



# The Reel

**rscds**  
London Branch

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
Formed 1930 [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk) Registered Charity number 1067690

Issue 306

£1.50

DECEMBER 2018 TO FEBRUARY 2019

Scottish country dancing -  
For fun, fitness and  
friendship

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



London visitors, park goers and Branch members dancing the *Gay Gordons* at the London Branch Open Air Dancing in Kensington Gardens, (1 September 2018).



Jerry Reinstein and Rachel Wilton dance down in *Gramachie* at the London Branch Autumn Wednesday Dance, (24 October 2018).

## Forthcoming Branch Dances

### Christmas Dance

Saturday 15 December 2018  
6.45 for 7.00 - 10.30pm  
Doors open at 6.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street  
SW1X 0BD  
David Hall and his SCD Band

The Hollin Buss ..... 8x32 J  
Catch the Wind ..... 8x32 H  
Gramachie ..... 8x32 S  
The Starry Eyed Lassie..... 8x32 J  
The First of September ..... 4x32 R  
Margaret Parker's Strathspey..... 8x32 S  
Orpington Caledonians..... 8x32 R  
Culla Bay ..... Sq 4x32 S  
Cadgers in the Canongate..... 8x48 R

Follow Me Home ..... 8x32 J  
The Glasgow Highlanders ..... 8x32 S  
The College Hornpipe ..... 8x32 H  
Over the Water to Charlie (New Way) . 8x32 J  
Cape Town Wedding ..... 8x32 S  
Glastonbury Tor ..... 8x32 R  
Fair Enough..... 4x32 J  
Miss Eleanor ..... 3x32 S  
The Reel of The Royal Scots ..... 8x32 R

Admission includes a glass of wine and  
Christmas fayre

RSCDS members £19, non-members £22,  
full time students (with card)  
and spectators £10.

All children (under 16) free  
All tickets to be purchased (cash only)  
on the door

All dances will be recapped.  
Those with highland/evening dress are  
encouraged to wear it

Crib available at [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

### Burns' Ceilidh Dance

Saturday 12 January 2019

### Winter Wednesday Dance

Wednesday 20 February 2019

## Also in this issue...

### Hogmanay at Higham Hall

Maureen Haynes gives us a view of this popular  
event (see p8)

### 50 years of RSCDS Oxford

Dennis Tucker gives an insight into their history  
(see p9)

### Nothing quite like the Singapore Ball

Joan Blake reports on the annual St Andrew's  
Night celebrations in Singapore (see p12)

### In My Opinion

How important is a good warm-up? Eric Finley  
voices his opinion (see p13) while 'The Dance  
Corner' gives us a new dance (see p14)

### Lives Remembered

We say goodbye to past chairman Owen Meyer,  
past chairman and *Reel* editor Wilson Nicol and  
his wife Jean and also to Wendy Henderson  
(see p15-16)

### Letters to The Reel

The St Andrew Society's demise, Call for a Foss  
Workshop and Dance, Hard Floors (see p16)

## Congratulations Andrew

Andrew Kellett, who has taken over as RSCDS  
chairman from Helen Russell, tells us about his  
role and his priorities (see p6)



Andrew Kellett before the Saturday evening  
AGM Ball, (3 November 2018).

Issue 307 will be with UK based members in the first week of March 2019 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent to arrive by and preferably in advance of Sunday 20 January 2019 by email to [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

The opinions expressed by contributors in *The Reel* do not necessarily reflect the official position of the RSCDS, or of the Branch.



## Chairman's Column by Margaret Catchick



The dancing season is now well under way and I hope that you are all enjoying your dancing.

It has been encouraging to see new dancers attending our classes and we hope this will continue. As you will see from the classes information on p5 we have classes to suit everyone at various locations so why not give them a try - you will receive excellent teaching and make many new friends.

Our Opening Season Dance was, unfortunately, poorly attended not helped by the appalling weather on the day. This was a real shame because we were fortunate to have had a four piece Craiggellachie band entertaining us with some wonderful music.

Our Day School, on the other hand, was a great success with 115 dancers and 18 musicians having applied. Numerous compliments have been received on the quality of teaching, refreshments and lunch and the superb new venue which we hope to be able to return to next year.

Our next main event, which will take place on 15 December, will be the Christmas Dance and we are pleased to be welcoming back David Hall and his SCD Band. This will be an occasion not to be missed so do come along and enjoy a great start to the Christmas festivities. On 12 January 2019 the Branch will be holding its Burns' Ceilidh Supper which has become one of the highlights of the year so again put this date in your diary. Dancing will be to the music of Caledonian Reelers.

As you will see there is a lot to look forward to so do come along to one or all of our forthcoming events and to our classes.

On the subject of dances, I feel there is no doubt that attendance at dances in London is falling. This could be attributed to several factors including inclement weather, transport difficulties and people not wishing to drive into central London. There is also the matter of competing events. In this respect I believe the SE Dance Diary, which was initially set up to be used by clubs in planning events and avoiding clashes, is perhaps not being used for the purpose for which it was created, which is a great pity.

It is also a great shame that so many people leave dances early. There is nothing more disheartening for the band, and for the dancers remaining, than to see a room emptying out long before the end of the evening and this seems to be a growing trend. I feel we all need to consider the impact leaving early has both on the band and on the dancers remaining. Could it perhaps be that people leave early because dances end too late or are too long?

Finally, and on a positive note, I would like to congratulate Andrew Kellett on becoming Chairman of the RSCDS. We look forward to helping Andrew achieve his aims for the Society in promoting this wonderful pastime of ours. You can read Andrew's thoughts on becoming RSCDS Chairman on p6.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Christmas Dance and should like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy Christmas and great dancing in 2019!



The Newcomers and Improvers Class at the London Branch Day School, (20 October 2018).

ROYAL  
SCOTTISH  
COUNTRY  
DANCE  
SOCIETY



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President: Jean Martin  
Chairman: Andrew Kellett

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### Objects of London Branch

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

- 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](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)



[www.facebook.com/RSCDSLONDON](http://www.facebook.com/RSCDSLONDON)



@LondonRSCDS



[YouTube.com/RSCDSLONDONBRANCH](http://YouTube.com/RSCDSLONDONBRANCH)



## RSCDS AGM Report 2 - 4 November 2018

by Jim Cook and Margaret Catchick



Participants from around the world converged on Perth for a weekend of dancing, classes, forums and, of course, the 89th AGM of the RSCDS.

At the same time as the Friday Evening Dance, which was to excellent music by the David Oswald SCD Band, the Society once again held a community based ceilidh to music by the John Carmichael Ceilidh Band.

Saturday began with an Open Forum discussing membership success stories.

This was followed by a session regarding Membership - Branches, Affiliated Groups and Independent Clubs. For the more energetic, Rachel Shankland taught a general class to music by Adam Brady.

The AGM itself took place on the Saturday afternoon where Scrolls of Honour were awarded to:

Deirdre MacCuish Bark (Toronto Branch),  
Maureen Haynes (NW Craven Branch),  
Sue Porter (Oban and Lorne Branch),  
Di Rooney (Cheshire Branch) and  
Gabor Turi (Vienna Branch).

...continued on p6

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## Membership

London Branch membership benefits include reduced rates at Branch classes, dances and events, and quarterly 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 [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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

## Branch Day School Reports

### Mixed Ability Class

by Judy Snook



St Helen's School is a very nice venue, clean, smart and with several halls suited to our needs and good dining facilities. The junior school assembly hall was pleasant though a little slippery.

Aileen Napper was our morning teacher. She was organised and soon had us warmed up and dancing. She had chosen dances with some challenges in the transition between one move and another. First came *Fair Enough* (Bk 51/4) with transition from skip-change to slip-step. Easy enough when going in the same direction but with a change of direction not so easy to do neatly and smoothly. The other dances we did were *Lady C Bruce's Reel*, and *The Swan and the Tay* each with its transition challenges. Aileen also had us work on basics such as footwork but reminded us that it is the upper half of the body that people notice most so posture, arms and eye contact are vital. Barbara Manning played a grand piano, using her wide repertoire of tunes, to suit the teacher's requirements and help us to enjoy the day.

Our afternoon teacher was Emma Allsop who used different dances but with similar aims. We danced *A Castle in the Air* (Bk 43/9), *The Maid of the Mill* (Bk 21/11), *Chasing the Eclipse* with a promenade chain progression, and then *The College Hornpipe* (Bk 20/12). *The Maid of the Mill* had a tricky start, first couple turn and cast two places then turn and cast back, all in eight bars needing some nifty footwork and long steps.

We all enjoyed working hard to improve our dancing.



The Advanced Class

### Musicians' Workshop

by Norman Yeaman



On Saturday 20 October a musicians' workshop was held at St Helen's School Northwood, a new venue. Musicians were led by Ian Robertson. Ian opened the workshop by welcoming all and setting

the objective, to work together to form a band to play for the evening dance whilst enjoying the experience. The musicians were a cross-section of player/dancers and players. Instruments were accordion, fiddle, piano, concertina and snare drum. The workshop consisted of four hours of tuition split into morning and afternoon sessions to perfect the fourteen dances for the evening dance, a mixture of jigs, reels and strathspeys.

Ian invited questions from the outset and focused the group on settling in. He encouraged listening to each other to improve playing together to create one sound. The morning session concentrated on principles of tempo, ensemble playing and building energy into the music to encourage the dancers. The afternoon session addressed starting and stopping together, playing the set tunes a number of times through and running order of tunes.

Both sessions included many tips and hints which Ian demonstrated. He also threw in some dance demo to illustrate his points. Of course, no Scottish music workshop would be complete without discussion of the Scottish 'snap' and dotting the notes. After the first set of the morning played by the group Ian said, "You are too good, I am going home", which was a very encouraging comment for the group.

My highlight of the day was when the band played the strathspey *Jean Martin of Aberdeen* acoustically at the evening dance; for me it drew together the principles we had covered. I looked up from my music and it was being danced and played beautifully, rewarded by an encore. Special thanks to Ian and to my fellow musicians for a lovely day.



### Very Advanced Class

by Ian Stewart



I would like to say I had a fantastic time - the teachers were super, the musicians were great and the new venue was quite superb (albeit a slightly bumpy floor in one of the halls!).

The classes were fun, thought-provoking and instructive. Would I come again? - quite definitely yes. Change anything? - not particularly. Disappointment? - only that it is 12 months to the next one.

Both teachers included dances from previous centuries. Pat Houghton started with *The Charmer* (1719, Bk 29/6). Apparently a very simple dance, but full of challenging changes of feet and steps. She continued with *The Mill of Towie* (Dunedin Dances Bk 4), a new strathspey to most people. This was a lovely dance with a millwheel figure, which I would very much like to dance again.

Andrew Nolan taught *Argyll's Bowling Green* (1710-1720, Bk 15/10) and *The Falkland Beauty* (c1822-1831, Bk 4/11). Both were dances with technical challenges and tricky transitions. *The Longwise Eightsome* (c1841, Bk 18/7) reintroduced us to the poussette right round in quick time.

What do I think of these historical dances? From a skills perspective, they are interesting for experienced dancers and present technical challenges. As social dances, perhaps they

are now not quite so successful. Why? I suggest that when they were originally danced there was probably less emphasis on precise footwork, which is what makes them awkward for us. Do these dances still have a place today? That is something we can continue to discuss in the future.

I would like to finish with a very big thank you to Margaret and her team for organising such a wonderful day.



# London Branch Dances and Classes

## Burns' Ceilidh Dance

Saturday 12 January 2019  
7.00 - 10.45pm  
Doors open at 6.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street  
SW1X 0BD

**Caledonian Reelers  
with MC James Fairbairn**

A great opportunity to enjoy with your friends and family a traditional Burns' Supper along with the fun of Scottish music and ceilidh dancing.

Dances will be a selection of all the usual favourites such as:

Gay Gordons, Canadian Barn Dance, The Dashing White Sergeant, The Eightsome Reel, Virginia Reel and Strip the Willow (Orcadian style)

All dances will be walked through

Admission includes haggis supper (vegetarian option available) with a glass of wine

RSCDS members £16, Non-members £20  
Full time students (with card) and spectators £8.

All children (under 16) free

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

## Winter Wednesday Dance

Wednesday 20 February 2019  
7.00 - 10.00pm

Doors open at 6.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street  
SW1X 0BD

**Sandra Smith and Christina Hood**

Good Hearted Glasgow ..... 8x32 J  
The Dashing White Sergeant ..... 32 R  
The Byron Strathspey ..... 3x32 S  
Follow Me Home ..... 8x32 J  
Round Reel of Eight ..... Sq 1x88 R  
The Haar on Skye ..... 8x32 S  
The Montgomeries' Rant ..... 8x32 R

St Andrew's Fair ..... 8x32 J  
Fisherman's Reel ..... Sq 5x32 R  
Holyrood Strathspey ..... 8x32 S  
EH3 7AF ..... 8x32 J  
Jessie's Hornpipe ..... 8x32 R  
Jean Martin of Aberdeen ..... 3x32 S  
Catch the Wind ..... 8x32 H

*Extra:*

The Sailor ..... 8x32 H

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](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

## Combined Societies' Dance

Hosted by RSCDS London Branch  
Saturday 30 March 2019  
7.00 - 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street  
SW1X 0BD

**Frank Reid and his SCD Band**

Hooper's Jig ..... 8x32 J  
Festival Fling ..... 8x32 R  
Argyll Strathspey ..... 8x32 S  
Muirland Willie ..... 8x32 J  
Glastonbury Tor ..... 8x32 R  
Margaret Parker's Strathspey ..... 8x32 S  
Best Set in the Hall ..... 8x32 J  
Miss Eleanor ..... 3x32 S  
Mairi's Wedding ..... 8x40 R

Miss Mary Douglas ..... 8x48 J  
John of Bon Accord ..... 8x32 R  
The New Scotland Strathspey ..... 4x40 S  
The Wild Geese ..... 8x32 J  
The Australian Ladies ..... 8x32 R  
Gang the Same Gate ..... 8x32 S  
Inchmickery ..... 5x32 J  
City of Belfast ..... 3x32 S  
The Reel of The Royal Scots ..... 8x32 R

Tickets £13 on the door,  
including refreshments

Dances will be recapped on request.

Crib available at [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

## Forthcoming RSCDS London Branch events

The following additional dance dates are confirmed for the remainder of the 2018-2019 season. Events take place at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD.

Wednesday 29 May Summer Wednesday  
Dance to music from  
TBA

Saturday 8 June AGM Dance to music  
from TBA

For details of all our events please visit  
[www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

## Announcing two new ceilidh sessions next year!

We are pleased to announce we are running two ceilidh sessions led by Simon Wales with music from Peter Jenkins on solo accordion.

These will take place in the Upper Hall of St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD from 7.00 - 9.00pm on Wednesday 30 January and Wednesday 13 February 2019.

All welcome, bring your friends!  
Tickets £10 per session on the door.

## South East Dance Diary

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

All societies in the South East may submit their functions free for inclusion in the diary. Email [diary@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:diary@rscdslondon.org.uk) or by post to Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW

## Dance Around the World 2018 by Rachel Wilton

Can you really do this without leaving London - yes, you could have done had you been at Cecil Sharp House, Camden, London, home of the English Folk Song and Dance Society for the last weekend in October, and many people did. This annual community festival was celebrating its 18th year, giving all attendees the opportunity to participate in traditional dance cultures from all parts of the world. In two exciting and energetic days performers and teachers provided a non stop programme of extraordinary variety, simultaneous activities in four locations, workshops, continuous short demonstrations and other events. At least 43 groups were there including London Branch who performed a 20 minute demonstration in Kennedy Hall and then held a well attended one hour workshop to introduce people to the fun of Scottish country dancing. The 19th 'DATW' festival will be on 26-27 October 2019. Put it in your diary NOW!



Members of the team in the Kennedy Hall before the DATW demonstration, (28 October 2018).

## The Reel Christmas Quiz

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

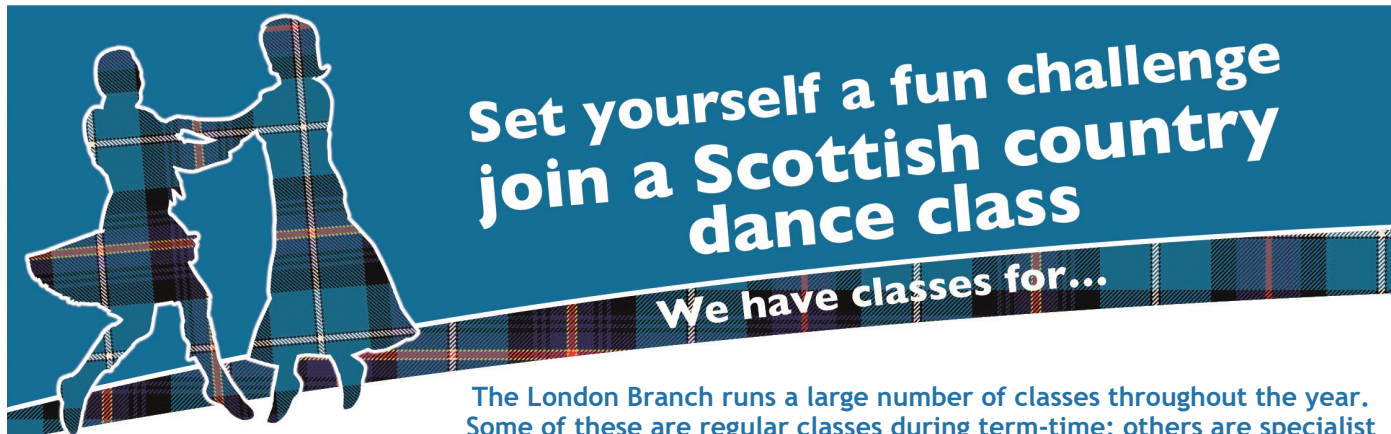
Put these letters in question order and this becomes an anagram for an old Scottish country set dance, what is that dance?

The first person to email [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk) with the correct answer will be recognised in *Reel 307* as *Reel* dancing egghead 2018 when the answers will also be given.

### Questions:

1. Name of London Branch magazine (4)
2. First name of Scottish bard born in 1759 (3)
3. Scots for splashes (4)
4. Who devised the reel *Orpington Caledonians?* (5)
5. Fife village where there is a Jimmy Shand statue (10)
6. Salmon leap here (6)
7. In which churchyard is Rob Roy MacGregor, who died in 1734, buried? (6)
8. Scotland's national mythical animal since late 1300s (5)
9. Salmon leap here (6)
10. Tune used for the dance, *Bonnie Anne* (7)
11. First name of Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloch (6)
12. Book 1, No.6 (8)
13. Which Scot first produced pneumatic tyres commercially (2)
14. 16th century castle on Loch Ness (1)





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

16 January - 27 March (half term  
27 February 2019)

Joint Class Party - 3 April 2019

### Beginners and Improvers

with teacher **Davinia Miln**

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

### Technique class for Intermediate and Advanced Dancers

with teacher **Jenny Kendrick** (1st half term) and **Pat Davoll** (2nd half term)

A technique class for advanced and intermediate dancers looking to develop their technique, confidence, performance, style and enjoyment of the dance.

Class fee: £7 per night for RSCDS members, £9 per night for non-members. Termly rates available.

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](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk)

Musicians **Sandra Smith** and **Ian Cutts**

## St Columba's Church

Upper Hall, Pont St, London SW1X 0BD

**Wednesdays** 2.30 - 4.30pm during term time

Spring term is 9 January - 3 April 2019 with half term 20 February 2019

### 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](mailto: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)

16 January - 27 March (half term  
27 February 2019)

Class Party - 3 April 2019

### 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** 10 March 2019 11.00am - 1.00pm

### Technique Class for Advanced and Very Advanced dancers

with teacher **Philippe Rousseau** and musician

**Ken Martlew**



A class aimed at advanced and very advanced dancers who are 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](mailto:chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk) or Jenny Kendrick [classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk)

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

## South East Classes Listing

We regularly update the classes listing on [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk) (under SE Events).

Would you please check your group's information and send any amendments to [seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk) or call Jan Collings on 07803 923036.

## Representing the Branch

A monthly class on Tuesdays for advanced dancers, taught by **Mervyn Short**, with music provided by **Neil Esslemont**, 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](mailto:demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## Families in London Dance Scottish

The Family Scottish Dancing Class will continue at:

Fresh Ground Church of the Nazarene, 68 Battersea Rise, London SW11 1EQ  
[www.freshgroundlondon.com](http://www.freshgroundlondon.com)

**Saturdays** 10.30 - 11.45am

Check [Branch website](#) for dates

Café available on premises for refreshments

With teachers **James Fairbairn** and **Jenny Kendrick**

Class fee £5 each/£10 family

Railway station: Clapham Junction

Please invite your friends and family to come along and have a go.

For more information see the [Branch website](#) or please follow our new [Families in London Dance Scottish](#) Facebook page.

For further information please contact Marjory at [classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk)

Family Afternoon Dance on Saturday 8 June 2019 from 2.00 - 4.30pm in the Upper Hall, at St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD with musician Sandra Smith.



## NEW Ceilidh Sessions

See announcement on p4 for more details

## Andrew Kellett becomes RSCDS Chairman



It is a tremendous honour to have been elected Chairman of the RSCDS. The post has been occupied by some of the great names in the Society and indeed Scottish society. I cannot boast that

pedigree, but I do have years of experience dancing in London and elsewhere that gives me a valuable perspective on the RSCDS. We all tend to look up to Coates Crescent, to Summer School and to the hierarchy of directors, convenors and examiners. While they are important, what matters most to the Society's mission of promoting Scottish country dancing is the week-by-week commitment of branches, affiliated groups and individual members throughout the world who are keeping dancing alive, often in modest surroundings and sometimes against the odds.

My first task as Chairman, therefore, is to thank you for all that you do on the Society's behalf. If you are teaching or playing for a class, organising events or making the tea, performing in demonstrations or offering a helpful hand at a dance you are an ambassador for the Society. Newcomers take up Scottish country dancing and join the Society because of what you do, not because of me, or the Management Board or the staff at Headquarters, and that is the last time I will refer to RSCDS Headquarters. We have an excellent team working in the office at Coates Crescent, but they are not in charge of the Society. The RSCDS is headquartered

wherever people dance. The Society is you and it is nourished by the spirit and jollity of Scottish dance. It cannot be contained in a building or a minute book. Each branch and each member is empowered to do whatever they can to maintain and develop Scottish country dancing as the wonderful, life-affirming hobby that we know.

So, how did I get to wear the Chairman's chain (not chains, please note)? I learnt to dance at a children's class in Bradford, Yorkshire. By my mid-teens I was out dancing most Saturday nights. The opportunities seemed boundless. So many events, great teaching and music, the chance to travel, performances at some classy venues and friendships to share. As part of the London Branch demonstration team my wife, Wendy, and I had a ball. Life changes, of course, and careers and parenthood meant we had to take a step back. For some years my dancing experiences were mostly confined to ceilidh calling and supporting family dances. I knew that all the joy I had experienced through Scottish dancing would not have been possible without the RSCDS, its teachers and its nurturing of the tradition, so I continued to serve on the London Branch Committee and I edited the Society's magazine for a time. Life continued to change and with retirement looming I started to dance more regularly once again. It was a bit of a shock, frankly. Not only did my leg muscles complain, but my brain was taxed by the very different repertoire from the one I had known twenty years before. I persevered and became Branch Chairman for a second time and now Chairman of the Society.

What that potted biography shows, I hope, is that we enjoy Scottish dancing in many different ways. We might dance as a child, a young adult or elderly person (I am not quite that yet). We can ceilidh, we can reel, we can demonstrate in the Younger Hall at St Andrews. We can dance in a local church hall, or a park or a castle. We can dance in pretty much every country of the world or at home with our family. We can dance every night of the week, or just occasionally. We can be energised by the thrilling sound of a live band or we can relax to some favourite tunes played through our headphones. The challenge for us as a society is how to embrace the richness of the culture we have inherited, and to help it adapt to a changing world without compromising its essence.

We have some immediate problems to tackle. The continuing decline in the Society's membership is a big concern. Even more worrying is the apparent decline in the number of people Scottish country dancing in much of the 'old' dancing world of the UK, North America and Australasia. We need more feet on the floor, otherwise the Society and the RSCDS way of dancing are under threat. However, I would not have taken on this job if I was not optimistic about our future. We have a great product, we have a strong communal network and there is you. It is the dedication, enterprise and passion of our members that will see us through. I shall strive to make sure the Board, the office and the entire Coates Crescent apparatus do their best to help you.

## AGM Report continued from p2

Chairman Helen Russell gave her report, after which the Treasurer reported on the Society's financial performance. The motion to maintain subscriptions at the same level was carried, William Cant was confirmed as Treasurer for a further three year term, and new Committee members were announced.

Concluding her two years as Chairman, Helen Russell passed the baton onto Andrew Kellett, reminding the assembly of his calm, logic, sense of proportion and strategic sense; the Society was therefore in safe hands. Andrew thanked Helen, saying that the Society owed her a great debt of gratitude and presented her with a Past Chairman's badge.

Andrew's optimistic acceptance speech thanked the Society for its trust in him and he looked forward to working with HQ, Branches and Members in promoting SCD worldwide. We at London Branch can be very proud of the elevation of our past Chairman who I first met when I started SCD at Leeds University in 1968 and who was at that time dancing with Leeds Branch.

Lorna Ogilvie (Perth and Perthshire Branch) now assumes the mantle of Chairman Elect.

The AGM was followed by a superb evening dance to wonderful music from Jim Lindsay and his SCD band. For the less experienced a 'Nice'n Easy' Dance was, for the first time, held in parallel with the Ball to music from Frank Thomson.

The AGM Weekend finished on the Sunday morning with Jimmie Hill, accompanied by Mo Rutherford, giving a talk on historic dances after which Peter Cass taught a General Class to music by Bill Ewan.

Next year's AGM weekend is 1-3 November 2019.

## News and Events from HQ by Daniel Capron



### New website

The new website and database will be available by the end of the year. Video tutorials and written walkthroughs will be created to help users get accustomed to the new system. HQ plan to create material for the events system, shop, logging in and highlighting new features on the website. During the first couple of months HQ staff will be available to answer members' queries.

### Staffing

The post of Executive Officer has been vacant since the end of May. Sandra Parish, Finance Officer, has taken on the role of interim Office Manager and assumed some of the responsibilities of the Executive Officer (EO). The Management Board at its meeting on 13 October decided to advertise for a permanent Office Manager, who would take on most of the EO's duties, and dispense with the EO post.

### New Chairman Elect

Lorna Ogilvie of Perth and Perthshire Branch is now Chairman Elect of the RSCDS and will be Chairman after Andrew Kellett, from 2020 to 2022. She spent 20 years as headmistress of girls' schools in Aberdeen and London. She was Chairman of RSCDS Croydon Branch and represented it

on the Executive Council. Her full profile is on the website, [www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org) along with all the latest news from HQ.

### Future RSCDS Events

**Winter School 2019** in Pitlochry 17-22 February. Contact [moira.thomson@rscds.org](mailto:moira.thomson@rscds.org) for more details or book online at [www.rscds.org/events](http://www.rscds.org/events)

**Spring Fling/Fringe 2019** in Paris 19-21 April

Spring Fling is an annual event for those aged 18-35. Spring Fringe is an international dance week-end for dancers over 35 with specific classes and joint evening dances. Details will be posted on the website [www.springfling.rscdsparis.fr](http://www.springfling.rscdsparis.fr) as soon as available.

**Summer School 2019** in St Andrews from 14 July to 11 August.

Online booking now open. For more information, and to book, go to [www.rscds.org/events](http://www.rscds.org/events)



For any queries or information on events, contact Events Manager Moira Thomson at HQ (see above).

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



## Summer School Musicians' Course 2018

by Joan Desborough



**Week 2 at St Andrews** this year was full not only of Scottish country dancers but also about 30 musicians from around the world. Ian Muir, Music Director of the RSCDS and leader of the Craiggellachie Band, organized and taught the musicians' course ably assisted by Gillian Stevenson on fiddle and Bill Ewan on piano. The main aim of the course was to encourage musicians to understand and appreciate the unique style of Scottish country dance music (the course in Week 1 was aimed at those who wished to learn more about playing for classes). Focused particularly on reels, jigs and strathspeys it gave musicians the opportunity to ensure their music has the necessary drive and lift to inspire dancers. One of the main objectives was to have a working band to play for the week's final dance in the Younger Hall on Saturday night.

The course was primarily aimed at fiddlers, accordionists and keyboard players, but there was also a cellist and a bass guitarist. Participants came from Russia, Canada, South Africa, Netherlands, France, Germany, Sweden and the UK. Each morning we gathered in the Old Dining Room of University Hall to work on the music for the Saturday evening. The afternoons were equally busy as we looked at tempos not usually encountered in SCD music, such as waltz, two-step and march. We also split into groups for more specific instrument advice. In addition, class musicians, who had already spent the morning playing for dancing, came along and explained their approach to creating a set of tunes for a dance; an opportunity for us to play different tunes providing good sight-reading practice.

The sheet music for 65 different tunes, most arranged in sets for the 14 dances on the Saturday evening programme, arrived about six weeks before the course so gave us the opportunity to become familiar with the music in advance of our trip to Scotland. Thirty musicians can only play them together if they listen to each other - and that was probably the most important point Ian made early in the week. The more we listened to each other, the better the sound we produced! The week was definitely not about bashing through the tunes, but about working through all of them carefully; every note counts whether it is loud or quiet, accented or played more softly. There were at least four different playing orders for the tunes depending on the nature of the original, the key changes required and even the position of the dance in the programme. It was very important to take notes to ensure the accuracy that Ian encouraged. With so many musicians this was also an opportunity to make arrangements for some of the sets of tunes and we had great fun mastering Ian's creative ideas hoping that dancers would realize that the sound from the stage was not just uniform, but varied in texture.

In the evenings we could join the social dancing, after which several of us gathered in the 'party room' where, with a glass of wine in hand, we listened to many splendid musicians enjoying the opportunity to relax and continue playing. Of course this was often accompanied by dancing. On Friday evening 30 musicians crammed into the common room and opened the Ceilidh with a waltz and a march. On Saturday evening we filled the stage of the Younger Hall and had a wonderful evening putting into practice everything we had learnt during the week. Judging by the reaction of the dancers, they enjoyed the music too.

This was an excellent course: thanks must go to everyone involved in its organization and to Ian in particular for guiding us so expertly. I am definitely a dancer at heart, but I have had such pleasure from challenging myself to play the keyboard. Over the last few years I have also attended many one-day workshops that give an insight into how the musicians see the dancers and how they work hard to produce the music that we love to dance to. If one plays a suitable instrument and would like to try to play for Scottish dancing then these workshops are most enjoyable and help one understand how the music drives the dancing. Bursaries are available to dancers and musicians, in particular young musicians, to attend courses. I have now attended the Summer School Music Course for three successive years and each time I have had a fabulous week, returning home with even more enthusiasm for the music and the dancing.



Joan's view: group morning session in the Old Dining Room led by Ian Muir, (26 July 2018).

## The Thistle magazine on the Branch website

London Branch have recently completed a project of scanning all 55 copies of *The Thistle* magazine which was originally published between November 1961 and February 1973 by The West Point Grey Scottish Country Dance Club of British Columbia based in Vancouver, Canada. Although there was an Editorial Committee, most of the material was produced by Hugh Thurston.

London Branch was given a complete set of *The Thistle* by the historian John W Mitchell for our Branch archives. The information that is in *The Thistle* is a great resource to all who are interested in SCD and associated matters.

Searchable PDF files can be found on [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk) under the Archives section from 1 December 2018.

## Bands

### CALEDONIAN REELERS

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

### KAFOOZALUM COUNTRY DANCE BAND

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

### IAN ROBERTSON AND HIS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE BAND

Solo, duo or trio available for Scottish country dances, classes, weddings, ceilidhs and reeling events. Contact Ian Robertson on 01296 630682 or [ibrobertson@btinternet.com](http://ibrobertson@btinternet.com)

M C B A I N S  
 Country D A N C E I L D H S  
M C B A I N S  
 Band

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

### Soloist: PETER JENKINS

Solo accordion for workshops, classes, day schools and 'smaller functions'. 020 8581 0359 or [peter@kafoozalum.co.uk](mailto:peter@kafoozalum.co.uk)

### THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

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

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See [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk) for details or contact Maggie Westley, 30 Stanley Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4LF or [reelsubscriptions@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:reelsubscriptions@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## Branch Bookstall

The branch Bookstall sells Scottish country dancing books and CDs and also Branch badges. Recent publications in stock include the new RSCDS book, Book 52, and its CD, and the latest (9th) Edition of Scottish Country Dances in Diagrams, better known as Pilling. The bookstall will be at the dance on 15 December and other Branch events. Books and CDs can also be sent out by post. Some high-quality CDs by well-known bands and early RSCDS Books are for sale at bargain prices. Current stock is listed on the Branch website, [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk) Contact Daniel with any queries or orders at [bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk) at 74B Thurlow Park Road, London SE21 8HY or on 020 8670 6918.

## Music Matters continued...CD Review by Jeremy Hill



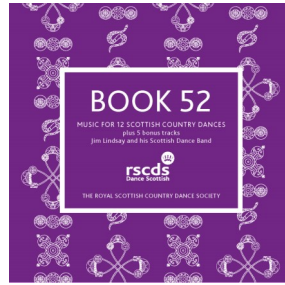
**RSCDS Book 52**, with music from Jim Lindsay and his Scottish Dance Band: CD available at £14.30 (10% discount available for Society members) from the Branch Bookstall (see below) or [www.rscds.org/shop](http://www.rscds.org/shop), or to download from iTunes for £9.99 or [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk) for £7.99. Also available to stream from [spotify.com](https://open.spotify.com)

Dances: *City Lights* (8x32J), *The Ullapool Ferry* (4x32R), *Slytherin House*, (8x32S), *Forty and Counting* (8x40R), *The Scallywag* (8x40J), *Ruby Wilkinson's Farewell to Cranshaws* (4x32S), *Farewell to Balfour Road* (96J), *Ysobel Stewart of Fish Hoek* (8x32S), *The Aviator* (5x32J), *Triple Happiness* (3x32S), *The Bon Viveur* (2x32S+2x32R), *Trip to Timber Ridge* (8x32R), *Warm-up Waltz* (8+12x16W), *Warm-up March* (4+9x16M), *Warm-up Reel* (4x32R), *Stretching Slow Waltz* (4+4x126+4W), *The Foulta Reel* (4x48J).

There are so many positive facets of his recording that it is difficult to know from which angle to approach it, since each is so strong in its own way, yet contributes to an overall picture that is greater even than the sum of its parts. I cannot think of a recording I have enjoyed more for years.

The parts are taken by a dream team of players, led by Jim Lindsay, with the luxury of both Alison Smith and Gillian Ramsay on violins, David Hume on second accordion, Graham Berry on piano (and bass) and

Gordon Smith on drums. All get their moment in the spotlight, and play their part to perfection, in the style of a real chamber group, so there is interest for the listener throughout.



I particularly like the way that these touches are used to give each track its own character. I have to highlight *Slytherin House*, where Harry Potter

fans (a nod to the younger dancers here) will revel in the creepy texture of the original, with pizzicato strings supporting the tune. I heard some Mendelssohn at a chamber recital just recently and the effect was uncannily similar. That note of danger is carried through to what must surely be the first listing of John Williams (the Hollywood composer, not the guitarist) on a Scottish dance recording, with the *Hedwig's Theme* adapted for inclusion as an alternative.

The strathspey written for Ruby Wilkinson's time as Director of Summer School has an original tune by George Meikle. Graham leads off the tune on the piano, and Jim takes the 'blue' note in the tune as a cue for a jazz-inflected arrangement, in which he comes in to provide 'cool as you like' comment on the accordion. Elsewhere,

Graham features, in the manner of Jim himself in his days as pianist for Bobby Crowe, doubling the tune or providing a counter-melody. Elsewhere, the two accordions or two violins elaborate on tunes, and so the interest continues throughout.

I could list almost any track as evidence of the thoughtful approach taken to matching tunes, with great build-up to transitions, leading back to original tunes that are themselves highly effective and attractive. And with this line-up, I do not think I need to say anything about the rock-steady tempo and rhythmic drive - recognising that not all dancers are taking in all aspects of the music while trying to negotiate the dances.

The extra tracks may be useful for classes looking for warm-up or cool-down music, and I am pleased to hear *The Foulta Reel* at the head of a great concluding set for the dance - time to brush up on that running step?

There is so much to enjoy on this album that simply listening end to end will bring a smile to the face, but it is as likely to make you feel you want to be up dancing, and my experience of the dances in this book is that they make a very strong set, and several will, I am sure, prove popular.

Whether you buy recordings as a dancer, listener or teacher, or are interested in a first CD, I cannot recommend this highly enough.

Ed. Read Jeremy's review of the latest Muriel Johnstone CD *Masters of the Tradition, Volume 2 in Reel 307*.

## Hogmanay at Higham by Maureen Haynes



**Higham Hall** is situated on the northern edge of the western Lake District, between Keswick and Cockermouth and close to Bassenthwaite Lake. The hall was built about 1800, has four acres of wonderful gardens and spectacular views across the neighbouring fells. For over 30 years Higham Hall was the Lake District's Residential College for Continuing Education owned by Cumbria County Council. In 2009 it became an independent educational trust and continues to provide a wide range of courses, including the Scottish dance course 'Hogmanay at Higham' which starts annually on 29 December, finishing after breakfast on New Year's Day.



**Hogmanay at Higham** was initiated in 1992 by Alasdair Galbraith, the manager at the

time, an enthusiastic Scot, not a dancer but he enjoyed playing the bagpipes and as a treat gave a rousing wake-up call each morning, much to the disgust of some of the residents! Derek Haynes tutored this first course, accompanied by Nancy Dickson at the piano. Derek continued to tutor the course up until 2005. He was followed by Ann Dix and since December 2013 Mervyn Short has been the tutor. I also assist all three tutors in the running of the course.

A variety of musicians have worked with the tutors, including Nancy Dickson, Jennifer Wilson, Pat Clark, Jack Judson, Gillian Cummins, Ian and Judith Muir and currently George Meikle who is our regular in-house musician, playing for classes and each evening's social dancing. The course, which is aimed at dancers with at least three years dancing experience, starts on the first evening with a welcoming reception, followed by dinner and social dancing. Classes take place on the following two mornings with free time each afternoon giving opportunity to walk and explore the local area, to visit Keswick or Cockermouth, or just to rest. Optional 'walk through' sessions or classes are held after tea and then social dancing follows dinner each evening. Because of the size of the dance floor numbers of dancers are limited to approximately 40, but this in itself helps to create a very friendly and happy atmosphere both in the dancing and throughout the house over the three days.

**New Year's Eve** is made more special by starting with a wine reception and a more formal celebratory dinner, followed by dancing and seeing in the New Year in a



traditional way. Opportunity is given for bar breaks and often ceilidh items have been included during the evening programme. In 2016 all course members were given the opportunity to be involved in a competition to devise a dance to mark the 25th Anniversary of Hogmanay at Higham. This resulted in the publication of the four dances (*After Twenty Five Years*, *The Higham Silver Celebration*, *Celebration at Higham and Higham Hogmanay*) in a booklet entitled 'Higham Hall Anniversary Booklet'. All proceeds from the sale of this are donated to the Mountain Rescue Team of Cockermouth.

The course continues to be highly successful and is always eagerly anticipated by course participants. In addition, to experiencing excellent tuition and wonderful music it is seen as a good way to work off some of the over-indulgences of Christmas and to relax and enjoy the company of fellow dance enthusiasts in beautiful surroundings.

Ed. This weekend which is run by the Hall, is very popular and is generally fully booked well in advance. For a copy of the Anniversary booklet contact Pauline Beeson [paulinebeeson@btinternet.com](mailto:paulinebeeson@btinternet.com)



## The Oxfordshire Branch - The first 50 years by Dennis Tucker



**A Merger:** The Oxfordshire Branch of the RSCDS was formed in 1968. At that time two ladies were teaching Scottish country dancing locally - Margaret Baker in Oxford and Margaret Gibbs in

Banbury. These two groups merged to become the Oxfordshire Branch. Both groups continued their own separate programmes under a common banner for some years but gradually the Oxford-based group became more readily identified as the Oxfordshire Branch - a recognition which has persisted. There had been Scottish dance classes in Oxford for a number of years alongside the University SCD Club. Margaret Baker had taught for some time in St Columba's Church Hall in Alfred Street near Carfax and had then moved on to the hall of St Giles' Church, Banbury Road, before finally settling in Summertown Church hall where we have danced for more than forty years.

**Dancing Classes:** During Margaret's time the distinguished teacher and dance deviser, Jack McConachie, a prominent figure in the Scottish dance branch of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, used to pay weekly visits to teach various classes in Oxford. The Branch still meets in Summertown every Thursday all year round. In the early years there were two teachers, Margaret Baker and Roy Clarke. When Margaret retired in 1986, I took over from her and in the years that followed no fewer than eight members of the Branch have qualified as teachers, Helen Houghton-Carr, Trisha Rawlings and Alice Stainer now playing a major role in our various classes. In the early 1980s the main class rarely exceeded two sets and the total Branch membership was 20-30. Nowadays, the membership is regularly 70-80, occasionally higher, with five or six sets regularly joining the general class, subdividing into Elementary, Improvers or Advanced. In Margaret's time the only musical equipment available was a portable gramophone which played 12" long-playing records, on which the needle would occasionally jump, causing some confusion. From there we have progressed through several stages to a powerful and sophisticated machine with the essential speed control.

In the early days our range of activities was not nearly as wide as it is now. We did hold an Annual Ball, often in the Morris Motors Social Club in Cowley, with good bands, such as McBain's and Frank Reid's. There was no summer social dancing. Classes ceased with our AGM in May and resumed in September. Summer dancing was started experimentally in response to popular request and has proved a lasting success. The present cycle of Oxford Day Schools started in the early eighties. The first in more recent years was organised by the University SCD Club with the wonderful Alastair MacFadyen teaching a small class of some 20 dancers. For the next three years the Branch and the University Club alternated in running the event but since 1986 the Branch has organised the day, which has steadily grown to include classes at three different levels, requiring two visiting teachers, generally from Scotland, and three musicians. It was not long before an evening dance was added to the programme, making the day a considerable undertaking. A list of visiting teachers includes dozens of names familiar to those who attend Summer School at St Andrews and it is pleasing to mention that no fewer than seven of these teachers have achieved the high distinction of being elected Chairman of the RSCDS.

For several years we ran a children's class on Saturday mornings but attendance was never very regular and numbers eventually



RSCDS Oxfordshire Branch 50th Anniversary Ball at Headington School first half demonstration dancing Dennis Tucker's *The Champagne Reel* arrayed with gold sashes and flashes, (27 October 2018).

dwindled. Our Burns' Suppers and Dances started in 2003, moving in 2005 to Benson Parish Hall where we have enjoyed the very good facilities ever since. We started to hold a Summer Open Air Dance in the early 1990s, using various locations until our then Chairman, Professor Michael Argyle, a Fellow of Wolfson College, gained permission for us



Dennis MCs the Saturday summer open-air picnic dance on the Wolfson's College's riverside lawn, (21 August 2004).

to dance on the college's splendid riverside lawn. Latterly, we have moved to the pleasant grounds of Headington School. During the past 25 years the Branch has produced two books of dances devised mainly by its members: *The Silver Jubilee Oxford Book of Dances*, 1993 and *Oxford Connections* (2013) which was organised and sponsored by Mick and Trisha Rawlings. The latter contains eight superb tunes composed by Ian Muir, with whom the Branch has been closely associated since the early 1980s, before the formation of the Craigellachie Band. Ian and the band have produced three noteworthy recordings for the Branch: *Craigellachie in Oxford*, 1992, *The Silver Jubilee Book*, 1993, and *Oxford Connections*, 2013.

In the fifty years of our existence we have grown enormously, not only in mere numbers but more especially in the huge expansion of our activities and the dancing opportunities that we offer. It is gratifying that we are still known as a welcoming branch, taking pains to make newcomers and beginners feel comfortable and willing to persevere. We have a reputation for organising successful events and I believe that we have played a proper part in 'maintaining the aims of preserving the standards and traditions of Scottish country dancing and encouraging in others the knowledge and enjoyment of Scotland's heritage in music and dance.'

[www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk)

## SERTA Workshop Report by Hilary Maidstone



The SERTA Workshop on 30 September 2018 was led by Malcolm Brown with music from Ian and Meryl Thomson. It covered three different areas; an update on the changes to the RSCDS teaching qualifications and dances from Book 52.

However, Malcolm's main presentation was about dancing with disabilities. He had taught Scottish dancing to wheelchair users in Samara, Russia and we saw two videos showing this, one of a 'Legs and Wheels Ball' which was very impressive. Each wheelchair user had an able-bodied partner, all dressed up beautifully and it was most encouraging to see everyone enjoying dancing.

Malcolm has devised specific dances for wheelchair users, sometimes with 16 bars rather than eight for a formation, using reel

or jig music only. He found advance and retire, rights and lefts, hands across work well but wheelchairs are not easy to turn in a small area, so reels are difficult.

To imagine what it is like to be disabled, we then danced in pairs, one with their eyes closed, the other guiding. Next, we attempted Malcolm's special dances in threes, two in promenade hold, so that we could imagine the space used by a wheelchair. There was much hilarity and I think we all learnt a lot from this exercise - I know I did.

Elizabeth Bennett, who has Parkinson's, kindly gave us some ideas on dancing with dancers with disabilities that may not be immediately apparent. (She has difficulties with balance).

We all saw that the benefits of dancing are not just in social interaction but also in encouraging people to do more. Thanks to all who helped to give us an insight into dancing

with disabilities and another excellent workshop.

Our next workshop is on Sunday, 17 March 2019 with Muriel Johnstone. Further details at [www.serta.org.uk](http://www.serta.org.uk)







1. Andrew Nolan teaching the Very Advanced afternoon class at the London Branch Day School, (20 October 2018).



4. Chris Oxtoby playing for the Day School Newcomers and Improvers class, (20 October 2018).



7. Spectators and dancers alike enjoy the music of Kafoozalum playing for the dance *The British Grenadiers* at the London Branch Open Air Dancing in Kensington Gardens, (1 September 2018).



10. The class of 48 - Low Impact, technically challenged led by teacher - entertainer, William Williamson (right) and talented pianist Roger McAndrew at 86th St Andrews Summer School, (8 August 2018).



2. Emma Allsop teaching the Newcomers and Improvers class at the Day School, (20 October 2018).



5. Fifty of the finest highland dancers from around the world, under the directorship of Aileen Robertson, represent the Tattoo Dance Company performing at the 69th Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle, (13 August 2018).



8. MC, James Fairbairn guiding enthusiastic dancers at the London Branch Open Air Dancing, (18 August 2018).



11. Dancing Angels - Queensland Branch contingent dance the jig *Crocodile Tears* by Francis Walduck celebrating Steve Irwin at the Summer School ceilidh in the Common Room, (10 August 2018).



12. The Potten End Brownie Pack, who had fun learning three dances with Jane Rose (middle), president, Gerry Elliott and piper, Jonathan Mole from BSRC, (29 June 2018).



3. Well-deserved appreciation is shown for the superb playing of The Craigellachie Band in anticipation of dancing the encore of the last dance *The Irish Rover*. RSCDS Oxfordshire Branch 50th Anniversary Ball; see article on p9, (27 October 2018).



6. Ionkar Angulo, a member of the London Branch Beginners and Improvers Class, leads Joan Blake down in *Gramachie* at the Autumn Wednesday Dance, (24 October 2018).



9. Pat Davoll and Simon Wales dance advance and retire in *Gramachie* at the Autumn Wednesday Dance, (24 October 2018)



13. RSCDS BHS Border Branch Spring Ball with chairman Gordon Anderson on the right welcoming overseas visitors from left, former SEHSCDS dancer, now living in Spain, Douglas Bone, Cadiz and Susana Page, Madrid and Francine Quastel from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, (19 May 2018)



## How I Crossed the Great Green Ford by Rosalind Zuridis



Former Branch Publicity Member from 2006-8 and classics scholar, Rosalind Zuridis' talents know no bounds and here we are pleased to publish her account of a journey, in poetic light-hearted form,

depicted using the simile of dance names, steps and formations, that she took, during her time as President of Greenford and District Caledonian Association from April 2015 - 2017.

If you like what you read then why not visit the *Reel* Archive and read Rosalind's more esoteric and prolific contributions in the following previous editions of *The Reel* dating back over 19 years:

The Violin 302 p8, Prima Ballerina 294 p7, Post-War Transformation 289 p7, Adamsons 260 p12, Rural Dancies 259 p6, Scott-Skinner 257 p7/8, Thomas Wilson 255 p6, Treasures 241 p1/2, Silver Screen 236 p10, Ghent 235 p5, Choreography 232 p13/14, John Drewry 230 p1/2.

### How I crossed the Great Green Ford

Rosalind recited this for the first time at a club meeting on 11 April 2017.

Oft did they tell of the great green ford  
 "Just cross it to find that place of zest  
 Where highland smiles and reels abound!  
 Where dancers cluster round their lord  
 That noble doughty *Gentleman!*"  
 And so I set forth, towards the west.  
 Along *The Winding Road!*

At first the path was soft and smooth  
 Like *Butterscotch and Honey*  
 Strathspey was the step I chose  
 But I hated such *S-locomotion*  
 So I copied *The Dashing White Sergeant*  
 Skipping and pointing my tartan toes!

I came upon *The Highland Rambler*  
 Who hollered "Promenade with me!"  
 I hollered back "Hello-Goodbye"  
 Then fled behind *The Hazel Tree*  
 All hung in grey *Scotch Mist*

Now I could *Rest and Be Thankful*  
 But knew not where to turn!  
 Below were countless plashing sounds:  
 It was the *Polharrow Burn!*  
 My green ford must so soon be found!

T'was indeed the stuff of dreams!  
 There stood my *Major Ian Stewart!*  
 That bonnie Scot all brow and strong!  
 "Oh *Happy Meeting!*" bellowed he  
 Come to the burn for which you long!

"This must we do" said he to me  
 "We'll cross that Swirl, with thrust so free,  
 Skip, then Pass and Turn!  
 Hurrah, we've crossed the great green ford  
*Lassie Come and Dance with Me!*"

I glimpsed the kindly whirling throng  
 Lit by the golden *Peat Fire Flame*  
 There were the *Merry Lads of Ayr*  
 And there all *The Ladies of Dunse*.  
 And, hey! the doughty *Gentleman!*  
 That sparkling sight restored my youth!  
 Such, oh such, was my *Moment of Truth!*

## Nothing quite like the Singapore Ball by Joan Blake



The Singapore St Andrews Society (SSAS) has been celebrating St Andrew for some 182 years in Singapore and what better way to do so than social dancing at the Tanglin Trust School on Thursday evenings 7.30 - 9.30pm mostly during term time. And staying on afterwards at the Col (Colonial) Bar - a basic tin hut in one of the few remaining jungle parts of the Little Red Dot Capital

State (Singapore was named The Little Red Dot by neighbouring Indonesia as, on a world map, the whole country could hide behind the traditional red dot which denoted the capital of any country). There is free parking at the school or it is easily accessible by one of the cheap taxis or a 50p MRT (tube) ride and a ten minute walk from One North Station with a chance to listen to a cacophony of cicadas in the bushes. Visitors are made truly welcome to this RSCDS Affiliated Group. Those coming along can be anything from very new to the extremely expert, with people dropping in from Dubai, Hong Kong and Australia when they are passing through. Contact Marion at [dancing.ssas@gmail.com](mailto:dancing.ssas@gmail.com) also looking at the Singapore St Andrews' YouTube dance videos on line, one will know there have been some excellent standards of display dancing. Most of the dem team have moved away (with the transient expat community, a 'best' friend is lost and another appears shortly afterwards) but the fabulous ball where the videos were filmed, lives on.

The St Andrew's Ball takes place near to St Andrew's Day at the stunning Island Ballroom, at the Orchard Shangri-La Hotel. It is the perfect use of jet lag as it starts at 7.00pm with the 390 guests enjoying cocktails and filling in dance cards, minces through



a sumptuous seven course dinner, glides through a haggis tribute, blasts through speeches and Gurkha Police pipes and drums until Neil Barron picks up around 11.00pm with a full programme of Scottish dances and a brief stop for soup and rolls in the wee small hours. It is usual to stay on after

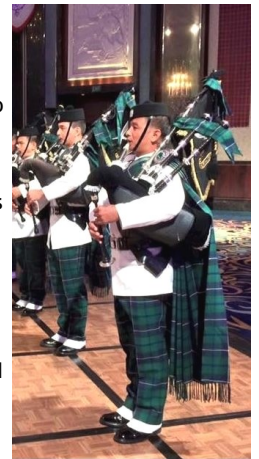
3.30am for picnic food and fizz brought along for the wind down. Time just flies! 'If you haven't been to this ball, you haven't lived'.

Tickets go on sale via Facebook and [www.standrewssociety.org.sg](http://www.standrewssociety.org.sg) and the date is always the Saturday in November nearest to St Andrew's Day. The dress code is highland dress/black tie/ long dresses. Neil Barron and his SCD Band has had the ball in their forward diary for over 20 years and in recent years Maggie Adamson has added her fabulous fiddle playing, which is truly the icing on the cake. Dances are listed on the website as soon as they are decided and recapped/called on the night; they are the ones most people know so that dancers who dance

only once a year can enjoy themselves: nothing trickier than *Mairi's Wedding* or *The Eightsome Reel/Johnnie Walker*.

The current High Commissioner to Singapore, Scott Wightman, is apparently the first ever Scot in the post.

He gave an epic tribute to a haggis at the ball the year he arrived. Society members no longer need to lug 7kg tinned haggis each back in their luggage from Scotland to ensure ample supplies for the ball (and Burns' Supper - another great glamorous sold-out evening) as MacSweens is now available in Singapore. Ball dance practices start mid-October for six Thursdays (in place of the usual class) with the Col Bar table stretching out into the balmy night. As years have gone by, ball dances have grown easier and last year the organisers moved towards ceilidh dancing. However, the move this year was for the experienced Scottish country dancers dancing some more challenging dances to the usual band.



The Society has for the last six years in August given Singaporean students joining Scottish universities a great send off by arranging ceilidh dancing at their event. The Society provides a caller and regular dancers disperse themselves around the sets. Readers are invited to check out the Society website for events as they appear or join their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/singstandrews](http://www.facebook.com/singstandrews). Current Chieftain, Stephen Fulton and his merry band of committee members are always inventing new ways to celebrate all things Scottish (no one needs to be a member of the Society but everyone is welcome to all events).

Also, there is dancing in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - two groups, one of them being with the Selangor St Andrew's Society:

[www.ssas-online.com](http://www.ssas-online.com); and at the Jakarta (Indonesia) charity ball [www.javastandrewsociety.com](http://www.javastandrewsociety.com). There is still nothing though, quite like the Singapore Ball!

Ed. Further reading on dancing in the Far East can be found on p4 in *Reel 170* and p14 in *Reel 290*.

## Two of a Kind



Piping On!

Michael Ormiston and George Bateson - two pipers with a single cause. George has piped in a haggis at Berkhamsted each year since 1952. He hung up his pipes in 2016 in favour of Michael. Both seen here on 23 January 2018.



## Another Excellent Isle of Wight Weekend Beckons by Ian Muir

The Isle of Wight Weekend has been taking place during February for many years and has established a long tradition of dancing, excellent teaching, inspiring music and friendship which has put the Island on the SCD map. The event takes place at the Shanklin Hotel, a 110 bed-roomed hotel superbly situated with views over Sandown using the hotel ballroom and from February 2019 a nearby church hall both with wooden floors.



Assembling in the Shanklin Hotel ballroom - from L to R: teachers Pat Houghton and Fred DeMarse, *Mickie Bluett, Sue Logan, Aileen Napper*, Jenny Robertson, musicians: Robert Mackay, Graham Hamilton, *Frankie Bluett, Judith Muir, Ian Muir, Catherine Packwood-Bluett*, (17 February 2018). *Italics* - organising committee.

This February gone. The Friday night started with a wine reception when Catherine Packwood-Bluett, an event organiser, welcomed class teachers Pat Houghton (Edinburgh) and Fred DeMarse (San Francisco) and class musicians Robert Mackay, Edinburgh (who has been the resident musician for over 35 years), Judith Muir and myself, and, of course, the dancers who numbered in excess of 80. After supper there was an evening's dancing to The Craigellachie Scottish Dance Band in the ballroom.

On Saturday morning the dancers, who had been divided into two intermediate/advanced groups by the organisers,

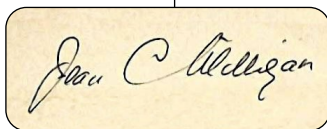
went off to class, swapping rooms after the coffee break to be taught by the other teacher. Saturday afternoon was free, allowing time to discover some of the Islands many famous beauty spots including Queen Victoria's Osborne House (open during the winter). After another wine reception and, of course, supper, Saturday evening's dance was again to Craigellachie. With classes on Sunday morning, the weekend rounded off with hotel lunch followed by farewells ... until next year! See [www.craigellachie-band.co.uk/isle\\_of\\_wight.html](http://www.craigellachie-band.co.uk/isle_of_wight.html)

## Jean Milligan 1886 - 1978

This year marks 40 years since Dr Jean Callander Milligan passed on to teach SCD to angels. *The Reel* marks this with a reprint of past editor Wilson Nicol's tribute to her, written in 2009 in *The Reel* 268.

JEAN MILLIGAN the tireless champion of SCD.

The co-founder of the RSCDS, Miss Jean Milligan was indeed a remarkable woman. She was in her mid-thirties when the Society was founded in 1923 and was still directing the Annual St Andrews Summer School in 1977 at the age of 91, just after she had been granted honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Aberdeen. In 1973 she was elected Scotswoman of the year on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Society. It was claimed that resulting from her frequent international travels to visit her SCD 'family' she probably knew more people in the world than Her Majesty the Queen - and she had an incredible memory for people's names. Spreading the SCD gospel internationally was superb marketing by her - and these visits continued until well into her



eighties. In 1975 she had a five week trip to North America experiencing frozen rivers and snow in Canada while visiting New Brunswick, Toronto, Vancouver then in the USA to Los Angeles, Washington and New York where the temperatures were in excess of 30° C. At one stage, after a class of 275 dancers in Toronto she was driven for eight hours in a car to New York for another class! Returning to Glasgow, all in one week she examined teachers at Jordanhill on Monday and Tuesday, then to Craiglockhart College in Edinburgh for the same purpose on Wednesday and on Thursday to the Society offices to continue preparing for the Summer School. By Friday she was back home dealing with a mountain of correspondence following her American tour, then back to Edinburgh for a finance meeting on Saturday - and all this at the age of 89! We have been able to contact Irene Caithness (Grant), Miss Milligan's 'Strathspey Queen' who has written on page 6 about her friendship with Auntie Jeannie as she was known by her dancing 'family'.

The Editor

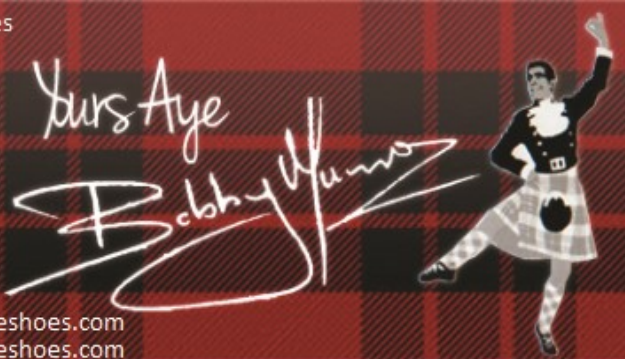
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## "In My Opinion" by Eric Finley



Eric was born and brought up in Prestwick and started SCD at twelve, three years later he was invited to join Margaret Anderson of Ayr's dem class and after a rest bite returned to it, joining a class at the

age of 20 near to his work. As a member of North West Ayr Branch under the tutelage of Norah Dunn he passed the Prelim and Final Teachers' Certificates in 1982 and '84 resp. Eric was then the local Branch teacher which he carried on with for many years until he was first asked to teach at the Isle of Wight Weekend (see article by Ian Muir). Since then, Eric has taught at St Andrews Summer School, in Australia, Canada, Germany, France and many other European countries including all parts of the UK. Eric enjoys teaching by trying to inform, correct, and instil his love and enjoyment of SCD wherever he goes.

### The Importance of a Good Warm Up

'Warm Up' is one of the phrases that strike fear and trepidation in the hearts of most Scottish country dancers. As a teacher, it becomes quite obvious that people do not want to do a warm up because of their habitual late arrival at classes hoping to avoid it. Why should this be? Over my years of teaching I have learned that people do not enjoy a warm up or feel that it takes away time from their dancing and yet it is one of the things that can be of benefit to a dancer by preventing injury. It is not only dancers who have hang ups about the warm up; some teachers also have a fear of those dreaded two words, mainly because they do not understand the process but accept it is something that should be done.

What is the purpose of a warm up one may ask? Well, the simple answer is that it is a way of preparing the body for a strenuous activity such as SCD. No self respecting athlete would consider performing without a substantial warm up to prepare their body for the stresses put upon it by their sport, yet dancers are quite prepared to launch into SCD from cold and this can lead to all sorts of problems.

Those people who know me will confirm that I do quite a lengthy warm up because, through personal experience and going on what people who have been in my classes tell me, it works. I have developed my warm up over many years and have adjusted and tweaked it where necessary. A good warm up should start gently and gradually build up and should encompass a whole range of movements, involve the whole body, use as many muscle groups as possible and involve an element of stretching. Since muscles act in pairs, the exercises should work both muscles and not just one muscle of the pair. Warm ups can be fun as well as being beneficial - just ask people who have been in my classes. I am not saying that injuries will never occur because of the warm up but they can be greatly reduced and so in my opinion a good warm up is essential before beginning to do any SCD, which as we all know is a demanding form of exercise.

Ed. Eric is well-known for his vibrant, fun warm ups which can last 20 minutes; recently he was the compère at the Summer School ceilidh when he even began by warming up for that with a personal mini workout!



# The Dance Corner

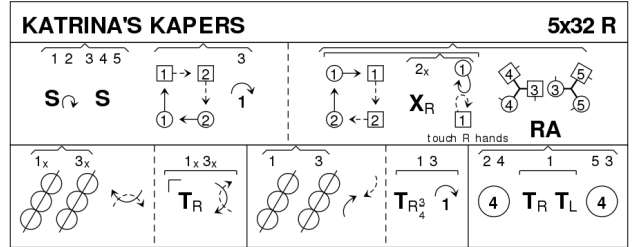
## Katrina's Kapers

Devised by Andrew Osborne, May 2017 for his wife Katrina to celebrate her 50th birthday on 20 May and danced for the first time, as a surprise, at the birthday party on 10 June 2017 by friends and family comprising Andrew & Katrina Osborne, Henry Osborne & Katy Kendall, Bruce & Fiona McLaren, Peter Jordan & Natalie Maude and Matthew Goulden & Iris Ronayne. The dance depicts aspects that Katrina particularly likes in a dance namely, a challenge, elements that are 'fast and furious' and the possibility of having a birl; the patterns also reflect the number 50. Andrew takes this opportunity to thank Andrew Hudson, Fiona McLaren, Lindsey Rousseau and Katy Kendall and the dancers from Wimbledon Reels and Richmond Caledonian Society without whose help this dance would not have been possible.

Tune: Katrina, composed by Frank Reid. Suggested recorded music: *We've Nae Electric* by Colin Dewar and his Band from the album *A' the Best Fae Banffshire*.



Andrew and Katrina live in Wimbledon, London.



Andrew Osborne, 2017

5C/5C longwise set.

Dance diagram courtesy of Keith Rose

NB Katrina's Kapers will be added to Strathspey Server during December 2018.

Katrina F B $\flat$  F/A Gm C7 F

F Am/E Dm C7 B $\flat$  B $\flat$  F F Dm

Gm C7 F F Am/E B $\flat$ /D F/C C7 F

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32 bar reel for five couples in a five-couple longwise set

Bars	Description
1 - 2	All taking hands on the side set. 1st and 2nd couples rotating by the right on bar 2.
3 - 4	1st and 2nd couples dance on one place clockwise as 3rd couple casts off one place and 4th couple step up.
5 - 8	1st and 2nd couples dance on another place clockwise to face partners across the set. 2nd couple giving right hands cross as 1st couple dance towards each other touch right hands and turn about to be back to back facing 1st corners (1st man may offer a helping right hand to his partner to turn under) as 3rd man dances right hands across with 5th couple and 3rd woman dances right hands across with 4th couple, 3rd couple also finishes facing their 1st corners.
9 - 12	1st and 3rd couple dance diagonal reel of four halfway with 1st corners passing right shoulders in the middle to face 2nd corners.
13 - 16	1st and 3rd couples turn 2nd corners right hand passing right shoulders, ending to face 3rd corners.
17 - 20	1st and 3rd couple dance diagonal reel of four halfway with 3rd corners to finish facing partners in the middle men facing down and women facing up.
21 - 24	1st and 3rd couples turn partners three quarter right hand and cast off one place to 3rd and 5th places respectively. 4th and 5th couples step up on bars 23-24.
25 - 32	1st couple in 3rd place turn right hand and then left hand (1st couple may alternatively birl right and left) as 2nd and 4th couples and 5th and 3rd couples dance four hands round and back ending 2 4 1 5 3. Repeat with a new couple.

Readers are invited to try this new dance and write in to *The Reel* Editorial Team with their comments.

## CAN YOU HELP? UPDATE

Referring to *Reel* 304 p5 when readers were asked to identify three staff in the 1973 St Andrews Summer School photograph. In *Reel* 305 we confirmed No.3 as Peg Rae and we are grateful to Linda Gaul of Pitlochry and Margaret Church of Skelmorlie for confirming that No.1 is sitting next to Margaret is Isobel Walker of Dalry, Ayrshire and indeed No.2 is Nancy Dickson. A minor other amendment is that although there was a Jackie Johnston (a dance teacher), the John Johnston in the picture was not known as Jackie - he came from Leicester/Belfast (see *Reel* 214 p6). In addition, bottom right is Doris not Dorothy Kinghorn. This photograph can now be given to the RSCDS HQ Archives.

## The Missing MacNaberries plus Hugh Foss

In *Reel* 305 we asked about the dance *The Eight Men of Moirdart* described in RSCDS Bk 3/10 but from reference to *Traditional Dancing in Scotland* 1964 by Joan and Tom Flett it is clear that there were several dances by this name, none of which, including this RSCDS's 1754 version, are associated with Mary MacNab's collection although Mrs MacNab is known to have taught one version (also see *Reel* 24 p3, the second part of the Joan and Tom Flett's worthwhile article on both traditional dancing and Mary MacNab). Following on from an assembling of historical papers by Chris Brady of Hayes and Fiona Grant, Bristol Branch further information has come to light from the late Elizabeth (Beth) Sutorius, niece of Mary MacNab. Within these documents was a copy

of *Waltz Cotillion* collected by Mary Isdale (maiden name) this is a different dance from that published by John Mitchell in *Reel* 258. Finally, at this stage, found within these documents was a copy of the 32 bar jig *The Banks of the Devon* by Hugh Foss (this has been added to Strathspey Server) which had been sent with Hugh's compliments to Mary MacNab and which had originally formed part of *Dances to Song Tunes 1966* (recently republished by RSCDS) included in place of *My Mither's aye Glow'rin Owre Me*. The information which includes *inter alia* handwritten MacNab notes, early dance descriptions and historical letters are to be lodged with HQ Archives. In the light of this and other discoveries the promised complete updated list will now be published in a later edition of *The Reel*.



The man behind *The Reel* cartoons 1927-2015 (Taken on 10 August 2007)



**Today's Scots** - In RSCDS Bk 3/5 the 24 bar strathspey *Jenny's Bawbee* taken from *A Companion to the Ballroom* 1816 can be found.

A bawbee is a copper alloy coin (billon) about 22mm diameter issued by James V of Scotland (1513-42) with a low value (equivalent to an English halfpenny). Photo taken in John Knox House, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh.



## A Gentle Man

from Simon Wales

Owen Anthony Meyer

11 October 1937 - 18 July 2018



Owen at age 67

Owen will be fondly remembered by the many people who attended his beginners' classes as a considerate, thoughtful calm gentleman, with a passion for doing things the right way - but for having fun at the same time. For Owen, doing things the right way was doing them in the RSCDS way; he was

a true RSCDS man and represented all that is good in the Society. Owen was brought, rather unwillingly to the UK from his native South Africa as a teenager, when his parents moved to the UK in the 1960's but quickly found many opportunities to indulge his artistic leanings - it was not until recent years that he returned to South Africa to visit. By then he had married Christine, brought up a family of two daughters, Anne and Alexandra, and was an extremely proud and doting grandfather.

I first met Owen in 1985 when I joined the demonstration team of London Branch and had little idea then how much our dancing lives would overlap. We were both at the taller end of the team, and danced many performances alongside each other, and always with helpful, quiet words of encouragement from the senior pro to the rookie which was much appreciated. Bill Ireland's demonstration team classes were not the place for socialising, but this took place in the pub after, or at the legendary pancake parties in Joan Spencer's flat - Owen did love a good gossip; never malicious, but always caring and remarkably well informed. Serious about teaching and performing, Owen was nevertheless not averse to joining in the fun side of things, taking part in ceilidh items (ending up face down on top of his partner in one memorable blindfold ceilidh item!) and dressing up, always stylishly, at the Cairngorm Hogmanays.

Being a keen photographer and passionate about the royal family, imagine Owen's delight to discover that Princess Anne was the guest of honour at the *Prix de Diane* race meeting at Longchamp where the demonstration team performed on the racecourse. Time and again he went missing, trying to get that elusive picture!

He had a spell teaching the demonstration team, and the advanced class, but it was with beginners and intermediate level that he really excelled. Watching him manage a class of 40 beginners (yes really, and that was not so long ago!) as I waited to start my intermediate class at Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, was like a weekly master class - he controlled without dominating; he taught without lecturing; and he made everyone feel that they really could do what he was asking! Apart from teaching, Owen also contributed vastly to the administration of the Branch. I discovered he had been an early predecessor of mine as Branch Treasurer, and he returned to the Committee as Vice Chairman from 1999-2002, combining this role with Membership Secretary, and sitting on the classes committee. In fact, he continued to be Membership Secretary up until 2007 despite not being on the committee. In many ways this was the ideal job for him to combine his love of the RSCDS and interest in people! Owen was a very supportive Vice Chairman to me as Chairman, and a steady hand on the tiller as Chairman from 2002-2005.

Conscientious as ever, he ensured he could attend RSCDS AGMs and I was amazed to see how many people from all parts of the RSCDS knew him, and respected him. I was pleased to return the support he gave me when I was Chairman, by becoming Treasurer. He was always happy to speak to members at events and was always encouraging newer dancers. Following the end of his term as Chairman, he was immediately elected as an Honorary Vice President, a post he held until his recent death. Sadly, his illness prevented him from making many appearances at events in recent years, so many current dancers will be unaware how much of a contribution Owen made to the Branch, but his memory will live on in the pages of *The Reel*, and in the memories of those fortunate and honoured to call him a friend. He was a true gentleman - a gentle man who will be missed by his family and by many friends in the RSCDS family too.

## The Dancing Couple

from Andy Nicol

Dr Wilson Menzies Nicol

30 January 1931 - 15 August 2018



Wilson at age 75

Wilson as a child, lived in Frioekheim, Angus, where his father owned the village butcher's shop. It was from his Dad and the many bands who visited the village to play for dances, that Wilson developed his life-long passion for music. As a teenager Wilson regularly played piano in bands with local

musicians, including his school friend, Lindsay Ross. Having been blessed with both an academic and practical mind, Wilson excelled at the local village school and then Arbroath Academy. His passion in scientific and mathematical subjects led him to study physics at the University of St Andrews, first as an undergraduate and then successfully completing a PhD. Wilson's delight in Scottish dancing started at the early age of five when he attended dancing classes at the village hall taught by the itinerant dancing master. On arriving at university, he quickly became involved in the dancing scene, organizing weekly dances and producing the tickets on a typeset printing machine that he acquired for the purpose. Wilson had great service and organizational skills and was elected the President of the St Andrews Celtic Society. He was keen to spread the enjoyment of dancing and successfully passed his full teaching certificate exam at the St Andrews Summer School in 1956. It was here that Wilson met Jean his wife to be and they married the following year. They both shared the passion for dancing and made a dynamic team, Jean teaching and Wilson playing for classes. This year in July they celebrated 61 years of happy marriage. Both were members of the London Branch demonstration class, Wilson serving in the team for 30 years and earning the nick name from Bill Ireland as 'Auld Nick'. Wilson contributed to the RSCDS on the General Purposes Committee followed by Management Board from 1999-2004. He served the London Branch as Vice Chairman/ Membership Secretary from 1989-1993 then Chairman of the Branch from 1993-1996 (see [Reel 205 p3](#)) and then as editor for *The Reel* (2005-2012). As editor he was keen to generate discussion and welcomed controversial letters to the magazine. He himself had strong opinions and interpretations on dancing. One of his favourites was the man not starting the reel-

time-poussette on the left foot which he considered quite incorrect! Wilson had the position as one of the Honorary Vice Presidents bestowed upon him in 2013 as well as receiving a Branch Award for his contribution to the London Branch.

Wilson moved south to the London area after completing his PhD and the majority of his working career was with Tate & Lyle as Director of Research, leading the development of *Sucralose*. His specialist knowledge in the food industry led him to serve on several industry committees providing Wilson with numerous industry contacts proving invaluable when he started his own consultancy at the age of 60. He maintained a life long association with the University of St Andrews sitting on the Business Committee for many years.

One of his greatest enjoyments was seeing the success of his family including his eight grandchildren. Wilson was genuinely interested in helping other people succeed and promoting their success. He even had a brief foray into the film industry when the London Branch was asked to provide dancers for the Scottish wedding part of the film, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. For relaxation, Wilson enjoyed developing and tending well filled gardens to flower and hold interest throughout the year. His relaxation continued indoors where he loved to play both the piano and the button accordion. He regularly attended the annual music course at St Andrews contributing much as well as enjoying playing in a group with the other musicians. He loved to travel and had an amazing memory for place names he visited as long ago as 65 years. Wilson travelled and danced extensively in North America and as far away as New Zealand where he and Jean enjoyed visiting family. He had a very sweet tooth and on one birthday he seriously toyed with the idea of only ordering three desserts.

Jean (née Butt) Nicol

31 October 1930 - 4 September 2018



Jean at age 80

Jean was born in Croydon and developed an interest in Scottish country dancing while at school, joining the Croydon Branch of the RSCDS as a founding member. Already being a PE school teacher, the progression into teaching dancing was an easy transition. Jean

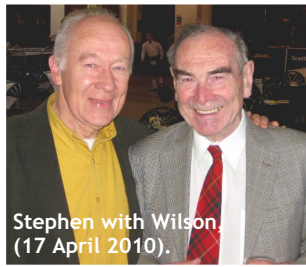
attended the dancing school at St Andrews in 1956 to take her preliminary teaching certificate and came to the attention of a young Wilson Nicol. He asked her to one of the evening dances where they must have enjoyed dancing together sufficiently for Wilson to show Jean around his favourite parts of the Angus and Fife areas, after the school had finished. They were engaged by the end of the year and married the following year in 1957. To demonstrate their commitment to dancing, they honeymooned at the Summer School.

Jean decided that the children in Reading, where they were then living, needed the opportunity to learn SCD and started a weekly class at her church. These classes proved to be very popular and Jean continued for many years, regularly organising a team of children to dance at the church Summer Fayre and competitions as well as making all the team dresses, such was her commitment to children. Jean served the London Branch as Membership Secretary from 1993-1999. In retirement Jean & Wilson enjoyed many activities together, including crosswords each day, listening to music, visiting gardens and of course dancing whenever they could.



## Editor and Friend from Stephen Webb

Working with Wilson (or Auld Nick as he often wrote as) could never be described as dull. He had an active, forensic and logical mind and was well suited to being the editor of *The Reel*, the third longest serving editor, with 28 editions (see *Reel 300 p3*); despite



Stephen with Wilson  
(17 April 2010).

this, he often asked me to take over as editor, for which I have always appreciated his faith and confidence he had in me. Apart from

submitting many articles, letters and photographs during his tenure I worked as the proof reader so got to know Wilson well. And as one might imagine we sometimes came into conflict but a sensible discussion always saw matters resolved amicably one

way or another. This led Wilson to produce 'house' guidelines which I still use today as the basis for consistency. I found him to be humorous in an academic way, warm in his strength of character, friendly and likeable. We often joked, in a Hannibal Smith manner that we 'loved it when a plan came together' because John Reeve, Wilson and I were, *A Reel Team* (see photo taken by Owen Meyer in *Reel 262 p20*). I got on well with him and have good memories at what we all achieved and very pleased that the Branch deservedly made him an Award recipient in 2016. I certainly saw Wilson as a friend and am much saddened at his departure.

## Remembering Wendy from Sheena Henderson

Wendy Downie (née Willison) Henderson  
22 April 1930 - 26 September 2018

Wendy's first steps into Scottish dance arose through encouraging her three children to join Harrow & District Caledonian Society's highland and country dance class in the 1960s but she and husband Jim moved from encouragers to participants and through dancing made many friends in SE England and



Wendy at age 65

Central Scotland. Although Wendy never held any elected office she supported Jim in his various roles, being particularly known for encouraging newer dancers, often hosting pre-dance gatherings at home for additional practice to bolster their confidence, and for the many practical tasks she

undertook at Harrow dances.

Alongside their love of dance Wendy and Jim's other shared interests included over five decades of boating on the river Thames and even longer as dog-owners, this being the interest that brought them together when, although both hailing from Scotland, they first met through dog training in Middlesex.

Although such an active person, Wendy was so stoical throughout her illness, continuing her encouragement of others from the side-lines and greeting every enquiry as to her health with a very emphatic, "I'm fine". The family thank all their SCD friends for their support.

## Letters to *The Reel*

### The Sad Demise After 108 Years

Dear Editors,

I write this letter with great sadness. The St Andrew Society (London), one of the oldest Scottish Societies in London and which celebrated its Centenary in March 2010, voted at its AGM in June this year to cease its activities.

The Society was founded by members of the Presbyterian (now Trinity United Reformed) Church in Mansel Road, Wimbledon. Early activities included picnics on Wimbledon Common and talks on Scottish subjects, which were advertised in the local newspaper. In 1913 one of these talks was given by Dr William Speirs Bruce, leader of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, the centenary of which is commemorated in *The Scotia Suite of Scottish Country Dances*. A ceremony was held at 'St Andrew's Grove', near Caesar's Well, Wimbledon Common on 20 June 1914 to commemorate the 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn. In *Reel 271 p5*, there is an article entitled 'Around the Birth of the Branch'. It describes how Mrs Elizabeth MacLachlan, President of the St Andrew Society from April 1926, was very active in organising Scottish country dancing in London and attended St Andrews Summer School. There is a follow-up article about Mrs MacLachlan and the Centenary Ball in *Reel 272 pp8, 16&20*, with a newspaper photograph discovered by the then RSCDS Archivist, Marilyn Healy. Mrs MacLachlan was appointed President following the resignation of the Rt Hon Ramsay MacDonald MP because of his parliamentary duties.

I am very sorry to see a society with such distinguished precedents come to an end. Time catches up with us all, and Scottish country dancing is less of a mainstream activity than it once was.

Elizabeth Bennett,  
Worcester Park, Surrey

### Hugh Foss and Glendarroch

Dear Editorial Team,

Thank you for the four complimentary copies of *The Reel* (302-305) with articles on my father's work as a dance deviser and founder of your magazine in the 1950s, an aspect of his life I was not too well aware

of. Earlier in the year I sent *The Reel* a photo at your request of 'Glendarroch' where my father lived in retirement for about 25 years. Many of his dances are named after nearby locations, such as *Irongray*, while *Miss Fleming's Jig* was named after my wife to be. Unfortunately, father died before Bletchley Park became declassified so I knew nothing of that aspect of his work. I have now though quite a number of books on Bletchley Park which refer to him. 'Glendarroch' was built for the local bank manager in the 1890's and the Foss family are only the second family to occupy it. It was somewhat austere, then my parents built on porches front and back which greatly improved matters. My wife has made the garden colourful while I try to make it fruitful. We hope that one of our children will follow on living here.

Kind regards,

Charles Foss, Dalry

### Foss Workshop and Dance?

Dear Dancer,

I have long been interested in Hugh Foss as a person and his many and varied dances and was fascinated by the two articles by Adrian Conrad in *Reel 302* and *Reel 303*. It would be really good to have an opportunity to dance some of these less-known/challenging dances, perhaps mixed in with some simpler Foss dances. I would therefore like to propose that London Branch or another group considers hosting a Foss workshop/dance say, sometime next year. The event would be an afternoon workshop and evening dance to live music, held at the weekend.

To decide on the viability of this proposal would any dancers interested in coming along please contact me and I will act as coordinator with Adrian. When emailing please state any preferences on location/teacher/dances or any other aspect.

Yours in anticipation,  
Murrrough Landon, London  
[fossdance@tandon.org.uk](mailto:fossdance@tandon.org.uk)

### Dance Floors - We Wooden Know

Dear Editorial Team,

In the spring of 2014 RSCDS New York Branch conducted a survey of its members. Like most things requiring participation (unlike instigating participation) there was a limited response with 25 results being returned. Nevertheless, we can assume that it was representative because those that did not

reply were either apathetic or happy as things stood.

Of the 12 questions which covered pace of classes, level of dance difficulty danced, sufficiency of ball programme preparation I was particularly interested in the one on venue where two thirds thought a sprung wooden floor very important and the remaining third felt it to be somewhat important nobody ticked the not important at all box.

Since February I have been suffering from Achilles' tendinopathy (the rehabilitation from which being eccentric exercising) and it is a real nuisance as it is hampering my dancing. I see great events coming and going and my having to pass on getting a ticket. SCD is such that it has an addictive quality which is only fully realised when the dancing is denied. The floor in question where this injury (despite my warming up) occurred was a wood block on concrete base floor, fine for school assemblies but questionably suitable for dancing. Certainly, the dancing that Scottish country dancers do with lifts, springs and beating where some 'give' in the floor lessens the effect on the limb joints is of great help. Anyone that has danced at the Hitchin Town Hall, St Columba's Lower Hall in London, St Andrews Younger Hall, Cecil Sharp House, Ashlyns Hall in Berkhamsted, Hurlingham or even the many village halls around the country with suspended floors will know instantly the difference between a wooden 'sprung' floor and a floor with a concrete slab.

It is difficult to know from an advertisement for a dance what kind of floor one will be met with when one arrives and it is only from experience that dancers, for self preservation, can and should strike a line through that hard floor event for the following year. I fully understand why a club will not advertise that the event has a 'hard' floor (no one would go) but perhaps clubs could look at this issue differently and include in their adverts when the floor is wooden and sprung/ suspended that much at least is owed to the dancer to make an informed decision.

from L'homme qui danse, Home Counties

Ed Readers can also refer to an earlier letter on this issue in *Reel 265 p9*.

# Forthcoming Events

## Event Listing in date order

2018 8/12 Chiswick K&PF p17, 15/12 Christmas Dance p1, 28/12 RSCDS BHS Christmas Social p17, 31/12 Thistle Hogmanay p17.  
 2019 4/1 Harrow 90th Anniversary NY Ball p17, 5/1 LHC NY Dance p18, 12/1 Burns' Ceilidh Dance p4, 12/1 RSCDS Cheltenham Annual Ball p18, 12/1 Maidenhead Highland Ball p17, 19/1 RSCDS Oxfordshire Burns' Dance p18, 2/2 BSRC Highland Ball Practice p18, 2/2 LHC Annual Ball p18, 2/2 Reading Annual Ball p17, 9/2 BSRC Highland Ball p18, 16/2 RSCDS Oxfordshire D/S & Dance p18, 20/2 Winter Wednesday Dance p4, 23/2 Cheltenham Spring Dance p18, 23/2 Oxford & Cambridge Highland Ball p17, 23/2 Wembley Annual Ball p18, 2/3 LHC Dance p18, 9/3 RSCDS BHS D/S & Dance p17, 9/3 RSCDS Milton Keynes Ruby Anniversary Dance p18, 10/3 Watford Ball Practice p19, 16/3 RSCDS Tunbridge Wells D/S p18, 16/3 Watford Centenary Ball p19, 30/3 Combined Societies' Dance p4, 6/4 Harrow Spring Dance p17, 27/4 Argyll D/S p17, 27/4 RSCDS Cheltenham D/S & Dance p18, 27/4 West Macs Ball p17, 18/5 RSCDS BHS Spring Ball p17, 22/6 RSCDS Cheltenham Summer Dance p18, 4-6/10 Argyll Dancers' & Musicians' W/S p17.

HARROW & DISTRICT  
 CALEDONIAN SOCIETY  
**90th Anniversary New Year Ball**  
 Friday 4 January 2019  
 7.30 - 11.30pm  
 Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane,  
 Elstree WD6 3PJ



**The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band**  
*Programme:* New Year Jig, The Lochalsh Reel, Auld Friends Meet, Equilibrium, The Black Bear (BSRC), Sarona, The Queen's View, City of Belfast, The Chequered Court, Mrs Stuart Linnell, Shiftin' Bobbins, The Bon Viveur, Quarries' Jig, The Glenalmond Gamekeeper, Broadway, James Gray, The Black Mountain Reel, The Minister on the Loch, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterader, The Reel of The Royal Scots

Tickets £20, Juniors and non-dancers £10, including refreshments

Advance booking only, please  
 Contact Mick Madigan, 020 8863 5306 or [ms\\_madigan@btinternet.com](mailto:ms_madigan@btinternet.com) or Lorraine Kent, 07951 587456 or [lorrainekent@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lorrainekent@yahoo.co.uk)

**Spring Dance**  
 Saturday 6 April 2019  
**Ian Muir (Prestwick) & Bob Parsons**  
[www.harrowscottish.org.uk](http://www.harrowscottish.org.uk)

READING ST ANDREW'S SDS  
**Annual Ball**

Saturday 2 February 2019  
 7.30 - 11.30pm

St Crispin's School  
 London Road, Wokingham RG40 1SS  
**The Craigellachie Band**



*Programme:* Welcome to Ayr, The Rutland Reel, Gang the Same Gate, The Dancing Master, The Falls of Rogie, The Duchess Tree, Best Set in the Hall, Ray Milbourne, The Gentleman, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, The Hazel Tree, Miss Johnstone of Ardrrossan, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Miss Hadden's Reel, All for Mary, The Dream Catcher, The Chequered Court, Swiss Lassie, The Byron Strathspey, The Reel of The Royal Scots

Tickets £20 including reception drink and supper with a glass of wine

Contact Sara Ribbins, 157 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7JR, 0118 947 3207 or [sasdc01@gmail.com](mailto:sasdc01@gmail.com)

[www.scottishdancingreading.org](http://www.scottishdancingreading.org)

WEST MACS  
**Charity Ball**

Saturday 27 April 2019  
 7.30 - 11.30pm

Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree WD6 3PJ  
**Jim Lindsay and his Band**  
 Tickets £20

Full details in *The Reel* 307

THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE  
 HIGHLAND BALL

Saturday 23 February 2019  
 6.30 - 10.45pm

Benson Village Hill OX10 6LZ

**Luke Brady's Scottish Dance Band**

*Programme:* The Machine without Horses, Flowers of Edinburgh, Slytherin House, The Dundee City Police Jig, John of Bon Accord, The Robertson Rant, Muirland Willie, Ezekiel's Wheel, Autumn in Appin, Swiss Lassie, Napier's Index, Starlight, Alltshellach, The Elephant's Stampede, The Earl of Mansfield, Radcliffe Square, The Wild Geese, Polharrow Burn, The Flower of Glasgow, The Irish Rover

Extras: Postie's Jig, Scott Meikle

Tickets £20 (Students £15) including supper  
 Contact Charlotte Evetts, 07507 262726 or [charlotte.evetts@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.evetts@gmail.com)

MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH  
 DANCING CLUB  
**Highland Ball**

Saturday 12 January 2019  
 6.30 - 10.30pm

Manor Green School,  
 Elizabeth Hawkes Way, Maidenhead SL6 3HF  
**Ian Muir (Prestwick)**



**and his Scottish Dance Band**

*Programme:* Maxwell's Rant, Major Ian Stewart, The Rose of the North, \*The Recumbent Stone, Pelorus Jack, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, Lothian Lads, \*Friday's Child, The Byron Strathspey, \*Trip to Timber Ridge, The Rutland Reel, \*The Aviator, The Dream Catcher, \*Findlater Castle, Jennifer's Jig, St Columba's Strathspey, \*Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloch, Old Nick's Lumber Room, MacDonald of the Isles, Mairi's Wedding, Extras: Anniversary Reel, Postie's Jig

\*These dances can be recapped/walked if necessary

Tickets £22 before Saturday 22 December and £25 after (Advance booking only)  
 Price includes supper and a welcome drink  
 Bring your own wine

Please notify us of any special dietary requirements when ordering tickets  
 Contact Jane Leach, 16 Brudenell, Windsor SL4 4UR, 01753 869557 or [janerleach@hotmail.com](mailto:janerleach@hotmail.com)  
[www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk](http://www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk)

THISTLE CLUB

**Hogmanay Dance**

Monday 31 December 2018  
 8.00pm - 12.30am

Great Brickhill Parish Hall,  
 Milton Keynes, MK17 9BA

**Craigievar Band**

Tickets £11 in advance/£12.50 booked but paid on the door

'Bring and share' buffet

Contact Jan Jones, 07877 153259 or [jangeverybusy@gmail.com](mailto:jangeverybusy@gmail.com)

Programme and further information  
[www.thistleclub.co.uk](http://www.thistleclub.co.uk)

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY  
 DANCE CLUB

**Kilts & Posh Frocks**

Sunday 9 December 2018  
 6.30 - 10.15pm

St Michael's & All Angels Hall W4 1TX  
**David Hall and his Scottish Dance Band**  
**MCs Danielle and Jerry Reinstein**

*Programme:* The Chiswick Jig, Staircase in Styria, Kilts and Posh Frocks, The Surbiton Frolic, The Irish Rover, "Deer" Friends, Tempest in a Teacup, City Lights, Bauldy Bain's Fiddle, The Aviator, Da Rain Dancin', The Blue Mess Jacket, The Committee Meeting, Miss Johnstone of Ardrrossan, Cherrybank Gardens, Ramadan-ce, Miss Allie Anderson, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran, Nottingham Lace, The Montgomeries' Rant, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets should be bought in advance  
 Members £15, Non-members £20  
 Juniors/students/non-dancers £5

Bring-and-share buffet. Wine and soft drinks will be provided

[tickets@chiswickscottish.org.uk](mailto:tickets@chiswickscottish.org.uk)  
[www.chiswickscottish.org.uk](http://www.chiswickscottish.org.uk)



ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING  
 GROUP

**Day School**

Saturday 27 April 2019  
 Edgbarrow Sports Centre,  
 Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7HZ

**Teachers: James Fairbairn and Rachel Shankland**

**Musicians: Christina Hood and Robert Mackay**

Contact Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking, Surrey GU21 3QB, 01483 721989 or [gaynorcurtis@clara.co.uk](mailto:gaynorcurtis@clara.co.uk)

**Dancers and Musicians Weekend School**

Friday 4 - Sunday 6 October 2019  
 Dillington House, Ilminster,  
 Somerset TA19 9DT

**Teachers: David Queen (Dancers) and Ian Muir (Musicians)**

**Musicians: Robert Mackay and Judith Muir**

For further information and brochure:  
[dillington@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:dillington@somerset.gov.uk)  
[www.dillington.co.uk](http://www.dillington.co.uk)

This course is not considered suitable for beginners

[www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk](http://www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk)



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

Friday 28 December 2018  
 Mulled wine reception 7.00pm

Dancing 7.30 - 10.45pm  
 St Paul's Parish Rooms, Wokingham RG41 1EH

Dancing to recorded music  
 Bring and share refreshments

Tickets on the door

**Day School**

Saturday 9 March 2019

Calthorpe Park School, Hitches Lane,  
 Fleet GU51 5JA

**Teacher: Antoine Rousseau**

**Class Musician: Ken Martlew**

**Musicians' Day School: Muriel Johnstone**  
 Evening Dance with Day School musicians

**Branch Spring Ball**

Saturday 18 May 2019

Emmbrook School, Emmbrook Road,  
 Wokingham RG41 1JP

**The Craigellachie Band**

Contact Gordon Anderson, 01420 362530 or [events@rscds-bhs.org.uk](mailto:events@rscds-bhs.org.uk)  
[www.rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://www.rscds-bhs.org.uk)





RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH  
Annual Ball

Saturday 12 January 2019  
7.00 - 11.00pm

Pittville Pump Room, East Approach Drive,  
Cheltenham GL52 3JE

**Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig Band**

Tickets £22 including Light Buffet  
Contact Margaret Winterbourne,  
01242 863238 or

[mj.winterbourne@btinternet.com](mailto:mj.winterbourne@btinternet.com)

**Day School**

Saturday 27 April 2019  
9.45am - 4.45pm

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

**Teacher: William Williamson,**

Advanced and General Classes

**Musician: Calum Mitchell,**

Advanced and General Classes

Charges: £6 per class

**Evening dance**

7.00 - 10.00pm Recorded music  
Tickets £6

Contact Hilary Foulkes, 01285 851798 or

[hilary.foulkes@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hilary.foulkes@tiscali.co.uk)

**Summer Dance**

Saturday 22 June 2019

7.30 - 11.00pm

Churchdown Community Centre, Parton  
Road, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 2JH

**Craigevar Band**

Tickets £12 American Supper  
Contact Fiona Knee, 01242 525819 or

[cheltenham.rscds@hotmail.com](mailto:cheltenham.rscds@hotmail.com)

More details at website:

[www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk)

RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH  
Burns' Night Supper & Dance

Saturday 19 January 2019  
7.00 - 11.30pm

Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson,  
Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 6LZ

**The Craigellachie Band**

*Programme: to be published on our website*

Tickets £15

including haggis supper

**Day School and Dance**

Saturday 16 February 2019

Headington School, Oxford OX3 7TD  
Ample free parking & on the London to

Oxford bus route

**Teachers: Rachel Shankland, David Queen,**

**Alice Stainer**

**Musicians: Jeremy Hill, Ken Martlew,**  
**Barbara Manning**

Tickets: Whole day and evening £28,  
Morning or Afternoon £10 each session,

Evening dance £15

**Evening dance**

7.00 - 10.30pm

including finger-food buffet

**Strathallan Scottish Dance Band**

*Programme: Anderson's Rant,*  
The Wild Geese, The Birks of Invermay,  
The Montgomeries' Rant, Tayport Beauty,  
Radcliffe Square, The Starry Eyed Lassie,  
The Flower of Glasgow, The Highland  
Rambler, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Miss Johnstone of  
Ardrossan, Margaret Parker's Strathspey,  
MacLeod's Fancy, Swiss Lassie, The Dream  
Catcher, Tribute to the Borders, The Reel of  
the 51st Division

Applications available from our website  
Contact Helen Houghton-Carr, 24b St John's  
Road, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 9AQ

[impala66@hotmail.com](mailto:impala66@hotmail.com) 07531 469213



[www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk)

RSCDS MILTON KEYNES BRANCH  
40th Anniversary Dance

Saturday 9 March 2019  
7.00 - 11.00pm

Old Stratford Community Hall,  
Deanshanger Road, Old Stratford MK19 6NL  
(Hall is near the end of a no-through road)

**Nicol McLaren and Glencraig Band**

*Programme: The Happy Meeting, Forty and  
Counting, Staffin Harvest, The Pines of  
Pitlochry, The Code Breaker, Monymusk,  
Midelton Silver, JB Milne, Triple Happiness,  
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterader,  
Napier's Index, The Ruby Rant, Autumn in  
Appin, Staircase in Styria, Linton Ploughman,  
The Silver Tassie, Bratach Bana, Macleod's  
Fancy, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran*

Tickets £18

Supper provided and a licensed bar

Contact Jan Jones, 07877 153259 or

[jangeverybusy@gmail.com](mailto:jangeverybusy@gmail.com)

[www.rscdsmk.co.uk](http://www.rscdsmk.co.uk)

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND  
REEL CLUB

**67th Highland Ball**

Saturday 9 February 2019

7.00 for 7:30pm - Midnight

Ashlyns School, Berkhamsted,  
Herts HP4 3AH

**The Craigellachie Band**

*Programme: Granville Market, A Highland  
Welcome, The Paisley Weavers, The Aviator,  
The Braes of Tulliemet, Inverneill House,  
MacDonald of Keppoch, Angus MacLeod,  
Major Ian Stewart, The Gardeners' Fantasia,  
The Highland Rambler, Grand March into  
Scott Meikle, The Minister on the Loch,  
Farewell to Balfour Road, Duke of Perth,  
Midsummer Madness, Miss Gibson's  
Strathspey, The Potten End Reel, Linton  
Ploughman, Glastonbury Tor, Culla Bay,  
The Deil among the Tailors*

Tickets £25 Advance booking only  
Closing date for ticket sales is

Tuesday 5 February 2019

Welcome drink and dinner included

No bar - BYO wine but soft drinks provided  
Contact Dawn Dorman, Hill End Farm, Beech  
Tree Lane, Gorhambury, St Albans AL3 6AR,  
07710 460623 or

[events@berkhamstedreelclub.org](mailto:events@berkhamstedreelclub.org)

[www.berkhamstedreelclub.org](http://www.berkhamstedreelclub.org)

**Highland Ball Practice**

Saturday 2 February 2019

11.00am - 5.00pm

Potten End Village Hall HP4 2QG

£5 on the door

Bring a packed lunch, morning and afternoon  
coffee and tea provided

WEMBLEY & DISTRICT  
SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION  
Annual Ball

Saturday 23 February 2019

7.30 - 11.30pm

Allum Hall, Elstree

Borehamwood, WD6 3PJ

**The Craigellachie Band**

**MC Mrs Caroline Hamilton**

*Programme: Pelorus Jack, John of Bon  
Accord, Midsummer Common, A Capital Jig,  
Trip to Timber Ridge, Butterscotch and  
Honey, The Edinburgh Toy Shop, The Black  
Mountain Reel, Miss Eleanor, Ian Powrie's  
Farewell to Auchterader, The Rutland Reel,  
The Bon Vivour, Best Set in the Hall,  
The Reverend John MacFarlane,  
The Gentleman, John Cass, The Reel of The  
Royal Scots, The Dream Catcher, James  
Gray, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran*

Tickets £19 including a buffet supper  
Contact Brenda Manbuhar, 020 8933 9169 or

[boxoffice@wdsa.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@wdsa.co.uk)

[www.wdsa.co.uk](http://www.wdsa.co.uk)

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming dances to be  
held at St Columba's Church  
Hall, Pont Street, London  
SW1 0BX



Saturdays: Lower Hall

7.00 - 10.30pm unless otherwise stated

Saturday 5 January: New Year Dance

7.00 - 11.00pm **Craigievar Band**

Saturday 2 February: Annual Ball

See below

Saturday 2 March: **Calum Mitchell**

**Annual Ball**

Saturday 2 February 2019

7.00 - 11.00pm

**Ian Muir (Prestwick)**

*Programme: EH3 7AF, Polharrow Burn, John  
McAlpin, The Dancing Master, The Peat Fire  
Flame, The Gardeners' Fantasia, Best Set in  
the Hall, Culla Bay, The Australian Ladies,  
James Gray, Maxwell's Rant, The Glengarry  
Homestead, Airie Bannan, Angus Macleod,  
Gang the Same Gate, Postie's Jig, Duke of  
Perth, Alison Rose, Miss Hadden's Reel,  
Mrs MacPherson of Inveran*

Ball Tickets:

Including finger buffet refreshments

\* LHC Members in advance £21

\* Non Members in advance £24

All classes on the door £26

\* Advance booking price is only available on  
orders received by midnight 30 January.

For tickets contact Frank Bennett,

020 8715 3564 or [fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk](http://fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk)

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

**Programmes & cribs are on our website:**

[www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk)

For further details contact Frank Bennett,  
020 8715 3564 or [fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk](http://fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk)

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

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY  
Annual Spring Dance

Saturday 23 February 2019

7.00 - 11.00pm

Pittville School, Cheltenham GL52 3JD

**Iain MacPhail and his Scottish Dance Band**

*Programme: Grand March, Round Reel of  
Eight, The Flying Spur, Far North Queensland,  
The Rutland Reel, The Cooper's Wife, Foxhill  
Court, Zytglogge, The Nurseryman,  
The Robertson Rant, Postie's Jig, The Dream  
Catcher, Fidget, Father Connelly's Jig,  
Bonnie Stronshiray, Staircase in Styria,  
Pelorus Jack, Shiftin' Bobbins, Miss Eleanor,  
Follow Me Home, The Reel of The Royal Scots*

Tickets £20 from John Marshall,

17 Gratton Road, Cheltenham,

Gloucestershire GL50 2BT

[duracellbunney@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:duracellbunney@tiscali.co.uk)

Cheques to "Cheltenham Scottish Society"  
with SAE please

RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH  
Day School

Saturday 16 March 2019

10.00am registration - 4.30pm tea and cake

Mascalls Academy, Maidstone Road,

Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6LT

Paddock Wood is on the main train line from  
London to the Kent coast

and is easily accessed from A21

**Teachers: Joan Desborough & Mervyn Short**

**Musicians: Barbara Manning & Ken Martlew**

Application forms are available from

Pat Davoll, Cambridge Cottage, Crockham

Hill, Nr Edenbridge TN8 6RD, 01732 866557

or [patdavoll2@gmail.com](mailto:patdavoll2@gmail.com)

[rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk](http://rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk)



**WATFORD & WEST HERTS**  
**SCOTTISH SOCIETY**  
**Celebrating 100 years!**  
**Caledonian Ball**

16th March 2019  
 Allum Hall, Allum Lane, Elstree, WD6 3PJ  
 7.30pm-11.30pm  
*To the music of Muriel Johnstone & Ian Robertson*

Tickets £22 Including buffet supper and bubbly  
 Email us [tickets@watfordscottish.org.uk](mailto:tickets@watfordscottish.org.uk) or phone Rose  
 on 07880-842-370

EH3 7AF- H.I.S.C.D.-12 Coates Crescent- Best Set in the Hall- Anniversary Reel-Deer  
 Friends-St Andrews Fair-Jean Martin of Aberdeen- Father Connelly's Jig-John of Bon  
 Accord-Pelorus Jack- Lady Sophia Lindsay- A 100 Years Behind Us- Flora's Fancy- Miss  
 Johnstone of Ardrossan- Salute to Ian Robertson- The Australian Ladies- The Robertson  
 Rant- The Findlay's Jig- Mairi's Wedding-

Practice Sunday 10th March 2-5pm  
 Nascot Wood Recital Hall  
 WD17 4YS

# Scottish

DANCE SHOES



from £29.50



from £25.50

Scottish country dance pumps and ghillies,  
 with soft leather uppers, black suede sole &  
 a padded insole for extra comfort!

Scottish Dance Shoe Company, 14 Hallmark Trading Estate  
 Fourth Way, Wembley, HA9 0LB. T: 0208 902 0150  
 E: [sales@scottishdanceshoe.co.uk](mailto:sales@scottishdanceshoe.co.uk)  
 W: [www.scottishdanceshoe.co.uk](http://www.scottishdanceshoe.co.uk)

## The Reel Advertising Rates

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Other adverts and enquiries on pricing to the Business Editor Jeff Robertson at [businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## SCD Organisations Listing

To update your listing below contact [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk) If you require your information to also be changed in the SE Classes Listing on our website please contact Jan Collings directly (see ad p5). Payment is now due for *Reels* 304-307 and will then be due again for *Reels* 308-311. If you wish to stop your advert please contact [treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@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](mailto:abingdonscdc@gmail.com) or [www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com](http://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](http://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 8.00pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Dawn Dorman, Hill End Farm, Gorhambury, St Albans, Herts AL3 6AR, 07710 460623 or [www.berkhamstedreelclub.org](http://www.berkhamstedreelclub.org)

**BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS.** Topic-led class (not suitable for beginners), alternate Mondays Sept-April, 8.15-10.15pm St Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham Without RG40 3BA. General class (intermediate and above), every Wednesday Sept-May, 8.00-10.00pm St Mary's Church Hall, Park Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2SR  
 Teacher: Mervyn Short  
 Contact: Alex Duncan, 01932 241615 or [www.rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://www.rscds-bhs.org.uk)

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

**BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS.** Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details: Rod Burrows, 01903 783053 or [chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk](mailto:chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk) or [www.rscds-brighton.org.uk](http://www.rscds-brighton.org.uk)

**BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Thursdays 7.45-10.15pm at Moulsecob Hall, Brighton. Details: Carol Catterall, 01273 564963 or [www.bhscdc.org.uk](http://www.bhscdc.org.uk)

**CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB.** Dancing every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Jackie Cresswell, 01252 616289 or [info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk](mailto:info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk)

**CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Scottish country dancing and other events. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8.00pm from Sept-June. Details: Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or [www.camscotsoc.org.uk](http://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](mailto:mj.winterbourne@btinternet.com)

**CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing most Friday nights 7.30-10.00pm 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](mailto:mbsteele1945@gmail.com)

**CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets on Sundays 6.00-9.15pm, Sept-June, in the Upper Hall at St Michaels & All Angels Church, corner of Woodstock Road and Priory Avenue, London W4 1TX (turn right out of Turnham Green tube station, 70 yards).

Check [www.chiswickscottish.org.uk](http://www.chiswickscottish.org.uk) for details or Evelyn Norman, 0208 641 5877 or [secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk](mailto:secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk)

**CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH.** Branch classes in Coulsdon: General, incl Beginners with technique (Fri); Advanced & Improvers (Wed) 8.00-10.00pm St Andrew's Church, Woodcote Grove Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2AJ. Details: Dorothy Pearson, 01737 551724 or [rscds.croydon.chairman@gmail.com](mailto:rscds.croydon.chairman@gmail.com) or [www.rscdscroydon.org.uk](http://www.rscdscroydon.org.uk)

**EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Club night Mondays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at Christchurch Parish Hall, Wanstead Place, Wanstead, E11 2SW. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or [angelaross87@hotmail.com](mailto:angelaross87@hotmail.com) or [www.efsa.org.uk](http://www.efsa.org.uk)

**EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** General dancing Mondays, 7.30-10.00pm, 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](mailto:p_peatman@yahoo.com) or [www.fscdc.co.uk](http://www.fscdc.co.uk)

**FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.00pm, Sept-May. Details: Shirley Ferguson 01276 501952 or [fergusonshirley7@gmail.com](mailto:fergusonshirley7@gmail.com) or [fleet.rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://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. 7.30-10.00pm Visitors and Beginners welcome. Details: Suzanne Todd, 01923 283730 or [info@gxscottish.org](mailto:info@gxscottish.org) or [www.gxscottish.org](http://www.gxscottish.org)



## Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

...Continued from p19

**GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** Meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm.

Details: Kate Fraser 020 8998 0571 or [enquiries@greenfordcaledonian.net](mailto:enquiries@greenfordcaledonian.net)

**GUILDFORD SCDC** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford, GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from Sept-June. Details: 01483 456091 or [www.gscdc.org.uk](http://www.gscdc.org.uk)

**HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Details: Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts AL3 5RE, 01727 863870 or [HSCDC.org.uk](http://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](mailto:mail@harrowscottish.org.uk) or 07719 985025 or [www.harrowscottish.org.uk](http://www.harrowscottish.org.uk)

**HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8.00-10.00pm, Sept-July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome.

Details: Margaret Wallace, 01895 633642 or [www.hayesscottish.org.uk](http://www.hayesscottish.org.uk)

**HERTSMERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1BZ.

Details: Margaret King, 0208 440 3236 or [margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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 7.00-8.00pm. General 8.00-10.00pm.

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](mailto:jcchanjoy97@gmail.com)

Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or [alan.nicolle88@gmail.com](mailto:alan.nicolle88@gmail.com) or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or [scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com](http://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](mailto:cmb84scd@gmail.com)

Frank Bennett on 020 8715 3564 or [www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk)

**LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays at the Oldham Hall, Great Missenden HP16 0BA. Beginners class 7.00-8.00pm, Social Dancing 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Liz Mitchell, 07947 000368 or [info@lucyclark.org.uk](mailto:info@lucyclark.org.uk) or [www.lucyclark.org.uk](http://www.lucyclark.org.uk)

**MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8.00pm 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](http://maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk)

**MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP** meets every Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm 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 8.00-10.15pm at St Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent DA12 3HL, 01474 822919

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

**NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dancing 7.45-10.00pm 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](mailto: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 7.00-8.15pm and general dancing 8.20-9.30pm. Details: Sue Petty on 01603 741639 or [secretary@rscds-norwich.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rscds-norwich.org.uk)

**ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners'/Improvers' Class every Monday 8.00-10.15pm at St Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or [hadyndavies@gmail.com](mailto:hadyndavies@gmail.com) or [www.orpingtonscottishdancing.com](http://www.orpingtonscottishdancing.com)

**OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Christine Jeffery 01844 278242 or [christinej201@hotmail.com](mailto:christinej201@hotmail.com) or [www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk)

**READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading, RG1 5BD from 8.00-10.00pm, Sept-May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st & 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Duncan Barnet, Flat 4, 8 Western Elms Avenue, Reading RG30 2AN 0118 956 9289 [dbarnet@waitrose.com](mailto:dbarnet@waitrose.com) or [www.scottishdancingreading.org](http://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](mailto:wmitton517@btinternet.com) or [www.reigatescottish.org.uk](http://www.reigatescottish.org.uk)

**RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00pm from mid-Sept. to mid-June. Details: [www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk](http://www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk) or 020 8878 3445

**SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP.** Dancing Tues 8.00pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or [gwood@гна.сс](mailto:gwood@гна.сс)

**ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. St Columba's Dancers meet most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10.00pm. Admission free except for Band Nights when a charge will be made. Details: Valerie Strachan, 020 8693 5355 or [valeriestrachan@btinternet.com](mailto:valeriestrachan@btinternet.com) or [www.stcolumbasdancers.org](http://www.stcolumbasdancers.org)

**ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM** meet every Thurs 8.00-10.15pm 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](mailto:alan.suedavis@gmail.com) Also Children's Class Sats 9.30-11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831

**SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT** hold weekly social dance on Thursday evenings from 8.00-10.00pm at Collingwood School, Springfield Road, Wallington SM6 0BD. Details: Maggie Westley, 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157, or [westley.maggie14@gmail.com](mailto:westley.maggie14@gmail.com)

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm 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 7.30-9.00pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808 or [graham.easton@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.easton@btinternet.com) or [www.seess.org.uk](http://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](mailto:sehscds@hotmail.com) or see [www.sehscottishdance.org/news](http://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](http://www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk)

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8.00-10.00pm and advanced classes Thurs 8.00-10.00pm 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](http://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 8.00-9.30pm and General Class at All Saints' Church, The Green, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3JH Thursdays from 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Krelloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or [reel@watfordscottish.org.uk](mailto:reel@watfordscottish.org.uk)

**WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm Sept-June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or [welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net](mailto:welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net) or [www.sehscottishdance.org/Welwyn](http://www.sehscottishdance.org/Welwyn)

**WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dance Class Mondays 8.00pm. 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](mailto: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, 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177

**WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS.** Classes Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. 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](mailto:wendy@mumford.com)

**WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Alex Daniel, 01621 855548 or [alexsdaniel@aol.com](mailto:alexsdaniel@aol.com)

### Credits

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

p1: Left - Stephen Webb (SJW); Right - Ian Thomson; Andrew - Margaret Catchick. p2: Margaret - Jerry Reinstein; Beginner's Class - Margaret Catchick; Jim - SJW. p3: Judy and Ian - SJW; from Norman Yeaman; Class photos - Simon Wales. p4: DATW - Lena Robinson. p5: Philippe - SJW. p6: from Andrew Kellett; Daniel - SJW; Sandra, Lorna and Moira - RSCDS HQ. p7: Joan - SJW; Musicians' Course - Mike Greenwood. p8: Jeremy - Simeon Jackson; Book 52 CD cover - from Meryl Thomson; Maureen - SJW; Higham - Susan Madigan. p9: Dennis and Oxford - SJW; SERTA - from Hilary Maidstone; Musicians and Teacher - Jane Rose. *Centrefold*: 1 & 4 - Simon Wales; 2 - Margaret Catchick; 3, 5, 7, 11, 13 - SJW; 6, 8, 9 - Ian Thomson; 10 - Mike Greenwood; 12 - from Jane Rose. p12: Rosalind - SJW; Greenford logo - used with permission of G&DCA; Joan - Camilla Morgan; Singapore - used with permission of SASS; Two of a Kind - SJW. p13: IoW - from Judith Muir; Jean Milligan signature - from SJW; Eric - SJW. p14: SJW; Music from Frank Reid; Cartoon - used with permission of Joan Miles. p15: Owen, Jean and Wilson - SJW; p18: Stephen with Wilson - John Laurie; Wendy - from Sheena Henderson.

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