



The Reel



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

No 293

SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2015

Scottish Country Dancing—
For fun, fitness and
friendship



Dancers from RSCDS London Branch, the Oxford University Scottish Dance Society and The Gay Gordons, suitably dressed for Beating Retreat 2015, at the Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, with Scots Guards Bandmaster Will Casson-Smith (left) and Corporal Matt Watts (see p4)

NEW SEASON DANCE

Saturday 12 September 2015
7.00 – 10.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD
George Meikle and The Lothian Band

Jessie's Hornpipe	8/9
Miss Hadden's Reel	23/5
Sugar Candie	26/9
Red House	7/2
Autumn in Appin	31/5
C'est L'Amour	34/1
Jimmy's Fancy	14/11
Bill Clement MBE	47/1
Scott Meikle	46/3

The College Hornpipe	20/12
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	Leaflet 18
Quarries' Jig	36/3
The Saltire Society Reel	Leaflet 28
Schiehallion	Thurston
Miss Allie Anderson	Leaflet 16
Fife Ness	4 for 1978/1
City of Belfast	48/6
The Montgomerie's Rant	10/1

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

AUTUMN WEDNESDAY DANCE

Wednesday 28 October 2015
7.00 – 10.00pm

Doors open at 6.30pm
St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD
Sandra Smith & Barbara Manning

The Brudenell Jig	Gr 2/3
A Highland Welcome	Craigievar 8
Dalkeith's Strathspey	9/6
All for Mary	London 75th/1
The Birks of Invermay	16/2
Red Nose Jig	Gr 2/10
The Montgomerie's Rant	10/1

The Highland Rambler	Leeds 25th/1
Delvine Side	2/9
Mrs Stewart's Jig	35/1
Flowers of Dumbeg	Porter
Nedipath Castle	22/7
The Ayr Promenade	Golding Gr/2
The Deil among the Tailors	14/7
Extras: The Duke of Atholl's Reel (16/3) and The Old Man of Storr (Ch/6)	

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

CHRISTMAS DANCE

Saturday 12 December 2015
6.45 for 7.00 – 10.30pm
Doors open at 6.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD
Dave Hall and His Scottish Dance Band

Hooper's Jig	MMM2/15
John of Bon Accord	33/3
The Gentleman	35/5
The Hollin Buss	24/8
Mr Wilson's Hornpipe	16/10
Napier's Index	45/8
1314	Rondel 20
Margaret Parker's Strathspey	31/1
The Black Mountain Reel	Carnforth 3/1

Joie de Vivre	39/2
The Reel of The Royal Scots	Leaflet 27
Dalkeith's Strathspey	9/6
Milton's Welcome	33/8
The Dream Catcher	45/9
The Starry Eyed Lassie	23/11
The Byron Strathspey	Deeside 2/7
St Andrew's Fair	5 for 1982/1
Mairi's Wedding	22 SCD/4

Admission includes reception drink and refreshments
RSCDS members £18.00, Non-members £20.00
Students (with student card) & spectators £9.00
All children (under 16) free
All tickets to be purchased (cash only) on the door
All dances will be recapped

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Thank you to everyone who came to our AGM and heard about our plans for the coming season. We want to halt the decline in membership, and you now have the option of renewing your subscription by direct debit, or using PayPal if you wish (see below), but cash and cheques are just as acceptable. Please do remember to renew. Your subscription is important to the Branch and to Headquarters, and helps us to show that the RSCDS is a healthy, vibrant organisation.

We are offering classes at every level. This includes re-starting a weekly intermediate class and running two classes for beginners. It is only through teaching more people to dance that we can ensure the future of the Society. We also want to make sure that we cater for advanced dancers as well, with technique and demonstration classes.

Our final priority is to celebrate the Branch's 85th Anniversary in style. The dance on 31 October is a sell-out, and there are many other events throughout the year where you can join in the fun and friendship of Scottish country dancing. We would love to see you there.

Also at the AGM we said 'thank you' to three retiring members of the Committee: Jeremy Hill, Marjory Reid and Anna Twinn. They have worked really hard on behalf of us all, and they will stay involved with the Branch; as you can see, Jeremy remains editor of *The Reel*. We welcomed two younger members on to the Committee: Jamie Walker (who was co-opted for part of last year) and Lizzie Conder. It's great to have them on board, but simple arithmetic tells you that we need more help. The Branch is active on many fronts. If we are to continue that way in the years ahead, more members will have to step forward and become responsible for making things happen.

I wish you all a very happy dancing year and I look forward to seeing you on the dance floor.

Andrew Kellett



ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE
SOCIETY



Patron: H.M. The Queen
Chairman: Jim Healy

HEADQUARTERS:

12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF

Tel: 0131 225 3854

info@rscds.org

www.rscds.org

LONDON BRANCH:

Hon. President:

Rachel Wilton

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

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

Chairman:

Andrew Kellett,

22 Chestnut Drive,

Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 4EN

020 8301 1403

chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk

Vice Chairman and Hon. Secretary:

Margaret Catchick

251 Botley Road, Ley Hill, Chesham,

Bucks HP5 1YD

01494 772305

secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

Hon. Treasurer:

Simon Wales,

Flat 6, 86 Worcester Rd, Sutton,

Surrey SM2 6QQ

020 8643 0952

treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk

Committee:

Lizzie Conder, Elaine Davies, Pam Ellam,
Ireen Goulding, George Potts, Marjory Reid,
Jerry Reinstein, Thelma-Jane Robb,
Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw, Jamie Walker

Sub-Committee co-ordinators:

Classes: Andrew Kellett
Day School: Margaret Catchick
Dances: Margaret Shaw
Publicity: Elaine Davies
Youth: Elaine Davies

Non-Executive roles:

Bookstall: Daniel Capron
Hon. Archivist: Rachel Wilton
Membership: Gaynor Curtis
The Reel Editor: Jeremy Hill
The Reel Business Editor: Jeff Robertson
The Reel Assistant Editor: Katy Sweetman
Subscribers: Wilson Nicol
Webmaster: Meryl Thomson

Website: www.rscdslondon.org.uk



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Branch:

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@LondonRSCDS



Objects of London Branch

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

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

PayPal and Direct Debit options now available

As announced at the Branch AGM in June, London Branch members, and subscribers to *The Reel*, can now pay for their renewals and subscriptions in through PayPal and Direct Debit. Those members who wish to continue to use cheques will be able to do so, but cheques are being used less and less and being replaced by internet transactions, which most people who are on the internet find greatly simplifies payments.

Using PayPal, payment can be made simply by entering card details at the time of payment, or through setting up a PayPal account. Account set up requires just an email address and password, or mobile number and PIN, in which case there is no need to re-enter your card details every time you pay. In order to cover costs, a small charge of 50p will be levied for payment by PayPal. For example, when you pay London Branch membership by PayPal, the cost will be £22.50, if you choose to receive *The Reel* in electronic format only, or £24.50 if you choose to continue to receive *The Reel* in the post in the UK. Electronic subscription will cost £4.50. For further details please contact me at paypal@rscdslondon.org.uk

Further details of setting up a Direct Debit will follow in future issues of *The Reel*.



Jerry Reinstein

Maintaining Contact – email addresses

The Branch continues to use various means to keep in touch with members, on the website, Facebook, Twitter, through *The Reel* and regular email.

If you wish to receive information by email (not more than once a month), please send your email address to Jerry Reinstein jar@reinsteinassociates.com and we will add you to the list. Note: the list is not used for any other purpose and not shared with any other organisation.

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Dr Alastair MacFadyen 27 May 1936 – 20 July 2015

I was very sad to hear of the recent passing of Dr Alastair MacFadyen, in his 80th year. A professional historian, he was one of the great ambassadors of the Society worldwide, as International Team dancer, teacher, Archivist, Summer School Director, Society Chairman and subsequently President. Having been one of Miss Milligan's favourite pupils, and a lecturer in history at Jordanhill College, he represented a direct line back to the origins of the Society, which he was keen to record, including biographies of both Miss Milligan and Mrs Stewart.

I can't say I knew him well, but he always had a smile and a good story to share, and remained an invigorating and inspiring presence on the dance floor even until recent times, demonstrating that technique and elegant dancing are entirely consistent with enjoyment of the dance.

An interview with Alastair, in which he talks about his life and his love of Scottish country dancing may be found at [www.rscds.org/
news/video-interview-with-dr-
alastair-macfadyen](http://www.rscds.org/news/video-interview-with-dr-alastair-macfadyen)

Jeremy Hill

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

Saturday 17 October 2015

Paddington Academy, Marylands Road, London W9 2DR

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

Morning: 10.30 – 12.30

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

Teacher: **Antoine Rousseau** Musician: **Andrew Nolan**

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

Teacher: **Deb Lees** Musician: **Barbara Manning**

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

Teacher: **Joan Desborough** Musician: **Jeremy Hill**

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

Teacher: **Sam Schad** Musician: **Judith Muir**

Lunch: 12.30 – 2.00pm

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

Afternoon: 2.00 – 4.00pm

Very Advanced:

Teacher: **Deb Lees** Musician: **Barbara Manning**

Advanced:

Teacher: **Antoine Rousseau** Musician: **Andrew Nolan**

Mixed Ability:

Teacher: **Sam Schad** Musician: **Judith Muir**

Newcomers and Improvers:

Teacher: **Joan Desborough** Musician: **Jeremy Hill**

Optional Extras: 4.30 – 5.30pm

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

A Tribute to Ann Dix:

Teacher: **Joan Desborough** Musician: **Judith Muir**

Highland:

Teacher: **Antoine Rousseau** Musician: **Andrew Nolan**

Ladies' Step:

Teacher: **Deb Lees** Musician: **Barbara Manning**

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

Musicians' Workshop

Led by accordionist and band leader **Nicol McLaren**, this will take place in both the morning and afternoon. The workshop is open to players with a suggested minimum level of Grade 5. The class will concentrate on playing for dances, and will cover such areas as traditional and modern tunes, the importance of tempos, and the making up of sets of tunes that are compatible with the lead tune, as well as the importance of forming a relationship with the dancers on the floor. The differences in playing for a dance class and playing for a dance will also be discussed.

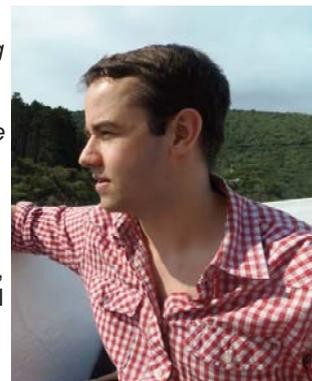
Evening Dance with ceilidh items: 6.00 – 9.00pm

This will follow the Day School. Dancing will be to **Nicol McLaren and the Day School Musicians**. Tickets are available in advance from Margaret Catchick and on the door.

For an application form containing further details for both the Day School and the Musicians' Workshop, please contact Margaret Catchick, 251 Botley Road, Ley Hill, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1YD, enclosing an SAE, on 01494 772305, or margaretcatchick@hotmail.com

Application forms may also be obtained from the London Branch website, at Branch dances, or from your class teacher.

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



Teachers and musicians, clockwise from bottom left: Joan Desborough, Jeremy Hill, Deb Lees, Barbara Manning, Nicol McLaren, Judith Muir, Andrew Nolan, Antoine Rousseau and Sam Schad

Beating Retreat 2015

There are a few things that became apparent when I started country dancing in October last year: get the right shoes, don't wear a dress that's too long and don't dance on gravel. So it came as quite a surprise when I found myself dancing in a floor-length Regency dress on Horse Guards Parade wearing plimsolls...

On the evenings of 10 and 11 June 2015 country dancers from Oxford and London participated in The Household Division's Beating Retreat 2015, which commemorated the 200th anniversary of The Battle of Waterloo. The performance included a special re-enactment sequence depicting the stages of the battle itself. Our role was to recreate the Duchess of Richmond's ball, which had been held in Brussels on the eve of the battle.

We danced a version of *The Queen's Quadrille* – a dance evoking the Regency style – accompanied by the tremendous combined sound of the Pipes & Drums of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards, The Scots Guards Regimental Association and the London Scottish Regiment, and alongside dancers from the Acushla Highland Dance Company, who danced an *Argyll Broadsword*. We spent weeks and weeks rehearsing, albeit rarely with all the full team of dancers so a huge thank you to everyone who stepped in for the practices. Thanks, too, to Jeremy Hill and Samantha Schad for all their hard work preparing us for battle – I mean dancing! The greatest challenge was the sheer difference in scale between the small rehearsal room and expansive Horse Guards Parade!

On the day itself, we arrived at Wellington Barracks where we were carefully checked in through security. Now we were not simply dancers but military dancers! We assembled with the band and, in beautiful weather, we marched (sort of) down Birdcage Walk from the barracks past St James's Park, and all its spectators! When we arrived at Horse Guards we paraded through the middle and were led down into a dark dungeon of a room – known as the Cockpit, where Henry VIII had indulged in cock-fighting. The atmosphere was a mix of excitement and nerves as our time to shine approached.

We were led up to a holding area, only to wait and wait, then another holding area, and another wait, and then suddenly we were marching straight in front of the Duchess of Cornwall and five thousand spectators! The dance went superbly: everyone in the right place at the right time. But suddenly it was all over; we had no time to bow as we needed to avoid any near-misses with the large military band marching off behind us. We re-appeared for the finale with the evening culminating in a fireworks display, singing by the Royal Choral Society and a poignant performance of the Last Post performed on 'The Waterloo Bugle', which was found on the battlefield.

If I thought that social dancing could send me into a panic, well that was nothing to the nerves I felt when we faced thousands of spectators. But it was worth it: exploring the Barracks, going behind the scenes at Horse Guards Parade and, of course, dancing to thousands of spectators has made this a truly memorable event – if they ask Scottish dancers back for the 250th anniversary I strongly recommend it!

Anna Senkiw and Ewan Miller

View from the Stands

My daughter, Catriona, has taken part in dance demonstrations for about 10 years, but this summer was involved in a very special one: the military pageant Beating Retreat, which takes place on Horse Guards Parade during the week leading up to the celebration of the Queen's Official Birthday with the more famous Trooping the Colour. When my brother and I were children our father took us to a rehearsal for Trooping the Colour, but I was pleased to be able to take up the free ticket she received to go and watch the Beating Retreat performance.

Correct costume for demonstrations is very important. There was no problem with the men's outfits, as they wore their usual highland evening dress; however, period gowns were hired for the ladies, and the theatrical costumier apparently believed that one size would fit all. Catriona's outfit looked as though it was meant for a lady about 5'8" tall, and she is 5'0". She phoned me to ask if I could help. Although I can sew and turning up a hem on a skirt is a fairly simple job, dresses are more complicated because the proportions of the bodice may also need adjustment. Anna Twinn and Alison Raisin came to the rescue and worked miracles at very little notice.

On the day of the performance I caught the underground to St James's Park and walked to Horse Guards. After having my bag checked by security I made my way to my seat in one of the temporary stands where I was able to buy a programme from one of the smart young soldiers. The dancing took place towards the end of the performance. The original ball included a highland dance demonstration by some of the soldiers, so a team of highland dancers danced a modified *Argyll Broadsword*. This took place at the same time as the country dancing, so both had to be danced to the same music. With fifty or so pipers and drummers it made for a splendid sight and a great advertisement for dancing.

It was wonderful to see my daughter dancing at such a famous venue. We were able to show a video to my dad, who is now 92, and he also enjoyed the performance. The dem team are great ambassadors for Scottish country dancing, and deserve all the support we can give them.

Elizabeth Bennett

Dancing for the National Army Museum

Maintaining the military theme, dancers from the Branch linked up for an evening in May with pipers from the London Scottish Regiment, and dancers from Kathleen Gilbert's highland class, to dance for film being made for archives at the National Army Museum. The dancing is intended to represent the 'Army at Home', and the dances chosen were a *Broadsword*, in a version devised by Janet Cook, *The Reel of the 51st Division*, *The Clansman* (linking to a target in the museum) and *The White Cockade*. The film will form part of material accessible to visitors to the National Army Museum in Chelsea, which is being redeveloped and rebuilt, to be opened to the public in 2016.

Jeremy Hill

See photos on pp 1, 10 & 11. Video footage of Beating Retreat is also available at youtu.be/DIKUD7LKb14 For more information on representing the Branch see p7



Children's Class 2015-2016

Teachers: James Fairbairn and Jenny Kendrick

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

At The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR, from 10.45am–12.00pm: 19 & 26 September and 10 October.

In the Upper Hall, St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD, from 10.15–11.30am: 7 November, 21 November (Family Day – see below), 5 December, 9, 16 & 30 January, 13 February, 5 March, 19 March (Family Day – further information in *The Reel* 294), 16 & 30 April, 14 & 21 May, 4 June, 11 June (Family Day – further information to follow)

Class Fee: £5.00 per child per class
Newcomers are always welcome!

Family Day

Saturday 21 November 2015
St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street,
London SW1X 0BD
11.30 am – 1.00pm Children's Class
Followed by lunch for all children
2.00 – 4.30pm **Dance to the music of
Barbara Manning & Calum Mitchell**

Programme: Circassian (big) Circle (Trad/Fairbairn), Charleston Chaser (Gr2/2), Gay Gordons (Pocket Reference Guide), MC's Choice, The Waratah Weaver (Gr2/4), A Reel for Jeannie (40/1), The Dhoon (Ch1/1), Loch Ness Monster (Imperial 2/9), Granville Market (Gr2/18), MC's Choice, Espie McNabb (MMM 23), The Barmkin (Gr2/6), Canadian Barn Dance (Pocket Reference Guide), The Dashing White Sergeant (3/2). *Extras:* Scotch Mixer, Round Reel of Eight (27/2), Witches' Reel.

Special Day Ticket (includes class, lunch & dance): £7.00 per child
Dance Admission only: £3.50 per person

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

For further information please contact either James Fairbairn on 07930 949599, childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk or youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

THE REEL

The Reel is published four times a year by the London Branch and posted free to all Branch members. Non-members may subscribe to be on the mailing list, and clubs can negotiate bulk copies for their members. Enquiries to Wilson Nicol, see advert on p13.

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



Seamstresses Twinn & Raisin ensuring a good fit

Set yourself a fun challenge Join a Scottish Country Dance Class

We have
classes for...

CHILDREN in central London.

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

ADULTS - Classes start on Wednesday 23 September

St. Thomas' CE Primary School, Appleford Road,
London W10 5EF

23 Sept – 2 December (half term 28 Oct) 7.00 – 9.00pm

Basic Skills & Improvers

Teacher **Jane Rose**

Intermediate for dancers with at least a year's experience of Scottish country dancing who want to improve their technique and develop their repertoire.

Teachers **Anne Carter** (up to half term)

Ken Martlew (after half term)

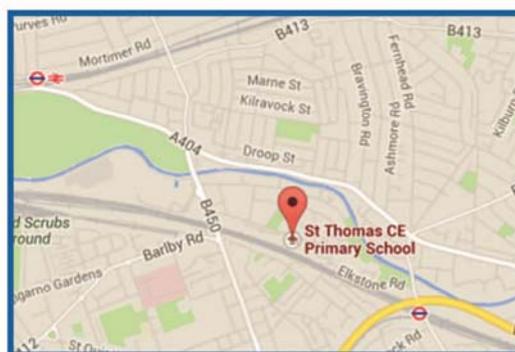
Technique for good dancers who want to develop their personal technique, improve their team-working skills and gain even more enjoyment from Scottish country dancing.

Teachers **Pat Davoll** (up to half term) **Maureen Campbell** (after half term)

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

All classes will dance to music from one of our musicians: **Sandra Smith, Ian Cutts,**

Hoei Lien The, Sabina Virtosu, Fernando Martin - Peñasco and Raymond Yiu



Mixed Ability Class suitable for dancers with with at least some knowledge of basic steps and formations.

Wednesdays 2.30 – 4.30pm

23 Sept – 16 Dec (half term 4 Nov)

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

Fee £6 per class.

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

Beginners Wednesdays 8.00 – 10.00pm 23 Sept – 2 December (half term 28 Oct)

Teacher **Judith Jones**

Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RT

Very Advanced Technique

10.30am – 12.30pm Sunday 22 November at The Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RT

Teacher **Angela Young** Musician **Graham Berry**

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

For experienced dancers interested in giving demonstrations

Email Elaine Davies at demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk

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

BRANCH NEWS

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH ACCOUNTS 2014 – 2015

As promised at the recent AGM, here are my comments on the accounts, with apologies once again that the tight timescales and *The Reel* publication dates make it impossible to circulate these to all members before the AGM. I emailed a set of accounts to three members.

The accounts show a net incoming resource figure of £1,040. This is after an unrealised gain on investments of £1,553 (less than previous years), after writing off obsolete bookstall stock of £779, and also includes planned expenditure from our legacy funds of £1,264.

The net operating surplus this year, before the one-off stock write off is £266, which is as close to breakeven as I can manage!

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

Classes

Fees, less hire of halls, less teachers and musicians expenses: £15,553 - £8,041 - £8,620 = £1,108 deficit. This is within budget, and is accounted for almost entirely by the heavy losses on the technique class. The Richmond class was of mixed success, but we have decided to run this again for a term in the autumn. The Day School made a healthy profit of £195.

Youth Activities

Income less expenditure: £1,336 - £3,041 = £1,705 deficit. This reflects the subsidy paid to the UCL class of just over £1,000, with the children's class subsidised by £305 from the Telfer donation. The costs reflect the support from the Branch for the two dances and the classes. The Telfer funds will last

four more years at this level of expenditure, but the Anniversary Fund for youth outreach remains unspent.

Dances

Income less expenditure: £7,493 - £6,701 = £792 surplus, which is £200 short of budget. Christmas and Burns' night dances recovered their attendance this year, but some other dances still attracted too few dancers. The dances held on the half-term Wednesday evening have proved popular and are covering their cost. Hall hire charges have increased steeply for next year, some of this will be passed on through a small increase in ticket prices, but the rest will be reflected in a lower budget.

Publicity and *The Reel*

The net cost of publicity this year was £1,931 – however, the Westwood Fund contributed £614 towards the cost of the Open Air Dancing. The Westwood legacy is now exhausted. However, we intend to fund three sessions from general funds this summer. *The Reel* made a profit of £637 after the apportionment of the Life Members' appeal.

Bookstall and other trading

This generated a small surplus of £126 now that it is back in business under the stewardship of Daniel Capron. We have, however, decided to write off £779 of obsolete stock, to give Daniel a fair run at the job.

Demonstration Team

This appears as 'fundraising activities', i.e. £727 - £1,249 = £522 deficit. The class will no longer function in the same way, but there will still be a budget for rehearsals of dancers to represent the Branch when needed.

Administration Costs

The only other figure to comment on is the admin costs (£368) – on par with last year. This is made up

as follows: postage and secretarial (£227), insurance (£109), donations (£25) and archives (£7). Thanks to the hospitality of Peter Knight and Margaret Shaw, there were minimal costs for Branch committee meetings this year and the £110 reflects the cost of the AGM – hall hire and printing.

We are very fortunate to have the various bequests that enable us to tackle projects in the knowledge that we have sufficient funds to back them up. Open Air dancing in Kensington Gardens and the Youth class continue to be the main beneficiaries of these funds, and the Bill Ireland legacy funded a contribution to SERTA for the teachers' exams.

Donations raised a further £275 and benefited from the tax reclaim from HMRC for gift aid. There was also a generous donation to support youth activity, so, with the donor's permission, this was added to the Telfer legacy.

Membership income remained steady, thanks to the decision to increase membership rates, but the declining number of members continues to be a concern.

Investment income and bank interest was slightly up, and contributed a total of £1,694.

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

Simon Wales, Branch Treasurer
9 June 2015

Barbara (Bar) Martlew 21 October 1943 – 16 May 2015

Barbara (Bar) Martlew left this world peacefully on Saturday 16 May 2015, with her husband Ken by her side, at the Hospice of St. Francis, Berkhamsted.

Bar crammed more into one life than most would in twenty: a highly respected physiotherapist and lymphoedema specialist by profession; a dedicated carer and Hospice volunteer; a beautiful, elegant, physically fit and endlessly energetic ballet and Scottish country dancer and teacher; and a dedicated hostess, cook, homemaker, friend, wife, mother and grandmother. The diagnosis of a brain tumour in 2013 had not suppressed her appetite for life, and she lived life to the full with her family and friends until the last weeks of her life.

Born in Dunedin in New Zealand, Bar moved to the UK with her family in the 1950's in order that her father could study neurosurgery. She combined her father's background in medicine with her love of movement to train as a physiotherapist at King's College Hospital in 1965. She then met her husband Ken, a medical student at nearby St Thomas's Hospital. They married in 1967 and lived in Bath and North London for a short time, but then settled in Hertfordshire from the 1970's.

Bar then worked as a physiotherapist in care homes and the community before finding her home in lymphoedema (a condition of localized fluid retention and tissue swelling). She began by working as a physiotherapist and lymphoedema specialist at Grove House Day Hospice from 1991. She set up a regional lymphoedema service at Mount Vernon Hospital in 1996, and then at the Peace Hospice in Watford in 2001, where she had worked as a physio for some years previously. She became a regional rep for the British Lymphology Interest Group (BLIG), an active member of its committee and Research Forum, teaching beginners' courses at national level and publishing a number of related articles.

From 2010 she brought her expertise back to St Francis' Hospice in Berkhamsted, which she had put much energy into getting started some twenty years before, subsequently holding a physio post there, and staying on

as a volunteer until her illness, at which point the exceptional Hospice staff looked after her and her family with the same extraordinary care and devotion she had given them for so long.



Bar taught ballet at the Irene Williamson School in Hemel Hempstead from 1977 – 1987, and in 1982 was introduced to SCD by then neighbours, Robert and Valerie Bateson, via the Berkhamsted Strathspey & Reel Club Annual Ball. Unsurprisingly, given her background, she rapidly mastered the basics. She was soon on the Club's committee, exercising her organising and catering skills for the next 11 years. In 1987 she was President of the Club in its 40th Anniversary Year, and organised the celebration Ball at Ashlyn's School, attended by 250 dancers. She stood down as President after that year, because she was working full time and also studying in her spare time for a master's degree.

She came back to SCD in 1996, taking her RSCDS teaching certificate. In her final teaching exam she passed with a clean sweep of 36 'A's – a rare achievement. She joined the panel of MC's at Berkhamsted, and was a co-founder of Monday technique classes. She taught beginners at the Watford, Gerrards Cross, Chiswick clubs, and the London Branch. At the time she was taken ill she had agreed to be put forward as Secretary of the Branch. By chance the then RSCDS Chairman heard her teach at Chiswick, and invited her to MC half the Saturday night ball at the next RSCDS AGM in Perth. It was an exemplary performance, but sadly one of her last before illness struck.

Her energy and commitment, ability to inspire, teach and support and *joie de vivre* were in evidence across all of her many interests. Bar touched countless lives with her brilliance, sparkling life force and compassion for others and will be sorely missed. She is survived by her three daughters Zoë, Clare and Joy, a brace of grandchildren and Ken, who cared for her with tireless devotion throughout her illness.

Compiled from tributes by Ken Martlew, Zoë Martlew and Sue Lawrance

RSCDS LONDON BRANCH EVENTS 2015 – 2016

Except where noted, events take place:

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

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

Saturday 12 December: Christmas Dance **Dave Hall and his Scottish Dance Band**
Saturday 16 January: Musicians' Ceilidh Workshop led by **Ian Robertson**
Saturday 16 January: Burns' Ceilidh Dance and Supper **Ian Robertson and the Musicians**
Wednesday 17 February: Winter Wednesday Dance Band/Musicians: to be confirmed
Saturday 19 March: Combined Societies' Dance **Ian Muir of Prestwick**
Saturday 16 April: Spring Dance **Ian Robertson and his Band**
Wednesday 1 June: Summer Wednesday Dance Band/Musicians: to be confirmed
Saturday 11 June: AGM (6.45pm) and End of Season Dance (7.30pm). Band: to be confirmed

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



Representing the Branch, including a look at Book 49

The Branch runs a monthly class on Tuesday for advanced dancers, taught by Jeremy Hill, for the purpose of creating a pool of dancers with a repertoire of dances that can be used for public displays, such as Beating Retreat 2015 (see pp 1 and 4), and the Kensington Gardens Open Air Dancing that took place in August. Future classes are scheduled for 15 September and 20 October from 7.00 – 9.00pm in the Upper Hall at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Classes leading up to Christmas will take a detailed look at a selection of dances from RSCDS Book 49.

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

South East Region Teachers' Association

The next workshop 'Putting on a Display', with Paul Plummer, will be held on Sunday 27 September at Finchampstead Memorial Hall. The workshop will cover the different types of display: for entertainment, to recruit and for other dancers. Paul will look at the skills required to dance in a display and the sort of dances to choose. He will also look at the choreography of displays. The workshop is open to all interested. Please contact me for further details.

We will be celebrating our 10th anniversary with a weekend of dances, classes and discussions at the Piccadilly Hotel in Bournemouth from 16 to 18 September 2016. More details will be given in the *The Reel* 294.

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

Mike Johnson

See also the article by Jimmie Hill on p8 on the material he covered in his March workshop.

RSCDS Qualifications

Teachers' Training Part 2: Unit 4 and 5 Results

Following examination on 13 June by Marilyn Watson and Andrew McConnell, congratulations to Judith Jones and Jenny Kendrick (both London Branch), Annette Owen (BHS Border Branch) and Marjory Beaumont (HQ Branch, living in Suffolk) on their success in passing Units 4 and 5. The candidates were trained by Pat Houghton, with Judith Muir as musician.

Teachers' Training Part 1:

Candidates sought for Unit 1 Examination

The SE Branches are organising a Unit 1 exam on Saturday 10 October 2015. Candidates who wish to take Unit 1, may do so at Pont Street, London, from 10am to 1pm. This exam consists of a two hour written paper, covering knowledge of the RSCDS and dancing theory. Candidates may self study or arrange for a mentor to assist them. Details of the syllabus along with sample questions may be found on the RSCDS Web Site under 'Courses'.

If you wish to take Unit 1 on that day, your details must be with George Ferrier by Friday 11 September. Please contact George Ferrier at george2542@hotmail.co.uk

SE Branches Co-ordinating Committee

Dancing Achievement Awards

In June London was one of the first branches to host a course leading to the RSCDS Dancing Achievement Award. The DAA has three levels: intermediate, advanced and very advanced. We decided to start with the intermediate level and organised three classes, taught by Simon Wales, to prepare candidates for assessment. There was a lot of interest, but a number of dancers had to drop out because illness or personal commitments prevented them from completing the course, leaving six intrepid candidates to take the assessment, comprising six dances and several figures and formations.

Marilyn Watson and Joan Desborough were very supportive assessors and Sandra Smith provided excellent accompaniment on the piano, as she had done throughout the course. The candidates had worked really hard in the weeks leading up to the assessment and conquered their nerves on the night, so they were able to dance well and even enjoy the experience. They were rewarded with some outstanding results. Congratulations to them all. We hope to organise another course and assessment next year.

More details about the DAA can be found on the RSCDS website. See photo p11.

A further course towards the DAA intermediate level, is being organised by South East Herts Scottish Dance Society in Ware this autumn. The teacher will be Elaine Wilde and musician Barbara Manning. See advertisement on p16.

London Branch Membership

The annual cost of RSCDS membership through the London Branch is:

- £22.00 (£18.00 RSCDS subscription plus £4.00 Branch fee) for members who choose to receive *The Reel* in electronic format only, **irrespective of where they live**,
- £24.00 (£18.00 RSCDS sub + £6.00 Branch fee) for UK-based members who receive *The Reel* through the post,
- £30.00 (£18.00 RSCDS sub + £12.00 Branch fee) for European-based members who receive *The Reel* through the post, and
- £33.00 (£18.00 RSCDS sub + £15.00 Branch fee) for members in the rest of the world who receive *The Reel* through the post.

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

London Branch membership benefits include reduced rates at Branch events and receiving *The Reel*, while RSCDS membership includes the biannual publication, *Scottish Country Dancer*, and 10% discounts on items from the RSCDS shop.

Membership can be purchased on the Branch website at www.rscdslondon.org.uk/shop. Membership enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989 or membership@rscdslondon.org.uk

WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT

The RSCDS and the London Branch continue to see the importance of supporting the teachers, musicians and dancers of the future. As such, funds are earmarked for scholarships, for young people (up to the age of 25) to attend RSCDS residential schools as a dancer or as a musician; and for any member attending Summer School with a view to taking the RSCDS Teaching Certificate. London Branch also has funds available to support any

event promoting Scottish country dancing among young people. We are a charity and are here to help you improve your skills and enjoyment of Scottish country dancing, and to support you in passing on your enthusiasm and knowledge to the next generation. If you think you might benefit from a scholarship pick up the phone or drop an email to our Secretary, Margaret Catchick, via secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

Rediscovering Scottish Country Dances

Introduction

Reconstructing dances from the past is a process; there are no rights or wrongs; it is impossible to know exactly how steps were danced, or how instructions were interpreted. The best we can do is attempt to marry a dance with contemporary dance manuals and, when possible, the music used, and arrive at a performance that pays due regard to all the sources. It is difficult to come to historic dances without preconceptions based on our RSCDS experience. We think of this as dating back to 1923, but a quick look at the first edition of Book 1 shows us that the RSCDS tradition has also been one of development.

In the introduction to Book 1, we start with a five couple set, not a four couple one. "When tripping down the middle, advancing and retiring, the step used is the polka (one, two, three, hop)." In set and turn, "both hands should be given for the turn, the elbows bent as before, and the polka step used." In the poussette, "the modern form is to waltz round each other". It comes as a surprise to many RSCDS teachers that in this first edition *The Triumph* finished not with the one couple poussette that today we call 'The Triumph poussette', but with 1st and 2nd couples dancing a two couple poussette, thus making it an eight times through reel – much more satisfying than the dance we do today, which is all over in under two minutes.

The main aim of the two workshop sessions was to understand the process of dance reconstruction. We were very lucky to have several dancers present from The Quadrille Club (QC) at the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), whose contributions were invaluable. The musicians for the day were Ian and Meryl Thomson and Cas Sloan of Green Ginger, who themselves have done an enormous amount of research into the music of the period, and without whom the day would not have been possible.

Morning Session: Looking again at Published Dances – *The Frisky*

The morning session began with *The Frisky* from Book 26, credited to 'Bremner'. Bremner was a music publisher, not a dance deviser. In his most famous collection of dance music of 1757, there is no mention of *The Frisky*. At least two 'Friskies' were published in London, the first in 1774 by Thompson, the second in 1775 by Straight and Skillern. The former bears a striking resemblance to our *Frisky*, the latter is totally different. Both share the same tune, which I assume is the original, and is an excellent jig. There is no explanation why the RSCDS did not use the original, but used the nursery rhyme tune *Humber Jumber* instead.

We began by dancing the popular RSCDS version, then the 1774 version. The main

difference is that the first 8 bars takes 16 in the manuscript version: four bars to turn, four to cast, four to turn again, then four to cast. The next 8 bars are the circle. The dance finishes with the dancing couple leading up to the top, setting then casting off one place. By compressing Bars 1 -16 into 8 bars, our modern version is brisker and more muscular. It also means something has to be added to fill up the 32 bars! This could be where the final 8 bars of the RSCDS version have come from. The manuscript version is a much more sedate dance. What is clear is that the Book 26 dance is based on an 18th century original. Whether it is still the same dance is arguable. By today's standards, and according to the workshop participants, our *Frisky* is more fun! There was general agreement that the original tune was better than *Humber Jumber*.

The Fife Hunt

The Fife Hunt is unique among RSCDS dances in that the identical dance was published in the Graded Book as *Wedderburn's Reel*. *Wedderburn's Reel* has the original tune *Duncan Gray* while *The Fife Hunt* in the new edition of Miss Milligan's Miscellany has acquired a 'customary tune': *The Aberdeen Town Council* by Nan Main. We danced it, and everyone found it tricky to end up in 2nd place on opposite sides in the last two bars of corner partner. No source is given for either dance. However, a dance called *Fife Hunt* was published in 1800 in *Dale's Selection of the most favorite Country Dances and Reels*.

The first 24 bars are virtually identical to ours. In the RSCDS dance the dancing couple have a very difficult turn on bars 23 and 24. Instead of crossing over to 2nd place own sides, they have to turn one and a half times with the left hand to finish on opposite sides, between their corners, ready to advance and retire, then turn one and a half times back to their own sides. Anyone, with even a cursory knowledge of 18th century country dances would be suspicious of this. To finish a formation 'improper' i.e. on the opposite side, would not be conventional. The last eight bars of the 1800 version are 'lead outsides' – a common ending to many dances of the period. The final left hand turn of the corner partner movement would be a comfortable three-quarter turn to leave the dancing couple side by side in the middle facing the men's side, nearer hands joined, ready to dance out between the men, cast back into the middle, dance out between the women, and cast back to 2nd place on sides. It is not easy to find instructions for the formation 'lead outsides', but *Country Dancing made plain and Easy* of 1764 is explicit about it. The other disappointing feature of this dance is that the 1800 version was published with the excellent Gow tune of the same name. *The Fife Hunt* is seldom seen on dance programmes. This is a case where the 1800 version is more danceable than the RSCDS version. And why Miss Milligan did not stipulate the eponymous tune is a mystery.

The other dances in this session were *Madge Wildfire's Strathspey*, *The Laird of Dumbiedyke's Favorite*, *Espie McNabb*, *The Montgomerie's Rant* and *Caberfei*. To readers of *The Reel* the most interesting of these is probably *The*

Montgomerie's Rant, one of the most popular dances worldwide. The most controversial issue with this dance is tempo. We dance it as a reel. In the *Castle Menzies Manuscript* (I am indebted to Jim Healy for a copy of this ms) the dances have no music and no indication of tempo – except for *The Montgomerie's Rant* and *Couteraller's Rant*. Both are described as 'Strathspey Reeles'. Apart from moving the apostrophe to after the 's' in Montgomerie's, the RSCDS has published the former as a reel and the latter as a strathspey. We published the dance with two so-called original tunes: the popular *Lady Montgomerie* and the almost-never-played *Lord Eglintoune*. Green Ginger must be one of the few bands, who, when asked to play *Lord Eglintoune* with no warning, take it in their stride – most bands refuse point blank!

The dancers had fun dancing to a very interesting historic strathspey arrangement of *Lady Montgomerie* and the dreaded *Lord Eglintoune* as a strathspey. However, our modern instructions differ significantly from the Castle Menzies source. Bars 1 – 8 are: 1st couple dance back to back, cast off, dance back to back again, then 1st man casts off while 1st lady casts up. The QC dancers present confirmed that in 1749 the back-to-back movement would have been different from the RSCDS movement. Bars 9 – 24 are virtually identical to the dance we dance today. However, the final eight bars are not a six bar reel then cross over. They are the 'lead outsides' formation, which we danced in *The Fife Hunt*. So, we have to conclude that only half of our *Montgomerie's Rant* is original and it should be a strathspey – if we want to be authentic. The morning session finished with a non-RSCDS dance: *Caberfei* from Jack McConnachie's *Imperial book of 18th Century Dances*, based on the 1740 Young manuscript, a copy of which is in the National Library of Scotland. Bars 1 – 16 are similar, but the McConnachie version departs from the original in bars 17- 32. His half-setting and reel of four and circle are pure inventions.

Dancing popular dances then dancing reconstructions based on contemporary dance manuals makes us think more about the process of reconstruction, different styles of dancing and raises the whole issue of authenticity.

Afternoon Session:

Reconstructing Unpublished Dances

From the 18th and 19th centuries there are thousands of country dances that have never been published in the modern era. The afternoon began with a neglected country dance form: the waltz country dance, longwise country dances in waltz time. The QC dancers present demonstrated the simple travelling step used and we danced *Lady Charlotte Campbell's Waltz*, a delightful three-couple dance that would be an excellent starter for any Scottish ball.

The first jig we danced was *Reuben Butler* from a neglected 1820 manuscript of dances connected with Sir Walter Scott. Of the six dances in the booklet the RSCDS has published two: *Madge Wildfire's Strathspey* and *The Laird of Dumbiedyke's Favorite*. It is a straightforward dance with a great tune. We then danced *Jeanie Deans' Strathspey*. It contains the common eight bar setting formation where the first three couples are arranged facing up and down the set, 1st man between the 3s and 1st lady between the 2s. The RSCDS formation normally has the 1st couple dancing a petronella step to end in 2nd place on the opposite sides on bars three and four. Contemporaneous dance manuals have the 1st couple cast back to 2nd place on their own sides on bars three and four, thus applying the rule that dancers finish formations on their own sides. Finishing in the middle facing 1st corners or on

The Frisky



Turn Right hands & cast off 1 Cu. $\dot{\cdot}$ $\dot{\cdot}$ turn Left & cast off below the 3^d Cu. $\dot{\cdot}$ $\dot{\cdot}$ hands round 6 $\dot{\cdot}$ $\dot{\cdot}$ lead up to the top foot it & cast off $\dot{\cdot}$ $\dot{\cdot}$

The original form and tune for *The Frisky*, before the RSCDS adaptation.

The RSCDS in *The Story of Parliament*

Branch President Rachel Wilton, in her role as a Society Management Board member, and Elaine Davies, publicity co-ordinator for London Branch, were privileged to attend the launch of a beautifully produced book: *The Story of Parliament – Celebrating 750 years of Parliament in Britain*, published by St. James House in partnership with the History of Parliament Trust. The book presents a comprehensive illustrated account of parliamentary politics and also includes chapters on key areas of life in modern Britain, celebrating success stories of public and private organisations. The RSCDS was invited to contribute a profile, which is on page 292 under the heading 'Made in Britain – Royal Charter Holders'.

The launch was held in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey. The 300 guests included representatives from all the organisations whose profiles were included in the book as well as prominent historians, politicians and senior public figures. It was a wonderful occasion and also an opportunity to 'network': we spoke to as many people as we could, distributing and receiving cards so that further information about the RSCDS can be sent to interested organisations.

There is a copy of the book at Headquarters and one will be on display at Branch functions for anyone to look at; it really is a beautiful book and very readable.

Rachel Wilton

Continued from facing page

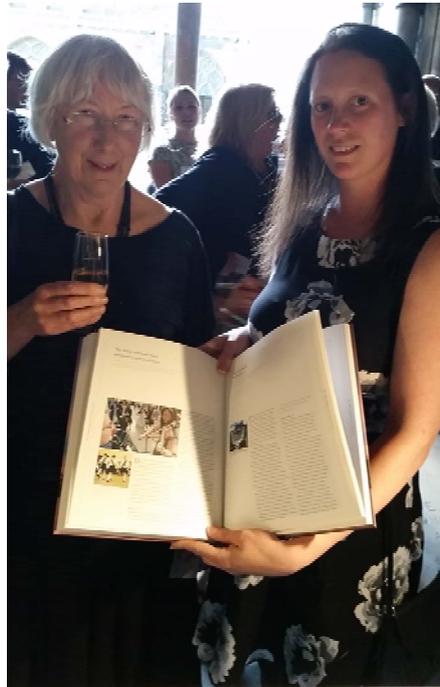
opposite sides seems to be an innovation that the Society introduced in its early years. The strathspey ends with 'lead outsides'. One of the reasons many dances have been neglected has been the unwillingness to publish relatively simple dances with similar groups of formations.

We then went on to dance two dances from a book of country dances published in 1785 in Bath, *24 American Country Dances as danced by the British during their Winter Quarters at Philadelphia, New York and Charlestown*. One of the most entertaining features of the two reels, *The Yager Horn* and *Laurel Hill*, is the music. We practised the rigaudon step, which is a feature of *Laurel Hill*. This was a common setting step in country dances, but was not picked up by Miss Milligan or Mrs Stewart. We then danced *The Earl of Northesk's Strathspey* and finished with the jig, *Lord Cathcart's Welcome to Scotland*.

There is no question that the RSCDS is and has been an incredibly successful organisation. Its success is in great part due to the early teachers whose enthusiasm spawned clubs and branches worldwide. This was based on the repertoire of both dances and music, and the steps and formations which were standardised by our founders. Sometimes Miss Milligan and her contemporaries took an old dance, changed it, and made it more fun: *The Montgomeries' Rant*, the reel we have today, is more fun than the Castle Menzies 'strathspey reele'. But sometimes a perfectly good dance was changed and made more difficult; sometimes a good traditional tune was dropped. I am left wondering why the two-couple poussette was changed to the much more difficult one-couple version we have today in *The Triumph*. And to ditch the great original jig for *The Frisky* and replace it with *Humber Jumber* must rank as a crime! I hope it will make us much more careful when we use the word 'original' in future.

Jimmie Hill

**Based on his presentation to SERTA,
2 March 2015**



Rachel Wilton and Elaine Davies showing off the RSCDS page in the celebratory book

a round the room formation. Well, to Chris' music, if we danced *The Dashing White Sergeant* once we danced it ten times. But this was merely a practice for the main filming which was to be danced without music, so Lorraine could be heard speaking her lines! The music would be cut in later. After an hour I became aware that the hall was filling up with many other women – yes, it was a Zumba class, Lorraine's regular evening work-out, and it was about to begin. We dancers were then requested to leave by the teacher. A rapid change and off for refreshment. We were not all finished though because after a while six of us were back to the hall to film the new dance.

The Zumba class had left its mark, with air so moist that it was condensing on vertical surfaces. We made a quick change back into T-shirts and had a few practice walk-throughs of the three-couple 32 bar jig named *Kelly's Kaper*. The dance is aimed at beginner/newcomer level dancers with the added fun ingredient of a birl to the bottom. The film, including instructions, can be found at www.stv.tv/appeal/latest-news/articles/1322049-lorraine-kelly-dons-her-kilt-for-24-hour-ceilidh-challenge. A quick photo of the dem team and Chris with some of the production team and it was time to repair to the pub.

All of this is in support of Lorraine Kelly and the STV Children's Appeal, as she dons her kilt for what is described as a 24 hour ceilidh extravaganza. Lorraine will be dancing her way around Scotland with the support of her friend Maxine Jones and sponsor Optical Express, to raise money for children living in poverty across Scotland.

The RSCDS is working with STV and Lorraine to encourage groups not only in Scotland, but also internationally, to host their own ceilidh events on the 11 - 12 September to help Scotland's young people – see www.rscds.org/article/stv-appeal for details. London Branch's Opening Season dance on 12 September will feature *Kelly's Kaper* and include a collection for the STV Children's Appeal.

Stephen Webb

See photos pp 10 and 11



Lorraine Kelly (in red kilt) joining *The Dashing White Sergeant*

Volunteers assemble for a London Kaper

"Can you help out with a TV recording?" we were asked. Branch publicity co-ordinator Elaine Davies was organising volunteers to participate in filming for a Scotland TV Children's Appeal, including a new dance by John Wilkinson. We were to meet on the evening of Wednesday 13 May, in a church hall near Victoria Park in Tower Hamlets. Why the unusual venue? I was not to be disappointed as the unexpected answer became apparent – Zumba dancing!

As I came down the steps into the lower hall I was met by an overwhelming sea of white, and everyone else including the film crew and the celebrity were there and virtually ready to get started. We were being asked to dance in T-shirts displaying the charity's name in red and blue proclaiming *Children's Appeal*. As we know, Scottish country dancers can come in all shapes and sizes and I wondered, as we assembled, whether the choice of garment was the most flattering to wear. My T-shirt on, I was ready too!

Chris Oxtoby was playing for us and if anyone was nervous it didn't show as Chris' sublime playing and happy infectious smile was, as always, reflecting the fun of SCD. TV presenter, Lorraine Kelly was joining us and would make the appeal as she and we danced.

We were around 36 in number, line facing line in a round the room formation. Well, to Chris' music, if we danced *The Dashing White Sergeant* once we danced it ten times. But this was merely a practice for the main filming which was to be danced without music, so Lorraine could be heard speaking her lines! The music would be cut in later. After an hour I became aware that the hall was filling up with many other women – yes, it was a Zumba class, Lorraine's regular evening work-out, and it was about to begin. We dancers were then requested to leave by the teacher. A rapid change and off for refreshment. We were not all finished though because after a while six of us were back to the hall to film the new dance.

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Stephen Webb

See photos pp 10 and 11



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1. Lucy Clark Spring Charity Dance, 28 March 2015: Ken and Bar Martlew turning in *Moment of Truth* (see pp 6 and 15).
 2. Dancers from across London, with Chris Oxtoby, accordion, for *Kelly's Kapers*, 13 May 2015 (see p9)
London Branch and highland dancers, London Scottish Regiment HQ, 14 May 2015 (see p4)
 3. From left: Catriona Bennett, Roger Keeling, Elaine Davies, Jeremy Hill, Kathleen Gilbert, Edd Davies, Marian Morris, Andrew Kellett and Anna Twinn.
 4. Dancing *The Clansman*, filmed for the National Army Museum Archives.
Beating Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, 10 June 2015 (see p4)
 5. Catriona Bennett, Chris Twinn, Margaret Catchick and Andrew Kellett dressed up and ready to go.
 6. Marian Morris, Anna Twinn, Arthur Govan and Jamie Walker.
 7. **Chiswick SCD Club Midsummer Magic Open Air Dance, 21 June 2015:** The Mayor of Hounslow, Councillor Nisar Malik, joining in to dance the recently devised dance, *The Borough of Hounslow*, written to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its creation (see *The Reel* 292).
 8. **Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club Evening Garden Dance, Bovingdon, 4 July 2015:** Dancing Ian Boyd's circle reel *The Loch Ness Monster*.
 9. **London Branch DAA class, St Columba's Church, 24 June.** Back, left to right: Simon Wales (teacher), Colin McBride, Jeremy Dent. Front, left to right: Sandra Smith (pianist), Joan Kinnear, Bridget Platt, Margaret Briggs, Jacmel Dent (see p7).



9

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Confucius says - walk it through

Dear Jeremy,

When attendance at our club dance 15 months ago reached a low of 36, we decided that drastic measures needed to be taken. At the time I had been dancing only two years, but was already going to a lot of Saturday dances and I naively suggested that we should advertise the programme as "all dances will be walked through". I knew that most other inexperienced dancers were intimidated by the thought of going to a dance and having to learn a whole programme from scratch. It is not a matter of new dancers being too lazy to do their homework, more that the Confucius saying is very pertinent to Scottish dancing: I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand.

Our autumn dance, with walk-throughs, attracted 48 dancers and our next spring dance brought in 58. Many less experienced and less confident dancers told us that they had been attracted by the reassurance of having a walk-through of each dance. Several more experienced dancers who had stopped attending dances, worried by memory slip-ups, returned to the dance floor. Both categories were grateful that they didn't have to request a walk-through and risk the tuts and groans which might ensue.

Not only did more dancers attend, but very few sat out any of the dances and the inexperienced were more evenly distributed throughout the sets where they could be helped, rather than all congregating in the bottom sets where they had been reluctantly dragged in to make up the numbers. Less time was wasted on trying to make up sets and the anxious mutterings of "how does it go?" were replaced by a happy and relaxed social atmosphere. The average walk-through takes about 45 seconds so we were able to put on a programme of 18 dances, all selected from the most popular amongst Sussex clubs over the previous year.

We were warned that better, more experienced dancers would stay away, put off by the walk-throughs, but there is no evidence that this was the case. If anyone did miss it, we hope they will come next time and enjoy the Hastings SCDC ethos of inclusiveness and a warm welcome - less A-level maths exam and more Party Time!

Maddy Coelho

Five couples in a Four couple set

Dear Jeremy,

It is always nice to be quoted. However, Stephen Webb's letter in the *The Reel* 292 gives the impression that when dancing a three couple dance in a five couple set I approve of the 4th couple remaining in 2nd place as the 5th couple dance. This is totally incorrect. The whole point of my letter (*Scottish Country Dancer*, No. 7 pg 27) was that staying in 2nd place short changes the 2nd couple and allows the 4th couple to dance more than everyone else. To set out the facts once again:

A 3 couple dance danced 8 times provides 24 opportunities to dance. In a 4 couple set, each couple dances 6 times, twice from each position. But 5 does not divide evenly into 24, so ideally 4 couples can dance 5 times and one couple dances only 4. This one couple is the 2nd couple. If 4th couple slips to the bottom, the pattern of who dances where for the 8 times through is as follows, where 1, 2, and 3 are the positions in the dance and X indicates standing out.

Cpl 1	1	1	X	X	X	3	3	2
Cpl 2	2	X	1	1	X	X	X	3
Cpl 3	3	2	2	X	1	1	X	X
Cpl 4	X	3	3	2	2	X	1	X
Cpl 5	X	X	X	3	3	2	2	1

Note that this arrangement is quite balanced.

However, if 4th couple stays in 2nd place, things change. In this event, 2nd couple dances only 3 times out of 8, while 4th couple dances 6 times out of 8! In addition, 1st couple never gets to dance in 3rd position. The pattern is as follows:

Cpl 1	1	1	X	X	X	3	3	3
Cpl 2	2	X	1	1	X	X	X	X
Cpl 3	3	2	2	X	1	1	X	X
Cpl 4	X	3	3	2	2	X	1	2
Cpl 5	X	X	X	3	3	2	2	1

Thus, in the interests of fairness and sociability, could we please return to the practice of 4th couple dancing once in top place and then slipping to the bottom? It's really not very hard to get out of the way! We do it all the time when we dance an encore "once and to the bottom".

Thank you,
Jane Robinson

Ed: Thank you also to several others who wrote on this subject and specific point

Jessie's Hornpipe - A Point of View

Dear Jeremy

If we look in RSCDS Book 8, published in 1932, dance No 9 is *Jessie's Hornpipe*. This dance traditionally ends with a poussette, as did many published in those early books. This dance though begins with a figure of eight danced by 'first couple with first man round second man and third man, first woman round second woman and third woman, who stand still'. The fig shows the figure of eight beginning by first couple passing second couple by the right. This creates awkward transitions for first woman at bars 8-9 and bars 32-1.

Clearly, this problem had been recognised, because when Jean Milligan published Paterson's *101 Scottish Country Dances* in 1956 and reprinted in 1967 this had been changed to '1st couple dance a figure of eight round the 2nd and 3rd couple who stand still. The 1st man begins the reel by giving right shoulder to 2nd man, and 1st lady begins by giving left shoulder to 2nd lady'. And to emphasise as to how this figure of eight is danced a diagram is also given, reproduced to the right.

With the emphasis in dances being on flow, surely we should be dancing *Jessie's Hornpipe* how Jean Milligan had intended it to be danced and not with unnecessarily awkward transitions?

Yours sincerely,
Stephen Webb



Figures of eight, in the more recent publication

Why I am so happy when Scottish Country Dancing

Dear Jeremy

When it comes to happiness there is no universal recipe that one can prescribe another in order to achieve it, but you might be surprised to find out that happiness is studied in some of the most prestigious universities around the world. Take Harvard for example, where the Positive Psychology class, the science behind happiness, has been the most popular class in the history of the university, with more than 1,400 enrolled students in the spring of 2006.

And while you might be surprised that there is a science behind happiness, the fact that people want to know more about it is not that surprising. We not only have the right to pursue happiness, but it is, in fact, our main goal in life. And while our recipes might not include the same ingredients, I feel sure we have at least one that we do, indeed, share. And yes, I am talking about Scottish country dancing!

There are said to be five dimensions that you should consider when it comes to happiness: positive emotions, engagement, relationships, meaning and achievement. SCD just ticks them all! For me, it's all about the joy that comes with the dance, about the fact that my mind stops wandering around and I live the moment, about connecting with my partner and the other couples on the dance floor, about the feeling that this is what I want to do for the rest of my life and about getting through a whole dance with a huge smile upon my face.

I discovered SCD in March 2014. A friend of mine invited me to a 'Scottish evening', and what I thought to be Scotch whisky and kilts turned out to be 'love at first dance'. It was a good old fashioned *Virginia Reel* and while I enjoyed the dance, what really got a hold of me was the energy of the group. This wasn't a regular dance class, but a place where people could put their mind aside for a bit and just enjoy being in each others' company, where not competition, but co-operation came first; where we were not only dance partners, but part of a community. It was in Alina Petrișan's dance studio. It was she who brought SCD to Romania and afterwards convinced me and others to come to London for the fun event that was the Spring Fling 2015 experience.

In our Bucharest class there were about eight of us last year, this year the number has doubled and we are actually hoping that next year it will double again. Because the more of us, the merrier! It is here that it is the place where for a couple of hours we are as one with the music and nothing else seems to be more important than living the moment.

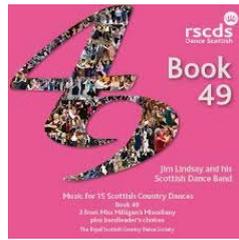
And, be honest with yourself, isn't this what life is really about? Isn't happiness all about living the moment, being grateful, laughing, loving and connecting with the ones next to you? Be sure to be happy next time you go Scottish country dancing!

Oana Brătîlă

NEW RECORDINGS

RSCDS – Music for Book 49 and 3 from Miss Milligan’s Miscellany: Jim Lindsay and his Scottish Dance Band. Book 49 at £9.44 (£8.50 to members) and CD at £14.30 (£13.00 to members) available from London Branch Bookstall; also to download from iTunes and amazon.co.uk at £9.99.

Dances: *Neil M Grant* (8x32J), *Orpington Caledonians* (8x32R), *Midsummer Common* (8x32S), *The First Rain of Spring* (3x32J), *Miss Eleanor* (3x32S), *Waltz, The Ruby Rant* (8x32R), *Round and Roundabout (Rundumadum)* (3x32S), *Flora’s Fancy* (8x32J), *The Library of Birmingham* (4x40S), *John Cass* (5x32J), *MacDonald of Keppoch* (2x32S + 2x32R), *The Countess of Dunmore’s Reel* (8x32R), *Ragtime Pipers*, *Hooper’s Jig* (8x32J), *The British Grenadiers* (8x32R), *Bonnie Geordie’s Wig* (8x32R)



A careful look at the information above will reveal two changes of approach with this latest RSCDS recording: first, it is being made available to download, along with many of the most recent books, either track by track (£0.99) or the whole album; secondly, the album is made up of the 12 dances in Book 49, three dances from Miss Milligan’s Miscellany, and two ‘bandleader’s choices’, in this case a delightful Waltz (by Khachaturian, known to a generation or two largely through the use of Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia from his *Spartacus* as the theme tune for BBC’s *The Onedin Line*), and a band set based on Robert Mathieson’s *Ragtime Pipers*.

Jim Lindsay’s original thinking is evident throughout this recording, from the second tune of the first dance, with Dennis Morrison providing a piano counter-melody and Malcolm Ross’s drum outlining its rhythm on the side of the drum. The presence of two fiddles, in Alison Smith and Gillian Ramsay, alongside David Hume’s second accordion, allows a further range of options for melodies and harmonies resulting in an highly varied and orchestrated approach, all parts getting their moment in the spotlight.

All of this interest for the listener serves to enhance sets of tunes well matched to originals from modern composers as well as the fiddle tradition—Scott Skinner, Mackintosh and Nathaniel Gow—in ideal tempi. Of the Miscellany dances, *Hooper’s Jig*’s Tom Anderson original is followed by three great tunes by Bobby Crowe, and there’s a great arrangement of Johann Strauss’s *Radetsky March* to accompany *The British Grenadiers*. Plenty to enjoy on top of giving access to the new book dances.

The Joy of Sets: James Coutts and his Band. Download from iTunes, amazon.co.uk and other sites from £7.49 or emusic.com (by subscription) or stream on Spotify. For CDs at £10.00 (+ £2.00 P&P) contact James Coutts at 07974 800850.

Dances: *Grand March, Ian Powrie’s Farewell to Auchterarder* (1x128J), *Inverness Country Dance* (8x32R), *S-locomotion* (4x32S), *The Nurseryman* (8x32J), *The Recumbent Stone* (5x48R), *Johnnie Walker* (64S+64J), *The Irish Rover* (8x32R), *Waltz Country Dance* (5x40W), *The Chequered Court* (8x32J), *Mrs Macleod* (8x32R), *Skyte Neuk* (4x32S), *Fisherman’s Reel* (5x32R), *Campbeltown Loch* (4x48J), *Cherrybank Gardens* (3x32S), *The Australian Ladies* (8x32R), *The Bees of Maggieknockater* (4x32J), *The Belle of Bon Accord* (4x32S), *The Montgomerie’s Rant* (8x32R).



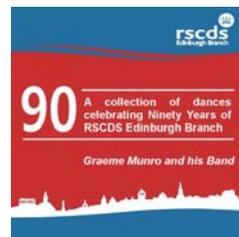
I have thoroughly enjoyed James Coutts’ previous releases, both for dancing and listening, and highly recommend this latest release (once you get past the punning title). With no fiddle on this recording, his own accordion playing comes to the fore, allowing free rein across some fiendish tunes. He creates a matching set of strathspeys for *Skyte Neuk* that he makes sound effortless, though the semi-quavers and triplets would be beyond most players.

There is a really good, solid sound right across the band: Iain Cathcart (second accordion), Graham Berry (piano), Brian Cruickshank (bass), and Ian Adamson (drums). John Caskie provides vocals in traditional style for *The Irish Rover*, though I found it becoming a little relentless by the end of 8x32.

Unlike the two RSCDS recordings in this article, James Coutts plays sets of tunes through and doesn’t return to the original, even for *Ian Powrie*, which I would find odd as a dancer. There are highlights and consistent quality across the entire recording, with many tracks I could single out. *The Montgomerie’s Rant* provides a wonderful up tempo finale, ranging from the traditional *The High Level* by James Hill (no relation) and Alasdair Fraser’s *Tommy’s Tarbukas*. This recording provides some really attractive alternative sets for these popular dances, as well as great listening.

Edinburgh 90th Anniversary: Graeme Munro and his Band. Book (£6) and CD (£12) (or £15 when purchased together), + P&P, are available from the Edinburgh Branch shop via shop@rscdsedinburgh.org

Dances: *Blethering Bleth* (8x32J), *Eric’s Reel* (8x32R), *The Golden Eagle* (8x32S), *Nickie-Tams* (8x32J), *Athens of the North* (8x32S), *A Trip to Edinburgh* (4x32R), *About Time* (8x32J), *The Pink Triangle* (3x32S), *The Ravelston Rant* (8x32R), *Royal Edinburgh* (8x32J), *The Water of Leith* (4x32S), *Comers of Edinburgh* (8x32R), *Ian Powrie’s Farewell to Auchterarder* (1x128J)



Graeme Munro’s recording covers the Edinburgh Branch’s 90th Anniversary Book of dances, with *Ian Powrie* as an extra. The sound is clean, though with less bass than James Coutts or Jim Lindsay. Marie Fielding’s fiddle comes across well alongside Graeme’s lead, with Alastair Wood on second accordion, Shauna Flockhard (keyboard) and Johnny Bridges (drums) providing great support. I particularly enjoyed their strathspey tempo, slower than we hear elsewhere, and particularly *The Water of Leith*.

Jeremy Hill

BOOKSTALL

By the time you read this, the bookstall will have copies of the new book, Book 49, and CD. While the stock has been deliberately reduced in recent sales, many good books and CDs are still on sale, some at bargain prices. Check the Branch website, www.rscdslondon.org.uk or contact Daniel (see below). Look out for the Bookstall at Branch events, such as dances and the day school.

Daniel Capron, bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk at 74B Thurlow Park Road, London SE21 8HY, or on 020 8670 6918.

BANDS

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

THE RED RIVER BAND

We are now taking bookings for Scottish country dancing. Having played at informal ceilidhs, weddings, birthdays and Burns’ Suppers for decades, we’ve started to take on dance programmes for local Scottish dance groups. We’re happy as a three- or four-piece band. Please contact Edward Bunting on edward.bunting@btinternet.com, 020 8883 1703 or 07748 942768.

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

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

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

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Alternatively all subscription options are available at www.rscdslondon.org.uk/shop, where you can also pay by PayPal (see p2).

CLUB AND OTHER NEWS

A Scottish Country Dancing Life in Africa and Asia

Life in a small town in Fifeshire in the early 1930s was very quiet. There was no TV and very few radios (we called them "wireless sets") and only occasional films in the town hall. We were obliged to entertain ourselves.

We were very fortunate in having Mr and Mrs David Shoolbraid's dancing school. Mrs Shoolbraid taught highland and tap dancing and Mr Shoolbraid, who was a friend of Miss Jean Milligan, taught Scottish country dancing. My sister and I were pupils from a very early age. One of my sister's friends was Mr and Mrs Shoolbraid's daughter, Mary, a very accomplished highland dancer who later emigrated to Canada and taught SCD in Vancouver.

The Shoolbraids continued their dancing school throughout WWII and in the late 1940s I was fortunate in being selected to take part in a youth demonstration team to dance in the Royal High School in Edinburgh. I cannot recall the details of the occasion, but I do remember that it was attended by Miss Jean Milligan.

Returning to Leslie after serving two years' National Service, I acted as Master of Ceremonies at the weekly dances of the Leslie Youth Club in the school gymnasium. This led to my being hired as MC at other Saturday night dances in Leslie and in other surrounding villages. These dances were invariably held in church halls or the YMCA where there was no bar, so the venues selected were next to, or across the road from a pub. This meant that, when announcing the next dance, I did so in the hall, and then running across the road (usually in the rain or snow) announced it in the pub. The band at many of these dances was led by Jimmy Shand, whom I got to know well. These dances were not always easy to control. The programme invariably included *Strip the Willow* and at least one *Eightsome Reel*, and some of the younger dancers occasionally became over enthusiastic despite David Shoolbraid's strict tuition. One practice that crept in to *Eightsome Reels* was known as "double birlin". In this, the reels of three were ignored and replaced by some dancers linking arms with their partners and spinning round as fast as possible. Miss Milligan would have been horrified!

In 1953, my banking career took me to Aden where there were weekly SCD practices in the Union Club at Steamer Point. There was also a very enthusiastic demonstration team into which I was quickly involved. I can recall taking part in a most enjoyable *Sixteensome Reel* with its parallel reels of three. Some of our demonstration team practice sessions were held in our leader's flat, and on one occasion, one of the ladies, who was a nursing sister, called off at the last minute due to an emergency at the hospital. Undeterred, our leader announced that the missing lady's place could be taken by his cook!! So Hussain enthusiastically joined in and the practice went ahead.

Transferred to Jinja in Uganda in 1958, I found that there was no SCD. However, the governor of the Jinja prison was Lt Col Jock Irons, recently retired from a Scottish regiment and trained in highland dancing. Together, we formed the Jinja Caledonian Society, with Jock as Chieftain and myself as Secretary. Together we soon started SCD practices and formed a demonstration team. The practices were held in the Jinja Club on the shores of Lake Victoria. The Club was not air-conditioned, and if it was too hot, we danced on the verandah, after checking that there were no wandering hippos

in the vicinity. We also had to check for hippo droppings on the floor of the verandah.

In 1961 I was transferred to Kampala where there was a thriving Caledonian Society and SCD section under the leadership of Mr Alexander Binnie. In October 1962 our demonstration team was invited to take part in the Uganda independence celebrations in the Kampala indoor stadium. As far as I can recall, we danced *Mairi's Wedding*, *The Glasgow Highlanders* and *Macdonald of Sleat*. It was rather nerve-wracking to dance in the middle of such a large open space under spotlights and before an eminent audience.

I was posted to Karachi in 1965 and was immediately invited to take charge of the SCD group that met weekly in the Karachi Boat Club. As the group was comprised mainly of ladies, most demonstrations were by all-female teams. However, on one occasion we managed to find three men who



David Edgar dancing a reel of four (*MacDonald of Sleat*), as part of a demonstration in Aden, 1956.

were reasonably light on their feet and, with six of the ladies, we put on *The Ninesome Reel* as a demonstration dance.

During the next few years in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bombay and Calcutta, my career did not leave much free time for extramural activities. It was not till I was posted to Cyprus in 1972 that I was able for a short while, to do any SCD. On my frequent leaves to this country, I occasionally assisted my sister with her weekly dance practices in Perthshire and accompanied her to the Highland Ball in Blair Castle.

Then, 1982 saw me back in Uganda where the weekly dance sessions were held on the balcony of my house. The British High Commissioner was my next-door neighbour and he frequently took part, occasionally bringing guests with him. It was not unusual to hear the occasional gun shots and machine-gun fire while we were dancing.

After my retirement in 1986, I danced occasionally in Sidcup, Orpington and Chislehurst, but then became involved in local politics and police committees. Last year, at the Llangollen Eisteddfod, I was cajoled into a dance with the Corryvreckan Scottish Country Dance display team, but discovered to my great regret that my dancing days had come to an end.

David Edgar

Robin Ellis Plays into Retirement after 50 years

Orpington and District Caledonian Society's summer dance this year was very special because it marked the 50th Anniversary of Robin Ellis and his Band. The evening was a sell-out, with some dancers making significant journeys to be with us. To mark the occasion Robin provided a seven-piece band, who managed to squeeze onto the stage at Potts Wood Memorial Hall on Saturday 6 June. Robin provided a cake and he and the band were toasted at the end of the meal.

Robin Ellis started his Scottish country dance band in 1965. The Summer Dance celebrates Robin's 50 years of playing for numerous dances and ceilidhs at societies and clubs throughout Kent, most of Europe and even USA. He ran 36 dance holidays abroad from 1987 to 2005. The band played regularly for the summer balls of KASS and Kentish Caledonians.

Robin joined ODCS in 1964 and served on the committee from 1965 to 1972 and 1998 to 2001, being President in 1999/2000. He also ran an Accordion and Fiddle Club from 1996 to 2008, followed by a Luncheon and Ceilidh Club until 2014. This year he published a book of 60 tunes out of the 150 that he has written. Many of them were played at the dance.

Robin's day job was a dental surgeon, mainly at Guy's Hospital, retiring in 1997. Perhaps the pleasure he has given in the evenings to numerous dancers was sub-conscious compensation for the pain that he inflicted during the day!!

Sadly, the dance was Robin's last evening leading his band. We wish Robin and Margaret every happiness together, after their move to Bury St Edmunds in July, as they decide what to do on Saturday evenings. The evening concluded with dancers giving Robin a standing ovation.

Roger Brown

My SCD Reflections – from Ireland and Cambridge via Germany

My very first impressions of Scottish country dancing came in 2012 during a holiday in Ireland. From the first moment I had so much fun dancing in a group with switching partners and was fascinated by all the different dance figures, which can be combined to create easy but also more difficult choreographies. In May 2014 I came across the Scottish dancing group of Tübingen, in Germany, where I study, and started to attend the group regularly. The group mainly consists of a few experienced dancers, who every semester teach together 40 to 50 newcomers in ceilidh dances and the basics of Scottish country dances. Everybody who wants to improve their dancing techniques, learn more difficult dances and maybe attend a ball can join the advanced group, which also meets once a week.

After I decided to take a four-month internship in Cambridge, I started informing myself about different



Scottish dancing groups I could join there. I quickly realized there were many more groups than I could regularly attend. The Cambridge University Strathspey and Reel Club was very similar to my group in Tübingen. Together with some of them we travelled to Exeter attending the Inter-Varsity Folk Dance

Festival, where I got to know more dancing styles like Morris, Rapper Sword, Irish and Playford. Another event was the Oxford and Cambridge Highland Ball, which was the first ball I ever attended.

In the combined beginners and intermediate class, as well as in the advanced class of the RSCDS Cambridge & District Branch in Cambridge, I had the opportunity to learn even more about dancing techniques. Another group was the Cambridge Scottish Society, which unfortunately, I could only join at the end of my stay in Cambridge. One highlight during my stay was their Annual Ball. I was overwhelmed by the people, dances and the whole atmosphere that evening. Furthermore, I liked the challenge to keep up with all the other very good dancers who were there.

Through all these different dancing groups I learned a lot and I hope I can pass it on to more people, who will come to love Scottish country dancing as much as I do.

Silke Malmshiemer



Robin and Margaret Ellis cutting a cake to celebrate retirement after 50 years of leading his band

The Very Model of a Modern Media Strategy!

Fresh thinking at Lucy Clark SCDC has resulted in a new website and great initiatives from the committee and members to increase enjoyment of dancing at this friendly and welcoming club.

While considering the continuing development of the Club, our Committee, chaired by Ann Higginbotham, decided it was time to use a revitalised website to communicate with members, to have a showcase to tell newcomers about dancing at Lucy Clark SCDC, and also to interface with other clubs about dance events in the area. Club members Liz Mitchell and Jan Collings took on the development. Both knew their way around modern software, but website development was a new challenge, with a steep learning curve that they tackled with enthusiasm. The polished website at www.lucyclark.org.uk shows they really got to grips with the challenge. The website was brought from concept to live on the web on time and on budget, something that really pleased Dick Field, our Treasurer.

The brief was to create a website that would reflect the friendly character of the club with a clear layout, easy navigation and good photos of us enjoying dancing. Members' ideas were canvassed in a wide-ranging questionnaire, and these views influenced the website content and were enthusiastically embraced by the committee for implementation in our dance schedule and event programme.

We are unique in being the only club named after someone, so we put Lucy Clark back at the heart of the club and designed a new logo with her tartan weaving through her initials to show the flow of our dancing. Lucy's story and a rare photo of her from the mid 1950's, when the club started, were provided by previous chairman, Archie McNair, and are shown on our 'Origins' page. On the site we talk proudly about our club, welcome new members, give information on dancing and also show a gallery of photos of us enjoying ourselves. We have a hot press News page to keep members and other clubs up to date with events. For wider information we have links to other clubs' websites, and to some suppliers, to help members source dance equipment. Each year we raise funds for local charities and our 'Community' page shows the organisations that have benefited from our generosity. After extensive proofing and testing, we went live

one club night in April and celebrated the launch with a glass of 'bubbly' all round.

Reaction to the new website from the

committee and our members has been overwhelmingly positive and echoed by many compliments received from other clubs.

Initiatives arising from responses to the website questionnaire have been implemented to encourage and include new members. Examples of these are the tuition evenings, easy access to cribs and videos, and social dances to complement our Christmas and charity dance evenings. Gerry Elliott was our guest tutor to lead the first tuition evening, which was attended by 34 new and more experienced dancers all brushing up their knowledge and grace. We now create links for cribs and videos for each of our dance programmes using the really useful SCDDB my.strathspey database, and this is easily accessible via our website 'News' page. We hold a social dance each term with an enjoyable, easy dance programme to enable our less experienced dancers to gain confidence before attending our Christmas and charity dances as well as the invitation dances and balls of other clubs.

Creating the website has been thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding; and we know that the input from members has given a fresh insight into how we can build on our Lucy Clark reputation for friendliness to have even more fun with our Scottish country dancing.

Take a peek at www.lucyclark.org.uk

Liz Mitchell



Scottish Dance Shoes opens new shop

Scottish Dance Shoes has been a supplier of Scottish pumps and ghillies for many years. They have opened a new shop in Wembley, North London where you can now go for a personalised fitting – a great idea for members who want to try before they buy! Styles include the popular ladies' pump, the Lomond and the men's Monarch ghillies. Both styles have foam padding for a more comfortable evening dance. They also sell highland ghillies for any members who also highland dance.

There is the added benefit of a wide shoe shop within the building for members who have wide feet and who might be looking for wide fitting shoes and sandals. The range includes widths up to 6E and they have experience assisting those with foot conditions such as bunions and hammer toes as well as conditions such as diabetes.

The shop is very close to IKEA on the North Circular and Wembley Stadium, and may be found at Scottish Dance Shoes, Antonio Pacelli Building, 14 Hallmark Trading Estate, Fourth Way, Wembley HA9 0LB.

The shop is open from 9.00am - 5.00pm on Monday to Friday, and also from 10.00am - 3.00pm on Saturdays. They also have free parking just outside. You can find more details on their website www.scottishdanceshoes.co.uk and see their advertisement on p20.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BRACKNELL REEL CLUB

Start of Season Dance
Saturday 26 September 2015
7.30 – 11.00pm

The Carnation Hall, Chavey Down Road,
North Ascot, Berks RG42 7PA

Ian Robertson
Tickets £15.00

Including buffet and home-made desserts
For details see www.bracknellreelclub.org.uk
Contact David McQuillan, 01189 793024 or
dance@bracknellreelclub.org.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB



Day School
Sunday 15 November 2015
9.30 – 5.50pm

Abbot's Hill School, Hemel
Hempstead, HP3 8RP

**Teachers: John and Ruby Wilkinson (Duns),
and Catriona Bennett (London)**

**Musicians: Ken Martlew, Barbara Manning
and Chris Walker**

Tickets £22.00 full day
£12.00 half day (am or pm)

Classes for all levels of dancers

Contact Janet Aylward, via

dayschool@berkhamstedreelclub.org

For details of these and other events please visit
our website www.berkhamstedreelclub.org



SOUTH EAST DANCE DIARY

The diary is available through the Branch
website at www.rscdslondon.org.uk
and is regularly updated. If you don't have internet
access and would like a hard copy of the latest
version please send an SAE to Caroline
Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Pinner,
Middlesex HA5 1PW.

All societies in the South East are invited
to submit their functions for inclusion in the
diary by emailing Caroline Hamilton at
diary@rscdslondon.org.uk or by post to the
above address.

CREDITS

Many thanks to all who contributed, including
the following for providing photos for this
edition:

From Elaine Davies: p1, p4, p9 (top),
p10 (5 & 6)

Stephen Webb: p2 (AK),

From Jeremy Hill: p2 (JH)

Various: p3

Ken Martlew: p6

Matt Frost/STV: p9 (bottom), p10 (2)

From Kathleen Gilbert: p11 (3 & 4)

Chris Collings: p10 (1)

Michael Nolan/Chiswick: p10 (7)

Stephen Webb: p11 (8), p15 (SM)

Andrew Kellett: p11 (9), p20

From David Edgar: p14

Roger Brown: p15 (bottom)

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

RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER BRANCH



Autumn Social

Saturday 10 October 2015
7.45 – 10.45pm

St Mark's Church Hall, Farnborough GU14 6TU
Dancing to recorded music
Bring and share refreshments
Contact Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

Christmas Social

Monday 28 December 2015
7.45 – 10.45pm

St Paul's Parish Rooms, Wokingham RG41 1EH
Dancing to recorded music
Bring and share refreshments
Contact Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

Day School

Saturday 12 March 2016

Contact Paul Plummer, 01252 404639

Visit our website on www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE WORKSHOPS

Organised by South East Herts SCDS
Commencing Sunday 27 September 2015
Ware, Hertfordshire

Teacher: Elaine Wilde

Musician: Barbara Manning

RSCDS DAA Intermediate exam (optional) on
Sunday 29 November

Cost £20.00 for SEHSCDS members, £25.00 for
non-members for three workshops
not including exam fees

For full details contact 07842 034890 or

danceforfun@btinternet.com or see

www.sehscottishdance.org/DAA

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB



64th Highland Ball

Saturday 13 February 2016
7.00 for 7.30pm – Midnight

Ashlyns School, Berkhamsted HP4 3AH

Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band

Programme: To be announced (see website)

Tickets £24.00

Including dinner and welcome drink

Contact Dawn Dorman, 01727 853908 or

events@berkhamstedreelclub.org

Tickets also available via website and PayPal

Highland Ball Practice

Saturday 6 February 2016
11.00am – 5:00pm

Potten End Village Hall, Berkhamsted HP4 2QG
£5.00 on the door

Bring a packed lunch

Morning and afternoon coffee & tea provided

www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS



Annual Ball

Saturday 21 November 2015
7.30pm – 11.30pm

Presdales School, Hoe Lane,
Ware, Herts SG12 9NX

Robert Whitehead and Danelaw Band

Tickets £18.00; Spectators & Juniors £9.00

Contact SEHSCDS,

peter@gamels.freemove.co.uk

www.sehscottishdance.org/events

Lucy Clark



Christmas Dance 2015
Saturday 28 November 2015
7.00 – 11.00pm

Prestwood Village Hall, Wycombe Road
Prestwood HP16 0NZ

Craigievar

Programme: General Stuart's Reel, EH3 7AF,
Cuillins of Skye, The Black, Black Oil, Torridon
Lassies, Karin's Strathspey, The Rutland Reel,
The Raven's Dance, Kilkenny Castle, Mr Iain
Stuart Robertson, Kinfauns Castle, Swiss Lassie,
Inchmickery, Dunsinane, The Blackwater Reel,
Glen Mor, Cape Town Wedding, The
Pensioner's Reel, St Andrew's Fair, Duke of
Perth

Tickets £10.00

Bring & Share Supper

Contact Dick Field, 01494 562231 or

Dickandrosief@aol.com

Further information and cribs available on

www.lucyclark.org.uk

THE ADDLESTONE AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Annual Dance

Saturday 21 November 2015
7.30 – 11.30pm

Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road,
Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2NJ

(5 minutes from Junction 11 M25)

The Craigievar Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Good Hearted Glasgow, John of
Bon Accord, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Mrs
Stewart's Jig, Glastonbury Tor, Linnea's
Strathspey, Napier's Index, Scott Meikle, Culla
Bay, The Irish Rover, The Kelloholm Jig,
Polharrow Burn, Orwell Lodge Strathspey,
Torridon Lassies, Anniversary Reel, Gang the
Same Gate, Swiss Lassie, The Belle of Bon
Accord, Follow Me Home, Mairi's Wedding
Extra: The White Heather Jig

Tickets £20.00 including supper, b.y.o.b.

Soft drinks provided - no licensed bar

Contact Keith Goodwin, 01932 228224 or

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

HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball

Saturday 14 November 2015
7.30 – 11.30pm

Brentside High School, Greenford Avenue,
London W7 1JJ

Nicol McLaren & the Glencraig Band

Programme: Scott Meikle, The Gardeners'
Fantasia, A Capital Jig, Fisherman's Reel,
Foxhill Court, Equilibrium, Glastonbury Tor,
Barbara's Strathspey, The Dancing Master, The
Queen's View, Best Set in the Hall, The Dream
Catcher, Nottingham Lace, Midnight Oil, The
Dundee Whaler, J.B. Milne, Ian Powrie's
Farewell to Auchterarder, City of Belfast, The
Black Mountain Reel, James Gray

Tickets £18.00 including buffet

Contact Margaret Wallace, 020 8560 6160 or

margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk

or Mary Barry, 020 8998 0667 or

marybarry36@hotmail.co.uk

Cribs available on www.hayesscottish.org.uk



ST. JOHN'S SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball
Saturday 14 November 2015
7.30 – 11.45pm
Welcome drink 7.00pm for
7.30pm start

Emmbrook School, Wokingham, RG41 1JP

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: St. Andrew's Fair, Castle of Mey, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, The Dancing Master, The Rutland Reel, The Dream Catcher, The Zoologist, The Blooms of Bon Accord, A Summer Meeting, The Saltire Society Reel, The Starry Eyed Lassie, Milton's Welcome, The Braes of Breadalbane, The Ship in Full Sail, The Montgomerie's Rant, S-Locomotion, Major Ian Stewart, The Morrison Measure, The Minister on the Loch, The Reel of The Royal Scots

Tickets £22.00

Soft drinks will be provided – and wine with supper

Contact Sue Davis, 01344 774344,

alan.suedavis@gmail.com

or S.A.E. to 2 Larkwood Drive, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 6RL

Kate Thomson, 0118 986 0681,

thomson.kate@gmail.com

or S.A.E. to 7 Pendred Road, Reading, Berks RG2 8QL

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

Annual Ball

Saturday 6 February 2016

Abbey School, 17 Kendrick Road, Reading, Berks RG1 5DZ

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Tickets £20.00 including welcome drink and supper with a glass of wine

Contact the society, sascd01@gmail.com

www.scottishdancingreading.org

RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

Christmas American Supper Dance

Saturday 12 December 2015

7.00 – 11.00pm

Corfe Mullen Village Hall, BH21 3UA

Strathallan

Tickets £13.00 plus contribution to supper

New Year Afternoon Picnic Dance

Sunday 3 January 2016

2.30 – 6.30pm

Corfe Mullen Village Hall, BH21 3UA

Dancing to recorded music

Tickets £7.00 plus picnic tea

50th Anniversary Ball

Saturday 23 April 2016

Minstead Village Hall, SO43 7FX

Marian Anderson and her

Scottish Dance Band

Tickets £20.00 before 28 February

£25.00 thereafter

Wine Reception & Supper included

Contact Margaret Robson, 01202 698138 or

margaret.brscds@ntlworld.com

MUSIC WORKSHOPS

Interested in playing traditional music for fun?

Twyford Folk Music Workshop meets monthly

Autumn Dates: 2 September, 14 October, 4

November, 2 December 2015

8.00 – 10.00pm

Loddon Hall, Twyford RG10 9JA

The programme is e-mailed before each meeting

so you have "the dots" in front of you

Cost £3.00 per evening

Contact Colin McEwen, 0118 934 0300

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Annual Ball

Saturday 24 October 2015

7.30 – 11.45pm

Headington School, Oxford OX3 7TD

Ample free parking & on the London to Oxford bus route

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Maxwell's Rant, Gaelforce Wind, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, The Triumph, The Wild Geese, 1314, The Ladies of Dunse, James Gray, Sands of Morar, Shiftin' Bobbins, The Roselath Cross, The Trimariner, The Flower of Glasgow, Major Ian Stewart, The Plantation Reel, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Muirland Willie, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, Pelorus Jack, The Deil among the Tailors

Tickets £18.00 (spectators £9.00)

including supper

Contact Trisha Rawlings, 01869 340830 or

trish@rawlings50cc.plus.com

Advance notice:

Burns' Night Supper & Dance

30 January 2016, Benson, OX10 6LZ

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

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



Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 – 10.30pm unless otherwise stated

Saturday 5 September: President's Night

Craigievar (7.00 – 11.00pm)

Saturday 3 October:

Ian Muir (Prestwick)

Saturday 5 December: Christmas Dance

Frank Reid

Programmes and cribs are on our website

www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

For further details, contact Catriona Bennett on

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.

RSCDS YOUTH WORKSHOP OXFORD

Saturday 21 November 2015

10.30am – 4.30pm

Cumnor Village Hall, Leys Rd, Cumnor, Oxfordshire OX2 9QF

Teachers: Raphaëlle Orgeret and Alice Stainer

Musicians: Jeremy Hill and Chris Oxtoby

Advanced and intermediate class levels

Evening dance

7.30pm – 10.30pm

Chris Oxtoby and Jeremy Hill

hosted by RSCDS Oxfordshire Branch

For more information please visit

www.rscds.org/article/young-dancers

CAN YOU HELP?

The Reel is very fortunate in receiving excellent material from a wide range of contributors. The Editor is very grateful for the support of various people in editing, preparation and reviewing to create the issue you see, but could always use more assistance, for example in editing photos. Some technological knowledge would be useful. If you think you might be able to help in some small way, please contact editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

THISTLE CLUB

Day Schools & Dance

Saturday 5 September 2015

10.30am – 4.30pm

Wing Village Hall LU7 0NN

Musicians' Teacher: Jim Lindsay
Dancers' Teacher: Jim Healy with

musician: Ian Robertson

Musicians £17.00 Dancers £14.00

Dance to Jim Lindsay & the Workshop Musicians

7.30 – 10.30pm

Programme: The Australian Ladies, Take Wing, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, The Piper and the Penguin, The Starry Eyed Lassie, Drumelzier, The Bees of Maggieknockater, City of Belfast, Da Rain Dancin', Hooper's Jig, Blooms of Bon Accord, Gang The Same Gate, The Dundee City Police Jig, John of Bon Accord, The Golden Wedding Strathspey, The Fireworks Reel, James Gray, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets £8.00 with bring and share supper

Contact Jan Jones, 07877 153259 or

jange@verybusy.co.uk

www.thistleclub.co.uk

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Autumn Dance

Saturday 24 October 2015

7.00 – 11.00pm

URC Eastcote and Northwood Hills, Eastcote

HA5 2SH

The Silver Cross Band

Tickets £13.00

Contact Gail Bignell, 020 8868 9064 or

gail.bignell@talktalk.net

Annual Ball

Friday 8 January 2016

7.30 – 11.30pm

Allum Hall, Elstree WD6 3PJ

The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Programme in the next issue of *the Reel*

www.harrowscottish.org.uk

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Autumn Dance

Saturday 17 October 2015

7.00 – 11.00pm

Mascalls School, Paddock Wood, Kent

TN12 6LT

Dancing to recorded music

Programme: Maxwell's Rant, EH3 7AF, Cherrybank Gardens, Mairi's Wedding, Best Set in the Hall, The Wind on Loch Fyne, The Montgomerie's Rant, The Bees of Maggieknockater, Gang the same Gate, Joie de Vivre, The Piper and the Penguin, Pelorus Jack, The Dream Catcher, A Trip to Bavaria, Napier's Index, The Silver Grey, Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan, The Wild Geese, The Minister on the Loch, Catch the Wind, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran

Tickets £5.00 plus a plate

For further details visit

www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk/

Date for your Diary:

RSCDS Tunbridge Wells celebrates its 40th

Anniversary year

Saturday 16 April 2016 same venue as above

Strathallan

For more information please visit our website

ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP
Argyll Weekend
Friday 2 – Sunday 4 October 2015
Dillington House, Somerset
Dancers' Weekend School
Teachers: Muriel Johnstone and Duncan Brown
Musicians: Robert Mackay and Judith Muir



Musicians' Weekend School
Led by Ian Muir
For booking contact: Dillington House,
Ilminster, Somerset TA19 9DT or 01460 258613
For further information and brochure:
dillington@somerset.gov.uk or
www.dillington.co.uk
www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Formal Dance
Saturday 21 November 2015
7.30 – 11.00pm
Reigate School, Pendleton Road, Reigate,
RH2 7NT
The Dewhurst Band
Programme: Ways in New Hall, Pelorus Jack,
The Gentleman, Polharrow Burn, The
Chequered Court, The Dream Catcher, Inverneill
House, The White Heather Jig, Gang the Same
Gate, The Singing Sands, The Meeting of the
Waters, The Zoologist, The Blue Mess Jacket,
The Australian Ladies, The Dancing Master,
The Rose of the North, Postie's Jig, Mairi's
Wedding
Tickets £17.00 including buffet supper
Contact Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or
wmitton517@btinternet.com

RSCDS BRISTOL
Musicians' Day School
Saturday 14 November 2015
9.30am registration and coffee
10.15am - 4.30pm tuition
Course Tutor: Ian Robertson
Cost £25.00

The purpose of the day is to explore the techniques that make a good SCD musician. The three principle country dance rhythms jig, reel and strathspey) will be explored in detail. We will also look at areas including choice of tune, harmony and use of ornaments.

Participants should be competent on their instruments – indicative standard Grade 4. The focus will be on fiddle, accordion, keyboard, double bass, but other melody instruments, such as flute, will also be welcome. Drummers are asked to bring only snare drum and hi-hat. The exact flow of the day will depend to a degree on the ability and experience of participants.

All participants will have the opportunity to join the band for the evening dance. We will use the sets of tunes for the evening dance as the basis for the day's tuition.

Course Tutor Ian Robertson is an accomplished musician, equally at home on the fiddle and accordion. He plays regularly for Scottish country dances, ceilidhs and concerts throughout the UK, as well as regular overseas engagements. Ian has taught musicians' day schools for many years and believes passionately that the best dance musicians combine style and technical ability. He also had a highly successful band called Sound Company.

Please see www.RSCDSbristol.info for more details and an application form, or contact Peter Wright, 01761 462874 or peterwri@mac.com

RSCDS CROYDON AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Annual Weekend School at Eastbourne
Friday 13 – Sunday 15 November 2015
3.00pm Friday – 12.30pm Sunday
Cumberland Hotel, Grand Parade, Eastbourne,
BN21 3YT
(Opposite the bandstand, overlooking the sea)
Parking will be on street at nominal charge for hotel guests

Teacher: Mervyn Short

£124.00 for Branch members,
£129.00 for non-members,

(single room supplement of £4.00 per person)
This covers dinner, bed & breakfast for two nights, drinks reception before dinner on Friday night, all four morning classes, tea/coffee both mornings, both evening dances and all staff gratuities

Travel & cancellation insurance are NOT included

Application form and cheque, made payable to RSCDS Croydon & District Branch for the full amount, will be accepted by our Treasurer

Contact Mrs Mary Courtney, 82 Ridge Langley,
South Croydon CR2 0AR, until Sunday
18 October 2015

For online application and payment please email
maryc285@gmail.com for details

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Annual Ball
Saturday 20 February 2016
The Frank Thomson Duo
Full details in the next issue of *the Reel*
also on our website in the autumn
www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB. Dancing most Mondays, 8–10.15pm, Sept–June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details: Morag Liddell, 38 The Holt, Abingdon, OX14 2DR, moragian@sky.com or www.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.addlestonscottish.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, Gorbamby, St Albans, Herts AL3 6AR, 01727 853908 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, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church Hall, Frimley, GU16 7AA. Teacher: Mervyn Short. Details: Paul Plummer, 01252 404639 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 7–10pm. 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 advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details: Rod Burrows, 01903 783053 or chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk or www.rscds-brighton.org.uk

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

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 8pm at St Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Janette Walton, 32 Moulsham Lane, Yateley, Hants GU46 7QY, 01252 875511

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for all grades. Details: Lindsey Ibbotson, 07977905291 or lindsey.ibbotson@gmail.com

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

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

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 mbsteale1945@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: Heather Nolan, 01784 256549 or secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk

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

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

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

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

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8pm, Sept–end of April at 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: Morna Partridge, 01252 711992 or morna.partridge@btinternet.com or fleet.rscds-bhs.org.uk

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays from Sept–June. Beginners 7.30pm, General 8.15pm. Details: Celia Stuart-Lee, 01753 884217 or info@gxscottish.org.uk or www.gxscottish.org.uk

GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8–

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- 10.30pm. Details: Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF, 0203 078 0018
- GUILDFORD SCDC meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford, GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8pm from Sept–June. Details: 01483 456091 or www.gsdc.org.uk
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Tuesdays Sept–June from 8–10pm in The Parlour, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF, 020 8870 6131
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday at 8pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8pm. Details: Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts AL3 5RE, 01727 863870
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Classes Wednesdays 8.15–10.15pm, St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details: Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner, HA5 3QR, 020 8428 6055 or www.harrowscottish.org.uk
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Fridays 8–10pm, Sept–July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, 020 8560 6160
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB. Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30–11pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 0208 440 3236 or margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS meet Wednesdays Sept–June at Holy Trinity & St John's C. of E. Primary School, St John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7–8pm. General 8–10pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent, 01843 869284
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP. Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinity, ;;;; JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or icchanjoy@gmail.com Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@gmail.com or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB meets regularly at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: adverts in *The Reel*, Catriona Bennett, 33 Pains Close, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1BY, cm84scd@gmail.com or 020 8286 8424 or www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB meets Thursdays 8pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL, 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday 8pm at St 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
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB meets every Monday evening from September – June at 8.15–10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details: Mrs Jane Whittington, 5 Coldharbour Rd., Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AE, 01474 359018
- MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS. Mixed ability class Mondays 8–10pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5LP, 01908 378730 or jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB. Dancing most Wednesdays during school term, 8.15–10.15pm from Sept–May at St Thomas' Church Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, SG6 4DZ. Informal Saturday dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds SG17 5AL or 01462 812691
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dancing 7.45–10pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 9JN, 01634 254451
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday 8–10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners/Improvers' Class every Monday 8–10.15pm at St Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. 'Young at Heart' class on Mondays 2–4 pm at St. Johns Church Hall, Lynwood Grove, Orpington BR6 0B Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or hadyndavies@gmail.com
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS. Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET, 01869 340830
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY. Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading, RG1 5BD from 8–10pm, Sept–May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st & 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Carole Menzies 0118 942 3717 or sascd1@gmail.com or www.scottishdancingreading.org
- REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets most Mondays 8.15–10.15pm, Sept–May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8pm from mid Sept. to end of May. Details: 020 8943 3773 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP. Dancing Tues 8pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Scottish country dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15–10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns' Nights when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Details: Denise Haugh, 020 8392 2920 or dhaugh200@btinternet.com or www.stcolumbasdancers.org
- ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM meet every Thurs 8–10.15pm Sept–June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Sue Davis 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne, 01344 774344 or alan.suedavis@gmail.com Also Children's Class Sats 9.30–11am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT hold weekly classes for all levels of dancers on Monday evenings from 7.30–9.30pm at Collingwood School, Springfield Road, Wallington, SM6 0BD. Details: Maggie Westley, 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157, or westley.maggie14@gmail.com
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB meets every Tuesday from Sept–May, 8–10pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Mrs Josephine Ellis. 26 Byng Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8EJ or josephine@ellismp.plus.com
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday from Sept–May, 8.15–10.15pm, in Barnes. Details: Sheena Clarke, 07954 350899
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Wednesdays from 8–10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin, 48 Eastbrook Road, Blackheath SE3 8BT, 020 8856 4522
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing at St Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30–10pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Fridays, 7.30–10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30–9pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808 or grahameaston@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. Details: Ian, 07842 034890 or sehscds@hotmail.com or www.sehscottishdance.org/news. For Demonstration class contact Anne Nutt 01992 550923
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday at 8pm from Sept–June at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY or www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS. Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8–10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8–10pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9AL, Details: George Daly, 1 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5UE, 01892 534512 or www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY. General and Beginners'/Improvers' Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey, WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8–10pm. Details: Stuart Krelhoff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford, WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Wednesdays 8–10pm Sept–June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or welwyn.scdc.uwclub.net
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dance Class Mondays 8pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW, 0208 866 2378 or info@wdsa.co.uk
- WIMBLEDON. St Andrew Society (London): Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8pm at Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1SB. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3JB, 020 8540 1755 or araffan@googlemail.com or www.standrewsoclondon.net/ne.net
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS. Classes Tuesdays 8–10pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8–10pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ, 01264 363293 or wendy@mumford.com
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Wednesday 8–10pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Alex Daniel, 01621 855548 or alexsdaniel@aol.com



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RSCDS London Branch organised Open Air Dancing again over the summer for 8, 15 and 22 August in Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park, attracting many to come to join in the dancing, many for the first time.

The photo above shows general dancing of *The Dashing White Sergeant*, on 8 August, when dancers from the Berkhamsted Strathspey & Reel Club and friends provided a demonstration, music was provided by Kafoozalum (on the bandstand), and Neil Esslemont played the pipes. London Branch members provided demonstrations on 15 August and (weather permitting at the time of writing) 22 August.

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