the world across 73 ceilidhs.

Chris Hood writes: "Is motha rud a roinn" says the Gaelic proverb ("a thing is bigger when it's shared"); and that is the spirit in which the Branch took part in the Commonwealth Ceilidh. How did it go in London? Well, we managed to hang the Commonwealth flag the right way up (we think); we found flags of all the Commonwealth countries to decorate the hall in Pont Street – that was a promising start; we had a super 4-piece band, Craigievar (joined for part of the time by David Hall, on a visit back from Kenya). Apparently Craigievar had never before played for a London Branch RSCDS event. Why not? Ask them back!

We did three new ceilidh dances from Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh specially written for this occasion and being done for the first time by all the other Commonwealth Ceilidhs on that day. Predictably, perhaps, the Edinburgh one (called *The Radical Road*, but nothing to do with returning jihadists, apparently) was the most challenging. But eight of us, organised by Anna Twinn, managed to stumble through it first, and then everyone joined in and enjoyed it.

The whole event was ably and cheerfully MC'd by our Chairman Andrew Kellett. It was, as usual, meticulously organised by Marjory Reid, well catered for by the team of Marjory Reid, Lena Robinson, George Potts and Kathryn Massey, and the choice of dances was excellent. It's good to see *The Pride of Erin Waltz* making a comeback onto Pont Street ceilidh programmes – a great dance with the added bonus of those infectiously sing-along Irish tunes.

The turnout was respectable for such a hot midsummer day, there was a good positive atmosphere and even a few new faces at the event. It was the first Commonwealth Ceilidh at Pont Street as far as I know (write in and contradict me, all you letter-writers!), but I hope it won't be the last.

Rachel Baughen writes: With some trepidation I arrived at RSCDS London's Commonwealth Ceilidh to meet my father-in-law. Having lost his precious wife of more than 50 years at the beginning of the year he had, to our surprise, taken up Scottish dancing at the age of 84. On his birthday he had asked me whether I might be willing to join him at an event being held to celebrate the Commonwealth Games. So there I was, in the St Columba's Church Hall, looking around at people dressed in kilts and dancing shoes thinking, "Oh my word, these people look as though they know what they are doing". My Scottish dancing experience is limited to the Islington Burns' Night celebration held once a year, and my shoes definitely did not look appropriate for what was to follow. However, my father-in-law looked the part, and seemed very pleased to see me. A glass of wine was welcome and we happily talked about Dad's recent holiday in Orkney.

The first dance was announced, we took to the floor and very quickly my fears disappeared. The caller was excellent, giving very clear instructions and the band sounded great. Those dancing around us were friendly and forgiving when things didn't quite go to plan. It was fun, and a great way to spend time with Dad. I hadn't reckoned on the fact that others might want to dance with me, and this took me by surprise. I found myself having to excuse myself to ensure that we got to dance together. With expert directions, we soon found ourselves managing to move onto new partners during a dance, and it struck me that this was a lovely way of getting to meet people. Note to self: heels are not the best shoes to dance in (I quickly took mine off and danced in bare feet).

As the evening went on we got to speak with people who had been dancing for a long time, young and old. It was interesting to meet those who had taken up Scottish dancing on their retirement, and then those who had been dancing since their school days, and for whom dancing was a huge part of their lives. Unlike other events I have been to, it was friendly and easy to meet people and there was no sense of not being welcome due to a lack of experience or ability. I went home happy having met some delightful people and having had some enjoyable exercise – so much more fun than running!

Many thanks to all who organised the event and made us feel so welcome!

See photo p11

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

For individual subscribers we now offer electronic subscription for £4.00 for four issues (see also p4), and, for hard copies sent by post, rates are £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).

AGM & Conference Weekend

2014

Friday 7th November – Sunday 9th November

Bell's Sports Centre, Perth

Open to all:
non RSCDS members welcome

All dances fully re-capped
Attend all 4 paid events for
only £46
or selected events
from £6



rscds
Dance Scottish

Friday night - Informal Dance
music by
Matthew McLennan
Tickets £16

Saturday morning class
Teacher - **Paul Plummer**
Musician - **Andrew Nolan**
Tickets £6

Tickets available online at
www.rscds.org/events

Saturday night - Formal Ball
music by
Nicol McLaren
Tickets £18

Sunday morning class
Teacher - **William Williamson**
Musician - **Muriel Johnstone**
Tickets £6



News from RSCDS Headquarters

- Most of the teething problems with the website and database have been ironed out, but there are still many data corrections to be made. Developments in the online shop continue;
- Rachel Wilton has agreed to take over chairing the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund Panel in November, when Marjorie Hume stands down as chairman;
- Orla O'Brien is in post for a year as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund Archive project, during which the collection will be digitised and made available online. Work is also underway to capture branch and individual oral histories, as well as to develop local 'dance trails' for inclusion in the archive;
- The AGM & Conference weekend 2015 will again be held in Perth, 6-8 November;
- Work continues on the conversion of the Society's structure to a Company Limited by Guarantee;
- A companion pack to *Jigs & Reels, Dance Trad* is being prepared, for use in secondary schools. It is hoped that filming will take place in the autumn;
- Ian Muir, of the Craigellachie Band, has been appointed Music Director with effect from November 2014, to follow George Meikle;
- Spring Fling 2016 will take place in Edinburgh.

South East Region Teachers' Association

Our next workshop will be in Hemel Hempstead on Sunday 28 September 2014, led by Sue Porter. Her main topic will be "Getting the best out of your dancers", although she will also briefly cover the new manual and changes to the exam syllabus. Sue is also chair of the RSCDS Education and Training (E&T) Committee. Please contact me for further details and an application form.

Four years and two years ago, the RSCDS held a Teachers' Association conference on the day preceding the AGM. A further conference has been planned for Friday 7 November in Perth, the day before this year's AGM. However, it is not yet clear whether this will be a full day or afternoon only.

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, at 4 Gatehampton Cottages, Gatehampton Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9LX or on 01491 873 026.

Mike Johnson

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Annual Ball

Saturday 1 November 2014
7.30 – 11.30pm

Brentside School, Greenford Ave W7 1JJ
(sprung dance floor, on-site parking)

George Meikle and the Lotherian Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Scott Meikle, The Byron Strathspey, Olive MacNeil of Hayes, Nottingham Lace, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, The Meeting of the Waters, Best Set in the Hall, The Dream Catcher, The Plantation Reel, Torridon Lassies, The Button Boy, The Garry Strathspey, The Cooper's Wife, The Recumbent Stone, The Singing Sands, The Cranberry Tart, The Black Mountain Reel, The Gardener's Fantasia, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The Montgomeries' Rant. *Extras:* James Gray, The Falls of Rogie, Mrs Stuart Linnell

Tickets: £18.00 (inc buffet)

Contact Margaret Wallace, 020 8560 6160,
margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk

or Mary Barry, 020 8998 0667,

marybarry36@hotmail.co.uk

Cribs available on www.hayesscottish.org.uk

CROYDON & DISTRICT RSCDS Annual Weekend School

Friday 7 – Sunday 9 November 2014

The Cumberland Hotel, Eastbourne BN21 3YT

Teacher: Angela Campbell

Application form from Mary Courtney
020 8651 0704

www.rscdscroydon.co.uk

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH Annual Ball

Saturday 25 October 2014
7.30 – 11.45pm

Headington School, Oxford OX3 7TD
Ample free parking & on the London to Oxford bus route. Bus stops near to the school.

Ian Muir and the Craighallach Band

Programme: Granville Market, Shiftin' Bobbins, The Braes of Breadalbane, The Lady Wynd, The Black Black Oil, Linnea's Strathspey, The Dancing Master, The Castle of Mey, The Wind on Loch Fyne, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, The Piper and the Penguin, The Gentleman, The Immigrant Lass, None So Pretty, Scotch Mist, The Nurseryman, Scott Meikle, Cherrybank Gardens, Bill Clement M.B.E., The Montgomeries' Rant

Tickets £18.00 (spectators £9.00)
including supper

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

Advance notice:

Burns' Night Supper & Dance

17 January 2015, Benson, OX10 6LZ

Ian Muir and the Craighallach Band

SOUTH EAST DANCE DIARY

The diary is available through the Branch website at www.rscdslondon.org.uk and is regularly updated. If you don't have internet access and would like a hard copy of the latest version please send 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 or by post to the above address.

RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER BRANCH



Autumn Social

Saturday 11 October 2014
St Mark's Church Hall, Farnborough GU14 6TU
7.45 – 10.45pm

Dancing to recorded music

Bring and share refreshments

Contact Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831

Christmas Social

Saturday 27 December 2014
St Paul's Parish Rooms, Wokingham RG41 1EH
7.45 – 10.45pm

Dancing to recorded music

Bring and share refreshments

Contact Fiona Albinson, 0118 978 9181

Day School

Saturday 14 March 2015
Contact Paul Plummer, 01252 404639
www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

LUCY CLARK SCDC Christmas Dance

Saturday 22 November 2014

7.00 – 11.00pm

Prestwood Village Hall, Nr Great Missenden,
Bucks HP16 0NZ

Ian Robertson

Programme: Sleepwalking, The Nurseryman, The Duchess Tree, Dundee Dragon, Nottingham Lace, Strathglass House, The Recumbent Stone, Torridon Lassies, Bill Little's Strathspey, Gothenberg's Welcome, Argyll Strathspey, The Fireworks Reel, Take Wing, Linnea's Strathspey, The Dundee City Police Jig, Glastonbury Tor, Flower of Glasgow, The Roselath Cross, The Cashmere Shawl, The Montgomeries' Rant.

Extras: Crossing the Line, Festival Fling

Tickets £10.00 with a Bring and Share supper
from Dick Field, 01494 562231

RSCDS CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT Annual Dance

Saturday 18 October 2014
7.30 – 11.30pm

Impington Village College,

Impington, Cambridge CB24 9LX

Luke Brady's Scottish Dance Band

Spring Dance

Saturday 14 March 2015
7.30 – 11.30pm

Impington Village College,

Impington, Cambridge CB24 9LX

Green Ginger

Contact Lindsey Ibbotson, 07977 905291 or
lindsey.ibbotson@gmail.com

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Autumn Dance

Saturday 18 October 2014
7.00 – 11.00pm

St Andrew's URC Hall, Eastcote HA5 2SH

The Silver Cross Band

Tickets £12.00

Contact Gail Bignell, 020 8868 9064 or
gail.bignell@talktalk.net

Annual Ball

Friday 2 January 2015
7.30 – 11.30pm

Allum Hall, Elstree WD6 3PJ

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme in the next issue.

www.harrowscottish.org.uk

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming dances 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 6 September: President's Night

7.00 – 11.00pm **Craigievar**

Saturday 4 October: **Colin Dewar**

Saturday 13 December: Christmas Dance

Frank Reid

Programmes & cribs are now available on our
website:

www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

For further details contact: Catriona Bennett on
020 8544 5558 or cmb84scd@gmail.com

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

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB



Day School

Great New Venue

Convenient New Date

Sunday 16 November 2014

Abbots Hill School, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8RP

Teachers: Eric Finley (North Ayrshire)

Samantha Schad (Oxford)

Rose Kreloff (Watford)

Classes for all levels of dancers

Excellent Class Musicians

Full Day £22

Half Day £12 (am or pm)

For details of these and other events
please visit

www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

or contact Janet Aylward via

dayschool@berkhamstedreelclub.org



THE ADDLESTONE AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY



Annual Dance

Saturday 8 November
2014

7.30 – 11.30pm

Addlestone Community Centre,
Garfield Road, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2NJ
(5 minutes from Junction 11 M25)

Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band

Programme: Miss Hadden's Reel, The Whistling Wind, The Byron Strathspey, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Anniversary Reel, Sugar Candie, Quarries' Jig, The Black Mountain Reel, Cherrybank Gardens, The Reel of the 51st Division, The Stary Eyed Lassie, The College Hornpipe, The Robertson Rant, Friday's Child, Blooms of Bon Accord, The Duchess Tree, The Flying Spur, Brechin Lassies, Neidpath Castle, The Reel of The Royal Scots. *Extras:* The Montgomeries' Rant, The Deil among the Tailors

Tickets £20.00 including supper

b.y.o.b. Soft drinks provided – no licensed bar

Contact Keith Goodwin, 24 Esher Avenue,

Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 2TA or

01932 228224 or

goodwin@walton-on-thames.demon.co.uk

For return by post please enclose a large (A5/C5) SAE. Cheques payable to Addlestone & District Scottish Society. Cancellations 7+ days before the event will be refunded

**RSCDS BATH BRANCH
67th Annual Ball**

Saturday 14 February 2015
The Guildhall, Bath, BA1 1LZ
Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band
Contact June Hall, Top Flat, 141 Wells Rd, Bath
BA2 3AL, 01225 318906 or
jdandjhall@gmail.com
www.rscdsbath.co.uk

**GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCING CLUB**

Advance Notice – Tea Dance

Sunday 18 January 2015

2.15 – 6.00pm

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

Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

Further details in *The Reel* 290

Beat the post-Christmas blues with our fun and
friendly event

All dances will be talked and walked through

Further info at www.gxscottish.org

Practice Saturday 17 January 2015

9.45am – 12.45pm in

Garden Room, Memorial Centre

**RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY
Spring Ball**

Saturday 14 February 2015

7.00 – 11.00pm

Hampton School, Hanworth Road,
Hampton, Middx TW12 3HD

**Nicol McLaren & The Glencraig Scottish
Dance Band**

Tickets £25.00 to include supper

Dance practice Sunday 1 February 2015

11.00am – 2.00pm

Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RD

Programme & further information in next issue
and on website

www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk

Contact 020 8755 0050 / 020 8943 3773 or

info@richmondcaledonian.co.uk

**WATFORD AND WEST
HERTS
SCOTTISH SOCIETY
Farewell to Scotland?
Scottish Ceilidh Dance**



No experience needed – just come and enjoy a
lively night out!

Saturday 27 September 2014

7.30 – 11.00pm

Dame Fuller Hall,

The Watford Grammar School for Girls,
Lady's Close, Watford, WD18 0AE

Quicksilver

Caller: Malcolm Ferris Lay

Tickets £12.00 (£10.00 for under-25s)

available via www.eventbrite.co.uk or

tickets@watfordscottish.co.uk

Contact Andy Wiener 07900 317720

www.facebook.com/WatfordScottishCeilidhs

**NEW!
DANCING AT THE
ARCTIC CIRCLE
In Lapland With
Santa Claus!**



Friday 6 – Monday 9 February 2015

Dance Course and Evening Dances

In Rovaniemi, Finland

at 4 star Hotel Santa Claus with full board

Teacher: Pat Houghton

Musicians: James Gray and Andrew Lyon

Price: 550 EUR

Optional Holiday in Lapland

Monday 9 – Sunday 15 February 2015

Accommodation for 6 nights in 4 star hotels

Lots of once-in-a-lifetime adventures including
reindeer, husky and snowmobile safaris,
overnight stay in glass igloos,
observation possibility of the Northern Lights,
Arctic culture and life, tundra, etc.

Price: 980 EUR

Contact Katalin Konya,

kkonyakatalin@gmail.com

**BERKHAMSTED
STRATHSPEY & REEL
CLUB**



63rd Highland Ball

Saturday 14 February 2015
Ashlyns School, Berkhamsted,
HP4 3AH

Sandy Nixon's Scottish Country Dance Band

Programme to be announced (see website)

Tickets £24.00

(Dinner & welcome drink included)

Contact Gerry Elliott, 01442 832753 or

events@berkhamstedreelclub.org

Tickets also available via website and PayPal

Highland Ball Practice

Saturday 7 February 2015, 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

www.berkhamstedreelclub.org



**SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS
Annual Ball**

Saturday 22 November 2014

7.30 – 11.30pm

Presdales School, Hoe Lane, Ware, SG12 9NX

Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band

Programme: Happy Returns, James Gray,
Linnea's Strathspey, The Castle of Mey, The
Dundee City Police Jig, Autumn in Appin, Flight
to Melbourne, Welcome to Ayr, The Minister
on the Loch, Scott Meikle, Joie de Vivre, Polharrow
Burn, Foxhill Court, The Bees of
Maggielock, The Lochalsh Reel, Alison
Rose, Quarries' Jig, Shiftin' Bobbins, The Wind
on Loch Fyne, The Deil among the Tailors

Tickets £18.00 (£10.00 non-dancers)

including supper

Excellent parking/ Bring own Drink

Contact Peter Dixon, 01920 462213

www.sehscottishdancing.org

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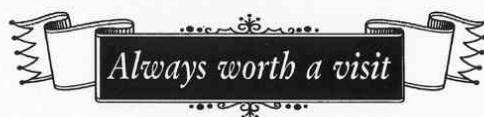


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RSCDS LONDON BRANCH SAVE THE DATES

Calling all Musicians!

The 2015 Musicians' Workshop will take place at St Columba's Church, Pont St, London SW1X 0BD on Saturday 18 April 2015 and will be led by
Jim Lindsay

Calling all Dancers!

85th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DANCE

To celebrate the Branch's 85th Anniversary, we will be holding a Celebration Dance on
Saturday 31 October 2015

Look out for further information in
The Reel and on the Branch website
www.rscdslondon.org.uk

THE REEL

The Reel is published four times a year by the London Branch and posted free to all Branch members. 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 p15.

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

Scottish Country Dance Weekend
June 19th - 20th 2015
at
St. Mary's Church Centre,
Peterborough PE1 1TT

Friday 19th June
Social Dance to Ian Slater
with Bring & Share Supper & raffle in aid of charity

Saturday 20th June
Two classes taught by Graham Donald and Sue Ronald
with musicians Marion Turnock and David Page & Debbie Hammond
Buffet Supper at 6 pm
followed by
Social Dance to the School Musicians

Application form and further details from:
Amanda Peart, Weekend Co-ordinator,
2 Deeping Road, Baston,
Peterborough PE6 9NP
Tel: 01778 560433 email: amandapeart@thesundayclass.org.uk
www.peterboroughrscds.org.uk
with support from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Diamond Anniversary Ball

Saturday 7 March 2015

Harpenden Public Hall, Harpenden, Herts
Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band
Programme and other details in the next issue
Enquiries to Val Owens 01727 863870
www.HSCDC.org.uk



ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP Weekend

Dillington House, Somerset
Friday 3 - Sunday 5 October 2014
Teachers: William Williamson,
Aileen Napper

Musicians: Robert Mackay, Judith Smith
The weekend will include a dance both Friday and Saturday nights to music from Judith Smith and Gillian Cummins

For booking contact Dillington House,
Ilminster, Somerset TA19 9DT or 01460 258613
For further information and brochure email
dillington@somerset.gov.uk or visit
www.dillington.co.uk
argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk

THISTLE CLUB

Day Schools & Dance

Saturday 6 September 2014
Day Schools 10.30am - 4.30pm
Wing Village Hall, LU7 0NN

Musicians tutored by Muriel Johnstone
Dancers taught by Bill Zobel
Music by Ian Robertson

Tickets: Musicians £17.00 Dancers £14.00

Dance to Muriel & the Workshop Musicians

7.30 - 10.30pm

Tickets: £8.00 with bring and share supper
Contact Jan Jones, 07877 153259 or
jange@verybusy.co.uk
www.thistleclub.co.uk

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

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

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

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB meets in Potten End Village Hall, HP4 2QG. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15pm Sept-May, Sat. gardens June/July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: 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 8 September 2014, 8-10pm Finchampstead Memorial Hall, RG40 4JU. General Class, every Wednesday, starting on Wednesday 10 September 2014, 8-10pm, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church Hall, Frimley, GU16 7AA. Teacher: Mervyn Short. Details: Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Millhams Road, Kinson, Bournemouth, BH10 7LN 7.30-10pm. Alternate Wednesday Technique class, by invitation. Details: Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Road, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX, 01202 698138

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-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

CHELTHENHAM 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 msteele45@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 DANCE CLUB meet on Sundays 6-9.15pm, Sept-June, in the Upper Hall at St. Michaels & All Angels Church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Road, London W4 1TX (turn right out of Turnham Green tube station, 70 yards). Check www.chiswickscottish.org.uk for beginners and experienced dancers' start times and all activities. Details: Heather Nolan, 01784 256549 or secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk

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

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

EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Club night Mondays (all year) 8-10pm at Christchurch Parish Hall, Wanstead Place, Wanstead, E11 2SW. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or angelaross87@hotmail.com or www.efsa.org.uk

EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION General dancing Mondays, 7.30-10pm, Tweddle Hall, St Andrew's URC, Northey Avenue, Cheam, SM2 7HF. Teacher: Pauline Cashmore, 020 8686 9362. Details: Dorothy Pearson, 01737 551724 or pearson2902@tiscali.co.uk

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8pm, Sept-end of April at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details: Pippa Peatman 01256 703909 or p.peatman@yahoo.com or www.fscdc.co.uk

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10pm, Sept-May. Details: Morna Partridge, 01252 711992 or morna.partridge@btinternet.com

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays from

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- Sept–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 SDCD meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford, GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8pm from Sept–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, 01727 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, Pinner, HA5 3QR, 020 8428 6055 or www.harrowscottish.org.uk
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Fridays 8–10pm, Sept–July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, 020 8560 6160
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB. Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30–11pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 0208 440 3236 or margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS meet Wednesdays Sept–June at Holy Trinity & St. John's C. of E. Primary School, St. John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7–8pm. General 8–10pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent, 01843 869284
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP. Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinity, Jersey JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or alcanjoy@gmail.com Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@gmail.com or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: adverts in *The Reel*, Catriona Bennett, 33 Pains Close, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1BY, cmb84scd@gmail.com or 020 8544 5558 or www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- 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
- 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
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB. Dancing most Wednesdays during school term, 8.15–10.15pm from Sept–May at St. Thomas' Church Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, SG6 4DZ. Informal Saturday dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds SG17 5AL or 01462 812691
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dancing 7.45–10pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 9JN, 01634 254451
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday 8–10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners/Improvers' Class every Monday 8–10.15pm at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or hadyndavies@gmail.com
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS. Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET, 01869 340830
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY. Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading, RG1 5BD from 8–10pm, Sept–May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st & 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Margaret Spiceley 0118 978 7181 or sascd01@gmail.com or www.scottishdancingreading.org
- REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets most Mondays 8.15–10.15pm, Sept–May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8pm from mid Sept. to end of May. Details: 020 8943 3773 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP. Dancing Tues 8pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Scottish country dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15–10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns' Nights when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Details: Denise Haugh, 020 8392 2920 or dhaugh200@btinternet.com or www.stcolumbasdancers.org
- ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM meet every Thurs 8–10.15pm Sept–June at St. Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Sue Davis 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne, 01344 774344 or alan.suedavis@gmail.com Also Children's Class Sats 9.30–11am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT hold weekly 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
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB meets every Tuesday from Sept–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
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday from Sept–May, 8.15–10.15pm, in Barnes. Details: Fiona Jack, 07780 671021 or 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 8856 4522
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30–10pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Fridays, 7.30–10.15pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30–9pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS. Classes in Hertford, Sept–May: Int/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Hollybush School, Hertford SG14 2DF; Beginners/Improvers Thurs 8pm, Guide Hut, West Street, Hertford SG13 8EZ. Details: Martin Hirst, 01992 412833 or sehscds@hotmail.com. For Demonstration class contact Anne Nutt 01992 550923
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday at 8pm from Sept–June at St. Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY or www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS. Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8–10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8–10pm at St. Augustine's School, Wilman Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9AL. Details: George Daly, 1 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5UE, 01892 534512 or www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY. General and Beginners'/Improvers' Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey, WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8–10pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford, WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Wednesdays 8–10pm Sept–June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dance Class Mondays 8pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs 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 or www.standrewsoclondon.net/ne.net
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS. Classes Tuesdays 8–10pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8–10pm. Both evenings at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ, 01264 363293 or wendy@mumford.com
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Wednesday 8–10pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Beryl Munro, 01621 850838 or beryl.munro@btinternet.com

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Many thanks to all contributors, including the following for providing photos in this edition:

From Alun Alesbury p1 (left); Jerry Reinstein p1 (right), p10 (1, 2 & 4), p11 (9); Stephen Webb p2 (AK), p10 (3), p11 (6), p14, p20; From Jeremy Hill p2 (JH), p10 (5); Pete Williamson p6; Brenda Burton p11 (7); Claudia Carrington p11 (8); Marjory Reid p11 (9); From RSCDS HQ p11 (10); HKWT p12; From Rita Marlow p13.

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

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RSCDS Croydon & District Branch 60th Anniversary Ball, 26 April 2014: Croydon Branch President, Elaine Wilde, and Chairman, George Ferrier, welcome special visitors RSCDS Chairman John Wilkinson and wife Ruby at Croydon High School.



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