



The Reel

rscds
London Branch

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Issue 303

MARCH TO MAY 2018

Scottish country dancing—
For fun, fitness and
friendship



From left: Jerry Reinstein, Branch President Rachel Wilton, Danielle Reinstein, RSCDS Chairman Helen Russell and Society Chairman Elect, Andrew Kellett at the RSCDS AGM, (4 November 2017).



'And gie's a hand o' thine!' London Branch welcomes 170 enthusiastic dancers to their annual Burns' Supper and Ceilidh Dance, (13 January 2018).

Forthcoming Branch Dances

Summer Wednesday Dance

Wednesday 30 May 2018

7.00 - 10.00pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street
SW1X 0BD

Sandra Smith and Christina Hood

EH3 7AF	8x32 J
Festival Interceltique	5x40 R
Invercauld's Reel	8x32 S
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	5x32 R
The Starry Eyed Lassie	8x32 J
Fair Donald	8x32 S
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh	8x40 R
Pelorus Jack	8x32 J
Hello-Goodbye	8x32 S
The Craven Twelvesome	4x32 R
Joie de Vivre	8x32 J
Silver Roses	4x40 M
Inchmickery	5x32 J
The Deil amang the Tailors	8x32 R

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

All dances will be recapped/walked through

Crib available at www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Combined Societies' Dance

Saturday 24 March 2018

End of Season Dance

Saturday 9 June 2018

See [p4](#) for details of these and other dances

Also in this issue...

Branch classes update

The opportunity to improve your dancing with
teaching to live music - classes from Beginner
level to Advanced (see [p5](#))

On the Music Matters pages

Do you know the difference between Scottish
and Irish Jigs? Read Edward Bunting's article to
learn more. And a CD review by Chris Walker
(see [p7](#))

The Scottish Dancing Legacy of Hugh Foss In the second of his
articles Adrian Conrad continues telling us about the man and his dances (see [p8](#))

Around the Clubs The Marhamchurch Scottish Dancers annual weekend school in Bude
and South East Herts SCDS celebrate their diamond jubilee year (see [p9](#))

Letters to The Reel Answers to the Christmas quiz and guest, William Williamson,
has his say in the "In My Opinion" column (see [p14](#))

Lives Remembered John Reeve, John Sturrock and Mina Corson (see [p16](#))



'His knife see Rustic-labour dight' with dramatic
emphasis Ian Rutherford addresses a haggis at
St Columba's Dancers Burns' Night Dance,
(22 January 2018).

Chairman's Column by Margaret Catchick



Time flies and it is hard to believe that we are now well into another year. Although the number of dancers attending the Christmas Dance was not as high as last year, the evening was still a success with those attending being treated to some wonderful festive music from Ian Robertson and his Scottish Country Dance Band with Margaret Shaw and her team, as always, treating us to a superb buffet. We were also pleased to welcome visitors from Los Angeles and Toronto who helped us celebrate what was an excellent end to 2017.

The Branch Burns' Night Ceilidh was an outstanding success with 170 dancers enjoying the delicious traditional supper provided by Margaret Shaw and her hard-working helpers with superb music provided by the Caledonian Reelers. A great evening enjoyed by all those who attended.

Unfortunately our classes, with some exceptions, have not been so well attended. This is disappointing not only for the Committee, who put a lot of effort into organising and running them, but also for the teachers and musicians who work hard to make them an enjoyable and beneficial experience. So please do come along and support the classes - you will not only benefit and improve your dancing but will also have fun and make new friends in the process. We have now had three taster sessions of the Family Class at three different venues. The last venue, at Fresh Ground in Battersea Rise, was an excellent one and proved the most successful. The Committee is now looking at progressing this further.

The Branch AGM is on 9 June (see below). Further details of the AGM and our plans for next year will appear in the next issue of *The Reel*. If you think you may be able to help with various aspects of the running of the Branch without necessarily being on the Committee, please get in touch with me or a member of the Committee. My contact details are shown on the right hand side. If we are to continue to provide our membership in the future with the varied programme of activities we currently provide, we will need people to step forward and help in making things happen.

Whether or not you are on the Committee we are all representatives of the Branch and the Society. Encouraging people to attend our events, a friendly welcome on the dance floor, and renewing your membership are all ways of ensuring the future of the Branch and Scottish country dancing in London. Without members we would not exist so please renew your membership if it is due for renewal and encourage others to join and reap the benefits of belonging to such a wonderful worldwide organisation. With what other organisation can you go on holiday on the other side of the world, take your dancing shoes with you, and be made welcome!

There is much to look forward to in the coming months with a full programme of classes and dances. I look forward to seeing you on the dance floor.

London Branch AGM 9 June 2018

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held on Saturday 9 June 2018 at 6.45 pm in the Upper Hall at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London, SW1X 0BD. It will be followed by our End of Season Dance. Members and friends of the Branch are invited to attend both events but only members may vote at the AGM. If you cannot get to the meeting we will still be pleased to see you at the dance.

The meeting usually lasts about 45 minutes. You will learn about the work of the Branch and our plans for the future. The Committee welcomes your comments and opinions, either through a formal motion, which must be received in writing by the Branch Secretary by 31 March 2018, or during general discussion at the meeting. The motion should be signed by the proposer and seconder both of whom must be members of the Branch. Only motions submitted in advance and appearing on the Agenda can be voted upon. An agenda for the meeting and a report covering the Branch's activities will be circulated with *Reel* 304.

Members are also encouraged to stand for election as an office holder or Committee member. Nominees should provide the Secretary with a written nomination by

31 March signed by the nominee, a proposer and a seconder, all of whom must be Branch members. There are nine positions in total on the Committee (Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and six ordinary members). If there are more candidates than places, ballot papers will be issued to all Branch members with *Reel* 304. It is also possible to help with various aspects of the running of the Branch without necessarily being on the Committee. We hope that members will either step forward and join the Committee or help contribute to its work thereby ensuring the future of Scottish Country Dancing in the London area and further afield.

The current officers and members of the Committee, with the dates when they joined or last re-joined the Committee, are shown below. All current members are eligible, if they wish, to stand for re-election at the AGM.

Chairman: Margaret Catchick (2013)
Secretary: Joanne Lawrence (2017)
Treasurer: Simon Wales (2003)
Elaine Davies (2009), Jenny Kendrick (2015), George Potts (2009), Jerry Reinstein (2009), Thelma-Jane Robb (2011), and Margaret Shaw (2007)

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ROYAL
SCOTTISH
COUNTRY
DANCE
SOCIETY



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Chairman: Helen Russell

Chairman Elect: Andrew Kellett

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Dances..... Margaret Shaw
Publicity Elaine Davies
Youth Elaine Davies

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Hon. Archivist..... Rachel Wilton
Membership Gaynor Curtis
The Reel Editorial Team ... Edward Bunting
..... Daniel Capron, Katy Sweetman
..... Ian Thomson, Meryl Thomson
..... Stephen Webb
The Reel Business Editor Jeff Robertson
Subscribers Maggie Westley
Webmaster Meryl Thomson

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.

www.rscdslondon.org.uk



www.facebook.com/RSCDSLONDON



@LondonRSCDS



Membership

London Branch membership benefits include reduced rates at Branch classes, dances and events, and receiving *The Reel*, while RSCDS membership includes the biannual publication, *Scottish Country Dancer*, and 10% discounts on items from the RSCDS shop. Membership may be purchased via the Branch website www.rscdslondon.org.uk using PayPal or by cheque payable to RSCDS London Branch. See full details on website. Membership enquiries and cheque payments should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989, email: membership@rscdslondon.org.uk

The current rates for RSCDS membership through the London Branch are as follows:

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

Christmas Dance Report - Three Views of the Same



Quelle belle soirée! - by Danielle Reinstein

In December beautiful ladies and smart gentlemen gathered in St Columba's Church for a joyous London Branch Christmas Dance. What a treat it was! Not only was there superb music by Ian Robertson and his SCD Band but we had the added pleasure of two delightful songs by his talented son Tom. The two MCs Rachel Wilton and Lindsey Jane Rousseau were, as usual, clear, precise and guided us expertly through a lively programme. Last but not least there was the display of food - I'll refrain from saying "oh la la" - but it was just amazing!

The Greatest Pleasure - by Lynton McLain

It was with the greatest pleasure that I returned to an RSCDS London Branch dance in December, the Christmas Dance at St Columba's Church, and what a wonderful evening it was. I would like to record my appreciation of the efforts by those who planned the evening, and those who put in such a lot of work providing food and making us all welcome. Thank you. There is a great civility about the RSCDS, its voluntary office holders and those who go to great lengths to make sure we have a good evening. I would like to say thank you to Rachel, Lindsey, Margaret and Peter, George, Thelma, Lena and all those in the kitchen who made a fabulous spread of delicious food for us to enjoy. The trio of Ian Robertson was terrific. The musicians played with knowing emphasis and gave us the oomph to dance with grace and vigour; their individual contributions made the music a pleasure to listen and dance to. Also, see Lynton's linking letter on p14.

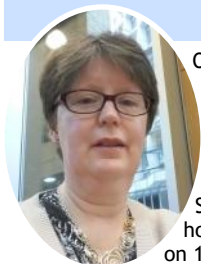
Is this the Future, I thought? - by Stephen Webb

A very nice evening greeted and departed us on 16 December with Ian Robertson and his SCD Band interspersing delightfully arranged Christmas songs and carols with his playing of the more traditional Scottish tunes to an inventive programme whose joint themes of advance and retire and two-couple dances proved challenging in different ways at times. The highlight of the evening was surely young Tom Robertson on drums singing along with two of the Christmas tunes, *Winter Wonderland* and *Santa Baby*. Is this the future of SCD I thought, as I danced

along? It certainly was greeted with appreciative applause from the floor by the guests. At the dance, where nearly everyone was suitably and festively attired, we had the pleasure of greeting and welcoming overseas visitors from RSCDS Branches of Toronto and Los Angeles.

Burns' Ceilidh: 'Youth returns to Pont Street!'

by Marjory Reid



On 13 January, youth returned to Pont Street for one evening only! And what an evening it was! A sea of new faces descended on Pont Street to join the ceilidh hosted by London Branch on 13 January to celebrate the memory of Robert Burns. I

think Burns would have been chuffed to see so many people having a wonderful evening ceilidh dancing to the music of the Caledonian Reelers. The enthusiasm of the dancers was infectious and created a very busy dance floor with everyone having a good time.

We were given an opportunity to get our breath back at the interval when Iain Farrell piped in a haggis and Ian Rutherford gave the address. We all enjoyed a delicious haggis, neeps and tatties supper courtesy of Margaret Shaw and her catering team. A big thank you goes to all for the amazing job they do.

It was back on the dance floor for an equally enthusiastic second session. All too soon Peter Knight (MC) announced the last dance. I brought along seven non-dancing friends and they are all looking forward to the next ceilidh. As with previous years, we expect similar numbers next year which hopefully will include even more London Branch members.



News from RSCDS HQ

by Daniel Capron



Strategy

At the Open Forum in Perth prior to the RSCDS AGM in November, Chairman Elect Andrew Kellett gave a brief update on the Strategic Plan. He highlighted that about 50 Branches had grown their membership over the last five years, and encouraged them to share the reasons for their success so other Branches could benefit. Representatives from a dozen Branches spoke, offering ideas for attracting new dancers and recruiting members. HQ will be spreading news about these and other success stories through the website, the magazine and emails.

In the meantime HQ has set up the Branch and Group Leaders Facebook group as a great way for Branches to share ideas, and will be experimenting with the GroupSpaces email network as another way for Branches to stay in touch with each other.

Spring Fling at Glasgow 20-22 April 2018

Spring Fling is an annual event for those aged 12-35. Residents will stay in the centrally located Glasgow Youth Hostel, classes will take place in nearby Hillhead High School, and there will be evening dances in the beautiful surroundings of the city's Kelvin Hall. The band for Friday's dance is the Susan MacFadyen Scottish Dance Band; the band for Saturday night is the Màrtainn Skene Scottish Dance Band.

As a special 'add-on' for Spring Fling 2018, there will be a ceilidh, with a live ceilidh band, in the atmospheric Oran Mhor, also centrally located, on the Sunday of the Spring Fling 2018 weekend. Book separately to join the ceilidh.

For details and booking visit www.rscds.org/article/spring-fling-2018

The RSCDS Summer School 2018 is open for booking. It takes place at St Andrews from 15 July to 12 August. For more details, and to book, see www.rscds.org

News from HQ is also available in *Scottish Country Dancer*, in regular emails from HQ to members and on the website www.rscds.org



Left: Putting a face to the name - Chris Milne, the new RSCDS Executive Officer. (See also News in *Reel* 302 p16.)

London Branch Dances and Classes

End of Season Dance

Following the Branch AGM

Saturday 9 June 2018

AGM 6.45 - 7.30pm

Dance 7.30 - 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.15pm

Upper Hall, St Columba's Church,
Pont Street SW1X 0BD
Calum Mitchell

Joie de Vivre 8x32 J
Summer Wooing 8x32 R
Lammermuir Hills..... 8x32 S
Links with St Petersburg..... 8x32 J
Summer Assembly 1x88 R
The Middleton Medley 8x32 M
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.....
..... 8x40 R

The Machine without Horses..... 8x32 J
Bohemian Reflections..... 8x32 R
The Haar on Skye..... 8x32 S
EH3 7AF 8x32 J
Glastonbury Tor..... 8x32 R
Scotch Mist 5x32 S
Quarries' Jig..... 8x32 J
The Highlandman kissed his Mother
..... 8x32 R

Admission includes light refreshments
RSCDS members £13, Non-members £16
Full time students (with card) and
spectators £7. All children (under 16) free
All tickets to be purchased (cash only)
on the door.
All dances will be recapped/walked through
Crib available at www.rscdslondon.org.uk

RSCDS London Dances 2018-2019 season

The following dance dates are confirmed
for next season. Events take place at
St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London
SW1X 0BD apart from the Day School.

2018
22 September Opening Season Dance
Craigellachie

20 October Day School Evening Dance
(venue TBC) **Ian Robertson
and Day School Musicians**

24 October Autumn Wednesday Dance

15 December Christmas Dance
David Hall and his Band

2019
12 January Burns' Ceilidh Dance
Caledonian Reelers

20 February Winter Wednesday Dance

30 March Combined Societies Dance

29 May Summer Wednesday

8 June AGM Dance

For details of all our events please visit
www.rscdslondon.org.uk

As you see, we have changed from using
book references in our Branch dance
notices to a new format of eg 8x32 J. Do
you prefer this, or did you like the old
method of citing the dance book
references?

Let us know at editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

We can help you afford it

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

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

London Branch also has funds to support any
event promoting Scottish country dancing
among young people in the London area. We
are a charity and want to help you improve
your skills and enjoyment of SCD, and to
support you in passing on your enthusiasm
and knowledge to the next generation. This
fund increased in 2016 thanks to a generous
donation following the closure of the
Waverley Scottish Country Dance Club, for
which London Branch is very grateful.

Combined Societies' Dance

Hosted by St Columba's Dancers

Saturday 24 March 2018

6.45 for 7.00 - 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street
SW1X 0BD

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Hooper's Jig 8x32 J
The Gardeners' Fantasia..... 3x32 S
Mairi's Wedding 8x40 R
New Year Jig..... 8x32 J
The Gentleman..... 8x32 S
Bratach Bana 8x32 R
Inchmickery 5x32 J
Mrs Milne of Kinneff 4x32 S
The Reel of The Royal Scots 8x32 R
Bill Clement MBE..... 8x32 J

The Kelloholm Jig..... 8x32 J
The Piper and the Penguin 1x88 R
Miss Eleanor 3x32 S
Napier's Index 8x40 J
Round Reel of Eight 1x88 R
Ship o' Grace 4x40 S
The Starry Eyed Lassie 8x32 J
The Lochalsh Reel 8x40 R
Major Ian Stewart..... 8x32 J
The Montgomeries' Rant..... 8x32 R

Tickets £12 on the door, including
refreshments.

Dances will be recapped on request.

Contact: Valerie Strachan 020 8693 5335
or valeriestrachan@btinternet.com
For crib see www.stcolumbasdancers.org/diary.html

Cribsheets for Branch Dances by Meryl Thomson

Branch Website Links

Following a number of requests we now offer
two choices of cribsheet for Branch Dances
via our website:

1. PDF file with MiniCrib and Keith Rose
diagrams.
2. Link to a dance list on the Scottish
Country Dance Database (SCDDDB) website
which allows a choice of different styles
of cribsheet and videos of the dances.

Links to these options are provided on each
individual dance event page on the website.

Using the Scottish Country Dance Database

The SCDDDB is run by Anselm Lingnau and aims
to be a comprehensive resource for Scottish
country dancers, dance teachers and
musicians.

We create a dance list on this database for
each Branch dance event. From the list one
can view and download cribs and diagrams,
and view videos, information on recordings
etc. The SCDDDB has cribs from multiple
sources, mainly 'MiniCrib' from the system
run by Charles Upton and his successors and
also 'E-cribs' from Eric Ferguson.

My.strathspey Accounts

Creating an account is easy, free of charge
and makes various things in connection with
the SCDDDB become more convenient (or
indeed possible, such as creating dance lists
or collections).

Currently, by default, when cribs are viewed
for a dance list, the E-cribs are shown where
available. However, with an account one can
choose which cribs are displayed by default.
The same applies to diagrams.

To change the defaults, in your profile under
the 'Database' tab, click and drag your
preferred crib source to the top. In future,
when logged in, the preferred cribs will be
displayed where available. Remember that
all the available cribs and diagrams for any
individual dance can be viewed online simply
by selecting that dance from the list.

The dance database can be accessed at
my.strathspey.org/dd

Do you find our crib sheets useful? Which do
you use? Let us know at
editor@rscdslondon.org.uk



Very Advanced Scottish Dance Class

A special class on Sunday 22 April in central London for the very advanced
dancer with expert tuition from **Mervyn Short**.

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

Seize the opportunity to polish your dancing technique!

South East Dance Diary

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

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



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

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

Park Walk Primary School

Park Walk, London SW10 0AY

Wednesdays 7.00 - 9.00pm during term time

Last class of Spring term is 28 March (Classes Easter party) with teacher **Jane Rose** and musician **Ian Robertson**

Summer term is 25 April - 23 May

Summer General Classes: 6, 13, 20 June

Please check www.rscdslondon.org.uk for details of teachers and musicians.

Beginners and Improvers

with teacher **Jane Rose**

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

Intermediate

with teacher **TBC**

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

Advanced

with teachers **Deborah McLachlan** and **Lindsey Jane Rousseau** on alternate weeks and **Maureen Campbell** (one class)

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

Musicians: **Ian Cutts**, **Ian Robertson**, **Sandra Smith**

Class fee: £9 per night for RSCDS members, £10 per night for Non-members

Underground: South Kensington, Sloane Square.

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

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

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

Contact: Jenny - classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

St Columba's Church

Upper Hall, Pont St, London SW1X 0BD

Wednesdays 2.30 - 4.30pm during term time

Last class of Spring term is 21 March

Summer term is 25 April - 27 June with half term 30 May

Mixed Ability

with teacher **Jeni Rutherford**

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

Class fee: £7 per class to recorded music

For further information contact Jeni at jrutherford@freeuk.com

Underground: Knightsbridge, Sloane Square.

Buses: 19, 22, 137, 452, C1

Richmond

Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RT

Wednesdays 7.30 - 10.00pm during term time (beginners 7.30 - 9.00pm, improvers 8.00 - 10.00pm)

Last night of Spring term is 28 March (Class Spring party)

Summer term is 25 April - 27 June with half term 30 May

Beginners and Improvers

with teacher **Judith Jones**

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

Class fee: £6 per class to recorded music

Underground/Train: Richmond.

Buses: 65, 190, 371, 391, 419, 490, 493

Coram's Fields

Band Hall, 93 Guilford St, London WC1N 1DN

Sunday 22 April 2018 11.00am - 1.00pm

Very Advanced

with teacher **Mervyn Short** and musicians **Ian and Meryl Thomson**

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

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

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

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

Representing the Branch

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

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

Student Central

Malet St, WC1E 7HY

The University class will be running taster sessions this term, at various times and in various venues. To find out when and where the class will be, please contact the Youth Coordinator (see below).

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

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

Families in London Dance Scottish

ON TO FRESH GROUND...

After disappointing turnouts at earlier family dance taster classes north of the river, we moved south - and Clapham Junction hit the spot. On 20 January three families had a fun time dancing Scottish at a wonderful new venue called Fresh Ground in Battersea Rise.

We hope to continue holding family classes at this new venue so keep an eye on the [Branch website](#) or [Families in London Dance Scottish Facebook page](#) for future family dance class dates.



Jigs Across the Sea by Edward Bunting

It has fallen to me to become an apprentice in Scottish dance music, having been one in Irish music for a long time. I have crossed a border, leaving behind the folk ethic of my English ceilidh band. SCD music is a polished and highly coordinated genre, dedicated as it is to the purposes of the dance. It requires a degree of finish and professional knowhow that somehow sets it apart from folk music; and yet its special charm comes from the Scottish countryside, and the love of Scotland, which points to a deep relationship with folk music.

I get asked, "What is the difference between Scottish and Irish jigs?" but I have no quick answer. One thing I can say, there is less of a difference in the jigs than in the reels. In my ceilidh band's tune book we have a section

for jigs, of all ethnic connections including a good dozen Irish ones. Reels on the other hand fill three sections: Scottish, English and American. There is no section for Irish reels; the band does not seem to like them. Irish traditional music has a very deep longing for otherness, a wish which it often fulfils; and while there is a wish for otherness in all Scottish music too, it doesn't run so deep and it is less often apparent. That is my personal view, it's not something I've read or heard and others may disagree. To put it another way, one might say that in Scottish music there is more of an open door to classical playing; and in Irish music, less. To follow out this observation in my own instrument, in Irish fiddle playing three things are very far removed from classical playing: the ornaments, the use of the bow

and the quality of tone sought after. In the

Scottish fiddle these aspects are distinct from classical style, but the tradition entertains a respect for classical technique and playing. The Irish fiddle goes out of its way to sound as non-classical as possible. One sees the difference as well as hearing it: Irish fiddlers play from memory and one does not often see them with a music stand; while Scottish fiddlers are obliged to use sheet music to maintain what is perhaps a more comprehensive repertoire.



Wha Can Help It

Niel Gow



The Gold Ring

Trad.



A jig is a dance tune made up of sets of three notes called triplets. A typical jig has a two-beat rhythm, each beat being the start of a triplet, giving a time signature of 6/8. There are many thousands of jigs and they fall into two categories. Many are 'double jigs', following out the triplet pattern so faithfully that all six notes in the bar can be heard. On the other hand there are also many 'single jigs' where not every triplet is articulated as three separate notes. Here and there two or three of them combine into one longer note. This might be a crotchet or a dotted one, but it never exceeds the length of the bar, so the two-beat rhythm of the jig is maintained.

Continued on p7...

Celebrating our Musicians!

Some of the hard-working musicians whose music adds to the success of any dance.



Left: Caledonian Reelers - line-up from left Mary Felgate, Derek Chappell and Fred Felgate, who played for the London Branch St Andrews Ceilidh on

18 November 2017 and the London Branch Burns' Night Ceilidh Dance on 13 January 2018.



Left: Barbara Manning and Ken Martlew who played for St Columba's Dancers' Monday night dance on 4 December 2017.



Above: George Buchanan Scottish Dance Band, based in Cirencester, comprising Stephen Witcomb on guitar, George Buchanan on fiddle and Gordon Nicholl on accordion play for St Andrew's Reels at Amberley Parish Room on 1 December 2017.



Above: Jan's Thistle Club Hogmanay Dance held in Great Brickhill Village Hall. Craigievar Band line-up from left Anne Reid on keyboard, Stuart Forbes on fiddle and John Patrick from Reading on accordion (31 December 2017).

Above: Drums, Richard Furlong; Fiddle, Emily Kostulin; Frank Reid, accordion and Anne Reid, keyboard - this formidable sound is Frank Reid and his Scottish Dance Band seen here playing at Harrow Annual Ball (5 January 2018).

...Jigs Across the Sea (continued)

In Irish music there is a variant of the single jig known as the slide, where the bars are of double length, giving a time signature of 12/8. When played for dancing, slides often go at a hell-for-leather pace, as in that lively set dance, *The Ballivourney Jig*. Some jigs have a three-beat rhythm, giving a time signature of 9/8. Jigs like this occur in Scottish music eg *Drops of Brandy*, but are more conspicuous in Irish music, where they are divided into slip jigs and hop jigs. Slip jigs are the ones that have nearly all nine quavers in a bar, while in hop jigs the quavers are interspersed with crotchets. However, the world of Irish dancing recognises and gives specialised names to quite a few jig types, and not everyone uses these names in exactly the same way, so I will not go into detail about them.

Of the Scottish jigs I know, I will pick as a favourite Niel Gow's *Wha Can Help It*. You might call this a 'fiddle tune'. Well, it climbs up in an enterprising manner from the bottom string to the upper register, then jumps back down, briefly coming to rest on a set of three notes low down, like someone laughing, "Ha, ha, ha!". It finds release from

this taut up-and-down movement in the second section, where the melody runs around freely on the top strings, and there is a feeling of sunlight, clear sight, enlightenment.

I have chosen an Irish jig that does not relate to this sense of rationality which I am trying to describe. It is *The Gold Ring*, a long jig having seven (or five) sections. It was originally played on the uilleann pipes, an instrument that can sound like someone with a gentle voice making a serious announcement. A story seems to be in progress but no feature of the action corresponds with any part of the tune; this long tune merely restates its point, in one way after another, through successive eight-bar sections. But on the night when I first heard it, at a folk club in December 1973, the musician (Tomás Ó Cannain) told an enchanting story about a certain piper who encountered a group of fairies, and in exchange for the gold ring they caused this tune to come into his mind. I can still hear Tomás' voice reciting the legend; and I can still have a bash at the tune; but, after all these years, I can't remember the rest of the story.

CD Review by Chris Walker

A Perfect Day at Shielburn (SHIELCD026) - Craigievar Ceilidh Band

Musicians: Stuart Forbes (Fiddle) - Anne Reid (Keyboard) - Alistair Forbes (Soprano Saxophone) - the late Ray Milbourne (Piano) - Alex Forbes (Double Bass, Keyboards) - John Patrick (Accordion) - Gordon Nicoll (Accordion) - the late Alastair Cameron (Accordion) - Iain MacPhail (Accordion). Available from Amazon, MusicScotland and other online music retailers or download from itunes.apple.com, spotify.com

Tracks: *Forty Shades of Green*, *The Coleburn* (Slow Air)/ *The Constitution* (Hornpipe), *Ca' The Yowes*, *The Veleta*, *Danny Boy*, *Tears in Heaven*, *Mrs Jamieson's Favourite*, *D Morison's Seven Thistles* (March)/ *The Iron Man* (Strathspey)/ *Levenep Head* (Reel), *Farewell to Mariposa*, *I Love You Because*, *A Perfect Day*, *The Memory Waltz*, *The Dean Brig o' Edinburgh*, *Beer Barrel Polka*, *The Road and the Miles to Dundee*, *Secret Love*, *Iain MacPhail's Compliments to Stuart Forbes*, *The Tobermory Two-Step*.



The title of this CD, *A Perfect Day at Shielburn*, seems to have a slight touch of nostalgia to it. Shielburn is the school which Stuart and Alistair Forbes and many of their relatives and forebears attended near Buckie. It closed in 1960 before electricity had been installed. This CD is for country dancers who want to put their feet up and relax. It contains some traditional Scottish items such as the march, strathspey and reel but it also has items which one might hear at a Saturday night village ceilidh for the non-country dancers to take to the floor. Then there are the quiet reflective arrangements...when one just wants to sit and listen.

The Craigievar Ceilidh Band lists nine musicians (see above) on this recording covering those instruments you would

expect to hear playing ceilidh music. But unusually you will also hear the saxophone played by Alistair Forbes (who normally plays the accordion). These instruments play in different combinations, not all at one time. There are solo items, duets and trios in a pleasant mix of familiar melodies. Stuart Forbes takes the lead in the traditional Scottish items with a slow air and hornpipe, the march, strathspey and reel and the airs *The Dean Brig o' Edinburgh* and *Mrs Jamieson's Favourite* in which he is nicely accompanied by Anne Reid on keyboard and Alex Forbes on double bass. Stuart also teams up with Iain MacPhail for *Iain MacPhail's Compliments to Stuart Forbes*.

A Perfect Day by Anne Reid reflects the relaxed essence of the CD along with three keyboard solos played by Ray Milbourne and originally recorded in 1995 (*The Road and the Miles to Dundee*), Anne Reid (*Ca' the Yowes*) and Alex Forbes (*Tears in Heaven* by Eric Clapton/Will Jennings). One does not have to wait long for the introduction of the saxophone (I didn't know Alistair played this) to the party - it comes up on the first track. Starting what seems to be a Scottish compilation with *Forty Shades of Green* by Johnny Cash certainly made me wonder what else was coming. Well, *I Love You Because* by Leon Payne and *Secret Love* by Sammy Fain. I love the backing group's contribution with John Patrick on accordion. Nostalgic or what! My favourite item has to be *Beer Barrel Polka* featuring Stuart, Anne and the late Alastair Cameron (who sadly died in 2017).

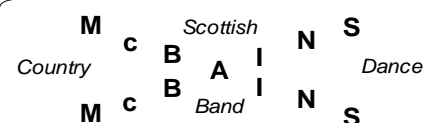
Altogether a pleasing and relaxing performance by all participants.

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The Branch bookstall is at your service for the sale of Scottish country dance booklets and CDs and Branch badges. They can be bought at Branch events, or sent out by post. Some high-quality CDs by well-known bands are for sale at bargain prices, as are some of the early RSCDS books. Current stock is listed on our website www.rscdslondon.org.uk

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

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

The Scottish Country Dancing Legacy of Hugh Foss OBE - Part 2 by Adrian Conrad



As in the first part of this article published in *Reel 302*, I will begin with some general comments.

Galloway Geography: The RSCDS has *The River Cree*, John Drewry devised *The Little Ross Light*, and Jackie Johnstone devised

The Winding Nith, but Hugh Foss really put Galloway on the SCD map by naming so many of his dances after local places - lakes, rivers, mountains and villages. In *Reel 280*, Wilson Nicol explained several of those names; a hunt through Hugh Foss dance titles will reveal a few more. My own appreciation of Polharrow Burn became deeper when I fell into the real one after a bad choice of stepping stone.

The Fencing Connection: Hugh Foss was an able fencer, and at least two of his dances allude to the sport. One is the well-known dance *John McAlpin*. The overlapping advance and retire movements of bars 19-24 bring to mind occasions in fencing where one opponent advances in an attack as the other retreats. Hugh also said that the opening two bars represented a form of initial salute at the start of a fencing bout, and this is why the dancers are instructed to take right hands fleetingly (that is, to clasp them) after advancing and before retiring. He then used the same saluting idea in another strathspey, *The Marquis of Huntly's Farewell*, which is full of overlapping advance and retire movements. When teaching it, he began, "There's a lot of handshaking in this". In this dance, the advancing and retiring are sometimes in different directions.

Reels Aplenty: Hugh Foss agreed with James Cosh (deviser of *Mairi's Wedding* and *The Irish Rover*) that in diagonal reels or half reels of four, with end pairs starting by passing right shoulder, dancers passing in the middle should always use left shoulders - for example, in *Polharrow Burn*. But in other dances he produced some exotic extensions to reels. In its last eight bars, to achieve a standard progression of dancers to the order 2,4,1,5,3, the otherwise simple five-couple strathspey *Loch Doon Castle* makes its dancers dance four fifths of mirror reels of five on the sides - actually quite easy. And the four-couple three-tempo medley *Belhaven* - a very specialised demonstration dance - contains many novel ideas, including rotating reels of four, a reel of four for four persons who when reaching the ends swap with others who have been circling, and a reel of eight in a line. Although this is not a dance for the ballroom, good dancers will find the opening reel section well worth exploring.

'Meanwhile' - The Fugues: first, the famed *Fugal Fergus*, a three-couple jig, is analogous to a musical canon, in which one instrument trails behind another. In this case the 40 bars of dancing by the women are repeated as a mirror image by the men eight bars later.

This dance was the first of 12 dances in Hugh's 1963 book *The Waverley Fugues*. Some other dances from that book are very challenging, but one or two are quite easy, like the two-couple strathspey *Dandie Dinmont* and the three-couple jig *Tillietudlem*. Slightly harder to master is

the four-couple reel *Rob Roy*, in which first, third, second and fourth couples start with the same pattern, four bars apart, before getting involved in reels on the sides. In contrast to *Fugal Fergus*, partners dance together in *Rob Roy*, although they do not hold hands very much.

Several other fugal dances appeared in his Glendarroch Sheets. *The Fountain* is fairly easy; *The Waterfall* is a little harder but there is a good video of this on Strathspey Server.



The Celtic Brooch: this three-couple jig, like *Belhaven*, first appeared in a booklet of its own in 1963-64; both dances show Hugh Foss at his most imaginative, but the brilliant simplicity of its concept puts *The Celtic Brooch* into a class of its own. Its pioneering triangular set (a large one) was not repeated for some 20 years.

The above picture shows part of the front cover of *The Celtic Brooch* booklet, and helps to explain the concept. On the left is a sketch of the symmetrical brooch, with thin bands of silver apparently weaving in and out of each other, which allegedly inspired Hugh Foss when he saw a lady wearing it one summer at St Andrews. On the right is a diagram illustrating one figure of the dance - in this case one with tracks matching the original brooch.

As the diagram shows, in the starting positions of the dance, which are also the positions after each 32-bar figure, three 'outsiders', initially the *women*, are at the points of the brooch, and three 'insiders', initially their partners, are just inside on the base circle, so that each couple is aligned on a spoke radiating from the centre. Each figure has two 16-bar halves. In each, the 'outsiders' always dance the 'Theme', that is, a track of three curves taking them around all the outer points, while the 'insiders' dance a counter-figure. On regaining their starting places, the partners turn to swap insider/outsider roles for the second half, and then when everyone has again swapped back to their starting positions, a new figure is started with a different insider pattern. The whole dance maintains three-fold rotational symmetry and is tied together by the continuing Theme danced by the outsiders.

Hugh listed many alternative insider patterns, some quite easy, and suggested three alternative sets of six figures for one performance of the dance. However, many dancers could find even four figures quite taxing, since the dance is very strenuous, with much travelling, especially when dancing the Theme, and everyone dancing continuously. This may explain why both the demonstrations that can be found on *YouTube* have used fairly small sets, but these can look slightly cramped. With the right choice of patterns, this dance makes a stunning demonstration; but many dancers can enjoy trying one or two simple figures. However, one needs a large hall and a good sense of symmetry - or else some temporary marks on the floor!

His SCD legacy: just as *The Reel* has brilliantly fulfilled Hugh Foss' originally expressed hope that it would stimulate new ideas and

discussion, his own dances helped push back the boundaries of SCD.

Part of his legacy consists of those of his dances that remain firmly in fashion after so many years, but others are also attractive, as I have tried to show. Apart from those I have already mentioned, one could look at strathspeys like *The Kendoon Strathspey*, *Val's Fancy* and *Millquarter* and jigs like *The Clachan* and *Captain Whiteside*,

Hugh Foss has also inspired later SCD devisers. For example, we now take five-couple longwise sets for granted, and in particular, the corners' zigzag of *Polharrow Burn* also appears in Berkhamsted's reel *Ocean Voyage*, and is embellished in Barry Priddey's brilliant extension to seven couples, *The Kelpie of Loch Coruisk*. Fewer devisers have tried their hand at fugal dances, but John Drewry produced the odd one, notably the attractive 8x40 reel *Bon Accord* - another canon, with first man dancing just four bars ahead of his partner. (As alternative music for this, try recordings for *Johnnie's Welcome Home*.) Hugh also showed that dances and their music should match well, and that a simple dance with a fine tune can also be great fun.

Lastly, and rather differently, he left a fine collection of essays on Scottish dancing, mostly as contributions to *The Reel* which were subsequently put together as booklets entitled *Roll Back the Carpet* and *We Agree to Differ*. These are not easy to obtain now but provide illuminating reading for both devisers and teachers of SCD.

Click on this link to see the dance list of all Hugh Foss dances mentioned in Part 2 <http://bit.ly/2yLJ7lr>

Further reading can be found on Hugh Foss in past editions of *The Reel*.

No. 100 p2 - Hugh Foss' retrospective account 'The First Century', including how *The Reel* was started in 1951.

No. 200 p8 - Andrew Kellett's biography of Hugh Foss and his association with London Branch.

No. 204 p5 - Andrew Kellett's interview with John Drewry, mentioning early help that Hugh Foss gave him.

No. 237 pp2&3 Bill Ireland remembers Hugh, with affection.

No. 280 p16 - Wilson Nicol on the numerous Galloway place names used in Hugh Foss' dance titles.

No. 288 p7 - Rosalind Zuridis on how Hugh Foss' work in devising, publishing and distributing new dances, and encouraging others, began the SCD 'explosion'.

Visit www.rscdslondon.org.uk/the-reel-archives

As an Appendix to Parts 1 and 2, *Reel 304 & 305* will list all Hugh Foss' devised dances.

Hugh's former home, Glendarroch



Spoilt for Choice in Bude by Andrew Brown



Bude, the seaside town on the North Cornish coast, is famous for its pastel painted beach huts and wide sandy beaches. The tourist site also highlights the crazy golf courses, water sports and walking. But come the first weekend in October each year and it becomes the venue for the

Marhamchurch Scottish Country Dancers annual residential weekend, 2017 being the 22nd such weekend.

Many dancers return each year (about 70% have booked for next year already!) attracted by the interesting and challenging programmes for the Friday and Saturday dances. This year 119 dancers came to the Saturday dance requiring the use of two halls, with Sandy Nixon and his Band in the main hall while Frank Thomson played in the smaller hall. (See photo p11).

Frank gets the prize for the longest journey having driven down from Aberdeen on the Saturday, then driving home on Sunday a 1300 mile round trip. The dancers came from all round the south of England including Norwich, Berkhamsted (Jane Rose had encouraged 17 of us to be there), Guernsey, Isle of Wight, Northampton, Oxford and Bristol.

Friday night opens with dinner - another feature of the weekend, you do not go away hungry! - And then onto the dancing. As I mentioned the programme is challenging for the assembled experienced dancers as Les Burden (the MC and programme deviser) collects lesser known dances from many sources for these evenings. On the Friday programme there were only two dances I had heard of. Hence every dance has a quick walk through to help everyone tackle it. This is certainly a great way of trying out a lot of new dances and taking some back to your club to add to their repertoire. My one criticism is that it would be nice for the final couple of dances to be something more well-known so we can relax a bit at the end of the evening. Then, it is back to the B&B to 'wine down' (Berkhamsted dancers take over a B&B so there are no other guests to disturb!) and identify dances you would like to do again. Saturday evening follows the same format with an excellent home cooked buffet prepared by Dawn Burden and her team (that is if you have space after partaking of their lunch and afternoon Cornish cream tea!).

Classes are equally important with three sessions on Saturday and two on Sunday. This year the teachers were John and Ruby Wilkinson supported by pianists Andrew Nolan and Ken Martlew. Much of the teaching was of dances with challenging moves. I particularly liked one of John's dances which creates interlocking cog wheels. Run these eight bars through in your mind. We are in strathspey time. First couple are in the middle of the set, first man between third couple and first lady between second couple. First couple dance four wide left hand turns while second and third couples dance four wide right hand turns. If the set does not spread, the two turns interlock just like cog wheels. The dance is called *The Ketchin Sync* (Max Ketchin being the drummer in Marion

Anderson's Band and the 'cog wheel' movement providing Synchronisation).

John also taught another of his dances called *The Pictish Scroll* which uses dance movements to follow the markings on standing stones attributed to the Picts. While Ruby challenged us with *The Mill of Tifty* (devised by Barry Priddey) which has 16 bars where first couple and their second corners dance a reel of four while the first corners dance the track of a reel of four and then repeat with first couple dancing with their first corners while second corners dance the track of a reel of four. It was interesting how difficult it was to dance the 'shape of the reel' presenting the correct shoulder on meeting but imagining a ghost couple in the set helped a lot. If readers wish to try these dances for themselves here the link is <http://bit.ly/2F0yUBU>

The weekend finishes with a slow lunch in a nearby hotel giving one plenty of time to review the classes and dances, relax and say the goodbyes before tackling the journey home. Thanks must go to Dawn and Les Burden for the significant effort they put into organising this popular weekend.

60 Years on... by Ian Stewart (SEHSCDS Chairman)



South East Herts Scottish Country Dance Society celebrates its Diamond Jubilee this year. It was formed in 1958 by Jean Walker, whose husband at the time was vicar of Great Amwell, and we are delighted that this year Jean will be returning to the club as our honoured guest. Whilst

the club she founded has obviously changed it is still recognisable as a place for teaching, learning and above all enjoying Scottish country dancing. We remain an RSCDS Affiliated Group, although some 20 years ago the committee considered applying for Branch status. We nevertheless aim to maintain dancing standards.

SEHSCDS can claim to have been the focus for SCD in the south and east of Hertfordshire for sixty years. During this time we have run classes ourselves and with the local authority an annual ball, day schools and regular Friday night socials. Classes started in a small way in the vicar's room at Great Amwell, but before long we were offering five classes per week plus monthly Friday

sessions. We cannot match those heady days, but we still offer a regular class every Tuesday in term time and still meet on Fridays for social dancing. We have always been supported by local musicians, notably Chris Walker, Barbara Manning, and previously Pat and the late Brian Hamilton, and this year we have live music for our President's Night (February), Spring Dance (March) and Christmas Dance (December). We have also recently introduced Sunday afternoon family-friendly dances to live music. The children bring enthusiasm and life to the afternoons and we plan to continue these events in to the future.

Looking back at annual ball tickets we see Scottish band leaders playing for us including Bobby Crowe, Sandy Nixon, Colin Dewar and Marian Anderson, along with bands closer to home. I remember when the annual ball was sold out at 170 dancers six weeks in advance. Times have changed in the SCD world, although we aim to sell out for our Diamond Jubilee Ball with Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band. Early programmes included both the *Foursome Reel* and *The Eightsome Reel* - we promise not to do that to you this year!

We organised a Beating Retreat in the grounds of Hertford Castle for 13 years, on occasions attracting upwards of 500 dancers and spectators, but health and safety concerns contributed to its demise. The Society's dem team was active for many years, with up to 35 dems a year including at The Dorchester Hotel, Haileybury, Hertford Castle and Hatfield House. Town Twinning visits to Evron and Wildeshausen were also part of Society life. Day Schools were frequent, attracting teachers like Alice Murphy, John Wilkinson, Margo Priestly, Anna Holden and Derek Haynes and this year, in April, we are delighted to welcome RSCDS President Jean Martin.

Where will the Society be in 10 years' time for our Platinum Anniversary? We certainly plan to keep SCD alive in this part of Hertfordshire; to continue to welcome beginners and children; to maintain dancing standards. Do please visit the SEHSCDS website <http://www.sehscottishdance.org> to see what is going on and help us to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee.



Beating Retreat afternoon Ray Dykes, the Silver Cross Band and SEHSCDS Demonstration Team in the grounds of Hertford Castle, (7 September 2008).



1. Dancers celebrate St Andrew's Day at the London Branch Ceilidh, (18 November 2017).



4. London Branch President Rachel Wilton dancing with Mick Rawlings at the RSCDS AGM Ball, (4 November 2017).



7. Talented twosome: former London Branch members Sandy and Anne Walker with band leader Nicol McLaren at RSCDS Cheltenham's Annual Ball. Anne was MC and Sandy, who used to pipe for London Branch Dem Team, greeted guests with his excellent playing, (13 January 2018).



10. Michael and Barbara Mackenzie (Los Angeles) and Valerie Fisher and Hiroko Sasaki (Toronto) with Branch Chairman Margaret Catchick and Society Chairman Elect Andrew Kellet at the London Branch Christmas Dance, (16 December 2017).



2. Mervyn Short, who is teaching some of the Sunday Advanced Technique classes this season, dancing Maxwell's Rant to Ian Robertson and his SCD Band at the London Branch Christmas Dance, (16 December 2017).



5. 'And dish them out their bill o' fare' - The Haggis serving team at the London Branch Burns' Ceilidh Dance. From left: Jenny Kendrick, Danielle Reinstein, Willie and Joanne Lawrence, Marjory Reid, Xuanyi Ma, Lindsey Jane Rousseau, (13 January 2018).



8. Nicol McLaren and the Glencairn Band play the strathspey MacDonal of the Isles at RSCDS Cheltenham's first diamond year event, the Annual Ball at the elegant Regency Pittville Pump Room, (13 January 2018).



11. Les Burden, Bude Weekend organiser (with wife Dawn), between band leaders Sandy Nixon (left) and Frank Thomson, (8 October 2017).



3. London Branch Burns' Ceilidh Dance, (13 January 2018). Also photo 6. (right)



6.



9. London Branch Treasurer, Simon Wales dancing down in Margaret Parker's Strathspey at the RSCDS AGM Ball, (4 November 2017).



12. Iain Farrell leads Alice Stainer across in The Duchess Tree at RSCDS Oxfordshire Branch Annual Ball, (28 October 2017).

The Dance Corner

In 1948 the 40 bar reel *The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh* was published. On the cover of this two page leaflet is a list of other dances, presumably 1948 or earlier, available from publishers Rae MacIntosh & Company Limited at the time.

In 1996 the Society republished in Book 39, alongside *The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh*, *Prince Charles of Edinburgh* and *The Robertson Rant* and on Strathspey Server we see descriptions for *The Angus Reel (No diagram)*, *Macphersons of Edinburgh Strathspey* but what of the other three dances: *Fair Maid of Perth*, *Princess Margaret's Strathspey*, and *Men of Angus*?

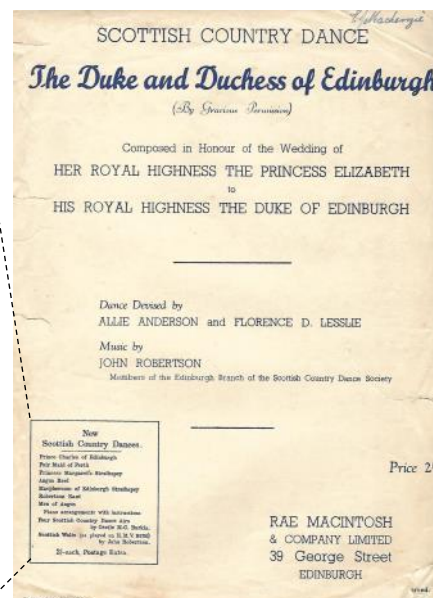
CAN YOU HELP?

Therefore can any readers provide the original descriptions for these dances?

Fair Maid of Perth (strathspey by David Robertson), *Princess Margaret's Strathspey*, (by Isobel Cramb), and *Men of Angus* (medley by Angus MacNaughton)?

We have also had a request from Bob Messner of RSCDS Atlanta Branch to ask if any reader knows of any John Drewry dances not published in his well-known collections that may have been devised as a gift or printed as a separate leaflet. Strathspey Server lists a prodigious 792 dances devised by John Drewry. Please send these to the Editorial Team at editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

In future issues it is intended to carry forward a list of dance names where information continues to be sought.



St Andrews Day - More



Further information on this dance shows that the original was 48 bars and said to have been demonstrated as such and not 64 bars long; however, with figures described as eg bars 21-24 half rights and lefts across the dance and set twice it is clear as written it was undanceable, because it contained this type of error. It was from this that the danceable 64-bar version was developed, and what we could call today 'the modified version after Hector Sutherland'. Keith

Rose shows both versions on Strathspey Server; one change has been made to the original 48-bar dance description, making 'set twice' into just 'set' to get it to work.

Hugh Foss Dances sought - Update

In Reel 302 we asked for details of three Hugh Foss dances and we were pleased and grateful to receive, from Valerie Scriven of Weymouth Scottish Country Dancers, details of the 32-bar strathspey, *The Wife she brewed it* by Hugh Foss, although that copy had some barring missing which was later supplied by Alasdair Graham of Dumbarton. It was published in a four dance booklet priced two shillings to raise funds *In Aid of Overseas Missions* along with *The Waggle o' the Kilt (Lauder Ha')* and *Anne Smyth* both also published in James Cosh's 22 SCD and two others. The fourth dance was a 32-bar reel, *Haste ye back to Bonnie Scotland* by Jim Fleming. These dances have been sent to Strathspey Server to be added to the dance database for you to access and enjoy. We are still looking for details of *The Banks of the Devon* and *Star Petronella*.

My Examination Experience by Ginny Colenbrander



Last autumn I started on the long road to train to be a certified RSCDS Scottish dancing teacher. After nine intensive sessions of teaching and practising, at Collingwood School, Wallington, Surrey with Mervyn Short's superb tutorage, the skilful playing of Judith Muir, excellent team work from the other candidates and a huge amount of hard work, I was ready to tackle Units 2 and 3.

It was 25 November 2017 and so on that cold autumn morning our anxiety levels started to rise as we candidates lined up to demonstrate the twelve Unit 2 dances. Forty minutes later that was all over!

Then came a long six hour wait for my Unit 3 exam. Part of my assignment was to teach a ladies' chain. Having practised my lesson at the Wednesday Beginners and Improvers' Class in London and at Orpington's social dance evening on the Thursday I was feeling confident, buoyed up and ready to impress! With strict instructions not to go over the time limit and having quickly and efficiently arranged the obliging volunteer dancers into two couple sets I was ready to teach. Easy enough, ask first couple to move into second

place and then swap sides, ready for the walk through. However, with nerves muddling the thought process and the fact that I had chosen to demonstrate in a set that had three women and one man: this simple task started to fall apart. I completely forgot to ask the couples to move so instead of taking the place of the first woman (in second man's place) I took the place of the second man (who was a woman masquerading as a man) and merrily demonstrated the ladies' chain! Thankfully, realising my mistake, I made a quick recovery, took a deep breath and started again. Phew!

As instructed by Mervyn, a good teacher should always move around the room and pay attention to all the sets. I duly moved to another set. Though now feeling more anxious than I would have liked and keen not to repeat any mistakes by mixing up the sexes and positions of the dancers I started to over-think things. Looking straight at the two men standing on the men's side, in my clear, loud teacher's voice innocently asked, "Are you men or women?" One of the men was shocked into silence and followed the protocol of not speaking to the examination candidate; the other had no such qualms and equally clearly and loudly answered, "A man the last time I looked!" The room erupted in laughter!

For any future candidates out there what can be learned from my experience? Simply, if things go wrong smile, keep calm and carry on! And yes, Examiners do have a sense of humour.

Pat Davoll, Secretary SE Branches Committee, adds: It was an intensive course; nine full

days over five weekends followed by the exam day. Thanks go to Mervyn, Judith and also to the many dancers from the south-east who attended the course and the exam as volunteers to assist the candidates. All the candidates examined by Marilyn Watson and Pat Houghton were successful. Congratulations to the Unit 2 and Unit 3 candidates Kate Thomson (BHS Border Branch), Jacmel Dent, Roy Southall and Ginny Colenbrander (London Branch), David Smith (Somerset Branch) and the Unit 5 candidates, Helena Strandberg Luthi (Gothenberg Branch) and Hilary Maidstone (Norwich Branch).

Burns and the Fiddle by Meryl Thomson

The Centre for Robert Burns Studies at the University of Glasgow is running a project called 'Editing Robert Burns for the 21st Century'. One strand of this project is researching how fiddle tunes from Burns' time, some of which Burns used as inspiration for his songs, would have sounded to an 18th century audience and to Burns himself. They have enlisted the help of fiddler Aaron McGregor and cellist Alison McGillivray to record eight tunes which Burns used for his songs, not always the same as the tunes which are used today.

The recordings are available to listen to at www.burnsc21.glasgow.ac.uk and alongside each is an image of the original 18th century printed sheet music, a history of the tune and its connection with Robert Burns.

Dancing with a Legend by Michael Brain



Hallowe'en cast a magical spell over Scottish country dancing when some 130 devotees gathered at The Hurlingham Club on 31 October for the treat of paying tribute to a Master of the Dance and a brilliant MC who was

retiring from teaching at Hurlingham. Dancing to the sound of Frank Reid and his Scottish Dance Band in the Quad Room, festooned with tartan plaids, we were able to say thank you, Peter Knight.

The evening was arranged by Gilly Nester-Smith, to whom we also owe a vote of thanks for the many years she has spent organising the events which have established such a strong link between Hurlingham and Scottish country dancing and reeling.

Peter was born and grew up in Kent, but his great-grandmother, Emily Duncan, came from Aberdeen and, whilst he was educated at prep-school in England, he did enjoy one summer term at a primary school in Braemar. At Radley he became interested in SCD and years later his interest was rekindled when a reel club started up in Oxted. He soon became a member of the committee, which meant running the evenings, so he decided to go to Summer Tuesdays at St Columba's Church in Pont Street, London to learn new dances. In 1972 he started a dance group in the City of London at the premises of Little Ship Sailing Club and in 1982 gained his teacher's certificate. In 1984 the Little Ship Club, taking its name from the sailing club, moved to Brompton Oratory and it was at this time that he was asked if he would be interested in teaching SCD at Hurlingham. When Paul Covell came to the Hurlingham as Chief Executive he encouraged the Monday night teaching sessions and instituted the St Andrew's Night, Burns' Night and Highland Balls which quickly became the highlights of the year. In 1991 Gilly Nester-Smith, SCD Chairman, became involved, promoting SCD and reeling to a point where there have been record attendances with some 326 dancers enjoying a recent St Andrew's Ball. See [Reel 283 p14](#).

Behind all these developments there has been one person, Peter Knight. He has seldom ever missed a session of his teaching using his skill at leading proceedings at dances, often guiding both reelers and

country dancers, dancing different versions of the same dance. Further support came from 1992 when Robert Morgan became Planning and Estate Manager and took up SCD at the invitation of Gilly, and paid tribute to Peter recalling how he demonstrated great stamina and determination in guiding so many dancers who didn't even know their left from their right to a standard where they were able to complete a dance with confidence. Many of those very dancers came to this Peter's Farewell to pay tribute.

With gentlemen in highland dress and ladies beautifully attired with traditional sashes and evening gowns we enjoyed some of Peter's favourite dances including *The Dashing White Sergeant*, *The Reel of The Royal Scots*, *The Wind on Loch Fyne*, *The White Heather Jig*, *Duke of Perth* and also on the programme was Peter's now well known composition, *The Hurlingham Quadrangle*.

A delicious meal was served during the supper interval when Martin Bishop, former Hurlingham chairman, entertained the guests with some amusing anecdotes. Then, Peter was presented with a flask of malt whisky along with engraved cut glass tumblers; a balloon trip over Kent; and a carvery course with dinner for two. The supper interval concluded with a rendition of a variation on *Flower of Scotland* sung with great gusto by all there. The first and last verses of which are reproduced here:

Peter Knight - Flower of Scotland

- 1 O flower of Scotland,
Our own, our own dear Peter Knight,
Who worked as our teacher,
And taught us all alright
To reel and jig here,
At Hurlingham dances,
For four and thirty year,
Alas no more.
- 5 Those days are past now,
And in the past they must remain,
But we can still rise now,
And dance Loch Fyne again;
And reel and jig here,
At Hurlingham dances,
We thank you Peter,
For all you gave.

The credit for this though, goes to guest Lady Cindy Gray, who wrote an *Ode to Peter Knight* on which the song we sung was based. And for completeness this is also reproduced here:

O flower of Scotland
Our own Peter Knight

Who worked as a shepherd
Then taught us aright
To set, reel and jig
For thirty four years
At Hurlingham dances
With laughter and tears.

The Address to a Haggis
He did with great flair
And with Gilly chose dishes
And dances with care.
He'd show every novice
The right elbow grip
And shout, "Do not twizzle!"
Lest couples might trip.

His occasional bark
Has been worse than his bite.
He simply wants dancers
To get the thing right.
That's his shining armour,
The cause and the fight.
Farewell, a good teacher,
Our Peter - a Knight!

Peter Knight with Gilly Nester-Smith at The Hurlingham Club on 31 October 2017



Finally, we salute Peter for all his achievements. In 1996 he edited the Harper Collins Pocket Reference book which has sold over 15,000 copies and for which he was awarded the RSCDS Scroll. With Margaret Shaw always there to support him, we have enjoyed the unique approach he has brought to so many evenings of dancing. His patience, and sometimes his impatience, has endeared him to us all. It may be that our relationship with Hurlingham will change, but our respect, our admiration and our gratitude for all that he has done will remain steadfast in the future. We wish Peter, and Gilly who also retired at the same time, well for the future. See also Peter's own personal profile from 1996 in [Reel 237 p4](#). Finally, here is a link to Peter's devised dances: <http://bit.ly/2qeUFuX>

An Evening with Abingdon by Angela Lawrence (Chair, Abingdon SCDC)



Abingdon, Oxfordshire and it is 7.40pm. Dancers have trickled in, greeted one another, welcomed newcomers, changed their shoes and started to make up sets. With an average of five complete beginners and a few other uncertain dancers it is time to

check that all the inexperienced dancers have helpful partners and that they are spread evenly among the sets. Our experienced dancers are always very good at making a beeline for the beginners so that is not a problem. All newcomers remark on what a friendly and welcoming club we are. I only started dancing five years ago and was very grateful for that same welcome and help.

We have three teachers - Diana Hitchins, Hilary Adams, and Moira Strutt. Hilary and Diana also take it in turns to take out the less experienced dancers for a three-quarter hour session to learn a specific formation and a dance that contains it that we will then all do after tea. We enjoy a very varied mix of dances. Diana is very good at rooting out old dances with an interesting twist, Hilary makes sure we keep up to date with the new and Moira likes to put us through our paces with something challenging such as *The Guests at Mairi's Wedding*. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated team of teachers. The club meets in Abingdon on Mondays from September to the end of June. We have over 40 members in all and most evenings we have enough dancers for four sets. The club hosts three dances a year and we also share a ball with Harwell SCD club. Harwell will be leading the ball this year, on 1 December, to celebrate their 70th Anniversary.

The Future: Once a month for club nights, having started in January, we are introducing live music with Ian Muir which I am very excited about. Also, Abingdon is trying to find ways to attract younger dancers. Our latest project is a team of us offering to run after-school clubs in local primary schools, raising awareness with the aim of creating a future generation of dancers. And the Abingdon-led ball is already booked for 7 December next year; once again to the wonderful music of Craigellachie. Finally, we will be celebrating our 70th Anniversary in 2021 and some of the original group are still dancing with us. A number of dancers are in their 80s and Dixon Halliday celebrated his 90th birthday last April when Diana and Moira devised *Dixon's Delight* which he was, indeed, delighted with.

May I invite you to visit our website at www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com or better still visit us, on a Monday.

Civility, New Faces and Stubby Pencils

Dear Editorial Team,

The civility of RSCDS dances is something I have always appreciated from the St Andrews RSCDS Summer School. The values of decency and respect in the interactions of the dance and the courtesy, warmth, humour and dignity of the teachers, and the formal etiquette of the dance, are absorbed by those they teach, and to see these values in a regular dance was such a pleasure.



Roger Keeling leads Jenny Sweeney up the middle in *The Sauchie Haugh* at London Branch Christmas Dance, (16 December 2017).

For me, one of those pleasures at the RSCDS London Christmas dance was the unexpected joy of being asked to dance by a new face, a cheery welcome to be so included. To be asked unexpectedly gives such pleasure to both people. I would urge more

dancers to put away their stubby pencil, used to mark dances with their friends, but which may exclude new faces.

The stubby pencil is not where the true pleasure, decency and civility of Scottish dance lies. Of course it is fun to dance with one's friends, but do we need to book each other in advance? I have been to dances where I have barely put my shoes on as people rush to fill their card. It is a compliment to be asked, of course, but with "I have one dance left," they say, ringing in my ears, I barely know where to look on the dance list. It seems life will not be complete until every last dance is booked. The urgency is unseemly; the joy of dancing with a new face is lost.

Nobody wants rules saying "no pre-booking", but everyone would like, I am sure, the joy of dancing with that interesting new face, that new person, and the pleasure it gives both of us. The true spirit of the dance, and the inclusive RSCDS civility, is enhanced by the interaction with new faces amongst us. Pre-booking cannot be stopped, but no pre-booking can and should be encouraged; Scots in Scotland rarely do it, and neither should we. I learnt to dance at primary school in Northumberland; pre-booking had not been dreamt of, we just got on with it, and so should we.

Yours sincerely, with no dance card, and no pencil,
Lynton McLain, Chiswick, London

Ed. Also read an alternative point of view see *Reel* 264 p9 visit *Reel* Archives at www.rscdslondon.org.uk/category/thereel/reelarchives

Is the Bow and Curtsey an irrelevance?

Dear Editorial Team,

Am I alone in noticing that the bow and curtsey is being treated with a degree of indifference amongst some dancers? Is this because some dancers have never been taught how to do this rhythmically using all of the music and perhaps know not where to put their feet, arms, head or even when to smile and so seem embarrassed when required to do so, is it because they see no point to it and simply adopt a *laissez-faire* approach, maybe they find it physically painful or could it be a sign of not really wanting to dance with that partner anyway. Whatever the reason, it can leave an unfortunate feeling of rudeness within the dancer subjected to this snub (if left without explanation) which can then pervade the whole of the following dance.

Other forms of non-Scottish dancing often launch straight in from the start, sometimes without even any introductory note; others have elaborate acknowledging of dancers within the dance or 'The Presence' as with some Renaissance or Playford dancing. However, I believe it is quite special to SCD and we should all encourage others to do it and if necessary show those less informed how it is correctly done. Information on this honouring and thanking movement is found in the Society Manual at clause 3.2.5. If you perhaps recognise yourself then, please have a look in the Manual. After all, in SCD it is simply a mark of common courtesy and etiquette which we surely can show to each other.

from L'homme qui danse, Home Counties



"In My Opinion"

by William Williamson



Born in Dumfriesshire and now living with his wife Linda in the vibrant community village of Amisfield, where they both teach SCD. William learned Scottish highland and country dancing as a child. He has been a freelance

broadcaster with local BBC radio and has also been a guest on the BBC's *Take the Floor*. As a well-known singer he has recorded songs from Dumfries and Galloway. William has taught and danced in many parts of the world. In 1980 he danced for the Royal Family at Holyrood Palace for the Queen Mother's 80th birthday. He is a long-time member of the Dumfries Branch of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and is currently, Branch Chairman. He has taught at the Society's AGM, Winter School, and Summer School.

Sociability in SCD is much more than a Party Game

When I was a wee boy I used to look forward to my Sunday school parties and joined in the

party games enthusiastically. This included the *Grand Old Duke of York* when everyone would clap and sing as the top couple slipped down and up the middle. When I started Scottish country dancing I very quickly realised that I was involved in something very special, cultural and not just party games. I was fortunate to be taught by a number of people who always set the dances within the cultural story of Scotland. I get excited when the music and dances come together in that very special way that we all experience and I can almost see the hills and taste the air of Scotland as I dance. Yes, I'm an old romantic.

I do, therefore, have a feeling of disappointment when it now seems, in some places, mandatory to clap as the first couple dance down and up the middle, clapping both on and off the beat, spoiling the music. I also don't enjoy witnessing other bits of frivolity such as the spinning and slapping of hands in the middle of a reel of four. To me it reduces the dance to a party game. Others might argue that our dances are exactly that, party games. I think there is a clear difference. Yes, I have been known to clap along when a band strikes up one of those great tunes that lifts the spirits, or have a birl instead of a turn at the end of a dance.

When it happens it is entirely spontaneous and only for a few bars! Well, it's physically tiring! Now, as some will testify I am no party pooper or kill joy, far from it and could join in all of these 'fun' activities but for the most part prefer not to.

On the subject of sociability in our dances, I can do no better than refer readers to the excellent recent article by Margo Priestley on p20 in *Scottish Country Dancer* No 25. Being brought up and living in rural Scotland, I attend local ceilidhs and general dances regularly and can be as keen and lively as any young farmer! Our Scottish country dancing is different, not better or superior but it has a certain dignity which gives it the magic we all enjoy. 'Controlled abandon', as someone once said, is a good way of describing Scottish country dancing as we know and love it.

Now that I've got all of that off my chest, I must get ready for tonight's ceilidh in the village hall. Oh, and I won't be taking my gillies with me to prove that I'm a real dancer!

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

Our Christmas Quiz 2017 Winner

Congratulations go to SCD enthusiast Jon Allen-Friend from Toronto who returned the correct answer on 5 December and can therefore be named as *The Reel* Christmas Quizzer for 2017. Elizabeth Bennett from Worcester Park, Surrey is also to be commended for being first runner-up with a correct answer. There was much interest shown in the quiz although the editorial team would have liked to have received more replies. Clearly, the Christmas pudding or even the after-dinner port often won the day when it came to Christmas Day priorities.

Answers: The anagram arrived at is Rough Tagmen from the following:

- 1 Sir Walter Scott is the author of *Abbotsford*.
- 2 The Scottish mountains named are all **Munros** (see *Reel* 282 p6).
- 3 Barry Priddey's progression is the **tourbillon**.
- 4 Charles Rennie Mackintosh's tea room is in **Glasgow**.
- 5 **Herrings** are known as silver darlings.
- 6 The gloamin' is the **twilight** of the day.
- 7 First book, first dance is **Petronella**.
- 8 Ronnie Corbett was born in **Edinburgh**.
- 9 A moudiewort is a **mole**.
- 10 London Bridge was designed in 1821 by Scotsman John Rennie and by son Sir John Rennie being completed in 1834.
- 11 General **Burgoyne** was reputed to have composed the song for *The Dashing White Sergeant*.

And solving the anagram would give the Scottish place name of **Grangemouth**

We hope you all enjoyed this mental tester, at a time of year when Santa hats, crackers and party games are *de rigueur*.

Below:
Berkhamsted's
Keith Anderson in
party mood well,
he has that hat!
(19 December 2017).



John, Janet and The Belt by Stephen Webb

Dress belts look splendid - we can all agree on that, especially if the leather and buckle has been given a shine. Many dancers choose to wear a belt with their kilts interestingly, for different reasons. There is the kilt that is too loose, the tummy that is too ..., for appearance with evening wear or just appearance. Are there any rights and wrongs with wearing a belt? In the 1970s, the late Duncan MacLeod past chairman, gave a talk at St Andrews Summer School to men dancers on the appropriateness of dress. This talk ranged from how and where to sit, the colour of shirts worn, height and types of dancing hose, length of kilt, types of jackets, dancing in waistcoat only, skean dhus, the wearing of a dress belt and much more. His view was that wearing a dress belt should not accompany the wearing of a waistcoat. It is considered excessive with the Prince Charlie Coatee or Sheriffmuir Coat but was appropriate with a Montrose Doublet or Argyle Jacket or where on semi-formal occasions no waistcoat was worn but with a dress sporran. This is similar to the guidance given by George Emmerson in his excellent book *Scotland through her Country Dances* and Janet concurred.

Janet who? Janet Eagleton MBE of Perth. Janet with her son Marcus are proprietors of a shop in Perth that make sporrans and other accoutrements for the military and others. I generally call in on Janet, more correctly her shop, when there. The shop is fascinating and Janet and her son are very skilled in leather and metalwork. A close friend had a late 19th century piper's sporran with silver mounts and was very concerned at some wear on it. Not wishing to risk further damage by a DIY job, I recommended Janet to him. He was delighted at the professional repair she gave him.

I have a dress belt for semi-formal occasions but it is of rather mediocre quality; however, I have worn it sometimes. A few years ago, *The Reel* advertised the late John Mitchell's dancing attire for sale and I popped down to Hove and bought a rather understated dress belt. I think it is good to recycle dancing attire, for it is as if that dancer is living on, on the dance floor which is what I feel, with this item, John would have wished. I get an added satisfaction at the time, should I be dancing one of John's around 828 dances, such as *The Dundee City Police Jig*.



The trouble with the belt was that the stitching had worn through and the leathers of the belt had separated. I could have laboriously restitched the top and bottom double row of stitches by hand myself using the original holes, but then I thought of Janet.

In November 2015 I was in Perth again at the Society AGM so I took time out to call in to Janet's shop. She saw the belt and was over the moon as it was a belt that she had made with its red leather and punched holes in the 1960s when working with her father at Morrison's of Edinburgh. She said it had a rare bullseye buckle and that the leather was fine Moroccan leather, not available today. Could she repair it - this belt had come home and she must have reflected on those early days when restitching it so expertly for me. I received it in the post a week later - it had clearly been lovingly repaired - thank you John, thank you Janet!

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Double Take!



Which Hamilton is which?

Caroline and Margaret Hamilton, seen here at RSCDS Winchester Branch Autumn Ball on 30 September 2017 - could they in fact be sisters?

Why not send us your photos of your dancing doppelgängers?

A Life to Enjoy from Stephen Webb

Richard Geoffrey 'John' Reeve

13 October 1931 -
24 January 2018



John at age 80

John Reeve

A graduate of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, naval officer, SCD deviser, dancer always with a twinkle in his eye, John was a keen rambler, gardener, naturalist and enjoyed cycling, messing about in dinghies and attending U3A meetings and was described by all as

simply 'a lovely man'. We have at the age of 86 sadly, lost our dear John to a brain haemorrhage. Although not a member, he was a good friend to London Branch. During Andrew Kellett's tenure of *The Reel* up to during Jeremy Hill's, John applied his professional printing and graphic skills with enthusiasm in its production for which he became a Branch Award recipient in 2006 (see *Reel 258 pp1&3* and *Reel 271 p14*). In his retirement he found time to write his autobiography entitled *A Life to Enjoy*, published in 2007. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his dancing partner and wife Patricia whom he first met at SCD and without John will surely be at a loss. Indeed, he will be greatly missed by all his friends who number many. Read his last letter in *Reel 302 p14* and see my.strathspey.org/dd/person/3328 for John's dances.

John Dances On from Sheena Sturrock

John Monro Sturrock

11 February 1938 - 13 November 2017



John at age 72

John's life-long interest in Scottish dancing began at primary school in Dundee and continued at secondary school in Edinburgh, with Iain Stuart Robertson, a leading member of Miss Milligan's early International Team. On moving to Cambridge, he joined the Cambridge Scottish Society and the University Reel

Club in the 1960's. Three years abroad followed - in Munich and Geneva, with especial enjoyment of dancing in Geneva. On returning to Cambridge in the 1970's, he took up highland dancing under the guidance of Susan Nedderman.

Attendance at dances held at St Columba's Church in Pont Street in London followed. He loved dancing to different bands and always tried to be at the head of the set nearest to the stage. Normal signals for the start of a dance were usually not heard by John, being profoundly deaf from the age of 11. He therefore relied on 'feeling' the beat through the floor and watching carefully the dip and curtsy of his partner and her rise and foot preparation to start the dance - these were vital clues for him, in a largely silent world. As John could not hear the

music being played he would listen in his mind to Jimmy Shand, being the last Scottish music he heard before going severely deaf. Scottish dance offered John freedom from the constraints of constantly straining to hear the speech of others and the ability, as he said 'to take flight'. At no time did he allow his deafness to affect his personal enjoyment as a dancer and ability as a teacher. Pont Street's appeal, for John, lay in the feeling of belonging, which dancing there gave. Later John and I enjoyed the New Year activities of The Cairngorm Dancers (now disbanded), a group which held wonderful New Year weekends. In 1981, John took his Teaching Certificate, with Maureen Hamon and others; he became deeply involved in the work of founding the RSCDS Cambridge and District Branch, becoming its first chairman and teaching at many of its classes and day schools. With Maureen, he taught many children's classes in Cambridge, often using humour in the teaching.

On retiring in 2001 to Cupar in Fife and becoming a member of St Andrews Branch, John undertook teaching with the same enthusiasm and joined the committee, later becoming vice-chairman. Irene Bennett writes further on this period. Then, a new challenge presented itself for him in taking over a web page 'Scottish Dance Events in Scotland'. Almost every day of his life was spent carefully making new entries on the page and corresponding with dance organisers. It is proposed that this web page will be kindly 'hosted' by RSCDS Dundee Branch, so that both dance organisers and people consulting its entries for possible dances to visit, may continue to benefit - www.rscds-dundee.org.uk/index.php/scd-events-scotland

A great source of pride and pleasure for him were the St Andrews Branch Award and later the Society's Scroll in 2016, both awarded for 'outstanding service to Scottish country dancing.' His family have received wonderful, glowing tributes to John, citing his breadth of knowledge and his willingness to share this knowledge with others. His memory dances on.

Ed. Also refer to the interesting farewell article written by, the now late, Roderick McLachlan in *Reel 239 p11* www.rscdslondon.org.uk/the-reel-archives

John at St Andrews from Irene Bennett

John was a wonderful ambassador for Scottish country dancing and he will be greatly missed by the members of RSCDS St Andrews Branch. He joined the Branch in 2001 and played a full part in its life, eventually serving as chairman. He taught classes at various levels for a number of years, had an encyclopaedic knowledge of dances and often acted as MC at our summer dances held during Summer School. John contributed to the construction of the Branch website and was prominent in the marketing of our Platinum CD.

Our current Chairman, Rebecca Howard, remarked in her tribute to John, "he was kind, patient and encouraging". He was a gentleman and as the Minister who conducted John's funeral service said, "John always approached you with a smile"; and we can all remember that. St Andrews Branch celebrated its 80th Anniversary with a lunch on 21 May 2017 at Rufflets Hotel and we were delighted that John and Sheena were able to join us on that special occasion.

John's Years in Cambridge from Pat and Donald Wilson

Many Scottish dancers in Cambridge and in other clubs in the south east of England and beyond will remember John for his fine dancing; his love of excellence and precision meant that he was happy to seek out dances where he could find other dancers with similarly high standards. He also taught at several groups such as Little Thetford and was always anxious to improve the standard of the dancing. This wish to improve made him the main driving force behind the formation of the RSCDS Cambridge & District Branch, as he thought that better teaching in better venues could make a big difference. He remained a regular member of the Cambridge Scottish Society throughout his time in Cambridge, and his move with his wife Sheena in December 2001 to Scotland left a big gap in SCD in Cambridge clubs.

People might not know that John was also a keen highland dancer. He attended monthly classes in Harlow run by Pat Reid and under her guidance he entered examinations for bronze, silver and gold medals. He could be seen at displays around Cambridge accompanied by Sheena on the fiddle dancing the *Highland Fling*, *Sword Dance* and *Argyll Broadwords* and sometimes he would find a partner to do duets with such as *Scotch on the Rocks*, written by Pat Reid. In his dancing, he always aimed for the highest standard, but he never forgot his sense of fun or his desire to help beginners, and his enjoyment spilled over onto those of us lucky enough to dance with him. His contribution to the Scottish scene in Cambridge was huge and he will always be remembered there.

Remembering Mina from Elizabeth Harry

Mina Margaret Corson

15 September 1916 - 6 January 2018



A long standing member of RSCDS Edinburgh Branch she is remembered for her contribution to Scottish country dancing as a demonstrator, teacher and examiner. She was a friend to dancers around the world and is the deviser of the dance *Miss Allie Anderson*. Mina was awarded the Society Scroll in 1998.

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Forthcoming Events

Event Listing in date order - 10/3 RSCDS BHS D/S & Dance p18, 17/3 RSCDS Tunbridge Wells D/S p17, 17/3 Watford Ball p18, 24/3 Harrow Dance p17, 24/3 Bracknell & Camberley Dance p17, 7/4 LHC Dance p18, 14/4 Lucy Clark Dance p19, 14/4 West Macs Ball p17, 21/4 Richmond Dance p17, 21/4 SE Herts D/S & Dance p17, 28/4 Argyll D/S p18, 28/4 RSCDS Cheltenham D/S & Dance p17, 28/4 RSCDS Croydon Dance p19, 5/5 Cambridge Ball p18, 5/5 LHC Dance p18, 19/5 RSCDS BHS Ball p18, 19/5 BSRC Dance p17, 19/5 RSCDS Cheltenham Dance p17, 25-28/5 MacLennan Folkdance & Music Festival p19, 2/6 LHC Ball p18, 1/7 RSCDS BHS Tea Dance p18, 5-7/10 Argyll W/S p18, 27/10 RSCDS Oxfordshire Ball p19

WEST MACS Charity Ball

in aid of Multiple Sclerosis
Therapy Centre, Edinburgh
Saturday 14 April 2018
7.30 - 11.30pm



Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree WD6 3PJ
Nicol McLaren and the Glencairn Band
Programme: A Capital Jig, A Trip to Bavaria,
The Cashmere Shawl, Equilibrium, Staircase
in Styria, The Gardeners' Fantasia, John of
Bon Accord, Spiffin', Montparnasse,
Ramadan-ce, Major Ian Stewart, Kinfauns
Castle, The Spring Fling Reel, The Dancing
Master, The Swan and the Tay, Neil M Grant,
Mrs Stuart Linnell, The Dream Catcher,
James Gray, Glastonbury Tor
Tickets: £20 and £10 juniors/non-dancers
Including buffet supper
Book in advance
Contact Brenda Manbaur, 020 8933 9169 or
boxoffice@wdsa.co.uk
Cribs available on our website
www.harrowscottish.org.uk

SEHSCDS

Diamond Jubilee Day School and Dance

Saturday 21 April 2018
10.00am - 9.00pm

Riverside Hall, Priory Street,
Ware SG12 0DE



Teacher: Jean Martin (Aberdeen)
Day School Musician: Barbara Manning
Dance: Chris Walker & Barbara Manning
Tickets: £20 all day including evening dance
Contact Ian Stewart, 07842034890
or sehscds@hotmail.com
www.sehscottishdance.org/news

RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH Day School

Saturday 28 April 2018
9.45am - 4.45pm

Reddings Community Centre,
North Road West, Cheltenham GL51 6RF

Teachers:

Pat Houghton (Advanced and General)
Jennifer Hawdon (Beginners)
Musician: Keith Anderson
(Advanced and General)
£6 per class

Evening dance 7.00 - 10.00pm
Dancing to recorded music
Tickets: £6

Contact Hilary Foulkes, 01285 851798 or
hilary.foulkes@tiscali.co.uk
or visit our website for more details

Anniversary Dance

Saturday 19 May 2018
7.30 - 11.00pm

Churchdown Community Centre, Parton Rd,
Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 2JH
Luke Brady's Scottish Dance Band
Programme: Machine without Horses, Mrs
MacLeod, Sands of Morar, Napier's Index,
Grammachie, John of Bon Accord, The
Flower of Glasgow, Seton's Ceilidh Band,
Ladies of Dunse, **Interval** (Pride of Erin
Waltz), Swiss Lassie, Ian Powrie's Farewell
to Auchterader, Monymusk, Vintage Simon,
MacDonald of the Isles, The Duke and
Duchess of Edinburgh, The Robertson Rant,
Quarries' Jig, The Dashing White Sergeant
Tickets: £15 including light supper
Contact Fiona Knee, 01242 525819 or
cheltenham.rscds@hotmail.com
www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Spring Dance

Saturday 24 March 2018
7.00 - 11.00pm

Eastcote URC, Bridle Road,
Eastcote HA5 2SH



Ian Muir (Prestwick) Duo

Programme: Pelorus Jack, The Music Makars,
The Belle of Bon Accord, The Spring Fling
Reel, Balquidder Strathspey, The First Rain
of Spring, The Piper and the Penguin,
Montparnasse, Inchmickery, Bauldy Bain's
Fiddle, The Weathercock, Mr Ian Stuart
Robertson, Dagmar's Fancy, Torridon Lassies,
Miss Eleanor, The Dancing Master, The Falls
of Rogie, The Flower o' the Quern, James
Gray, The Irish Rover

Tickets: £14 and £7 juniors/non-dancers
Including buffet supper
Please help our catering volunteers by
booking in advance

Contact Lorraine Kent, 07951 587546 or
lorrainekent@yahoo.co.uk
www.harrowscottish.org.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND REEL CLUB

Spring Dance

Saturday 19 May 2018
7.30 - 11.30pm

Victoria Hall, Akeman Street,
Tring HP23 6AA

Strathallan Country Dance Band

Programme: Visit our website
Tickets: £13 (advance booking only)
Bring and Share Supper (finger food please)
On-Site Bar and Raffle
Contact Events Secretary Dawn Dorman,
07710 460623 or
events@berkhamstedreelclub.org
or visit our website
www.berkhamstedreelclub.org



BRACKNELL REEL CLUB & CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB

Spring Dance

Saturday 24 March 2018
7.30 - 11.00pm

Carnation Hall, Bracknell RG42 7PA
Craigievar Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Mrs MacPherson of Inveran,
Major Ian Stewart, Midsummer Common,
The Piper and the Penguin, Best Set in the
Hall, City of Belfast, Macleod's Fancy,
Butterscotch and Honey, The Reel of the
51st Division, Ian Powrie's Farewell to
Auchterader, The Wind on Loch Fyne,
The Spring Fling Reel, The Chequered Court,
The Belle of Bon Accord, The Plantation
Reel, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Follow Me
Home, The Highland Rambler

Tickets: £15

Please bring a plate of food to share
Contact Isabel Black, 01344 642104 or
David McQuillan, 01189 793024 or
tickets@bracknellreelclub.org.uk



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

TUNBRIDGE WELLS RSCDS BRANCH Day School

Saturday 17 March 2018
10.00am - 4.30pm

Mascalls Academy, Maidstone Road,
Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6LT
Trains from London and east Kent stop at
Paddock Wood

**Teachers: David Hall, Pat Houghton &
Wendy Mumford** teaching at Elementary,
Intermediate & Advanced levels

For application forms contact Pat Davoll,
01732 866557 or patdavoll2@gmail.com
or rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY Spring Dance

Saturday 21 April 2018
7.00 - 11.00pm

Orleans Park School,
Richmond Road, Twickenham
TW1 3BB



Ian and Judith Muir

Programme: Pelorus Jack, Glastonbury Tor,
Miss Eleanor, The Torridon Cross, The Cuckoo
Clock, The Rose of the North, The First Rain
of Spring, The Countess of Dunmore's Reel,
Culla Bay, Hunter's Moon, James Gray,
The White Rabbit (Skelton), Foxhill Court,
New Forest Wedding, Mrs Stuart Linnell,
The Minister on the Loch, MacLeod's Fancy,
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterader,
Gardeners' Fantasia, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets: £13

Please bring finger food to share
soft drinks provided

Contact us,

tickets@richmondcaledonian.co.uk
www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk

Highland Wear for sale

Kilt 1 - Hunting(?) McCallum. W38", drop
25", good condition

Kilt 2 - Dress MacQueen. W38", drop 25",
very good condition

1 seal pelt sporran and black leather belt
with silver plated fastening

Argyll Jacket - blue tweed, good condition

Day jacket - black barathea with silver
buttons

Prince Charlie jacket and waistcoat

1 pair Ghillie brogues size 10 almost new

2 pairs dancing shoes (James Senior)

6 pairs stockings, 3 white, 2 beige, 1 blue
plus 1 pair garters with green flashes

£80 per garment, £20 each for brogues,
sporran and belt (or near offer for any of
above)

**Contact Alan Barr on 01202 8879792 for
more details**

Kilt, Colquhoun tartan, full swing military
pleat, W40", L32", plus hose to match, £70

Green jacket,
silver buttons, chest 43/4", £42

Day jacket, dark grey, horn buttons, chest
42/4" £40

Belt with 'silver' buckle and skean dhu £30
Dress Sporran £25

Trews, Black Watch, W38/40", and tie, £30

**Contact Mrs M Marsh, London SW6,
0207 736 3309 for more details**

**CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY
Annual Ball**

Saturday 5 May 2018
7.00 for 7.30 - 11.30pm
Impington Village College,
Cambridge CB24 9LX



Danelaw Band

Programme: Mairi's Wedding, James Gray, Foxhill Court, Staircase in Styria, Mr Iain Stuart Robinson, The Robertson Rant, The Kelpie of Loch Coruisk, The Flight of the Falcon, The Honeysuckle (and the Bindweed), Ramadan-ce, Father Connelly's Jig, Caddam Wood, The Silver Tassie, The Huntsman, Broadford Bay, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, Equilibrium, Land of the Heather Hills, Culzean Castle, The Montgomeries' Rant

Tickets: £15

Shared refreshments

Contact Donald Wilson, 01954 210683 or
visit our website

www.camscotsoc.org.uk

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 7 April: **Ian Robertson**
Saturday 5 May: **Alasdair Macleod**
Saturday 2 June: Summer Ball
7.00 - 11.00pm **Nicol McLaren**

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

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

For further details contact Catriona Bennett,
020 8286 8424 or cmb84scd@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so
please come along and join us for an
enjoyable evening

**RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY
BORDER BRANCH**



Branch Day School
Saturday 10 March 2018
With evening dance
from 6.30pm

Court Moor School, Spring Woods,
Fleet GU52 7RY

Teachers: Andrew Nolan, Annette Owen,
John Fletcher and Alan Davis
Class Musician: Ken Martlew
Musicians Day School: Ian Robertson

Branch Spring Ball

Saturday 19 May 2018

Emmbrook School, Emmbrook Road,
Wokingham RG41 1JP

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Lady Home's Jig, Inverneill House, Cuillins of Skye, Links with St Petersburg, Orpington Caledonians, The Water of Leith, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Kilkenny Castle, None So Pretty, The Bees of Maggiecknockater, The Sauchie Haugh, Queen's View, The Robertson Rant, The Chequered Court, Fraser's Favourite, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Follow me Home, The Deil among the Tailors

Branch Strawberry Tea
with Ian and Judith Muir
Sunday 1 July 2018

2.30 - 5.30pm

Carnation Hall, Chavey Down Road,
Winkfield Row RG42 7PA

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

**ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING
GROUP**



Day School

Saturday 28 April 2018
Edgbarrow Sports Centre,
Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7HZ

Teachers: Gary Coull and Kate Gentles

Musicians: Robert Mackay and
Barbara Manning

Contact Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood
Woking Surrey GU21 3QB or 01483721989 or
gaynortcurtis@clara.co.uk

Weekend School

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

Teachers: Dave Hall

Musicians: Robert Mackay

For further information and brochure: email

dillington@somerset.gov.uk or visit:

www.dillington.co.uk

www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk

**WATFORD & WEST HERTS
SCOTTISH SOCIETY**



Caledonian Ball

Saturday 17 March 2018
7.30 - 11.30pm

Allum Hall, Allum Lane,
Elstree WD6 3PJ

Strathallan Country Dance Band

Programme: see our website

Dance to one of the best bands on a
wonderful sprung floor - do join us!

Ball Practice

Sunday 4 March 2018

2.00 - 5.00pm

Recital Hall, Nascot Wood Junior School,
Nascot Wood Road, Watford WD17 4YS

Tickets: £20

Including buffet supper and
sparkling wine reception

Please contact us if you wish to attend

Contact Rose Kreloff 07880 842370 or

rkreloff@hotmail.co.uk

www.watfordscottish.org.uk

Find us on Facebook [fb.me/WatfordScottish](https://www.facebook.com/WatfordScottish)

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ILKLEY

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

TORQUAY

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

LLANDUDNO

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

GREAT MALVERN

Abbey Hotel, 7-11 Oct 2018, £340/£385

SCARBOROUGH

Cober Hill, 12-16 Nov 2018, £280

www.scottish-country-dancing-and-walking-holidays.com

scottishdancingandwalking@gmail.com

tel: 01274 567558

- We look forward to welcoming you -

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH
Golden Jubilee Ball
 Saturday 27 October 2018
 7.30 - 11.30pm
 Headington School, Headington Road, Oxford
 OX3 7TD
 Ample free parking
 On the London-Oxford bus route with a stop
 near to the school
Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band
 Full details in *The Reel* 304 or visit our
 website
 Contact Helen Houghton-Carr, 07531 469213
 or impala66@hotmail.com
www.rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk

RSCDS CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH
Spring Band Dance
 Saturday 28 April 2018
 7.00 - 11.00pm
 Purley URC Hall, 906 Brighton Road,
 Purley CR8 2LN
Ian Robertson and his Scottish Dance Band
Programme: Maxwell's Rant, Joie de Vivre,
 The Bonnie Tree, Orpington Caledonians,
 The Red Balloon, Miss Milligan's Strathspey,
 Anniversary Reel, The Machine without
 Horses, Andrew Gillies' Strathspey, The Piper
 and the Penguin, Jean Martin of Aberdeen,
 Inchmickery, General Stuart's Reel, City of
 Belfast, Pelorus Jack, The Belle of Bon
 Accord, The Montgomerie's Rant, The Laird
 of Milton's Daughter
 Tickets: £15 (in advance) including supper
 Contact Katherine Simms, 07771640589 or
yogikatherine.ks@gmail.com or
 Dorothy Pearson, 01737 551724
www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

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www.bobbymunrodanceshoes.com



**LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCE CLUB**
Charity Dance
 Saturday 14 April 2018
 7.00 - 11.00pm
 Prestwood Village Hall,
 Prestwood HP16 0NZ



Ian Robertson and his Scottish Dance Band
Programme: The Old Man of Storr, Hooper's
 Jig, Neidpath Castle, Miss Lucy Clark,
 Equilibrium, The Moray Rant, The Reverend
 John MacFarlane, Deer Friends, The Black
 Mountain Reel, The Duchess Tree, The Castle
 of Mey, Flight to Melbourne, The New
 Scotland Strathspey, Ramadan-ce,
 Gothenburg's Welcome, Dagmar's Fancy,
 James Gray, Mairi's Wedding
 Extras: The Hazel Tree, Chased Lovers
 All dances will be recapped

Tickets: £12
 Bring and Share Supper
 Contact Dick Field, 01494 562231 or
Dickandrosief@aol.com
 Further information and cribs available on
 our website
www.lucyclark.org.uk

MACLENNAN SCOTTISH GROUP
**37th International Folkdance
and Music Festival**

Friday 25 - Monday 28 May 2018
 Saturday 26 May



8.00am - 11.00pm
International Folkdance
 with our international and local guests
 Adults £8.50, (Conc. £7) Children £3.50
 Sunday 27 May
 2.00 - 5.30pm approx
International Folk Dance Concert
 Adults £8.50 (Conc. £7) Children £3.50
 *** New venue for both events: ***
 Knole Academy
 Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks TN13 3LE
 Licensed bar, refreshments and stalls
 Family and weekend discounts available
 Contact Catriona Bennett, 020 8286 8424 or
festival@msg.org.uk
www.msg.org.uk

SCD Organisations Listing

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

Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB. Dancing most Mondays,
 7.45-10.00pm, Sept-June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All
 welcome. Details: Morag Brown, 38 The Holt, Abingdon, OX14 2DR,
abingdonscdc@gmail.com or www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays
 8.15-10.15pm Sept-May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet
 KT14 7NF. Details: Val Clack, 01932 845869 or
www.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, Gorbunbury,
 St Albans, Herts AL3 6AR, 07710 460623 or www.berkhamstedreelclub.org

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

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at Kinson Community
 Centre, Pelham's Park, Millhams Rd., Kinson, Bournemouth, BH10 7LH
 7.30-9.30pm. Alternate Wednesday Technique class, by invitation.
 Details: Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Road, Broadstone, Dorset
 BH18 8BX, 01202 698138 or margaret.brsdcs@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
 7.45-10.15pm at Moulsecoomb Hall, Brighton. Details: Carol Catterall,
 01273 564963 or www.bhscdc.org.uk

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

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for all grades.
 Details: Lindsey Ibbotson, 07977 905291 or lindsey.ibbotson@gmail.com
CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY Scottish country dancing and other events.
 Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8pm from Sept-June. Details:
 Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or www.camscotsoc.org.uk

CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS Advanced Technique class Monday 7.30-9.30pm
 St Luke's Hall, Cheltenham GL53 7HP. General class Thursday 7.15-9.15pm
 Bettridge School, Cheltenham GL51 3AT. Beginners' class Monday
 7.45-9.45pm Reddings Community Centre, Cheltenham GL51 6RF. Contact
 Margaret Winterbourne, 01242 863238 mj.winterbourne@btinternet.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

...Continued from p19

HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday at 8pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Details: Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts AL3 5RE, 01727 863870 or HSCDC.org.uk

HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Also a variety of other activities. Details: Sheena Henderson, mail@harrowscottish.org.uk or 07719 985025 or www.harrowscottish.org.uk

HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Fridays 8-10pm, Sept-July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, 020 8560 6160 or www.hayesscottish.org.uk

HERTSMER REEL CLUB. Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 0208 440 3236 or margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk

ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS meet Wednesdays Sept-June at Holy Trinity & St John's C. of E. Primary School, St John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7-8pm. General 8-10pm. Details: Pat Gill, 01843 603391

JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP. Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinity, JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or jcchanjoy97@gmail.com Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@gmail.com or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB meets regularly at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: adverts in *The Reel*, Catriona Bennett, 33 Pains Close, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1BY, cmb84scd@gmail.com or 020 8286 8424 or www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB meets Thursdays 8pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden, HP16 0BA. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL, 01494 562231 info@lucyclark.org.uk

MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday 8pm at St Piran's School, Gringer Hill, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7LZ. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372 or maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk

MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP meets every Wednesday 7.30-10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details: Dick Barford, 55 Northumberland Road, Maidstone ME25 7JG, 01622 685984

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

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

NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB. Dancing most Wednesdays during school term, 8.15-10.15pm from Sept-May at St Thomas' Church Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, SG6 4DZ. Informal Saturday dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Sheffield, Beds SG17 5AL or 01462 812691

NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dancing 7.45-10pm most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: David Reid, 22 Thamesbank Place, London SE28 8PR, 020 8311 7282 or david@davidfromblighty.plus.com

NORWICH RSCDS. Dancing on Mondays from Sept-May/June at the Dance & Drama Studio, Sewell Park College, Constitution Hill, Norwich NR3 4BX. Beginners from 7-8.15pm and general dancing 8.20-9.30pm. Details: Sue Petty on 01603 741639 or secretary@rscds-norwich.org.uk

ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday 8-10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners'/Improvers' Class every Monday 8-10.15pm at St Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or hadyndavies@gmail.com or www.orpingtonscottishdancing.com

OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS. Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Christine Jeffery 01844 278242 or christinej201@hotmail.com or www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk

READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY. Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading, RG1 5BD from 8-10pm, Sept-May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st & 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Sue Steele, 4 Avenue House, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, Reading RG4 7EF, 01189 464704 or suesteele43@gmail.com or www.scottishdancingreading.org

REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets most Mondays 8.15-10.15pm, Sept-May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com or www.reigatescottish.org.uk

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8pm from mid-Sept. to mid-June. Details: www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk or 020 8878 3445

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

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. St Columba's Dancers meet most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10pm. Admission free except for Band Nights when a charge will be made. Details: Valerie Strachan, 020 8693 5355 or valeriestrachan@btinternet.com or www.stcolumbasdancers.org

ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM meet every Thurs 8-10.15pm Sept-June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Sue Davis 2 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 social dance on Thursday evenings from 8-10pm 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

SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Wednesdays from 8-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin, 48 Eastbrook Road, Blackheath SE3 8BT, 020 8856 4522

SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Fridays, 7.30-10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808 or graham.easton@btinternet.com or www.seess.org.uk

SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS. Classes for all standards, in Hertford, Tuesdays in term time. Monthly dances Sept-June, in Ware, usually second Friday. Sunday afternoon Family Dances once a term. Details: Ian, 07842 034890 or sehscds@hotmail.com or see www.sehscottishdance.org/news

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. Beginners/Improvers Class at Nascot Wood Recital Hall, Nascot Wood Road, Watford WD17 4YS Mondays from 8-9.30pm and General Class at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT Thursdays from 8-10pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Wednesdays 8-10pm Sept-June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net or www.sehscottishdance.org/Welwyn

WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dance Class Mondays 8pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW, 0208 866 2378 or info@wdsa.co.uk

WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS (Formerly South Dorset Caledonian Society). Dancing at St Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30-10pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177

WIMBLEDON. St Andrew Society (London): Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8pm at Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1SB. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3JB, 020 8540 1755 or araffan@googlemail.com or www.standrewsolondon.x10host.com

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

Credits

Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of *The Reel*, including the following for providing photos for this edition:

p1: Left - Margaret Catchick; Right - Eugene Powell; Burns' Supper - Stephen Webb (SJW). p2: Jerry Reinstein; p3: Danielle - SJW; Marjory Reid from herself; Burns' Ceilidh Dance - Jerry Reinstein; Daniel - SJW; Chris Milne - from RSCDS HQ. p4: Mervyn - John Allen; p6: Top - Edward Bunting from himself; Musicians - Caledonian Reelers - Eugene Powell, others - SJW; p7: Chris - SJW. p8: from Adrian Conrad; Hugh Foss' home - Charles Foss. p9: All - SJW. *Centrefold*: 1 - Ian Thomson; 2-5 - Jerry Reinstein; 6 - Eugene Powell; 9 - Margaret Catchick; 7, 8, 10-12 - SJW. p12: St Andrews Day image from Mervyn Short; Duke and Duchess image from SJW; My Examination Experience - Ben Colenbrander. p13: SJW and logo courtesy The Hurlingham Club. p14: Christmas Dance - Jerry Reinstein; Cartoon - permission Joan Miles; William Williamson - SJW. p15: All - SJW. p16: John Reeve and John Sturrock - SJW; Mina Corson - from RSCDS Edinburgh.

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