



The Reel

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
www.rscdslondon.org.uk Registered Charity number 1067690



Dancing is FUN!

No 263

FEBRUARY to APRIL 2008

BRANCH DANCE

'Mingle in March'

Saturday 15 March 2008
St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St,
London SW1X 0BD
7.00-10.30pm

Kafoozalium

Good Hearted Glasgow	Knapman
The Dashing White Sergeant	3/2
John McAlpin	Foss/L.2007
Antarctica Bound	Scotia Suite
Petronella	1/1
Monymusk	11/2
Jennifer's Jig	Drewry
The Belle of Bon Accord	Drewry
The Eightsome Reel	2/12
Joie de Vivre	39/2
The Highland Rambler	Leeds 25
The Robertson Rant	39/8
Ladies' Fancy	13/2
West's Hornpipe	5 Trad.3
Lady Charlotte Bruce	MMM2
The College Hornpipe	20/12
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	L.18
The Reel of the 51st Division	13/10

Admission £7.50 members,
£8.50 non members, £2.00 Children,
members' children admitted free.



A happy contingent of French dancers come to share Christmas with London Branch

Stephen Webb

MUSICAL MAY

Dance to the Musicians

Saturday 10 May 2008
7.00-10.30pm.
St. Columba's Church Hall,
Pont St. SW1X 0BD

Gordon Simpson and the Musicians

Lamb Skinnet	14/12
Catch the Wind	45/5
Bridge of Nairn	13/11
The Diamond Jubilee	31/1
The Clansman	32/8
The Lea Rig	21/5
Pelorus Jack	41/1
Glasgow Lassies	34/3
Flowers of Edinburgh	1/6
Miss Allie Anderson	L.16
The Reverend John Macfarlane	37/1
The Braes of Breadalbane	21/7
Quarries' Jig	36/3
Johnnie's Welcome Hame	32/1
The Dream Catcher	45/9
Miss Hadden's Reel	23/5
Neidpath Castle	Haynes
Duke of Perth	1/8

Admission £7.50 members,
£8.50 non members, £2.00 Children,
members' children admitted free.

COMBINED SOCIETIES DANCE

A joint event with Chelsea Reel Club, Little Ship Club, London Highland Club, and Scottish Clans Association of London, and hosted this year by St. Columba's Dancers

Saturday 12 April 2008, 7.00-10.30 pm
St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St. SW1X 0BD

David Hall and his Band

The Laird of Milton's Daughter	22/10
The Royal Yacht Britannia	43/3
The Robertson Rant	39/8
Quarries' Jig	36/3
Shiftin' Bobbins	Clowes
The Braes of Breadalbane	21/7
Waverley	15/12
Wisp of Thistle	37/4
General Stuart's Reel	10/3
Pelorus Jack	41/1
Miss Johnstone of Ardrrossan	Goldring
Byron Strathspey	Drewry
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder	Hamilton
The Montgomerie's Rant	10/1
Monymusk	11/2
Mrs. Stewart's Jig	35/1
The Belle of Bon Accord	Drewry
The Irish Rover	Cosh

Admission £8 Children under 12 £2
Enquiries: Bob Harman 020 8642 7192
bobandmegharman@aol.com

MOST POPULAR DANCES IN SOUTHEAST ENGLAND

Iain Ross, a London Branch member running a dance group in the Middle East chooses his dances from amongst the most popular from the dance programmes in southeast England taken from the two email services (email@ craigellachie.demon.co.uk and info@summertuesdays.co.uk). He would be interested in any other similar programme listing service that our readers might know of. In the year July 2006 to June 2007 the top 25 were in descending order (frequency in italics):

Pelorus Jack 29, Hooper's Jig 25, The Dream Catcher 23, Mairi's Wedding 23, Miss Johnstone of Ardrrossan 23, The Bees of Maggiecknockater 21, The Montgomerie's Rant 21, Trip to Bavaria 21, The Anniversary Reel 20, Shiftin' Bobbins 20, Bratach Bana 19, Plantation Reel 19, The Reel of the Royal Scots 19, Jennifer's Jig 18, Neidpath Castle 18, Quarries' Jig 18, The Reel of the 51st Division 18, St Columba's Strathspey 18, The Highland Rambler 16, Macdonald of the Isles 17, Maxwell's Rant 17, Posties' Jig 17, Seton's Ceilidh Band 17, The Wild Geese 17, Wind on Loch Fyne 17.

It is interesting to note that fewer than half are RSCDS dances.

Issue No 264 will be with UK based members by 3 May 2008 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent preferably by email to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk. Postal contributions should be sent to Wilson Nicol, 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS to arrive by **5 April 2008**. (Issue No 265 will arrive by 30 August 2008).

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

BRANCH AGM

Friday 13 June 2008

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held at St Columba's Church (Upper Hall), Pont Street, London, SW1 on Friday 13 June 2008. Tea will be served at 6.30pm and the meeting will begin at 7.30pm. There will be dancing after the meeting. This is the annual opportunity to participate in and contribute to the work of your Branch and Society. **Note the later times this year.**

Please make an effort to attend to ensure your views are heard. Any member may propose a motion for consideration at the AGM. These must be signed by a proposer and seconder and be sent to the Branch Secretary (address col. 3) to reach him by 20 March. Any topic may be raised under 'Any Other Business' but decisions can only be taken on motions. The agenda, including any motions submitted in advance, will appear in the next issue of *The Reel*.

You may like to consider standing for the Committee or nominating someone. Nominations for the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer and eleven ordinary members of the committee must reach the Secretary by 24 March. Nominations must be signed by a proposer and seconder and by the nominee, all of whom must be members of the Branch. If necessary, a postal ballot paper will be sent to Branch members with the May issue of *The Reel*.

The present office holders and Committee members, and the dates on which they joined or last rejoined the Committee are as follows:

Chairman	Rachel Wilton	1993
Vice-Chairman	Jeff Robertson	1999
Secretary	Stewart Murray	2006
Treasurer	Simon Wales	2003

Gillian Bloomfield 2007; Margaret Catchick 2003; Pamela Ellam 2000; James Fairbairn 2006; Andrew Kellett 2005; Wilson Nicol 2005; Lena Robinson 2005; Margaret Shaw 2007; Moira Strutt 2004; Angela Young 2000; Rosalind Zuridis 2006.

Having served for three consecutive years as chairman, Rachel Wilton must retire from the Committee. Jeff Robertson must stand down as Vice Chairman after three consecutive years in that post. Otherwise all of the above are eligible for re-election.

If you have any queries about the AGM please contact the secretary, Stewart Murray.

THE WORK OF THE LONDON BRANCH COMMITTEE

The Committee meets SEVEN times a year, usually at St. Columba's Church. Each member of the Committee is also a member of a sub-committee; the choice of which sub-committee is agreed with the Chairman and follows the member's particular interest. The sub-committees meet occasionally but a lot of work is now done electronically.

The sub-committees are all responsible to the main Committee and titles speak for themselves:-

Classes – includes weekly country dancing classes to highland and step dance classes, Sunday technique classes, classes to train teachers; find and book halls, suggest and arrange for teachers and musicians, organise payment, registration and collect class fees.

Dances – Set dates, liaising with all the groups that use St. Columba's; suggest and then book bands; book halls; organise catering; organise the helpers for the evening.

Publicity – includes *The Reel* and the website; organising and distributing flyers; finding and then liaising with outside agencies; thinking ahead about all ways of raising the profile of what we do.

Demonstration Class – a link between the Committee and the class; receiving and organising demonstration requests; setting fees; organising musicians for demonstrations; (the teacher, musician and hall comes under 'classes').

Youth – dates, bands and halls are organised with the Dances Sub-committee. Do anything possible to organise opportunities for young people to dance – Family Days, RSCDS Medals, Tests and children's classes

Each Committee member is a trustee of the Branch in its status as a charity.

We are also fortunate to have non-Committee members who have positions of responsibility as you will see from the list in the next column.

Think about standing for election as one of this happy band, or just offer your services as a helper – there are several dancers who help regularly and there are many jobs – making tea, putting up decorations, pouring drinks, making a loaf of sandwiches.

Speak to a Committee member if you are interested.

Rachel Wilton

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

I hope you were among the many dancers who enjoyed our recent functions. Colin Dewar and his Band played to a filled hall to 'Celebrate Christmas'; it was crowded but as a keen dancer said – a crowd produces the atmosphere and atmosphere there certainly was, dancing and a meeting of friends. The Burns Supper/Ceilidh dance was equally well attended; the new Strathallan Band provided wonderful music – the first time they have played for the Branch – and Denise Haugh and her team fed everyone a delicious haggis supper with her usual skill and expertise. Denise is going to have a rest from this job next year and we thank her very much for all her hard work and commitment.

Classes are flourishing under Branch management in Sloane Avenue but new members are always welcome, especially beginners – if you have any friends who might be interested, send them along for a free 'taster'.

You will see from the previous article that the AGM is now being advertised; if you would like to stand for the Committee please contact the Secretary for details; no previous experience is required since the subcommittee structure allows for teams of people to work together; you just need enthusiasm and energy and all Scottish Country dancers have that!

If you are interested standing for one of the Society's Committees in Edinburgh there is that possibility too, (see next page).

It is time to think about Dance Scottish Week (see next page), sharing ideas to bring in new dancers; I have heard of two groups who are doing this very successfully but also a sad story of a group who found new dancers too much of a challenge; the welcome is so important, together with an understanding that what is easy and obvious to us is often totally incomprehensible to visitors; some do not mind and will have a go but others do mind and it is up to us to support their efforts to 'get it right' and gradually learn to smile as well as dance.

Spring is approaching and the pages of *The Reel*, the website and the Dances Diary show many opportunities to dance, every night of the week if you wish, so do not let the weather lower your spirits, take your shoes and go and share in this wonderful activity of ours, amongst all those smiling faces.

Rachel Wilton

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE SOCIETY



Patron - H.M. The Queen

HEADQUARTERS:

12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7AF.
Tel: 0131 225 3854; Fax: 0131 225 7783,
e-mail: info@rscds.org.
www.rscds.org.

LONDON BRANCH

Hon. President:

Mary Stoker

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

Mary Barker, Stella Booth, Ellen Garvie,
Jenny Greene, Marie Jamieson,
John Laurie, Owen Meyer, Rosemary Tilden.

Chairman:

Rachel Wilton,
31 Kensing Road, London SE10 0LL.
Tel: 020 8858 7729.
e-mail: wiltonrachel@hotmail.com

Vice-Chairman:

Jeff Robertson,
31 Alinora Avenue,
Goring by Sea,
West Sussex BN12 4NA.
Tel: 01903 245718.
e-mail: jtr@ctg.co.uk

Hon. Secretary:

Stewart Murray,
139 Cottenham Park Road,
London, SW20 0DW.
Tel: 020 8946 3150.
e-mail: stewart.murray@btinternet.com

Hon. Treasurer:

Simon Wales,
Flat 6, 86 Worcester Rd, Sutton,
Surrey SM2 6QQ. Tel: 020 8643 0952.
e-mail: simon_wales@talk21.com

SUB-COMMITTEES

Youth: Andrew Kellett, Angela Young

Classes: Moira Strutt, Gillian Bloomfield,
Margaret Catchick (Day School), Pamela Ellam,
Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw

Dances: Rachel Wilton, Gillian Bloomfield,
Margaret Catchick, Jeff Robertson,
Angela Young

Demonstrations: James Fairbairn, Angela Young

Publicity: Rosalind Zuridis, Lindsay Jenkins*,
Rita Marlow*, Wilson Nicol (Reel),
Meryl Thomson*(website)

Open-air Dances: James Fairbairn,
Jeff Robertson

Membership: Gaynor Curtis*

Bookstall: Ian Anderson*

Central Council of Physical Recreation:
Marie Jamieson*, Simon Wales.

Hon Archivist: Iris Anderson*

S E Branches: Andrew Kellett, Simon Wales

Combined Societies: Rachel Wilton

*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

Website

www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Objects of London Branch

To advance the education of the public in the London area in traditional Scottish Country Dancing, in particular by:

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

HONOUR FOR SOCIETY FORMER CHAIRMAN

In the New Year Honours list, Bill Clement was awarded the MBE for services to piping and Scottish Country Dancing.



His long association with the RSCDS started in 1947 at the Summer School in St Andrews, after years as a senior instructor in Scottish Dancing for all Highland Regiments in the army. From 1948 he was on the Summer School staff teaching both Scottish Country and Highland dancing for more than 40 years. In the next decade he piped and danced for Miss Milligan and the Society's International Team at Festivals throughout Europe, and had the honour of piping for the Edinburgh Branch Team at Holyrood Palace in 1957 and at the Kings Theatre in 1978 for The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

He has taught at day and weekend schools all over the world and in 1975 was the first teacher sent by the Society to Japan. He represented Northern Virginia Branch on the Executive Council for many years and was on the Publication and Research Committee for some 25 years. All of this culminated in his period of office as Chairman of the Society 1996-1998 when he arranged the Society's 75th Anniversary Royal Reception in Edinburgh City Chambers attended by HM The Queen. In 1993 he received the Society Scroll.

"My association with the RSCDS has given me so very much pleasure; I will always be grateful for the support I received from Dr. Milligan and the many opportunities given me by the Society."

Bill Clement has been a regular contributor to *The Reel* and we are glad to share his honour.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch costs £14.00 per annum for UK based members (£14.50 for Europe; £16.50 elsewhere). Current members of other Branches can join London Branch for £4.00 per annum if they live in the UK (£4.50 in Europe and £6.50 elsewhere).

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, St. Johns, Woking, Surrey GU21 3QB. Tel: 01483 721989.



EDITORIAL

When Mrs. Stewart and Jean Milligan founded The Scottish Country Dance Society in 1923 to save country dancing from oblivion, it took until the end of the 1939-45 war before the dramatic rise in its popularity was apparent. Since then although popularity has waned a little, the spawning of new dances has really taken off. Currently there are over 13,000 Scottish Country dances of which fewer than 1,000 are 'official' RSCDS dances. The tail has surely wagged the dog! In a way the RSCDS is flying in the face of natural progress because through the ages dancing of all kinds has been changing and will continue to change. What the RSCDS has done is to stimulate innovation – the opposite of why it was formed!

Wilson Nicol

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

AGM 2007 In response to the range of issues raised at the AGM, General Purposes & Finance will review the reserves policy, consider alternative methods of fundraising other than subscriptions and investigate a more effective use of the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund and Gift Aid.

The Management Board is taking advice on issues of governance and procedures and the working group's review of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) governance checklist has been considered. These matters will be addressed during the coming year.

Future CD Production: Of the seven CDs needed to complete the digital recording of music for all the books, it has been agreed to continue with the next three as production is well advanced. Alternative means of funding the remaining four CDs and the question of making tracks available for download will be investigated by Membership Services after the next MB meeting when there would be a better understanding of the financial position.

Sub-Committees and Working Groups: Standing groups will now be named Panels and the term working group will be reserved for groups formed for a limited term or specific purpose.

Conference Weekend and AGM: The report from the Members' Forum will be circulated and reports made to the Management Board on the issues raised.

Technique Sub Committee: On a recommendation from the outgoing co-ordinator on its future structure and role, the Technique Sub-Committee will now be known as the **Technique Panel** and will be a joint Education & Training and Member Services responsibility with the panel selected by the two relevant Convenors.

Dance Scottish: Another Dance Scottish Week will be held in 2008 (see next column) with a self financing dance/ball and a low key launch at HQ.

Outside Scotland: An event in Geneva is planned for 3-5 July and the programme is being developed and advance notices posted.

Education and Training Committee: Lucy Smallwood and Ann Dix have been appointed to the two vacancies for one year, and the voluntary post of Youth Events Co-ordinator was agreed on to help support the Youth Director.

Membership Services Committee: The online database is now running and generally well received by Branches. Anne Carter has been appointed to the vacancy for one year.

Affiliated Groups: An application for affiliation from the Seahouses Scottish Country Dance Group Northumberland was approved.

Jeff Robertson

Would YOU like to serve the RSCDS in Edinburgh?

The Management Board and the Membership Services Committee, the Education and Training Committee and the General Purposes and Finance Committee will all have vacancies in November; the voting is carried out by the Branches in October and the votes counted and result announced at the AGM over the weekend of 7-9 November, this year to be held in Perth again. It may seem a long time ahead but now is the time to be thinking about it. Nomination Forms can be obtained from Headquarters or our Secretary. You need to find a proposer, a seconder and ten Society members to sign the form; all other information will be sent to you.

Any questions to Rachel Wilton or Jeff Robertson (contact details on Page 2).

FOSTERING CONTACT WITH BRANCHES AND MEMBERS

The RSCDS Management Board is sponsoring a world-wide seminar under the title *Kaleidoscope* on issues of Scottish Country Dancing, for dancers, teachers, and musicians, especially those outside Scotland.

The event will be held in Switzerland in the Geneva area over the weekend of 3-5 July 2009. It is intended as an international forum to promote ideas and generate discussion on a range of topics not usually covered by SCD workshops and will include breakout sessions, panel discussions, ample opportunity to speak with the Chairman, Convenors of the RSCDS Committees and Management Board members, and for networking among participants. There will be an exhibition of SCD-related goods, published proceedings, a Saturday evening dance and on arrival an evening for meeting and informal discussions.

If you would like to share your views (conventional or controversial) about SCD, or have a special area of interest or expertise from which you think others might benefit, we want to hear about it.

Branches are invited to sponsor or support the event, and have their logo associated with it, particularly to make the event cost as accessible for as many of those interested as possible.

To request further information about *Kaleidoscope*, comment on the outline given above, or submit a proposal for a paper, please contact scd.kaleidoscope1@yahoo.com

It is of interest that the kaleidoscope was invented in 1816 by Professor Sir David Brewster Principal of St. Andrews University and then of Edinburgh University – another name in the Scottish Hall of Fame.

DANCE SCOTTISH WEEK

12 to 20 September 2008

This event is to raise the profile of Scottish Country Dancing and encourage new dancers. We would all like new dancers to join our group and all groups have different ways of approaching this – for example Orpington & District Caledonian Society's article on page 17 of *The Reel* 260, a success story indeed. It would be wonderful if we could all share our ideas and expertise so that in September the whole of the Southeast could be welcoming new dancers. London Branch will be happy to create publicity opportunities on our website, provide and distribute flyers, continue to work for press and broadcast opportunities and do anything else anyone can think of.

Please contact Stewart Murray (see page 2 for contact details) if you or your group are interested in participating in this project.

MARGARET HENDERSON RECORDS

Margaret Henderson, died on 13 February 2007. Margaret taught Scottish Country Dancing for many years, even into her retirement. In doing so she had formed a collection of 146 gramophone records (73 LPs and 73 EPs). If anyone could make use of these they would be most welcome. There is no charge, but you will have to pick up the costs of transportation. The records are presently located in Wiltshire.

If interested, please contact

Robin Henderson on 01225 702808,

or email: robin.henderson@homecall.co.uk with 'Scottish Dance Records' in the first line (this will help my spam filter recognise your email as legitimate).

CLASSES

Come to class, meet old friends, make new ones, improve your dancing and have fun!

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher / Musician
BEGINNERS	Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Moir Strutt / t.b.a.
POPULAR	Wednesday	8.00 - 9.30	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Lindsey Rousseau / Ian Cutts
TECHNIQUE	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 3AP	Maureen Campbell / Ken Martlew
GENERAL	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30	St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD	Jenni Rutherford
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	For details contact James Fairbairn, 01865 512308		Angela Young / Sandra Smith

Half term is the week commencing 18 February and term ends during the week commencing 17 March. Summer term starts week commencing 21 April and ends week commencing 19 May to be followed by five general classes (further details of these in the next issue of *The Reel*). Enquiries about classes: 020 8748 6711, or email classes@rscdslondon.org.uk.

SPRING FLING

Glasgow 2008

Friday 28 March to Sunday 30 March

The RSCDS annual youth event

For people between the ages of 16 and 35

A weekend of dance

Beginners through to advanced

Teachers:- **Alasdair Brown, Craig Houston, Margo Priestley**

Application forms available from www.rscds.org or Craig Jackson – Schools and Examinations Officer, RSCDS, 12, Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF. Tel. 0131 225 7783

email springfling@rscds.org.

Young members of London Branch can apply for financial assistance for this event. Anyone who wishes to apply for funding should contact the Branch Secretary (see page 2 for contact details).

APPLICATIONS FOR TUTOR TRAINING.

Applications are invited for a two day tutor training course that will take place in Reigate, Surrey on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th April 2008. For details about the application procedure, the proposed outline of the course and the application form contact Craig Jackson, the RSCDS Examinations and Schools Officer at 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7AF. Tel +44 (0) 131 225 3854, Fax +44 (0) 131 225 7783, <http://www.rscds.org/> or email craig.jackson@rscds.org.

The closing date for applications is Friday 14 March 2008.

BRANDED GARMENTS

A range of garments including Tee Shirts, fitted Ladies Tees, Polo Shirts and Sweatshirts is available sporting the Branch logo. These garments are offered in a range of colours and sizes and children's sizes are also available.

Order forms are available from Jeff Robertson on tel: 01903 245718; 020 7730 9633; jtr@ctg.co.uk, or from the Branch website: www.rscdslondon.org.uk.

These quality garments are modestly priced as follows, postage and packing being charged at cost as appropriate:-

Tee Shirts	£9
Ladies Tees	£11
Polo Shirts	£15
Sweatshirts	£16

There are two logo styles, a discreet embroidered logo on the left breast for Sweatshirts and Polo Shirts and a larger version incorporating our website address, for printing on the backs of Tee Shirts and Ladies Tees.

On light garments the logo will be as above, but with a gold crown and silver lettering on the darker garments. Please continue to support your Branch.

Jeff Robertson

DEMONSTRATION TEAM

Dancing on the moving carpet

By the time you read this in February we will be watching not only our Strathspey steps but also our carbon footprint, as an eager dozen of the London Branch Demonstration Team head north in a bulging minibus for the Newcastle Festival. In a way this point (going to Newcastle) is where I joined the party twelve months ago as a brand new member. The truth is that I was really only the taxi driver for a very skilled dancer who decided to head off to Edinburgh University. His parting shot was something along the lines of "My Dad can fill in for me..." and so it was.

If you read my first article you'd have seen that I found a very warm welcome from the team, and now a year on I can recall some of the main themes. I think the word flexibility springs to mind. I have learned lots and still am learning but I picked up most about "Dancing on the moving carpet". That is to say when you are within hours of a demonstration and you are careless enough to have lost one lady to the hospital accident and emergency department – what do you do? ... You improvise. When the second man is stuck on the train and not sure if he can get to the demonstration in the next twenty minutes, ... you adapt. When your practice room has been bagged by another team you relocate, this time into the Hotel Car Park and dance to the music belting out of an open top sports car. And there were lots of other calls on our flexibility.

But actually it's more than just the team that has to demonstrate flexibility in order, for example, to get the Society's events and dances organized. I'm thinking about all the events throughout the year when plans and bookings have to be made, halls opened up, musicians looked after (we are fortunate in being able to dance to bands who travel from Scotland), food prepared and served and lots more. The Christmas dance and our 'flexible' display made me think of all this. So if you enjoy an event think of all the work that quietly happens in the background; and if you enjoy one of our displays remember that the swan paddles furiously under the water to achieve that elegant posture and movement on top.

So what about the moving carpet? Well I remember going on a Change Management training course at work and the tutor who coined the expression "Instead of complaining about Change, learn to dance on a moving carpet." Happy dancing from me and the Demonstration Team.

Michael Nolan

HIGHLAND CLASSES 2008

Teacher: **David Hall**

Thursdays – 28 February, 13 March

7.15 - 9.15 pm

St Michael and All Angels Church (Upper Hall), corner of The Avenue and Bath Road, London W4 1TT

(very close to Turnham Green Tube Station)

Further details from Margaret Shaw, tel: 020 7329 2847

SUNDAY ADVANCED TECHNIQUE CLASSES

Band Hall, Coram's Fields, 93 Guilford St, London WC1N 1DN

11.00am-1.00pm Cost £6.00

Note changes to the advertisement in Reel 262

17 February

Teacher:..... **Kate Gentles**

Musician:..... **David Hall**

16 March

Teacher:..... **Mervyn Short**

Musician:..... **Angela Young**

Nearest underground station: Russell Square.

On street parking available.

Local establishments available for lunch.

Further details 020 8748 6711.

email: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk.

TEACHING QUALIFICATIONS

The London Branch are planning a course for candidates wishing to take units 2, 3 and 5 of the Teaching Certificate in 2009. If you are interested or if you wish further information please contact

Moir Strutt: 020 8748 6711, email: classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

STEP DANCING

Joan Desborough is continuing Step Dancing in the Scout Hut, Kings Langley into 2008 to live fiddle music by Wendy Desborough. The date for your diary is Sunday 1 June 2008. Classes will be 10.30-12.30 and 1.45-3.45. Joan will welcome anyone who wants to come and try step dancing. Further details from Joan Desborough, tel 01442 826629

COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

The London Branch Committee will meet on 27 March and 1 May; the convenors meet on 6 March. Any members wishing to raise items for discussion should send these to the Secretary, Stewart Murray, at least two weeks before the meeting to ensure inclusion on the agenda.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

Children's Classes

The Branch children's class continues in the winter term on 8 March, 10.30-11.30.
St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street,
London SW1X 0BD.

Teacher: **Angela Young**
Musician: **Jean Harrison**

£2.00 per child (including drink)

Adults welcome to stay.

Newcomers always welcome!

Family Day - 15 March

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

11.30-12.45 Children's Class

*All children welcome to join the
Branch Children's class.*

At the same time there will be a special gentle introduction to Scottish Country Dancing class for the grown ups the children bring with them, to help you join in the afternoon's dancing.

13.00: Lunch will be provided for all dancers

14.00-16.30 Dance to the music of

Kafoozalum.

Dances will be chosen from: Cumberland Reel, Dashing White Sergeant, The Dhoon, Espie MacNab, The Flying Scotsman, A Jig for Mrs Dunn, Johnny Groat's House, Leap Year, Petronella, Rabbie's Reel, Reel for Jeannie, The Round Reel of Eight, The White Cockade, and Jig to the Music

*Everyone is welcome for all or part of the day.
Dances in the afternoon will be talked through.*

For more details please contact Andrew Kellett on 020 8301 1403.

Medal Tests

There will be another opportunity for teachers to enter their pupils for the RSCDS Medal Tests for Children on Saturday 3 May 2008 at St. Columba's Church Hall, SW1X 0BD. Over 760 children, including almost 50 from the London area, took the tests at 28 venues last year. They are a good way of encouraging and rewarding young dancers, and we try our best to make the examination day a relaxed and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. If you would like more information, including details of the syllabus, please get in touch with Andrew Kellett on 020 8301 1403.

... and finally another **Family Day** will be held on 15 November 2008.

Children's Class

Mondays

Aston Clinton, Nr. Aylesbury, Bucks

Teacher: **Joan Desborough**

Further details from

Ann Robertson on 01296 630682

JIG TO THE MUSIC

32 Bar Jig for three couples in a 3-couple set

1-4 1, 2 and 3 couples advance and retire

5-8 1, 2 and 3 couples dance back to back

9-16 1, 2 and 3 couples turn partner by the right hand for four steps and by the left hand for four steps

17-20 1 couple with both hands joined slip down the middle for four steps and four steps back up again

21-24 1 couple cast to 3 place. 2 & 3 couples step up on bars 23 and 24

25-32 1, 2 and 3 couples dance six hands round and back

Repeat with new top couple.

Devised by Doris S. Young and the Children of the Airyhall RSCDS Class



Angela Young

CHILDREN'S TEACHER'S AWARD

London Branch member Doris Young and her husband receiving their Branch Award from Sheila Fyffe Chairman of the Aberdeen Branch at their Christmas Dance (above). Mrs. Young received it for her years of teaching, and work with children – she's taught Children's classes in Aberdeen since 1973. It was a joint award to include Mr. Young who has played for classes in Aberdeen for over 50 years including the Airyhall class for 33 years. Many of our readers will recognise them as the parents of Angela the London Branch demonstration and children's class teacher. Dedication to the RSCDS, and in particular to teaching 'younger' members, runs in the family!

CAN'T AFFORD IT?

The RSCDS and the London Branch offer scholarships mostly to young people (up to 25 years) to attend RSCDS Residential Schools as a dancer or as a prospective teacher or as a musician. In addition any member can apply for a scholarship to attend Summer School with a view to taking the RSCDS Teaching Certificate. London Branch also has funds available to give support to any event promoting Scottish Country Dancing among young people.

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

stewart.murray@btinternet.com

or youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk.

The deadline for applications in connection with this year's Summer School is imminent, so for St Andrews 2008 you must act immediately, but there are other events happening all year round (for example Spring Fling and Winter School) and of course there is Summer School next year. Think about it. We want to help.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Branch Dances 2008

at St. Columba's unless otherwise stated

14 June **Green Ginger**

28 June ... (Harrow outdoor dance) **David Hall**

ESTONIANS VISIT LONDON

Thank you London Branch! Nine members of the Tallinn SCD Group of Estonia (see photo on the back page) came to London in January and had such a wonderful time on a Saturday evening at the London Branch Burns' Supper and Ceilidh Dance. It was a privilege to attend such a festive event. We were looked after by Jim Cook who was a brilliant organiser of our schedule in London. We had a lot of fun dancing and followed with genuine interest *The Address to The Haggis!* We marvelled at the intricate taste of Haggis with neeps and tatties (with a drap of whisky too). All of us were given a genuinely warm welcome and presented, as a memento of the occasion of our visit, with the London Branch badge of the RSCDS and that was very special for us. On the Sunday we danced again, but this time with the Chiswick SC Dancers where we also had a very nice dancing evening. The weekend has sent us back with lots of good memories! It was a very good trip indeed! We look forward to the next time we can dance with all these lovely people again. We, the Estonian Scottish Dance Group, extend a warm hand of welcome to dancers, you will always be welcome in Tallinn!

You can visit our website at
www.vahvatants.ee/shoti.

Eike Albert

FOR SALE

A green velvet Montrose jacket, size 38" chest, purchased from Scotch House and never worn.

The proceeds will go into Branch funds.

Contact Rachel Wilton (See Page 2, column 3)

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING IN CORNWALL

From its beginnings in 1996 (see *Reel 218* page 7) the Bude Weekend in October run by Marhamchurch Scottish Dance Club has become a major event on the Scottish Country Dancing calendar. Not only is it immensely popular with west country groups, it also attracts visitors from all over the British Isles, the Channel Islands and from abroad. Dancers from France and even Canada regularly attend what is generally agreed to be one of the friendliest and best run Scottish Country Dancing events of the year.

The weekend includes one and a half days of classes supported by well known teachers brought down from Scotland. The classes are very popular and always well attended, however, the highlights of the weekend are the dances on Friday and Saturday evenings. Both are supported by first rate bands such as Colin Dewar in 2006 and 2007 and Sandy Nixon who is booked for 2008 and 2009.

It is not only the dancing that makes the Bude Weekend so successful. On Friday the dancers gather for a sherry reception followed by a Buffet supper at the Falcon Hotel, one of Bude's finest venues. On Saturday a midday lunch and then Buffet supper in the evening invariably leaves some dancers wondering if they are in Bude for the dancing or for a gourmet weekend! Regardless, the farewell lunch on Sunday sends everyone home satisfied with having enjoyed a first rate weekend.

The organisers are Les and Dawn Burden: Les acts as host and MC with much good humour and patience while Dawn continues with organisation behind the scenes, catering for over a hundred people and joining in the dancing when she can. It is, without doubt, their hard work which makes the Bude Weekend such a success.

Roger Lawes, Marhamchurch

See Advert on page 14

CAN YOU HAVE TOO MANY ENCORES?

I rarely watch television yet; I need an ironed shirt once in awhile. So a Monday in September found me at the ironing board 'with the TV on' watching anything! I turned on just in time to see Hugh Grant being interviewed about 'our film'; *Four Weddings and a Funeral* released in 1994 (see *Reel 209*, page 7). The programme on BBC1 was called 'Movie Connection - The Making of Four Weddings and a Funeral'. During the course of the programme various scenes were analysed in a light-hearted way. The SCD scene, which really was the reception at the third wedding, was one of those looked at, when such lovable dancing friends as the late Andrew Gillies are glimpsed dancing. In this scene Simon Callow's character Gareth collapses with a heart attack and when Simon is interviewed about that scene he says, 'I have always said that a *government health warning* should warn against the dangers of Scottish Country Dancing. After 12 takes, it nearly had me!'

Stephen Webb

SUBSCRIBE TO *THE REEL*

If you are not a member of the London Branch order your copy of *The Reel* from

Rita Marlow, 17 West Farm Close,
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The annual cost for individual subscribers is £4.50 if resident in the UK, £5.00 for other European residents and £7.00 if resident elsewhere. There are special rates for bulk orders. Remittances in sterling please, payable to RSCDS (London Branch).

BODY CLUTCHING

Bill Ireland whose name was synonymous with the London Branch for over half a century, described the ballroom hold as 'body clutching'. Two hundred years earlier such a hold was considered to be much too familiar. A review in *The Edinburgh Magazine* described a young man, Davenant, of high spirit and principle attending two young ladies, in whom he takes a deep interest, at a private assembly.

Quadrilles being over, waltzes began, and Davenant, leading Eleanor to a seat near Clara, said, with an air of triumph, 'I am glad to find you do not waltz, Miss Musgrave - nor you, Miss Delancy.'

'Do not mistake me, however,' said he: 'I do not mean to say that I consider all young ladies who waltz as devoid of modesty, delicacy, or proper feeling; but I feel that I should wish my sister, or my mistress, or my wife, to have a sort of untaught aversion to the familiarity which waltzing induces. I would have her prize too highly, from self-respect, the sort of favour which a woman confers on a man with whom she waltzes, to be willing to bestow it on any one of her acquaintance. I would wish her to preserve her person unprofaned by a clasping arm, but that of privileged affection. For indeed, dear Miss Musgrave, if I saw even a woman whom I loved, borne along the circling waltz, as I see these young ladies now borne, I should be tempted to address her partner in the words of a noble poet - 'What you touch you may take.'

Wilson Nicol

DR. ALASTAIR MACFADYEN

There will be an interview of the Society's new President by Jimmie Hill in the next issue of the *Scottish Country Dancer*.

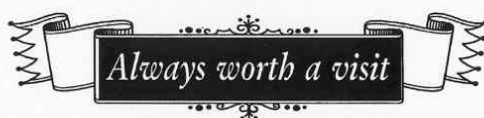
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THE CHELSEA REEL CLUB – ADIEU

It is a melancholy privilege to be writing the obituary of the Chelsea Reel Club which was formed in 1935 and, with a gap for the war years 1939-45, has given immense pleasure to many people ever since. Hugh Foss, an Englishman who wore the Shepherd's Plaid kilt, is commonly referred to as the founder. In fact the idea of starting the club was that of his wife Alison and a woman friend of hers. However, Hugh, as an excellent dancer and instructor, became Chairman and remained so until 1956 when he was succeeded by Bruce Frazer.

Before and after the war, up to the 1950s, there were many public servants, lawyers and other professionals among the members. Joining the Club was a matter of attending a certain number of dances, showing a suitable degree of aptitude, being proposed and seconded, and elected by the Committee – which took quite a strict view of aptitude. Both those early Chairmen inspired a good deal of awe. Hugh Foss, in particular, seemed at times to inhabit an elevated sphere of skill to which few others could aspire. He composed a number of dances, beautiful when well performed but often of daunting complexity – a reminder perhaps of his wartime career as a cypher-cracker.

The Club held an annual ball in Chelsea Old Town Hall. There would be over a hundred dancers, a piper and Reg Flower's excellent band. The evening would begin with the traditional Grand March, resolving itself finally into several sixteensomes. Supper was served in the interval, after which there would be a couple of Viennese waltzes while everyone got ready for the second half of the programme. The Ball ended in the small hours; in those days midnight was looked upon as 'early'. Spectators were admitted to the balcony at the end of the Hall. They looked down on a colourful scene – the ladies in beautiful dresses, often with tartan sashes, and almost all the men

wearing the kilt. The swirling set figures of the dances made an exciting kaleidoscope of vivid patterns.

Those occasions, I suppose, marked the gradual ending of the social style of the reigns of Edward VII and George V. It had just survived the war but was not to last. The Club adapted itself to new conditions. Joining became an easier and more friendly matter; gatherings took on a less formal air; and for the annual Ball, in various venues, there was a slow but steady shift towards self-catering as the old system became ever dearer. There were limitations on time too, and dancing had to end much sooner.

But the regular gatherings continued much as they had always done and members and their guests enjoyed them enormously. Humphrey Wood had taken on the chairmanship in the mid-60's but passed it on to me in 1966 – and there it stayed until 1992. Since then it has been held by Maureen Bebb, Robert Freer and Jim Cook. In all those 40-odd years it remained a wonderfully friendly group. Members were close both in and out of the Club, and quite a few married each other. Although there were no trips abroad, such as the early members of the Club had made to festivals in Brittany, dances were several times performed for branches of the Multiple Sclerosis Association. Indeed an 'Eightsome Wheel' was composed for them, in which four wheelchairs were each escorted by a couple of dancers through the motions of a strathspey. There was at first some hesitation about taking part. But when no wheelchairs were upset others were soon eager to join in.

For decades the Club held a Children's Party in the New Year – always a riotous success. The best-loved dances were undoubtedly *The Dashing White Sergeant* (in which one of our tallest men invariably had the two smallest girls as partners) and the *Hebridean Weaving Lilt*, with the hugger-

mugger winding up of the bobbins amid squeals of delight.

But life moves on. Those children have grown up; society has developed new ways of entertaining itself; people are no longer so ready to serve on committees of any local kind as they once were; and enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing has tended to fluctuate. And so, sadly, the Club has acknowledged that trying to preserve it is an unjustifiably difficult task. Anyone who has been a member of it will, I believe, look back on it as one of the happiest features of their life. There will be gratitude for all those who have served as Chairmen, Vice-chairmen, Hon. Secretaries, Hon. Treasurers, Committee members and Auditors. There will be lasting memories of wonderful musicians – Biddy Sangster, Sheila Mason, Alan Humberstone and Bill Farr among them – to whose thrilling beat as pipers, violinists, pianists, piano-accordionists and drummers we have danced for hours. That long succession of Balls, parties, Burns' nights and St. Andrew's nights provided entertainment of an essentially good-natured kind, and in its modest way made a really civilised contribution to life in London.

As we say farewell to the Club we shall not forget it. I am sure that we shall often *tak a cup a' kindness yet for auld lang syne*.

Ian Adams Chairman, 1966-92

The London Branch expresses its sorrow at the demise of its complementary dancing organisation with its many shared members. O tempora! O mores!



Stephen Webb

LADIES STEP DANCES By John Mitchell

In earlier times the ladies withdrew after dinner, leaving the gentlemen to their port and cigars. Whilst the gentlemen sat and talked the ladies amused themselves in the (with)drawing room, by playing music, singing and dancing. These dances (sometimes referred to as 'drawing room dances') were performed by the younger ladies to amuse their elders. Nowadays, it is more politically correct to refer to them as 'National Dances'. The ladies would have performed them wearing their normal evening shoes (rather than unblocked ballet slippers). Colin Robertson of the Scottish National Dance Company who taught at the Royal Ballet School is firmly of the opinion that hard shoes should be worn for these dances, many of which were originally 'Tap Dances', thus making them similar in style to that well known Scottish dance 'The Irish Jig'. There is considerable support for this view. These dances are probably the survivors of a lost style of Irish/Scottish hard shoe dance which was popular around 1775 (see Tophamⁱ).

The Earl of Erroll

The Earl of Erroll was a famous Scottish mercenary soldier who became a General in the Swedish Army; which may account for the resemblance between this dance and 'The King of Sweden'. This does not imply that the dances are of Swedish origin. This dance was revived by Mrs. Isobel Cramb and republished by the RSCDSⁱⁱ. Thurstonⁱⁱⁱ is of the opinion that this and other similar dances are reminiscent of Irish hornpipes, in the nature of their steps and because of the almost complete lack of arm movement. He considers that such dances are the survivors of an early Scottish style of dancing. Only one step requires any arm movement – and

that is a Scottish reel step which is out of character with the rest of the dance and may be a later interpolation. As the Scots sojourned in Ireland on their migration from North Africa to Scotland, there is a close affinity between the Scots and the Irish, many surnames are common to both countries, and it is likely that a common form of dancing existed at one time, which over the years separated into the two distinct modern styles.

The King of Sweden

The earliest description of this dance was that given by Hill^{iv}; it was republished by the RSCDSⁱⁱ and like 'The Earl of Erroll' probably originated as a hard shoe (tap) dance.

Miss Forbes

The instructions for this dance were published by MacLennan^v and in the absence of any earlier confirmatory record have been accepted as correct.

Scotch Measure

The instructions for this dance were also published by MacLennan^v, who clearly stated that in the 18th Century a type of tune known as the Scottish measure was sometimes danced as a twosome strathspey, which became the Highland Schottische. This appears to be pure speculation for which he presents no evidence. A Scottish measure is more akin to a hornpipe than to a strathspey, so there is unlikely to be a direct musical connection. Schottisches are a very distinct dance form, as indicated above, and the structure of the 'Scotch Measure' bears no resemblance to a schottische. According to the same source, during the proscription of the kilt the Highlanders would only dance the Scotch

Measure, which became known as Seann Triubhas. This is also somewhat speculative as there appears to be little connection between either the music of these two dances, or the style of the dances themselves. The 'Scotch Measure' was originally a solo dance, the earliest instructions for which were recorded by Hill^{iv}, after proscription had ended. Isobel Cramb rearranged the solo dance as a twosome, for publication by the RSCDS, quoting MacLennan as her source (and the only authority) for effecting the change. (Early in the 19th century there was a competitive dance known as 'The Twosome Strathspey', details of which have not been traced). It would appear that MacLennan was confusing a number of different dances when he wrote his book and that this indirectly resulted in the modern version of this dance for performance by a mixed couple.

Scottish Lilt

This dance is believed to have originated in Perthshire. It was taught by John MacNeil of Edinburgh to William MacLennan and subsequently republished by D. G. MacLennan^v. It is rather unusually performed to music in 9/8 time. Here again a 'twosome' version has been devised with the two dancers mirroring each other.

Footnotes

- i Major Topham - Letters from Edinburgh (1775).
- ii RSCDS - Four Step Dances (1953).
- iii Hugh Thurston - Scotland's Dances - reprinted by TAC.
- iv Frederick Hill - Book of Quadrilles and Country Dances (22nd. March, 1841).
- v Donald G. MacLennan - Highland and Traditional Scottish Dances (1950).



Tam o' Shanter comes alive.
But who is behind the beard?
Answer on another page.



1



2



3

CHRISTMAS DANCE



4



5

- 1 Phillip McLachlan & Valerie Strachan enjoying a chat during the interval.
- 2 Sin See sets with Colina Orchard to John St. Brioc-Hooper with Jenny Sweeney in *Anna Holden's Strathspey*
- 3 Alasdair MacLeod – Second Accordion, Gus Millar – Drums, Dennis Morrison – Keyboard with Colin Dewar – Lead Accordion relaxing at the break.
- 4 The Dem. Team enthral on-lookers with their expertise. Some of the Dem. dancers Elaine Davis, Kate Sweeney, James Fairbairn, Henry Nolan & Michael Nolan.
- 5 London Branch 2007 Award Holders George Potts, Rita Marlow & Peter Luke looking jubilant.
- 6 Our President between two of her Vices: Marie Jamieson, Mary Stoker & Mary Barker.
- 7 Alan Martin dances up with Rae Walker in *Anna Holden's Strathspey*.



6



7



BURNS' SUPPER AND CEILIDH DANCE



- 1 Richard Liddle, Svetlana Stankova from Czech Republic & Katie Baldwin from Chicago chat waiting patiently to collect their suppers.
- 2 Rae and Donald Walker and friends.
- 3 Margaret Shaw in harlequin mode in the kitchen preparing the Haggis Supper.
- 4 All smiles for Elspeth MacDonald and Jean Taylor!
- 5 Vice Chairman, Jeff Robertson and Davinia Miln socialising.
- 6 Chris Oxtoby - Strathallan Band Leader (*top left*) looks on with interest as Martin Cairns (keyboard) captivates Ann Stonehouse (fiddle) and Michael Nolan with a story!
- 7 Terry Cole, Ian Cutts, class musician and Natalie Maude.
- 8 The Branch Demonstration Team
- 9 Peter Knight provides a much needed steady hand!



Picture credits:
No 8 (on left) Angela Young
All others Stephen Webb

NEW RECORDINGS

RSCDS Book 30 and 3 Hugh Foss Dances (Fugal Fergus, John McAlpine, Polharrow Burn) – David Cunningham and his Band (CD061)

A Tribute to Derek Haynes – Nicol McLaren and his Band (SPCD0004) – Maureen's Reel, Yan, Yan Tethera, The Craven Reel, The Ring of Brodgar, Domino Five, The Tattie Bogle, The Craven Jig, Ray Milbourne, Miss Stevenson's Fancy, The Celtic Cross, Gaelforce Wind, The Clansman, The Sleeping Warrior, The Raven's Dance, The Craven Twelvesome, A Jig for Garry, The Black Mountain Reel. (All dances devised by Derek).

The Scottish Sound of the Bill Hendry Band (Thistle 109) – Highland Laddie, Roxburgh Castle, Kenmuir's on an' Awa', The Mairrit Man's Favourite, Miss Hadden's Reel, Maxwell's Rant, Hooper's Jig, - all 4x32; The Hollin Buss (5x32), Jimmy's fancy (3x32), plus some waltzes, Gay Gordons, etc.

What can we say about David Cunningham's recordings that has not been said in previous reviews? In my last one "...very, very impressive...as good as you will get." I can only say it again. Just listen to his rendition of John McAlpin. Surely one of the best sets of Strathspeys ever recorded.

Nicol McLaren's CD was recorded live at a dance in Lockerbie Town Hall in memory of Derek Haynes. Some fine musicianship here from Nicol and the Band. There is a very good mix of traditional and modern tunes, but unfortunately, no composer's names on the liner notes. There is also no date as to when the dance was held. There is a nice photo of the band and Maureen Haynes but no acknowledgement that the lady is Maureen! It is to be hoped that the producers will take such criticism kindly and give fuller details in future recordings.

Bill Hendry's CD was first issued as an LP in 1976 with a five piece band including himself on the piano and David Cunningham (senior) on accordion. I see that I reviewed it in August 1976 (Reel 137). I praised David's playing then and also

said that the record had a rip-roaring selection of tunes – Encore. This CD is well worth buying to hear again this particular 'Sound of the 70s'

Away from the dance floor we have a solo fiddle with a few tracks on the viola. Very often a so-called 'solo' recording is backed by a plethora of other instruments, but this one by ace fiddler Ian Hardie is strictly solo, and no double tracking. Ian has made several visits to the Blue Ridge Mountains to hear and learn from fiddlers in Appalachia. This inspired him to compose a number of tunes in that genre and issue this fascinating CD. Most of the tunes are in altered tunings (eg AEAE and GCGD) instead of the normal EADG. 'Westringing – Scotland meets Appalachia' (IJHCD001) is a must for all lovers of fiddle music.

As we go to press, I have just received another solo CD by Freeland Barbour. Tell you about it next time.

John Laurie, Tel 020 7286 1923.

MUSICIANS' DAY

A workshop will take place all day at St. Columba's on Saturday 10th May for musicians who would like to play for the above dance. The dances have been especially chosen for the music and it will be a wonderful evening of music and dancing.

The workshop will be led by **Gordon Simpson** and all musicians will be very welcome to join in.

For further information and an application form contact Rachel Wilton (contact details Page 2).

Application forms are also on the website.



GORDON SIMPSON

Gordon is one of the most respected fiddlers in Scotland today.

He spent the early days of his life in Dundee, and has been playing in bands for many years. As well as playing with the Ian Muir Sound, he is regularly seen and heard with Colin Dewar's Band, Ian Holmes, John Renton and many more. His broadcasting career started with the great Ronnie Easton Band in the 70's and continued with Colin Finlayson until Colin's untimely death. He has been fiddle tutor at The RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews for quite a number of years.

He is also well known as a solo player and as a judge at some of the major festivals. His first solo album - FIDDLE - is getting rave reviews and a massive amount of airplay; his band appearances on CD are numerous including with Colin Dewar on several albums. Fiddle players are well advised to seize the opportunity of his visit to the Branch in May to brush up their playing.

THE JIMMY McINTOSH REEL

Since Stephen Webb wrote in the last issue of *The Reel* of the star that is Jimmy McIntosh, 85 years young and still helping dances to go with a swing, The Jimmy McIntosh Reel, to which so many RSCDS members contributed, will now enable us all to celebrate – and in an extremely lively manner.

Karl Sandeman has written an exuberant tune with a deep bow to Jimmy's old regiment the Kings Own Scottish Borderers and its regimental march *Blue Bonnets o'er the Border*. And he has cleverly incorporated the letters KOSB in Morse code.

In writing the steps, Janet Cook has said a personal thank you to Jimmy whom she first met when she was aged four at the Crown Court Church where Jimmy organised evening dances for the children 'making us feel very grown up'. So the steps first incorporate a double C and then the men 'dance' the castle and towers of the KOSB cap badge, while the ladies pay tribute to the Blue Bonnets.

Bob Harman presented Jimmy with the music in a scroll tied with bright red ribbon at a Monday night dance at Pont Street just before Christmas.

The Jimmy McIntosh Reel will shortly be danced at Pont Street when we will all be able to enjoy a delightful reel to wonderful music while at the same time saying thank you to Jimmy.

Lindsay Jenkins

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hemel Hempstead
'The Eyes Have It!'

Dear Wilson,

Is it important to make eye contact during a dance? We are told it is, but is it? From my observations of other dancers it seems that many get by with a simple awareness, almost a sixth sense, that they have a partner or a *broomstick* (See page 25 Scottish Country Dancer No.5 October 2007) as a partner and they are dancing together! The dance finishes and they go their separate ways, they both seem happy at this and do it all again with another partner or *broomstick*. Let me ask, that if you recognise yourself as one of these dancers, are you *really* happy with your approach?

So when to make eye contact?

If you are not used to looking at your partner then try this – choose a dance that you are familiar with where you are confident with the choreography (even if your partner is not) and then keep eye-to-contact with your partner in that dance from the very first note of the bow and curtsy to the last note of the concluding chord, accompany it with frequent smiles, where appropriate – do not *stare* but smile with your eyes and vary the look. If you add to this a helpful and confident approach whilst maintaining good posture – then see and feel the difference – I guarantee you will not go back to how you danced before!

Adopting these and the following simple rules your dancing should become more alive and more interactive with both your partner, as well as others in the set with whom you will remain aware throughout and with whom you may also have eye contact, when not having eye contact with your partner i.e., in parallel reels, turning corners, double triangles, and similar figures where your backs are to each other or your head is turned away.

Eyes, with a slight turn of the head, in conjunction with gentle discrete hand gestures, are used to talk silently, to show a direction or indicate a figure – in short they are a helpful aid for the less confident partner. The *glance* is a refinement, which can also be used to effect as in say, at end of bar 8 in *C'est L'Amour*.

Your partner should always be the centre of your attention for eye contact! Imagine being asked for the pleasure of the next dance and then that partner not looking at you but at other dancers in the set and worse, looking at dancers in other sets – perhaps even *eying-up* a future partner – I feel this behaviour is such an insult!

Upright carriage will assist eye contact, good phrasing will too, also handing at shoulder level following through with eyes in say, rights and lefts, chains, etc. is essential.

There is also a tendency, I have noticed, for even teachers not to maintain eye contact with their partner because of a *mother hen* approach! Teachers generally, have developed the *all-seeing eye* and any discordant movement is immediately seen such that they almost automatically wish to be helpful to others resulting in looking everywhere, often instead of at their own partner. The teachers' caring mission in a class however, should be seen in a different light when in the social setting. I have heard it said that dancers find it a great treat and privilege to be asked to dance by a teacher but this pleasure can turn to disappointment when this caring approach moves to everyone else but their partner!

But why keep eye contact at all? Are there any benefits in doing this? Well yes, keeping the shape of the dance, overcoming difficulties encountered with momentary memory loss or

distraction, dancing *with, rather than not with* your partner! Sharing a *moment* in the dance can be fun and without that essential eye contact it could be missed and part of the dance enjoyment missed too!

So if you feel that next time you dance there is something missing, do remember this letter – as that something could be EYE CONTACT!

Stephen Webb

Strathspeys

from a bunker near Hemel Hempstead

Dear Wilson

Phew! Does anyone know where I can purchase a black dress flak jacket and a bullet-proof kilt? I knew my letter on strathspeys would provoke a response but I never realised I was attacking such a sacred cow or that I apparently have so much influence that one letter from me threatens the very existence of the strathspey as a dance form (see letter from BHS Borders Branch). I am not going to respond to all the comments – and I doubt the editor would allow me the space – but I was particularly amused by the suggestion that I must be a newcomer to Scottish dancing. I have been dancing for 39 years and in fact was originally taught by Mrs Margaret Henderson whose obituary appeared in Reel 261. My views on music for strathspeys were formed at summer school many years ago when I had the pleasure of dancing to some excellent pianists (whose names unfortunately escape me). I have discussed this question with some modern day musicians who have quite rightly pointed out that, historically, the instrument of choice for the strathspey is the fiddle. Nevertheless, my preference for the piano remains as does my dislike of the accordion for this music.

To those people who express astonishment when seeing me dance a strathspey, I would like to point out that I do not dislike strathspeys *per se* – as I thought I had made clear in my original letter. I just think there are not enough good ones to justify one in three on a programme, especially if they are repeated; in which case they can come close to taking up half the total dancing time in an evening. At the risk of making more enemies, I think it is a pity so many MCs routinely repeat 3x32 strathspeys which at least have the merit of brevity.

Finally, a suggestion. Could dance organisers experiment a bit and put fewer than one strathspey in three on a programme, or more if they wish. How about the occasional non-strathspey evening or even for the real devotees the all-strathspey evening? (though you won't see me at the latter.)

Julian Mason

Weston Turville Charity Dance

Weston Turville

Dear Wilson,

If you could find a little space we should like to thank Ian Robertson for playing for us to dance and enabling us to raise £400 for the Ian Rennie Hospice on the 28th December 2007. 93 tickets were sold in total, and a great time was had by all. £112 of this sum was raised by the ladies from Berkhamsted on the raffle, an amazing achievement. Many others helped in the kitchen, on the door and clearing up – a joint effort by all.

I am always excited by the fact that we have a wonderful time and always manage to raise some money for charity. Many thanks to all for your support.

Linda & Roger Dorman



THE SCOTTISH DANCE SHOE COMPANY

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BANDS

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

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

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

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A highly-experienced, versatile combination for your Day School / Dance.

European languages, will travel anywhere.
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Internationally acclaimed 5-piece Scottish Ceilidh Band with a suitable line-up for Scottish Ceilidhs, Reeling and Highland Balls for Clubs. MC/caller available if required. See us, hear us and contact us on our website www.scotchmistuk.co.uk or telephone Bandleader Chris Ransom on 01843 821446 for further details.

THE HIGHLANDERS

Scottish Ceilidh and Reeling band consisting of professional musicians; includes PA sound system with monitors, etc. Musical line-ups: From 3-piece to 8-piece, with MC/Caller available whenever required. Recommended for Reeling, Balls and Ceilidh Events such as weddings, private and corporate parties, etc. Excellent client references. Please contact Bandleader: Donald Ross, 020 8203 0626 or 020 8203 5076, e-mail: info@LawsonRoss.co.uk. www.thehighlanders.co.uk.

KAFOOZALUM COUNTRY DANCE BAND

Music for Scottish Country Dancing anywhere, anytime. For further details and availability, please telephone Peter Jenkins on 020 8581 0359, e-mail: peter@kafoozalum.co.uk or our Ceilidh website at www.kafoozalum.co.uk.

THE INVERCAULD SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

Scottish Dance Band (3 or 4 piece) for Dances, Ceilidhs, Reels, Weddings & Parties. Contact Lilian Linden, 01252 629178, Mob: 07879 633766, lilian.linden@virgin.net. CDs £12 each (+ £1.00 UK p&p) www.invercauldband.com.

M C B A I N S
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Contact: Mike McGuinness Tel: 020 8398 6799 or Tel/Fax: 020 8546 0075 (business hours)

Soloist: PETER JENKINS

Solo accordion for workshops, classes, day schools and 'smaller functions'. Tel: 020 8581 0359, e-mail peter@kafoozalum.co.uk.

Soloist: FIONA MCGEE

Harpist for functions, weddings etc. 07814 135281. www.fionamcgeeharp.co.uk.

DANCE EVENTS

Club de Danse Ecosaise de MONTPELLIER, FRANCE

-0-
20th Annual Ball
Weekend of June 13-15 2008
Dancing to

Ian Robertson & his Scottish Dance Band
Dancing, eating, drinking, more dancing followed by a jolly outing on the famous *Canal du Midi* with more eating and drinking.
Rendez-vous with social warmth and real sunshine.
Contact: William Whyte +33 467 868 919 or wwhyte@btinternet.com
website: <http://danseecossaisemtp.free.fr/>

RSCDS BATH BRANCH

Diamond Jubilee Ball
FRIDAY 22 February 2008
The Guildhall, Bath
Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band
Tickets £25 from June Hall, Top Flat,
141 Wells Rd, Bath BA2 3AL

MacLENNAN SCOTTISH GROUP

27th International
Folkdance and Music Festival
24-25 May 2008

Saturday 24 May

7.30 - 11.00 pm
International Folkdance with our international and local guests – Basques, Bulgarians and Belgians
Adults £6.00, (Conc £5.00) Children £3.00

Sunday 25 May

2.00 - 5.30 pm
International Folk Dance Concert
Adults £7.50, (Conc £6.00) Children £3.00

Venue for both events:
Langley Park Boys' School
South Eden Park Road, Beckenham, Kent
(Rail: Eden Park Station from Charing Cross)
Licensed bar, refreshments and stalls.
Family and weekend discounts available.
Tickets from
Jenifer Rutherford: 020 8295 1273
email: festival@msg.org.uk
website: www.msg.org.uk

RSCDS BRIGHTON BRANCH

>>> **OUR LAST SUMMER BALL** <<<

Saturday 21 June 2008
Reception 6.30 pm. Dinner 7.00 pm.
Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 4AH
Strathallan

Programme: Grand March, Joie de Vivre, Summer Assembly, Scotch Mist, The Roselath Cross, Finlay's Frolic, Neidpath Castle, Father Connelly's Jig, Shifftin' Bobbins, The Dream Catcher, The Montgomerie's Rant, Tribute to the Borders, The Belle of Bon Accord, Summer Wooing, Pelorus Jack, Ythanside, The Piper and the Penguin, The Flying Spur, Mary Hamilton, The Bees of Maggie Knockater, The Reel of the 51st Division. *Extras:* Clutha, Ladies' Fancy, Minister on the Loch.

All dances will be recapped.

Tickets: £15.00 (in advance only, includes supper and wine) from: Ray Archer (01273 684417) and Bill Power (01273 731927) or email: secretary@rscds-brighton.org.uk
website: www.rscds-brighton.org.uk



HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

75th Anniversary Ball
Saturday 24 May 2008
7.00 - 11.00pm
St. Hilda's Church Hall
Stanwell Road,
Ashford, Middx, TW15 3QL

George Meikle & The Lothian SCD Band

Programme: Scott Meikle, Mrs. Stuart Linnell, The Dreamcatcher, The Irish Rover, Father Connelly's Jig, Twa Bonnie Lassies, The Kelpie of Loch Coruisk, The Wild Geese, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, The Montgomerie's Rant, Spiffin', The Grumpy Gentleman, The Founders' Reel, Wisp of Thistle, The Dancing Master, Mairi's Wedding, Haunt of the Gnomes, Equilibrium, The Piper and the Penguin, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Follow Me Home, Plantation Reel
Extras: Shifftin' Bobbins, The Sailor, Angus MacLeod.

Tickets £14.50/£7.50 non-dancers & juniors purchased by 17th May (£15.50/£8.50 on door numbers permitting) including refreshments. Licensed Bar. Highland/Evening dress preferred.
Contact: Denise Smith, tel: 0208 715 9521.
Further details and map on our website www.hestonscottish.co.uk



RSCDS BERKS HANTS SURREY BORDER BRANCH

Day School
Saturday 8 March 2008
Court Moor School,
Fleet GU52 7RY

Dancing:

Teachers: Linda Gaul, Maureen Haynes, Alan Davis (Beginners' class)

Musicians: Robert Mackay, Ken Martlew
Musicians' Teachers: Ian Muir,

Keith Anderson

Suitable for children 14 and over with a minimum of Grade 4.

Evening Dance:

7.00 pm with Ian Muir, Keith Anderson and the Day School Students.

Contacts:

Day School and Dance:
Diane Hoskins, 01628 639 699
Musicians: May Sloan, 01428 604 868.

May Ball

Saturday 17 May 2008
Court Moor School, Fleet GU52 7RY
Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band
Programme on website www.rscds-bhs.org.uk
Contact: Shirley Ferguson 01276 501952

Summer Open Air Dance

21 June 2008
2.00 - 5.00pm
South Hill Park, Bracknell RG12 7PA
Contact: Fiona Albinson 0118 9789181.

RSCDS MILTON KEYNES

Annual Ball
Saturday 8 March 2008
Lovat Hall, Newport Pagnell,
North Milton Keynes
George Meikle & Lothian Band
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.
Enquiries and tickets at £14.50 each
From Jan Jones 07877 153259
(jange@verybusy.co.uk)
www.vcsmk.org.uk/rscdsmk

DANCE EVENTS (continued)



CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB

Spring Ball
Saturday 26 April 2008
7.30 - 11.45 pm,
Yateley Manor School,
Reading Road, Yateley,
Camberley, GU46 7UQ

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Shiftin' Bobbins, Quarries' Jig, Cape Town Wedding, Scott Meikle, Miss Allie Anderson, Culla Bay, Festival Fling, The Ship in Full Sail, The Falls of Rogie, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, The Irish Rover, The Grand March & Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Starlight, St. Columba's Strathspey, Muirland Willie, Ray Milbourne, Farewell to the Highlands, Mr. Iain Stuart Robertson, The Bees of Maggicknockater, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, The Starry Eyed Lassie, The Highland Rambler, *Extras:* The Montgomeries' Rant, Westminster Reel.

Tickets (including supper) £16,
cheques payable to Camberley Reel Club.
Please order vegetarian option before 22 April.
Dress Formal.

Tickets: Ivan Cresswell, 20 Cove Road, Fleet,
Hants, GU51 2RN, tel: 01252 616289.

Please note that Yateley Manor School is a
No Smoking Area.

Camberley Reel Club dances at 8pm every
Tuesday from September to May at St Paul's
Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley, Surrey.

Ball dances will be practised during the
preceding month.

Visit us at www.camberleyreelclub.org.uk



HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

'Leap Year' Ball
Friday 29 February 2008
7.30 to 11.30 pm
Harpenden Public Hall,
Harpenden, Herts AL5 1PL.

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Tickets £16 including Supper
Students (16-21) £10

Tickets and enquiries: Val Owens 01727 863870

Website: www.HSCDC.org.uk

N.B.: Note the new date

RSCDS BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Summer Ball
Saturday 17 May 2008
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Dame Alice Harpur School, Cardington Rd,
Bedford MK42 0BX.

Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band

Programme: Jennifer's Jig, Inverneil House, The Belle of Bon Accord, Pines of Pitlochry, Fisherman's Reel, Silver Tassie, Luckenbooth Brooch, Molly's Mum, Johnny Walker, John o'Bon Accord: Bratach Bana, Kinfauns Castle, Quarries' Jig, Mairi's Wedding, Garry Strathspey, Diamond Jubilee, Starlight, Dundee Whaler, Festival Fling, Spiffin.

Tickets £15.00 inc. dinner, from Alex Lawton,
9 Willington Rd. Cople, Beds MK44 3TH.
Tel: 01234 831036.

ASHDOWN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Annual Spring Ball
Saturday 5 April 2008

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

Ian Muir & The Craiggellachie Band

Tickets, in advance, £12.50 (child/spectator
£6.00) including a Buffet Supper.
Contact Michael Copeman 01892 655971
email michaelcopeman@aol.com



MAYOR OF WANDSWORTH'S CHARITY BALL

in association with
THE LITTLE SHIP
CLUB

Friday 9 May 2008

Civic Suite, Wandsworth High Street,
Wandsworth, SW18 2PU

David Hall and his Band

Programme: Nice to See you, Pelorus Jack, Culla Bay, Napier's Index, The Byron Strathspey, The Buchan Eightsome, MacDonald of the Isles, Shiftin' Bobbins, The White Heather Jig, The Black Mountain Reel, The Garry Strathspey, Joie de Vivre, Mairi's Wedding, The Wind on Loch Fyne, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Duke of Perth. *Extras:* The Reel of the Royal Scots, Mrs. Stewart's Jig.

Tickets: £35, including dinner and ½ bottle
wine. Details and Tickets from
Gill Lumbus, 43 Carlton Park Avenue, Raynes
Park, London SW20 8BJ. Tel: 0208 542 8632,
email: gill.lumbus@btinternet.com

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH

Spring Dance

Saturday 19 April 2008
7.30 - 11.30pm

The Goldsmid Hall, Tudeley Lane,
Tudeley, Tonbridge, TN11 0NW.
Dancing to recorded music

Programme: The Highland Rambler, Jennifer's Jig, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Clutha, Follow Me Home, Land of the Heather Hills, Summer Wooing, Father Connelly's Jig, MacDonald of the Isles, The De'il Amang the Tailors, Macleod's Fancy, Currie Mountain, The Gilly Flower, Jennie's Strathspey, The Royal Yacht Britannia, The Famous Grouse, James Senior of St. Andrews, Preston Mill, The Silver Grey, The Dancing Master, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Mairi's Wedding. *Extras:* Catch the Wind, The Dundee City Police, Airdrie Lassies, Jean Martin of Aberdeen

Tickets £6 plus a plate of food to share
Contact Sue Fergusson, tel: 01892 513514 or
email: socialsec@rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

Day School

Saturday 15 March 2008
Walthamstow Hall, Hollybush Lane,
Sevenoaks, TN13 3UL

Teachers: **Eric Finley,**
..... **Mervyn Short, Marilyn Watson**
Musicians: **Robert Mackay,**
..... **Barbara Manning, Ken Martlew**

Further details and application forms from:
Pat Davoll, Cambridge Cottage, Crockham Hill,
TN8 6RD. Tel 01732 866557.
Email patdavoll@aol.com
www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Annual Ball

Saturday 3 May 2008
7.00 for 7.30 till 11.30pm
Long Road Sixth Form College,
Cambridge CB2 8PX.

Danelaw Band.

Tickets £10 plus shared refreshments.
Details: www.camscotsoc.org.uk
or phone Donald Wilson on 01954 210683

JERSEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE WEEKEND

Bank Holiday Weekend
Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 May 2008
Ian Robertson & his Band

£27.50 per person for two evenings.

Saturday Ball Programme: 7.00-11.30 pm.

Nice to See You, Lochearnside, The Chequered Court, The Reivers, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, The Cocket Hat, Blackwater Reel, Foxhill Court, The Raven's Dance, Cramond Bridge, Monadh Liath, James Gray, David Russell Hall, Lammermuir Hills, Nessie's Neuk, Follow Me Home, Kinfaun's Castle, Crossing the Line, Ladies' Fancy, The Belle of Bon Accord, Black Mountain Reel.

Sunday Dance Programme: 7.00-11.30 pm.

The Highland Rambler, Tribute to the Borders, Trip to Monymusk, Caddam Wood, Friday's Child, Sloane Square, Scotia Sea, The Grumpy Gentleman, Strathcare, Red Ghillies, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Bruce's Men, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Alltshellach, Blooms of Bon Accord, Equilibrium, Blackadder House, Anniversary Reel, Quarries' Jig, S-Locomotion, Mairi's Wedding.

Contacts: Mrs. Helen McGugan, La Pelotte,
La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey, JE3 9GB
tel./fax 01534 854459 or

Mr. Alan Nicolle, 88, La Ville du Bocage,
St. Peter, JE3 7YT, tel 01534 484375

e-mail address: alan_nicolle@yahoo.co.uk
<http://scottishcountrydancingjersey.blogspot.com/>

GUILDFORD SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Spring Dance

Saturday 3 May 2008
7.15 - 11.15pm

Normandy Village Hall, Guildford GU3 2DE
Strathallan SCD Band

Enquiries: Catherine Smith, tel:01483 502422 or
e-mail: crsmithgg@aol.com
or www.gsdc.org.uk



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 1 March.....**Music Makers**
Friday 28 March.....Dance
Saturday 5 April.....**Green Ginger**
Friday 25 April.....Spring Ceilidh
Saturday 3 May.....**Karl Sandeman**
Saturday 7 June.....**Craiggellachie**
7.00-11.00pm, Summer Ball
Full details in The Reel 264

All dances except the Summer Ball will be talked
or walked through on request.

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. Please visit our website at
www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk for the latest
news and programmes of our dances.

DANCE EVENTS (continued)

Don't forget to check the back page for another Dance Event



BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND REEL CLUB

Spring Dance
Saturday 17 May, 2008
7.30 - 11.30pm
Boxmoor Playhouse, St John's Road,
Hemel Hempstead HP1 1NP

Ken Martlew and Ian Robertson

Programme: Good Hearted Glasgow, The Sailor, Seagreen, White Heather Jig, The Lochalsh Reel, La Fleur de Lyon*, Baldovan Reel, The Reel Friend*, Joie de Vivre, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Kelloholm Jig, Festival Fling, Wind on Loch Fyne, Ladies' Fancy, Black Mountain Reel, 1314, Quarries' Jig, J B Milne, Monymusk, Duke of Perth.

* For details of these dances see our website.

Admission by Programme - £7.50.

Licensed Bar - (£1 corkage fee if you bring your own drinks).

Bring and share supper. Raffle.

Details and tickets from: Mrs Janet Halse,
1 Highcroft Road, Felden, Hemel Hempstead,
Herts HP3 0BU, tel: 01442 246381.
e-mail: janethalseuk@btinternet.com

THISTLE CLUB

'Spring into Summer Dance'

Friday 30 May 2008

St Mary Magdalene Church Hall,
Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes
7.30pm

George Meikle

Tickets £5 (shared supper) from Jan Jones

Also a

Musician's Workshop on Saturday 31 May

Acorn House, Central Milton Keynes

Tutored by **George Meikle**

10.00 am to 3.30 pm - £10

Jan Jones 07877 153259, jange@verybusy.co.uk
www.vcsmk.org.uk/thistleclub

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Formal Dance

Saturday 8 March 2008

7.30 - 11.00pm

Reigate School, Pendleton Road,
Reigate, Surrey, RH2 7NT.

(note change of location from advert in last Reel)

Green Ginger

Programme: The Reel of the Royal Scots, The Luckenbooth Brooch, The Dundee Whaler, The Frisky, Lady Sophia Lindsay, Sugar Candie, The Kenora Reel, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Neidpath Castle, The Highland Rambler, The Blue Mess Jacket, Gothenburg's Welcome, The Silver Tassie, The Saltire Society Reel, Airie Bennan, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Jennife's Jig, Duke of Perth.

MC Irene Edgar

Tickets £11 at the door.

Enquiries to Alister Reid, tel: 0208 393 6732

RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

Spring Picnic Dance

Saturday 19 April 2008

Corfe Mullen Village Hall,

George Road, (off Wareham Road),

Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3UA.

Caber Feidh

Tickets £8 plus your picnic supper.

Details: Margaret Robson 01202 698138

MARHAMCHURCH SCOTTISH DANCERS

13th Residential Weekend at Bude, Cornwall

Friday to Sunday 3-5 October 2008

Teachers: **Linda Gaul and Eric Finlay**

Musicians: **Ken Martlew** and another

Sandy Nixon and his SCD Band

MC Les Burden

Full weekend inc all meals £105

Bed and Breakfast *NOT* included

Accommodation brochures available on request

Apply to Dawn Burden 01840 261708.

Celebration Dance

Sat 17 May 2008 at 7.30 pm

Parkhouse Centre, Bude, Cornwall

Sandy Nixon and his SCD Band

Tickets £10.00. Bring and share supper

Contact Dawn Burden 01840 261708.

WEST MACS CHARITY BALL

Saturday 26 April 2008

7.30-11.30pm.

London Collegiate School, Edgware, NW3 6LS.

The Craiggellachie Band

Programme: The Sailor, Jennifer's Jig, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Cramond Bridge, The Weathercock, The Dream Catcher, John of Bon Accord, Midsummer Madness, Neidpath Castle, Roselath Cross, The Plantation Reel, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Hazel Tree, The Cashmere Shawl, The Piper and the Penguin, Father Connelly's Jig, The Gentleman, Ray Milbourne, Pelorus Jack, The Flower o' the Quern, The Irish Rover, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder. *Extras:* The White Heather Jig, The Earl of Mansfield, Autumn in Appin.

Tickets at £16 each and further information from
Patricia Hamilton

7 Boldmere Road, Eastcote,

Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW,

Tel: 020 8866 2841

HIGHLAND SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

Saturday, 29 March 2008.

Sports Centre, Bught Park, Inverness IV3 5SS.

Starts 7.30 pm prompt

Marian Anderson SCD Band

Programme: Gay Gordons, St Bernard's Waltz, Saltire Society Reel, The Frisky, Butterscotch and Honey, The Reel of the 51st Division, The Bees of Maggiecknockater, Calum's Road, Black Mountain Reel, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Tullich Hornpipe, Mairi's Wedding, The Montgomeries' Rant, Follow Me Home, Wisp of Thistle, Catch the Wind, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The Wind on Loch Fyne, J B Milne, Postie's Jig, The Robertson Rant, Robbie Over The Waves, Shiftin' Bobbins. *Extra:* Duke of Perth. **All dances will be called with encores for popular ones.**

Dress Formal, Tickets (limited to 350) £13.50
including light refreshments

Cheques made payable to: Highland Scottish
Country Dance Group

No refunds after 1 March 2008.

Last day of availability:- Saturday 22 March

Please send stamped addressed envelope to:

Mrs Mary Ross, 60 Drummond Road,

Inverness IV2 4NU

Tel: 01463 234680

For further details of the Ball see the Branch
webpage www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Note the **FRIDAY** date for the **Harpenden Ball**,
(page 13), and the change of venue for **Reigate**
(this page)

CHICHESTER AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Spring Dance

Saturday 12 April 2008

Jubilee Hall, Oving, near Chichester PO20 2DN

7.30 - 11 pm

Strathallan Band

Programme: Mrs. Stewart's Jig, Bratach Bana, The Sylvan Strathspey, Quarries' Jig, Lady Mary Menzies Reel, Scotch Mist, Macleod's Fancy, Clutha, The Bridge of Nairn, Mairi's Wedding, Preston Mill, Seann Truibhas Willichan, The Starry Eyed Lassie, Nottingham Lace, Sands of Morar, Napier's Index, Fraser's Favourite, The Blue Mess Jacket, The White Heather Jig, The Royal Yacht Britannia. *Extras:* Muirland Willie, Peat Fire Flame.

Tickets £10 members, £12 guests

American Supper

Apply for tickets with s.a.e. to Stuart Dean,

35 Shillinglee, Purbrook, Waterlooville PO7

5RW. Tel 02392 792073

or e-mail mgfd50@dial.pipex.com



ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Day School

Edgbarrow School,

Sandhurst Road,

Crowthorne, RG45 7HZ

Saturday 26 April 2008

Teachers: **Deborah Driffin,**
Bruce Frazer, Kathy Lawmon

Musicians: **Robert Mackay,**

Barbara Manning, Caroline Sloan

For details and application forms contact:

Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, St Johns,

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Please continue to support your Branch
Jeff Robertson

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Dancing most Mondays, 8.00 - 10.15pm, Sept to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details/map: www.geocities.com/absdc or Rowena Fowler, 01865 361129.

ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm September to May at the Brook Memorial Hall, Ottershaw, KT16 0HG. Details from Val Clack, 01932 845869.

ALDRINGTON (HOVE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday 8.15-10.30pm, September to June. Details from John Steer, 57 Hangleton Rd, Hove, E. Sussex BN3 7GH. Tel: 01273 416893.

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB meets Tuesday evenings, September to May. Garden dances June and July. Contact: Judy Roythorne, 1, Pine Close, North Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3BZ Tel. 01442 875496. www.berkhamstedreelclub.org.

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth. Newcomers and Beginners 7.00-8.30pm. Improvers/Intermediate 8.45-10.15pm. Weekly children's classes. Technique class by invitation - alternate Wednesdays. Details from Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Rd, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX. Tel: 01202 698138.

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details from Ray on 01273 684417 or Bill on 01273 731927. www.rscds-brighton.org.uk

BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Thursdays 7.30-10pm at Balfour Junior School, Balfour Road, Brighton. Details from Carol Catterall, 01273 564963.

BURNS CLUB OF LONDON holds lively meetings in central London, usually including live music, on second Monday of the month as well as a superb Burns Supper. Details: Jim Henderson 020 8954 2586. jimhendersonuk@aol.com.

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 8pm at St. Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details from Rhoda Finch, 20 Redcrest Gardens, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2DU. Tel: 01276 681820.

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for all grades. Details from Tony Garrick, 29 Illingworth Way, Foxton, Cambridge, CB22 6RY. Tel. 01223 510201. email: anthony.garrick@ntlworld.com.

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY Scottish-Country Dancing and other events.. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8pm from Sept to June. Details www.camscotsoc.org.uk or phone Rachel Schicker 01223 364557

CHELSEA REEL CLUB meets once a month from Sept to April in St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1. All welcome. Instruction given. Dancing to live music. Details Ruth Hewlett, 020 8749 5471. r_hewlett3@hotmail.com.

CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS Advanced class Mondays 7.30-9.30pm. General class Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm. Bettlridge School, Cheltenham. Also a Beginners class. Details: Margaret Winterbourne, 01242 863238.

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30 to 10.30pm from October to end May, at St Andrew's Church Hall, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Park Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN. Tel: 01242 528220, msteele45@aol.com.

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING in the Upper Hall at St Michael & All Angels Church corner of The Avenue and Bath Rd. W4 (nr Turnham Green tube), Sundays 7.30-9.30pm. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: 020 8743 9385 (afternoons).

CIRENCESTER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets most Wednesdays 8:00 - 10:00pm September to end June at the Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester. Details Mr A.E.L. Bush, Lake View House, Wilthinton, Glos. GL54 4 BN. 01242890454, 1mbush@btopenworld.com

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY: Robertsons, Reids, Duncans etc. The London & Southern Counties Branch has attractive programme of events tailored to meet members' preferences. Details: jean_robertson@beeb.net.

CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00pm September to June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details: Mrs PJ Graham, 57 Milton Mount Ave, Pound Hill, Crawley, W. Sussex RH10 3DP. Tel: 01293 882173.

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH: Branch classes:- General, incl Beginners with technique Coudson (Fri). Advanced (Wed) Coudson. Other classes in the area: Beginners/Reigate & Selsdon (Tues): Gen: Reigate (Mon); West Wickham (Fri); Advanced: Reigate (Thurs.). Details: Dorothy Pearson 01737 551724, www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

EALING SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Thurs. 8-10pm. September to May at St Andrew's Church Centre, Mount Park Road, Ealing, W5. Details: Rena Stewart, 56 Meadvale Road, Ealing, W5 1NR, tel: 020 8998 6419.

EPHING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Details from John Tanner, Tel: 020 8504 1632. www.efsa.org.uk, john@efsa.org.uk

EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dance classes, including beginners, (September to March). Many other activities including frequent informal dances. Details from Brian Burgess, 72 Seymour Avenue, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 2RR. Tel: 020 8786 7452.

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details from Mrs Annette Owen, 47 Beauclerk Green, Winchfield, Hook, Hants RG27 8BF. Tel: 01252 845187.

FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Tuesdays 8.00pm, September to mid July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Instruction by Mrs Margaret Henderson. Details from Pam Black, 0208 894 9399. pamjblack@aol.com

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-11.00pm, September to May. Full details from Vikki Spencer, 24 Park Hill, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 6PW. Tel: 01252 691922.

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays 8 to 10pm end of September to May. Details: Mrs B MacKenzie Ross, Blythe Muse, Misbourne Ave, Chalfont St Peter SL9 0PD. Tel 01494 874604.

GREAT MISSENDEEN: THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Thursdays 8.00pm, Oldhams Hall, Church Road, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231.

GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.

GUILDFORD SCDC meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford most Mondays at 8.15pm from September to April. Teacher Paul Plummer, 01483 236946.

HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION Dancing on Tuesdays Sept.-June from 8.00-10.00pm 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 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00pm. Details from Phil Bray, 25 St. Olams Close, Luton, Beds LU3 2LD. Tel: 01582 617734.

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Classes Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm, Orley Farm School, South Hill Ave, Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Sheena Henderson, 92a Kenton Road, Kenton HA3 8AE. Tel: 020 8907 6581.

HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Fridays 8-10pm, September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.

HERTSMERE REEL CLUB. Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.

HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15pm. September to July, tuition followed by social dancing. Also monthly Saturday dances and ceilidhs. All at Heston Methodist Church Hall. Details from Mrs Rosemary Mitchell, Tel: 01784 254401.

JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP. Contacts: Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel/Fax 01534 854459: Alan Nicole 01534 484375, alan.nicole@yahoo.co.uk; or Brenda Gale 01534 862357. See blog <http://scottishcountrydancing.blogspot.com/>.

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 7.00-8.00pm. General 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. 01843 869284.

LEICESTER BRANCH RSCDS meets Thursdays, Holy Cross Centre, Wellington St., Leicester. 4 classes - Beginners, Intermediates, Social, Advanced. 7.30-8.30p.m., followed by Social dancing until 10p.m. Also Tuesdays 1.30-3.45p.m. General class at same venue. Contact: Mrs. Pamela Hood 0016 2753886, jdjimps@aol.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* or contact Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG. 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096. www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday 8.00pm 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. maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk.

MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday 7.30-10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details from Jane Masters, 251 Robin Hood Lane, Blue Bell Hill, Chatham, Kent ME5 9QU. Tel: 01634 864007.

MARKET HARBOURHOLD SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY. Dancing at Fairfield Road School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. Tuesday 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Connie Elphick, 'Lazonby', 9 Little Lunnon, Duntton Bassett, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 5JR. 01455 209446.

MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm 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. tel 01474 822919.

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

MID SUSSEX CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Events throughout the year at various venues. Members of SASS. Classes held before St. Andrews/ Burns. Contact David Anderson, 8 Tindal Close, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 0LB. 01444 244854, madaanderson@hotmail.com

MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS. Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00-10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Blethley, Milton Keynes. MK3 5LP. 01908 378730, jange@verybusy.co.uk

NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB. Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. from September to May at Roecroft School, Stotfold. Informal Saturday Dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Sheffield, Beds. SG17 5AL. Tel: 01462 812691.

NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dancing 7.45-10.00pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Road, Hoo, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9JN. Tel. 01634 254451.

ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday 7.45-10.15pm. at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Classes Mon evgs at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Mrs. P. J. 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. Tel: 01869 340830.

READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY. Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00-10.00pm. September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Rita Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Tel: 0118 975 7507. www.scottishdancingreading.org.

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00pm from mid Sept. to end of May. All welcome. Information contact 020 8977 4304.

SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@lee.org.

ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON). The Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB. 020 8540 1755. www.geocities.com/standrewsoclondon.

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Sept to May, 7.15-10pm. Admission free except for six 'Band Nights' when tickets cost £7 inc. supper (Burns Night £10). Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details: Bob Harman: 020 8642 7192, bobandmegharman@aol.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. Sue Davis 01344 774344, 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne. Also Childrens' Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, Deborah Draffin 01344 776831.

ST. NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS, Luton meet every Wednesday, September to July 8.00-10.00pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road, Luton, Beds. Contact: Pat Hamilton, 01462 671156 or Sheila Harris, 01525 875606.

SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00-10.00pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Penelope Fisk, Sunnysbank Cottages, 15 Maidstone Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3BY. Tel: 01732 457327.

SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday from mid-September to May 8.30-10.30pm, in Barnes. Further info: Evelyn Bremner, 49a Lime Grove. New Malden, KT3 3TP, Tel: 020 8949 4469.

SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details: Pauline Cameron, 7 Wayne Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 9TS. Tel: 01689 838395.

SOMERSET BRANCH RSCDS Beginners and General Class at Kelnton Mandeville School Mon. 7.30-9.30pm. Experienced Thurs. at Monteclefe School, Somerton 7.45-9.45pm Children's Class Charlton Mackrell Reading Room Sun. 2.30-4.00pm Sats. Highland class Kingsdon Village Hall 2.00-4.00pm Sats.

SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30-10.00pm. Details from Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ. Tel: 01305 265177.

SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Fridays, 7.30 to 10.30pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details Mrs Edna Carroll, 01702 428974.

SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS. Classes in Hertford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Sacred Heart School, Ware; Beginners Thurs 7.30pm. Millmead School, Hertford. Demonstration Alt. Mons 8.0pm. St John's Hall, Hertford. Details: Mrs Maureen Ainsworth, 01279 434342.

SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB meets Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details: Brenda Hinton, 01273 595017.

SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday at 8pm. September to June at St. Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsley Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY. 01932 784866. surbitoncaledonian.co.uk.

THE SCOTTISH CLANS ASSOCIATION OF LONDON meets at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1, every Tuesday from October to end of May for Scottish Country Dancing, 7.00-10.00pm. Details: Tom Symington, 020 7834 7151 or 020 7828 6792.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS. Beginners, General and Advanced classes on Mon, Tues, Thurs, 8.00-10.00pm at St. Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details: Colin Simpson, 21 Culverden Avenue, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9RE. Tel: 01892 532712(eve) 01732 377407(work).

WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION hold weekly adult Classes for, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Monday evenings. Details from Mrs Maggie Westley, 30 Stanley Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4LF. Tel: +44 (0) 20 8647 9899, wesley3148@tiscali.co.uk. www.wallingtonscottish.org.uk.

WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Class at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1BJ. Thursdays from 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE. 01923 492475, reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk.

WAYERLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Winchester, every Thursday from September to the end of June, 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Pat Mumford, 02380 252570.

WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Mondays 8.00pm. Dance Class. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford. WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.

WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS Classes Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Club night (all abilities) Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. Both evenings take place at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ. 01264 363293, wendy@munford.com.

WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from Maureen Manson, tel: 01206 210927.

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Page 8: Who was Tam o'Shanter? Answer Ken Martlew

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Left

Estonia comes to
London

from left to right –

back row:
Vaiko Välli,
Leila Talu,
Mendi Väli,
Eike Albert-Unt,
Riina Laur,
Krista Jagomägi,
Jim Cook (brilliant
organiser)

front row:
Tarmo Unt,
Jarmo Jagomägi,
Saima Süvari

See article on
page 5.

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