



the reel

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Readers

FROM DINOSAURS TO FRUIT CAKE

London Branch member Rosalind Zuridis talks with John Drewry, new recipient of the RSCDS Scroll of Honour.

I BECAME aware of John Drewry's fame and influence very soon after starting Scottish Country Dancing. Leafing through the pages of my Pilling I saw, time and again, the name Drewry at the head of dances, usually those with a very challenging look to them! From then on, his name and dances started surfacing with astounding regularity. Increasingly intrigued by the man behind the name, and helped in my quest by our editor, I eventually tracked John down to his home in Aberdeen and arranged to meet him at St. Andrews whilst I was up at the Summer School.

John arrived for our meeting laden with offerings – a delectable fruit cake baked by himself, straw-berries from his garden and reams of helpful notes about his life and dances! This note of kindness and consideration was to permeate our conversation.

Despite his mastery of a peculiarly Scottish cultural idiom, John is not a Scot – he hails from Leicestershire. He is a chemist by training and graduated in this subject with 1st Class honours. In 1955 work took him to Whitehaven in Cumbria and later, in 1965, he moved to Aberdeen to take up a university appointment. Since then, his life has centred around Aberdeen.

During the fifties and early sixties John's interest in dancing was kindled and his gift for creating dances rapidly became apparent. He belonged to a walking group and, influenced by a Scot amongst them, joined a Whitehaven Rambling Club which occasionally offered Scottish Country Dancing. Clearly bitten by the bug, John and some friends soon formed their own fledgling dancing group. He recalled that they had just enough people for two sets and that the very popular dances at that time were Scottish Reform and Petronella.

Very soon this hobby expanded into writing dances. The first dance he ever wrote was a very light-hearted affair. "I wrote it to tease someone," he told me. "There was a lady in our group whose nick-name was Flora and she didn't like being called this. So I wrote a dance called Flora's Rant.

The group danced it and only at the end did I tell her its name."

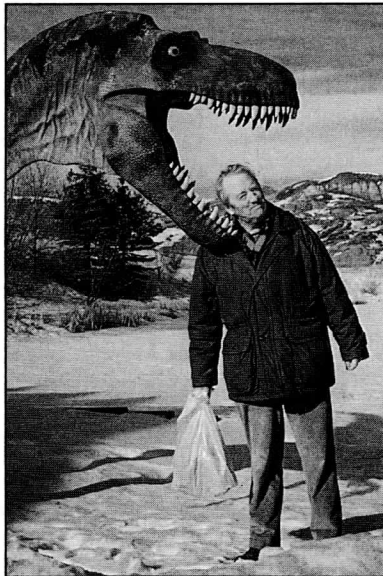
At this time John benefited greatly from the encouragement and friendship of the dance writer Hugh Foss; they and other enthusiasts spent weekends together trying out new dances.

John continued to produce dances which proved popular and in the early sixties he offered the very accomplished strathspey, The Silver Tassie, to his Carlisle group. It achieved immediate success and attracted the attention of the RSCDS. Miss Milligan was particularly taken by the Rondel figure and encouraged John to give the formation this name "because it goes round and round". However the writer and his creation appear to have become occasionally confused in her mind since she often took to calling John "Mr Rondel"! In any case John was clearly very pleased with this dance. "Apart from The Robertson Rant it was in my experience the first strathspey to be encored," he recalled.

According to John this creative blossoming was in no way planned. A joke, a random experience, a reaction to nature – and the dances flowered as responses to these moments. A phrase I was to hear several times during our conversation was a disarming and modest "It just happened."

That era of the late fifties and early sixties was clearly a very light-hearted one. All exciting new dances were seized upon by the young dancers. John recounted how certain dances were not officially recognised by Miss Milligan and the RSCDS Summer School, and so jewels such as Mairi's Wedding, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and The Robertson Rant were not to be found at St. Andrews dances. "So crowds of us would drive off to Perth, Dundee, Carnoustie – wherever these "sinful" dances were to be found!"

John has come a long way since those times. He has over 630 dances to his name, he has been deeply involved in the RSCDS and travels the world teaching his dances. He has managed to combine all of this with his interests in music, photography and the growing of exotic plants! John's seemingly boundless creativity fascinates me and so we spent some time talking about how he conceives his dances. Although John is a



John Drewry with a very fierce beastie at the Dinosaur Museum, Drumheller, Alberta

SUMMER DANCING WEEKEND

25th - 27th August 2000

With **Mary Murray** and **Muriel Johnstone** at Wall Hall, Watford, Campus of the University of Hertfordshire, Near Aldenham

IN memory of Alex Westwood, our President from 1982 - 1996, London Branch will be holding the above weekend with the exciting partnership of Mary Murray, and Muriel Johnstone on the piano.

The cost of this residential course including all meals from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch, informal evening dances to the Silver Cross Band (Friday) and Brian Hamilton's Band (Saturday) plus classes on Saturday and Sunday mornings is £127.

Application forms with full details are now available from our Secretary, Helen Brown, 6 Wells Drive, London NW9 8DD. Please provide a stamped, self addressed envelope if possible.

Numbers are limited so early application is recommended.

scientist, he does not feel that there is a mathematical basis to his compositions. He believes rather that they spring from a desire to create artistic shapes which flow beautifully. "They should be abstract compositions, like pieces of music" he said.

John's inspiration comes to him in various ways. Thus Bratach Bana sprang from a piece of music of that name. It was a Gaelic song which had become popular. John was camping alone in a village west of Fort William and he heard the tune on his portable radio. He composed it there and then including the revolutionary diagonal rights and lefts with which the dance ends. Bees of Maggie Knockater, on the other hand, was sparked off by a verbal cue. John had seen a sign reading "Maggi Knockater Apiary" outside a village in Banffshire and suddenly the dance was born. "People think that I wrote the dance consciously visualising the curving shapes of wings," he said. "In fact, it was just this long, long sign with its strange, densely packed letters which inspired me." At other times, though, John has no idea what prompts his inspiration. Midnight Oil for example, occurred to him in a flash when he woke up one morning.

Still pursuing the creative aspect I asked John how he actually visualised his ideas. He said it is a combination of seeing them as if he were floating above the dancers, but also a strong sensation of the set moving around him. He does not, at the early stage, write out his dances as diagrams. "I see the dance mentally and then I write out >

➤ instructions. Occasionally I do a diagram later to check if it will all work. I use Arabic numerals for the men and Roman numerals for the women." He likes diagrams to be drawn with the top of the dance at the bottom of the page "so that they can be read like a map."

John has introduced many fresh formations and progressions into the canon of Scottish Country Dancing. Amongst his offerings are Corners Pass and Turn (thus Scotch Mist), Diagonal Rights and Lefts (Bratach Bana), Inveran Reels (Mrs Macpherson of Inveran), Rondel (the Silver Tassie), and the Petronella in Tandem (Cherrybank Gardens). A very recent innovation is the Triple Petronella! John devised it in May this year in a new dance called Morland Triples. According to John this formation is very pretty if done well. He also likes adding complexity to dances, being very fond of obliging the 3s and 4s to cross over at the start of the dance as in Blooms of Bon Accord. He also has a predilection for densely patterned dances where the 1s and 4s mirror each other as in Flower of the Quern.

John's innovations have added enormously to the dance repertoire. Yet his approach to his creativity is unassuming and direct. "I think I just have the ability to fit things together," he said. Similarly the qualities he admires in actual dancing are simple elegance, good deportment and politeness. He also stressed how important good phrasing is for the fluency of the dance. "The dancer should flow from one formation to the next."

We then talked about the relationship between his dances and their music. Sometimes his dances spring directly from a tune he has heard: thus the Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord was inspired by a Scott-Skinner tune. Sometimes he writes dances and then commissions tunes for them, but admitted that this can be a problem if, in his opinion, the tunes don't suit the dances!

John also actively seeks out beautiful tunes in old dance books, such as those produced in the 18th century by the Gow family and William Marshall. He clearly holds these musicians in very high regard.

I asked John what advice he would give to aspiring dance composers. He said that many people show him their dances, but there is a tendency merely to string together standard formations. "It's not worth doing unless you can do something original," he commented. "You need to have a good knowledge of existing dances and what you devise should be interesting and pleasant to do with plenty of interaction. Dancers should be able to follow their own path without too much difficulty." He did, however, admit it was becoming increasingly difficult to think up something new. "There's a limit to what you can ask people to do on two legs - you can't ask them to turn cartwheels"

Towards the end of our talk I asked John the

MILLENNIUM DINOSAUR COMPETITION

WITH apologies to our Swiss readers who, correctly, will not be celebrating the new Millennium until 2001, why not finish the nineties in style by entering our caption competition. Quite simply, can you devise a better caption for the photograph appearing on the previous page? Please send your entry to me, The Editor, to arrive by 15th January 2000. (See bottom of page 1 for my name and address). John Drewry will judge the entries. The winner will be announced in the next issue and will be awarded with a signed copy of John's new strathspey "Drumheller", alternatively titled "A Tit-Bit for Dinosaurs", devised as a consequence of this photograph!

question which has long intrigued me - which of all his dances is his favourite? The answer turns out to be Macleod's Fancy. "It hangs together and fits the time well. There is a reasonable amount of dancing for everyone, but they are not dancing all the time and have moments of rest. There is a lot of attractive mirroring between the 1s and the 4s." He is also very fond of Autumn in Appin which, despite his fearing that it would be too difficult, became very popular.

Discussing other people's dances he cited The Montgomeries' Rant, the Braes of Breadalbane and Monymusk as being great favourites. He likes the moment in Monymusk where a giant circle is often formed. "There are also a lot of lovely dances in the RSCDS Book 10," he said.

John's meteoric achievements have now been deservedly recognised as he has just been presented with the RSCDS Scroll of Honour at the Society's AGM. I am sure all his admirers will be delighted at his receiving this accolade. As for me, I have decided that if I ever write a dance its title simply has to be "Drewry's Cake!"

Rosalind Zuridis

Postscript:

However, matters do not simply end there! After having read an advance copy of this article, the mention of "Drewry's Cake" prompted John to kindly devise a dance, dedicating it to the occasion of his conversation with Rosalind. The title? "The Fruit-Cake!" John says, "Maybe this dance will help Rosalind on the way to writing "Drewry's Cake", but I hope she does not think I am an absolute fruit-cake or even a half-baked one!" Most definitely not and "The Reel" thanks John for allowing the reproduction of the dance here. Do please have a nibble and try it out! Ed.

The Fruit-Cake

A 3-couple jig

- 1-4 1C and 2W dance right hands across; at the end, 1W stays facing out. 2M and 3C dance right hands across; at the end 3M stays facing out.
- 5-8 1W dances down behind 2W and then crosses to 3rd place on the men's side. 1M follows her to finish in third place on the women's side. 3M dances up behind 2M and then crosses to 1st place on the women's side. 3W follows him to finish in 1st place on the men's side.
- 9-12 3C and 2M dance left hands across; at the end 3W stays facing out. 2W and 1C dance left hands across; at the end 1M stays facing out.
- 13-16 3W dances down behind 2M and then crosses to her original place. 3M follows her to finish in his original place. 1M dances up behind 2W and then crosses to his original place, where he stays facing out. 1W follows him to finish in her original place.
- 17-20 1M and 2M, 1W and 2W, turn with the left hand 1½ times to change places.
- 21-24 1M and 3M, 1W and 3W turn with the right hand once round.
- 25-32 2C, 1C and 3C dance six hands round and back.
- Repeat, having passed a couple.

Note: When 1st couple are repeating the dance, during bars 21-24, 1st and original 4th couples can turn with the right hand one and a half times, before dancing the circle. This is a convenient way of taking the original first couple down to the bottom to be ready for a clean start with the new top couple.

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.

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Southeast Group: Simon Wales
Combined Societies: Simon Wales

*Indicates a non-Executive Committee member.

Branch Web Site
www.scdlondon.freeserve.co.uk

Objects of the Society

- To preserve and further the practice of traditional Scottish Country Dances.
- To promote and encourage the formation of Branches.
- To provide, or assist in providing, special education or instruction in the practice of Scottish Country Dances.
- To promote/publish by all available means information and music relating to Scottish Country Dancing and in particular to publish, or cause to be published descriptions of Scottish Country Dances with music and diagrams in simple form and at moderate price.
- To collect books, manuscripts, illustrations and other memorabilia relating to Scottish Country Dancing and to the Society.
- Generally, to do such other things as are or may be considered by the Society to be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects above stated or any of them.

BRANCH MATTERS

WELL, this season is really starting to take shape now – we got off to a flying start with the sessions of open air dancing in Kensington Gardens. At each of the two afternoons, helped by some glorious early September weather, over a hundred people of all ages and many nationalities took to the delights of the various types of Scottish dancing to some excellent lively music. Some may well have been persuaded to try again elsewhere.

Our regular calendar of activities is now well underway, with David Hall and Sound Company providing excellent music for the first two Branch dances, and the day school for dancers and musicians proving its usual great success. If you missed any of these, there are plenty of opportunities to join in coming up – we have our Christmas Ball at Battersea Town Hall on 18th December (tickets in advance for this one please!) and, to start off the new century, the President's Night on 8th January. We also have Colin Dewar coming down to play in February, so get these dates in your diary now!

Branch classes are drawing to the end of another successful term, with the country classes augmented by the new course encompassing all types of Scottish dancing – reeling and ceilidh as well as old time dancing, bringing new dancers to RSCDS events. The Highland and ladies' step classes also add another valued dimension to the range of dance classes on offer.

Elsewhere in "The Reel" you will see mention of various events being subsidised by the Alex Westwood bequest. The Branch has been extremely fortunate in benefiting from our former president's Will and we feel that these events, and more to follow, will be a fitting tribute to a man who gave so much to the Branch and dancing generally. We did not want to see the money swallowed up in the day to day running of the Branch and so will be spending some of the money on events we would not otherwise necessarily have run.

The first of these will be a Shetland dance workshop taught by Mats Mellin with music by Ian Robertson. The latter is well known to us from Sound Company whose music speaks for itself, but the former will not be so familiar a name. Mats is a full time dance co-ordinator with the Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust and expert in Shetland dancing. This event will take place on 5th March 2000 at Cecil Sharp House.

We are also organising a social reunion for members in the afternoon of 17th June - a chance to get together and talk with other Branch members and committee, with some small items of entertainment too. I fear we sometimes forget the social aspect in what we do in our haste to make up sets at dances, so here's the opportunity to put that right!

There will also be a weekend school taught by Mary Murray from Vancouver which will take place at the end of August 2000 and we are discussing the development of resources for teaching children and there are many other possibilities to be developed over the next few years. More of all these in future editions of "The Reel".

There are also two special events being planned for next year to celebrate the new century – Hove and the Dome! The south-east Branches are planning another Festival at Hove for the weekend of 30th June - 2nd July, building on the success of last year's with a whole weekend of activities this time and we are still in negotiations with the Millennium Experience to hold a massed event in the Dome at Greenwich, so keep reading "The Reel" for further developments and for news of all our many activities.

Simon Wales

MISSING BOOK 40?

IF you are a London Branch member who did not receive Book 40 with the last "Reel", please contact Owen Meyer, Tel: 01753 643461.

HQ E-MAIL ADDRESS

CORRECTING the address in the last issue of "The Reel", please note that HQ is now connected to the Web with e-mail facilities. The address is: info@rscdshq.freemove.co.uk

TEA PARTY

Saturday 17th June 2000

THIS is a reminder that older members, who no longer dance regularly, are invited to a reunion party at St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1. The costs are met by the Alex Westwood Bequest, Full details in the next issue of "The Reel".

SCD CLASSES IN THE SOUTHEAST

PLEASE amend the 1999-2000 list of Classes in the Southeast to include the following class. In Kent, the Hayes & West Wickham Scottish Society hold a Wednesday evening General Class at West Wickham. For details contact Sylvia Conrad, Tel: 020 8657 6720.

COMPUTER INDEX

THE Bookstall now has a new "floppy disc" version of the Napier Index, updated to July 1999. It lists about 8,500 dances in alphabetical order, with their type, figure content and source. Price £7. Available from Ian Anderson, 104 Whitdown Lane, Alton, Hants, GU34 1QR, Tel: 01420 84599.

BRANCH NOTICEBOARD

ON THE premise that you can never find one when you want one, we would like to develop a directory of useful services for our readers, listed under suitable headings, e.g.:

Kiltmakers.....Kilts/Plaids
Pipers.....Solo/Bands
Drummers.....Solo/Band
Seamstresses.....Aboyne/White/sashes
Knitters.....Hose/Tartan Hose/Shawls

It would also be useful to have a source list of emergency items for the last minute display, e.g.:

Swords/Banners/Bunting/Flags

If you know of anyone in your area who could provide such a service please contact Jeff Robertson on 01444 482423 before 15th January 2000 for inclusion in the next issue.

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and the London Branch costs £10 per annum for UK based members (£10.50 for Europe and £12 for elsewhere). Current members of other Branches can join London Branch for £3.50 per annum if they live in the UK (£4 in Europe and £5.50 elsewhere). Long term membership is also available for combined Society and Branch membership. London Branch membership brings benefits including "The Reel", while Society membership includes the annual dance publication, Bulletin and Newsletters.

Membership applications and enquiries should be sent to the new membership secretary, Owen Meyer, 50 Bunby Road, Stoke Poges, Bucks, SL2 4BP. Tel: 01753 643461.

MILLENNIUM LOGO

THE following logo has been chosen by HQ for use throughout the millennium year. Do you think it is effective?



MILLENNIUM CORE DANCES

AS the Publications Committee received many positive comments during the 75th Anniversary Year, which indicated that members appreciated the opportunity to dance the core dances at events around the world, the Committee hopes that some, or all, of the following core programme dances might be included in the celebrations and dances in 2000. The theme for the choice of dances is "Dance through the decades", one dance being chosen from each decade of the Society:

1920s Scottish Reform.....J.... Book 3
1930s Cadgers in the Canongate.....R.... Book 9
1940s The De'il among the Tailors.....R.... Book 14
1950s The Birks of Invermay.....S.... Book 15
1960s The Starry Eyed Lassie.....J.... Book 23
1970s Staffin Harvest.....S.... 4 for '78
1980s John of Bon Accord.....R.... Book 33
1990s Gang the Same Gate.....S.... Book 36

Southeast Branches

MILLENNIUM FESTIVAL and DANCE WEEKEND

30th June - 2nd July 2000

Hove, Sussex.

Friday evening.....Informal Dance
Saturday morning.....Country Dance class
with Linda Gaul
Saturday afternoon. MILLENNIUM FESTIVAL
for adult and junior teams
Saturday evening.....FAMILY DANCE
with David Hall and his Band
FESTIVAL DANCE
with Frank Reid and his Band
Sunday morning.....
Ceilidh, Highland and Step workshops

You can attend as many or as few of these events as you like. Come for the weekend and arrange your own accommodation or come for a day. Come with your friends and make up a set for the Festival and take your pick from the rest of the weekend's programme. It's entirely up to you.

Further details, including how to book, in the next issue of "The Reel" or from Wendy Mumford either by 'phone (01264 363292) or by sending a stamped addressed envelope to 32 Winchester Road, Andover, Hants SP10 2EQ.

THE REEL

IF YOU are not a member of the London Branch order your copy of "The Reel" from Bill Ireland, 6 Tansley Court, 194 Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey SM6 0PQ.

The annual cost for individual subscribers is £3.50 if resident in the UK, £4.00 for other European residents and £5.50 if resident elsewhere. There are special rates for bulk orders. All remittances in sterling please. Cheques payable to RSCDS (London Branch).



NEW RECORDINGS

Highlander Music, Vol 9 - Sandy Leggett and the Carseloch Ceilidh Band (HRM 509, CD only)

Rory O'More, A Man's a Man for a' That, Dance of Diamonds, Farewell to Cruilin, Blue Bonnets, Frae a' the Airts, Bonnie Dundee, Gypsy Glen, Meeting of the Waters, Rothesay Country Dance, Soldier's Joy, Stirling Castle, Swiss Lassie, Deveron Reel.

Repeat Prescription - Sandy Nixon and his Scottish Dance Band (HRM 556 CD)

Miss C.M. Barbour, Castle Park Jig, Sandy Nixon's Reel, For all the Ladies, Jiggery Pokery, Lesley Nixon's Reel, Iain Nixon's Reel, Mo's Jig, Miss Suzanne Barbour, By Dundonald, Cuckoo Clock, Whitby Wedding, C.J.'s Reel.

Band Boy's Choice - John Renton and his Scottish Dance Band (TR 9903 on CD and cassette)

The Frisky, The Saltire Society Reel, Dalkeith's Strathspey (4x32), Mrs Stewart's Jig, Trip to Bavaria, Soldier's Joy, Follow Me Home, The Duke of Perth, Strip the Willow (8x32 in 6/8 time); also waltzes, marches, etc.

VOLUME 9 in Highlander Music's Series maintains the high standard, already acclaimed in these columns, of the first eight. Although billed as a Ceilidh Band the Carseloch certainly know how to play for country dances. Particular care has been taken in the selection of alternative tunes. I am not implying that other bands do not take care but one or two sets here are worthy of special mention. For A Man's a Man For a' That they have chosen seven other tunes associated with Burns' songs, including some, e.g. Corn Rigs and Duncan Gray, which we normally hear in Reel time. The set finishes with Auld Lang Syne composed as a strathspey before Burns linked it with the now familiar words (Burns himself did not actually write the words but that's another story!). We have a nice string of Border marches for the Meeting of the Waters. For Swiss Lassie they play some rip-roaring modern reels. All in all a highly recommended CD.

Mention of rip-roaring tunes leads us nicely on to Sandy Nixon's Repeat Prescription (This CD was issued on cassette in 1992 but for reasons now unknown was not reviewed in "The Reel"). The title reminds us that Sandy is a G.P. I can do no better than lift a few phrases from the liner notes. "...the mixture is a real tonic, the prognosis is excellent... Sandy's jaunty genre and stylish syncopations made this album a real pick-me-up." Tempo is a fraction faster than current RSCDS recordings but the music is so good it will lift one Up in the Air. A booklet containing the dance instructions is available from Highlander Music.

John Renton's Band is also in the top flight with a nice tight sound. Gordon Simpson's fiddle playing melds exceedingly well with John's accordion. The country dance tracks are at a steady tempo and some of the others are well suited to ceilidh dancing. I particularly like a couple of 2/4 pipe marches suitable for the Canadian Barn Dance.

As promised in our last issue, we now review a few of the many Scottish CDs issued in the last year or so and recommended as Christmas Gifts for folk who enjoy not just dancing but listening.

"Fyvie's Embrace" (ABC 465 263-2) is a CD of fiddle music composed by the Gows, Marshall, Scott Skinner and from the Simon Fraser collection expertly played with great feeling and depth by Chris Duncan of New South Wales. 'Cello and piano accompany in a very sensitive manner.

Alasdair Fraser, well known to many readers, plays in his own distinctive style "Celtic music from the heart of the Scottish tradition" on "Return to Kintail" (CUL 113D). Guitar accompaniment is by Tony McManus.

Pete Clark, a Fifer now living in the Dunkeld area is another fine fiddler who plays in what I

call an "earthy" style - lots of vigour and body to it. His latest CD "Even Now" (SMD 615) consists entirely of tunes by Niel Gow who spent his life in the Dunkeld area.

Alpha Munro from Evanton on "Stars in the Wave" (FDMCD1) plays some 20 tunes composed by herself double tracked on fiddle and piano; Mike Simpson plays guitar and mandola. The tune titles reflect the feel of the open air, e.g. Daybreak, Harvest Light, Sea Drift, etc. The tunes themselves conjure up "tune pictures". This is a delightful album.

If massed fiddles is to one's taste I recommend The Inverness Fiddlers on INF CD001. Some fine playing by this 30-strong ensemble and a few solo tracks.

Keith Smith is lead fiddler in a group called Hoogie. Their debut CD "Knackiedro" (KSCD 001) is well worth buying if one is seeking something a bit different in the folk genre. It includes some rousing jigs - four composed by Keith, gaelic waltzes and much more besides.

"One for the Road" is a fine selection of, mostly Irish, lesser known songs sung by John Barden who also plays mandolin, banjo and bouzouki. Keith Smith accompanies on fiddle, viola and piano and his sister Moira plays 'cello. Keith also plays a Scottish tune or two just to remind us how well he can do so!

Piping on the Box (TRCD 9803) consists of more than 50 pipe tunes in every conceivable time-signature played on piano accordion by John Crawford of Freuchie. It is thrilling stuff. Gus Millar is on drums and Graham Berry plays piano - and how!

Now to a few Band records all with sets of reels and jigs (mostly four times through), marches, waltzes, hornpipes, *et al.* My favourite is by Hector McFadyen who is a native of the Island of Colonsay (SMRO 85 CD). It has six sets of pipe marches suitable for Gay Gordons, Canadian Barn Dance and Two Steps. The waltz "June Clover" composed by William Hannah will bring back memories for Scots of a certain age!

"From Highlands and Islands" (SHIEL CD 002) is Iain McPhail's latest album. As ever, he rolls along at a good pace with an 8x32 reel in 4 minutes 15 seconds, but the selection of music is wide ranging with two sets of gaelic waltzes which are truly beautiful and a couple of hymn tunes which might bring a tear to the eye.

"From the Banks of Loch Lomond" (SHIEL CD 006) is a debut album by Neil MacEachern who lives on these banks. Freeland Barbour writes in the liner notes "...what a delightful mixture of material they play, with a vitality and dexterity that will leave many another musician green with envy." I must add that there is a fine fiddle solo played by Neil's wife Angela.

On "From the Heart" (TRCD 9901) Allan McIntosh and his band are in sparkling form, all the way from Roxburgh Castle to the Braemar

Highland Gathering. Somewhere along the route they meet up with the Cameron Highlanders. The Duchess of Bedford and Professor Blackie.

The Decca years (466 415-2) is a 2-CD set of 50 (yes, fifty) songs recorded by Kenneth McKellar between 1955 and 1975. Scottish songs, Irish songs, Victoriana, Classical - a great collection by one of Scotland's finest living tenors.

Finally, a few words of thanks. Firstly, to all the kind folk who have sent me review copies over the past year. William at Highlander, The Two Davids at Thane, Stuart of Shielburn, Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith.

Secondly, I sometimes have difficulty finding just the right words to describe a recording or perhaps a particular nuance. The mind goes blank! So, it is thank you to Gillian, Dave and Keith who have all helped me out on more than one occasion.

John Laurie

Two NEW CDs from Keith Smith!
"Hoogie" (foot-tapping listening music) and
"One for the Road" (songs and tunes from Ireland and Scotland). Price £12 each or £20 for both CDs inc. P&P. Keith B. Smith, 35 Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge CB3 9AY, UK.
 Tel/fax: 01223 357703.

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THE STRATHSPEY REEL: strictly national and peculiar to Scotland? - Part 1 -

Introduction

IT is important to develop an accurate historical account of the dances that are part of the traditional repertoire to help us appreciate the subtlety and skill within them, and to explain aspects that may seem strange and inconsistent now. For example, you may wonder why so much of the dance vocabulary is French.

We shall examine the elements that comprise the Strathspey Reel in its historical context, in order to identify local, national and international features of the dance.

The Strathspey is a type of reel, a genre of music and dance that has been widely accepted as native to Scotland. As music, the reel is a fast duple-time tune; as dancing, a weaving figure for three, four (or more) dancers interspersed with steps danced in place. The style of both is energetic and dexterous. This manner of dancing and playing is also known as the 'common' reel or the reel 'proper' to distinguish it from the Strathspey reel, a variant that emerged in the middle of the eighteenth century. This slowed down the rhythm to a marked four-in-a-bar style, and made extensive use of the dotted rhythms of the Scotch snap. Emerging at first as an instrumental form, the Strathspey was soon used for dancing. The blend of slow air and dynamic rhythm stimulated virtuosic footwork on the part of the dancer, and the new rhythm was used in Scotch country dances as an accompaniment to solo dancing, and as another style for the reel. The pairing of slow Strathspey and fast common reel, once it was discovered (c. 1800?) has become a norm of Scottish dancing.

Date and Place of Dance

The name, and much circumstantial evidence, indicates the home of this reel as the Strathspey region of NE Scotland. Its development and general acceptance covered a period from c. 1750 - c. 1825. (Although the dance has a continuous history to the present day, its usage and currency altered after 1825.) Thus the period and region of its existence place it on several crucial axes of Scottish life, and reveal it as a meeting point of cultural forces.

Important documents relating to the dance emerge around 1800, to be set in the context of many musical sources from the mid-eighteenth century and further dance and music sources throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. I shall refer to the following:

1. Francis Peacock

Sketches Relative to History and Theory, but more especially to the Practice of Dancing
[Sketch 5] Aberdeen 1805

Peacock was dancing master and musician to the city of Aberdeen.

2. anon. 1818

Contredanses à Paris

National Library of Scotland. ms 3860. Manuscript draft of a book on dancing: possibly by an Edinburgh dancing master.

3. Niel Gow, Nathaniel Gow

Several collections of slow airs and dance music for the violin, featuring Strathspeys. Edinburgh 1784 - 1822.

Niel Gow was famous in Scotland and England for the exquisite and danceable quality of his playing, assisting the popularity of the Strathspey. He and his son Nathaniel also published many tunes, composed by themselves and others.

4. Elizabeth Grant of Rothiemurchus (1797-1885)

Memoirs of a Highland Lady

Edinburgh 1898 John Murray

Written in 1845, the memoir covers a long and much travelled life. She includes information on dancing lessons and balls at the family home in Strathspey, and balls in Edinburgh, London, etc., and India.

This article's title derives from *Contredanses à Paris*, which deals with the incoming quadrille and waltz, as well as the country dance and reel. The first page of the section on the Strathspey is inscribed:

The strathspey steps are not in disuse and ought by all means to be kept up being the only sort of dancing we have, strictly national and peculiar to Scotland.

This vigorous assertion of national pride reveals a sense of threat to the Strathspey from outside influences. It also invites us today to question whether it was, indeed, a national dance, or, rather, a local one, or more a part of the mainstream of European dance.

The Situation of Scotland 1750-1825

Scotland has a complex history in which two contrasting cultures, the Saxon and the Celtic, have coexisted for centuries, both shaped by influences from England and France. An affinity with France was born out of antagonism to England, and the Auld Alliance, initiated in the thirteenth century led to a long history of accord and cultural exchange between Scotland and France. Scots have also been energetic travellers, despite their remote situation in Northern Europe, and therefore have always possessed an international outlook.

Geographically, the Highlands and Lowlands of Scotland fall either side of a border running from the NE to the SW of the country. This imaginary line is often called the Highland Line. It also marks the boundary between the Gaelic speaking communities of the Highlands and the Saxon speakers of Scots - a northern dialect of English. The Strathspey area (the valley of the River Spey) is on this boundary, and most of the individuals associated with the promotion of the Strathspey reel lived on, or east of, this boundary. Today, the line is the administrative boundary marking the remit of The Highlands and Islands Development Board to the west.

Highlanders speaking Gaelic had maintained a lifestyle based on the clan structure, in which the tartan plaid and the bagpipes were important features. A war-like society also led them to be feared by their neighbours, who were often victims of their depredations. Of all Scots, they were particularly loath to accept rule from England, and fomented rebellion in aid of the Jacobite cause in 1715 and 1745. This second rebellion frightened the Hanoverian government so badly, that they were particularly vicious in punishing and disarming the rebels, introducing a ban on the Highland icons of tartan and bagpipes. This helped to destroy the clan structure, which was already enfeebled by modern conditions, and with agricultural reforms that brought sheep onto the hills instead of people, depopulation of the Highlands ensued throughout the period under discussion.

In contrast, the Lowland regions enjoyed a Saxon culture and, tempered by the difficulties of distance, belonged to the mainstream of English and European life. Indeed, the burgeoning of intellectual and cultural life in the mid- to late-

eighteenth century led Scottish pioneers to make a major contribution to the international stage. Centred on Edinburgh, this period is designated the Scottish Enlightenment, and resulted in major achievements in philosophy, science, medicine and the humanities. The cultural life of Edinburgh flourished alongside, and the best of classical music and fashionable dancing was available to Scottish society, transmitted swiftly to the citizens of Aberdeen and Glasgow. These men of active genius, tended to see Scotland's destiny as North Britain, under a Hanoverian crown. The Scottish Enlightenment was driven by a superior system of universal education that allowed humble boys to progress to the colleges of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen, and thence into the professions. This was an education that stressed English as the language of learning and government. Thus both Scots (despite an outstanding literary heritage) and Gaelic (a spoken language) were held in low esteem as the languages of the common people. Nevertheless, the internationalism of the Scottish Enlightenment embraced Scottish culture. A perfect example of this, for our purposes, is the stimulus to Scottish fiddle playing induced by the demand for skilled instrumentalists in the concert and theatre bands of Edinburgh. This helped to form professional players and composers of distinction, such as Niel Gow, Daniel Dow and William Marshall, who were equally competent to play either Handel, Corelli or a Strathspey reel at a ball.

The Strathspey reel also developed in a climate of transition in European culture, from eighteenth century rationality to nineteenth century Romanticism. The Romantic imagination valued the exotic, the primitive and the oppressed. Attitudes to the Scottish Highlands therefore shifted rapidly: rather than viewing the scenery and the inhabitants as dismal and dangerous, the Romantic view saw them as beautiful, natural and betrayed. This shift of thinking was boosted by Sir Walter Scott (novelist and poet), and later by Queen Victoria, so that the glamourising of tartan, kilts, clan loyalties and Gaelic culture proceeded apace, just as the Highland way of life was being destroyed. A key event in this process was the visit of the Prince Regent to Edinburgh in 1822, organised by Sir Walter Scott, when the promotion of Highland elements as synonymous with Scottish culture caused concern:

A great mistake was made by the Stage Managers - one that offended all the southern Scots; the King wore at the Levée the highland dress. I daresay he thought the country all highland, expected no fertile plains, did not know the difference between the Saxon and the Celt.

Nevertheless, the process of emphasising the exotic Celt over the humdrum Saxon continues to this day. More acceptably, the recent history of Scotland led all Scots to resent both oppression from England, and the threat of modern times to native culture. This made them more susceptible to the Romantic concern with things of the past and things of the common folk. Thus, investment in national dance and song started much earlier than in England.

In terms of dance history, the period under discussion was also transitional from a late eighteenth century repertoire of minuets, cotillons, country dances with varied figures and the pas de bourée, to an early nineteenth century one of ➤

➤ quadrilles, waltzes, a variety of new round dances, simpler, formulaic country dances and the chassé. Scottish reels were danced throughout these changes. This may have been due to one further feature of Scottish society to note, and that is the lack of social divisions. Noble and genteel families respected their inferiors and servants, mingling with them on frequent festive occasions, whilst the humbler sorts of people maintained an independence and self-respect that did not allow for much condescension. A common love of Scottish music and dance helped this, and the dancing masters and fiddlers used much the same material at both Edinburgh assemblies and country weddings.

Having indicated a context for the reel, in the next, and last part of this article, we shall move on to examine the cultural elements that are apparent in the dance, the most obvious being the language of the dance.

Anne Daye

[This article has been adapted from a paper prepared for an international conference on cultural influences in dance history organised by the European Association of Dance Historians at Lisbon in October 1998 and at the Reading Traditional Step Dance Festival. Anne is Senior Lecturer in Dance History and dance studies at Middlesex University and is Chairman of the Dolmetsch Historical Dance Society.]

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ARE YOU AN ONION?

JÓ REGGELT KIVANOK. That means good morning in Hungarian but although we were in Budapest for the first international weekend, 10th to 12th September 1999, hosted by Budapest Scottish Dance Club we heard hardly any Hungarian. We did however hear quite a few bonjours and guten Morgens and even the occasional buongiorno from the seventy or so



Patrick Chamoin (right) puts Sylvie Horne (Paris) and Jim Cook (London) through their paces

foreigners who came to dance with the twenty local dancers. Of our teachers, Patrick Chamoin was from Paris, Ross Colwell from Scotland and the musicians came from Hungary, Scotland and Germany. The class musicians were Silke Grosholz and Robert Mackay, Robert also playing for the Saturday Ball. However, as is the norm at these international weekends the common language was English. Lucky us.

Our hosts went all out to make this first event a memorable one and they succeeded. They arranged a wonderful variety of activities for the week prior to the course starting with a welcome dance accompanied by a local band. They played everything in super fast time and absolutely no strathspeys. Great fun. On the other days you could do everything (or nothing) on a list which included going to the opera, sampling local wines and exploring the labyrinth below the castle on the Buda side of the city.

Some of us felt quite worn out by the time the course itself started but somehow we found enough energy for the Friday night dance, the Saturday classes and Saturday ball. Sunday classes were a different story and the teachers had to work very hard to get us motivated. The course was held in a lovely wooded area and the weather was perfect so I think we would rather have lazed by the swimming pool soaking our poor tootsies.

For the classes we were divided into two groups: Paprika and Hagyma (meaning Onion) thus leading one to ask of others, when ascertaining their group, "Are you an Onion?"

Full marks to the Hungarians for organising a splendid time. How they coped with all the foreign languages, payments in so many different currencies, and the transportation nightmare (the three of us from Maidenhead arrived on three different days and left at three different times!) is beyond me. They are all young and haven't been dancing very long so I hope we can encourage them to continue with Scottish Country Dancing. Hungarians do not get paid very well plus they are a long way from Scotland, so the group has a shortage of Scottish items. A kilt, duplicate copies of dance books, old Pillings and other items have already been donated. I asked Gábor Turi, the leader, if there was anything else the group would like and he replied that they would like anything but it would be especially wonderful to receive some Scottish flags. The group had decorated the dance hall beautifully but all the decorations were borrowed. Perhaps someone could help?

Anne Montminy

[If you can help, please contact me. Ed.]

THE CERTIFICATE CLASS EXPERIENCE

BHS Borders Branch
January to June 1999

A Beginners Guide to the SCD Teaching Course

THERE is a mandatory two-year period between passing the Preliminary Certificate and sitting the Full Certificate examination. Erroneously, I thought that this period was required to hone teaching skills and gain experience with an actual class. I was wrong. The real reason for this two-year sabbatical is to allow the anguish and horror of the previous humiliating experience to slip into the far crevices of the mind and lull the candidate into a false sense of security. This disappears immediately the course begins and that feeling of doom returns with a vengeance.

We had quite a nice bunch, there were 4 "fools" and 7 "limbs" as Brian Pierson dubbed us, and then Linda Cross joined the group towards the end of the course, rounding the numbers up to 12. A diverse selection drawn from far and wide.

The first of our classes was held in an unfamiliar venue, no doubt to keep us on our toes and catch us unawares. As a first time Certificate Course teacher, Ann Dix gave a sterling performance. With a slightly different approach to Bruce Frazer (our previous Prelim teacher), she bestowed support, encouragement and comfort in just the right measures when required.

The remainder of the classes (including the exams) were held in the Memorial Hall, Finchampstead which was already starting to shed its forbidding image. With a travelling time of an hour and a quarter each way, there was ample scope for reflection. Driving to the venue, "Will my performance be as bad as last time?" Driving back, "Yes, only much worse than I expected".

Then there was the homework. Ann must have put a lot of work into devising and preparing the new style question papers. It was a bit like playing "wordsearch" but you had to read the manual over and over to find the answers, a clever ploy that seemed to work. Once or twice precious homework submissions were left at home, allegedly. But no one fell for that old line.

Our long suffering musician was Caroline Sloan whose playing inspired us to greater levels. Strangely enough, I still have this uncontrollable urge to bang tables with a spoon, but only when alone.

As time went by the penny dropped and the standard of "teaching" improved (for some, sooner than others). Class management, teaching points, dancing standards and knowledge of formations, all became second nature as slowly but surely we emerged from our shells as fledgling teachers of Scottish Country Dancing.

Our grateful thanks to the tea ladies, helpers and stooges without whose help we could not have persevered.

The written paper came and went, but the practical lives in our minds forever. Why do stooges always look so big and examiners so imperious?

A reunion lunch was held at the Wootton Hatch near Dorking on Sunday 25th July 1999 and this was well attended. As always the Class was divided, but this time it was the sun worshippers versus the palefaces. A good time was had by all.

Was it all worth it?...*OF COURSE IT WAS!*

Jeff Robertson

A MUSICAL TREAT Shetland Style



Craig McCallum Scottish Dance Band from Glasgow

Back in Issue 226 of "The Reel" the Voe Scottish Country Dance Group invited readers of "The Reel" to dance with them at their class when next in the Shetlands. Pat and Peter Clark have done just that, combining the dancing at Voe with the Shetland Accordion and Fiddle Festival. Pat and Peter take up the story:

AFTER a fairly rough fourteen hour crossing from Aberdeen we arrived in Lerwick Harbour at 8 a.m. on Tuesday 12th October. This gave us a couple of days to settle in and a chance to visit the Voe S.C.D. Group lead by Helen Dickson. It was a very friendly group and there were four other visitors from London and Berks/Hants/Surrey Border Branch that night. They too were attending the Festival. There were two sets which gave Helen the opportunity to do several four-couple dances.

The Festival started on Thursday afternoon at the Islesburgh Community Centre where the club bar was doing a brisk trade. The Chairman, Gussie Angus, introduced the newly appointed Cultural and Arts Development Officer, Davie Gardiner, who made the official opening. He mentioned the launch of the new CD "Willie's Last Session" featuring the late Willie Hunter and the Cullivoe Band.

The packed hall was treated to our first musical extravaganza – first on the programme the West Telferton Caledonian Dance Band with lead fiddler Andrew Knight. Next, after a quick stage adjustment, the five piece band from Duns – Judith Linton's S.C.D. Band. They gave an outstanding performance with an excellent selection of tunes played with vigour and a fine rhythm. Sets of marches, waltzes, jigs and reels provided in a variety of forms were well received throughout the afternoon from various artistes.

During the evening there were six Concert/ Supper/Dances, one in Uyeasound on the most northerly island of Unst, one at Cullivoe, Yell and four on the mainland. We went to Quarff. Musical items were given during the first three hours by a variety of bands, groups and artistes – about eight at each of the six venues. We had Gordon Young as compère. By 10.30 p.m. we were served supper by the local community – for us hot soup and sandwiches. Then part of the hall was cleared and the dancing began. Each dance was done three times. They included the Gay Gordons, Britannia Two Step, St. Bernard's Waltz, Strip the Willow, Eva Three Step, their favourite Boston Two Step and Shetland versions of the Eightsome and Lancers. The floor was crowded for every dance – all age groups taking part and really enjoying themselves. By 1 a.m. the formal part of the evening came to a close.

Our choice on the next night was Hamnavoe. The pattern of the evening was similar but a different set of bands and artistes. What struck us besides the good music, were the fine clean public halls, with sprung floors, stage lighting, tuned piano, good bar open all evening and excellent amplification. After the concert and dancing, many

musicians and club members returned to the Islesburgh Centre and the impromptu music and dancing continued into the early morning.

On Saturday at lunchtime there was a real treat – the Young People's Concert. The club hall was packed to listen to Fiddlesticks (Sound Primary School fiddlers) accompanied by piano and bass. They play splendid sets of tunes with excellent rhythm, perfectly in tune, with uniform confident bowing and outstanding tone. But that wasn't all – we had similar talent from Alice's group "I haven't got a clue", the "New Tradition" and the bigger senior group "High Strings". Between these fine performances we also heard the Young Fiddler of the Year, accordionist Brandon Scollay and the young band "Stramash".

On Saturday night the Grand Dance was held in the Clickimin Centre (£14M leisure complex). A marvellous venue for 800+ people seated at tables, with a bar, a large dance floor, eleven bands with brilliant amplification. There were often 600 dancers on the floor; each band played for three dances. Gordon Young and Andy Ross compèred the evening that continued until 2 a.m.

The earthy humour of compère Alex Little from Dumfries kept us entertained during the short interludes between items at the Sunday afternoon concert. Again guest artistes filled the programme with Scottish, Irish, Canadian and Shetland traditional music. There was an appreciative audience in the full Garrison Theatre, Lerwick.

Pat was winner of the 1998 Shetland Accordion and Fiddle Club Tune Competition – as a result, the chairman, Gussie, made quite a fuss of her and we were invited to his Final Fling on Sunday night. Robert Whitehead's ad-hoc band started off the entertainment and dancing in the hall. There was also music in the side rooms all evening – fiddles in one room, accordions in another, a mixture of instruments and guitars in a third, some fiddlers even playing in the bar. The place was vibrating with reels, jigs and waltzes etc.

Who was there? Two Australians from Melbourne, a few from south of the border, a number of Scots including Graeme Berry and David Cunningham Jr., Irish musicians and many Shetlanders. The official artistes list was very long indeed.

What a wonderful weekend. A super variety of music from very talented musicians. It makes the strict SCD listener appear rather narrow minded. We were lucky enough to be able to stay a further ten days to experience a visit to Foula, the most isolated community in Britain, visit Peter's distant relations in Gott, another evening with Voe S.C.D. group, playing for a Ceilidh Dance in Voe Public Hall and the gales and raging sea on the rugged coastline of the some of the most beautiful islands in the world. Though it costs an arm and a leg to get to Shetland whether by sea or air, the trip is always worthwhile.

Peter and Pat Clark

[Do not forget the Shetland Dance Workshop on Sunday 5th March 2000 with Mats Mellin. See page 9 for details. Ed]

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Battersea Town Hall
The Craigellachie Band

Miss Hadden's Reel.....	23-5
The Clansman.....	32-8
Sir Murdoch MacDonald's Strathspey.....	31-7
Muirland Willie.....	21-9
Inverneill House.....	35-2
The Duchess of Atholl's Slipper.....	9-3
Lamb Skinet.....	14-12
The Earl of Mansfield.....	L 15
Culla Bay.....	Dix
Newton Park.....	London
The Hamilton Rant.....	22-2
Peggy's Wedding.....	22-7
Black Black Oil.....	Drewry
Glasgow Country Dance.....	23-6
Aird of Coigach.....	Imp III
Australian Ladies.....	Glasgow Assembly
Gang the Same Gate.....	36-4
Quarries' Jig.....	36-3
Fraser's Favourite.....	L 3
The Village Reel.....	20-4
Macleod's Fancy.....	33-3
Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.....	39-7

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Saturday 8th January 2000
7.00 - 10.30 p.m.
**President's Night with
Brian Hamilton and his Band**

Meg Merrilees.....	1-5
Miss Nancy Frowns.....	14-5
Dalkeith's Strathspey.....	9-6
General Stuart's Reel.....	10-3
I'll Gang nae mair tae yon Toon.....	15-2
The Moudiewort.....	11-7
The Reel of the 51st Division.....	13-10
The Braes of Breadalbane.....	21-7
The Buchan Eightsome Reel.....	21-8
Waverley.....	15-12
Madge Wildfire's Strathspey.....	9-9
The Duke of Perth.....	1-8
The New Rigged Ship.....	9-7
The Robertson Rant.....	39-8
Lady Mary Menzies Reel.....	7-5
Bridge of Nairn.....	13-11
Todlen Hame.....	16-6
The Montgomeries' Rant.....	10-1

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25th March.....	Kafoozalum Children's and Evening Dance
29th April.....	Sound Company
20th May.....	Robin Ellis
17th June.....	Silver Cross
8th July, at Polesden Lacey.....	David Hall

Saturday 26th February 2000
7.00 - 11.30 p.m.
Colin Dewar and his Band

The Happy Meeting.....	29-9
Lady Susan Stewart's Reel.....	5-9
The Golden Wedding Strathspey.....	33-4
Machine Without Horses.....	24-3
Hamilton House.....	7-10
Mrs Hamilton of Wishaw.....	23-9
Rothesay Rant.....	Birm
The Music Makars.....	33-1
Alltshellach.....	23-2
The Starry Eyed Lassie.....	23-11
John of Bon Accord.....	33-5
The De'il among the Tailors.....	14-7
Earlstoun Loch.....	Foss
John McAlpin.....	Foss
The Foursome Reel and HalfTulloch.....	3-11
Fraser's Favourite.....	Leaflet 3
Waltz Country Dance.....	4-8
The Wild Geese.....	24-3
Ray Milbourne.....	Haynes
Wisp of Thistle.....	37-4
Follow Me Home.....	38-3
Mrs MacPherson of Inveran.....	Drewry

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Jack Stalker	22nd February 2000	Hotel Poseidon Palace	Benidorm	
Callum Wilson	29th February 2000	Hotel Poseidon Palace	Benidorm	
Iain MacPhail	5th March 2000	Hotel Elite Aloha Puerto Sol	Torremolinos	
Gordon Shand	12th March 2000	Hotel Elite Aloha Puerto Sol	Torremolinos	

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INTERMEDIATE I	Wednesday	7.30 - 9.15	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3	Owen Meyer/Simon Wales / Jean Harrison
INTERMEDIATE II	Wednesday	8.15 - 9.45	Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3	Simon Wales / Jean Harrison
ADVANCED	Wednesday	7.30 - 9.30	St. Barnabas' & St. Phillip's School, Pembroke Mews, W8	Ann Dix / Angela Young
DEMONSTRATION	Tuesday	7.15 - 9.15	<i>For details contact David Hall, 020 8390 7829</i>	David Hall / Sandra Smith
GENERAL (Central)	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30	St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1	Helen Brown
GENERAL (Blackheath)	Thursday	7.30 - 9.30	John Roan School, Westcombe Park Road, SE3	Rachel Wilton / Fiona Steedman
GENERAL (Camden Town)	Thursday	7.30 - 9.30	Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, NW1	Gaynor Curtis / Judith Smith

The winter term commences in the week beginning 10th January 2000 (The half term break will be the week commencing 21st February)
All enquiries about classes to Rachel Wilton on 020 8858 7729.

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10.30 - 12.30 and 2.00 - 4.00

Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1.

Led by **Mats Mellin**, dance co-ordinator with the Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust.

Accompanied on the fiddle by

Ian Robertson (Sound Company)

The day will comprise a mixture of Shetland Reels and couple dances. Wear comfortable clothing, low-heeled shoes and a happy smile. Lunch (including licensed bar) available. Admission £10. Further details from Simon Wales, Tel: 020 8777 8915.

HIGHLAND CLASS

Thursdays 9th December 1999, 20th January,

24th February and 23rd March 2000.

7.00 - 9.00 p.m.

St. Andrew's Church Hall, Battersea Rise, London SW11.

Teacher: **David Hall**

Musician: **Judith Smith**

Details from David Hall, Tel: 020 8390 7829

SUNDAY TECHNIQUE CLASSES

5th December 1999

Teacher: **Mervyn Short**

Musician: **Jeremy Hill**

16th January 2000

Teacher: **Philippe Rousseau**

Musician: **Ken Martlew**

6th February 2000

Teacher: **Philippe Rousseau**

Musician: **Caroline Sloan**

2nd April 2000

Teacher: **Mervyn Short**

Musician: **Ken Martlew**

11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Coram's Fields Band Hall, 93 Guilford Street, London WC1.

This is a series of classes for dancers wishing to improve their dancing. Further details from Rachel Wilton, Tel: 020 8858 7729.

WINTER SCHOOL - 2000

THE closing date for the Winter School at the Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry in February 2000 has passed. Please note that all places have been taken and there is a waiting list.

DAY SCHOOL

Saturday 9th October 1999

LONDON Branch once more ran a successful Day School at the beginning of October. The day was held for the second time at Sutton High School in Surrey, and this year the resident catering staff happily provided a tasty lunch to nourish all participants half way through.

Approximately 100 dancers and musicians gathered for lessons taught by Owen Meyer, Jonathan Gillespie, Anita MacKenzie, Fiona Tinwell and Freeland Barbour. This year the day followed a different format where, after the standard morning and afternoon sessions, additional classes were run for those who wanted to supplement what they had already learnt with some ceilidh dances and highland steps. For those who needed a rest, there was an opportunity to socialise over tea and watch the 75th Anniversary Celebration video.

All in all, plenty of dancing was enjoyed, wonderfully accompanied by musicians Peter Jenkins, Doreen McKerron, Catherine Lowe and Sandra Smith.

The day finished with a rousing ceilidh and all present were amused and impressed with ceilidh items generously performed by friends and guests of London Branch. Our thanks go to all who took part, teachers, musicians and all members of the committee for their work behind the scenes. See you all again next year!

Judy Berry

POTENTIAL TUTORS' COURSE 2000

CONTRARY to what is stated in the new Bulletin, please note that the Examinations Committee have changed their plans. The Potential Tutors' Course will be held at Summer School during the fourth week (13-20th August 2000) tutored by Bruce Frazer.

MUSIC COURSE 2000

CONTRARY to what is stated in the new Bulletin, please note that the Examinations Committee have changed their plans. A Music Course will be held at Summer School during the second week (30th July to 6th August 2000). Application forms are available from HQ.

Furthermore, thanks to the generosity of Mrs Yasumuro, the Society is able to offer a grant to a musician attending the Course. Depending on the applications received, the grant may take the form of a contribution to the fees for two applicants or may cover the cost of attendance and a contribution to travel costs for one. Application forms are available from Helen Brown, the Branch Secretary.

NEW VIDEO!

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Devonbank House,

Fishcross, Alloa,

FK10 3JE, Scotland.

Tel/Fax: 01259 724169

Other Scottish dance videos also available — ideal Christmas gifts!

WALKING HOLIDAYS BRITAIN

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Brochure for 2000 now available. Six of the best locations in Scotland including Ullapool, Skye and the Trossachs, five in Wales, four in England, one in Ireland (Rathmullan, Donegal). Long distance paths — Cleveland Way (Yorkshire Coast) and Norfolk Coast Path. Walking-with-Dancing holidays and breaks — English country dancing spring and autumn, Scottish Dancing at Bulkeley Hotel, Beaumaris 3rd - 10th June and Cober Hill, Scarborough 27th November to 1st December. First class accommodation, low prices, cheap rail access. For 2000 brochure phone or fax 01274 567558 or 01248 722767 (24 hours).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sarratt, Herts.

Dear Jim,

Recently on a Saturday in October, there were five or six dances in the London area to all of which many would like to have gone. By contrast on the Saturdays before and after, there were almost none near London.

These clashes of dates do not often occur. It might be worth mentioning, however, one of the services available with the South East Dance Diary. Branch or club secretaries who are planning their programmes ahead, can check with us to see if any other club is planning a dance on the same date. If so, the secretary can liaise with possible contenders and avoid a clash of dates if this is likely to have an effect on the clubs concerned.

This service has been publicised from the start of the Diary, but only used about five times. This may indicate that there is little need for it normally. Obviously we only know of dances or plans that you tell us about. It might be helpful if you could let us know about dates that you have booked when you have confirmed them, and not wait until we ask for the input for the following year's Diary. Do what you consider best.

Yours sincerely,

John and Anne King
Tel: 01923 264552

London

Dear Jim,

I am very interested in John Laurie's article on "Tempo" in the last issue of "The Reel" and wonder how this relates to the metronome beat. I know the Pipe Band metronome settings for Strathspeys, Reels, Jigs, Hornpipes, etc. These can vary greatly due to the difficulty in playing the tune. We have from Light or easy beats to Heavy settings which go from fast to slower tempos. An example would be "Scotland the Brave" to, say, the "Highland Wedding". Most of the more difficult tunes are played mainly in competition work. Also, there has always been a vast difference between strict tempos and "Swing". A band that swings is felt by dancers/audience and musicians alike. McBains SCD Band was an example. Let's say "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing."

Yours sincerely,

J. Boyd

Plumtree, Nottingham

Dear Jim,

On 10th August I attended the Flame of Wrath concert at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

The performance was outstanding and featured the world class Canadian Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band and Celtic Accent Dance Company. The show, drawn together by top class choreography, succeeds because it merges the integrity of a tradition with the need to move forward in a concert setting. Part of the prize is a wider audience and the hall was not far short of its 2,000 seat capacity.

The Celtic Accent Dance Company are an eightsome of ladies, all champion Highland dancers including a two-times world champion. In a mix of Highland, Irish, contemporary modern and other dance styles their effortless athleticism and grace were a joy.

A Flame of Wrath video of a similar live concert is available, but I have not viewed it.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Hastings

Watford

Dear Jim,

If you're a Scottish Country Dancer well over retirement age and maybe also enjoy another equally crazy pursuit such as – in my case – fell-walking, you may very likely suffer from dodgy *KNEES* and maybe *ANKLES*. Look around any dance floor at all the bandages and you'll see what I mean.

For what it's worth, here is what I find works for me:

- Be very careful landing with your weight on a turned out bent knee (will bring tears or maybe pound-signs to the eyes of any physiotherapist if you tell them you do this all the time when dancing). Abusing your knees in this way is probably the main contributory factor in acquiring bad knees and may mean you have to adopt a different way of dancing which might have you barred from your demonstration team.

- If you *have* to dance on a horrible wood-block floor set in concrete, put a pair of Sorbothane soles inside your dancing shoes to give you something bungee to land on.

- Try a food supplement such as Glucosamine + Chondroitin (widely advertised in such publications as the Saga Magazine). This reputedly helps to rebuild ageing knees and arthritic joints, though when I asked the suppliers to write a technical piece to go with this letter they agreed to do so but then haven't actually done anything, nor have the manufacturers admitted to any medical trials being done, so read into that what you will. However, my GP says there could be some medical evidence to suggest this substance does work though it is not yet available on prescription. Better check with your GP first if you are thinking of going down this route.

- Keep your thigh muscles in good trim so that they hold the knee joint together properly. Do specific exercises maybe, walk plenty (but don't jog), cycling is good, go up and down stairs whenever you can, also warm up before dancing and wear woolly leg warmers like a ballet dancer if your teacher is one of those who keeps you standing around for ages between dances (this could be a not-very-subtle hint....)

- Use a pair of trekking poles for the walks. These greatly reduce jarring, especially downhill. Learn to use them properly — don't just carry them round like a fashion accessory. Two are *far* better than one. Magic. Best idea since Brasher Boots.

- Don't march up and down hills straight-legged like a clockwork Captain Mainwaring, or the knees will give up in no time. Sherpas, who never suffer from bad knees, call it "Sahib's Disease" and advocate progressing with a kind of lope, knees slightly bent all the time. I've tried doing this and although it looks ridiculous, it works!

Enjoy your dancing *and* your walking!

Yours sincerely,

John Reeve

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THE SOCIETY AGM

THE RSCDS AGM was hosted by Edinburgh Branch.

At AGM weekends there is something for everyone. There is a formal ball on the Friday evening, and a less formal dance on the Saturday. On Saturday Branch delegates can attend the Open Forum, a discussion group or a class, then the actual AGM. Those who have come for the dances can escape to the shops while the meeting goes on, or they can observe.

We had sparkling performances from the bands, Gordon Shand and Alastair Wood on Friday and Iain MacPhail and Alan Gardiner on Saturday.

The Open Forum is open to all. Questions submitted in advance by Branches generate discussion. This is not binding on the RSCDS Executive, but is a useful way to air issues. We discussed best practice in working with musicians (band and class), and two questions relating to HQ members (those not belonging to a local Branch).

The following discussion entitled "Management and Membership – the need for Change" was probably the most productive part of the weekend. This arose from the Strategic Plan 1999 - 2004 into which London Branch had made input through Andrew Kellett and Jerry Reinstein. Discussion centred on how to make the RSCDS more responsive to the needs of its members and Branches, attract and retain new members, especially younger ones, and on different membership levels for less active members or students.

After a welcome from the Deputy Lord Provost of Edinburgh, the AGM began with the message from Her Majesty the Queen, our Patron, read by our Chairman Linda Gaul.

Society Scrolls of Honour were presented to John Drewry, Betty and David Grant, Ian Hall, Bessie Kemp, Elma See, Heather Byers, Bernard Kaiman and Noreen McLennan, all of whom have contributed much to the Society over the years.

We approved last year's minutes, re-appointed the President, Vice Presidents, Chairman and Vice Chairman, and the four candidates for the six elected places to the Executive Council were duly confirmed – these being Dorothy Hamilton, Lesley Martin, David Watson and our own Andrew Kellett. The Secretary, Gill Parker presented her annual report, reflecting a year of hard work by HQ staff.

Then the fireworks started.... Adoption of the annual accounts and the motion to raise the Society membership subscription. In order to maintain and finance its level of activity, funds must be found. Membership subscriptions is one way and the meeting voted an increase of £1.50, bringing the London subscription to £11.50, but also voted to keep the long-term subscription to ten times that figure. I believe this still represents excellent value for money, but must realise this will not necessarily produce all we want – the Executive and Finance Committee must find ways to maintain better control of funds and make them really work towards the Society's objectives.

The London delegates were allowed a free vote by the Branch committee. On balance we felt this increase was justified, but we would work to ensure that full benefit was gained from it.

Then followed motions amending the constitution, setting up the Youth Committee and defining youth membership arising from the vote passed last year. The London amendment, extending the committee's remit to consider all matters relating to youth issues was passed handsomely.

The 2001 AGM will be hosted by Ayr Branch, and will be in Troon.

An AGM weekend is fun, whether to dance, meet old friends as about 35 members from London did, or to discuss the Society's future. Any member can come. Chat with Branch Committee members if you are interested.

Simon Wales

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN READING

READING St. Andrew's Scottish Dancing Society is 50 years old this Autumn. The Society celebrated the week when it all began in style, with a dance in the same format as our 25th Anniversary Dance and also a service in the church to which we are affiliated and which gives us our name. Over 130 past and present members, some travelling from overseas, gathered to dance some of the dances from the 25th Anniversary programme plus some more modern favourites. The plan was to have an informal evening with a finger buffet provided by current club members.

To accommodate those who no longer dance regularly (and those who are now getting a little older!) the dances were all relatively straightforward and were all recapped. With generous breaks built in to allow friends time to talk, the evening was a great success judging from the noise level! Alison Kendal, Anne and Sandy Walker and Peter Luke were awarded Life Memberships of the Society to acknowledge the contributions they have made to the Society in recent years. They join Marion Dean and Mary Nance who were given Life Memberships at the 25th Anniversary. The Society now looks forward to dancing into the next millennium at our Annual Ball on January 15th and celebrating our century in 2049.

Sara Ribbins

OBITUARY Catherine Mackay



LONG-STANDING members of London Branch will be saddened to learn of the death of Cath MacKay in August.

Cath's work brought her to London in the sixties, and she quickly became involved in Branch activities. An elegant dancer, she also joined the committee in 1966 and was on the classes sub-committee until 1974. For several years she worked as secretary to the Demonstration Class, and was persuaded to take part in several concert entertainments of the early Seventies. She proved an unexpected hit in 1973 as the leader of the Twenties' Ladies team.

Many will remember the Branch holidays on the Isle of Arran. Cath took over from 1970 until their demise in 1973, and her "Brilliant yet relaxed organisation" was commended. What a pity that the Whiting Bay Hotel became a residential home, although the horses at the trekking centre must have been relieved!

Although unable to attend Branch functions for some years, she followed events as reported in the Reel, and enjoyed hearing about old friends, some of whom shared her great interest in the ballet. Cath retained her sense of humour to the end - she seemed to be surrounded by an aura of fun and laughter.

Rita Marlow

THE TARTAN JIGSAW

A joining of Scottish Association and SCD groups to celebrate and promote Scottish Country Dancing as we enter the next century.

STARTING as an idea from the RSCDS Croydon and District Branch and quickly taken up by the surrounding Scottish Association and SCD groups 'The Tartan Jigsaw' was formed.

Even at the first meeting of this group, as yet unnamed but called 'Y2K' for administration purposes, ideas were proposed, fully discussed and many adopted for further discussion at the next meeting after initial fact finding and feasibility. The main ideas proposed and subsequently adopted were:

- A millennium ball mid year (*please see advertisement on page 14*).
- Satellite events throughout the year, including dance teams at carnivals, one-off SCD evenings for local churches etc. SCD workshops in local schools.
- Joint dance events.
- A diary to co-ordinate all dance related events within the forum to enable maximum exposure and eliminate/reduce 'clashes' of events.

Due to the tremendous effort and research by the committee, most of the millennium ball details including venue, band, date and insurance have already been finalised (15th July 2000), at Trinity School, Shirley, Surrey, with the excellent Danelaw Band from Newcastle. Even the finance problem was effectively tackled by each organisation taking 'shares' in the venture, the number depending on the size of each organisation. The fact that we all knew each other already helped this speedy progress.

The Tartan Jigsaw now consists of representatives from the following groups:

- Epsom and District Caledonian Association
- Hayes, West Wickham and District Scottish Society
- Reigate SCD Club
- Sanderstead URC SCD Group
- The RSCDS Croydon and District Branch
- The Scottish Association for Wallington, Carshalton and District
- The Sylvan Dancers
- West Wickham SCD Club

Such is the success of this new forum I cannot see it folding after our initial remit has been accomplished. Hopefully it will evolve into a forum for supporting joint events whilst still enabling each organisation to maintain its own structure and identity.

See the advertisement and happy dancing!

Elaine Wilde

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DANCE EVENTS

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball
Saturday 4th March 2000
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.
Harpenden Public Hall

Sound Company

Tickets £8.50 including supper from Peter George,
120 Clarence Road, St. Albans. AL1 4NW
Tel: 01727 843001



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY STRATHSPEY AND REEL CLUB

The Oxford and Cambridge
Highland Ball
Friday 17th March 2000
8.30 p.m. - 1.00 a.m.
St. Ivo Centre, St. Ives

Sound Company

Programme: The Reel of the Royal Scots, Quarries' Jig, The Bridge of Sighs, Polharrow Burn, Old Nick's Lumber Room, The Axum Reel, None so Pretty, A Trip to Aberdeen, The Braes of Mellinish, White Heather Jig, Miss Allie Anderson, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich, Foxhill Court, 1314/Schiehallion, The Pines of Pitlochry, Miss Ogilvie's Fancy, Crossing the Line, The Argyll Strathspey, Waverley, General Stuart's Reel.

Tickets: £15 (includes buffet supper) from Alison Gundy, 63 Glisson Road, Cambridge, CB1 2HG.

Tel: 0771 4243259. E-mail:

akg23@hermes.cam.ac.uk (cheques made payable to C.U. Strathspey and Reel Club Ball Account)

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Day School and Dance
Saturday 19th February 2000

Teachers: **Christine Traynor,**

Andrew McConnell, Dennis Tucker

Musicians: **Ian Muir, Jeremy Hill and Alan Bell**

The Craiggallachie Band.

Details: Diana Tucker, Pond Farm, Leys Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QF. Tel: 01865 863427

RSCDS (BATH BRANCH)

Day School for Dancers
Folk Dance Display and Informal Dance
Saturday 25th March 2000

Instructors/Classes:

Ann Dix (Scottish Country Dancing)

Matts Mellin (Cape Breton Step Dancing & Ceilidh Dancing)

Application forms and further information from:
Jane Hammond, 73 Church Road, Combe Down,
Bath BA2 5JQ. Tel: 01225 833411.

HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION

Burns' Night Supper and Dance
Tuesday, 25th January 2000
7.45 - 10.45 p.m.

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(Opposite Golders Green Hippodrome)

McBains Scottish Country Dance Band
Pipe Major Terry Maginn

Admission: *by ticket only* £7.00, including haggis supper, on sale from Saturday 4th December, are limited and MUST be purchased in advance - NO SALES AT THE DOOR. Contact: Joan Burgess, 020 8870 6131 for tickets and programme details.



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH

Dancers Day School
Saturday 11th March 2000
Court Moor School, Fleet.

Scottish dancing for all

A Day School suitable for dancers of all abilities and aimed particularly at introducing young people to Scottish Country Dancing.

The programme will include: General dance class; Advanced class; Beginners/Improvers class; Introduction to Ceilidh dancing; Children's class.

Teachers: **Alex Gray, Alan Davis**

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Musicians: **Ken Martlew, Lillian Linden**

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CHRISTMAS SOCIAL DANCE

(Please note change of date)

Monday 27th December 1999

Finchampstead Memorial Hall

ADVANCE NOTICE:

Annual Ball- 20th May 2000

For details of the above two events contact

Anne Whillis, Tel: 01252 673301

RSCDS ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH

Day School

18th March 2000

Hugh Christie School, Tonbridge

Teachers: **Linda Gaul, Alice Murphy,**

Eric Finley, Bruce Frazer

Musicians: **Peter Jenkins, Robert Mackay,**

Ken Martlew, Caroline Sloan

Application forms: Pat Davoll, Cambridge

Cottage, Crockham Hill, Edenbridge, Kent

TN8 6RD. Tel: 01732 -866557

Future Event: Dance 15th April 2000,

Caber Feidh Band

Weald of Kent School, Tonbridge

THE WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SECTION

Millennium Ball

Saturday 13th May 2000

The Beacon School, Piquets Way, Banstead, Surrey

Green Ginger

Details to follow.

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

52nd Annual Ball
Friday 7th January, 2000
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

North London Collegiate School, entrances in
Canons Drive, Edgware & Dalkeith Grove,
Stanmore

The Craiggallachie Band

Programme: Mairi's Wedding, Aird of Coigach, Kilkenny Castle, Polharrow Burn, Major Ian Stewart, The Belle of Bon Accord, The Meeting of the Waters, Joie de Vivre, MacDonald of the Isles, The Reel of the Royal Scots, The Moffat Weavers, Irish Rover, The Bees of Maggielknockater, The Gentleman, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran, The Hazel Tree, Culla Bay, The Montgomerie's Rant, The Cooper's Wife, Foxhill Court, Anniversary Reel, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder.

Tickets £10.00 (non-dancers and juniors £5), including refreshments, from Jim Henderson,
Tel. 020 8954 2586

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB

Annual Highland Ball
Saturday 22nd January 2000
7.30 - Midnight

Ashlyns School, Berkhamsted

Sound Company

Tickets £15, including supper. Bar available.

Carole Ross, Tel: 01442 211728

Flora MacGregor, Tel: 01442 268624.

CHELTENHAM COMPANY OF FRIENDS

Grand Tartan Ball 2000
Saturday 15th April 2000
7.30 p.m. until Midnight

Cheltenham Town Hall

The Craiggallachie Band

Programme: Grand March, Clutha, Luckenbooth Brooch, Cherrybank Gardens, Ray Milbourne, A Tribute to the Borders, The Red Rose of Dunoon, Black Black Oil, Jim's Haberdashery, Blue Mess Jacket, Bratach Bana, Nottingham Lace, St. Columba's Strathspey, Immigrant Lass, Reel of the Royal Scots, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, Flight of the Falcon, Meeting of the Waters, Balmoral Strathspey, Midnight Oil, The Montgomerie's Rant, Joe MacDiarmid's Jig, The Duke of Perth.

Extras: West's Hornpipe, Singing Sands, Irish Rover.

Tickets £12.50 (includes buffet supper)

Contact : Tel. 01242 523111

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

Annual Ball

Saturday 15th January 2000

7.00 - 11.30 p.m.

The Abbey School, Kendrick Road, Reading

David Hall and his Scottish Dance Band

Tickets £13, including sherry reception and supper, from Sara Ribbins Tel: 0118 947 3207

THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Christmas Dance

Saturday 18th December 1999

8.00 - midnight

The Old British Legion Hall, OldAmersham.

McBains Band

Tickets: £6, "Bring and share" refreshments. For programme and tickets contact Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231.

Dance Events (continued)

HIGHLAND SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

Highland Charity Ball
Sports Centre, Bought Park, Inverness
Saturday 15th April 2000.
Starting at 7.30 p.m.

Colin Dewar & his Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Grand March, Summer Assembly, Joie de Vivre, Rose of the North, Jessie Wiseman's Reel, Quarries' Jig, Mrs. Milne of Kinneff, The Montgomeries' Rant, A Trip to Bavaria, Wisp of Thistle, Saltire Society Reel, The Wild Geese, Argyll Strathspey, The Fisherman's Reel, Hooper's Jig, Wind on Loch Fyne, The Reel of the 51st Division (Men only), Jennifer's Jig, The Garry Strathspey, The Music Makars, Follow Me Home, *Extras:* The Robertson Rant, General Stuart's Reel.

Dress Formal. Tickets: £15, (Cheques payable to: Highland Scottish Country Dance Group). Please send s.a.e. to: Joyce Sutherland, 22 Manitoba Avenue, Elgin IV30 3RB. Tel: 01343 541852. Tickets limited to 450.

Last date of availability - Saturday 1st April, 2000.

SLOUGH ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday 6th May 2000
Scottish Country and Highland Dancing competitions for children and adults.
Windsor Girls School, Imperial Road, Windsor.
Details from Miss J. Ferguson, 42 Northcroft, Slough SL2 1HR. Tel: 01753 644292, or Festival Office, Tel: 01753 520685 (Answerphone).
Closing date for entries: 20th March.

GOLDSMITHS' COLLEGE

Annual Charity Dance
Saturday 15th January 2000
The Great Hall, Goldsmiths' College,
Lewisham Way, New Cross.
The Frank Reid Band
Tickets: £8 including refreshments, in advance, from John Cameron, 7 Havelock Road, Bromley BR2 9NY. Tel: 020 8464 7503 or 020 8695 5806.

SOUTH EAST HERTS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Day School
Saturday 25th March 2000
Sele School, Hertford.
Teacher: **Dorothy Leurs**
Music: **Barbara Manning**
Morning: All ability groups
Afternoon: Beginners/Improvers *Teacher* **J. Hill**
Advanced: *Teacher:* **D. Leurs**
followed by Ceilidh.

Calling all dancers!

Come and join us on club nights with live music, at Sele School, Hertford, 7.45 p.m. 2nd Friday of each month. Admission for non-members £2.00.

Tickets and information: Peter and Betty Allen,
Tel: 01279 303095.

WEST MACS CHARITY BALL

Saturday 15th April 2000
North London Collegiate School, Edware.
Brian Hamilton's Band
Programme and other details in the next issue.
Enquiries to: Pat Hamilton, Tel: 020 8866 2841.

WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball
Saturday 19th February 2000
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.
Peterborough & St. Margaret's School, Stanmore.

Brian Hamilton's Band

Programme: West's Hornpipe, Joie de Vivre, Sugar Candie, Swiss Lassie, The Hazel Tree, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, The Clansman, Quarries' Jig, 1314, Polharrow Burn, Mrs Macpherson of Inveran, Dagmar's Fancy, Midnight Oil, Cramond Bridge, Rose of the North, The Immigrant Lass, The Reel of the Royal Scots, The Robertson Rant, MacLeod's Fancy, The Montgomeries' Rant. *Extras:* J.B. Milne, The Bees of Maggieknockater, Culla Bay.

For information and tickets contact: Pam Crisp,
Tel: 020 8421 0470.

RSCDS SOMERSET BRANCH

Day School
Saturday 4th March 2000
Huish Episcopi Community School
Teachers: **Mervyn Short, John Wilkinson,**
Sheila Barnes
Musicians: **Norman & Jane Bett, Ken Martlew,**
Brian Heaton

Millennium Ball
Saturday 3rd June 2000
Wells Town Hall

David Cunningham's Band

Details of both the above from:
Sheila Barnes, Tel: 01458 223596.



MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB

Highland Ball
Saturday 19th February
2000
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Brigidine School, Kings Road, Windsor

Frank Reid and his Band

Programme: Irish Rover, Follow Me Home, The Belle of Bon Accord, The Plantation Reel, The Weathercock, Angus Macleod, Kilkenny Castle, The Flying Spur, Bratach Bana, Culla Bay, The Duke of Perth, Quarries' Jig, Lothian Lads, Scotch Mist, Anniversary Reel, Ship in Full Sail, Gang the Same Gate, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Seton's Ceilidh Band, The Winding Road, J.B. Milne, White Heather Jig. *Extras:* General Stuart's Reel, Trip to Bavaria.

Tickets, £10 (including supper) from: Anne Montminy, 233 St. Leonard's Road, Windsor, SL4 3DR. Tel: 01753 852874 or Peter Hoskins, Tel: 01628 639699. Cribs available on requests or downloadable from www.hoskins.clara.net



THE TARTAN JIGSAW

are happy to announce
their first event
Millennium Ball
Saturday 15th July 2000
From 7.30 to 11.30 p.m.

Trinity School, Croydon

The Danelaw Band

Tickets £15 incl. supper & wine.
Details from David Faulkner, Tel: 01372 722651
or Joyce Patrick, Tel: 020 8657 6138.

ISLE OF WIGHT

Weekend School
18th - 20th February 2000
The Savoy Holiday Village, Yarmouth.

Teachers: **Eric Finley, Elma McCausland**
Musicians: **Robert Mackay, Pat Clark**

Cost £85, non-dancers £70. Send s.a.e. for application form to Mrs Frances Packwood, 16 Churchill Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 8HH. Tel: 01983 292627.

READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

Annual Ball
Saturday 15th January 2000
7.00 - 11.30 p.m.
The Abbey School, Kendrick Road, Reading.
David Hall and his Band
Tickets £13.00, including sherry reception and supper, from Sara Ribbins, Tel: 0118 947 3207.

MILLENNIUM HOGMANAY SCOTTISH CEILIDH AND DANCE

Friday 31st December 1999
7.30 for 8.00 p.m. - 1.00 a.m.
St Mary's Church Hall, Camberley.
Peter Macfarlane and Lilian Linden
Tickets: £10 (and plate of food), from Lilian Linden, Tel: 01252 629178, or Julia Burrows, Tel: 01344 626682. *Limited numbers: please book early.*

ARGYLL SACOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Day School
Saturday 15th April 2000
Teachers: ... **John Sturrock, Maureen Campbell**
Andrew Gillies
Musicians: **Robert Mackay, Caroline Sloan**
Jean Harrison

A Millennium Event
Dance with the Argyll's in Argyll
9th - 12th June 2000

Weekend School
6th - 8th October 2000
Maryland College, Woburn, Bedfordshire
Teacher: **Roy Goldring**
Musician: **Robert Mackay**

For further details and application forms contact:
Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, St. Johns, Woking, Surrey GU21 3QB. Tel: 01483 721989.

ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON) (Wimbledon & District Scots' Association)

Burns Night Dinner and Dance
Saturday 29th January 2000
7.00 for 7.30 p.m. - 12.30 a.m.
Hotel Wayfairer, The Broadway, Wimbledon
Alison Ellacott and Friends
Tickets £27, and information from Mrs Patricia White, Tel: 020 8399 3070.

WATFORD AND WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Caledonian Ball
Saturday 25th March 2000
7.30 - 11.30 p.m.
St. Clement Danes School, Chorleywood, Herts.
David Hall and his Band
Tickets: John Crowder, Tel: 01923 225522.
Details in "The Reel" No 231

Dance Events (continued)



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming functions to be held at
St. Columba's Church Hall,
Pont St., SW1.

Sats, Lower Hall.....7.00 - 10.30 p.m.
Fridays, Upper Hall.....7.30 - 10.30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

Friday 10th December . AGM followed by dancing
Friday 17th December **Frank Reid**
7.30 - 11.00 p.m. Christmas Dance
Saturday 15th January...Children's Party 3.00 p.m.
Burns Dance 7.00 - 10.30 p.m. **Robin Ellis**
Saturday 5th February.....**Colin Dewar**
(Annual Ball - see details below)
Saturday 4th March..... **The Rattray Band**
Further details: Frank Bennett on 020 8715 3564
or Roger Waterson on 020 8660 5017. "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.

Annual Ball

Saturday 5th February 2000
7.00 - 11.30 p.m.

St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1.

Colin Dewar

Programme: Maxwell's Rant, Postie's Jig, The
Duchess Tree, West's Hornpipe, Blacksmith of
Elgin, The Swelkie, Flowers of Edinburgh,
MacLeod's Fancy, Summer in Assynt, Clutha,
Machine Without Horses, Scotch Mist, Grand
March and Eightsome Reel, Autumn in Appin,
Muirland Willie, Angus MacLeod, Foursome Reel
and Reel of Tulloch, Diamond Jubilee, General
Stuart's Reel, Scottish Waltz, MacDonald of the
Isles, Seton's Ceilidh Band, Polharrow Burn, Culla
Bay, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The
Montgomerie's Rant. *Extras:* Anniversary Reel,
J.B. Milne, Dundee Whaler, The Weathercock.

Tickets, including refreshments: Members in
advance: £9.00, non-members in advance £10.00,
all classes at the door: £11.00. Free squash
available all evening.

Highland or evening dress preferred.

For tickets or further information please contact:
Roger Waterson on 020 8660 5017,
or Frank Bennett on 020 8715 3564.

JERSEY

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE WEEKEND

Saturday 27th May and Sunday 28th May 2000.
Le Rocquier School Hall, St. Clement's Inner Road,
(convenient from St. Helier).

Saturday morning 10.30 a.m.:
coffee and walk-throughs.

Sound Company (both nights)

Programme for Saturday 27th May (Formal): The
Montgomerie's Rant, Miss Nancy Arnott, Tribute
to the Borders, The Celtic Cross, Fair Rosamund,
The Flight of the Falcon, The Earl of Mansfield,
The Quaich, The Bramble Bush, The Peat Fire
Flame, Iona Cross, St. Andrew's Gardens, Angus
MacLeod, Sugar Candie, The Whistling Wind,
Seton's Ceilidh Band, Cherrybank Gardens, The
Flowers of Edinburgh, The Bees of Maggie-
knockater, Munro Rant, Lady Susan Stewart's
Reel.

Programme for Sunday 29th May (Informal): Mrs
MacLeod, The Silver Tassie, Muirland Willie,
Wicked Willy, Foxhill Court, Ian Powrie's
Farewell to Auchterarder, Polharrow Burn, Gang
the Same Gate, Equilibrium, Blooms of Bon
Accord, Bridge Over the Atlantic, Quarries' Jig,
Gavin's Reel, The Cashmere Shawl, Trip to
Bavaria, Major Ian Stewart, Strathcare, The
Barmkin, Jennifer's Jig, The Belle of Bon Accord,
The Irish Rover..

£22.00 programme/ticket covers both nights and
includes a cold, plated buffet-supper with a glass
of wine, each night. Arrange your own travel and
accommodation: Jersey Tourism, Tel: 01534
500777. To request hotel/guesthouse brochures
Tel: 01534 500800. Book travel and accom-
modation a.s.a.p.: seats for this weekend's flights
and sailings are quickly sold out! Tickets from Mrs
Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, Rue a Don,
Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB, Tel: 01534 854459, or
Mrs Jean Wight, 3 Richmond Place, First Tower,
St. Helier, Jersey JE2 3GL. Tel: 01534 724326.

ADVERTISE YOUR DANCE EVENT HERE

Send details of forthcoming events to the Editor.
After publication you will be invoiced at £10 per
column inch (fractions pro-rata), perhaps the cost
of one ticket!

POETRY CORNER

AT her week's SCD course at Foxhill, Cheshire last summer, Eleanor Warburton arranged a poetry competition whereby dancers wrote poems about their reminiscences of the week. Eleanor has kindly submitted the winning two entries, both written by Olive Posner who dances with the Plym Valley Scottish Country Dancers:

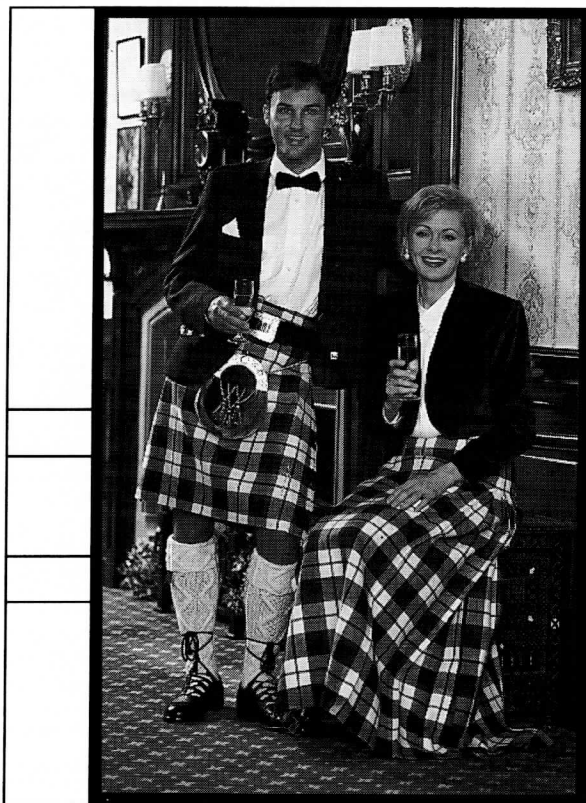
Foxhill Twenty Questions

Is everybody here now?
Are we starting right on time?
Are your feet in first position?
Are you standing straight in line?
Are you thinking of your posture?
Do you know the dance you're doing?
Are you opposite your partner?
Do you all know where you're going.
Are you listening to the music?
Do you recognise the beat?
How's your timing and your phrasing?
Are you pointing with your feet?
Are you circling correctly?
Are your hands at shoulder height?
Are you covering with corners
When you're turning left and right?
Are you looking at each other?
Are you smiling when you meet?
Are you stepping up correctly?
Is the set still straight and neat?
If you answer 'Yes', your dancing
Will be better than before
And you will be rewarded
With a smile from Eleanor.

Moonstruck

One night at Foxhill I awoke from a dream
To a room bathed in light from the full moon's
beam
So I rose from my bed to look out at the scene
All dappled and shining with silvery gleam.
And my eyes were entranced by the beauty
And my soul was calm and at ease
My spirit felt so uplifted
AND MY FEET WERE AT NINETY DEGREES!

[We cannot promise a Poetry Corner every issue, but please keep contributions coming in! Ed.]



We are happy to supply
The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
with hand-made
pure wool worsted kilts and skirts
at very special prices

Please send for our fully illustrated Highland Wear or Skirt Making Brochures



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Tel: 01796 472722 Fax: 01796 474266

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY** meets Wednesdays 8.15 p.m. to 10.15 p.m. September to May at Abraham Cowley Hall, St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey. Details from Mrs H. Parvin, Tel: 01276 857929.
- ALDRINGTON (HOVE) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meet every Tuesday 8.15 p.m. to 10.30 p.m., September to June. Details from John Steer, 57 Hangleton Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 7GH. Tel: 01273 416893.
- AMERSHAM: THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00 p.m. Royal British Legion Hall, Old Amersham. Quarterly dances with McBain's Band. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231.
- BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB** meets Tuesday evenings, September to May. Garden dances June and July. Contact: Carole Ross, Tel: 01442 211728.
- BOGNOR REGIS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB.** General Class Tuesdays 7.30 p.m. in Bognor Regis Community College. Beginners/Intermediate Class Wednesdays 2.00 pm in Willowdale Community Centre. Details from Valerie Dane, 225 Chichester Road, Bognor Regis, W. Sussex PO2 5AQ. Tel: 01243 827330.
- BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.** meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth. Newcomers and Beginners 7.15 to 8.45 p.m. Improvers/Advanced 9.00 to 10.30 p.m. 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 R.S.C.D.S.** Classes: Technique - Monday; Intermediate - Tuesday and Friday; Beginners - Thursday; Children - Friday; Highland - Saturday and Sunday. Tel: Jackie Paris, 01273 501716.
- CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details from Janet Garwood, Ingledene, Hale House Lane, Churt, Farnham, Surrey GU10 2NQ. Tel/Fax: 01428 714077.
- CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.** Classes for all grades. Details from Mrs Susan Nedderman, 17A Clarkson Road, Cambridge. Tel: 01223 353869.
- CHELSEA REEL CLUB** meets twice a month from October to March in St. Columba's Church (Upper Hall), Pont Street, SW1. Beginners welcome. Instruction given. Dancing to live music. Details from Ruth Hewlett, Tel: 020 8749 5471.
- CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing most Friday evenings October to May. St. Andrew's U.R.C. Hall at 7.30 p.m. Details from Denham Russell-Smith, 36 Priory Street, Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 6DG. Tel: 01242 532111.
- CRANLEIGH SCOTTISH DANCE SOCIETY** meets Wednesdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. in St. Nicholas Church rooms, Cranleigh. Details from Janet Brown, Finches Corner, Dorking Road, Chilworth, Surrey GU4 8RR. Tel: 01483 202923.
- CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details from Dick Gray, 6 Bunting Close, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 5PA. Tel: 01403 264071.
- CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.** Branch beginners class: Purley (Fri). Other classes in the area: Beginners: Reigate & Selsdon (Tues), Gen: Reigate (Mon), Purley (Alt. Tues), West Wickham (Fri), Advance: Coulsdon (Wed), Reigate (Thurs). Further details, Tel: 020 8777 5363.
- EALING SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB.** Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to June. Tuition and social dancing. St Andrew's URC Hall, Mount Park Road, Ealing, W5. Details from Jo Wilson, 18 Kilpatrick Way, Yeading, Hayes, Middx. UB4 9SX. Tel: 020 8841 3788.
- EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets every Wednesday, 8.00 pm at Warren Hall, Wanstead, London E11, from September to May. Details from John Tanner, Tel: 020 8504 1632.
- EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dance classes, including beginners, (September to March). Many other activities including frequent informal dances. Details from Mrs Carol Burgess, 72 Seymour Avenue, Ewell, Surrey KT17 2RR. Tel: 020 8786 7452.
- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00 p.m., September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details from Moira Bawn, 36 Highfield Gardens, Aldershot, Hants GU11 3DE. Tel: 01252 659527.
- FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. September to mid July at the White House Community Centre. The Avenue, Hampton. Instruction by Mrs Margaret Henderson. Details from Mrs Pamela Black, Tel: 020 8894 9399.
- FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** dance on alternate Saturdays at various venues in the Fleet, Hampshire area, from 7.30 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. September to May. Full details from Michael Ferguson, 4 Lendore Road, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5EJ. Tel: 01276 501952.
- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at the Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in term time. Teacher, Joan Desborough. Details from Mrs Pauline Smith, Plum Tree Cottage, Oxford Road, Gerrards Cross. Tel: 01753 884605.
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs N.Merrick, 2 Hillbeck Way, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8LT.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept to June from 7.45 p.m. at Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, NW11. Beginners and intermediates welcome. Details from Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London, SW18 1TF. Tel: 020 8870 6131.
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday at 8.00 p.m. at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00 p.m. Details from Peter George, 120 Clarence Road, St. Albans, Herts, AL1 4NW. Tel: 01727 843001.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Classes Wednesdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to April at Kenton Methodist Church Hall, Woodgrange Avenue, Kenton. Details of these and other activities from Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner, HA5 3QR. Tel: 020 8428 6055.
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., September to July, St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Hayes. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances to records on third Saturday (excluding Aug. and Sept.), 7.30 to 11.00 p.m. King Charles the Martyr Hall, Dugdale Hill Lane off Mutton Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.
- HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. 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.
- HORSHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Mondays, September to May at Trafalgar School, Victory Road, Adults 7.45 p.m. to 9.45 p.m. preceded by children's Country and Highland classes. Details from Mrs P. Hyatt, 2 Blackbridge Lane, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1RP. Tel: 01403 263187.
- 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 to 8.00 p.m. General 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Linda Cross, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. Tel: 01843 861850.
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Some major functions held at other venues in London. For details see adverts in The Reel or contact Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG. Tel: 0181 715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096.
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8.00 p.m. at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month Social Dancing Evening. Details from Anne Montminy, 233 St. Leonard's Road, Windsor, Berks SL4 3DR. Tel: 01753 852874.
- MAIDSTONE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday 8.00 - 10.00 p.m. September to July at Cobtree Hall, Mote Park, Willington Street, Maidstone. Details from Peter Green, 65 Willington Street, Bearsted, Maidstone ME15 8JR. Tel: 01622 737649.
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing Thursdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. at Upchurch Village Hall, Upchurch, Kent. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details from Tim Law, 44 Haig Ave, Chatham. Tel: 01634 409976.
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS.** Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details from Janice Jones, 10 Corrigan Close, Blechley, MK3 6BP. Tel: 01908 372595.
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. from September to May at Roecroft School, Stotford. Informal Saturday Dances. Details from Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds. SG17 5AL. Tel: 01462 812691.
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 7.45 to 10.30 p.m. at Pets Wood Memorial Hall. Classes held Monday evenings at Chislehurst Village Hall. Details from Alan Croxford, Little Paddockes, Sandygate Lane, Lower Beeding, West Sussex RH13 6LR. Tel: 01403 891661.
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details from Diana Tucker, Pond Farm, 32 Leys Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QF. Tel: 01865 863427.
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. September to June, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Sara Ribbins, 157 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham Heights, Reading RG4 7JR. Tel: 0118 947 3207.
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00 p.m. from mid September to end of May. All welcome. Details from John Frith, 70 Clarence Road, Teddington, Middx. TW11 0BW. Tel: 020 8977 6195.
- ST. ALBANS & MID HERTS CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing most Fridays from October to March. Group meets at Homewood Road U.R. Church Hall, Sandpit Lane, St. Albans at 8.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Bridget Provan, 5 Woodstock Road North, St. Albans. Tel: 01727 858285.
- ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON)** - The Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00 p.m. at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB. Tel: 020 8540 1755.
- ST. JOHN'S SCD CLUB WOKINGHAM** meet every Thursday 8.00 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. September to May at St. Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. Also children's class on Saturday mornings in Crowthorne. Details from Eileen Oxlade, Tel: 01844 213256.
- 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 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Tom Symington. Tel: 020 7834 7151 or 020 7828 6792.
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Road, Sevenoaks. Details from Pauline Honey, 2 Hunsdon Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3AX. Tel: 01732 455872.
- SHENE SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP** meets every Wednesday from September to May 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., at the Sheen Lane Centre, SW14. Details from Brian Cresswell, 16 Cole Rd, Twickenham, Middx TW1 1EZ. Tel: 020 8892 0471.
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00 to 10.15 p.m. throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details from Terry Boorman, 15 Old Farm Road West, Sidcup, DA15 8AG. Tel: 020 8302 2974.
- SOMERSET CHAFFCOMBE & CHARD SCD CLUB** meet every Friday 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. in Lower School Hall, Holyrood School, Furnham Road, Chard and every Sunday 7.00 to 9.30 p.m. at the Village Hall, Chaffcombe. Details from Michael Cross. Tel: 01460 62806
- SOMERSET BRANCH RSCDS.** Classes for Beginners/Improvers Mon. 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Experienced dancers Tues. 7.45 - 9.45 p.m. Both classes held in Monteclefe School, Somerton. General classes fortnightly in Edington Village Hall. Ladies' Step Classes monthly, Thurs. 8 - 10 p.m., Charlton Mackrell. Details from Sheila Barnes, Tel: 01458 223596.
- SOMERSET: ST. MICHAEL'S SCD CLUB** meets every Thursday 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. in the Upper School Hall, Westfield School, Stiby Road, Yeovil. Details of this and other local classes from Margaret Bezzant, 01458 272955.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30 to 10.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Marion Mitchell, 57 Manor Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2AZ. Tel: 01305 263505.
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Fridays, September to May, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Crowstone St. George's URC Hall, King's Road, Westcliff-on-Sea. Tuition 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. Details from Mrs Anne Chandler. Tel: 01702 294645.
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS.** Classes: Beginners/Improvers: Ware, Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m., and Potters Bar, Wednesdays 8.00 - 10.00 p.m. Intermediate: Hertford, Tuesdays 7.45 to 9.45 p.m. Childrens/Beginners: Great Amwell. Monthly dances in Hertford September to May. Details from Jenny Buckingham, Tel: 01707 894912.
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15 p.m. at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details from Brenda Hinton, Tel: 01273 595017.
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday at 8 p.m. September to mid June at St. Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details from Wendy Tumber, 20 Pembroke Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8HP. Tel: 020 8399 4955.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.** Beginners, General and Advanced classes on Mon, Tues, Thurs, 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., at St. Augustine's School, Wilman Road, Tunbridge Wells. Details from Mrs Eileen Orr, 10 Oaklands Road, Groombridge, TN3 9SB. Tel: 01892 864531.
- WALLINGTON: SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT** hold weekly adult Classes for Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels on Mon. and Tues. evenings. Details from Mrs Jennie Nicholls, Longfield, Coulsdon Lane, Chipstead, Surrey CR5 3QG. Tel/fax: 01737 557 693.
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Adult Dancing Class September to June, at St. Thomas' U.R.C., Langley Road, Watford. Thursdays from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., Details from Stuart Keroff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford, Herts WD1 3GE. Tel: 01923 492475.
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Mondays 8.00 p.m. Dance Class. Kenton Methodist Church, Woodgrange Avenue, Kenton. Details from Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford. WD1 5HF. Tel: 020 8421 0470.
- WHITE HEATHER SCOTTISH DANCE CLUB** meets Wednesdays 8.00 - 10.00 p.m. at the Methodist Church Hall, Winchester Road, Highams Park, London E4. All grades from beginners upwards. Details: Brian Baker, 39 Burnham Rd, Chingford, London E4 8PD. Tel: 020 8529 5121.
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS Club** night (all abilities) Wednesday 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., Weeke Community Centre. Classes Tuesdays 8.00 - 10.00 p.m., St Paul's Church Hall. Details from Mrs Vera Hogg, 41 Byron Avenue, Winchester, SO22 5AT. Tel: 01962 865317.
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from John Gorrie, 14 Coleridge Rd, Maldon, Essex CM9 6DH. Tel: 01621 854006.