

# The Reel

rscds
London Branch

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Scottish country dancing-For fun, fitness and friendship

Issue 302

**DECEMBER 2017 TO FEBRUARY 2018** 

London Branch of the RSCDS wishes our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen and HRH The Prince Philip many congratulations on celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary on 20 November 2017

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



Dancers at the London Branch Day School on 21 October 2017 show their best strathspey travelling steps in the Advanced Class.

# Forthcoming Branch Dances

#### **Christmas Dance**

Saturday 16 December 2017 6.45 for 7.00 - 10.30pm Doors open at 6.30pm St Columba's Church, Pont Street SW1X 0BD

Ian Robertson and his SCD Band

The Happy Meeting	
Up in the Air	
Maxwell's Rant	
The Kelloholm Jig	
Mrs Milne of Kinneff	Leaflet/20
The Clansman	32/8
Jennifer's Jig	Drewry
The Sauchie Haugh	Leaflet/29
Ray Milbourne	Carnforth Coll. 1
The Hollin Buss	24/8
Sugar Candie	26/9
The Westminster Reel	45/1
Rodney's Rant	Diamond Jubilee
The Glasgow Highlanders	2/3
The College Hornpipe	20/12
Dancing in the Street	
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	
The Duke and Duchess of Ed	inburgh 39/7

Admission includes reception drink and refreshments

RSCDS members £19, Non-members £22
Full time students (with card) and spectators £10. All children (under 16) free All tickets purchased (cash only) on the door.
All dances will be recapped.
Those with highland/evening dress are

encouraged to wear it

Crib available at bit.ly/2sRA6pE

Burns' Ceilidh Dance

Saturday 13 January 2018

Winter Wednesday Dance Wednesday 14 February 2018

**Combined Societies' Dance** 

Saturday 24 March 2018

See p4 for details of these dances



Memories of warmer days - Spanish friends and visitors to London, having fun dancing the *Virginia Reel*, Open Air London Branch Dancing in Kensington Gardens (19 August 2017).

Also in this issue...

Burns' Ceilidh Supper and Dance Enjoy a traditional Burns' Supper and celebrate Scotland's National Bard followed by a programme of ceilidh and easy Scottish dances led by Peter Knight (see p4)

New term for Branch classes Get into shape in the New Year by joining one of our classes ranging from Beginner level to Advanced (see p5)

The latest Scottish dance CDs Read Jeremy Hill's reviews of RSCDS Book 51 and of "Full Circle" by Ian Robertson and Muriel Johnstone (see p7)

The Scottish Dancing Legacy of Hugh Foss In the first of two articles Adrian Conrad writes about the man and his dances (see p8)

The Dance Corner Another dance to discuss and try out: Whigmaleerie contributed by Mervyn Short (see p12)

Letters to *The Reel* and guest, Malcolm Brown, contributes to the "In My Opinion" column (see *p14*)

#### Chairman's Column by Margaret Catchick

The dancing season is now in full swing and I hope that you have all enjoyed the classes and dances you have been to.

Our Opening Season dance was attended by over 60 dancers who were treated to some superb music from the Craigellachie Band. We were also pleased to welcome visitors from the USA, Hong Kong and Ireland.

The Day School was once again a successful event. Dancers and musicians benefited from some excellent teaching as well as some equally excellent music. The evening dance following the Day School was well attended with Ian Muir (Prestwick), and the Day School Musicians' Workshop providing some wonderful music.

Our classes are now well under way. As you will see from the classes' information on p5 we have classes for all abilities at various locations so why don't you come along and try one of these - you will receive excellent teaching, dance to good music and make new friends. What else could you ask for!

Our next main event, which will take place on 16 December, will be the Christmas Dance which this year will be to the superb music of Ian Robertson and his SCD Band. This will be an occasion not to be missed. On 13 January 2018 the Branch will be holding its Burns' Ceilidh Supper which has become one of the highlights of the year so again put this date in your diary. Dancing will be to the music of the Caledonian Reelers.

As you can see there is a lot to look forward to in the coming months so please come along and support our classes and dances. We need your support if we are to see this wonderfully social form of dance continue in the future. As Andrew Kellett said at our AGM, "use it or lose it". We certainly do not want to lose it so let us all start using it. It is also a great pity that so many people leave dances shortly after the interval. There is nothing more disheartening for the band than to see a room emptying out long before the end of the evening. This is not just restricted to London but seems to be a growing trend.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Christmas Dance and should like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and great dancing in 2018!

#### **RSCDS AGM** by Rachel Wilton

Were you dancing in Perth?

The RSCDS 88th Annual General Meeting and Conference Weekend.

Friday evening: a popular programme from New Zealand Branch and excellent

lively music from Scott Band's six piece Scottish Country Dance Band had nearly everyone on their feet all evening. At the same time a family orientated community ceilidh, equally well attended, took place in an adjacent hall.

Saturday morning: the Open Forum, led by Chairman Elect Andrew Kellett, looked at aspects of the Society's Business Plan for 2017-2020 and Convenors gave their reports. The shop was open and busy, Andrew Nolan, accompanied by George Meikle, gave an excellent class to a large number of dancers -was it possible to do everything?

The AGM: Chairman Helen Russell gave her report, followed by the Treasurer reporting on the Society's financial performance. New Committee members were announced and the only motion - that subscriptions should be maintained at £20 - was carried almost unanimously.

Saturday evening: The Provost of Perth and Kinross welcomed us once again to Perth and Scrolls of Honour were presented to Anne Kennedy (Sydney), Roy Bain (Helensburgh and District), Liz Donaldson (Washington) and Marilyn Healy (Perth). Colin Dewar's Band provided superb music to dance another popular programme, this time from Clackmannanshire Branch.

Sunday morning: at 9.30am a large group were up, breakfasted and packed in time to hear Ian Muir (Prestwick) talk about music and answer questions, followed immediately by an even larger group for the final fling - an excellent class taught by David Queen, accompanied by Rodger McAndrew.

So make a date for next year, 2 - 4 November 2018.

All reports are on the Society website www.rscds.org, Facebook and YouTube.

#### The Missing Editor



Andrew Brown Editor: Issue 165 (1983) "To err is human, to forgive divine" so said Alexander Pope In his Essay on Criticism. It follows that no magazine would be normal without the odd error.

Reel 300 p3 Those men and women who made their Reel mark

Whilst the number of 16 editors given in the article is correct

one editor slipped through the net. Andrew was editor on one occasion whilst the late John Laurie was away on holiday.

#### A closer look at the contents of this issue

Branch News and Reports 3
Branch Dances and Classes 4-5
Journey from Unit 3 to being Certificated6
Music Matters7
The SCD Legacy of Hugh Foss8
Around the Clubs9
The Dancing World in Pictures 10-11

The Dance Corner12
Farewells, Hellos and Celebrations13
Letters to <i>The Reel</i> and "In My Opinion" 14
Coffee Break Amusements
Lives Remembered and News from HQ 16
Forthcoming Events 17-19
Other SCD Organisations, Credits 19-20

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY



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President: Jean Martin
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Non-Executive roles
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#### Objects of London Branch

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

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

www.rscdslondon.org.uk



www.facebook.com /RSCDSLondon



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Page 2 The Reel Issue 302

# London Branch News and Reports

#### Membership

The current cost of RSCDS membership through the London Branch is as follows:

	Aged 12-17	Aged 18-24	25 and over	Second branch member	Joint (per person)
The Reel electronically	£14	£20	£24	£4	£20
The Reel by post (UK)	£16	£22	£26	£6	£22
The Reel by post (Europe)	£22	£28	£32	£12	£28
The Reel by post (Rest of the World)	£25	£31	£35	£15	£31

London Branch membership benefits include reduced rates at Branch classes, dances and events, and receiving *The Reel*, while RSCDS membership includes the biannual publication, *Scottish Country Dancer*, and 10% discounts on items from the RSCDS shop. Full details may be found and membership may be purchased on the Branch website www.rscdslondon.org.uk with PayPal and standing order options available. Membership enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989 or membership@rscdslondon.org.uk

#### **Branch Day School Reports**

#### Dance Class Report by Alison Raisin

Helen Russell gave a great start to the day with an excellent warm up and a reminder on posture - her image of a ghostly finger running down the spine was a reminder about good posture. After some step practice we moved on to some dances, on the face of it none of these were difficult but all presented challenges around transitions between steps and formations. Barbara Manning was, as ever, wonderful on the piano and told us a bit about the music she was playing.

The afternoon class was taught by William Williamson with music by Ian Muir. It was a fun session, but still instructive. Four bars of pas de basque in jig time and then in reel time was a useful reminder of how the rhythm of the steps changes. We finished with one of his own dances, written to honour the Masai. A few people even managed the leaps at the end, no mean achievement after a day of dancing.

The final class was optional and I went along to Helen's ladies' step class. It was great to see so many people trying ladies' step and Helen did a good job of teaching a straightforward dance, adjusting the steps used to the needs of the class.

All in all an excellent day.

# **Dance Class Report** by Joanne and Willie Lawrence

Willie and I had been looking forward to our 2nd London day school and, as in 2016, were impressed by the amount of work done by so many people before we even arrived. We caught up briefly with friends from other branches over coffee and then lessons began.

Our Hon. President, Rachel Wilton introduced the mixed ability class to their teacher, Lindsey Ibbotson and musician Ian Robertson. We had been taught by Lindsey at summer school and knew Ian from the London branch classes, so were ready for an interesting and enjoyable class with great music. Lindsey quickly got us organised with some dynamic stretching and the session began.

The morning passed in a whirl of slip step, pas de basques, strathspey, poussettes and reels. The Wee Cooper o' Fife, an unusual 40 bar structure, had us all counting out

the 10 bar phrases and was welcome preparation for the evening dance. We practiced poussettes in the *The New Waterloo Reel* and a strathspey poussette in *The Sauchie Haugh*, all the while trying to improve foot placement, covering and a myriad of other things so easily forgotten in the heat of a dance. An equally stretching afternoon session, taught by Tom Ibbotson, with excellent music by Judith Muir continued to build our skills in enjoyable dances - including another of unusual length, the 48 bar jig, *The New Rigged Ship*.

After the tea break many people went on to sample highland and ladies' step classes but we were happy to sit with friends, putting the world to rights over the excellent scones and fruit cake provided by the much appreciated catering team. Our overstretched brains stumbled a bit during the evening dance but the massed musicians and the ceilidh items provided a wonderful end to an excellent day.

#### Musicians' Class Report by Roger Swaine

There were around twenty of us at the workshop. About seven keyboard players, the same number of fiddlers, about three accordionists, and a couple of drummers. We met at the Paddington Academy, where we were schooled by lan Muir from Prestwick (yes, the other one). The music for the evening dance had already been sent out, so there was no excuse for not having looked at it (though looking at it is not the same as being able to play it). The first tune we played was *Pete's Peerie Boat*. This is a

pretty well-known tune, so it went well, and lan commented that if we played the rest of the tunes to the same standard he might as well go home. Well, we didn't and he didn't. Some of the discussions became almost mathematical, as we discussed how to arrange four tunes over eight repetitions of the dance, played 10 bar phrases (The Wee Cooper o' Fife), played an 88 bar dance with 32 bar tunes (The Piper and the Penguin), and played alternately 16 bars strathspey and reel phrases (The Glasgow Country Dance - Ugh!). Ian Muir remained positive and encouraging throughout, ensuring that we covered all the dances as well as possible in the limited time available, while also offering suggestions on how to get the best out of the tunes - not forgetting the starts and stops. He was not even offended when one of the class had the temerity to suggest a change to one of his own tunes!

At the end of the day long workshop came tea, and the musicians then headed off to the hall to get set up and wait patiently for the dancers to arrive (except for the accordionists, who headed off to the nearest pub).

Then came the dance, and as it progressed, it dawned on us that we had somehow miraculously been transformed from a motley lot of individuals into something that actually sounded half-decent. (We were even referred to as an "Orchestra"!) This was confirmed (if we can believe them) by all the lovely comments that we got at the end. Much of the credit for this must go to lan Muir.

There is even a rumour of a bootleg recording of the evening's music...



# London Branch Dances and Classes

#### Burns' Ceilidh Dance

Saturday 13 January 2018 7.00 - 10.45pm Doors open at 6.30pm St Columba's Church, Pont Street SW1X OBD

#### Caledonian Reelers with MC Peter Knight

A great opportunity to enjoy with your friends and family a traditional Burns' Supper along with the fun of Scottish music and ceilidh dancing. Dances will be selected from the following: Gay Gordons, Dunnet Head, Kelvingrove Two Step, Jig to the Music, A Highland Welcome, Canadian Barn Dance, My Love She's but a Lassie yet, Rózsa (waltz), The Dashing White Sergeant, The Boston Two Step, The Eightsome Reel, St Bernard's Waltz, The Virginia Reel, Lambeth Walk, Britannia Two Step, Bluebell Polka, Be Seeing You, Strip the Willow (Orcadian style), Swedish Masquerade, A London Celebration (Reel 280)

All dances will be walked through

Admission includes haggis supper (vegetarian option available) with a glass of wine RSCDS members £16, Non-members £20 Full time students (with card) and spectators £8. All children (under 16) free

All tickets to be purchased (cash only) on the door

## Winter Wednesday Dance

Wednesday 14 February 2018 7.00 - 10.00pm Doors open at 6.30pm St Columba's Church, Pont Street SW1X 0BD

# Sandra Smith and Christina Hood Charlestown Chaser ...... Graded 2/2

The Dunedin Festival Dance
Guide (ex-Collins)
Hello-Goodbye51/9
Crom Allt
Fair Enough51/4
The Valentine Magazine
The Highlandman's Umbrella
Guide (ex-Collins)
,
New Year Jig51/8
Ca' the Ewes tae the Knowes16/8
Blue Bonnets 3/5
Scott Meikle46/3
C'est l'Amour34/1
12 Coates Crescent
The Reel of the 51st Division 13/10
Extra:
Good Hearted Glasgow
Guide (ex-Collins)
(

Admission includes light refreshments RSCDS members £11, Non-members £13 Full time students (with card) and spectators £6. All children (under 16) free All tickets to be purchased (cash only) on the door.

All dances will be recapped/walked through

Crib available at bit.ly/2ygS46V

#### Forthcoming RSCDS London dance events

The following dates have been confirmed for the remainder of this season. Events take place at

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD from 7.00 - 10.30pm (doors open at 6.30pm), except where noted.

Wednesday 30 May Summer Wednesday

Dance to music from **TBA** 

Saturday 9 June End of Season Dance

following the Branch AGM to music from

For details of all our events please visit

www.rscdslondon.org.uk

#### **Combined Societies Dance**

St Columba's Dancers, the RSCDS London Branch, the London Highland Club and London Reels will be combining to put on their annual dance on Saturday 24 March 2018, to the music of Craigellachie.

Put the date in your diary!

## We can help you afford it

The RSCDS and the London Branch recognise the importance of supporting the teachers, musicians and dancers of the future. As such, scholarships are available for young people (25 and under) to attend RSCDS residential schools as a dancer or as a musician, and for any member to take the RSCDS Teaching Certificate at Summer School. Details of RSCDS scholarships are set out on the

Applicants from London Branch member for scholarships should get in touch with our Secretary, Joanne Lawrence, via secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

among young people in the London area. We are a charity and want to help you improve your skills and enjoyment of SCD, and to support you in passing on your enthusiasm and knowledge to the next generation. This fund increased in 2016 thanks to a generous donation following the closure of the Waverley Scottish Country Dance Club, for

website under Courses.

London Branch also has funds to support any event promoting Scottish country dancing

which London Branch is very grateful.

# Families in London Dance Scottish



The first taster class took place on Saturday 7 October 2017 at LUMEN URC church near Tavistock Square. We enjoyed listening to the music and marching, before dancing Charlestown Chaser and The Deil amang the Tailors.

Our third class takes place at Fresh Ground Church of the Nazarene near Clapham Junction on Saturday 20 January 2018, from 10.15-11.45am. The class teachers will be James Fairbairn and Jenny Kendrick.

Please encourage families to bring along their children and grandchildren to enjoy dancing together.

## Very Advanced Scottish Dance Class

A class on Sunday 28 January 2018 in central London for the very advanced dancer with expert tuition from Philippe Rousseau.

See p5 for full details (under Coram's Fields).

Seize the opportunity to polish your dancing technique!



#### New Season Dance Report by Daniel Capron



The 2017/18 season opened with a Branch dance at St Columba's. The programme contained a mix of well-known dances and some less familiar of the Society's dances. The MCs, Andrew Kellett and Pat Davoll, explained all the dances carefully and we enjoyed dancing them all, as none presented an insuperable challenge. The Craigellachie Band were on good form and played to their usual high standard. It all added up to a lively evening of fun

and enjoyment. Thanks are due to Craigellachie, the MCs, the catering team for the interval refreshments, those selling tickets at the door, and the Committee for their work behind the scenes organising the dance.

#### South East Dance Diary

The diary on the Branch website is regularly updated. For a hard copy please send an SAE to Caroline Hamilton.

All societies in the South East may submit their functions for inclusion in the diary by emailing diary@rscdslondon.org.uk or by post to Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW.

If you wish to receive London Branch information by email (not more than once a month), please send your email address to publicity@rscdslondon.org.uk and we will add you to the list.

Page 4 The Reel Issue 302



The London Branch runs a large number of classes throughout the year.

Some of these are regular classes during term-time; others are specialist classes in advanced technique and classes for young people.

## Park Walk Primary School

Park Walk, London SW10 0AY

Wednesdays 7.00 - 9.00pm during term time

Last night of Autumn term is 6 December (Classes' Christmas party)

Spring term is 10 January - 21 March 2018 with half term 14 February (28 March is Classes' Easter party night)

#### **Beginners and Improvers**

with teacher Jane Rose

An introduction to basic steps and formations for new dancers while supporting others to develop their technique and general dancing skills.

#### Intermediate

with teacher Gillian O'Dell

For dancers who have a working knowledge of the steps and formations found in Scottish country dancing and who are looking to improve their technique, self-awareness and enjoyment in dancing.

#### **Advanced**

with teachers Emma Allsop, Pat Davoll and Deborah McLachlan

For good dancers who are looking to develop their technique, confidence, performance, style and enjoyment of the dance.

Musicians: Ian Cutts, Ian Robertson, Sandra Smith

Class fee: £75 per term or £9 per night for RSCDS members, £85 per term or £10 per night for Non-members

Underground: South Kensington, Sloane Square.

Free on-street parking available after 6.30pm (Chelsea match days 10.00pm) in nearby streets.

Buses: 11, 22, 19, 49, 328, 319, 345

No entry into the school permitted before 6.40pm. No smoking or vaping on school premises.

#### St Columba's Church

Upper Hall, Pont St, London SW1X OBD

Wednesdays 2.30 - 4.30pm during term time

Last afternoon of Autumn term is 13 December Spring term is 10 January - 21 March 2018 with half term 14 February

#### **Mixed Ability**

with teacher Jeni Rutherford

A social class suitable for dancers with at least some knowledge of basic steps and formations. Visitors welcome.

Class fee: £7 per class to recorded music For further information contact Jeni:

jrutherford@freeuk.com

Underground: Knightsbridge, Sloane Square.

Buses: 19, 22, 137, 452, C1

#### Richmond

Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RT

Wednesdays 8.00 - 10.00pm during term time

Last night of Autumn term is 6 December (Class Christmas party)

Spring term is 10 January -21 March 2018 with half term 14 February (28 March is Class Easter party night)

#### **Beginners and Improvers**

with teacher Judith Jones

An introduction to basic steps and formations for new dancers while supporting others to develop their technique and general dancing skills.

Class fee: £6 per class to recorded music Underground/Train: Richmond.
Buses: 65, 190, 371, 391, 419, 490, 493

#### Coram's Fields

Band Hall, 93 Guilford St, London WC1N 1DN Sunday 28 January 2018 11.00am - 1.00pm

#### Very Advanced

with teacher Philippe Rousseau Musicians: Ian and Meryl Thomson

A class aimed at the very advanced dancer who is able to perform and execute all steps and formations to a high standard of dancing and assimilate instructions quickly.

Class fee: £9 (RSCDS members) and £10 (Non-members).

For details contact Margaret Catchick chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk or Jenny Kendrick classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

Underground: Russell Square. Free on-street parking available.

#### Representing the Branch

A monthly class on Tuesdays for advanced dancers, taught by **Mervyn Short**, with music provided by **Sandra Smith**, to work on a repertoire of dances that can be used for public displays. Classes are held from 7.00 - 9.00pm in the Upper Hall at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD.

If you have a sense of fun and the ability to reflect the joy of Scottish country dancing to the general public, do come along and give us a try. Anyone interested in joining is asked to have a good grasp of Scottish dance steps and formations. For further information please contact Elaine Davies at demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk

#### **Student Central**

Malet St, WC1E 7HY

Thursdays 6.00 - 7.30pm during term time

University of London and UCLU Folk Society A class for students, staff and alumni of the University of London. £2 per class.

For further information contact Elaine Davies at youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

# Families in London Dance Scottish

Saturday 20 January 2018: Fresh Ground Church of the Nazarene, 68 Battersea Rise, London SW11 1EQ

Railway Station: Clapham Junction

Time: 10.15 - 11.45am

#### "TASTER CLASSES"

with teachers: James Fairbairn and Jenny Kendrick

Classes aimed at families in London who might want to join in Scottish dancing Class fee: £5 per dancer or £10 per family For further information please contact Marjory: childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk

For updates, please check our Facebook page Families-in-London-Dance-Scottish



#### Report on SERTA Workshop by Stuart Kreloff

A SERTA workshop took place on Sunday 24 September 2017 at Finchampstead.

Twenty-seven attendees came from Warwickshire, Wales, Sussex, Surrey, Somerset, London, Hertfordshire, Hampshire, Essex, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

The morning workshop was THE DIFFERENT WAYS PEOPLE LEARN led by Rosemary Harvey (see photo). In the afternoon, the workshop was led by Mervyn Short and focused on HIGHLAND STEPS USED IN COUNTRY DANCES.

For the complete report covering both workshops (and which includes the handouts produced by Mervyn) please visit the SERTA website at www.serta.org.uk



# "Enjoying each step along the way" - The journey from Unit 3 to fully certificated RSCDS teacher by Lizzy Conder

Since gaining my RSCDS teaching certificate at Summer School this July, I have not had much time to reflect on the journey from gaining my Unit 3 under the tutelage of Mervyn Short in March 2015 to becoming a fully certificated teacher. The nervousness engendered by being asked to teach a single formation now seems like a long time ago as I teach an entire class of beginners or intermediates on my own. Following on from the fortune of being taught Units 2 and 3 by Mervyn Short, I was lucky to be taken under the wing of Jane Rose as my Unit 4

Unit 4 is designed to give candidates real life learning experience of teaching before the final Unit 5 exam. It is eye opening both from managing your own energy levels, ensuring that there is sufficient time to prepare both ahead of the class and on the evening of the class (something that I have learned to be more focused about in planning my diary to get away from the day job on time) and in how varied beginners are in the style of how they learn. As well as



being given opportunities to teach during the RSCDS London beginners' class, I was also given opportunities at the university class taken by Lindsey Rousseau. Often something that would work on a Wednesday evening would not work on a Thursday evening and vice versa. It was also interesting to see how different styles of music impact on whether a class will be successful with a dance - sometimes the original tunes work brilliantly and other times make the dance feel more complicated to a beginner than it would with another reel or jig. Jane gradually built up on the amount of time that I was teaching during an evening over the course

of two years so that it felt natural when I was teaching a full class for two hours. Being allowed gradually to take on more challenges in my teaching gave me the confidence that I could teach no matter what happened. Knowing that I could keep going or adapt accordingly if something wasn't working in my lesson plan and even when I was injured was very good preparation in the run up to my Unit 5 course.

Unit 5 in St Andrews under the tuition of Anne Taylor was another step up in terms of improving my teaching skills especially with regard to helping dancers improve their skills and also in analysing how dances could be taught in ways to help intermediate dancers pick up the formations. Exam day was nerve racking but in many ways less so than my first time teaching a dance to RSCDS London beginners. I knew that I had all the skills in my knowledge bank - just needed to calm the nerves and remember to demonstrate and demonstrate some more.

(As an aside but unusually: Anne exclaimed, "I think this class is the only class I have heard of having three musicians in the two week course. Kathleen Anderson broke her little finger. Bill Ewen was drafted in but could only play for the examinations till about 4pm. Adam Brady was free to play for the last two candidates.)"

I am now enjoying teaching classes on my own due to the support and encouragement throughout my teacher training of Jane Rose, Anne Taylor, Lindsey Rousseau, Mervyn Short, Ken Martlew and everyone who dances with or plays for RSCDS London and Berkhamsted Strathspey & Reel Club. Thank you all very much. For those who are undertaking their teacher training, appreciate each step in the journey as even when it feels like nothing has gone to plan, you are gaining the experience to make you a better teacher and one more step towards passing the final exam.

Photo of Unit 5 Summer School 2017 Tutor, musicians and candidates (who all passed).

Back row (from left): Lesley Ross, Clackmannanshire; Colin Campbell, London, Ontario; Bill Ewen, Fife (2nd pianist); Kathleen Anderson, Aberdeen (1st pianist); Adam Brady, Fife (3rd pianist); Anne Taylor, Moray (Tutor); Annabel Harrison, IB; Haruko Sasaki, Tokyo. Front row (From left): Verena Ebling, Central Germany; Zsofia Jozef, IB; Lizzy Conder, London; Zsolt Molnar, IB; Heather Davies, South Wales.

# Scottish Country Dancing and Walking Holidays

We are experienced in organising a unique mix of sociable and friendly Scottish Country Dancing and Walking Holidays

- 4 nights social dancing, full board
- 3 morning dance workshops with walks in the afternoon, or 3 full days walking

#### **ILKLEY**

Craiglands Hotel, 19-23 Mar 2018, £260/£300

## **TORQUAY**

Victoria Hotel, 16-20 April 2018, £265/£295

#### **LLANDUDNO**

Queens Hotel, 24-28 Sep 2018, £240/£260

#### **GREAT MALVERN**

Abbey Hotel, 7-11 Oct 2018, £340/£385

#### **SCARBOROUGH**

Cober Hill, 12-16 Nov 2018, £280

www.scottish-country-dancing-and-walking-holidays.com scottishdancingandwalking@gmail.com tel: 01274 567558

- We look forward to welcoming you -

Page 6 The Reel Issue 302

# **Music Matters**

#### CD Reviews by Jeremy Hill

RSCDS Book 51, with music from Ian Muir and his Scottish Dance Band: CD available at £14.30 (£13 for Society members) from the Branch Bookstall (see below) or www.rscds.org/shop, or to download from iTunes for £9.99 or amazon.co.uk for £7.99. Also available to stream from spotify.com

Dances: Tracks 1 to 6 - Edinburgh Toy Shop (8x32J), The Somerset Children's Reel (8x32R), Save the Children (8x32S), Fair Enough (4x32J), Summer on the Beach (4X32R), And for the Young Ones (4x32J), Tracks 8 to 10 - Holyrood Strathspey (8x32S), New Year Jin (8x32J), Hello Goodbyn (8x32S), Pluto's Head (8x32R), Come W.

Jig (8x32J), Hello-Goodbye (8x32S), Pluto's Head (8x32R), Come What May (8x32J), Bohemian Reflections (8x32R), and band tracks 7, 11 and 15 - Continental Waltz, Grand March and Slow Air. (For further information see my.strathspey.org/dd/publication/1381/)

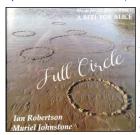
This year's recording from the band of Ian Muir (of Prestwick) to accompany the new book boasts a really classy sound, not surprising when you see the band listing Susan Gordon (fiddle), Duncan Black (second accordion), Neil MacMillan (keyboard/bass) and Scott Gordon (drums). The combination is very tight, beautifully and crisply played, varied in sound and style, rhythmically together throughout, and there is plenty to tickle the ear: some really good interplay between the players, with counter melodies and interesting harmonies. So why do I come away feeling uncertain about this recording?

It is partly to do with purpose: Book 51 is a book of new dances designed for children and less experienced dancers; yet this appears to be a recording designed not for a class, but for use at a dance or social evening. In several cases the tunes lead to the "big finish" - potentially away from the style of the original. At several points, there are superbly co-ordinated breaks between tunes, which may cause less experienced dancers to stop, or not start. However, if the quality of the recording encourages clubs to include these dances on a social evening, that would be great.

One further point: I know the Society has moved away from previously rigid views on original tunes, but I was jolted from my listening when the second tune on the first track turned out to be *The Foula Reel*. Perhaps that is because it was ingrained in me from my years of donning my Shetland jumper and hard shoes to present the Book 4 dance to this tune at Branch Children's Dances, but even for those unfamiliar with the dance, there is a clear switch of style of tune. Notwithstanding that, there are some fabulous tunes and sets here, from a traditional set for *The Somerset Children's Reel* to composer sets for *Summer on the Beach* (alternatives by Graeme Mitchell), *Hello-Goodbye* (Jim Johnstone) and *Fair Enough* (lan Muir of Prestwick himself). As with other recent Society recordings, the band had free hand with three tracks, including the great continental *Comet Valse*.

It's a great listen, and I think would be fun to dance to, in the right setting. I just wonder whether these are the right dances for this style of recording.

(Ed. Specifying track numbers that differ from the dance number in book is confusing especially when playing them: additional tracks are best tacked on at the end and not mixed up with the dance tracks).



Full Circle: Music for dances from A Reel for Alice, played by Ian Robertson and Muriel Johnstone. CD available at £12, and book for £8, from RSCDS Leeds Branch at http://rscdsleeds.uk/index.php?id\_product=962&controller=product

Dances: A Reel for Alice (5x32R), Bristol Fashion (3x32S), The Bruce That Was (8x32J), The Deeside Wanderer (1x64S), Full Circle (4x32J), In Balance (8x32R), The Innes Dancers (4x32R), Kildonan Sands (3x32S), The Maunby Reel (8x32R), Memories (3x32S), The Morrison Measure (5x32R), One Pair of Hands (4x32S), The Quaker's Daughter (3x32S), The Right Way Up (8x32J), Well Kent (3x32S), Yorkshire Lasses (8x32J)

A somewhat straighter approach is employed for a recording of dances from *A Reel for Alice*, devised by Roy Goldring. Musically, this is also right out of the top drawer, as you would expect from Ian Robertson and Muriel Johnstone. From a listening perspective, they have added variety through the skills of Ian Robertson on both fiddle and accordion. Tracks have been recorded with Muriel on piano and bass accompanying Ian on: accordion solo, accordion and fiddle, fiddle solo and multi-tracked fiddle.

I found the solo tracks generally more successful, and particularly enjoyed the strathspeys with Ian's solo fiddle, such as *Bristol Fashion*. I was sorry that none of the strathspeys is a full 8x32; in fact, there are five 3x32 strathspeys. I don't know the dances, but these may appeal to those clubs looking for further variety of this popular shorter form.

As well as well-chosen traditional tunes, original tunes in the book come from Muriel herself, in five cases, Donald Ridley, Neil Barron, Pat Clark, Alastair Taylor and Ian Muir (of Prestwick). In the game of "spot the original", it is worth mentioning that both Ian Muir's original tunes feature as alternatives in his Book 51 recording above. Alternatives are very well matched with originals - including traditional with modern to create variety. Ian Robertson gets on the listing with tunes including *The Nose in the Night* (what's the story there?) [Ed. Who knows? Well, Ian does and apparently the nose in question belongs to his pet dog] in the concluding set for Yorkshire Lasses

The different instrumental combinations also create variety, with the multi-tracking allowing for second parts and harmonic interaction, and Ian and Muriel combine beautifully throughout. As always with Scotscores, the production is excellent, giving a suitably rounded sound overall.

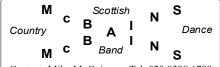
# racda

BOOK 51

MUSIC FOR 12 SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCES and BAND LEADER'S CHOICES

AND MILE AND HIS SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

#### **Bands**



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

# IAN ROBERTSON AND HIS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE BAND

Solo, duo or trio available for Scottish country dances, classes, weddings, ceilidhs and reeling events.

Contact Ian Robertson on 01296 630682 or ibrobertson@btinternet.com

#### Soloist: **PETER JENKINS**

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

THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND Broadcasting band for Scottish country dances, Reeling, Ceilidhs and Weddings. Any size of band from one to seven with PA to match from 100 to 2000 watts. Particularly interested in any ideas for expansion of ceilidh market. The Granary, Park Lane, Finchampstead, Wokingham RG40 4QL. Tel/

Fax: 0118 932 8983 or reel@frankreid.com

#### **CALEDONIAN REELERS**

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

#### KAFOOZALUM COUNTRY DANCE BAND

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

#### **Branch Bookstall**

Copies of the new RSCDS book (Book 51) of dances for younger and less experienced dancers, and the CD of music for these dances, will be for sale at Branch events, with other books, CDs and Branch badges. They can also be sent out by post. Some high-quality CDs by well-known bands are now for sale at bargain prices, as are some of the early RSCDS books. Current stock is listed on the Branch website

www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Contact Daniel (see below) with any queries or orders.

Daniel Capron

bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk

74B Thurlow Park Road, London SE21 8HY

#### South East Classes Listing

We regularly update the classes listing on www.rscdslondon.org.uk (under SE Events). Would you please check your group's information and send any amendments to seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk or call Jan Collings on 07803 923036.

#### The Scottish Country Dancing Legacy of Hugh Foss - Part 1 by Adrian Conrad

I have been interested in Hugh Foss's dances ever since I started Scottish dancing in the 1960s, and was fortunate enough to meet Hugh once in 1969 when attending an afternoon class that he taught in Nottingham. Many

articles about him have

appeared in *The Reel* over the years, but this one concentrates on his dances, and was written after the editorial team invited me to amplify my recent comment (see *Reel* 301) that many of Hugh's dances deserved to be more widely known. I am most grateful to Stephen Webb for his help with the references, and also with proof-reading and several suggestions.

I hope to stimulate wider interest in Hugh's contribution to SCD, and to encourage readers to explore more of his dances. I also hope to dispel the notion that he was just "the fugue man" who mostly devised horrendously complicated dances.

Hugh Foss joined the SCDS London Branch in the mid-1930s, and after a spell as its President, then Chairman and then Vice-President and also as the second editor of The Reel, he retired to Dalry in Galloway in 1956 (see Reel 34) and died there in late 1971 (see Reel 119). By then 118 of his own dances had appeared in print, mostly in his last ten years, with Hugh then acting as his own publisher and also publishing some dances for other devisers. Another 16 of his dances were published in 1978 in The Rose Collection Dances after diligent editing of Hugh's notes by Bob Donald. A further three unpublished dances are mentioned on Strathspey Server, and in 2007 RSCDS recognised his contribution by republishing Three Dances by Hugh Foss, and later by reprinting Hugh's book of Dances to Song Tunes.

Among his dances, there are indeed some "challenging" ones, and a very small number that are very demanding in various ways. However, he also composed a great many straightforward dances, including many quite easy two-couple and threecouple dances. These could offer welcome relief in some dance programmes today. For the many dancers of intermediate standard, Hugh also left a lot of quirky, stimulating dances, slightly challenging but real fun to dance. Of these, Polharrow Burn and JB Milne are probably the most well-known. Also in 1967 another, London Reel, was devised to celebrate Reel No 100. Later, in this article I will mention individual dances that interest me. But I will start with some general comments.

Music and Movement: Hugh Foss was a keen musician - he even composed some dance tunes - and he was passionate about dances and their tunes matching well. Dances with setting needed tunes with phrases that fitted, and so on. He would never have written "Tune: any good reel", as Jean Milligan often did in her dance pocket books. Hugh either devised dances to fit existing tunes (as in the Angus Fitchet Album) or else found music, or had it composed, to fit his dances. He was very familiar with Scottish music sources, both the well-known and more obscure, and for several of his dances selected (and thereby promoted) beautiful tunes that previously

were little used; this often made even his simpler dances very enjoyable.

He was particularly fond of the music of the fiddler William Marshall, a near-contemporary of Niel Gow, and devised numerous dances named after Marshall tunes, including delightful jigs like Miss Stewart's Jig (of Bombay), and his strathspey The Earl of Angus and Arran, used by Hugh years before the RSCDS adopted it for Sugar Candie. However, he was quite happy to devise dances for less exalted music, for example his simple dance Roaring Jelly, or Caller Herrin' and Hey, Johnnie Cope from his collection of Dances to Song Tunes.

Contribution to SCD Formations: a dancer of today quickly scanning cribs of Hugh Foss dances might well wonder what is special about them. Hugh mainly limited himself to the conventional formations of the SCDS/ RSCDS dances of his day (except for poussettes, which are virtually absent); he published no dance using a square set, although The Rose Collection includes four from his notes; his dances mostly predated the new figures of others, like John Drewry's rondel, and he created no such figures of his own. But a closer look will reveal many cases where Hugh stretched the ordinary figures. In Duncan MacCalman the double triangles formation becomes a "travelling triangles" sequence. In the reel Auchencairn, he invented a workable four-bar sequence for petronella-turn-to-the-left, thereby resolving the limitation of the normal petronella turn and set being always to the right; in this dance, pairs of dancers even swap places using normal and petronella-to-left movements.

Also in Hugh's dances, even basic movements can still challenge dancers. Sometimes, they have to make very quick turns, as in *Wheatly Hills*, or occasionally to dance an odd number of pas de basques before starting travelling (on the left foot!), as in the "meshing cogs" sequence that ends *Balmaclellan*. And, as one might expect from a very able mathematician, some of his dances have very unusual geometry.

Five-Couple Sets: Hugh's main contribution to the SCD palette was the introduction of the five-couple "interlocking corners set", then always using the first and third couple as working couples and progressing to the order 2,4,1,5,3. With these sets came extensions of existing figures. His first two Glendarroch Sheets featured Earlstoun Loch with its double double triangles (double-Ws), and Airie Bennan with the fourth couple as "shared corners". Later in the series Polharrow Burn appeared with its popular corners' zigzag, and then Derek Haynes' The Black Mountain Reel brought us "3-4-3" wheels.

"Meanwhile": a pervasive feature of Hugh Foss dances is the overlapping of dance movements. Some dancers may mentally freeze whenever they hear "meanwhile" but not all cases are difficult. For many dancers, the first "meanwhile" they ever encountered may well have been the one dominating the dance JB Milne, and that, together with its distinctive Angus Fitchet tune, has undoubtedly kept this dance popular for over fifty years. But Hugh's dances also have several other types of "meanwhile". The fivecouple dances already mentioned are one example, with similar movements of two working couples overlapping. Elsewhere, copies of the same movement are overlapped out of phase, including the advance and retire of John McAlpin and the dancing back to back of Stroangassel.

A further form which he pioneered is contrarotation, in which the working couple(s) turn, rotate or dance one way round the set while others are dancing the other way. An early such dance was The Forteviot Jig, with the first couple dancing anticlockwise halfway round the set, while the corners dance right hands across in the middle, and then the insiders and outsiders change roles. The switch-over needs a little practice. In yet another form of meanwhile, some dancers follow one formation while others follow another. In Cousin Jim, the first couple dance separate figures of eight on opposite sides around the corner positions while the corners are dancing rights and lefts. Similarly, in The Thrums Cairn, the first couple dance a full reel of four on the first corners' diagonal while the corners again dance rights and lefts. Both patterns are straightforward by today's standards.

The most dramatic "meanwhile" cases come in his "fugal" dances. I shall deal a bit more about these in the second part of this article in *Reel* 303. Here I should just like to emphasise that only a limited number of his dances are "fugal", and "fugal" does *not* always mean ultra-complicated.

Now to mention a few Hugh Foss dances that I especially like.

Duncan MacCalman is an attractive threecouple reel for a four-couple longwise set. Its dominant rhythm "move, then set" is beautifully matched by the music composed for it by Nan Main. The clever part is a neat form of progressive double triangles which rotates the set halfway round in eight bars (much as in John Bowie Dickson's Pinewoods Reel), but in which everyone switches triangles by "petronella and set" sequences. The three-couple reel Stroangassel, named after a stone circle in the Ken Valley in Galloway, is a masterly demonstration of how an entire dance can be constructed from a single, simple eight bar figure: set, cast off and dance back to back, plus a few subtle variations. From the spectator's viewpoint, the complexity of the dance cranks up a notch every eight bars until the denouement in the last four.

Many dancers are familiar with the two-couple dance *The Wee Cooper o'Fife*, with a 40 bar repeat using four 10 bar sections, and danced to an old nursery song tune. Unfortunately, the finish is sometimes a bit ragged because dancers get impatient and do not use the eight bars fully to complete their reel of four across before it dissolves onto the sides in the last two bars. Hugh reused the dissolving reel idea (in this case for half reels of four, twice) in his two-couple dance *Mr Morison*, set to the fine William Marshall jig *Mr Morison of Bognie*.

Crossmichael is a pleasant three-couple strathspey for a four-couple longwise set, and a very "democratic" dance too, since all three couples dance virtually the same pattern. The first couple progress to second place in the usual way and after their second turn "drop to the foot", but since the dance is begun by the second couple, and the progression of the first couple is not obvious, dancers need to be wide awake to dance it eight times through without a hiccup. The first half is far easier to dance than anyone would think on just reading or hearing the conventional style instructions; instead, look at the diagrams and see how three pairs of dancers dance essentially the same pattern, but with a staggered start.

See the list of all Hugh Foss' dances in Part 1 at bit.ly/2g6C7VX ...To be continued...

Page 8 The Reel Issue 302

# Around the Clubs

#### The Surbiton Way by Cathy Daldy

Members of the Surbiton & District Caledonian Society are certainly enjoying "the good life" which is synonymous with our town (if you are 1970s TV fan!). As promised by our motto, "joy through dancing" is guaranteed every week and this perfectly sums up the club's ethos and is at the heart of its success. A year ago I was completely new to all things Scottish dancing, and without the invitation to go along to the Surbiton club with a friend I might never have even considered it; now I love it, and I would therefore like to share with you what I have observed and experienced that keeps me dancing at Surbiton!

Firstly, all sorts of people asked me to dance on my first visit. A year on, I can appreciate how generous it is for experienced dancers to do this when they might really prefer a partner of their own standard and a set that doesn't include a muddled beginner. I also now know that our MCs, committee members and long-time club members are always alert to any newcomers and make it a priority that they are not left sitting out. Back then, the gentle guidance and constant encouragement from each new partner just made me feel good and really welcomed.

Secondly, club sessions follow a format devised to maximise everyone's enjoyment, from the brand new beginner to the seasoned veteran. A typical Thursday evening begins with a half an hour tuition session run by one of our certificated RSCDS teachers, open to all and, remarkably, offered at no extra cost. A warm-up, some work on a particular step or technique and then a focus on a new or tricky figure that features in one of the dances in the programme makes for a very useful and popular session, and is a perfect way to improve without committing to a full course.

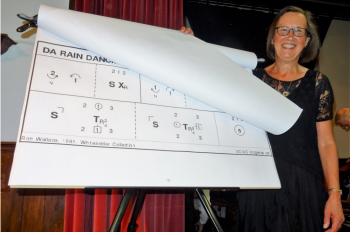
Then, it is straight on to the social dancing where the clever thing is the colour coding of dances on the published list for each week: black for everyone, blue for dancing with an experienced partner, and red for experienced dancers only. This is a very nice way to let members assess and understand their own level! Quite often a red dance is billed as a "dem and drag" which happily combines an opportunity to show off a little if you know the dance well, with a chance to have a go for those who like a challenge. In addition, our regular MCs plan together so that our programmes always include a "popular dance" (one that we learn and then repeat regularly so everyone can enjoy it) and a "feature dance" which will be something new to our club that we spend a bit more time on walking through and which then stays on the programme for a few weeks so we can all learn it. The great benefit of this idea is that members gradually expand their range, giving them confidence to attend other dance evenings if they wish. Many members also get ahead by visiting the club website each week where the dance list, minicribs and video clips are published in advance.

To encourage our social side, there is a short break for tea and biscuits (a free evening is offered to those who volunteer!) during which there is plenty of mingling and chat, ending each time with announcements and thanks from the Chair. The yearly calendar includes a few special evenings with wine and a bring and share supper which are very well-supported.

Surbiton's winning way certainly won me over, so if you were ever to poke your head around the door to have a look, it would quite likely be me pouncing on you to come in and have a dance! For information refer to Other SCD Organisations at the end of *The Reel*.

## An Old Approach made Big by Stephen Webb

On Saturday 2 September the Thistle Club in Wing held an evening dance which was the



culmination of Marian Anderson's day long musicians' workshop. Marian and the many musicians provided the excellent music for this dance. The occasion was marked by Michael Plumley presenting Jan Jones with a lovely bouquet of flowers as a thank you for her dedication and hard work in annually organising ten successful years of Musicians' workshops, day schools and evening dances. The evening dance had a

balanced programme with several new/less familiar dances on it and to help dancers Jan had cleverly and thoughtfully introduced a simple innovation of using an A2 flip board on the stage with all dance descriptions in diagram form. Keith Rose's diagrams continue to be an invaluable resource as dances become more and more complex and with Jan recapping all dances these larger than life diagrams not only assisted in the recapping but were a constant reminder when dancing, for dancers alike. So often SCD is criticised for being elitist by other dancers where a memory test is cited as a reason for not dancing Scottish. Could this then, be the way forward to assist those dancers that struggle to remember the dances yet, would really like to "Dance Scottish"?

#### RSCDS Winchester Ball by Margaret Hamilton

On 30 September Wendy Mumford was presented with a Branch Award by the Branch Chairman, Margaret Hamilton at Winchester Autumn Ball.



The citation reads:

"This award is presented to Wendy J Mumford by The RSCDS, in recognition of outstanding service to SCD in the locality of Winchester Branch for upholding the objectives of The Society. For showing sustained and exceptional commitment to the promotion of SCD. For encouraging in others the knowledge and enjoyment of SCD and music". Dated 30 September 2017 and signed by Margaret Hamilton and Helen Russell.

What a Ball to remember! For Winchester Branch Colden Common Community Centre was a new venue, and yes, everyone came and received a warm welcome with just over six sets enjoying a fantastic evening dancing to lan Muir and the Craigellachie Band, expertly MC'd by Wendy. The programme was full of favourites: Polharrow Burn and City of Belfast, enabling us to unleash the joy of SCD. The efficient Winchester team and 'table monitors' made the supper of cold meats, smoked salmon, home-made salads and vegetarian choices progress speedily to a choice of home-made desserts and back to the dancing!

Indeed, what a memorable evening!

Winchester Branch also ran a Book 51 class on Sunday 23 September.



Above, Alison Malcolm demonstrates the four-couple square jig *And for the Young Ones* with Helen as Robert Morgan makes mental notes.

The Dancing World...



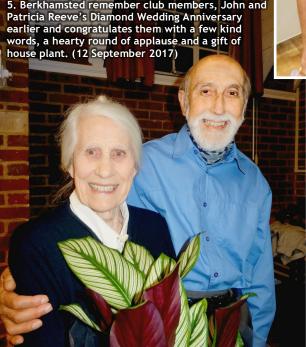
1. Dancers at the London Branch Day School dance a reel of three during the Advanced Class, (19 August 2017).

2. Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club's arena display with Keith Anderson, Deborah Kee, Dawn Dorman and Gerry Elliott dancing *The Merrick* in the August midday sunshine for the annual bank holiday Berkhamsted Lion's Fête.



Would you like your photo to feature in The Reel? We are on the look out for good quality photos, particularly of Branch events, to illustrate the fun, fitness and friendship of Scottish country dancing. Please send any contributions (at least 500KB and uncropped with information for the captions) to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk



















. A Summer Tuesday evening dance at St Columba's to excellent nusic from Frank Reid and his band, (12 September 2017).

# The Dance Corner

Whigmaleerie is a 40 bar jig and should not to be confused with Whigmaleeries (1968) by Derek Ivory.

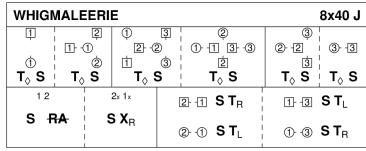
Mervyn Short writes, "I would like to ask for help in finding a dance that I did in the 1970s at Crawley Scottish Country Dance Club."

Mervyn would like to know when this dance was devised, who devised it and whether there is an original tune for it and finally if possible to see a copy of the original description.

Please email editor@rscdslondon.org.uk with any information and in the meantime why not dance it yourself?

#### Whigmaleerie

40-bar jig for three couples in a four-couple longwise set



Dance diagram courtesy of Keith Rose

3C/4C longwise set

Bars	Description
1-24	1st couple dance petronella (bars 1-16).  Whilst, 2nd couple beginning on bar 5 dance petronella (bars 5-20).  Whilst, 3rd couple beginning on bar 9 dance petronella (bars 9-24).
25-28 29-32 33-36 37-40	1st and 2nd couples set and dance right hands across halfway. 2nd and 1st couples set and cross giving right hands. 2nd and 1st couples facing on the sidelines set and turn with inner hands. 1st and 3rd couples facing on the sidelines set and turn with inner hands. Finish 2,1,3. Repeat having passed a couple

#### CAN YOU HELP?

The Reel seeks information on three dances listed on Strathspey Server and attributed to Hugh Foss. They are:
The Banks of the Devon - Jig,
The Wife She brewed it - Strathspey
Star Petronella - Reel
(this last dance is thought unlikely to be by Hugh Foss). Please send any information (in particular the original dance descriptions and/or music) that you may have to the Editorial Team at editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

#### St Andrews Day Update



After publishing Paul Plummer's description in our last issue, *The Reel* received several responses with helpful information.

Mary Quinton from Deal Scottish Country Dance Club had been taught St Andrews Day by Tony Baldwin in the 1970/80s and sent in her (not original) dance description; whilst Paul had danced it as a reel her description stated it was a jig. Mervyn Short had a copy of the original leaflet published in 1949 in his collection (see left).

The two dances in this leaflet are St Andrews Day and The Scottish Covenant both with descriptions and music by Hector Sutherland.

As Mary's description and this dance leaflet description tallies with Paul's recollection we can conclude the description in Issue 301 to be correct.

Adrian Conrad from South Croydon separately remembered the "Janet step", from his recollection of dancing *St Andrews Day*, as a form of crossover step and suggested that he may have danced it as a strathspey.

There however, remains a mystery concerning the dance rhythm. Clearly stated as a reel on the cover, inner cover and in the description in the leaflet; the leaflet accompanying the description with music titled *St Andrews Day* is in

6/8 jig time. Also on the inner cover of the leaflet it states that *St Andrews Day* was first danced by the Kirkaldy Branch of The Scottish Country Dance Society in 1949. On contacting the branch to clarify whether it was still being danced in Kirkaldy as a reel or a jig and whilst there were still members of a suitable vintage in the branch, neither they nor the Branch Secretary, Ian McCrea, could throw any light on this issue although one elderly member did still have the original 1949 instructions.

The Reel wishes to thank all who took time and trouble to write in with further information on St Andrews Day. Should readers wish to dance this dance and the companion dance they can now be found on Strathspey Server at https://my.strathspey.org/dd/index/

#### The Purpose of The Dance Corner

The Dance Corner has already created much interest amongst readers. To assist future contributors, the purpose of The Dance Corner is to be flexible with what dances are published there. Some examples would be:

- 1. Because of the widespread popularity of *The Reel* it can be used to help locate once danced dances. The essentials sought to locate any lost dance are ideally the original name, original description, the deviser's name (location devised in the world), date when devised and recommended (or danced to) music.
- 2. Existing dances with a view to regional variations.
- 3. Original historical instructions for dances danced in a different form today.
- 4. Using dances through examples as teaching tools.
- 5. Introducing a previously unpublished, but trialled, dance preferably with music for some special reason.

If you feel your contribution fits into any of the above categories then the Editorial Team of *The Reel* would like to hear from you. Anyone can submit a contribution which they wish to share with our readers.

#### South-East Region Teachers' Association (SERTA)

For all who teach or lead a group of Scottish country dancers whether RSCDS qualified, part qualified or not!

#### Sunday 18 March 2018

Kings Langley Community Centre, The Nap, Kings Langley WD4 8ET (Free car parking - good train links to Kings Langley from Euston - M25 J20)

Maureen Haynes will present "Innovation with simplicity"

Derek Haynes' dances

Full details and application form will be available at www.serta.org.uk or from Jane Rose 01923 261167 or serta2017@gmail.com

#### Valerie Twining Scholarship

London Reels are offering a Scholarship of £500 to one student who wishes to study for Unit 5 of RSCDS Teacher's Certificate in 2018. This scholarship is granted in memory of Valerie Twining.

Applicants should contact Lizzy Conder for details.

London Reels are looking for new Committee members to help with the running of their monthly Reeling evening in St Columba's Church lower hall (2nd Tuesdays). Committee members need to be available to help with teaching to over 150 new dancers from 6.45 to 8.00pm and then managing the social dancing until 11.00pm.

Interested parties should contact Lizzy Conder

email: lizzy.conder@me.com

Page 12 The Reel Issue 302

# Farewells, Hellos and Celebrations

66 years of SCD in Shene 30 January 1951 to 1 February 2017

by Denise Haugh

On the 19 January 1951 Francis Farnsworth

convened a meeting of the then Barnes Council of Social Service, at which it was agreed to form a Barnes Scottish and **English Dance** Group. As this was regarded as educational and cultural the new group was given the free use of the hall at East Sheen Primary School for their meetings. From that meeting Francis also



The late Ken Morris, founder member of Shene SCD

gained the support of Ken Morris who remained a staunch supporter of the group until his death in 2001.

The first dance evening attracted 36 people on the 30 January 1951. The group had obtained a home-made record player. Francis knew no dances but acted as instructor by reading up the booklet before each dance. The first of many "evening dress" dances was held on the 24 April that year and membership continued to be buoyant, although all through the group's history membership has fluctuated. In 1957 it is recorded that one member had run off with the wife of another, which was thought to have had a bad effect on attendances. On the other hand the group was lucky enough at that time to have two well-known local teachers, Margaret Henderson and John Cameron, to encourage them in their dancing.

The name had changed by then to Barnes Scottish Country Dance Group, the English element having disappeared. In 1969 the name changed again from Barnes to Sheen as Barnes Council had been absorbed into the Borough of Richmond (which also included Sheen). Although briefly called Sheen in 1970, the group became known as Shene (formerly Barnes) Scottish Country Dance Group. Another change about this time was the loss of the free use of the school hall.

Shene was always an outgoing group. During the 1970's and 80's members were encouraged to take part in medal competitions, displays and demonstrations. In the 1980's and early 90's we were lucky enough to have Lindsey Jane Rousseau Andrew Gillies, John MacDonald, Margaret Shaw and later Ann Dix, amongst others to teach us. In the 1990's and early 2000's we had the opportunity, through the auspices of the Richmond in Europe Association and Town Twinning to enjoy many exchange visits with country dancers from France and Germany. Town Twinning is a local government voluntary initiative to encourage goodwill, friendship, contact and understanding across frontiers, and to encourage business.

The link with Fontainebleau was set up in 1977, Richmond Virginia, USA in 1980 and Konstanz, Germany in 1983. Town Twinning is still in existence but in a different way, if

you want to know more see the Richmond in Europe Association website for details.

Over the years many, many people have given of their time and talents to make Shene Scottish Country Dance Group what it was, there is just not space here to name them all, but none are forgotten. Those who

attended the final Burns' Supper on the 1 February this year have said they will get together for another Burns' Supper next year. I hope so?

A fuller history of the Shene Group and the people who made it work is being written and will be available in 2018.

#### A snapshot of SCD Down Under - Where a Warm Welcome Awaits

by Graham Gooding and Heather Ross (Ringwood and Ballarat Groups in Melbourne, Australia)



The warmest of welcomes was enjoyed at the London Highland Club Summer Ball, when we joined the group of Scottish country dancers on 3 June 2017 and we send a big thank you to them with full marks for their warm and

encouraging welcome (see Reel 301 p11). It proves to us that the ye auld adage of Miss Milligan's that there is a worldwide family of dancers, is so true, as we had that afternoon landed from Dubai on route from Melbourne, Australia. The Clan MacLean gathering on Mull was the target for our trip into the UK and Scotland. We antipodeans were joined by friend and dancer Joan Blake, for a most enjoyable evening with some interesting dances. The dancing Londoners also shared many stories of their own family connections with broader Australia.

Here in Melbourne, we can honestly say there is a Scottish country dance or training session in a suburb somewhere most days or evenings of the week, including socials or balls programmed over the weekends throughout the year. Most clubs are now celebrating their 50 - 60 years of dancing in Australia. Short, yes, but it all began with welcoming migrating folk from Scotland. These new Australians wanted to continue their home experiences and meeting together, sharing times of the auld country and maintaining with the wee bairns the family traditions of the past. The Melbourne and District Branch of the RSCDS has a website www.rscdsmelbourne.org.au which is the best link for a person's planned trip and where a wonderful warm welcoming dance group awaits. All the States of Australia have their own dedicated websites to inform the public of activities. At times,

some district clubs in Australia arrange week long tours of their districts, to dance with a club in the evening but be the tourist during the day. Tours have in the past been taken in Tasmania and are planned for Queensland. We have an active Branch that provides training for teachers, dancers and beginners. Melbourne is also proud of its specialist musicians, the David South/Matthew Robertson Scottish Dance Band, who have supported the dancers

through the years.
Australia also supports
Winter Schools, and July
2017 saw Hahndorf in
South Australia as the
venue for a week of
dancing and music, with
a staff of International
teachers and musicians.

The next is planned for Nelson Bay in New South Wales in July 2018, with Melbourne geared to host a Winter School in 2019. Sunny Australia does not quite reach the same depths of winter as the northern hemisphere!

We would love to see you and your partners in the Antipodes and share that same warm welcome we received in London and is so characteristic of the worldwide family of Scottish country dancers.

#### A Happy Occasion from Wilson Nicol

Wilson and Jean Nicol celebrated their Diamond wedding in July. Jean started Scottish country dancing in Croydon in 1950 under the tutelage of London Branch teacher Mrs Sandison and became a founder member of the East Surrey West Kent Branch of the Society. She made her first visit to Summer School in St Andrews in 1956 to do her preliminary certificate. Wilson meanwhile had been going to Summer School for quite a few years previously while at university there and was that year doing his full certificate. They met at the Thursday dance in the Younger Hall and the rest is history!



They married the following year and spent part of their honeymoon at Summer School. There is dedication to SCD for you. They became members of the London Branch shortly afterwards upgrading to life membership of the Society by 1961.

Both were in the Branch dem team for a while but when the children arrived, Jean dropped out. Wilson, auld Nick as he was named by Bill Ireland, however continued dancing with the team until 1985. Along the line the family moved to Reading where Jean formed and ran a children's class making sure that all three children were grounded in dancing. Eventually, Wilson joined the Committee and became Chairman in the 1990s then he edited *The Reel* for seven years. Alas, Jean became ill and latterly cannot dance, but Wilson still puts up a creditable show.

# Letters to The Reel

#### What a delight

Dear Editorial Team,

What a delight to receive Reel Issue 301 yesterday. Full colour has transformed all the one-time mono pages. To have all the article headings sporting the same blue is an inspiration, and gives a co-ordinated feeling. A non-serif typeface is far easier to read in small-size type than the more traditional Times New Roman font, and is slightly heavier. A true professional has laid this all out, with precise spacing between articles, vertical line spacing where needed, ragged right column which is clearer when the columns are narrow (avoids wide spaces between words and/ or hyphens), and a cleaner look throughout. I like the little oval mug shot beside such folk as the Day School leaders on p6. Helpful! Altogether, well done,

Best wishes, John Reeve, Watford, Hertfordshire

#### On the new design

Dear Editorial Team of The Reel,

I like the new look of *The Reel* with headings highlighted in blue and the feel of the paper that you are now using, much better than the shiny paper you used to use. I also like the new section, The Dance Corner. My only criticism is the text on some of the photos, which can be difficult to read, e.g. right-hand photo on cover.

Kind regards, Mervyn Short, Rustington, Sussex

#### New look for The Reel

Hello Editorial Team,

You asked for feedback and I just want to say how much I appreciate the new updated look for *The Reel*. I had previously mentioned that I found the font, the layout and particularly the quality of the paper used in *The Reel* old-fashioned. So now you have modernised the look. Congratulations!

Jacmel Dent, Chiswick, London

#### **Teamwork**

Dear Reel Team,

An editorial team! What a splendid idea, as editing *The Reel* is a heavy load for one person. I very much like the new layout. *The Reel* has become alive with delightful colour photographs and features people of interest who are not necessarily RSCDS. There is also a lovely new style of writing. Congratulations.

Best wishes, Elizabeth Woodman, Highgate, London

PS I loved the ironic photograph on *p13* which celebrates the 40th Anniversary of BHS: - standing a good head taller than everyone else is none other than Mervyn SHORT!

#### The New Look Reel

Dear Editors,

There is a saying that a camel is a horse designed by a committee. Although editing the new look *Reel* has been a team effort the result is no camel - it is a thoroughbred. The new editorial panel has a good balance of dancers and musicians and includes the bookstall manager, who is a former editor, and the chief photographer. It is therefore well qualified for its task and I think it should be a permanent fixture. The amount of work involved in the production process nowadays must be very time consuming for a single editor, and having a team will smooth the transition when someone wishes to leave.

When I first joined the RSCDS in 1976 The Reel consisted of four black and white pages, mainly of advertising. The first edition with some pages in colour was number 254 (December 2005 to February 2006). The new look Reel has colour printing throughout. I like the coloured captions, except the one on the 'Highland Wear for sale' advert on p7, which reminds me of a thunderstorm. The Day School advert on p6 is much more eyecatching than in previous years because it is in colour.

I have an electronic subscription, and my daughter, Catriona, gives me her paper copy when she has finished with it, to keep for reference, so I am able to look at both versions. I suffer from double vision, which makes reading difficult, and the shiny paper that has been used until now does not improve matters, so I am very pleased to see this changed to one with a more matter finish.

The electronic version can be enlarged to make it easier to read, however it has a problem as regards photograph captions. On the centre spread these have up till now usually been printed in one block. This can make it impossible to get picture and caption on the screen at the same time so it is a vast improvement that in the new version the captions have been put on the individual photos. Unfortunately, there is still a snag. Print over a heavily patterned picture can be almost impossible to read. Compare the photo of the Chiswick outdoor dance on the front page and the one of Catriona with Paddy Black and Rachel Wilton on the centre spread.

Well done, editorial panel. You have set yourselves a high standard and may soon have Fleet Street knocking at your door!

Yours, Elizabeth Bennett, Worcester Park, Surrey

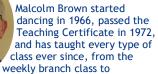
#### My Bug Bear

Dear Editors of The Reel,

Good technique is all very well and helps dancers to move in time to the music and to link phrases together, but my bug bear is dancers who do not look at whomever they are dancing with. I have often been in sets in which dancers will not acknowledge the presence of anyone else in the set other than by avoiding other bodies in reels. No amount of good technique can compensate for this lack of sociability. Scottish country dancing is a group activity: if everyone in a set is looking at the dancing couple offering hands, clues to the next figure with eve contact and the occasional word (sotto voce, not shouted) then the whole set benefits by enjoying a smoothly flowing dance.

Iain Farrell, Harrow, Middlesex

# "In My Opinion" by Malcolm Brown



workshops and schools all over the world, including Russia. He has served on the Management Board and in November 2016 became Convenor of the Education & Training Committee. He has produced DVDs showing the dances in Books 40-46, and was responsible for producing a booklet to mark the 40th Anniversary of the York & North Humberside Branch, which was started by Malcolm and his wife in 1975. Malcolm gives his opinion on the question:

# Does the RSCDS publish too Many New Dances?

Recently I was asked how long I had been dancing, and I was horrified to hear myself

say "over fifty years". When I started dancing the most recent book published by the Society was Book 22, and it has just published Book 51, an increase of 29 over the 50 years. As some of you will know, I am one of those weird people who collect dances and dance books. I keep the books produced by branches in a small suitcase - over 100 of them. I keep my other books in a set of 13 box files, and the loose dances in a lot of ring binders. To keep track of all these dances I have a database which enables me to locate any particular dance, and have the instructions for about 10,000 dances, so this is pretty much essential, and it is a useful tool for analysis.

So, to look at the question of whether the Society is publishing too many new dances, I used my database to see how many dances it has "published". It is less than 900 including the dances in Graded Books 2 and 3 most of which were already published elsewhere. Assuming that Books 1-22 each contained 12 dances, the 250 or so that were around when I started have therefore increased by about

600. This compares with over 1700 dances in the books I have which were published by branches, and another 7400 in my collection. I think it is important to realise that most of the dances that have not been published by the Society have been created during this 50 year period. In my opinion, it is not the Society which has caused this great showering of new dances and formations, but the other devisers and publishers. I would go as far as to say that the Society has been very restrained by comparison!

Do I think that writing new dances is a bad thing? As somebody who does it, how can I possibly criticise? If one goes somewhere special, or one wants to mark a special event, then writing a new dance is all some of us can do, and sometimes it gives rise to dances like *Links with St Petersburg* or *Glastonbury Tor*.

If you have views on the subjects you would like discussed, or who should be invited to write these articles, or wish to volunteer to write one yourself, please contact the Editorial Team at editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

Page 14 The Reel Issue 302

# **Coffee Break Amusements**

#### Thoughts on Scottish Country Dancing by Ann Kendall, Alberta, July 2008

A long time ago, country dance was the fashion, And was danced by all, young and old. Dancing teachers would go to the cities to learn Steps and figures to teach to the bold. But then, other dances became all the rage, The quadrilles, then the polka and waltz. Country dance was passé, and not quite the thing. So the dances were being forgotten.

Some ladies in Scotland decided to try
To revive the old figures and dances.
They asked older people to try to remember
The dances they'd learned in their classes.
They looked for old books - there was no internet And tried to make out what was meant
By "cast off second couple" or "set and change sides"
- The instructions were all rather vague.

The dances remembered were taught to a few, Who taught them to other people they knew. Classes were started to teach to some more And books of dances were published as in days of yore. For I have an old book that says in bygone days, Country dances were almost a science. There were books with elaborate tables and plans To explain how the figures were danced.

Scottish dancing caught on, and was soon being danced In places all over the world,

And for many years now, we have met in this place To dance, to meet friends and have fun. We've learnt many dances as the years have gone by, Though we can't remember all that we've done. But that's hardly surprising, for when I look at my list Of the dances we've done in this hall More than three hundred dances are written down there! How could we remember them all?

But that's just a drop in the bucket, you say. Now thousands of dances exist
For some people said of the dances they learned
Now I could do better than that!
These are too easy! We stand still too much!
We don't like "down the middle and back"!
And as for poussette - it's all wrong how it's done They really were on the wrong track!

So new dances were written, composed or devised, And the process is still going on.

Some are hard to remember; some are fun; some are not. Some folks write a few, some a lot.

They invent new figures for us all to try Like the tourbillon, tournée or knot Some dances are popular, and done everywhere, Others known in only one spot, And again there are books with elaborate tables and plans, So the dances will not be forgot.

Will our dances be done with the steps that we've learned? Or will they be like quadrilles of old That used to have dance steps that everyone knew, But then were just walked through, I'm told Some folks like to dance with precision and grace, Do demos, and show off a bit. Others are happy to remember the dance, And hope that their dance steps will fit!

Scottish dancing is fun, or at least it should be So be nice to the people you meet.
Don't expect perfection from everyone here.
Or tell someone they have two left feet.
Some learned to dance when they were young - It's much easier then to learn steps.
Others were older, and their feet just won't point, What they do is as good as it gets.

We all love to dance, so we come here each week And hope we'll remember the dances That we did here last week, but memories fail And our minds all need some enhancing. To dances we go, to workshops and balls, But alas, we are all getting older. Some can't dance all the day, then at night as well They leave that to those who are younger.

We hope to keep dancing for many more years, And to visit folks that we've met from other places. For at workshops you meet people from far and wide Who'd love you to come to their dances. For as I have said, Scottish dancing is fun - The people you meet are the best. They'll welcome you, dance with you, make you a friend And invite you to their classes as a guest.



Ann Kendall, an RSCDS Life Member who started dancing at the age of nine in Southport Lancs. and now for the past 36 years has been living in Alberta, Canada dancing in Edmonton. Ann, who with Christine and Janet is one of three dancing sisters, is often prone to penning a poem. (See Reel 259 p5).



## A Christmas Quiz 2017 by Stephen Webb

Something to do after Christmas Dinner or even before - Each question has a number after it and that is the letter counted back from the last letter of the single word answer.

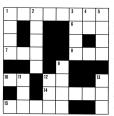
Put these letters in question order and this becomes an anagram for a Scottish place name.

The first person to email editor@rscdslondon.org.uk with the correct answer will be recognised as *The Reel* Christmas Quizzer 2017 alongside the answers given in *Reel* 303.

#### Questions:

- 1 The first name of the author of Abbotsford (1)
- 2 What inta alia, are Ben Lawers, Schiehallion and An Gearanach (2)
- 3 What 1984 Barry Priddey progression was first seen in The Silver Rose Book (8)
- 4 Where are the 1903 Willow Tea Rooms (7)
- 5 What are silver darlings (8)
- 6 Gloamin' alternative word (8)
- 7 Book 1, No.1 (1)
- 8 Where was Ronnie Corbett born (2)
- 9 What is a moudiewort (4)
- 10 Surname of designers of London Bridge (5)
- 11 The 18th century General reputed to have composed the song from which the name *The Dashing White Sergeant* came (2)

#### **Crossword Alert**



If one looks back over past early editions of *The Reel* it was seen to be commonplace, from time to time, to include a Scottish themed crossword puzzle. Should any reader be so minded to submit a crossword puzzle (with clues and solutions) then the editorial team would be minded to publish it, for the enjoyment of all. A 15x15 square crossword first appeared in *Reel* No.4. (An example of a clue used in Crossword No.3 was 26 across: The city gardening tools? (5,2,7) solution: *Rakes of Glasgow*.)

#### **Double Take!**

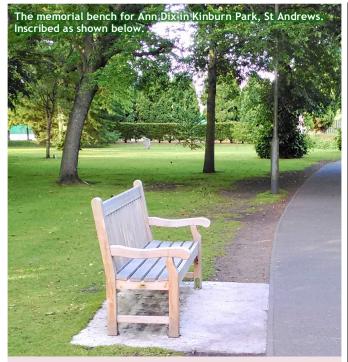


Will the real lan Muir step forward.

Left, Ian T Muir of Prestwick and Right, Ian R Muir of Berkshire both playing at RSCDS London Branch Day School on 21 October 2017 held at Paddington Academy, London

Why not send us your photos of your dancing doppelgängers?

# Lives Remembered



In fond memory of Ann Dix (1942 - 2013), much loved by her sons Simon and Tim, her family and her friends Her enthusiasm and thoughtfulness will be missed by all, including her many Scottish country dancing friends here and around the world

Subscribe to *The Reel* from as little as £4 per year. See www.rscdslondon.org.uk for details or contact Maggie Westley, 30 Stanley Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4LF or reelsubscriptions@rscdslondon.org.uk

## News from RSCDS HQ by Daniel Capron

The RSCDS Summer School takes place from 15 July to 12 August 2018. Week 1: 15 - 22 July, Week 2: 22 - 29 July, Week 3: 29 July - 5 August, Week 4: 5 - 12 August

Unit 2 will take place in week 1, Unit 3 will take place in week 2, Unit 5 will take place in weeks 3 and 4.

The Class Musicians' course will take place in week 1 and the Musicians' Course for ensemble playing will take place in week 2 (open to people 16+). Young Dancers' Week will take place in week 3. See <a href="https://www.rscds.org">www.rscds.org</a>

#### **New Executive Officer**

Chris Milne took up the post of RSCDS Executive Officer on 8 November 2017. Chris graduated in Accountancy and Finance from the University of Stirling in 2001 and has since enjoyed a varied career. He joined Registers of Scotland as a Legal Examiner in 2002 before moving to work as a senior policy adviser with the Scottish Government in 2009. This role allowed him to advise Ministers and develop new policies on sustainable travel, which included Scotland's first ever policies on electric vehicles, which were recognised at the Scottish Transport Awards in 2011 and 2012.

He moved in 2013 to lead an environmental behaviour change project at Heriot-Watt University, before taking over as Scotland Director for Hearing Link, growing their income and volunteering reach within local communities. Chris joins the RSCDS from Shelter Scotland, where he was Grants and Philanthropy Manager, focused on securing and sustaining income from Trusts, Foundations, Big Lottery and corporate partners.

He is passionate about Scottish culture and heritage and is looking forward to getting to know the staff and management teams and learning a lot about Scottish dance and music. He is keen to make one of his first priorities the development of an income plan from 2018.

#### **Book 51 Teaching Tracks**

A set of teaching tracks has been created for Book 51 dances. These are aimed primarily at use in class and break down the original tune into the correct bar-sequences for each part of the dance (for example bars 1-8, 9-16, 1-16). There are two types:

- with "Ready and"
- with a 4-bar intro for jigs and reels and a 2-bar intro for strathspeys.

Each track is in the correct tempo and at the same tempo as the CD for Book 51. These are new resources for teachers to use in class. It is hoped these will be found useful. To view and download the zip file for each teaching track visit <a href="https://www.rscds.org">www.rscds.org</a>

#### Remembering Fergus by Robert Bateson

brother Fergus at the age of 87 after a long illness

Fergus Dingwall Bateson MBE 26 April 1930 - 16 October 2017 It is with great sadness that I report the recent death of my elder

with cancer bravely borne. Fergus was born in Kensington, and the family moved to Berkhamsted at the outbreak of war. He went to Lockers Park School, Hemel Hempstead and from there won a King's Scholarship to Westminster School and then obtained a State Scholarship to Oxford where he read 'greats' at Hertford College. In his spare time he became an accomplished fencer for the university.

Fergus learned his dancing (both country and highland) at Oxford University Scottish Dance Society and became president. Returning to his

home in Berkhamsted, he found that there was no local SCD club to join to continue dancing so he started one with his brothers George, me and my late twin Simon. Almost immediately Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club was formed and a highland ball arranged and that was in 1952. Fergus was club president from 1954-1957 and Ann Totten, his wife to be, the club secretary. Fergus qualified as a solicitor at Thomas Coopers in London and joined as a maritime lawyer. In 1995 he was awarded an MBE for services to historic wreck conservation. After retiring from the office, he continued to practice as a solicitor from home in St Albans.

Fergus was proud of his Scottish forebears and wore the red Ross tartan with an earlier entitlement to Irvine of Drum. Fergus, dancing *Bonnie Anne*, can be seen in *Reel* 295 p12. Even in his old age and no longer able to dance he attended the Diamond Highland Ball of the club he founded in full highland evening dress. He recently donated a pair of military swords to his club (see *Reel* 301 p9). It is apposite to mention here that his sister-in-law Bridget, *née* Totten, Provan - a dance teacher and a past-president (1958-1959) of BSRC, sadly also recently passed away, at her home in Lincolnshire. The Berkhamsted club continues to flourish with all class levels including demonstration and highland. George and wife Alison and I with Rose are still dancing.



#### **Scottish Dance Shoe Company**

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To compliment our service we also have a shop in the same premises selling ladies and mens wide fitting shoes, including brands as DBs, Padders, Sandpiper & Suave





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14 Hallmark Trading Estate, Fourth Way, Wembley, HA9 OLB Tel: 020 8902 0150 Email: sales@scottishdanceshoes.co.uk

www.scottishdanceshoes.co.uk

#### Spring Fling at Glasgow 20-22 April 2018

This is an annual event, held in various locations. It is for people aged 12-35 but evening dances held in conjunction with local groups are open to all ages. To sign up to receive more information visit <a href="https://www.springfling2018.com">www.springfling2018.com</a>

Page 16 The Reel Issue 302

# Forthcoming Events

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Tea Dance

Sunday 21 January 2018 2.00 - 5.45pm Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre, East Common, SL9 7AD

Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning Programme: Nice to See You, Welcome to Ayr, The Sailor, Gang the Same Gate, The Black Mountain Reel, The Garry Strathspey, Equilibrium, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran, Links with St Petersburg, General Stuart's Reel, Chasing the Eclipse, The Starry Eyed Lassie, The Gordonian Strathspey, Rothesay Rant, Reel of The Royal Scots

Bring and Share Refreshments
Tea, coffee and squash provided
Tickets £8.50

Purchase in advance - Tickets limited

#### Practice

Saturday 20 January 9.45am - 12.30pm Garden Room, Memorial Centre, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD £5

Contact Celia, celiastuartlee@gmail.com or Rose, 07880 842370, rkreloff@hotmail.co.uk or visit our website www.gxscottish.org



#### Christmas Dance Saturday 9 December 2017 7 00 - 11 00pm

7.00 - 11.00pm
Prestwood Village Hall, Prestwood HP16 0NZ Ian Robertson and his Scottish Dance Band Programme: The Luckenbooth Brooch, Sleepwalking, Dalkeith's Strathspey, The Waternish Tangle, Never at Sea, Duchess of York, Alex Doig's Jig, Staircase in Styria, The Dundee Whaler, Links with St Petersburg, The Cashmere Shawl, The Recumbent Stone, The Nurseryman, The Gordonian Strathspey, The Highlandman's Umbrella, The Roselath Cross, The Flower of Glasgow, Duke of Perth.

All dances will be recapped.
Tickets £15 in advance only
Including a welcome glass of fizz and
buffet supper
Contact Dick Field, 01494 562231 or
Dickandrosief@aol.com

Further information and cribs available on www.lucyclark.org.uk

ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING
GROUP

**Day School** Saturday 28 April 2018

Edgbarrow Sports Centre, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 7HZ Teachers: Gary Coull & Kate Gentles Musicians: Robert Mackay &

Barbara Manning Contact Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood Woking Surrey GU21 3QB, 01483721989 or

gaynorcurtis@clara.co.uk www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk

Weekend School

Friday 5 - Sunday 7 October 2018
Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset,
TA19 9DT

For further information and brochure: dillington@somerset.gov.uk www.dillington.co.uk www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH Burns' Night Supper & Dance Saturday 27 January 2018 7.00 - 11.30pm

Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 6LZ Strathallan Scottish Dance Band Programme: to be published on our website

Tickets £15
Including supper

Day School and Dance

Saturday 17 February 2018 Headington School, Oxford, OX3 7TD Ample free parking & on the London to Oxford bus route

Teachers: Margie Stevenson, David Queen, Alice Stainer

Musicians: Jeremy Hill, Barbara Manning, Ian Robertson

Tickets: Whole day £27, Morning or Afternoon £9 each session, Evening dance £15

Evening dance 7.00 - 10.30pm

lan Robertson and his Scottish Dance Band Programme: Granville Market, Maxwell's Rant, Butterscotch and Honey, The Moudiewort, Lady Dumfries, Radcliffe Square, The Shetland Shepherdess, Linnea's Strathspey, The Sailor, The Findlay's Jig, The Castle of Mey, Culla Bay, The Lady Wynd, Scott Meikle, The Gentleman, James Gray, The Reel of the 51st Division

Applications available from our website

Contact Helen Houghton-Carr, 24b St John's Road, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 9AQ, 07531 469213 or impala66@hotmail.com

www.rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk

RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH Christmas Social

Thursday 28 December 2017
Mulled wine reception 7.00pm
Dancing 7.30 - 10.30pm
St Paul's Parish Rooms, Wokingham RG41 1EH
Dancing to recorded music
Bring and share refreshments
Tickets on the door

#### Day School

Saturday 10 March 2018
Court Moor School, Spring Woods,
Fleet GU52 7RY
Teacher: Andrew Nolan
Class Musician: Ken Martlew
Musicians' Day School: Ian Robertson

Branch Spring Ball Saturday 19 May 2018 Emmbrook School, Emmbrook Road, Wokingham RG41 1JP Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Contact Gordon Anderson, 01420 362530 or events@rscds-bhs.org.uk www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

RECHBERG SCOTTISH DANCERS Autumn in Gamundia An International Gathering, Workshop and Ball Level: experienced



Friday 26 - Sunday 28 October 2018 Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany Teacher: Andrew Nolan Musicians: Luke and Adam Brady Full details and application form available from January 2018 Contact Ute Pitzal,

gamundia@rechbergscottishdancers.de www.rechbergscottishdancers.de

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY
DANCE CLUB
Kilts & Posh Frocks

Sunday 17 December 2017 6.30 - 10.15pm

St Benedict's School Hall, Marchwood Crescent, Ealing W5 2DZ

#### Strathallan Scottish Dance Band MC Jim Henderson

Programme: Mrs Stewart's Jig, The Castle of Mey, Chasing the Eclipse, Quarries' Jig, Fair Donald, The Recumbent Stone, The Duchess Tree, Staircase in Styria, Sleepy Maggie, Follow Me Home, Jessie's Hornpipe, Broadway, The Duke of Atholl's Reel, Schiehallion, Cramond Bridge, Bruce's Men, John of Bon Accord, The Reel of the 51st Division. Extras: Postie's Jig, Scott Meikle

Tickets in advance ONLY
Please see the website for further details
tickets@chiswickscottish.org.uk
www.chiswickscottish.org.uk

READING ST ANDREW'S SDS
Annual Ball

Saturday 3 February 2018 7.30 - 11.30pm The Abbey School

17 Kendrick Road, Reading RG1 5DZ lan Muir and the Craigellachie Band Programme: Joie de Vivre, Mr lain Stuart Robertson, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Napier's Index, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, Linnea's Strathspey, Jennifer's Jig, The Rutland Reel, The Moray Rant, Swiss Lassie, Hooper's Jig, Anniversary Reel, Midsummer Common, MacLeod's Fancy, John of Bon Accord, The Dream Catcher, Quarries Jig, The Highland Rambler, City of Belfast, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran, The Reel of The Royal Scots. Extra: The Montgomeries' Rant

Reception drink and supper with a glass of wine Tickets £20

Contact Sara Ribbins, 157 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7JR, 0118 947 3207 or sasdco1@gmail.com

www.scottishdancingreading.org

# HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Annual Ball

Friday 5 January 2018 7.30 - 11.30pm

Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree, WD6 3PJ
The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band
Programme: New Year Jig, Shiftin' Bobbins,
Culla Bay, The Chequered Court, The Black
Mountain Reel, Kilkenny Castle, The
Weathercock, Glastonbury Tor, The Flower
of Glasgow, The Cooper's Wife, Nottingham
Lace, The Moray Rant, The Rutland Reel,
Follow Me Home, The Garry Strathspey,
Equilibrium, Mr lain Stuart Robertson,
MacDonald of the Isles, Quarries' Jig,
The Reel of The Royal Scots

Tickets £20 up to 29 December £21 thereafter. Juniors and non-dancers half price, including refreshments Advance booking only Contact Mick Madigan, 020 8863 5306,

ntact Mick Madigan, 020 8863 5306, ms\_madigan@btinternet.com or Lorraine Kent, 07951 587456, lorrainekent@yahoo.co.uk

Spring Dance
Saturday 24 March 2018
7.00 - 11.00pm
Eastcote URC, Bridle Road, HA5 1EX
Ian Muir (Prestwick) & Bob Parsons

www.harrowscottish.org.uk

WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY **Christmas Dance** 

Thursday 21 December 2017 8.00 -11.00pm

Bushey Centre, Bushey Country Club, High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

Programme: Maxwell's Rant, The Hazel Tree, Gang the Same Gate, Staircase in Styria, Equilibrium, Rougemont Castle, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The Minister on the Loch, The Australian Ladies, The Luckenbooth Brooch, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, A Trip to Bavaria, The Montgomeries' Rant

Tickets £8 Includes Mulled Wine Reception Please bring a small plate of food to share

Caledonian Ball

Saturday 17 March 2018 7.30 - 11.30pm

Allum Hall, Allum Lane, Elstree, WD6 3PJ Close to Elstree and Borehamwood Station -**Thameslink** 

#### Strathallan Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Welcome to Ayr, A Trip to Bavaria, The Gentleman, The Machine without Horses, The Clansman, Rougemont Castle, Neil M Grant, Clutha, City of Belfast, Bauldy Bain's Fiddle, Staircase in Styria, Neidpath Castle, The Starry Eyed Lassie, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Saint Columba's Strathspey, A Capital Jig, Mary Erskine, The Moray Rant, Pelorus Jack, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran

Tickets £20

Includes buffet supper and wine reception **Ball Practice** 

Sunday 4 March 2018 2-5pm

Recital Hall Nascot Wood Junior School, Nascot Wood Road Watford WD17 4YS Please contact us if you wish to attend Recorded music Tickets £5

Contact Rose Kreloff,

tickets@watfordscottish.org.uk or rkreloff@hotmail.co.uk www.watfordscottish.org.uk

TUNBRIDGE WELLS RSCDS BRANCH Day School

Saturday 17 March 2018 10.00am - 4.30pm

Mascalls Academy, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6LT

Trains from London and east Kent stop at Paddock Wood

Teachers: Pat Houghton, David Hall and Wendy Mumford

Musicians: Ken Martlew, Barbara Manning and Ian Cutts

Booking forms available Contact Pat Davoll, 01732 866557 or patdavoll2@gmail.com

rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

**SEHSCDS** Diamond Jubilee Day School

1958 and Dance 2018 Saturday 21 April 2018

10.00am - 9.00pm Riverside Hall, Ware, SG12 0DE Teacher: Jean Martin (Aberdeen) Musician: Barbara Manning

Tickets £20 all day including evening dance Contact Chris Walker and Barbara Manning, 07842034890 or sehscds@hotmail.com www.sehscottishdance.org/news

ISLE OF WIGHT Weekend School Friday 16 - Sunday 18 February 2018 Teachers:



Pat Houghton and Fred DeMarse Musicians: Robert Mackay, lan Muir and Judith Muir

Band for Evenings: The Craigellachie Band Applications available

Contact Catherine Packwood-Bluett, 01983

621322 or catherinepb@hotmail.co.uk www.craigellachie-band.co.uk/isle\_of\_wight

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming dances to be held at St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1

Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 - 10.30pm unless otherwise stated

Saturday 6 January: New Year Dance 7.00 - 11.00pm Craigievar Saturday 3 February: Annual Ball See below Saturday 3 March: Calum Mitchell

**Annual Ball** 

Saturday 3 February 2018 7.00 - 11.00pm lan Muir (Prestwick)

Programme: The White Heather Jig, The Highland Rambler, The Dream Catcher, The Luckenbooth Brooch, Baldovan Reel, The Silver Tassie, The Weathercock, The Plantation Reel, The Glengarry Homestead, Father Connelly's Jig, Pelorus Jack, The Moray Rant, Duke of Perth, The Diamond Jubilee, The Gentleman, Scott Meikle, The Kelloholm Jig, Autumn in Appin, The Irish Rover, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder

#### **Ball Tickets:**

Including finger buffet refreshments

- \* LHC Members in advance £20
- \* Non Members in advance £23 All classes on the door £25

\* Advance booking price is only available on orders received by midnight 31 January. For tickets contact Frank Bennett, 020 8715 3564 or fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk

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

Programmes & cribs are on our website: www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

For further details contact Catriona Bennett, 020 8286 8424 or cmb84scd@gmail.com Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening

> THISTLE CLUB **Hogmanay Dance**

Sunday 31 December 2017 8.00pm - 12.30am Great Brickhill Village Hall, MK17 9BA Craigievar Band

Programme: Thistle Welcome, Chased Lovers, Montparnasse, Duke of Perth, Swashbuckling Iain, Da Rain Dancin', St Bernard's Waltz, The Dundee City Police Jig, Ramadan-ce, Broadway, Scott Meikle, Maxwell's Rant, Round Reel of Eight, The Castle of Mey, Hasten to Your Feet, Kinfauns Castle, Lady Sophia Lindsay, The Highland Rambler, Spiffin', New Scotland Strathspey, Virginia Reel, Gay Gordons, Shiftin' Bobbins, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets £10 (booked in advance) 'Bring and share' supper Contact Jan Jones, 07877 153259 or www.thistleclub.co.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND **REEL CLUB** Highland Ball

Saturday 10 February 2018 7.00 for 7:30pm - Midnight Ashlyns School, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3AH

Marian Anderson and her Band Programme: New Year Jig, The Rutland Reel, The Gentleman, Fisherman's Reel, C'est l'Amour, Alltshellach, Light and Airy, Ramadan-ce, Schiehallion, The Edinburgh Toy Shop, JB Milne, Grand March into The Highlandman's Umbrella, Neil M Grant, City of Belfast, Cadgers in the Canongate, Pelorus Jack, Staircase in Styria, The Glasgow Highlanders, Scott Meikle, Monymusk, A Capital Jig, The Montgomeries' Rant

Tickets £25 Advance booking only Closing date for ticket sales is Tuesday 6 February 2018 Welcome drink and dinner included No bar - BYO wine but soft drinks provided Contact Dawn Dorman, Hill End Farm, Beech Tree Lane, Gorhambury, St Albans AL3 6AR,

07710 460623 or events@berkhamstedreelclub.org www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

Highland Ball Practice Saturday 3 February 2018 11.00am - 5.00pm Potten End Village Hall, HP4 2QG

£5 on the door Bring a packed lunch, morning and afternoon coffee and tea provided

WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION **Annual Ball** 

Saturday 24 February 2018 7.30 - 11.30pm Alperton Upper-School,

Stanley Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 4JE

Ian Muir and The Craigellachie Band MC Mrs Caroline Hamilton

Programme: Joie de Vivre, Cramond Bridge, John McAlpin, Jennifer's Jig, Thomas Glover's Reel, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, A Trip to Bavaria, Equilibrium, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, Polharrow Burn, Torridon Lassies, Kinfauns Castle, Scott Meikle, The Cranberry Tart, The Cashmere Shawl, Spiffin', Glastonbury Tor, City of Belfast, The Bees of Maggieknockater, The Falls of Rogie

Tickets £17 including a buffet supper Contact Brenda Manbauhar, 020 8933 9169 or

boxoffice@wdsa.co.uk www.wdsa.co.uk

> WEST MACS **Charity Ball**

Saturday 14 April 2018 7.30 - 11.30pm

Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree, WD6 3PJ Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig Band Full details in The Reel issue 303

#### **New Advertising Rates**

From Reel 303, advertising rates are £6 per column cm in black and white, £8.50 per column cm in full colour (three columns per page). Advertising your Scottish country dance organisation in the Other SCD Órganisations section costs £7.50 per issue.

All advertisers receive a complimentary copy of The Reel.

Adverts for the Forthcoming Events pages should be sent to Katy at danceads@rscdslondon.org.uk Other adverts and enquiries on pricing to the Business Editor Jeff Robertson at businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk

Page 18 The Reel Issue 302

# RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH Annual Ball

Saturday 13 January 2018 7.00 - 11.00pm

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham GL52 3JE Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig Band

Programme: Hooper's Jig, Anniversary Reel, Gang the Same Gate, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterader, Neidpath Castle, The Pump Room, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, The Starry Eyed Lassie, The Montgomeries' Rant, EH3 7AF, Summer Wooing, The Belle of Bon Accord, Wicked Willy, The Kelloholm Jig, Linnea's Strathspey, Maxwell's Rant, MacDonald of the Isles, Joie De Vivre, Mairi's Wedding.

Tickets £20 Contact Margaret Winterbourne, 01242 863238 or mj.winterbourne@btinternet.com

> Day School Saturday 28 April 2018

9.45am - 4.45pm Reddings Community Centre, North Road West, Cheltenham GL51 6RF Teachers:

Pat Houghton, Advanced and General Jennifer Hawdon, Beginners Musician: Keith Anderson, Advanced and General

Charges: £6 per class
Evening dance

7.00 - 10.00pm Recorded music Tickets £6 Contact Hilary Foulkes, 01285 851798

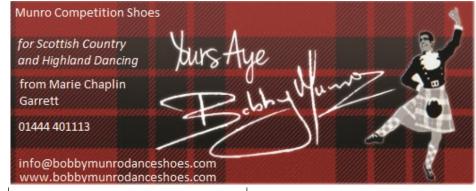
Contact Hilary Foulkes, 01285 851798 or hilary.foulkes@tiscali.co.uk

Anniversary Dance

Saturday 19 May 2018 7.30 - 11.00pm Churchdown Community Centre, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 2JH Luke Brady's Scottish Dance Band

More details at website:

www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk



MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH
DANCING CLUB
Highland Ball

Saturday 13 January 2018 6.30 - 10.30pm Manor Green School, Maidenhead, SL6 3HF



lan Muir (Prestwick) and his Scottish Dance Band

Programme: New Year Jig, The Falls of Rogie, The Belle of Bon Accord, Muirland Willie, Staircase in Styria, The Minister on the Loch, The Diamond Jubilee, The Reids o' Monymusk, The Silver Grey, JB Milne, Quarries' Jig, The Dancing Piper, Culla Bay, The Hazel Tree, Polharrow Burn, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Napier's Index, Blooms of Bon Accord, Gang the Same Gate, The Dancing Man

Tickets £22 before Saturday 23 December and £25 after

Price includes Supper and a welcome drink Bring your own wine Contact Jane Leach, 16 Brudenell, Windsor

SL4 4UR or 01753 869557 or janerleach@hotmail.com

www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk

RSCDS MILTON KEYNES BRANCH Annual Dance Saturday 10 March 2018

7.00 - 11.00pm Old Stratford Community Hall, Deanshanger Road, Old Stratford, MK19 6NL

Road, Old Stratford, MK19 6NL (Hall is near the end of a no-through road) Stuart Anderson's Band

Programme: The Somerset Children's Reel, The Luckenbooth Brooch, Saint Columba's Strathspey, The Clansman, The Zoologist, Bonnie Ina Campbell, Clutha, City of Belfast, The Wild Geese, The Lochalsh Reel, Chased Lovers, MacDonald of Keppoch, The Castle of Mey, Moment of Truth, Fife Ness, Inchmickery, MacDonald of the Isles, Zytglogge, The Nurseryman, The Reel of the 51st Division

Tickets £18 including supper and soft drinks No alcohol allowed on the premises Contact Jan Jones, 07877153259 or jange@verybusy.co.uk www.rscdsmk.co.uk

#### **SCD Organisations Listing**

To update your listing below contact editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

# Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB. Dancing most Mondays, 8-10.15pm, Sept-June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details: Betsy Wu, 42 Ock Bridge Place, Abingdon, OX14 5FW, abingdonscdc@gmail.com or www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

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

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB meets in Potten End Village Hall, HP4 2QG. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15pm Sept-May, Sat. gardens June/July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Dawn Dorman, Hill End Farm, Gorhambury, St Albans, Herts AL3 6AR, 07710 460623 or www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS. Technique Class, alternate Mondays Sept-April, 8-10pm Finchampstead Memorial Hall, RG40 4JU. General Class, every Wednesday Sept-May, 8-10pm St. Mary's Church Hall, Park Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2SR. Teacher: Mervyn Short. Details: Alex Duncan, 01932 241615 or www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at Kinson Community Centre, Pelham's Park, Millhams Rd., Kinson, Bournemouth, BH10 7LH 7.30-9.30pm. Alternate Wednesday Technique class, by invitation. Details: Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Road, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX, 01202 698138 or margaret.brscds@ntlworld.com BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for beginners, intermediate and

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children.

Details: Rod Burrows, 01903 783053 or chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk or www.rscds-brighton.org.uk

BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Thursdays 7.45-10.15pm at Moulsecoomb Hall, Brighton. Details: Carol Catterall, 01273 564963 or www.bhscdc.org.uk

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 8pm at St Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Jackie Cresswell, 01252 616289 or info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for all grades.

Details: Lindsey Ibbotson, 07977905291 or lindsey.ibbotson@gmail.com

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY Scottish country dancing and other events.

Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8pm from Sept-June. Details:

Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or www.camscotsoc.org.uk

CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS Advanced Technique class Monday 7.30-9.30pm G St Luke's Hall, Cheltenham GL53 7HP. General class Thursday 7.15-9.15pm Bettridge School, Cheltenham GL51 3AT. Beginners' class Monday

7.45-9.45pm Reddings Community Centre, Cheltenham GL51 6RF. Contact Margaret Winterbourne, 01242 863238 mj.winterbourne@btinternet.com

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30-10pm from October to end May, at St Andrew's URC, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9RN, 01242 528220 or mbsteele1945@gmail.com

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meet on Sundays 6-9.15pm, Sept-June, in the Upper Hall at St Michaels & All Angels Church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Road, London W4 1TX (turn right out of Turnham Green tube station, 70 yards).

Check www.chiswickscottish.org.uk for beginners and experienced dancers' start times and all activities. Details: Jacmel Dent, 07802 666 598 or secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH. Branch classes in Coulsdon: General, incl Beginners with technique (Fri); Advanced & Improvers (Wed) 8 - 10pm St Andrew's Church, Woodcote Grove Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2AJ. Details: Dorothy Pearson, 01737 551724 or rscds.chairman.croydon@gmail.com or www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

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

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

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8pm, Sept-end of April at Weydon School, Weydon Lane, Farnham, GU9 8UG. Details: Pippa Peatman 01256 703909 or p\_peatman@yahoo.com or www.fscdc.co.uk

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10pm, Sept-May. Details: Shirley Ferguson 01276 501952 or fergusonshirley7@gmail.com or fleet.rscds-bhs.org.uk

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD on Tuesdays from Sept -June. 7.30-10pm Beginners welcome. Details: Celia Stuart-Lee, 01753 884217 or info@gxscottish.org or www.gxscottish.org

GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. Meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8-10pm. Details: Kate Fraser 020 8998 0571 or enquiries@greenfordcaledonian.net

# Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

- .Continued from page 19
- GUILDFORD SCDC meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford, GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8pm from Sept-June. Details: 01483 456091 or
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday at 8pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Details: Val Owens, Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc 29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts AL3 5RE, 01727 863870 or HSCDC.org.uk ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details: Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner HA5 3QR, 020 8428 6055 or www.harrowscottish.org.uk
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Fridays 8-10pm, Sept-July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, 020 8560 6160 or www.hayesscottish.org.ul
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB. Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 0208 440 3236 or margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS meet Wednesdays Sept-June at Holy Trinity & St John's C. of E. Primary School, St John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7-8pm. General 8-10pm. Details: Pat Gill, 01843 603391
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP. Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinity, JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or jcchanjoy97@gmail.com Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@gmail.com or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB meets regularly at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1X OBD. Details: adverts in The Reel, Catriona Bennett, 33 Pains Close, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1BY, cmb84scd@gmail.com or 020 8286 8424 or www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB meets Thursdays 8pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden, HP16 OBA. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL, 01494 562231 info@lucyclark.org.u
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday 8pm at St Piran's School, Gringer Hill, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7LZ. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372 or maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP meets every Wednesday 7.30-10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details: Dick Barford, 55 Northumberland Road, Maidstone ME25 7JG, 01622 685984
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing Thursdays 8-10.15pm at St Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent DA12 3HL 01474 822919
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS. Mixed ability class Mondays 8-10pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5LP, 01908 378730 or jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB. Dancing most Wednesdays during school term, 8.15-10.15pm from Sept-May at St Thomas' Church Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, SG6 4DZ. Informal Saturday dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds SG17 5AL or 01462 812691
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dancing 7.45-10pm most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: David Reid, 22 Thamesbank Place, London SE28 8PR, 020 8311 7282 or david@davidfromblighty.plus.com
- NORWICH RSCDS. Dancing on Mondays from Sept-May/June at the Dance & Drama Studio, Sewell Park College, Constitution Hill, Norwich NR3 4BX. Beginners from 7-8.15pm and general dancing 8.20-9.30pm. Details: Sue Petty on 01603 741639 or secretary@rscds-norwich.org.uk
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday 8-10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners'/Improvers' Class every Monday 8-10.15pm at St Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or hadyndavies@gmail.com or www.orpingtonscottishdancing.com
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS. Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Christine Jeffery 01844 278242 or christinej201@hotmail.com or www.rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk
- READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY. Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading, RG1 5BD from 8-10pm, Sept-May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st & 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Sue Steele, 4 Avenue House, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, Reading RG4 7EF, 01189 464704 or suesteele43@gmail.com or www.scottishdancingreading.org
- REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets most Mondays 8.15-10.15pm, Sept-May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com or www.reigatescottish.org.uk

- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8pm from mid-Sept. to mid-June. Details: www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk or 020 8878 3445
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP. Dancing Tues 8pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc
- St Columba's Dancers meet most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10pm. Admission free except for Band Nights when a charge will be made. Details: Valerie Strachan, 020 8693 5355 or valeriestrachan@btinternet.com or www.stcolumbasdancers.org
- ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM meet every Thurs 8-10.15pm Sept-June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Sue Davis 2 Larkswood Dr, Crowthorne, 01344 774344 or an.suedavis@gmail.com Also Children's Class Sats 9.30-11am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT hold weekly social dance on Thursday evenings from 8-10pm at Collingwood School, Springfield Road, Wallington SM6 OBD. Details: Maggie Westley, 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157, or westley.maggie14@gmail.com
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB meets every Tuesday from Sept-May, 8-10pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Mrs Josephine Ellis, 26 Byng Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8EJ or josephine@ellismp.plus.com
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Wednesdays from 8-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin, 48 Eastbrook Road, Blackheath SE3 8BT, 020 8856 4522
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Fridays, 7.30-10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808 or graham.easton@btinternet.com or www.seess.org.uk
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS. Classes for all standards, in Hertford, Tuesdays in term time. Monthly dances Sept-June, in Ware, usually second Friday Sunday afternoon Family Dances once a term. Details: Ian, 07842 034890 or sehscds@hotmail.com or see www.sehscottishdance.org
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday at 8pm from Sept-June at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY or www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS. Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8-10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8-10pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9AL, Details: George Daly, 1 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells TN2 5UE, 01892 534512 or www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.u
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Beginners/Improvers Class at Nascot Wood Recital Hall, Nascot Wood Road, Watford WD17 4YS Mondays from 8-9.30pm and General Class at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT Thursdays from 8-10pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Wednesdays 8-10pm Sept-June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or yn.scdc@uwclub.net or www.sehscottishdance.org/Welwyn
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dance Class Mondays 8pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW, 0208 866 2378 or info@wdsa.co.uk
- WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS (Formerly South Dorset Caledonian Society). Dancing at St Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30-10pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177
- WIMBLEDON. St Andrew Society (London): Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8pm at Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1SB. Details: Miss Alison Raffan 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3JB, 020 8540 1755 or oglemail.com or www.standrewsoclondon.x10host.com
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS. Classes Tuesdays 8-10pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8-10pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover SP10 3NQ, 01264 363293 or
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Wednesday 8-10pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Alex Daniel, 01621 855548 or alexsdaniel@aol.com

#### Credits

Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of The Reel, including the following for providing photos for this edition: p1: Top - Jerry Reinstein; Below - Stephen J Webb (SJW). p2: Top - from

Margaret Catchick; Others - SJW. p3: Simon Wales. p4: Philippe - SJW; Below - Roger Juplo. p6: SERTA - Jane Rose; Unit 5 - Jim Stott. p7: from Jeremy Hill. p8: from Adrian Conrad; Hugh Foss from HQ archives (previously donated by John Drewry). p9: Cathy Daldy - Mike Watkinson; Others - SJW. *Centrefold*: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11 - SJW; 1, 3, 6, 10 - Jerry Reinstein; 8 - Jenny Kendrick. *p12*: Image from Mervyn Short. *p13*: Shene archives - from Denise Haugh; A Happy Occasion - from Wilson Nicol, Others - SJW. *p14*: from Malcolm Brown. *p15*: from Ann Kendall; Cartoon - permission Joan Miles; Doppelgängers - SJW. p16: Ann Dix's bench - Jane Rose; Fergus Bateson - from Jamie Bateson.

Page 20 The Reel Issue 302