



# The Reel

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
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SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER 2012



An image from the Society's new suite of material to assist in the promotion of Scottish country dancing, which also includes introductory leaflets. Further details may be found at <http://www.rscds.org/about-us/promotional-material.html>

## LONDON FESTIVE FLING

Saturday 8 December 2012

6.45 for 7.00 – 10.30pm

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

**David Cunningham and his Scottish Dance Band**

Hooper's Jig .....	MMM II
Maxwell's Rant .....	18/10
Gang the Same Gate .....	36/4
The Diamond Jubilee .....	31/1
All for Mary .....	London 75th/1
Up in the Air .....	20/2
Ladies' Fancy .....	13/12
Autumn in Appin .....	31/5
Saltire Society Reel .....	Leaflet 28
A London Celebration .....	Reel 280

Mrs Stewart's Jig .....	35/1
Anniversary Reel .....	36/7
The Gentleman .....	35/5
Bonnie Anne .....	MacNab
The De'il Amang the Tailors .....	14/7
Monymusk .....	11/2
Follow Me Home .....	38/3
The Dreamcatcher .....	45/9
The Duke of Perth .....	1/8

Members £18.00, non-members £20.00

Reception drink and refreshments provided

Those with Highland / Evening Dress are encouraged to wear it.

## Celebrating The Queen's Jubilee Branch Dance

Saturday 15 September 2012

7.00 – 10.30pm

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

**Dancing to the music of Craiggellachie**

The Jubilee Jig .....	Leaflet
None so Pretty (London Pride) .....	19/1
The Royal Wedding .....	5 for 1982/4
The Royal Deeside Railway .....	40/9
Balmoral Strathspey .....	22/3
The Diamond Jubilee .....	31/1
The Golden Wedding Strathspey .....	33/4
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh .....	39/7
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder .....	Hamilton

A London Celebration .....	Reel 280
Napier's Index .....	45/8
The White Rose of Scotland .....	London 75th/3
Scott Meikle .....	46/3
The Diamond Celebration .....	Oxford Silver Jubilee
MacDonald of the Isles .....	Haynes
The Montgomerie's Rant .....	10/1
Pelorus Jack .....	41/1
Mairi's Wedding .....	Cosh/4

Admission: Members £10,  
non-members £12, Children £3.00,  
Members' children no charge

## Summer Ball



hosted by South East Branches at

The Civic Suite,  
Wandsworth Town Hall,  
London SW18 2PU

to celebrate the

**90th Anniversary of the  
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society**

on

**Saturday 29th June 2013**

Dancing to

**Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band**

Dress: Formal

Welcome drink 7.00pm

Carriages at Midnight

**Ticket includes buffet supper:**

**£50 earlybird before 31 Jan 2013**

**£55 from 1 Feb 2013**

Information and application forms available from the  
Branches' websites listed below, Branch Secretaries or  
Pat Davoli 01732 866 557 or email [pdavoli@aol.com](mailto:pdavoli@aol.com)

BMS Borders [www.rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://www.rscds-bhs.org.uk) • Croydon [www.rscds-croydon.org.uk](http://www.rscds-croydon.org.uk)  
London [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk) • Milton Keynes [www.rscds-mk.org.uk](http://www.rscds-mk.org.uk)  
Oxfordshire [www.rscds-oxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.rscds-oxfordshire.org.uk) • Tunbridge Wells [www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk](http://www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk)  
Winchester [www.rscds-winc.org.uk](http://www.rscds-winc.org.uk) / Winchester

Issue No 282 will be with UK based members by 1 December 2012 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent to arrive by 28 October 2012, preferably by email, to [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk). Postal contributions should be sent to Jeremy Hill, 6 Gilpin Green, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 5NR. Issue No 283 will arrive by 9 February 2013.

The opinions expressed by contributors in *The Reel* do not necessarily reflect the official position of the RSCDS, nor of the Branch.

## CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

I write this in St Andrews, ready for a week at Summer School while excited at the prospect of seeing Team GB competing in the Olympics. What a summer in London, and, hopefully by the time you read this, our successful Kensington Gardens afternoons of dancing will have taken place, showing to a wider audience how much fun they too could have with Scottish country dancing.

As discussed at the Branch AGM the committee have huge concerns about the future of Scottish country dancing in London – especially regarding classes. How do we attract new members to our Basic Skills class? How do we encourage dancers to achieve a better standard of technique by attending our advanced classes? Please do let us know what you think.

I'm off to teach the High Impact class tomorrow morning and looking forward to meeting a new class ready for a challenging week. Summer School has lots of memories for me – from being a teenager asked to play at St Andrews, seeing fantastic teachers in action encouraging all who attended to dance to the best of their ability, hearing the variety of musicians with the history of solo pianists and the diversity of bands at the Younger Hall, and meeting dancers from all around the world using the common language of Scottish country dancing to communicate – all language barriers broken down by dancing together. For me the overriding feeling is always the fun that I've had there and the friendships that I've made.

Communicating that enjoyment is key to how we attract new members – but I'm sure you all have ideas of how we can do that too. So please find a committee member, share with them any thoughts you have and let's look forward to keeping London Branch successful long into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

If you've been dancing somewhere exotic this summer make sure you let Jeremy, our new editor of *The Reel*, know about it. We welcome Jeremy to the committee and look forward to seeing *The Reel* develop under his editorship. Many thanks too to Wilson for all his years of service – personally I'm very grateful to Wilson for all his wise words and advice throughout my time in the Branch. I'm also sure he won't be too far away to help out but in the meantime thanks again Wilson.

The committee are looking forward to the year ahead, starting with our dance on the 15<sup>th</sup> September dancing to the music of Craigellachie. I hope to see and dance with you there.

Angela Young

## EDITORIAL

It is with some trepidation that I take on the role of editor of *The Reel*, given its illustrious history. Rather like Rio looking to follow the excellence of London 2012 it will be a challenge to match the great work that has been done over the years, by editors and all those who work away behind the scenes. I hope to live up to that tradition in shaping a magazine of real interest and value to the readership.

*The Reel* was first established as a cost-effective "Members' bulletin to replace the sundry leaflets previously sent out to give notice of dances, classes and meetings" (as reported in the Society Bulletin sixty years ago), and it still fulfils a key role in providing information to members and also non-members. However, other media, including the Branch website and e-mail bulletins also fulfil this function for many people.

Where *The Reel* continues to have a key role is as a medium for the sharing of opinion and wider information on matters related to Scottish dance – and I expect to interpret that relationship quite widely. The article on Ballroom dance by Dennis Tucker here is one example. I am keen to build on the interests of members to explore and write about aspects of Scottish dance, music and related areas and as such encourage your submissions. It is always easier to plan if these can be anticipated, so please do get in touch if you have an idea for inclusion.

I am learning about some of the specifics of putting the magazine together, and have come to appreciate in particular the efforts of John Reeve. For over 20 years John has done the graphic artist work required to get the material into a publishable format, but has decided the time has come to step back. He has done a fantastic job behind the scenes and I would like to thank him on behalf of the Branch.

One specific area concerns the photos, not an area in which I have any expertise – as evidenced by some of the photos I have taken of dancing over the years. As such I would be very interested to hear from anyone who would like to get involved in particular in this area as a Photo Editor.

I welcome comments that you may have on all elements of *The Reel* and look forward to continuing its development.

Jeremy Hill



## ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Patron  
H.M. The Queen



President – Dr Alastair MacFadyen  
Chairman – Ruth Beattie

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### LONDON BRANCH

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### COMMITTEE

Elaine Davies, Jeremy Hill, Bar Martlew,  
George Potts, Jerry Reinstein, Thelma-Jane  
Robb, Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw,  
Elaine Wilde

### Coordinators:

**Classes:** ..... Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw  
**Dances:** ..... Angela Young  
**Demonstrations:** ..... Elaine Wilde  
**Publicity:** ..... Marjory Reid  
**Youth:** ..... Angela Young

### Non-Executive roles

**Bookstall:** ..... Ian Anderson  
**Day School:** ..... Margaret Catchick  
**Hon Archivist:** ..... Iris Anderson  
**Membership:** ..... Gaynor Curtis  
**The Reel Business Editor:** ..... Jeff Robertson  
**Subscribers:** ..... Janet Rudge  
**Webmaster:** ..... Meryl Thomson  
**Website:** [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

### Objects of London Branch

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

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

Inside this issue	Page
Around the RSCDS	3
Branch classes and day school	4 – 5
People	6
Strictly Challenging	7
Musically speaking	8
New recordings and publications	9
Photos	10 – 11
Letters to the Editor	12
Pat Batt Poem	12
Notes to Accounts/Opinion	13
Around the Clubs	14 – 15
Forthcoming events	16 – 17
Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations	18 – 19

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch costs £21.00 per annum for UK based members (£21.50 for Europe; £24.00 elsewhere). There are discounts of £7.50 for members aged 12-17, £3 aged 18-25 and £3 for each of two members living at the same address. Members of other Branches can join London Branch for £6.00 per annum if they live in the UK (£6.50 in Europe and £9.00 elsewhere). **These rates were agreed at the 2012 AGM.** London Branch membership brings benefits including *The Reel*, while Society membership includes the bi-annual dance publication, *Scottish Country Dancer*. 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](mailto:membership@rscdslondon.org.uk). Membership forms can also be downloaded from the Branch website.



# ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

## 83rd Annual General Meeting & Conference Weekend 2012

Friday to Sunday, 2–4 November 2012  
Location: Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen

- Dance (*NB now on Friday evening*) – dancing to Frank Thomson's Band
- Class – led by Jimmie Hill, with musician Frank Thomson
- Civic Reception – to be held at the Beach Ballroom, before the Ball
- Ball (*NB now on Saturday evening*) – dancing to The Craigellachie Band

Full details and online application, are available on the website at [www.rscds.org/events/annual-conference-weekend.html](http://www.rscds.org/events/annual-conference-weekend.html).

Aberdeen Convention Bureau has made a booking facility available for official accommodation options. This can be accessed at [www.conferencebookings.co.uk/delegate/ACBRSCDS2012](http://www.conferencebookings.co.uk/delegate/ACBRSCDS2012) or via the RSCDS website link above.

# ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

## Winter School 2013

24 February – 1 March 2013 (one course only)  
Atholl Palace Hotel in Pitlochry, with a Ball at Blair Castle

Co-ordinator: Anne Taylor

Teachers: Jim Stott, Anne Taylor,  
Johan MacLean and Janet Johnston

Musicians: Jim Lindsay, David Cunningham,

Rodger McAndrew and Gordon Simpson

Fees: £550 for a single room (very limited number), or £535 for a shared room

Online booking will open at midnight on Saturday 1 September 2012 at [www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org)

## ADVANCED NOTICE Spring Fling 2013

### For dancers aged 18 – 35

12 – 14 April 2013

Accommodation at Manchester Youth Hostel, Potato Wharf, dancing at Sale Masonic Hall  
Scholarships are available for attendance

Further details to follow, available at [www.rscds.org/events/spring-fling.html](http://www.rscds.org/events/spring-fling.html)

## Youth at Summer School

For the first time in its history, this year the Society opened up Summer School to young people from age twelve to fifteen. Six attended, from Scotland, Northern Ireland, North America and France. They had a great time in St Andrews and really enjoyed the classes and the social interaction with each other. They took part in country, ladies' step and Highland classes alongside the adults. In the ceilidh they danced Domino Five and danced their Highland and ladies' step routines.

New friendships have been made and I think that Facebook will be busy every day as they talk to each other online. One of the participants sent an email saying, "I really enjoyed my first time at Summer School...it was so much fun. Thank you to everyone who helped me! I hope I can come back next year." Plans are in hand to make that possible and encourage more to join for 2013.

**Jim Stott (Depute Director, Weeks 3 and 4)**



## SUMMER BALL

29 June 2013

A long time away, you may think but 2013 is the year the Society will celebrate 90 years of working towards the fun, fitness and friendship of Scottish country dancing, something to celebrate indeed. In 1998 the South East Branches was the first group to organise a 'rally' or ball to celebrate the Society's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; from the success of that event the South East Branches Coordinating Committee was formed.

Wandsworth Civic Suite has been newly decorated and provides a most attractive venue for such an event; Ian Muir's six member Craigellachie Band will, as everyone knows, give us the most wonderful dancing music and people from all over will be there.

You can book your tickets now (see advertisement on the cover). Tickets will be sent out at the beginning of October (if you wish immediate confirmation of receipt of your cheque send Pat your email address) but a word of warning – to avoid any overcrowding numbers will be strictly limited so make sure you send your booking early!

**Rachel Wilton**  
Chairman, South  
East Branches  
Co-ordinating  
Committee



## SOUTH EAST REGION TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

The South East Region Teachers' Association (SERTA) organises workshops for Scottish dance teachers. The next workshop is on Sunday 30 September 2012 in Finchampstead. The morning session, "Making the best use of our voice", will be led by Katy Salt, a Speech and Language Therapist who specialises in voice. In the afternoon, Mervyn Short will be looking at some of the more complex RSCDS dances, hoping to convince you that they are "Easy when you know how". The following meeting will be in Hemel Hempstead on Sunday 17 March 2013, with more details in the next issue of *The Reel*.

There will be another Teachers' Association conference in Aberdeen on Friday 2 November, at the beginning of the RSCDS AGM weekend. We hope to have another strong representation as we did at the first TAs' conference in Perth in 2010.

SERTA is open to anyone who leads an SCD group, whether qualified or not, those with a dance teaching qualification and those taking teaching courses or interested in doing so. If you wish to join the mailing list or have any queries, please contact me at 4 Gatehampton Cottages, Gatehampton Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9LX, 01491 873 026 or [mikejohnson@waitrose.com](mailto:mikejohnson@waitrose.com)

**Mike Johnson**

## BRANCH AGM

The Branch held its Annual General Meeting on 15 June in the Upper Hall at St. Columba's, Pont Street. Only 32 members were present, a fact picked up by our Chairman, Angela Young, in her opening remarks. She went on to say that 2011-12 had been a busy year for the Branch, a year in which we had celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *The Reel* but we faced serious financial problems. In response the Committee had put together a package of measures that it believed would secure our future.

There was some lively debate around the Treasurer's report on the accounts and a motion to increase the Branch fee. One member questioned why, with £49k on the balance sheet, any increase was necessary. Simon Wales replied that this was scarcely enough to cover one year's expenditure. Generally members supported the Committee's approach, and several speakers made suggestions for halting the decline in membership and making the collection of fees more efficient. Some questioned whether the proposed increases went far enough. The motion was carried, and a new appeal for donations was made to life members (see p.8).

Other items on the agenda passed with little comment. The Branch Report had been sent to members with the previous issue of *The Reel* and was approved unanimously, Mary Stoker was appointed once again with acclaim as our President and there were fewer nominees for Committee than places available, so there was no election but Jeremy Hill replaced Wilson Nicol and Bar Martlew was subsequently co-opted onto the Committee.

Any Other Business produced more food for thought on, for example, the location of classes and the potential benefits of holding a members' survey. There were reminders about our dancing in Kensington Gardens over the period of the Olympics and Paralympics (though unfortunately, as one member pointed out, SCD would not feature in the Olympic Opening Ceremony) and there was some advance publicity on the South East Branches' Ball in June 2013 for the Society's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Angela Young thanked the Committee and all the other members who had worked so hard for the Branch during the year. There was a round of applause for the Vice Presidents who had prepared refreshments and a presentation was made to Wilson Nicol to mark his retirement as Editor of *The Reel*. The date for next year's meeting was subsequently set for Saturday 15 June, before dancing, with a view to boosting attendance. Finally, chairs were stacked and footwear changed so we could enjoy some Scottish country dances.

**Andrew Kellett**  
Branch Secretary

*Members can request a copy of the draft minutes of the AGM from the Branch Secretary at [secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk). The minutes will be available on the Branch website (a public site) after approval at next year's AGM.*

## Marlborough School Classes

Dear Jeremy

Having just received my copy of *The Reel* and the Branch report I felt that I should let you know that information re classes is incorrect. The report indicated the earliest record of classes at Marlborough School was in September 1974, but I attended an advanced class there in the 1960's taken by Bill Hamilton. According to old copies of *The Reel*, classes started there in 1958, a beginners' class taken by Nan Summers and an elementary one by Elma Taylor!

**Jenny Greene**

# BRANCH CLASSES

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher/Musician
BASIC SKILLS	Wednesday	7.00 – 9.00	Park Walk School, Park Walk, King's Road, Chelsea, London SW10 0AY	Teacher Barbara Martlew Musicians Jane Ng and Ian Cutts
ADVANCED TECHNIQUE	Wednesday	7.00 – 9.00	Park Walk School, Park Walk, King's Road, Chelsea, London SW10 0AY	Teacher Pat Davoll Musician Ken Martlew
GENERAL	Wednesday	2.30 – 4.30	St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD	Teacher Jeni Rutherford
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	<i>For details, contact Elaine Wilde 01582 834815</i>		Teacher Paul Plummer Musician Sandra Smith

The Autumn Term starts on 26 September. Half-term will be 31 October and term ends on 5 December.  
Wednesday evening classes cost £75 for ten weeks for members (£85 for non-members) or £9 per session (£10 for non-members).

For the Wednesday afternoon class, the summer term will start on Wednesday 19 September and the last class will be on Wednesday 12 December.  
Half-term will be Wednesday 7 November.

Cost is still £5 per class, payable weekly, and we welcome visitors. Contact: Jeni Rutherford, email [jrutherford@freeuk.com](mailto:jrutherford@freeuk.com)

## HIGHLAND/STEP ONE DAY WORKSHOPS

Sundays 16 December 2012, 17 February and possibly 28 April 2013

Highland class: 10.30am – 12.30pm (morning coffee at 10.00am)

Ladies' Step class: 2.00 – 4.00pm

Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, TW9 2RT (minutes from Richmond Station)

We will again be running One day workshops incorporating Highland in the morning and Ladies' Step in the afternoon with **Mervyn Short**, musicians **Ken Martlew** and **Sandra Smith**.

All those attending the Workshops are welcome to stay for the whole day or come for either the morning or afternoon sessions.

All day: Members £20.00, non-members £22.00  
Half day Members £10.00, non-members £11.00

There are local establishments nearby for lunch or you may bring your own if you wish.

Contact Margaret Shaw, 020 7329 2847 or [classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## SUNDAY ADVANCED TECHNIQUE CLASSES

14 October, 9 December, 13 January, 10 February and 10 March

Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, TW9 2RT (minutes from Richmond Station)

11.00am – 1.00pm

Teacher: Philippe Rousseau

Musicians: Barbara Manning, Ian and Meryl Thomson, and Ian Cutts

Members £10.00, non-members £11.00 per session. There are local establishments available for lunch if required.

Contact Margaret Shaw 020 7329 2847 or [classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## Demonstration team update

During this fantastic summer with the Queen's Jubilee, the Olympics and the Paralympics, the demonstration team has enjoyed excellent dancing and sharing of the team's skills. This included dancing at the opening of the Diorama Arts Centre's month-long Olympic-themed festival near Regents Park, and accepting an invitation from a primary school in South London to join their Jubilee tea party.

### Primary School enjoyment

The brief from the school was: to teach eight of the older children a dance for them to show the whole school at the tea party; to have all the children, with an age range of 3–11 years old, dance another Scottish country dance; and to demonstrate a variety of Scottish dance forms (country, ladies' step and highland); and all of this in the one afternoon!

The children were brilliant, with so much laughter and fun, the team kept smiling despite it being a really hot day, the piper (Roger Hugh) played beautifully and before we knew it the afternoon was over and parents were waiting at the gates. Every child joined in the dancing when it was their turn, with many showing their parents how to 'dance Scottish' at the end. Exhausting, but really great.

### Appeal for further dancers

The wide range of demonstrations and gigs that we do so successfully is down to the commitment, talent and hard work of the whole team and its teacher, Paul Plummer. That said the team still need more dancers, especially men. If you would like to join us, and consider that you have both the stamina and skill base required, please feel free to speak with either Paul Plummer or me at a dance/event or contact Paul on [plummers5@ntlworld.com](mailto:plummers5@ntlworld.com) or me on [demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk) or 07779 202529. We really do have a great time and the classes are brilliant. Even if you think you may not be quite ready yet please still come and talk with either of us for advice as we would love to hear from you.

Elaine Wilde

## FAMILY DAY

Saturday 24 November 2012

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

11.30am – 1.00pm: Children's Class followed by lunch for all dancers

2.00 – 4.30pm: Dance to the music of Frank Reid

The programme will include dances from: A London Celebration, The Barmkin\*, Cumberland Reel, The Dashing White Sergeant, Domino Five, The Dhoon, Espie McNabb, The Flying Scotsman, Galloway House, The Honeymoon, A Jig for Mrs Dunn\*, Jig to the Music, Johnny Groat's House, It's all right\*, It's Nae Bother\*, The Loch Ness Monster\*, The Merry Reapers, Petronella, Rabbie's Reel, A Reel for Jeannie, Round Reel of Eight, The White Cockade, The Wild Geese

\* dances published in the Graded Book 2

Admission: £3:50 dance only

Special Day Ticket (includes class, lunch and dance) £7.00

Everyone is welcome for all or part of the day, and the dances in the afternoon will be talked through.

For more details please contact Angela Young, 07976 353608 or [chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## BRANCH BOOKSTALL

### At your service

Books and CDs for Scottish Dancers

Mail order from Ian Anderson,

104 Whitedown Lane, Alton,

Hants GU34 1QR

Tel: 01420 84599

email: [bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk)

10% reduction on RSCDS publications and recordings bought by members.

Please state your Branch when ordering.

See Branch website for full stocklist

## Forthcoming Branch Events

1 & 8 September Open Air Dancing (The Bandstand, Kensington Gardens 2.00 – 4.00pm)  
15 September Queen's Jubilee Dance (see p.1)  
20 October Branch Day School (see p.6)  
24 November Family Day (see p.4)

8 December Festive Fling with David Cunningham (see p.1)  
12 January Burns' Ceilidh  
20 February Winter Wednesday  
23 March Family Day and Combined Societies' Evening Dance

April Musicians' Day and Dance (date to be confirmed)  
15 June Branch AGM and dancing  
29 June SE Branches Ball for the Society's 90th Anniversary (see p.1 and p.3)

# RSCDS LONDON BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

**Saturday October 20 2012**

Paddington Academy, Marylands Road, London, W9 2DR

This year the classes will be Very Advanced, Advanced, Mixed Ability and Improvers levels, along with a Musicians' Workshop.

	Morning Session: 10.30 – 12.30		Afternoon session: 2.00 – 4.00pm	
	Teacher	Musician	Teacher	Musician
Very Advanced	Alasdair Brown	Peter Shand	Kate Gentles	Keith Anderson
	Applicants must be able to perform and execute all steps and formations to a high standard of dancing			
Advanced	Kate Gentles	Keith Anderson	Alasdair Brown	Peter Shand
	Applicants must be good dancers with a sound knowledge of all steps and formations			
Mixed Ability	Jimmie Hill	Barbara Manning	Gaynor Curtis	Phill Jones
	Suitable for those with a good standard of dancing and a sound knowledge of steps and formations			
Newcomers and Improvers	Gaynor Curtis	Phill Jones	Jimmie Hill	Barbara Manning
	Suitable for those with some knowledge of steps and formations			
Musicians' Workshop	Led by Keith Smith, this will take place in both the morning and afternoon			
	This year the course will concentrate on giving musicians a grounding in good technique for playing for Scottish country dancing both individually and as a group and will cover areas such as traditional and modern tunes, tempos, phrasing, sequencing and repertoire. Differences in playing for a dance class and playing for a dance will also be discussed. Although there will not be an opportunity to play for the evening dancing, everyone is welcome to stay and contribute a ceilidh item.			

**Lunch will be between** 12.30 and 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.

After the afternoon classes, tea will be served at 4.00pm, following which there will be three optional classes from 4.30 – 5.30pm:

Optional Classes	Teacher(s)	Musician
“Jubilee Celebration” Dances	Gaynor Curtis, Kate Gentles and Jimmie Hill	Phill Jones
Highland/Step	Alasdair Brown	Barbara Manning
Practical demonstration on using amplification for classes and dances	Keith Smith	

**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 **Keith Smith and Peter Shand**. 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 stamped s.a.e. 01494 772305, or margaretcatchick@hotmail.com. Application forms are also obtainable on the London Branch website, the Branch dance, or from your class teacher.

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

### The Origins of Scottish Country Dancing

Week 6 of *The Apprentice* found the teams competing in Edinburgh for maximum sales of gourmet street food. One pitch was in Parliament Square, a piper was found and two of the number, to bring the punters in, tried their hand at Scottish dancing! In the satirical follow-up programme chaired by Dara O'Briain he was describing this busy street scene of the piper and dancers when comedian Kevin Bridges quipped, “that was how Scottish country dancing was born – you have to weave yourself through, to get to the food!” It seems that even Karen, Alan and Nick plus all of the viewing public have now heard of SCD!

Perhaps Margaret, we should be holding an Apprentice Class too, along with the other classes at our Day School in October!

**Stephen Webb**

## FOUNDER

### CELEBRATES HIS 80TH

Not only is it the 60th Anniversary of the Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club's inauguration, but more recently it was the 80th birthday of George Bateson who co-founded the Club.

In the early 1950s, George and his older brother, Fergus, were Oxbridge students and enjoyed Scottish dancing so much that back home in Berkhamsted on vacation they wanted to continue doing it. With various friends and relations, including a younger brother, Robert, the Club was founded and has grown from strength to strength ever since. It now has about 100 members.

Along with his brothers, George led the Club for many years and his influence on it has been substantial. He was a very accomplished dancer and MC giving clear dancing instructions. Even now, as an octogenarian, he enjoys dancing regularly at the Club along with his wife, Alison, another member of the ‘gang’ who helped to form the Club. His legal mind is as sharp as ever and he is always keen to have clarity in the dancing instructions. In a most charming and often amusing way he is able to simplify the way a dance is being taught so that everyone benefits.

Added to these accomplishments, George is a fine bagpipe player and still plays at special Club events (see picture in *The Reel* No 280, p. 11). He also produces attractive pottery, plays golf and enjoys adventurous travel in far-flung places. A man of many parts!

To mark George's 80th Birthday, a new dance was devised by Stephen Webb aided by Joan Desborough, entitled *George's Strathspey*. John Renton composed music especially for it. At the Club's AGM evening in April, the dance was performed in front of George by a group of Club dancers to the music recorded by Ken Martlew. Details of the dance and its music are on the Club's website.

A recent picture of George is included on page 11.

**Alastair Cuthbertson**

### Robin Adshead

Dear Jeremy

I would like to add to the obituary of Robin Adshead in *The Reel* 280. He was a superb dancer and a complete, if somewhat eccentric, gentleman. He came to us at Burgess Hill at least once a year and I, a very incompetent golfer, had him as my partner in our club's Veterans' Day trophies, and as a companion, together with our mutual friend Jenny Ross, in many a pitch and putt competition, and for rounds at the local courses and south London courses when he entertained us in London or when we went to Jenny's.

I first met him, I think, at the Intervarsity Club Scottish dancing, and we had many a post-dancing visit to the pubs and coffee bars in South Kensington and elsewhere. He also showed us how really to do the strathspeys, reels and jigs at Margaret Ogilvie's class in Haywards Heath. He was also a competent tennis player and we played many a mixed doubles game on various public or private courts around London. My wife and I shall miss him very much indeed. He came from a complete Bridge playing, golfing and medical family but seldom spoke about it. It was a privilege to know Robin (or more correctly, Robert) although I never was able to play Bridge despite his effort to teach me!

**Donald Barratt**



## BILL CLEMENT, MBE

25 March 1923 – 17 June 2012

It is with great sadness that we heard recently of the death of Bill Clement, one of the great characters in the history of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, and also a significant figure in the piping and Highland dance worlds.

His devotion to the education of young people in piping and dancing was recognised when he was made MBE in 2008, and the breadth of his influence may be seen in the award he received from the Japanese Council General, bestowed by the Japanese foreign ministry for strengthening ties between Japan and Scotland.

Born into a Perth family with a long tradition of piping, he started with the Boys Brigade band. His own education was curtailed at thirteen, but subsequently his ambition took him to evening classes and he became an apprentice joiner. He joined the Black Watch in 1942, where he perfected his piping, and he ended up as Pipe Major of the 10th Battalion. It was in the army that he first learnt to dance, and by the time he left in 1946 he was appointed Senior Instructor



Photo: Stephen Webb

in Highland Dancing and Country Dancing at Redford Barracks in Edinburgh.

After the War he moved into education, first teaching in Tayside for eight years, and then at the Wallace Hall Academy in Dumfriesshire, with whom he remained associated until his death. He was invited in 1947 to join the Atholl Highlanders, whom he served for 52 years, latterly as Pipe Sergeant, and in 1948 he became the Society's piper. As such he travelled with the International demonstration team in the 1950s.

All of his spare time was taken up with teaching dancing or piping: he formed a dancing team at the Academy that subsequently performed (and, as the Thornhill Scottish Country Dancers, still performs) all over the world; many of his piping pupils went on to the Buccleuch and Queensberry Caledonia Pipe Band, where he was chairman for many years; at the Summer School his many roles including teaching the Men's Highland class.

Though he retired from the classroom in 1983, he lived a very full retirement, not least in meeting and marrying Atsuko Mikami in 1986. He was Chairman of the Society between 1996 and 1998, and devoted enormous energy to spreading the word internationally.

Andrew Kellett recalls Bill, as RSCDS Vice-Chairman, attending a big dance exhibition at Kensington Olympia, where the Branch had a stand, and watching the demonstration team perform. Later, as Chairman, he encouraged branches to get together to hold 'rallies' to celebrate the Society's 75th Anniversary. Not many branches bothered, but the South East

branches organised a combined ball at the Watford Colosseum, the first of several joint South East Branches events.

Bill and Atsuko came, bringing the Rt Hon Peregrine Moncreiff of Moncreiff along. Bill had been responsible for Peregrine becoming a Vice-President of the Society. He had numerous contacts among the Scottish gentry and was very conscious of the important role played by the 'big houses' in keeping Scottish country dancing alive before the Society took hold. Consequently his view of the development of Scottish country dancing differed from that of Jean Milligan. He had particular views on the wearing of hard shoes to dance at balls, on which he wrote about in *The Reel* 260. There is also a video, available at <http://scdkaleidoscope1.strathspey.org/videos/05-bill-clement>.

Bill had a great interest in passing on the skill of playing the bagpipes for country dancing – not a given amongst pipers. His legacy includes various recordings of pipe music for country dancing, which, in the digital age, can be found on iTunes and Spotify.

His most well-known contribution to the Society's publications is the name tune for Roy Goldring's dance *The Saltire Society Reel*, one of a string of tunes he composed that successfully cross the bridge between pipe tunes and country dance tunes (some may not realize this is a pipe tune). They were published in 2011 in a book that was one of the last things that he worked on and is available from HQ.

In linking the traditions of Scottish country dancing to today's world of dancing, Bill Clement represents a key line of development from the halls and balls of the great houses, as well as connecting the piping and Highland dancing worlds to our country dancing. He will be missed in all these spheres.

Jeremy Hill

## SUSI MAYR

December 1956 – 11 July 2012

We are sorry also to announce the recent passing of Susi Mayr. Based in Vienna, she was Chairman of the International Branch, organiser of the first international Scottish country dancing conference, and a very popular teacher of country dancing and step dance. She taught at several weekend schools in London, and for the last five years has taught at the Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club.



Photo: Jerry Reinstein

## OLIVE MACNEIL

29 April 1942 – 21 January 2012

West London has lost one of its popular dance teachers.

Olive MacNeil began dancing as a young girl at Hayes & District Scottish Association, which had been set up in 1956 to promote Scottish dancing for parents and children. She was in the club demonstration team and gained her MISTD in 1977. Olive taught Scottish dancing to adults at an evening class and started a children's class, where she guided many young dancers to an enjoyment of Scottish Dancing and to achieve their medals. In 1975 she became the instructor at Hayes, a task she carried out with great skill, dedication and patience until her illness in 2011. She also organised demonstrations for schools, colleges and church groups and also dancing weekends.

Olive met her husband Don in August 1959 on a visit to Stornaway. They shared a love of dancing and gardening. She loved working with young children and ran Praymates, a Mother and Toddlers group based at St Margaret's Church, Uxbridge.

Olive will be greatly missed by Don, Robert, Fiona and all her family and dancing friends. In her memory we have compiled a dance *Olive MacNeil of Hayes*.

Mary Barry



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## STRICTLY CHALLENGING – PASTURES NEW

September sees the start of Series 10 of BBC Television's *Strictly Come Dancing*. At the time of going to print, the participants are not known. What if there were Scottish Dancers amongst the contestants? How would they get on? Dennis and Diana Tucker, from the RSCDS Oxfordshire Branch, decided only quite recently to explore the world of Ballroom dance. Here is how they got on, and thoughts on comparisons with the original SCD – Scottish Country Dancing.

At my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party, to show that there was still some life in the old legs, Diana and I performed the Birthday Waltz, which was a little bit tricky, requiring neat execution of the old-time rotary step, natural and reverse; so we quickly decided that we needed a lesson or two from a professional teacher. These lessons were so enjoyable and instructive that we decided to learn some proper ballroom dancing.



With advancing years it was becoming apparent that while body bulk was increasing muscle bulk was diminishing, making the hop, which is an essential part of Scottish country dancing, more and more of a strain. Each hop means lifting your whole bodyweight vertically and for those dancing properly (not all of us, sad to say) that happens once in each bar – almost once a second in reels and jigs and three times a second in pas de basque. For ageing muscles and joints this is rather risky and the attraction of ballroom dancing, where you glide from foot to foot, was obviously strong.

We started with one weekly half-hour session of private tuition and we chose to work on waltz and quickstep. This was because long years ago, in my school-teaching days, we had needed to know a bit about them in order to supervise school dances. The ballroom waltz is much slower than the old-time waltzes which are used in Scottish party dances and it requires poise, rise and fall, elegance. The quickstep is exactly what its name suggests and we had always found it exciting to do just the basic travelling step round the room with a spin turn in each corner. We were quickly informed that much more than this is required: a variety of movements with neatness and poise. As we tussled with these and later the more sophisticated moves, our teacher decided that we should attempt our Bronze Medal which, after much hard work and great anxiety and trepidation, we achieved at the end of our first year.

### Gold Medallists

As our second year began our teacher advised us to add the foxtrot to our schedule and attempt the Silver Medal. A year later we moved on to an even more demanding teacher, adding the tango, with its very different tempo and rhythm, different stance, hold and foot positions and a new element of the dramatic. The aim was the Gold Medal: four routines to remember, higher standards of precision required, with much nervous tension. We doubled the length of our weekly lesson and in the end, rather to our surprise, all went well and we received our Gold Medal.

What we had been trained to do was to perform our four different, fairly intricate routines on an empty floor. Dancing these routines would, of course, be impossible on a crowded dance floor with little empty space and a need to navigate a course between the other dancing couples. The

art that I have yet to learn is that of separating the various components of our routines and performing them singly on occasions where they are appropriate. Diana, a talented ballroom dancer from her youth, has little trouble with this.

It is almost sixty years since I started Scottish country dancing, so it will surprise nobody when I say that I find ballroom dancing by far the more difficult of the two, in spite of its gentler demands on muscles and joints.

Of course, in Scottish we have our steps to learn, skip change, slip step, pas de basque, strathspey travelling and setting – and to do these precisely and elegantly is far from easy. Then we have a large number of figures to memorise, from reels and rights and lefts to the tourn e and the tourbillon. We have three tempi: reel, jig and strathspey, and in these too, we aim at precision and elegance. All these elements are demanding in themselves but the context in which they are performed is far more controlled and helpful in Scottish dancing than in ballroom. To begin with, we dance in sets of couples with nice straight lines, or sometimes squares, which we can regard as ‘home’, to which we can return regularly or in times of crisis. Any one dance will be limited to 32, 40 or 48 bars and it will be repeated four or eight times, so that we all get better at it as the dance progresses. And we also get two 32 bar rests in most dances when we can watch and learn from the others. Moreover, we dance as a team so that all the members of a set can help each other, especially in moments of forgetfulness.

### Everything gets more complex

In ballroom things are more complex, with many more variables and no guidance from other dancers. We dance as an individual couple. There are the four different tempi already mentioned – to say nothing of the many Latin variations – with changes of rhythm for waltz and tango, the latter having also a special character and style. Each dance has its own basic step for travelling and a simple way of managing corners but beyond that the myriad movements and figures are bafflingly variable to the learner. We need to remember: which foot do I start on? Am I going forwards, backwards or sideways? Starting on heel or toe, changing when? Ballroom hold or opening into promenade or other hold? Is my first step between or outside my partner's feet? Is the turn a quarter, half or other fraction? Which way should I be facing at the end of the figure? Which way should my feet be facing at the end of it? The figures may vary in length from two bars upwards to any number and they may be linked in almost any order.

To grasp all these ideas afresh, after sixty years of Scottish country dancing, is very hard on the brain. Old habits die hard. I remember being taught at Summer School in the 80s to make a daily habit of standing in first position, e.g. while washing up or standing in a queue. I duly achieved this worthy aim only to be told by our demanding teacher, “You don't need first position, keep your feet parallel”. She demands very high standards and doesn't mince her words: “Your feet are all wrong!” “You're facing the wrong way”. “Are you meant to be dancing WITH that partner?” “No! Not on your..... toes!”

As a latecomer to serious ballroom dancing I find the challenges daunting, especially hard on a failing memory, but the satisfaction of getting everything right – on rare occasions – is wonderful. With my dancing background I find ballroom far more difficult than Scottish. Would Scottish be more difficult for a dancer with comparable ballroom experience? I would guess not.

Dennis and Diana Tucker



## Unilever – Strictly Come Scottish Dancing

A request came into the RSCDS for a teacher to teach one dance to a group within the company for a formal evening when each department was required to do “any dance”. The manager of the group I looked after was Scottish and he decided his group were to dance the *The Dashing White Sergeant*. We had one practice attended by 22 members of his team. Having arrived with a distinct lack of enthusiasm as the practice was during part of their lunch hour, they were extremely high spirited by the time they left. In fact so enthusiastic were they that the two people in the team who had not attended the practice decided they wanted to join in for the demonstration so private practices were held during the week and they also decided who was to dance with whom for the competition.

The evening was set out as *Strictly Come Dancing*, with three judges including an identikit of Craig Revel-Horwood. When it was our turn we had an introduction by the compere and came in three across to walk around the dance area before joining up for the dance. The dancing itself, accompanied by Yvonne McGuinness on accordion, was very energetic with growing comments from the audience as the men were all in “kilts” of tartan material in the form of a skirt!

After some banter about knees and legs and formal “interviews” by a second MC our scores were 10, 10 and 10 from all 3 judges. We won the top prize and received the trophy. The dancers were delighted. More importantly the dancing served the exact purpose for which it was intended, which was for group participation and team building following the day the whole company had spent at the venue with that as their agenda.

Davinia Miln



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If you can help us in any way please complete the form below (or a copy) and return to the Branch Treasurer, Simon Wales, Flat 6, 86 Worcester Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 6QQ. If you pay sufficient UK tax, please also complete the gift aid declaration and remember to let HM Revenue and Customs know on your next tax return. The Branch and generations of future dancers will be very grateful.

## INSPIRATIONAL WORKSHOP

*Liam Stewart from Galstone, champion accordionist, music teacher and band leader came to London on 19 May and led a workshop for musicians, which was also much appreciated by those dancers who came to the evening dance. Here are the views of two of the participants:*

Liam Stewart has played for the Branch once before – at the Branch Jubilee celebrations in Kensington Gardens two years ago when he brought his three piece band to London. We enjoyed his music then but at the workshop on 19 May we realised more fully his potential. 15 fairly experienced musicians came to St Columba's to participate in what was a truly inspirational day of playing. Liam is a first class honours graduate of music from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, formerly known as the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, and teaches music at a very fortunate school in Strathclyde.

In working through the selections for the evening dance he tutored us in the styles of playing, the selection of music and the essence of playing for dancing, emphasising the essentials of mutual feedback between dancers and musicians, all of which were so well demonstrated at the evening dance. The portfolio of music he sent us to practise beforehand raised some apprehension, particularly with the many tunes in E flat – a rather unusual key for Scottish dance music, but one sometimes chosen by fiddlers specifically to make tunes difficult for others to play. He started off the workshop at a cracking pace but soon had us following: his whole being exuded confidence and music – no need to read manuscript for his performances! Once the afternoon session was over, Liam treated us to an impromptu concert played on Tony Doyle's Roland electronic accordion covering a wide range from Classical to folk music and speeds from very slow to very fast. Our many thanks to the Committee members who kept us well watered and fed during the day.

Fortunately, most of the participants were able to stay to play for the evening dance – and were not disappointed. All of us, musicians and dancers, left on a high. There is no doubt we will be enjoying more of Liam Stewart in the future.

**Wilson Nicol**

### A Simply Fabulous Day

There are good musicians, superb musicians, virtuosi and then there is Liam. After a discussion and Liam's demonstration of what he was wanting to hear, we played the first piece and from the first bar we were swinging together in an exhilarating manner that is heard too little.

I was thinking it was an amazing piece of luck, but no such thing: we were into the next set of tunes and again swinging along amazingly, and so it continued through all 60-odd pieces of music. The strathspeys were both a revelation and experience, with a great contrast between the "floaty" and the more driving tunes, none of the one size fits all philosophy that is so prevalent. My personal belief is that strathspeys are best on a fiddle as the bowing and vibrato make possible the shaping of notes which non-stringed instruments cannot do; but Liam revealed all the possibilities on the accordion – not the cutting of tunes into chunks you so often hear from boxes and pianos. This was a unique experience, so exhilarating that it made me want to dance, even though I gave up dancing years ago!

So we were all ready and waiting for the dance but where were the dancers? There were nearly more in the band than there were on the floor, contrasting sharply with my memories of Pont Street dances when it was hard to find somewhere to sit, and the floor was packed. It was a great pity because those who were not there missed something all too rare, and a huge amount of work, organisation and cost went into that day. The dancers certainly enjoyed the music as I learned talking with many of them during the interval. Perhaps London Branch should forget about absentee dancers and organise more Music Day Schools?

So what can one say of Liam? He is a virtuoso, both as a player and a leader, skills that seldom combine in one person, but in Liam they certainly do. To take a collection of musicians from far flung points and get us all playing, not simply as a unit, but as a highly expressive unit, swinging together, demonstrates his incredible ability. London Branch should certainly have him back for another day school, never mind about the dancers!

To top off the musical experience we were all very grateful for the magnificent way in which the "galley slaves" kept us all fed and watered all day right up to the interval in the dance. A very big thank you to all who were involved in organising this wonderful day.

**Iain Howell**

I would like to make a donation to the RSCDS London Branch Life Members' Appeal and enclose a cheque made payable to RSCDS London Branch for £ \_\_\_\_\_.

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# NEW RECORDINGS



**The Geordie Diamond** – Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Scottish Country Dance Band (NRSCDS 110). CD (£10) and book (£6) available from <http://www.rscds-newcastle.org/page21a.html>

*Dances:* The Geordie Diamond, The Newcastle Festival, The Wingrove Strathspey, Smiling Sally, Maureen's Medley, Still Buzzing, Double Score, Tyneside Ceilidh, St Chad's Strathspey, The Keys, The Devil's Water, Blagdon Hall, Newcastle Half Century, A Jig for Helen, Peter and Madeleine Quince

A recent review in the *Scottish Country Dancer* of the Geordie Diamond Book and CD, celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne-Branch of The Society, concentrated largely on the dances. The CD has Robert on lead accordion, his son Graeme on accordion, Roddy Matthews on fiddle and David Ashbridge on drums. There are 12 dances from the new Book and three from the 50th Anniversary Book. Most of the original tunes have been composed by Ian Thow, who played for the Branch for many years, and there is a lovely strathspey composed by Roddy.

This is a very fine recording with Robert and Roddy blending well on the melody, and some excellent harmonies from Graeme. Some interesting tunes throughout include, I think for the first time, "The Star o' Rabbie Burns" recorded as a pastoral strathspey. I highly recommend the book and CD.

**Take Your Partners, Vol. 3** – Luke Brady's Scottish Dance Band (LBSDB03). CD (£12.99) available from [lukesband@googlemail.com](mailto:lukesband@googlemail.com)

*Dances:* Sleepy Maggie, The Wild Geese, 12 Coates Crescent, Cati Ramsay, The Dhoon, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, The Kandahar Reel, Joie De Vivre, The Silver Grey, The Sailor, The Flying Scotsman, Gang the Same Gate, Inverneil House, Follow Me Home, Bruce's Men, John of Bon Accord

Luke Brady's new CD features himself on lead accordion, his brother Adam on second accordion and Sarah Downie on fiddle. The rhythm section has some 'old' friends helping to round off the overall sound: John Sinton is on double bass (John played for many years in Jim MacLeod's Band and is on the recordings made for London Branch in the 1970s and '80s); Maureen Rutherford is on piano; and Malcolm Ross on drums. This is a very well balanced recording, and, as Linda Gaul writes "As you would expect from a group of musicians of such high calibre the playing is exemplary", and I couldn't agree more.

The album is dedicated to the late John Huband of Dundee, whose playing first sparked Luke's interest in Scottish music. In addition to the dances from RSCDS books we have the *The Kandahar Reel* (5x32), *The Silver Grey* by Roy Goldring and *Cati Ramsay* by Linda Gaul. There is a lovely set of strathspeys for *12 Coates Crescent*, with the fine original by the aforementioned Roddy Matthews alongside two tunes by Muriel Johnstone. One of my all-time favourite reels is Jenny Dang the Weaver, in a set for *John of Bon Accord*, another great original by George Meikle.

I am sure you will enjoy both of these new CDs.



John Laurie

## A Collection of Dances to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee

To celebrate this year's Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, patron of the Society, a special collection of dances, music and photographs has been produced, in a limited edition of 1,000 copies.

From the many dances submitted, six have been selected: two reels, three strathspeys and one jig. The choice covers a range from complex to simple and includes a three couple strathspey and a square dance – something for everyone.

*The Royal Patron*, devised by Philip Whitley of Edinburgh Branch, has interesting ways into traditional formations, and will satisfy those who like a challenge. It is dedicated to Robert Mackay, who suggested the title and the busy William Marshall reel as the original tune.

*The Castle of Mey* (also a reel), devised by John Walton of Hamilton, Ontario, begins with Inveran reels, and finishes with my favourite poussette, a lovely straightforward dance. The Castle was Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's residence in the far North of Scotland, where she spent some time during the year.

The other dances have less overt Royal connections: Mervyn Short of the BHS Border Branch chose the name for the strathspey *Mist o'er the Loch* because he thought it sounded good. The dance again combines traditional formations through smooth links, finishing with

a modified corners pass and turn.

Ann Dix, also of the BHS Border Branch, devised *Rodney's Rant* for the 80th birthday of Rodney Mount, of the Saltire Scottish Country Dance Club. It includes diagonal rights and lefts, and set and link for three, a lively and technical challenge in jig time.

*Orwell Lodge Strathspey*, devised by Ian Brockbank of Edinburgh Branch, will be popular with those who like short strathspeys. A three couple dance, it has straightforward formations with a tricky turn into the half poussette at the end. The dance and tune (Jane's Thirtieth, composed by Alastair Wood) are dedicated to Jane Purves, for a birthday party held at the Orwell Lodge.

Finally, *Burnaby at Forty* is a 4x40 strathspey in a square set, devised by Rosemary Couple of Vancouver Branch. It makes use of the Glasgow Highlanders setting step, and is a lovely flowing dance, finishing with eight bars of Schiehallion reels.

All the dances have attractive and suitable tunes, which, apart from the two mentioned, have been selected by the Music Committee. The music published in the book includes chord symbols, but unusually, no left hand part for the piano, which is a shame in encouraging more pianists for dancing.

I am sure the dances will prove popular. In itself the book is an attractive publication, with an introduction by Alastair MacFadyen and some photos of the Queen's interaction with the Society over the years.

Rachel Wilton

*At a Special Class of the BHS Border Branch on Monday 17 September, Mervyn Short will be concentrating on the new dances. Everyone intermediate and above is welcome. For further details contact Shirley Ferguson, 01276 501952.*

*A CD of the music is currently being prepared, and it is hoped that this will be available for the Society AGM.*

### DEIRDRE ADAMSON

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# PHOTOS



1



2



3

## PICTURE PAGES

1. Angela Young and Pam Ellam at the **June dance** celebrate London 2012 Photo: Marjory Reid
2. The **Combined Societies' Dance** (Judith Rousseau and Danielle Reinstein as dancing couple) Photo: Jerry Reinstein
3. Esther Grandfield tucking in at the **BHS Border Branch Strawberry Cream Tea and Ceilidh** – see p.14 Photo: Stephen Webb
4. Liam Stewart with his merry band, and MC Iain Farrell, at the **Musicians' Workshop Dance** – see p.8 Photo: Jerry Reinstein



4

## Chiswick SCDC Midsummer Madness at Chiswick House

5. Ken and Bar Martlew, "Magnificent MCs" – see p.14 Photo: Michael Nolan
6. Jane Fisher and Kevin Kearns in *The Reel of the 51st Division* – see p.14 Photo: Michael Nolan
7. London Branch members at **The Royal Caledonian Ball** Photo: from Peter Knight
8. Sheila Brown (President) and Esme Bate (60 year member) cut the cake at **Orpington and District 75th Anniversary dance** – see p.15 Photo: Roger Brown



5



6



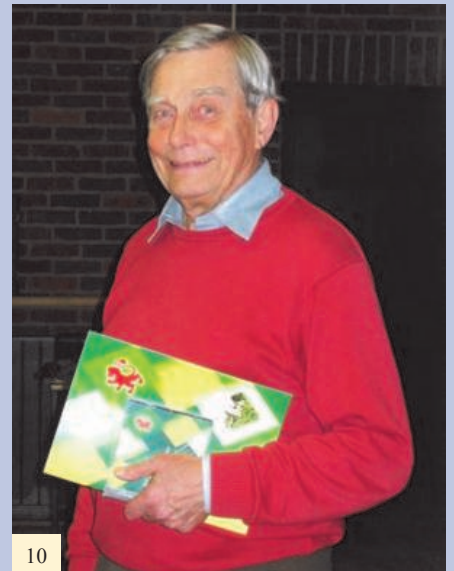
7



8



# PHOTOS



## Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club

9. Dancers from the Club after their Scottish dancing demonstration at the town Jubilee celebrations held in the High Street on Monday 4 June. From the left, the dancers are: Back row: Ken Martlew, Patricia Steed, Stephen Webb, Brian Rose, Keith Anderson, Robert Baker-Glenn; Front row: Joan Desborough, Lucy Reay, Diana Cowell, Jane Rose *Photo: Hugh Cowell*

10. Founder George Bateson celebrating his 80th birthday (Club Diamond book and CD in hand) – see p.5 *Photo: Stephen Webb*

11. Ian Robertson and son Tom play for the Diamond Jubilee Tea Party – see p.14 *Photo: Pete Williamson*

12. Lesley Fidell in a display at the Gerrards Cross SCD June Tea Dance – see p.14 *Photo: Stephen Webb*

13. Peter Knight and Stuart Thom at the Little Ship Club 40th Anniversary celebrations, where David Hall and Christina Hood provided the music – see p.15 *Photo: Stephen Webb*

14. Team building with a difference: the team from Unilever that came away with perfect marks in their version of Strictly Come Dancing, trained by Davinia Miln – see p.7 *Photo: Davinia Miln*





# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Name that Dance

Dear Jeremy

Stephen Webb's letter makes a valid point regarding dance titles. Any deviser could refer to the Napier Index, or to either of the two websites that have a comprehensive list of over ten thousand dances in the modern repertoire. But even this would not solve the problem as it is not unknown for two or more dances with the same previously unused title to appear in different parts of the Scottish dancing world within a few days of each other. The only solution would be for a central controller to be informed by each deviser of the title which he intended to use for his next dance, so that they could be recorded in advance thus enabling permission to be granted for the use of that particular title and reserving it against all comers. There could be problems in regard to competitions where several devisers all submit suggestions for the use of the same title. In one such case more than a dozen dances were submitted for one title, but by the time that the competition had been judged, the title concerned had been used by a deviser who was unaware of the competition.

Prior to Playford, there were no books of dance instructions. There were a number of manuscripts, produced for Balls, giving the names of the tunes to be played during the course of the evening, followed by the figures to be performed on that occasion. Inevitably some instructions became attached to a particular tune and were repeated on several occasions. In Playford there are examples of tunes appearing in several editions (not necessarily consecutive) with different sets of figures.

The majority of publishers produced books of music, with suggestions of the figures to be performed to them. Taking one tune as an example: "The Dusty Miller" first published in Dublin by John & William Neal, in 1726. There were at least fourteen different versions of the dance instructions prior to the definitive version published by the RSCDS.

At Georgian Assemblies, the name of a tune was announced and, after sets had been formed, the first lady on one line would be asked to announce the figures to be performed on that occasion – probably never to be repeated. This saved participants from having to refer to cribs between dances. It follows that giving instruction before each dance is an old well established tradition.

Rutherford produced some excellent books of dances, many of the dances comprised almost identical sets of figures, with possibly only a two bar difference. In some of his books the same set of figures were printed against more than one tune.

In the nineteenth century new tunes were printed by many different publishers, each of whom gave different dance instructions. Some of the publishers put any set of figures down regardless of whether or not they fitted the music. One particular (32 bar) set of figures appeared in fourteen different books under the name of a different tune in each one (in one of the books it was a 24 bar tune). Of course, as we are all aware the figures for the *Duke of Perth*, are known also as *Clean Pease Strae*, *Broun's Reel* and some other titles, even though these tunes also appeared in other books with different instructions.

The publication of sets of dance instructions by name appears to be a twentieth century innovation, which has alleviated much of the confusion which previously existed. Even though a dance with a particular title may no longer be attached to the tune with the same

title. The RSCDS has done much to eliminate this confusion by publishing definitive versions of dances. In the meantime if non-RSCDS dances, where more than one version exists, are included in a programme, the organisers should include a reference to the version which is to be performed or a suitable crib if possible. (One deviser indicated that if a crib was produced for any of his dances he would sue the organizer concerned for breach of copyright; as it reduced the demand for his publication).

Finally I was at one Ball where there was confusion over the choice of dance and music. Throughout the evening one particular set consistently performed different figures to the rest of the room.

John Mitchell

## Name That Dance

Dear Jeremy

Stephen Webb asks us to imagine what would happen if after doing one's homework a similarly named dance were to appear on programme. Indeed this did happen at a monthly dance in Toronto. On the programme was *Lady C Bruce's Reel*. The advanced dancers who glanced quickly at Pilling beforehand thought it merely shorthand for *Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel*. Those with Pilling were ready with the latter while the ever diligent beginners who had studied the crib sheet won the day!

Jonathan Allen-Friend

## Maggie Thomas

My name is Maggie Thomas,  
My father came from Wales,  
My mother from a village  
In the northern Yorkshire dales.

My grandmother was Irish,  
And, if I've got it right,  
My uncle kept a lighthouse  
Just off the Isle of Wight.

I've scrutinised the records  
And I've searched the family tree,  
And there is not one single drop  
Of Scottish blood in me.

When I go Scottish Dancing  
I'd love to cut a dash  
In a long white proper evening gown  
And my own clan tartan sash.

I envy other people  
In red and blue and green,  
I want to have a tartan  
I want to join the scene.

I thought I'd call myself Macaw,  
Macintosh or Machine,  
But they belong to other things,  
I want a name that's mine.

And so the only thing to do  
Is cheat a little bit,  
And give myself a Scottish name,  
So I can make a hit.

And so, Miss Maggie Thomas is,  
By Deed Poll, do not mock at her,  
Now known by her Scottish name,  
She's bee-ing Maggie Knockater!

Pat Batt

## The Next Step

Dear Jeremy

Enthusiasm abounds among less experienced dancers discovering the delights of Scottish country dancing, and acquiring new skills and knowledge. However, is this valuable asset, which could help regenerate Scottish country dancing, being sufficiently utilised? Enthusiasm becomes challenged when new, less experienced dancers tackle the next step from their classes, to attending the average dance where complicated modern dances dominate programmes. They may give up. Declining membership is a countrywide problem. As age takes its toll, how do we help our Less Experienced dancers to take their place?

Running dances for the Less Experienced is a good first step (see *The Reel* 279), but what next? One beginner asked which Club runs practices for London Branch Dances, and Summer Tuesdays, and was aghast when he realised that homework, using a crib, and prior knowledge of formations was required. (He didn't attend the Branch Dance). Yet it is hugely beneficial for Less Experienced dancers to attend 'real' dances, to see how phrasing, covering and good teamwork transform dancing, how experienced dancers don't require walk-throughs, and to enjoy the uplift of live, rather than recorded music.

Gerrards Cross SCD Club typifies the above scenario. Once a thriving group, membership dropped, until closure looked likely. Introducing and encouraging beginners reversed this, but means the Club currently has a high percentage of Less Experienced dancers. Their June Tea Dance was geared to this group too, but included some dances for experienced dancers, whose help was a major factor in the event's success. Superb displays of Highland Dancing by Lesley Fidell enhanced the proceedings (see photo, p.11) and as a bonus inspired improved posture and pointed toes! The Tea Dance will be repeated next year, but countrywide what should be the next step?

A solution from New Zealand may have merit: the NZ Branch selects nine core dances each year (all from RSCDS publications), six of which must be included in every dance programme nationwide. This ensures some degree of commonality between programmes. Would something similar in the UK help?

To maintain the enthusiasm of better dancers, some clubs, for example Chiswick, have found a 'traffic-light' format helpful. The Less Experienced can dance 'green' dances, or 'black' dances with a good partner; but 'red' dances are just for the experienced, so the inexperienced don't spoil it for them. In this way programmes can have something for everyone,

What are your views?

Barbara Martlew

## Dances RSCDS or non RSCDS

Dear Jeremy

In Issue 279 of *The Reel* there is a letter from Brian Wood, signed in his capacity as secretary of RSCDS Herefordshire Branch. I would like to point out that the views expressed are his own and should not be taken to represent those of the Branch.

No opinion has been sought or expressed by the Branch as a whole, although at a recent committee meeting it was found that most individuals present disagreed with Mr Wood's views and thought that functions under the RSCDS "umbrella" should contain a substantial number of Society dances.

Fran Smith



## RSCDS LONDON BRANCH ACCOUNTS 2011 – 2012

As promised at the recent AGM, here are my comments on the accounts. The accounts show a net outgoing resource figure of £6,863 – but £3,175 was a result of writing off the balance of the stock of Anniversary CDs, leaving the operating loss at £3,688, which was a better than last year's £5,077 but not sustainable even for the short term, hence the measures we are planning to put in place. The tentative recovery in the stock market seems to have halted as there was a small unrealised loss of £529 in our investments this year.

The accounts are constructed in such a way as to make it easier to work out, by subtracting costs from income, how the Branch has done in each area of activity: classes, youth activities, dances, publicity, bookstall and demonstration team.

**Class fees**, less hire of halls, less teachers' and musicians' expenses: £12,387 - £5,838 - £8,742 = £2,190 deficit. This is on a par with last year, but still over budget, but it shows that the remedial steps we have been taking are starting to work. Class fees have been increased from September 2012 and the number of teachers and musicians has been rationalised. The Day School remained in profit, but only just.

The net deficit on **Youth Activities** was £1,295, with the children's class subsidised by £858 from the Telfer donation. The costs reflect the support from the Branch for the two dances and the classes. The Telfer funds will last two more years at this level of expenditure, but the Anniversary Fund for youth outreach remains unspent.

**Dances** produced a surplus of £662 (income of £8,583 less expenditure of £7,924), thanks to good turnout at the Christmas and Burns' Night dances but there was poor attendance at the rest. This is more than £800 less than budget. Regretfully, the price of dance tickets has had to increase to cover the rising cost of halls.

The net cost of **Publicity** this year was £964 – however, the Westwood fund contributed the £580 cost of the Open Air Dancing. *The Reel* made a loss of £1,276 as there were fewer subscribers and the Life and Long Term Members' appeal fund has been exhausted. Advertising revenue was also down. It has been decided to increase the cost of advertising and also to have another Life Members' appeal.

The **Bookstall** generated a surplus of £175 thanks largely to the efforts of Ian Anderson.

The **Demonstration team** appears as "fundraising activities" i.e. £1,584 - £4,055 = £2,471 deficit, reflecting the promotional work done on behalf of the Branch by the Team. The extra five weeks of the summer term were self-financing to reduce costs. From September 2012 class fees will be re-introduced for this class.

The only other figure to comment on is the **Administration Costs** (£500) – slightly down on last year. Meeting expenses of £448 reflect the small subsidy to travel paid to delegates attending the Society AGM (£25 per head) and the cost of the Branch AGM. Next year there will be no subsidy to those attending the Society AGM. Thanks to the hospitality of Peter Knight and Margaret Shaw, there were no costs for Branch committee meetings this year.

We are very fortunate to have 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 have been the main beneficiaries of these funds. We made one grant from the Bill Ireland fund, of £150. The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary appeal to train teachers to take

## US Scottish Country Dancing - Is it so Different?

At first, it didn't seem daunting to write an article for *The Reel* about the differences between Scottish country dancing in the UK and the US.

There were obvious differences, of course. Scottish country dancing is not indigenous to the US so there are few casual dancers; US dancers are serious about it. The Wednesday night group of 40 dancers in Alexandria, Virginia boasts more than half a dozen certified RSCDS teachers.

But then I had to face some home truths. Except for a few summers in St Andrews, most of my 20 years of dancing was social dancing at the Little Ship Club in London, not strictly RSCDS and not characteristic of the UK. Then too, I've not danced long in the US, and only in the Washington DC area. I couldn't write with credibility. Walking into the Wednesday evening class, however, I realized "But I know a man who can".

Jay Andrews has danced for about 30 years in the US and Scotland. He's chairman of the RSCDS Northern Virginia Branch, and a member of the Washington DC and International Branches. He was fully certificated in St. Andrews in 2004. He teaches classes in Virginia and Maryland.

Jay suggests that there are enough differences to be interesting:

- Strathspeys are generally played faster in Scotland than in the US;
- When teaching or attending classes in the US you see more of the "Where am I supposed to be at the end of bar X?" attitude from dancers than you do in Scotland;
- Dance programmes in Scotland are frequently longer than their American counterparts. A Washington DC Branch Welcome dance usually has 12 dances and a major ball might have 15 or 16 plus repeats. English and Scottish balls commonly have 18 or more dances, plus extras and repeats;
- Generally speaking, the dance repertoire is different. There are dances such as the *Duke of Perth* and *Mairi's Wedding* that are popular on both sides of the Atlantic, but the *Wee Cooper O' Fife*, for example, rarely appears on US programmes, though not uncommon in Scotland or Europe;
- Both US and UK programme devisers provide a variety of dances to accommodate the full range of skills, from beginner to expert. Recently, though, there has been a trend in the US to include less challenging dances on programmes, perhaps reflecting the aging of the Scottish country dance population;
- The majority of UK SCD bands are accordion based whereas, fiddles dominate in the US. With the dissolution of The Music Makars and the death of (Canadian) Bobby Brown, really good North American accordion-based bands are few and far between.
- There's more birling in the UK than in the US. I'd say this is an understatement: I've yet to see an elbow grip here.

With all this, the similarities are more striking than the differences. Scottish country dancers are unfailingly welcoming to newcomers, whether beginner or skilled. And when the music starts, the smiles are in place and feet move.

Mary De Tuerk (and Jay Andrews)

Washington DC



Photo: Stephen Webb

## Popularity of Dancing

Dear Jeremy

I'd like to reply to the letter on the Popularity of Dancing in *The Reel* 280.

I have danced since I was six years old. For the first umpteen years of my life I reeled. I even danced on the White Heather Club with music by Jimmy Shand (who makes Frank Reid sound slow, and everyone else sound as if they're playing a dirge). It was quite a shock to me when I discovered (in my 40s) that there were thousands of other dances – not just the usual 8 – 12 that I knew so well. I rapidly became interested in learning these dances, which I mostly now know like the back of my hand.

I dance regularly at St Columba's, Pont Street on both a Monday (Scottish country dancing) and a Tuesday (London Reels). Despite my pleas as a member of the Monday dancing committee, they will not ask the Reelers, even when there is a "Combined Hall-users Dance", saying they "can't dance". I have suggested a programme of *Reel of the 51<sup>st</sup>*, *Speed the Plough*, *Eightsome Reel*, *Foursome Reel*, *Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh*, *Duke of Perth*, *Mairi's Wedding*, *Hamilton House* and maybe a few "new" dances such as the *White Heather Jig*, and an easy strathspey such as *Monymusk*, but no, the SCD people will not do it. So, I go off to both, and have a BALL. I dance with one of my younger daughter's former classmates (they are both 22). The first time I did so, Will treated me as if I were made of Dresden china, but I soon put a stop to that and whirled and birlled around the place with a huge grin on my face.

Reelers go to dances just as many times as the SCDs do, the annual highlight being the Royal Caledonian Ball, which I have been attending since I was 21. The programmes are always the same and none the worse for that.

So, unless you want your club to go the same way as the Chelsea Reel Club (which died of old age five years ago), wake up and include the Reelers. You never know, they may be like me and actually enjoy doing a few "new" dances. Would it really kill your dance if you had one line dancing Aberdonian style – from one end of the room to the other in case you didn't know – not doing wonderful footwork, and birling in the non-RSCDS fashion?

Caroline Allcock

dancing to young people has slowed this year, with two donations totalling £525 included in these accounts and the fund now stands at £2,215. Other donations remained at last year's level. Membership income remained almost identical to last year, but the increased postal charges and the loss on *The Reel*, which needs to be met from membership income, has led to the proposal to increase membership rates this year after many years with no increases. [Ed: the proposal was passed at the AGM. Details are on page 2.] Investment income was down as was bank interest, but still contributed a total of £1,506.

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow officers and convenors, who are always on top of their paperwork and enable me to keep the accounts on the straight and narrow. Also to Lena Robinson who acts as classes cashier and is 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

# NEWS FROM CLUBS

## COMBINED SOCIETIES

On 14 April, St Columba's Dancers had the privilege of organising the Annual Combined Societies' Dance at St Columba's Church. It is such a wonderful evening, bringing together dancers with a multitude of different concepts of what a dancing evening should be, to enjoy their dancing and acknowledge their joy at being able to dance in that wonderful hall. The five groups involved are the London Highland Club, the Little Ship Club, the RSCDS London Branch, St Columba's Dancers, and the Scottish Clans of London Association. What a feast of dancing this mix represents!

Each organisation submits six dances to the host group, who compile a programme aimed at being imminently danceable for all. Five MCs, one from each group, talk us through their dances where necessary. This year we had music from Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band, and my heartiest congratulations, guys, for such evocative music. Thanks to the St Columba's Dancers and everyone else in the combined societies for such a great evening.

Denise Hora Haugh

## Welcome Strangers

My wife Kathy Clark and I had the pleasure of attending the Combined Societies Dance when my work brought us to London. We currently live in sunny Oakland, California and dance weekly at Ron Wallace's step class and with RSCDS Berkeley Branch social class.

The Combined Societies Dance was so much fun: a lively dance programme, a truly fun group of dancers and great music made us forget the fact that we had just stepped off a plane from San Francisco after a 10 hour flight.

The amazing thing about Scottish country dancing is how similar it is around the world. We walked into St Columba's Church hall into a room full of strangers, and our first thoughts were "Uhh...maybe this wasn't such a good idea". But once the music started, and the dancing began, everything snapped into place, strangers become dance partners and we felt right at home dancing the night away. It was helpful that the programme was full of "old favourites" for us (and that we had made sure to walk every dance through in our basement the week before).

However, there are some small differences for us when dancing in London. For example, no one in the States uses the forearm, or Tulloch grip on the corner turn of 'corner-partner-corner-partner', the extended one-way circle at the end of *Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder* that our set did was new to us, and some couples effected twiddles in down the middle that were new to us too. The music by the Craigellachie Band was excellent, but is different than the fiddle led music that dominates dances in the Bay Area and our old home, the North East US. Finally, we were a bit worried when we walked in and saw people booking dances ahead, but our concerns were misplaced, as we had no shortage of fun dance partners.

Please join us in the Bay Area at the Asilomar Weekend ([asilomar.rscds-sf.org](http://asilomar.rscds-sf.org)) or at one of our monthly dance parties ([www.rscds-sf.org/events/#Monthly](http://www.rscds-sf.org/events/#Monthly))!

A very fun night of dancing, or as the kids say around here: "It was heck-a fun!"

Andy Peterson

[Ed: see also the article on differences between the US and UK on page 13]

Additional reporting co-ordinated from around the clubs by Stephen Webb



## BERKHAMSTED DIAMOND JUBILEE

As part of their Diamond Celebrations, 100 past and present members of Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club allowed themselves a bit of self-indulgence and gathered for a Tea Party on Saturday 5 May 2012. The venue, Potten End Village Hall, has been the club's dancing home firstly on Saturday evenings and then on Tuesdays for the vast majority of its 60 years.

Guests enjoyed a sumptuous traditional afternoon tea of homemade sandwiches, scones and cakes, provided by ladies of the club, led by Pat Milner, which were complemented by an interesting range of teas kindly donated by Malcolm Ferris-Lay of The Tea Consultancy. Altogether 30 former members attended, some travelling from as far as Devon, Harrogate and Ayrshire, showing tremendous loyalty. There were 14 Past Presidents as well as numerous past Secretaries and Treasurers.

As the club's current President, I asked Colin Garrett to cut the celebration cake and propose a champagne toast to the club's past and future. (Well known Berkhamstedian, Colin was not only the earliest-joining member present, but also a former President and teacher at the club.)

A range of photographs taken from the club's history were on display as well as videos of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Balls, which gave rise to much reminiscing!

The afternoon was rounded off with an hour's easy dancing to sparkling music provided by local accordionist, Ian Robertson who was joined by son Tom on the drums, all guided by MC Robert Baker-Glenn (see photos p.11).

Altogether there was an exceptional atmosphere and feeling of bonhomie which will be remembered for a very long time and proving that very special friendships are made from Scottish country dancing.

Jane Rose

## CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

### Scottish Dancing finale at Chiswick House



Dave Hall's dance band belted out great Scottish dance tunes at Chiswick House Gardens on Sunday evening, 1 July, as over eighty people danced on the grassy lawns of Chiswick House for the club's wonderful end of term "Midsummer Magic" Picnic Dance. Ken and Bar Martlew were magnificent MCs for the night, helping everyone through a fine selection of dances for everyone.

Club Chairman Nick Haimendorf says, "Seeing people have such fun makes all the preparation really worthwhile. It's a fantastic evening for everyone and a great end to our dancing season."

A programme of 16 dances of varying levels had something for everyone. Dave Hall was joined by Alistair Forbes and Bob Parsons, who together produced a well-balanced and excellent sound. Ruth Beattie had travelled down from Glasgow to be there and meeting up with her son Kenneth. Although cool, the weather was kind with much sunshine and none of the forecast showers. The evening's dancing ended traditionally with Auld Lang Syne as the circle on the ground was shone on from above with an almost full moon from a blue evening sky. Altogether a splendid evening!

Michael Nolan

See photos on page 10

## POPULAR DANCES

John Marshall from Cheltenham and Amanda Peart from Peterborough have submitted statistics on dances featuring on programmes respectively in the West and East Midlands. The results can be seen in the table below. For comparison, *Swiss Lassie* appeared on 12 (32%) of 37 dance programmes in the West Midlands, and *J B Milne* and *Pelorus Jack* on 15 (44%) of 34 programmes in the East Midlands.

Some interesting conclusions may be reached: significant differences between the areas, with only four dances appearing on both lists; some dances are popular in one area but don't appear at all in the other (e.g. *Broadford Bay* only in the West, and *A Trip to Bavaria* only on East Midlands programmes); how much some dances vary year on year; and how few traditional dances appear on either list.

West Midlands			East Midlands		
Dance	Ranking 2011/12	Ranking 2010/11	Dance	Ranking 2011/12	Ranking 2010/11
Swiss Lassie	1	50	J B Milne	1	32
Broadford Bay	2	20	Pelorus Jack	1	4
The Dream Catcher	2	1	The Irish Rover	3	50
Mairi's Wedding	2	3	A Trip to Bavaria	4	13
Mrs Stuart Linnell	2	78	Mairi's Wedding	4	1
Bratach Bana	6	29	The Montgomeries' Rant	4	13
Mr Iain Stuart Robertson	6	2	The Chequered Court	7	3
Pelorus Jack	6	5	Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	7	8
MacDonald of the Isles	9	20	The Sailor	7	87
Midnight Oil	9	8	St Columba's Strathspey	7	4
The Recumbent Stone	9	8	The Bees of Maggielknockater	11	63
The Gentleman	12	12	The Belle of Bon Accord	11	50
Gothenburg's Welcome	12	29	Bratach Bana	11	32
Maxwell's Rant	12	12	The Hazel Tree	11	19
Polharrow Burn	12	64	Seton's Ceilidh Band	11	13
			Swiss Lassie	11	32



## LITTLE SHIP CLUB

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The Little Ship Scottish Dance Club held its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration dance on Thursday 17 May at St Columba's Main Hall. The Club was formed by Peter Knight and others in 1972 when dancers met at the Little Ship Sailing Club in the City of London and subsequently moved to Pont Street.



It was a spectacular event and showed St Columba's at its best, as the screens were moved to reveal the huge windows, aisles and alcoves as originally intended by the church's well-known architect, Edward Maufe. Within the alcoves 12 tables were placed for 122 people and so allowed plenty of room to dance. Scottish, Nautical and Diamond Jubilee decorations set the tone of the evening along with Union and tartan flags. In addition, entirely appropriately for a Little Ship Club, naval signal flags were cleverly used to spell out the message "Congratulations".

The evening opened with a reception. Guests included many veteran members, in particular Bridget Lorimer and Godfrey Linnett, who had led the Club in the 1990's. After the reception, dancing began with the round-the-room *Nice to See You*, and a varied programme of dances followed. A delicious supper of Jubilee Chicken and a pudding of Raspberry Roulade were provided by Nino Harvey-Jones, and copious wine, ever the hallmark of LSC dance evenings, was included. David Hall and Christina Wood, on sparkling form, provided the music.

Stuart Thom, the Club Chairman, thanked Peter for his excellent and steadfast service to the Club and presented him with several gifts. Many will know Peter from his time at Dulwich, Hurlingham and the Little Ship Club where he has taught dancers with patience, imagination and just occasionally, exasperation! He has been MC at all the Little Ship Clubs' evenings and parties and has only missed two in forty years – what a record!

A pictorial exhibition of the Club's history was displayed in the foyer, put together by Elizabeth Colquhoun, an early and long-standing member of the Club. It was of great interest and fascination for many members. A number of photographs of the event can be seen on the Club's website. Thanks are due to all the Committee, Club members and guests for making it such a memorable evening. Apologies are due to those unable to get tickets, but we look forward to welcoming everyone to our autumn sessions. Further details are available at [www.littleshipclubdancing.co.uk](http://www.littleshipclubdancing.co.uk).



Photo: Stephen Webb

Hugh Stephenson

## ORPINGTON AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In 1937 a group of Scots living in the Orpington area decided to form a society to keep alive the traditions of their homeland. The Orpington and District Caledonian Society was born and, apart from a break during and immediately after the Second World War, we have continued successfully for 75 years.

The Society held two events recently to celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In May 60 members, past and present (including 16 former Presidents) attended a splendid celebration lunch in the hall of St John's URC, Orpington, a reminder of the Society's links over many years with the former Presbyterian Church. A cake was cut by the President Sheila Brown together with Esme Bate who joined the Society in 1952: a member for 60 years! The date Esme joined could be seen in the membership book for those early years which was part of a display of material from the Society's archives which provided the source of much reminiscing and interest for those present.



Dancing was always a feature of the Society's activities, though by no means the only one, especially in the earlier years. Programmes from those early years show many ballroom dances alongside Scottish country dances, some of the former still featuring in the late 60s before the Scottish country dancing took over almost completely. The Society has been active in the Kentish Association of Scottish Societies since 1952 and became affiliated to RSCDS in 1966.

It was therefore appropriate that an important part of our celebrations was an Anniversary Ball in June for 140, held at Bromley High School with dancing to Robin Ellis and his Band (Robin, incidentally, is a longstanding member and former President of the Society). Dancers from the Society's Monday's beginners/improvers class mixed with the regulars from the Thursday evening and Monday afternoon social dancing, together with many friends from clubs and societies in a wide area. Dances included *Anniversary Reel* – of course – and *75 Years On*, for which Robin wrote a tune for the occasion, along with a mix of Scottish country dances which had featured in the Society's programmes over the years, some going back to the 50s. It was a great evening, much enjoyed by everyone who came.

We are grateful that the Society is still in good heart and is continuing the traditions of its founders. Scottish country dancing is alive in Orpington. Long may that continue.

Mike Talbot

## RSCDS Medal Test Results

In July, young dancers in the London area were successful in the RSCDS Medal Tests. Margaret Ross travelled from Inverness to Bexleyheath to assess candidates from the Upland Dancers, who were joined by dancers from RSCDS Milton Keynes Branch. Separately dancers from the Medway and District Scottish Association were assessed by Rachel Wilton. Congratulations to the dancers and their teachers, and many thanks to Margaret and Rachel for being so supportive on the day.

### Upland Dancers

#### Introductory

Isabel Howat .....	C
Lauren Jones .....	C
Rebekah Orchard .....	D
Niamh O'Toole-Malkridge .....	C
Erida Rexhepi .....	C
Lucy Rowland .....	D
Emily Saunders .....	D
Emily Stockbridge .....	C

#### Grade 1

Jessica Goodes .....	C
Olivia Harker .....	D
Holly McGillicuddy .....	D
Bethany Orchard .....	D

#### Grade 2

Emily Furze .....	C
Emily Humphrey .....	C
Sasha McGillicuddy .....	D
Chloe Moleenont .....	C

#### Grade 3

Elena Anderson .....	C
Maisie Bevan .....	D
Holly Bolan .....	D
Marina Chen .....	D
Molly Down .....	C
Megan Stockbridge .....	D
Abbie Edwards .....	D
Megan Powell .....	D

#### Grade 4

Charley Griffin .....	D
-----------------------	---

#### Grade 5

Evie Booker .....	D
Tom Booker .....	C
Lucy Cutting .....	D

### RSCDS Milton Keynes Branch

#### Grade 1

Shona Morris .....	P
Elin West .....	P

#### Grade 4

Hannah-Marie Culley .....	C
Robyn Smith .....	P

### Medway and District Scottish Association

#### Grade 1

Alexandra Cope .....	C
Harriet Hill .....	P

#### Grade 2

Kesley Lovelock .....	C
Alexandra Cope .....	C
Harriet Hill .....	P

#### Grade 4

Emily Wickenden .....	P
Sian Wickenden .....	P

#### Grade 5

Tara Foord .....	C
------------------	---

P = pass; C = credit; D = distinction



## RSCDS BORDER BRANCH – Strawberry Cream Tea Ceilidh and Dance

Bursting at the seams, the large new Normandy Hall was the setting for Border Branch's celebration of their 35 years on Sunday 1 July with 160 guests attending an excellent Strawberry Cream Tea Ceilidh and Dance, with Ian and Judith Muir providing superb music to accompany the proceedings as usual. We were treated to seven sketches, acts and displays of great fun from different clubs – the quality of the entertainers was outstanding. The entertainment included a new dance devised by Ethnie Noakes, appropriately called *The Strawberry Cream Tea Reel* and featuring teapots, of course. This was demonstrated before we all danced it together, along with easy dances for the dancers of varied ages and standards to enjoy.

A special tribute from me personally to Deborah Driffin, with the children who are our future members, for enthusing into the young what fun it is to Scottish country dance. One of Deborah's teenagers now has skills worthy of a St Andrews Summer School dem team – a most talented and gifted pupil. We need to consider such Tea Dances to let many more children become future members – I have a grand-daughter who is already excited about the Maidenhead Autumn Tea Dance.

What a huge thank you all of us attending this highly enjoyable occasion owe to the Chairman, Committee and helpers for a most successful event.

John Nicholson

# HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball

Saturday 3 November 2012

7.30 – 11.30pm

Brentside High School, Greenford Avenue,  
W7 1JJ

## Craigievar Scottish Dance Band

*Programme:* A Trip to Bavaria, Butterscotch and Honey, The Dancing Master, Anniversary Reel, Gardeners' Fantasia, Aird of Coigach, The Fireworks Reel, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, Best Set in The Hall, Neidpath Castle, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Seton's Ceilidh Band, The Button Boy, St Columba's Strathspey, The Diamond Jubilee, Nottingham Lace, Kilkenny Castle, Olive MacNeil of Hayes, Queen's View, The Dundee Whaler, James Gray, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets: £18.00 incl. Buffet

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

Mary Barry, 020 8998 0667

Cribs available on website:

www.hayesscottish.org.uk

# RSCDS LYON BRANCH SCOTTISH CHANTERELLE

October Weekend

Friday 5 to Sunday 7 October 2012

Lyon, France

**Teachers:** Mathilde Tischmacher and  
Alasdair Gray

**Musicians:** Kevin Williams (accordion),  
Christina Hood

Easter Weekend

Friday 29 to Sunday 31 March 2013

Lyon, France

**Teachers:** Pat Houghton and John Wilkinson

**Musicians (accordion and piano):** Luke and  
Adam Brady

Contact Mrs Christiane Orgeret,

+33 (0) 4 72 34 66 03 or ochristi@gmail.com or  
www.scottish-chanterelle.org

# RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 27 October 2012

Headington School, Oxford, OX3 7TD

Ample free parking and on the London to Oxford  
bus route. Bus stops right outside the school.

## Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

*Programme:* The Happy Meeting, The Blooms  
of Bon Accord, The Birks of Invermay,  
Macleod's Fancy, Earlstoun Loch, The Duchess  
Tree, The Dancing Master, Swiss Lassie, Double  
Diamond Strathspey, Muirland Willie, Happy  
Returns, The Immigrant Lass, The Rose of the  
North, Scott Meikle, The Chequered Court, The  
Dream Catcher, The Royal Yacht Britannia, The  
Belle of Bon Accord, Jennifer's Jig, The Reel of  
the 51<sup>st</sup> Division. Extras: West's Hornpipe,  
Neidpath Castle

Tickets: £18.00 (spectators £9.00) incl. supper

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

## Advance notice: Burns' Night Supper & Dance

Saturday 19 January 2013

Benson, OX10 6LZ

## Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band



# BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB

Diamond Day School

Saturday 22 September 2012

9.30am – 4.00pm

Hemel Hempstead

**Teachers:** Helen Russell, Grace Hill, Sarah  
Kelsall-Patel

**Musicians:** Barbara Manning & Ken Martlew

Classes for all levels of dancers

Application Forms: Janet Aylward 01442

832061 or dayschool@berkhamstedreelclub.org

Advance Notice –Highland Ball

Saturday 9 February 2013

**Ian Robertson & his SD Band**

*Last year we sold out!*

www.berkhamstedreelclub.org



# RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER BRANCH

Autumn Social

Saturday 13 October 2012

7.45 – 10.45 pm

St Mark's Church Hall, Farnborough GU14 6TU

## Dancing to recorded music

Bring and share refreshments

Contact Chris Brown, 01252 674708

Christmas Social

Thursday 27 December 2012

7.45 – 10.45 pm

St Paul's Church Hall, Wokingham RG41 1EH

## Dancing to recorded music

Bring and share refreshments

Contact Shirley Ferguson, 01276 501952

Day School

Saturday 9 March 2013

9.30am – 4.00pm

Contact Ann Dix, 01344 429521 (Dancers)

Shirley Ferguson, 01276 501952 (Musicians)

www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

# THE REEL

*The Reel* is published four times a year by the  
London Branch.

It is posted free to all Branch members  
(membership enquiries to Gaynor Curtis,  
see advert page 2).

Non-members may subscribe to be on the  
mailing list, and Clubs can negotiate bulk  
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Janet Rudge, see advert on page 17

Articles and advertisements for *The Reel*  
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of the front page.

Advertising rates are £13 per column inch in  
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£19.50 per column inch in colour.

Enquiries to the

Business Editor Jeff Robertson,  
businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk

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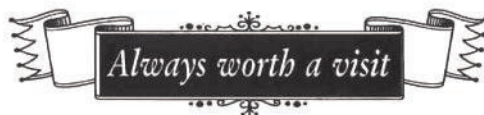


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**ST. JOHN'S SCOTTISH  
COUNTRY DANCING CLUB**  
Ruby Anniversary Ball  
Saturday 24 November 2012  
7.30 – 11.45pm  
Emmbrook School, Wokingham  
RG41 1JP

**The Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band**  
*Programme:* Swiss Lassie, Napier's Index, Balmoral Strathspey, The Blackwater Reel, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich, The Shortfield Jig, The Dream Catcher, The Reverend John MacFarlane, The Lochalsh Reel, The Reels of Dunans, The Machine Without Horses, Culla Bay, The Ladies of Dunse, The Diamond Jubilee, Kilkenny Castle, Anniversary Reel, The Starry Eyed Lassie, Neidpath Castle, The Dancing Man, The Montgomeries' Rant. Extras: Angus MacLeod, The Swilcan

Welcome Drink 7.00 for 7.30pm start  
No bar, but soft drinks will be provided – and wine with supper.  
Tickets: £17.00

Contact Sue Davis, 01344 774344 or  
alan.suedavis@gmail.com or S.A.E. to  
2 Larkwood Drive, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 6RL

### ASHDOWN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Charity Dance for *Guide Dogs for the Blind, Kit Wilson Animal Rescue Centre, and Cat's Protection League*

Saturday 15 September 2012  
7.30 – 11.30pm

Beacon Community College, North Beeches,  
Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 2AS

#### Caledonian Reelers Scottish Dance Band

*Programme:* Shiftin' Bobbins, The Luckenbooth Brooch, The Duchess Tree, Bratach Bana, Father Connelly's Jig, Kinfauns Castle, Never at Sea, Napier's Index, Autumn in Appin, Scott Meikle, Mrs Stuart Linnell, The Dundee City Police Jig, Alison Rose, Muirland Willie, Nottingham Lace, A Trip to Bavaria, *Band Solo*, The Blue Mess Jacket, The Irish Rover, Polharrow Burn, The Cashmere Shawl, The Bees of Maggieknockater, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets, in advance only please, £12.00 (child/spectators £6.00) plus please bring a plate of food

Contact Michael Copeman, 01892 655971 or  
michaelc.copeman@btinternet.com

### RSCDS ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Autumn Dance

Saturday 20 October 2012  
7.00 – 11.00pm

Mascalls School, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge  
Kent, TN12 6LT

#### Dancing to recorded music

Tickets £5.00 plus plate of food to share  
Contact Colin Simpson, 01892 532712 or  
socialsec@rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

### HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Autumn Dance

Saturday 20 October 2012, 7.00 – 11.00pm  
St Andrew's URC Hall, Eastcote, HA5 2SH

#### The Silver Cross Band

Tickets: £12 from Jim Henderson 020 8954 2586  
email: jwh698@gmail.com

#### Annual Ball

Friday 4 January 2013, 7.30 – 11.30pm  
Allum Hall, Elstree, WD6 3PJ

#### The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme in the next issue.  
www.harrowscottish.org.uk



15 – 17 February 2013

*Teachers:* **Jessie Stuart and Graham Donald**  
*Musicians:* **Robert Mackay, Chris Oxtoby and the Strathallan Band**

For further information and application form  
please contact Catherine Packwood-Bluett,  
01980 621 322 or catherinepb@hotmail.co.uk

### RSCDS BATH BRANCH

"Blue Sapphire" Ball

65th Anniversary

Saturday 16 February 2013

The Guildhall, Bath, BA1 1LZ

#### Dancing to Hugh Ferguson and The Dalriada Scottish Country Dance Band

Tickets: £25.00 from June Hall, Top Flat, 141  
Wells Rd, Bath BA2 3AL, 01225 318906 or  
jandjhall@btinternet.com



### LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

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

Fridays: Upper Hall 7.30 – 10.30pm

Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 – 10.30pm unless  
otherwise stated

Saturday 8 September: President's Night 7.00 –  
11.00pm (Jacket potato supper) **Craigievar**

Saturday 13 October: **Frank Thomson**

Friday 26 October: **Hallowe'en**

Saturday 17 November: **Kafoozalum**

Saturday 15 December: Christmas Dance 7.00 –  
11.00pm **Frank Reid**

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

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BALL

Saturday 5 October 2013

#### Dancing to Nicol McLaren

For further details contact: Frank Bennett on 020  
8715 3564, e-mail fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk, or  
Roger Waterson on 020 8660 5017. You can also  
telephone our "Dial-a-Programme" service on  
020 8763 8096 to hear our programme, or leave a  
message. Everyone is welcome at all our  
functions, so please come along and join us for  
an enjoyable evening.

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RSCDS (London Branch).

### RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

Christmas American Supper Dance

Saturday 8 December 2012

7.00 – 11.00pm

#### Dancing to Craigievar Scottish Dance Band

Tickets: £12.00 plus contribution to supper.

New Year Charity Dance

Saturday 5 January 2013

2.30 – 6.30pm

#### Dancing to CDs

Tickets: £7.00 plus picnic tea

Annual Ball

Saturday 9 February 2013

7.00 – 11.15pm

#### Dancing to Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Tickets: £16.00 including supper

Venue for all events: Corfe Mullen Village Hall,  
Corfe Mullen, Dorset BH21 3UA

Contact Margaret Robson 01202 698138  
margaret.brseds@nltworld.com



### CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Kilts & Posh Frocks

Sunday 9 December 2012

6.30 – 10.00pm

St. Michael & All Angels Hall, London W4 1TX

#### Craigievar Scottish Dance Band

MCs: Sin See and Jim Cook

Bring & share supper

Wine & soft drinks provided

Tickets: in advance ONLY – after 10 November  
Members £12, Non-members £15, Students £8  
(£2 discount for ordering before 26 November)  
Send SAE & cheques, payable to CSCDC, to  
Chiswick SCD, 16 Woodstock Rd, London  
W4 1UE

Contact Nick Haimendorf, 07990 573671 or  
[www.chiswickscottish.org.uk](http://www.chiswickscottish.org.uk)

### REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Formal Dance and Buffet

Saturday 17 November 2012

7.30 – 11.00pm

Reigate School, Pendleton Road,

Reigate, RH2 7NT

#### Dewhurst Band

*Programme:* Ways in New Hall, The Raven's  
Dance, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Lady  
Sophia Lindsay, Gothenburg's Welcome, Culla  
Bay, Mr Iain Stuart Robertson, The Dancing  
Master, The Gardener's Fantasia, Lady Catherine  
Bruce's Reel, Linnea's Strathspey, Kenora Reel,  
Inchmickory, The Blue Mess Jacket, Tambourine  
Reel, The Chequered Court, The Gentleman, J B  
Milne

Contact Wendy Mitton 01737 766244



### RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Valentine Ball

Saturday 16 February 2013

7.00 – 11.00pm

Hampton School, Hanworth

Road, Hampton, TW12 3HD

#### Craigievar

Tickets £25 to include buffet supper

For further information and programme please  
see our website

[www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk](http://www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk)

Contact 0208 977 5237/0208 943 3773

**ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS**

Annual Dance  
Saturday 10 November 2012  
7.30pm

Sandringham School, The Ridgeway,  
St Albans AL4 9NX

**Dancing to Craigellachie**

Tickets: £17.00 incl. Buffet

Contact Sarah Patel, shpatel@supanet.com or  
S.A.E. to 19 Barnfield Avenue, Luton, LU2 7AS  
For programme please see our website  
www.saintniniansluton.org.uk

**HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY  
DANCING CLUB**

Annual Ball

Saturday 2 March 2013

Harpenden Public Hall, Harpenden,  
Herts AL5 1PD

**Dancing to Strathallan**

Programme and other details in the next issue  
Contact Val Owens 01727 863870 or  
www.HSCDC.org.uk

**RSCDS CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH****Annual Dance**

Saturday 27 Oct 2012

7.30 – 11.30pm

Chesterton Community College, Cambridge, CB4  
3NY

**Music by Stradivarius****Winter Dance**

Saturday 2 Feb 2013

7.30 – 10.30pm

Emmanuel United Reformed Church,  
Trumpington Street, Cambridge  
Details: www.rscds-cambridge.org

## OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

**ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE**

CLUB. Dancing most Mondays, 8–10.15pm,  
Sept to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon,  
nr Oxford. All welcome. Details: Carol  
Gibbins, 01235 527211 or  
cgibbins60@hotmail.com or  
www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

**ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH**

SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15–10.15pm  
September to May at St Mary's Church Hall,  
Church Road, Byfleet, KT14 7NF. Details: Val  
Clack, 01932 845869 or  
www.addlestonscottish.org.uk

**BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL**

CLUB meets in Potten End Village Hall. Social  
dancing: Tuesdays 8.15pm September to  
May, Sat. gardens June/July. Classes:  
Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8pm,  
Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Judy  
Roythorne, 1, Pine Close, North Road,  
Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3BZ, 01442 875496  
or www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

**BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH**

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

**BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS**

meets every Friday at St Mark's New Church Hall,  
Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village,  
Bournemouth 7.30–10pm. Weekly children's  
classes. Technique class by invitation –  
alternate Wednesdays. Details: Margaret  
Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Rd, Broadstone,  
Dorset BH18 8BX, 01202 698138

**BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS.**

Classes for  
beginners, intermediate and advanced,  
country and highland, adults and children.  
Details: Rod Burrows, 01908 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 Tel: 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: Jacqui  
Brockner, 24 Hemingford Rd, Cambridge, CB1  
3BZ. Tel. 07916 892611 or  
jacqui\_brockner@yahoo.com.au

**CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY**

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

**CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS**

Advanced  
class Mondays 7.30–9.30pm. General class  
Thursdays 7.30–9.30pm. Bettridge School,  
Cheltenham. Also a Beginners class. Details:  
Margaret Winterbourne, 01242 863238

**CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY.**

Dancing  
most Friday nights 7.30–10pm from October to  
end May, at St Andrew's URC, Montpellier  
Street, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen  
Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village,  
Cheltenham, GL51 9RN, 01242 528220 or  
mbsteele45@aol.com.

**CHELMSFORD: SANDON SCOTTISH**

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

**CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING**

CLUB. Upper Hall at St Michael's & All Angels'  
Church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Road,  
Chiswick W4 1TX (right turn out of Turnham  
Green tube station, 100yds). Sundays from 16  
Sep 2012 till 23 June 2013 with Xmas and  
Easter breaks. Midsummer Magic open air  
picnic dance in Chiswick House grounds 30  
June 2013. Beginners' class 6–7.10; Social  
Dancing 7.15–9.20. Details: Tel: 07990  
573671 or www.chiswickscottish.org.uk

**CIRENCESTER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE**

CLUB meets most Wednesdays 8–10pm  
September to end June at the Bingham Hall,  
King Street, Cirencester. Details: Mrs Val  
Williams, Leaholme, Broadway Lane, South  
Cerney, Glos. Tel 01285 860660 or  
williams147@btinternet.com

**CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING**

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

**CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH.**

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

**EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.**

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

**EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN**

ASSOCIATION holds weekly adult dance  
classes for beginners and intermediate/  
advanced levels (September to March),  
including informal dances. Details: Dorothy  
Pearson, 366 Chipstead Valley Road,  
Coulsdon CR5 3BF, 01737 551724 or  
pearson2902@tiscali.co.uk

**FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING**

CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8pm,

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

**FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH**

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

**FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE**

SOCIETY dance in Church Crookham  
Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate  
Saturdays from 7.30–10.30pm, September to  
May. Details: Vikki Spencer, 24 Park Hill,  
Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 6PW, 01252  
691922

**GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY**

DANCE CLUB meets at Memorial Centre,  
East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on  
Tuesdays from September to June.  
Beginners 7.30pm, General 8.15pm. Details:  
Bar Martlew, 01442 261525 or  
info@gxscottish.org.uk or www.gxscottish.org.uk

**GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN**

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

**GUILDFORD SCDC**

meets at Onslow Village  
Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR  
most Mondays at 8pm from September to  
June. Details: Tel: 01483 456091 or  
www.gscdc.org.uk

**HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS'**

ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Tuesdays Sept.–  
June from 8–10pm in Elderkin Hall, 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,  
September to July in Hayes, Middx.  
Beginners and experienced dancers  
welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, 020  
8560 6160



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

**HEREFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing in this beautiful holiday area every week of the year. Visitors always welcome. Details: Brian, 01568 615470 or [brianraasay@btinternet.com](mailto:brianraasay@btinternet.com)

**HERTSMERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30–11pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN, 020 8367 4201

**HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Thursdays 8.15–10.15pm. September to July, tuition followed by social dancing. Also monthly Saturday dances and ceilidhs. All at Heston Methodist Church Hall. Details: Mrs Rosemary Mitchell, 01483 202386

**ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** meet Wednesdays September to June at Holy Trinity & St. John's C. of E. Primary School, St. John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7–8pm. General 8–10pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent, 01843 869284

**JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP.** Details: Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB, Tel/Fax: 01534 854459; Alan Nicolle Tel: 01534 484375 or [alan.nicolle88@goosemail.com](mailto:alan.nicolle88@goosemail.com); or Brenda Gale Tel: 01534 862357 or [scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com](http://scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com)

**LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Some major functions held at other London venues. Details: adverts in The Reel, Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG, 020 8715 3564 or [www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk). Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096

**LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL, 01494 562231

**MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8pm at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372 or [maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk](http://maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk)

**MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP** meets every Wednesday 7.30–10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details: Jane Masters, 251 Robin Hood Lane, Blue Bell Hill, Maidstone

**MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing Thursdays 8–10.15pm at St. Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 3HL, 01474 822919

**MEOPHAM SCD CLUB** meets every Monday evening from September – June at 8.15–10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details: Mrs Jane Whittington, 5 Coldharbour Rd., Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AE, 01474 359018

**MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS.** Mixed ability class Mondays 8–10pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 5LP, 01908 378730 or [jange@verybusy.co.uk](mailto:jange@verybusy.co.uk)

**NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays during school term, 8.15–10.15pm from September to May at St Thomas' Church Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, SG6 4DZ. Informal Saturday dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds. SG17 5AL

**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. Tel. 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: Pam French, 20 Beaumont Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent, BR5 1JN, 01689 873511

**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 from 8–10pm, September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Sara Ribbins, 157 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7JR, 0118 947 3207 or [sara@mribbins.waitrose.com](mailto:sara@mribbins.waitrose.com) or [www.scottishdancingreading.org](http://www.scottishdancingreading.org)

**REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets most Mondays 8.15–10.15pm, September to May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or [wmitton517@btinternet.com](mailto:wmitton517@btinternet.com)

**RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8pm from mid Sept. to end of May. Details: Tel: 020 8943 3773 or [www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk](http://www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk)

**SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP.** Dancing Tues 8pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or [gwood@gna.cc](mailto:gwood@gna.cc)

**ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Pont Street. Scottish country dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15–10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns' Nights when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Details: Denise Haugh, 020 8392 2920 or [dhaugh200@btinternet.com](mailto:dhaugh200@btinternet.com)

**ST JOHN'S SDC WOKINGHAM:** meet every Thurs 8–10.15pm Sept to June at St. Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Sue Davis 2 Larkswood Dr, Crowthorne, 01344 774344 or [alan.suedavis@gmail.com](mailto:alan.suedavis@gmail.com). Also Children's Class Sats 9.30–11am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831

**ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS,** Luton meet every Wednesday, September to June 8–10pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road, Luton, Beds. Details: Sarah Kelsall-Patel, 01296 681968 or Ted Andrews, 01582 508580

**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 [maggie.westley@rmh.nhs.uk](mailto:maggie.westley@rmh.nhs.uk)

**SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8–10pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Philip Howey, 53 Asher Reeds, Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0AR, 01892 862094 or [philip.howey3@virginmedia.com](mailto:philip.howey3@virginmedia.com)

**SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from September to May, 8.15–10.15 pm, in Barnes.

Details: Fiona Jack, 07780 671021 or [jack\\_fiona@hotmail.com](mailto:jack_fiona@hotmail.com)

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8–10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details: Pauline Cameron, 7 Wayne Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 9TS. Tel 01689 838395

**SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30–10pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177

**SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Fridays, 7.30–10.30pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30–9pm. Details: Mrs Edna Carroll, 01702 428974

**SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS.** Classes in Hertford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Hollybush School, Hertford; Beginners Thurs 7.30pm, Millmead School, Hertford. Demonstration 2nd Mons 8pm, St John's Hall, Hertford. Details: Jack Ginn, 01438 861754

**SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8–10.15pm at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details: Martin Heath, 01273 478069 or [m.j.heath@talk21.com](mailto:m.j.heath@talk21.com)

**SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday at 8pm from September to June at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY or [www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk](http://www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk)

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8–10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8–10pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Rd, Tunbridge Wells. TN4 9AL. Details: George Daly, 1 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5UE, 01892 534512 or [www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk](http://www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk)

**WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** General and Beginners/Improvers Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8–10pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or [reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk](mailto:reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk)

**WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Wednesdays 8–10 pm September to June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or [welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net](mailto:welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net)

**WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Dance Class Mondays 8pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford. WD19 5HF, 0203 078 0018

**WIMBLEDON.** St Andrew Society (London): Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8pm at Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1SB. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3JB, 020 8540 1755 or [araffan@googlemail.com](mailto:araffan@googlemail.com) or [www.standrewsoclondon.net](http://www.standrewsoclondon.net)

**WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 8–10pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8–10pm. Both evenings at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ, 01264 363293 or [wendy@mumford.com](mailto:wendy@mumford.com)

**WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8–10pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Beryl Munro, 01621 850838 or [beryl.munro@btinternet.com](mailto:beryl.munro@btinternet.com)



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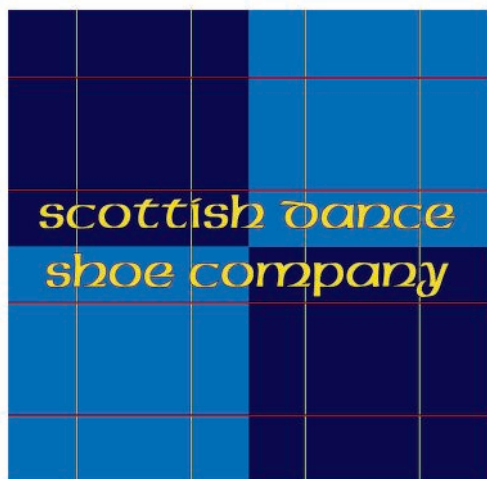
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Dancers at the Branch's recent Open Air Dancing  
in Kensington Gardens dancing *A London  
Celebration*. There is further Open Air Dancing on  
1 and 8 September.

## ON THEIR TRAVELS

London Branch members Dave and Judy Hall and  
their children have packed their bags as Dave has  
taken up a work assignment in Kenya. We wish  
them all the very best, and hope they will continue  
to find time for some dancing and music while  
they are there. Given the historic connections,  
perhaps the dance should be the *Earl of Errol*.



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