



The Reel

Published by the LONDON BRANCH of the ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
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No 280

MAY to AUGUST 2012



MUSICIANS IN MAY

Branch Dance

Saturday 19 May 2012
7.00 - 10.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD

Liam Stewart and the Musicians

Hooper's Jig	MMM2/15
Mrs MacPherson of Inveran	Drewry
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	Leaflet
Tribute to the Borders	Leaflet
Sueno's Stone	4 for 2008/3
The Minister on the Loch	4 for 2008/2
The Nurseryman	37/7
Argyll Strathspey	35/3
The Piper and the Penguin	Scotia/6
St Andrew's Fair	5 for 1982/2
The Sailor	24/4
The Sauchie Haugh	Leaflet
Best Set in the Hall	46/7
John of Bon Accord	33/5
The Braes of Breadalbane	21/7
The Wild Geese	24/3
The Dream Catcher	45/9
The Reel of the 51st Division	13/10

Admission: Members £9.50,
non-members £10.50, Children £2.50,
Members' children no charge



HM The Queen dancing at the Ghillies Ball
in 1971.

Patrick Lichfield

Celebrating The Queen's Jubilee

Branch Dance

Saturday 15 September 2012
7.00 - 10.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD

Dancing to the music of Craigeallachie

The Jubilee Jig	Leaflet
None so Pretty (London Pride).....	19/1
The Royal Wedding.....	5 for 1982/4
The Royal Deeside Railway	40/9
Balmoral Strathspey	22/3
The Diamond Jubilee.....	31/1
The Golden Wedding Strathspey	33/4
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh	39/7
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder ...	Hamilton
A London Celebration	Dix (see page 5)
Napier's Index	45/8
The White Rose of Scotland... London 75th/3	
Scott Meikle.....	46/3
The Diamond Celebration.....Oxford Silver Jubilee	
MacDonald of the Isles.....	Haynes
The Montgomerie's Rant.....	10/1
Pelorus Jack	41/1
Mairi's Wedding.....	Cosh/4

Admission: Members £10,
non-members £12, Children £3.00,
Members' children no charge

JUNE JIG

Branch Dance

Saturday 16 June 2012
7.00 - 10.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD

Ian Robertson and his Band

Kiss under the Stairs	MMM2/18
The Robertson Rant	39/8
The Westminster Reel.....	45/1
The Diamond Jubilee.....	31/1
Peggy Spouse MBE.....	46/11
The Summer Assembly	35/8
The Frisky	26/10
Butterscotch and Honey	Attwood
The Deil amang the Tailors	14/7
Joie de Vivre	39/2
Balmoral Strathspey	22/3
Clutha	31/2
Scottish Reform	3/1
Wisp of Thistle	37/4
The Montgomerie's Rant	10/1
James Gray	42/10
Barbara's Strathspey	46/4
Mairi's Wedding	Cosh/4

Admission: Members £9.50,
non-members £10.50, children £2.50,
Members' children no charge

What's Inside

Branch AGM	2
Classes List and Dance Diary 3	
Classes	4
New Dance: A London Celebration.....	5
Music/Recordings	7
Event Reports ... 7, 8, 9, 14	
Letters	15
Dance Events	17
Photos.....	10, 11, 20



Young dancers Blake and Matthew
with Bethan Kendrick
and RSCDS Chairman Ruth Beattie at
Chiswick 10th Anniversary Ball on 1 April 2012

Michael Nolan

Issue No 281 will be with UK based members by 1 September 2012 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent to arrive by
28 July 2012 (note the change), preferably by email, to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk. Postal contributions should be sent to
Jeremy Hill, 6 Gilpin Green, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 5NR. Issue No 282 will arrive by 1 December 2012.

The opinions expressed by contributors in *The Reel* do not necessarily reflect the official position of the RSCDS, nor of the Branch.

BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15 June 2012

The AGM of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held at St. Columba's Church (Upper Hall), Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD on Friday 15 June 2012. Tea will be served at 6.30pm and the meeting will commence at 7.30pm. There will be dancing after the meeting. All members of the Branch are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2011 AGM
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Report on the Branch's activities 2011-12
5. Treasurer's report and statement of accounts
6. Appointment of Honorary President and Honorary Vice-Presidents
7. Appointment of Officers and Management Committee
8. Appointment of delegates to the Society's AGM
9. Appointment of Auditors
10. Motions
11. Any other business

Note: As the number of nominations does not exceed the number of places available, there will not be an election under item 7. Nominations for the appointments at items 6, 8 and 9 will be taken from the floor at the meeting. Only one motion has been submitted and it will be voted upon at the meeting.

MOTION

Proposed by the Management Committee

With effect from 1 July 2012 the London Branch fee will increase by £1.50 to £6.00 a year for UK based members.

This means that the annual cost of RSCDS membership through London Branch will be £21.00 (£15.00 RSCDS subscription plus £6.00 Branch fee) for UK based members.

Other consequent changes:-

The London Branch fee for members based elsewhere in Europe will be £6.50, making the total cost of RSCDS membership £21.50 a year.

For members based in the rest of the world the London Branch fee will be £9.00, with the total cost of RSCDS membership being £24.00 a year.

There is a discount of £3 for members aged 18 - 25 years and for each of two members living at the same address. For them the total annual cost of RSCDS membership will be £18.00 if UK based (£18.50 Europe and £21.00 rest of the world).

There is a discount of £7.50 for members aged 12 - 17 years. For them the total annual cost of RSCDS membership will be £13.50 if UK based.

Anyone who is already a member of the RSCDS through another branch may join London Branch for £6.00 a year (£6.50 if based elsewhere in Europe and £9.00 in the rest of the world).

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN

2012 – what does that mean for RSCDS London Branch?

Well, for the Committee, 2011 into 2012 has been a time to look at how we serve the Branch of today and look after the RSCDS London of tomorrow.

As mentioned in recent Reels, we're concerned about providing the right classes to encourage the dancing standard London Branch has been extremely proud of, alongside finding new members and creating the right dancing foundation for them in the Branch. After a tentative start, our Basic Skills class is beginning to find its feet at Park Walk. Thanks to Rachel Wilton, Davinia Miln and Bar Martlew for working with this new project. We're really looking forward to seeing their hard work continue with Bar at the helm in September.

Pat Davoll will be continuing weekly to put the Technique Class through their paces upstairs at Park Walk and with the monthly Sunday technique class, we aim to offer a chance for all advanced dancers to enjoy teaching of a high standard.

Additionally, one of our main concerns has had to be our financial position. I would encourage all members who can to attend the Branch AGM where Simon as Treasurer will be able to explain these concerns in full. They have meant that the Committee has had to look at putting a number of measures in place to ensure that as trustees we manage the rising costs that are a fact of life in Britain in 2012.

We have budgeted carefully for next year using the average numbers that have attended classes and functions in 2011/12, while ensuring that the Branch continues to fulfil its remit to provide a variety of classes at all levels, youth activities and dances.

However, this still means that a number of increases are inevitable. In the adjacent column you will see a motion to increase the London Branch portion of the Membership fee – at £6 this still offers great value for money. Alongside this we will launch another Life Members' appeal, so that those life members (and others) who wish to support the work of the Branch can do so.

With current class numbers, we feel we have to increase all class rates, and in consultation with the Demonstration team have also reintroduced fees for this class. Each class has been carefully budgeted to ensure that they are run with some subsidy but not at a huge loss to the Branch. Additionally, we will be increasing dance admission prices from September, ensuring there is a bigger differential between Members and Non-Members tickets, while still providing excellent value for money on a Saturday evening in Central London.

We really believe that by making these small increases now we are looking after the future of London Branch and ensuring it can provide everything you as members want. Please come to the AGM for more information as well as to support the motion.

On a practical note if you haven't done so yet, please supply your email address to Gaynor Curtis, so you can be kept up to date with Branch functions etc. Talking of which.....

London in 2012 is an exciting place to be, and we hope that as part of this year you will join the Branch in Kensington Gardens throughout the Saturdays of the Paralympic Games (more details inside). In May and June we have a great line up of Teachers and Musicians for our General Classes – please come along and experience the different styles. With the Musicians in May, June Jig and new season Jubilee dance in September there is something for everyone at Pont Street. I look forward to seeing you there.

Angela Young

ROYAL SCOTTISH
COUNTRY DANCE
SOCIETY

Patron
H.M. The Queen



President – Dr Alastair MacFadyen
Chairman – Ruth Beattie

HEADQUARTERS:

12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7AF
Tel: 0131 225 3854; Fax: 0131 225 7783,
email: info@rscds.org
www.rscds.org

LONDON BRANCH

Hon. President:
Mary Stoker

Hon. Vice-Presidents:
Mary Barker, Jenny Greene, John Laurie,
Owen Meyer, Rosemary Tilden.

Chairman:

Angela Young,
75 Studland Road, Hanwell,
London, W7 3QU.

Email: chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk

Vice-Chairmen:

Pam Ellam,
61 Forest Drive
Theydon Bois, Epping CM16 7HB
email: vicechairman@rscdslondon.org.uk

Marjory Reid,
20 Hopwood Close,
London SW17 0AG.

email: vicechairman@rscdslondon.org.uk

Hon. Secretary:

Andrew Kellett,
22 Chestnut Drive,
Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 4EN.

Tel: 020 8301 1403

email: secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk

Hon. Treasurer:

Simon Wales,
Flat 6, 86 Worcester Rd, Sutton,
Surrey SM2 6QQ.
Tel: 020 8643 0952

email: treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk

COMMITTEE

Elaine Davies, Wilson Nicol, George Potts,
Jerry Reinstein, Thelma-Jane Robb,
Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw, Elaine Wilde

Coordinators:

Classes: Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw
Dances: Angela Young
Demonstrations: Elaine Wilde
Publicity: Marjory Reid
Youth: Angela Young

Non-Executive roles

Bookstall: Ian Anderson
Day School: Margaret Catchick
Hon Archivist: Iris Anderson
Membership: Gaynor Curtis
Reel Business Editor: Jeff Robertson
Subscribers: Janet Rudge
Webmaster: Meryl Thomson
Website: www.rscdslondon.org.uk

Objects of London Branch

To advance the education of the public in the London area in traditional Scottish Country Dancing, in particular by:

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

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society 83rd Annual General Meeting & Conference Weekend 2012

Friday to Sunday, 2-4 November 2012
Location: Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen

- Dance (*NB now on Friday evening*) – dancing to Frank Thomson's Band
- Class - led by Jimmie Hill, with musician Frank Thomson
- Civic Reception - to be held at the Beach Ballroom, before the Ball
- Ball (*NB now on Saturday evening*) – dancing to The Craigellachie Band

Full details of the weekend's programme of events, and online application, will be on the website at www.rscds.org/events/annual-conference-weekend.html towards the end of April.

Aberdeen Convention Bureau has made a booking facility available for official accommodation options. This can be accessed at www.conferencebookings.co.uk/delegate/ACBRSCDS2012 or via the RSCDS website link above.

Branch delegates

All members are welcome to attend the meeting and the other events taking place over the weekend, but only delegates can vote. London Branch will be entitled to send 13 delegates. If you would like to be a London Branch delegate please inform the secretary before 15 June, or put your name forward at our Branch AGM on that date.

BRANCH BADGES

The Branch badge is based on the rectangular Reel masthead logo which first appeared on issue No. 40 in 1957 when the annual subscription was 5/- and life membership was a mere £3 3s 0d.



These elegant badges are available in a smart enamel and polished finish and are modestly priced at £4.00. They are available from Jeff Robertson on 01903 245718 or email: businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk or from Ian Anderson at the Branch Bookstall on 01420 84599 or bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk

Please continue to support your Branch.

Jeff Robertson



EDITORIAL

This is my last editorial! After seven years it is time to make way for fresh ideas, and we are pleased to welcome Jeremy Hill as the new editor. Jeremy is well known to many of you as

a talented dancer, teacher and musician so he brings a wealth of experience to the job and we wish him well in upholding the high standards of *The Reel*. Please continue to send in articles and photographs of interest to our country dancing readership: the success of *The Reel* depends on that interaction.

The editorial post has been made easier by the marvellous cooperation we have experienced from contributors, friends and members of the Branch. Particular thanks go to the editorial team of John Reeve for his patience and skill, and Stephen Webb for his photos and ideas.

Wilson

SOUTH EAST CLASSES LIST

London Branch will again be publishing on the London Branch website, free of charge, a list of Scottish dancing classes in the south and east. If you wish your class(es) to be included, please send or confirm details, including your group name, venue, day, time, class standard, contact name and telephone number to Lena Robinson, Flat 15, Rupert House, 225 Kennington Road, London, SE11 6SU or preferably by email to seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk

The list for the new season 2012-13 will be on the Branch website by the end of August. Please submit your information by Monday 13 August. Subsequent changes and additions should be sent as soon as possible thereafter for updating on the website. The list can be downloaded from the Branch website at any time. It is perhaps worth noting that not all the classes are formal in the sense of being led by qualified teachers. A number are general/social in nature with limited instruction provided by members of the local group.

SOUTH EAST DANCE DIARY

As most Society and Branch secretaries are now on email, I am able to communicate with them and receive details of their events on a much more regular basis. This allows clubs to have an up-to-date Diary to refer to when organising their own events and helps to avoid date clashes with nearby societies – one of the main aims of creating the diary in the first place.

If your society is not in the diary then please ask your secretary to get in touch so that we can ensure the Diary is as comprehensive as possible. I would also encourage dancers to regularly download the Diary to ensure they are fully up to date with all events in the South-East. It can be found at http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk/html/s_e_dance_diary.html

If you are unable to access a computer you can send me a s.a.e. and I will print out a version for you and send it to you.

To contact me please email diary@rscdslondon.org.uk or write to Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW.

Caroline Hamilton

COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

Prior to the Branch AGM on 15 June, the London Branch Committee will meet on 18 May. The agenda will include preparations for the 2012-2013 dancing season and SCD during London 2012. Suggestions for items to be discussed should be sent to the Secretary at least two weeks before the date of the meeting.

End of Year Branch Accounts

By the end of May, the Annual Accounts of the Branch should have been approved by the Committee. It will not be possible to circulate them to all members before the AGM on 15 June but if members would like prior sight of them, they should email the Treasurer, Simon Wales, at the address on the previous page, or send him a stamped addressed envelope.

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

At the February meeting the Board received an update on how the change to a "Company limited by guarantee" was progressing, and it was emphasised that we were on a very tight timetable if we wanted to bring this to the AGM this year. It is intended that branches should be sent both the proposed Articles and Rules shortly after the May meeting. As far as branches and members are concerned there should be no change to current arrangements.

Arrangements for the 2012 conference and AGM in Aberdeen are fairly advanced, with Aberdeen City Council planning to provide a civic reception.

As members will know, the Manual is currently being reviewed and updated, with many people throughout the world being involved in the work. The Board considered a paper showing that the likely costs of producing a DVD to accompany the Manual would be substantial.

At the end of last year members were asked to submit new dances, with the intention of publishing a new book in 2013. It was reported that 320 dances had been received, and that it was now intended to evaluate approximately 160 this year and the remainder in 2013, publishing the resulting books in 2013 and 2014.

The A5 book containing the dances in books 19-24, was released at Winter School and is now available from Headquarters.

Although the first week of Winter School had been judged a success, the second week was cancelled because of the low number of applicants.

Membership Services committee had held a meeting involving Keith Bark who took part using Skype from his computer in Canada. This was judged to be a success, showing that overseas members can take part in the management of the Society, and the Board approved his co-option to the committee.

At the last AGM approval was given to split the Education and Training Committee and form a Youth Services Committee. An interim committee has been sent up and has already held its first meeting. Roy Baines is the Interim Convener until elections can be held at the next AGM, and he has been co-opted onto the Board.

As well as the February Board meeting, we have heard since the meeting that the "Day Rate" imposed by the University for people attending summer school but not staying in university accommodation would be waived for 2012. This has resulted in a reduction in the original rates posted on the website.

Slightly fuller notes from the February meeting can be found on the Society website, in the "Branch Mailings" section.

Malcolm Brown

Forthcoming Dances

20 October	Branch Day School
24 November	Family Day Class and Afternoon Dance for all
8 December	Festive Fling to the music of David Cunningham and his band
20 February	Winter Wednesday
23 March	Family Day and Evening Dance
18 May	Musicians' Day and Evening Dance

BRANCH CLASSES

Try the new Classes and have fun!

Class	Day	Time	Location	Teacher / Musician
BASIC SKILLS	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00	Park Walk School, Park Walk, King's Road, Chelsea, London SW10 0AY	Teachers Davinia Miln and Barbara Martlew Musicians Jane Ng and Ian Cutts
ADVANCED TECHNIQUE	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00	Park Walk School, Park Walk, King's Road, Chelsea, London SW10 0AY	Teacher Pat Davoll Musician Ken Martlew
GENERAL DEMONSTRATION	Wednesday Tuesday	2.30 - 4.30	St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD <i>For details contact Elaine Wilde 01582 834815</i>	Teacher Jeni Rutherford Teacher Paul Plummer Musician Sandra Smith

The 5 week Summer Term starts week beginning 16 April and finishes on Wednesday 16 May.
Wednesday evening classes cost £35 for the five weeks or £8 per session.

For the Wednesday afternoon class, the summer term will start on Wednesday 25 April and the last class will be on Wednesday 27 June. Half-term will be Wednesday 6 June (the day after the extra Bank Holiday for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee). Cost is still £5 per class, payable weekly, and we welcome visitors. Contact: Jeni Rutherford, email jrutherford@freeuk.com

Following on from the end of the Summer Term, we will be offering four classes with a different teacher and musician each week. Please see separate notice for more information.

DEMONSTRATION TEAM UPDATE

I wish to start this update by sending all our good wishes for the future as we bid farewell to Kirsty Fairhead as she starts her new job in Cumbria. Although she has only been in the team for a relatively short period she settled in very quickly and contributed well. Thank you Kirsty. We also welcome a new member into the team, Charlotte Sandifer, who is already settling in very well and has 'done' her first dem with the team.

The team entered two teams for the ladies section at the Newcastle Festival on 11 February, coming 2nd (London RSCDS) and joint 3rd (London Ladies with Julie Young Dance School, Perth) out of twelve entries; Newcastle Branch won the ladies section. Due to only twelve of the dem team being able to attend the London Ladies team also included Christine Davies, Pat Davoll, Lindsey Ibbotson and Angela Young, who all danced brilliantly with the team despite little practice. Sadly, because not enough men in the dem team were able to attend we were unable to field a mixed team this year. Although the display danced by twelve of the team was very well received the International Branch team were the very worthy winners in the display section this year; an excellent choreography and dancing of the book 39 dances. We were also really pleased to see that the International Branch entered a [very young] mixed team in the under 16 section, with three of the team coming from the Branch's children's class here in London, and came 1st - very well done all. The day was absolutely fantastic, ending with a really good dance in the evening.

The team continues to give targeted demonstrations for various functions/events in addition to those for the Branch and at festivals. The most recent was at the end of March when six of us did a very successful demonstration and workshop on Scottish dance with 46 year-2 pupils (7-8 year olds) at Park Walk Primary School (where our Branch classes are held). Although exhausting, the children loved it, participating well with much laughter wafting down the corridors. As summer approaches (as I write this the sun is shining and the garden thermometer shows 21°C despite it still being March!) we are booked for various jubilee events, the Leeds Festival and open air dancing displays in the Royal Parks (please see information about the Branch open air dances for this summer on page 5 and in the South East diary on our website).

If you would like to join us, and consider that both your dancing technique and stamina are ►

DAY SCHOOL

Advance Notice

Saturday 20 October 2012

Paddington Academy, Marylands Road, London W9 2DR

Teachers:.....**Kate Gentles, Alasdair Brown, Jimmie Hill, Gaynor Curtis**

Musicians:**Peter Shand, Keith Anderson, Barbara Manning, Phill Jones**

Plus a choice of optional classes at the end of the afternoon Musicians Workshop led by:

Keith Smith

Evening Ceilidh:

Keith Smith and Peter Shand

Classes to suit everyone. DON'T MISS IT!!

Full details in the next Reel

SUMMER CLASSES

This year there will be four general classes on Wednesday evenings at Park Walk School, Park Walk, London, SW10 0AY (parking available) from 7.00 to 9.00pm. The class dates are 23 and 30 May, 13 and 20 June. Cost per class is £8.00.

The teachers and musicians are:

Jerry & Danielle Reinstein
with **Sandra Smith,**

Elaine Wilde with **Ian & Meryl Thomson,**
Mervyn Short with **Ken Martlew** and
Dave Hall with **Ian Cutts**

Do come along and experience the different styles of teaching and playing. The classes are suitable for all abilities except total beginners.

TEACHING

CERTIFICATE COURSE

The BHS Border Branch is planning to run a course for those interested in obtaining Units 2 and 3 and also Unit 5 of the RSCDS Teaching Certificate Course. The tutor will be **Mervyn Short** and we expect the course to run from December 2012 to May 2013.

For more information or to express interest please contact Shirley Ferguson at ferguson-shirley7@gmail.com or tel: 01276 501952.

► good enough, please feel free to talk with either Paul or me at a dance/event or contact Paul on plummers5@ntlworld.com or me on demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk or 07779 202529. Also, if you are aware of someone looking for a demonstration team for their event do please let me have the details so that I can follow it up.

Happy Dancing,

Elaine Wilde

FOCUS ON YOUTH

24 March saw another lively morning and afternoon at St Columba's Church with young dancers of varying ages and experience having fun together. Lunch was quite a quiet affair, a sure sign that all were quite tired after the hard work of the morning class - but after a boost of ice cream and chocolate (Sprinkles, Flake or both??) all were ready for the afternoon's activities.

There was a lively atmosphere with young people from all over mixing and dancing together, chocolate prizes to encourage straight lines, good moving up, and perfect circles, new dances from last year's RSCDS Graded Book 2 alongside some old favourites, and great music from Dave Hall and Graham Berry.

There were Dem Team members to entertain and help, tasty Hot Cross Buns and home baked cakes as well as a very serious Raffle to win one of the exciting prizes - the afternoon flew past as usual in a blur!

The next Family Day is on Saturday 24 November - all young dancers and families are welcome.

Branch Children's class
Next class is on Saturday 19 May at Pont Street 10.15 to 11.45am.

All welcome

BRANCH BOOKSTALL

At your service

Books and CDs for Scottish Dancers

Mail order from Ian Anderson,
104 Whitedown Lane, Alton,
Hants GU34 1QR
Tel: 01420 84599

email: bookstall@rscdslondon.org.uk
10% reduction on RSCDS publications and recordings bought by members.

Please state your Branch when ordering.

N.B.: The Bookstall Stocklist is available on the Branch Website.

A LONDON CELEBRATION Competition Winner

In December, the Branch launched a competition inviting readers to devise a simple, enjoyable, round the room dance to use at dancing events during Summer 2012. The title of the winning dance was amended from 'London Olympic Reel' to 'A London Celebration'. The new title represents a celebration of the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics.

Many thanks to everyone for entering the competition with such enthusiasm and all the work involved in devising your entries. The Branch received 10 entries, including one from Scotland, and the dances were all of a good standard. Two of the Branch classes went through the competition entries and a 'dance-off' was held on 14 March to find the winning entry.

I have great pleasure to announce that the winner of the competition and whose dance will be called 'A London Celebration' is **Ann Dix**. Many congratulations Ann.

A big thank you also to the Branch teachers (Bar, Davinia and Pat), class musicians (Ian, Jane and Ken) and the classes for assisting with the competition. We could not have done this without you.

I am sure we will all look forward to dancing Ann's entry very shortly.

Marjory Reid

'A LONDON CELEBRATION' by Ann Dix

Music: Any good tunes such as those used for *Plantation Reel* ('Camptown Races', 'Dem Golden Slippers' etc)

32 bar reel for 2 couples round the room.

(The couple facing clockwise is 1st couple and the couple facing anticlockwise is 2nd couple.)

Bars	Description
1-8	1st and 2nd couples dance four hands round and back.
9-16	1st and 2nd couples dance right hands across and left hands across.
17-20	1st and 2nd women advance and retire.
21-24	1st and 2nd men advance and retire.
25-28	1st man and 2nd woman and 1st woman and 2nd man dance back to back.
29-32	Taking promenade hold with partner, 1st and 2nd couples pass each other by the left and continue on to meet a new couple.

Repeat with a new couple.

Note: This dance can be walked or danced using skip change of step, dependent on the experience of the dancers.

'A London Celebration' The Teachers' Perspective

As teachers of Branch classes we agreed to assess the dances and select a winner. It sounded simple enough but with ten dances to try, it needed multiple emails to agree a fair process, and one which the class members would enjoy. The challenge was to dance all ten dances while not taking over too much time from the main teaching purpose of the classes. We were sent the instructions for anonymous dances; "Dance A" to Dance J" and each class took five dances to try out. Bar devised a scoring system so that the class members could vote on each dance in terms of how much they were enjoyed and how easy the dancers thought they were. ►



Kensington Gardens
Make these regular dates in your diary.
Saturday afternoons
18 and 25 August, 1 and 8 September
Time - 2.00 to 4.30pm.

Free and open to absolutely everyone!
Place - The Bandstand, Kensington Gardens

Live Music and helpful MCs
Encourage visitors to London to find out just how great
Scottish Country Dancing is!

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RSCDS and London Branch costs £19.50 per annum for UK based members (£20.00 for Europe; £22.50 elsewhere). There is a discount of £3 for members aged 18 to 25 and for each of two members living at the same address. For members aged 12-17 there is a discount of £7.50. Current members of other Branches can join London Branch for £4.50 per annum if they live in the UK (£5.00 in Europe and £7.50 elsewhere). **These subscriptions may change if the motion is passed at the Branch AGM.** London Branch membership brings benefits including *The Reel*, while Society membership includes the bi-annual dance publication, *Scottish Country Dancer*. Membership applications and enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, St. Johns, Woking GU21 3QB, tel: 01483 721989 email: membership@rscdslondon.org.uk Membership forms can also be downloaded from the Branch website.

► We took two weeks to try out the dances in separate classes, where we met another challenge. With relatively few dancers in each class, some of the round the room progressions were tricky! The musicians also had their own research to carry out; locating the nominated music, and arranging the music, or selecting music so as to enhance the enjoyment for the dancers. Thank you to Ian, Jane and Ken. Marjory was on hand to see how we got along, and deal with any queries about the devisers' intentions.

By the end of the two weeks, we had four candidates to enter our "dance-off". These were the dances that were enjoyed overall and considered suitable for public participation. We combined the two classes for the dance-off; we felt this was important to have an overall view and to have a larger number of dancers for successful progression. The evening had a slightly slow start; Chelsea were playing at home so there were several late arrivals, (including teacher, musician and dancers). However, we danced all four to the combined strength of Ken and Ian. The same scoring system was used, and everyone had a chance to vote. So we had a result, but the three of us all felt that the qualitative "smile factor" conclusively confirmed the winner.

We would like to thank everyone who submitted dances, the London Branch Committee, and those who took part in the assessment; the dancers and the musicians. It shed light on the responsibility of making a fair decision, and the work that goes on behind the scenes. We certainly felt we all deserved the drinks and snacks after the dance-off was completed!

Pat Davoll, Bar Martlew & Davinia Miln

SERTA

The South East Regional Teachers Association ("SERTA") met on 18 March in Purley for a workshop led by Anne Smyth of Fort William, entitled "Subtle Motivations".

Anne's relaxed but entertaining manner belied the continuous flow of information she passed on, and she effortlessly (or so it appeared) held our attention all day. Such enviable expertise has been honed by her many years teaching Scottish dancing all over the world. Her ability to analyse her methods also reflected her experience training and examining RSCDS teachers.

The mysterious title gathered meaning through the day. Anne gave us what was in essence a conventional teacher's workout, building up skills exercises, steps, formations, and dances of increasing complexity. However, throughout, she had a practical approach to anticipating what is likely to happen in our classes, and imparting subtle ideas on how to motivate our dancers to do what we are trying to teach. Those of our number fit to do so were on the dance floor most of the day.

Her starting point was that it should always be **FUN**, and she kept it that way all day. We should always be ready to **PRAISE**. Keep the class **MOVING** – never stand talking at them for more than a sentence or two. Make sure everyone has a **FAIR SHARE** of the action – sometimes ask for a rearrangement that gives everyone a new partner without their having to choose one, in case the same person gets left out. Give them only what they **CAN ACHIEVE** – for example, choose a sequence of dances that introduces only one new element each time. Always the aim is to **MOTIVATE** the dancers into acquiring the skills needed to perform particular dances adequately.

Anne's use of a **variety of styles of music** depended very much on the expertise of pianist Barbara Manning, who came up with all sorts of unlikely but popular tunes played with panache and a smile. We warmed up to "Turkey in the straw" and "Whistling Rufus", danced skip-change to "Row, row the boat", and were deflected from the pain of Strathspey analysis by the "Skater's Waltz".

Ten well-chosen dances started with *Granville Market*, *Anderson's Rant* and *The White Cockade*, and finished with *Moranbank*, *The Crooket-horned Ewie* and *Jackie's Fankle* ("mess-up"). We came away with numerous entertaining asides echoing in our minds – "LOOK AT the person you are dancing with – however, if you can't bear eye-balling that person, look at their shoulder, or hand instead!"

Anyone who teaches a SCD class is welcome to come to these twice-yearly Sunday workshops – the next in September. They are a great opportunity to keep one's technique and teaching skills up to date, and also to network with other teachers from throughout the South East region.

A fuller report is available at www.serta.org.uk

Ken Martlew

ROYAL SALUTE

The celebration of sixty years since the Queen's accession to the throne presents a good opportunity to honour her patronage of the RSCDS, and remember the Royal family's involvement with Scottish country dancing over many years.

It was of course Queen Victoria who made Scotland fashionable with her establishment of Balmoral as her Scottish home, and it is known that she enjoyed and encouraged dancing. Dancing master Joseph Lowe records in his journal the Queen asking him on several occasions for help on her "Scotch Steps", which she fears may be "executed with too masculine a style". His qualified assurance is that she is dancing as well as can be expected in view of the very few opportunities she has to practise, and does agree that the steps could be adjusted to suit her. She is honoured in dances such as *Queen Victoria*, *the Queen Victoria's Visit Quadrilles* and *Royal Salute* (in which the dancers form a "V" shape at one stage).

Most recently of course the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton has given rise to some dance celebration, particularly given the happy coincidence of their having met in St Andrews, home of the Summer School. *Romance in St Andrews* is one dance written to remember the event, though evidence suggests that their favoured dance style may not be Scottish.

The present Queen was originally encouraged to dance by her mother, who was a keen dancer – Glamis Castle had the regular services of a music-dancing teacher, James Neill, from Forfar, who taught Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon and her brother the Earl of Strathmore how to dance. It was at her suggestion that *The Reel of the 51st Division* be published by the RSCDS (in the Victory Book, book 13), even though it was not a traditional dance.

The Queen Mother retained an eye for good dancing – her comment on the style of dancers in Canada led to the naming of the dance *Wisp of Thistle* – and dances written for her include *Rose of Glamis*, written by John Drewry to mark her 90th birthday, and performed at the Edinburgh Fancy in 1990.

When our current Queen came to learn, Bill Clement recalls the story as follows:

"In 1946 four members of the Edinburgh Branch were invited to Holyrood Palace one evening when Mrs Florence Lesslie, an Edinburgh Branch Teacher and Society Examiner, taught Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret *Mrs Stewart's Strathspey*. Mrs Lesslie writing about that evening said: 'We also danced *Duke of Perth* more than 20 times through and hardly a skip change in sight! I danced an *Eightsome*, *Foursome* and *Tulloch* with the King, and later there was a *Sixteensome*. Altogether a marvellous night.'"

It was in 1947 that HRH Princess Elizabeth became the Patron of the Scottish Country Dance Society, and the following year her marriage in 1948 to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, who then became HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, led to Florence Lesslie and Allie Anderson devising *The Duke & Duchess of Edinburgh*. It was followed in 1949 with *Prince Charles of Edinburgh*. Both dances were originally published in Edinburgh, but were re-



HRH The Princess Royal and the late Princess Margaret enjoy *The Eightsome Reel* at the Royal Caledonian Ball

published in Book 39 by the RSCDS.

Although Princess Elizabeth was the Patroness, it was her father King George VI who bestowed the title "Royal" on the Society in 1951, the year in which he died. The Royal title was recognised in Reel No 4, for January - February 1952:

"All members will have heard that His Majesty the King has graciously permitted the prefix "Royal" to be applied to the Scottish Country Dance Society. 'The Reel' joins in congratulating the founders, Mrs Stewart and Miss Milligan, and the present authorities of the Society on this well-deserved honour."

The Reel thus changed its heading after three editions: 'Issued by the London Branch of the Scottish Country Dance Society', to '...Royal Scottish Country Dance Society', and the 30th Bulletin of the Society became the first to represent the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

On acceding to the throne in 1952, Elizabeth continued both her patronage and the Royal title. On 27 June 1953, a month after her Coronation, the Queen attended a demonstration at Murrayfield Stadium by six hundred dancers, representing thirty-one branches of the Society. Naturally they danced *The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh*, as well as *Monymusk*, half of an *Eightsome Reel* and *Come Ashore, Jolly Tar*. Our current editor, Wilson Nicol, was amongst those dancing. Reel No 14 reports:

"It is rumoured that every member of the RSCDS who was present on the great occasion had bought, borrowed, begged or otherwise acquired lorgnettes, telescopes, field glasses or periscopes to focus on Miss Milligan when she was presented and made her curtsy to the Queen."

One notable item of etiquette emanating from the Queen concerns the wearing of sashes. The normal practice is for ladies to wear their sash on their right shoulder, with the exception of clan heads. Based on special privilege granted from Her Majesty, members of the RSCDS are also entitled to wear their sash on the left shoulder.

As Patroness, the Queen's involvement with the RSCDS has continued during her reign.

Following the acquisition of 12 Coates Crescent as Headquarters for the Society (in 1957), the Queen and Prince Philip visited in 1961 for an informal occasion at which she and Prince Philip enjoyed a "pleasing" demonstration of dancing.

In 1973 the Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and HRH The Princess Anne attended the Jubilee Ball of the Society, and the last edition of *Scottish Country Dancer* included the excellent picture of the Queen having a dance with Sir Iain Moncrieffe, which she seems to be enjoying more than he is.

For the 75th Anniversary the Queen attended a reception at Edinburgh's City Chambers. Our man Wilson Nicol was there again, as a member of the Society Executive, and was called upon to introduce a table of representatives of Branches to the Queen. Helen Brown was the London Branch representative, but also present was Kyra Oates from London, one of a number of young dancers chosen to dance a display.

The Royal Family's interest in Scottish dance is also channelled into the Royal Caledonian Ball, which the Queen has also been Patroness of for over 50 years. This Ball, the pinnacle of the reeling calendar, a subscription dance for the purposes of collecting funds for Scottish charities, attracts over 1,000 dancers every year to the Grosvenor House Hotel ballroom. "Gentlemen in black tie will not be admitted" it says on the ticket, so it's white tie, highland or military dress only.

The Ball has been favoured on many occasions with Royal attendance, in particular from The Princess Royal (also a Patroness). There is always great enthusiasm to be on the floor for *The Dashing White Sergeant*, not least for the possibility of encountering Royalty as one progresses around the room.

There is no doubt of the Royal Family's enthusiasm over many years for Scottish dancing, and their encouragement for the whole Royal Household to participate – from Gillies' Balls at Balmoral to below stairs ceilidhs at Buckingham Palace. Whilst the Queen herself may be a less active participant now, it is to be hoped that the family interest will continue for many years to come.

Jeremy Hill

NEW RECORDINGS

No New Recordings strictly for country dancing have come my way in the past three months but I have a couple of 'goodies' for you.

Willie Lawrie of Ballachulish has been around the Scottish music scene since the 1960s playing the accordion. Now having reached 'bus pass age' he has released a fine CD with a good mix of waltzes, marches, etc, including his grandfather pipe major William Lawrie's most famous tune *The Battle of the Somme*. There are a few country dance sets, eg *Roxburgh Castle* and *Lamb Skinnit* but they are not full length. There is also a most excellent 3x32 set of Strathspeys beginning with one of Willie's own tunes *Mrs Margaret E Campbell* followed by *John Stephen of Chance Inn* and *Margaret's Fancy*. Tempo is perfect and therefore very useful if you have not got the proper original for such a dance; or try it as an encore set. Jimmy Cassidy double tracks on second accordion and keyboard with Graham Sherrit on drums. (CD number is SMR 161 CD).

Douglas Lawrence, ace fiddler, was born in Buckie (also home of the Forbes brothers of Craigievar Band) in 1957. He played violin with the Scottish National Orchestra for many years. On this latest CD

The Farewell (MAIDA 001) he goes back to his roots with tunes by some of the great fiddlers of an earlier era including the Gows, Marshall, Captain Fraser, and Peter Milne. For good measure there are a few of Douglas' own compositions. It is all rather wonderful. Piano accompaniment is by some of his friends from student days in Glasgow. *The Farewell* is perhaps a little misleading. It does not mean that this is Douglas' final recording but is the name of a slow air by William Marshall.

John Laurie

MUSICIANS' DAY

This year our Musicians' Workshop will take place on Saturday 19 May 2012 at St Columba's Church, Pont Street with coffee from 10.30 for 11.00am start.

This is for all musicians who want to learn more about playing for Scottish country dancing, and wish to be involved in playing for the Branch Dance that evening.

The dances have been chosen to spark musical discussion and to bring together different musical styles into a fun day of Scottish music.

The Workshop will be led by Liam Stewart from Galston, champion accordionist, music teacher and band leader. All musicians are welcome to come along and join in. The cost will be £22 for RSCDS members and £25 for non-members.

For further information and an application form please contact Angela Young chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk or 07976 353608.

Application forms are available for download on the Branch website.

It is all rather wonderful

BIRTHDAY BALL

for Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club

Over a hundred Scottish Country dancers took to the floor at Chiswick Town Hall on Sunday 1 April for an energetic programme of Reels, Jigs and Strathspeys to celebrate the club's tenth anniversary.

London's top rated Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band provided a fantastic range of happy dance tunes to ensure the event went with a "reel" swing. Among the dancers was Guest of Honour Ruth Beattie, Chairman of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, who had travelled from Scotland for the event.

The popular club, which was founded ten years ago by Chiswick's Flanchford Road resident Kay Senior, has flourished ever since.

As part of the celebrations, a new dance had been devised in her honour. The first big dance events she organised was called Kilts and Posh Frocks, and the new dance is appropriately entitled *Kilts and Posh Frocks*. The beautiful Strathspey, which was not danced for the first time on Sunday evening at the Town Hall. Ruth Beattie presented a framed copy of the dance and original music to Kay.

Kay said "I am so thrilled. It's the people that make Scottish country dancing so special, and the warm welcome that they receive. Everyone has put such a lot into making this a success, and I'm just so pleased about that."

Club Chairman Nick Haimendorf said "This has been a fantastic evening for everyone and a great way to celebrate our tenth birthday - it's a lovely venue and a real highlight of our Anniversary year".

Shiftin' Bobbins, *The Reel of the Royal Scots* and *The Duke of Perth* were among the many dances which helped Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club members and friends celebrate the night away.

Ruth Beattie commented "The occasion of the 10th Anniversary Ball was a wonderfully happy and friendly evening. As Chairman of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, I am proud that groups like Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club are affiliated to the Society and I wish them well for the future."

With a thriving membership, Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club meets on Sunday evenings from 6.15pm for classes and social dancing at St Michael & All Angels Church Hall, Bath Road, London W4 1TT next to Turnham Green Underground Station. For more information visit www.chiswickscottish.org or contact Nick on 07990 573671.

Michael Nolan

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WINTER WEDNESDAY

As in previous years, the Winter Wednesday dance was a real pleasure. The caller was Peter Knight, and in keeping with the aim of encouraging newer dancers, the dances were walked through, enabling the less-experienced (and those of us with poorer memories!) to join in with confidence.

The music was provided by Peter Jenkins, (Kafoozalum), with an inspiring solo accordion. Fellow musician Ian Cutts commented that single-handedly playing for a dance was pretty impressive, and that Peter had included some difficult tunes. I did note some tunes which are also used by Muriel Johnstone, my own favourite, which always influences me in a band's favour!

It's helpful that this particular dance takes place on a Wednesday, as it slots in to the Branch classes timetable, and members of the Basic Skills class were well-prepared by teachers Bar Martlew and Davinia Miln. Less experienced dancers can find dances daunting, so it is good to see the Branch timetabling events specifically designed to be accessible to them. A good number of inexperienced dancers came along, some brought by their teachers. As usual, Christine Hastie brought some of her pupils, and commented that it was good for them to take part in a dance they would find achievable, and exciting for them to experience live music since, as so many beginners outside the London Branch do, they learn to recorded music.

Having the dance in half-term this year also meant that some younger dancers from the children's class, and their friends, were able to attend. It would be great to make this a selling point in future years, as young dancers are only likely to make the transition to adult dances if their specific needs, for example regarding school holidays, are kept in mind. (I admit I have a vested interest in how to keep teens keen, and help them make the transition from family to general dances!) Unfortunately, the Branch 'Easy and Enjoyable' dances, which aim to encourage beginners, are always on the same day as the family dance, and few people are likely to attend both.

For less-experienced dancers, it is crucial that they have the opportunity to complete dances well, as success breeds confidence, and encourages people to try and achieve more. Some of our teachers and advanced dancers are perennially kind in encouraging newer dancers – Rachel Wilton or Jim Cook stand out in this respect. So thank you to all the teachers, advanced dancers and members of the demonstration team who were there and who willingly helped beginners through. With your cooperation, learners can experience the phrasing and stylistics of a dance, as well as hoping just to get to the right place at the end! It is really important that all you more experienced dancers out there attend these dances and show how it's done.

Dancing is a physical activity, and so much of the learning process is kinaesthetic – learning by doing. Modelling good practice through dancing with the less experienced is likely to be a really effective way of helping learners improve.

Jenny Kendrick

Erratum

Referring to the article *Poussette – Is the name right?* on page 3 of the last edition of *The Reel* please substitute the Bob Campbell 1982 dance *The Macfarlanes' Strathspey* for his dance *Campsie Glen* given in error which of course uses the *Bourrel* and not the *Philabeg* to progress!

Stephen Webb

BHS BORDERS BRANCH MUSICIANS'

DAY SCHOOL

FLEET, HANTS 10 March 2012

Something of an overlooked musical gem for London-based Scottish dance players is the annual Day School organised by the BHS Border Branch at a school in Fleet. It was recommended to me half-a-dozen years ago and has become a regular "must-do" for my diary. Fleet is easily reached by a fast train on the Waterloo to Basingstoke line, or by any motorway that takes cars loaded with musical instruments. The Musicians' Class runs concurrently with the dance classes taking place in the main building, but is in a separate block so that sounds do not intrude to impede the concentration of the dance students. BHS is not a drapery store, but refers to the Berks/Hants/Surrey Border area where most of the dancers live. They have the chance each year to dance during the evening's dance to a band or orchestra that is unique, as it comprises a different mix of players and leader, as the years pass. Musicians have only to bring themselves, their musical skills, their instrument, and a music stand. The tunes are circulated well in advance and on the day, there is a good supply of water, soft drinks, home-made cakes and a ploughman's supper to fill in the moments between the actual playing. Judging by the spontaneous applause from 130 dancers at the conclusion of the evening dance, I guess that they liked the tunes and the way they were played, and the musicians thoroughly appreciated the compliment.

Each year a different tutor is invited to lead the musicians and to choose the tunes, so the character will change and the hints and tips will also. This year we were very fortunate to have the expertise of Muriel Johnstone. Her enthusiasm and strong exposition brought out the best from everyone, whatever their instrument. She set aside several minutes at the end of the afternoon to give specific help to the three pianists, on style and variations that can be done on the keyboard. We totalled 21 musicians, drawn from Jersey, the Midlands, Southend-on-Sea, London, and the Home Counties. It was a tribute to Muriel's legendary appeal that they had travelled so far and that only a small number had to leave before the public performance. The sight of a stage filled with three pianos or keyboards on the front row, the flute and all the fiddles plus accordions squashed into one corner, remains in the memory. It was clear who was going to determine the tempos and that we had better "keep up" and not start to let the speed drift back, as happened once or twice during the classes. One unsung hero was the lady guitarist a couple of feet to my left who kept a fluent series of chord progressions all evening, together with a bit of melody here and there, in perfect time with Muriel's lead and seemed to need no lessons on sensitive playing. She said she had been taught guitar classically.

Muriel said she had an excellent response from the organisers on the selection of the dances and had therefore been able to include tunes from a wide variety of sources, some very old, some traditional favourites, and some modern ones having a spark of originality. She had included several of her own compositions and it was a delight to hear these tunes, often complex or tricky, played in the way she had intended when she wrote them. She gave a brief introduction to her background and explained that she had been playing since she was aged 8 and was brought up in the Scots musical tradition as her mother played piano for dance classes. Muriel had learnt the fiddle when young, but in due course the piano won, and when pushed into playing for a

dance class at a young age, it was said she played "just like her mother". In class, Muriel was quick to exploit the musical expression of our instruments by having the fiddles lead, then the accordions, or to start on the pianos, or a bit less bass drum here, or to use the brushes for strathspeys. Her preference nowadays was to do a lot of duet playing with the fiddler Keith Smith; but as she had played with so many other players over the years, she was able to offer advice on musicians we should try to hear on CDs to analyse what they were doing and why it had such a useful effect on the dance music. Gordon Smith and Malcolm Ross on drums were two who are not so well-known in the south of England but are well-respected in Scotland for their technical skills. Muriel was very keen that we should be watching the dancers on the floor to ensure that our tempos were ideal. She left her piano many times during the class to dance a skip-change, pas de basque, or strathspey travelling step in front of us, to demonstrate how, in struggling for the notes, we had actually slowed up. It was very instructive, and she advised us to keep in mind the ideal tempo of a basic tune then transfer that to the tune we were actually playing. For a reel, explained Muriel, that would be the speed of *The Deil amang the Tailors*. As it happened, she had chosen that for the final dance and we could let our hair down by playing something familiar to end off a glorious day. They asked for an encore. Who could deny them that?

Tom Cooper

EASY AND ENJOYABLE

I'd studied the cribs and watched the DVD.

Our wonderful teachers, Bar and Rose, were there, having done their best to familiarise us with the Pont Street programme. All the same, potential partners would have to be warned; details were still a little hazy.

The first dance was *The Loch Ness Monster*. A quick look at You Tube earlier in the day failed to bring results. My interpretation of the crib brought to life a set, yet here we were in a circle. As they say, the devil is in the detail. As it ended I was beginning to enjoy the dance, relieved the evening had started successfully.

MC Gaynor's gentle tones soothed as she guided us in the walk-throughs. In Strathspeys we could relax a little. It was comforting to see that lost in the music by Angela Young and Graham Berry even an expert could make a mistake.

A favourite was *Seann Truibhas Willichan*, a bit of a mouthful but a lovely dance with music beautifully played, friendly faces and swirling kilts. It was going to be a good evening. To end the first half another beginner and I surprised myself by dancing *Round Reel of Eight*, with some degree of grace and elegance.

Now for the second half, but not before a delicious spread and a chance to chat: last minute swotting for the next few dances? No, I'm here for fun, not an exam.

Finally, as the music played for *The Reel of the 51st Division*. I overheard, 'Everyone knows that'. I hoped the detail would come to mind. It did. Next morning I woke up with *The Reel of the 51st* lingering in my head.

Thank you, London Branch. We look forward to welcoming you to our Tea Dance at Gerrards Cross on the 10 June.

Catriona Jones

RSCDS WINTER SCHOOL

PITLOCHRY 19-24 February 2012



Dancers of an adventurous and energetic disposition had the opportunity to savour the luxury and home comforts of the Atholl Palace Hotel, just south of Pitlochry, starting with a wine reception on Sunday at 5.15pm and ending with a full Scottish breakfast on Friday morning. The weather was extremely sunny, mild and unseasonable, though one could not have predicted that in advance, as there was still snow on the ground as we arrived. The week passed extremely quickly, and a full programme of dance classes, evening social dances. Late evening "soirees" and extra sessions kept us fully entertained. The length of the school was sufficient to give a complete dancing "experience", yet not too long that one became crippled or bored by so much dancing, day after day!

Winter School has been a fixture in the RSCDS calendar for many years. I am told that we have to thank some hoteliers on the Isle of Skye for the original request for some kind of a "School" for dancers during the winter months. These dancing enthusiasts explained that they were never free to attend the Summer School because they were fully occupied running their hotels and servicing their tourists during the summer holidays. The idea became popular and for many years Winter School was so oversubscribed that, by the time the information came out, it was already too late to apply! An experiment was made to hold two separate weeks following one from the other. This worked well for 2-3 years and accommodated all the applicants. Sadly, this year the two weeks had to be combined to make the event viable, and the teachers and musicians amended slightly. About 100 dancers took part plus a few "visiting" dancers who came to the climax of the week, Thursday's "Ball" at Blair Castle. This was a very grand affair, about half an hour up the road by the coaches that awaited us after our final hotel dinner, and returned us back to the hotel. Blair Castle is a very impressive sight and everyone was keen to dance at their best in the surroundings of ancient memorabilia, statues, paintings and artefacts hanging from the walls and ceiling of our Ballroom. In one corner is the old fiddle of Niel Gow, placed in a glass case, with a painting above it of the legendary fiddler dressed in his tartan trews, playing it. We all felt a sense of history in the making, and our part in carrying Scots dance forward into the future. Our School's musicians, George Meikle, Bill Ewen and Frank Thomson, put on a splendid performance at the Ball and all week, and one could not have wished for anyone better. Hopefully, something of the excitement may have been captured for posterity as David Cunningham Jnr, in his role as "Staff Photographer", visited the Ball and a second evening at the hotel, with the brief to "look for some interesting scenes".

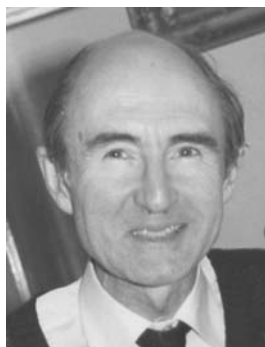
Our teachers, Sue Porter, Eric Finley, and Alasdair Brown, were at the very top-of-the-tree. They must have worked themselves almost to a standstill by the end of the week, in handling the morning classes and acting as MCs for the evening events. Eric had the additional role of organising a Ceilidh evening, which meant splicing together contributions of song, dance display, and recitations from a varied group of dancers at the school. This he did with considerable skill and the result was a very amusing evening. We were here also able to sample some lesser-known dances from the Ceilidh and Old Tyme repertoire, an interesting foil to the country dances. Each morning was

taken up with a couple of classes. The teachers, musicians and the venues rotated, which added to the interest, especially when the Town Hall and Scout Hall were a walk away in the sunshine. Several additional optional sessions took place in the afternoons and attracted good numbers: "Various ways to tie and wear a sash" by Janet Washington, "Highland Steps suitable for Country Dances" by Alasdair Brown, and "Gaelic songs and mouth-music for dancing" by Johan MacLean. This last had some solo and group dancers dancing to her voice-singing, illustrating that dancing does not have to cease simply for the lack of an instrument! Finally, Pat Houghton was on hand a few hours before the Ball, to give a crash course, a "walkthrough without music", on the upcoming dances for those who had not prepared their homework. I was surprised to see so many there, though her clear and unflappable exposition gave everyone lots of confidence for the Ball ahead - where I did not notice anyone putting a foot wrong.

It was a very remarkable week of dancing with friends old and new. I am told some 30 dancers had come for the first time, which sounds encouraging for next year! I would suggest readers of *The Reel* pencil the 2013 dates in their diaries when these become known.

Tom Cooper

OBITUARY



Robin Adshead

Robin was a keen country dancer and well known at St Columba's where he attended church and danced regularly on Monday evenings. I first met Robin in the 1960s when all the London clubs met at the Royal Scottish Corporation Hall in Fetter Lane. Quite often he would take me out for supper before the dance - omelette and chips in a Fleet Street café! It was always fun to dance with Robin - he was a good dancer. We also went regularly to dances in Amersham and Harrow.

Robin was one of the dancers in the *The Lads & Lasses* team that danced in the Highland Games held at Richmond and Harpenden - we often won the trophy and had great fun. For many years he was a member of the Branch Demonstration class and was a good partner when we quite often danced together in demonstrations.

Robin was a bit of a 'loner' divulging very little about his private or professional life, but he was a specialist in the medical profession; it is believed that he was also a very good golfer! Sadly, he developed Dementia/Alzheimers and spent recent years in a care home in Ealing. He will be fondly remembered by Branch members and those who dance at St Columba's Church in Pont Street.

Jenny Greene

BHS BORDER BRANCH DAY SCHOOL

Fleet, Hants 10 March 2012

The venue for the Berks/Hants/Surrey Border Branch day school in March at Court Moor School in Fleet is well suited for a day school as there is a main hall, gym and dance studio. The teachers this year for the Advanced and Mixed Ability classes were Helen Russell and Craig Houston with Catherine Smith taking the beginners class.

Traffic problems meant that I was late for the Advanced class in the morning taken by Helen, accompanied by Robert Mackay on piano. I arrived during the warm up and I had barely joined in when we moved into pas de basque practice! Throughout the class she got the best out of us teaching *The Colonel*, *The Alewife and her Barrel*, *Beauty of the North*, and *Mrs Hill's Delight*. They were all interesting and challenging in their own ways as well as having a twist you weren't expecting. She gave us hints and tips throughout, which were certainly useful especially when it came to *Mrs Hill's Delight*. Slipping down the middle and opening out to face the opposite side could have been interesting: a good partner helps too! The music from Robert was a great accompaniment to Helen's teaching.

After lunch, we headed to the gym for Craig's class. While trying to get the best out of us there was lots of laughter as we endeavoured to get our heads around standing for 1, dancing for 2, standing for 3 and dancing for 2! A relaxed atmosphere certainly helps to improve the dancing. When he started doing the chaperoned chain progression for the second dance I knew what he was intending to do. I wasn't the only one who guessed that we were going to dance *Linnea's Strathspey*! Again, the music from Ken Martlew on keyboard kept us on our toes. The class went by in a flash and it was time for the last class of the day. I stayed in the gym for the themed class, which was taken by Helen and accompanied by Ken. The theme was chains and we did *The Misses Marshall of Milford*, *Pretty Polly* and *The Dean's Delight*. At the end of class we danced all three together as a medley. Certainly an experience for those not used to changing tempos!

All in all it was a brilliant day topped off by a lovely dance to the fantastic music of Muriel and her musicians.

After a break with tea and home made cake it was time for the evening dance to Muriel Johnstone and the musicians from the workshop. There were about 16 plus Muriel on stage and it sounded fantastic. Despite feeling rather tired after the classes, the music soon lifted me and the tiredness was forgotten. It was great to dance to and it was evident that everyone enjoyed it as the musicians got a big round of applause. It was well deserved and well done to Muriel too.

All in all it was a brilliant day topped off by a lovely dance to the fantastic music of Muriel and her musicians. Thanks to everyone involved in organising and running the day. I was not disappointed as it was an enjoyable one and I am intending to go back next year.

Catriona Bennett



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PICTURE PAGES

1. Phil and Debbie McLachlan dancing John McAlpin at the Watford Caledonian Ball on 17 March 2012. *photo: Stephen Webb*
2. Dancing *The Reel of the Royal Scots* at the Watford Caledonian Ball. In the background MC Andy Weiner with The Strathallan Band who played such delightful music: Ann Stonehouse (fiddle), Martin Cairns (piano) and Chris Oxtoby (accordion) See letter on page 15. *Photo: Stephen Webb*
- 3, 4, 5 and 6. London Branch Family Day at St Columba's on 24 March. *Photos: Angela Young*
7. Stephen Webb with Janet Halse, Stuart with Rose Kreloff, and Ken with Bar Martlew demonstrate the new hornpipe *Aotearoa* devised by Ken show off their expertise at the Patterson's farewell dance on 26 February 2012 *Photo: Pete Williamson*



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8, 9 and 10. "Easy and Enjoyable" dance at St Columba's 24 March. Photos: Pete Williamson



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12

The Berkhamsted Diamond Anniversary Ball held in Ashlyns Hall on 11 February 2012 (See article on page 14).

11. Guests dance the new hornpipe *Ocean Voyage* by Hugh Cowell
Photo: Pete Williamson

12. Four dancers from the Reid School of Dancing demonstrate with great skill *The Foursome Reel*. Photo: Stephen Webb

13. The three Bateson brothers who founded the Berkhamsted Club, Robert, Fergus and George. On the right is George's wife Alison
Photo: Stephen Webb

14. Valerie's request delays Robert Baker-Glenn in the essential replenishment
Photo: Pete Williamson.

15. **Berkhamsted Burns' Night.** Alastair Cuthbertson addresses a haggis with care and affection. Photo: Pete Williamson.

16. The haggis procession is lead by piper George Bateson, cook Ann Johnstone and Alastair Cuthbertson at the Berkhamsted Burns' Night. Photo: Pete Williamson

17. **Newcastle Festival:** London Branch Ladies Dem Team , February 2012. Photo: Angela Young



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THE CAIRNGORMS



The 12 original Cairngorms 1983, taken at the Branch Ball in the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel

Gentlemen: Eric Lindsay, Andrew Gillies, Alex Westwood, John MacDonald, George Potts and Andrew Cockett

Ladies: Gill Russell, Judy Rambridge, Margaret Shaw, Marie Jamieson, Helen Brown and Mary Barker

Later Incomers: Tom Steele, Peter Knight and Rita Marlow

Way back in the 70s Mrs Jan Stephenson and her husband Colin ran KASS – the Kent Association of Scottish Societies. Under this Association, day workshops and weekend schools thrived, and promoted Scottish dancing as required by the RSCDS. After the untimely death of Colin, Jan felt she could not carry on. It was then that Gill Russell asked if Jan would have any objections to a group trying to fill her shoes. She was delighted and grateful.

The driving force behind The Cairngorms was undoubtedly Gill. I (Andrew Cockett) first set eyes on her at an Argyll's weekend at Easthampstead Park in 1975. She was dancing *Captain Whiteside's Jig* – in which two couples set advancing to hold hands in the centre – with such joy and energy that I was totally captivated. The spirit of Scottish country dancing was upon me!

Our paths intertwined through association with the RSCDS and through our social lives and eventually she invited me to join the London Ghillies, out of which "The Cairngorm Scottish Dancers" – to give the full name – emerged, following an inaugural formal meeting in February 1980. We were a group of 12, all dedicated to SCD, with great emphasis on sociability and also with social purpose.

The social purpose took us to many old folks' (as we thought of them then) homes, church garden parties and the like to give demonstrations and encourage those that could to join us in dancing – if just for the afternoon. Much of the money raised was donated to charity, but some put aside to act as a back-up fund for the weekend schools.

At one of these events I first became aware of the Scottish national spirit. Our host, the vicar, had invited us to tea after we had danced and as we chatted, Andrew Gillies (gifted raconteur and proud Scot) was heard to tell the vicar that he was from Dunoon, in the Western Highlands. This was immediately challenged by Marie Jamieson (equally vocal and proudly Scottish) who strongly denied that Dunoon was anywhere near the Western Highlands. In seconds a vocal storm broke out. I can still picture the vicar's face – the astonishment, the helplessness.

We were not a demonstration team on the lines of London Branch (although we did beat

them at a festival on one occasion, being awarded the Adam's Trophy), but we made a determined effort to put on a good show. Perhaps our main problem was that we had too many teachers in the group! I should guess that we reached our peak when we went "up west". Quaglinos in those days (the 1980s) was a top London nightclub and we were to dance at the Burns' supper. Dancing to the pipes is not the easiest, but it certainly helped that our hosts had thoughtfully left a bottle of malt in our dressing room.

Following Cairngorm events, such as the Summer Ball, or the demonstrations, there were garden parties without number – so often with the proverbial "Edwardian" sunshine, and all with that essential ingredient – laughter. Mention must be made of Alex Westwood, who had a large flat near Highgate Ponds. The flat gave onto sloping lawns and in good weather this was a perfect place for a garden party. Alex (a confirmed bachelor) had a somewhat Bohemian lifestyle and it was rather necessary to prepare the premises before Cairngorms and friends could be safely admitted. His idea of coping with a rotten floorboard was to cover it with carpet and warn you not to step there! The preparation could be safely entrusted to the ladies of the Cairngorms, usually led by Mary Barker. They literally transformed the flat. There was much amusement when a deliveryman referred to the "lady of the house" when carrying out her instructions. We all knew whom he meant.

The Cairngorm "away weekends", which ran until last Hogmanay, started, possibly, at Easter (if memory serves correctly) at Cobham Hall in Kent. This is a girls' public school in a mansion dating from the first Elizabeth. A friend of the Cairngorms, the late Paddy Bentley, who was the school nurse, introduced us to the Hall, which was stately in its public rooms and basic in the domestic arrangements – in youthful days that hardly mattered. A change of Bursar meant a change of venue, and the Cairngorms have spent their Easter and Hogmanay breaks at the Kent Police College in Maidstone, Burgess Hill School and New Hall School in Chelmsford.

Over the years, as some Cairngorms stopped dancing or moved away, three incomers were welcomed to the team, all of whom had close connections with the group demonstrations, and as teachers or students at the weekend schools. Only a limited number have ever been able to call themselves "Cairngorms"!

There were at least three books of dances devised and published in the period from the late 70s to the early 90s. One of these contained "La Belle Stuart's Reel" – the first published dance by Tom Steele.

2011/2012, with a return to the Kent Police College, was the last Cairngorm Hogmanay. There were 38 participants, only three of whom were Cairngorm Dancers. The figures speak for themselves – the time had come for us to hang up our shoes.

Andrew Cockett and other Cairngorms

HESTON AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

One of the oldest Scottish Associations in the London area closed down, with a final event, on 10 March this year. Heston and District Scottish Association, along with many other societies, has been suffering from falling membership and attendances at events for many years. This, coupled with a number of key members moving out of the area within the last year, led to the decision by the remaining members to close down while there were still enough people left to celebrate the Association's 79 year history – in other words, go out with a bang rather than a whimper!

... an inaugural meeting was held on 15 March 1933

Heston and District Scottish Association began when three homesick Scots discussed the idea of forming an association while travelling to work on the train from Heston to London. After contacting everyone in the locality who appeared to be of Scottish origin (they went through the telephone book) an inaugural meeting was held on 15 March 1933. At its peak it had over 100 members and a waiting list to join.

Heston has always been more than just a country dancing society – hence Scottish Association – as one of the main objects of the club was to maintain Scottish customs and traditions.

In the early years members organised a drama section and choir who performed for members and also for other groups and events such as old people's homes and local fêtes. Other members gave their talents to perform at these events as well, whether it was highland dancing or playing musical instruments. The choir also had the honour of singing as part of the massed choirs in all the Festival of Scotland Concerts held at the Albert Hall during the 1950s.

... extending Scottish hospitality to many friends from other Societies ...

This custom of taking Scottish traditions out to other groups has continued until the present with current members taking a travelling ceilidh to many other local groups, homes and events. They even introduced many sassenachs to haggis by running home produce stalls at local carnivals selling, among other goodies, haggis pasties (invented by one of the members and also dubbed a Burns' Supper in Pastry).

Another tradition that Heston Scottish enjoyed maintaining was that of extending Scottish hospitality to many friends from other Societies at their balls, entertaining upwards of 500 people on many memorable occasions in Hammersmith Town Hall and other venues.

Heston has always been very family-oriented and many members have performed in the travelling ceilidhs from a very young age. In fact, at the closing event, there were three generations of a number of families who had been members of the club since the early years.

Despite this, unfortunately, in common with many clubs of all sorts, changing work patterns and the changing demographics of the catchment area have forced Heston members to the sad decision to close down, but, hopefully, will leave a legacy of many fond memories of fun evenings spent among friends enjoying typical Scottish hospitality.

Rosemary Mitchell

LORD JAMES STEWART MURRAY

The achievement of Jean Milligan in founding the Scottish Country Dance Society together with Ysobel Stewart and leading it for half a century is well known. Less known is the contribution of Lord James Stewart Murray, President of the Society from 1924 until his death in 1957. His speeches at the Society's annual meetings, as reported in *The Scotsman*, express a fervent belief in the power of the country dance "movement" not only to restore traditional dancing to Scotland but to benefit Scottish society at large.

As a younger son of the Duke of Atholl, Murray was born to privilege. This did not protect him from danger, however. As a young man, he fought in the Boer War. Later as a Captain in the Cameron Highlanders he fought in World War I, was wounded, returned to duty, was captured, and spent the rest of the War in a POW camp.

After 1918, Murray lived the life of a Highland aristocrat. He helped to entertain royalty (including the Japanese Crown Prince) at Blair Castle. He attended steeplechase meetings. Having learned dancing from itinerant dancing master James Neill, he also attended several Highland balls each year: the Perth Hunt Ball, Northern Meeting in Inverness, the Edinburgh Highland Ball, and the Caledonian Ball in London. The Atholl family were the prime movers behind the Caledonian Balls, which began with ceremonial Eightsome Reels putting Scottish aristocracy on display in all its tartan splendour. James Stewart Murray was often the first man in the first set.

Murray was also one of the chief organizers of the Highland Balls. He convened the Ball Committee in Perth and served for many years on the committee of the Edinburgh Highland Ball. He was active in many other fields too. He worked as County Commissioner for Boy Scouts in Perthshire, and also presided at meetings of the British Legion, the Scottish Pipers' Society, and An Comunn Gaidhealach, an organization formed to preserve the Gaelic language. In addition, he was a gifted miniaturist, and served as a trustee of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

Clearly, Murray was motivated by a drive to preserve Scottish heritage, whether in the Gaelic language, ancient pipe music, or country dancing. He collected old pipe tunes, and these were played on the SBC in an effort to "restore to popularity old music which had been either lost or forgotten." Twenty generations of ancestors on all sides of his family had lived in Perthshire, and he put his own detailed knowledge of Perthshire history to use in making Blair Castle a living museum of local history and of Atholl culture. Even the wedding presents he gave (recorded in detail in the social pages of *The Scotsman*) reveal the man. When others gave jewellery or other precious objects, he gave a four-volume set of *Antiquities of Scotland* to one fortunate bridegroom and the sporrán and cross belt of the Harris Highlanders to another.

During and after World War II, Murray became a social activist. In particular, he worked on behalf of the Polish troops stationed in Scotland. When they were repatriated after the war, he organized collections of clothing for them and their families. He took the trouble to learn Polish, and also presided at meetings of Scottish National Council for Refugees. ►

DIY HIGHLAND WEAR

In the last issue of *The Reel* Stephen Webb explained how to make a plaited sporrán strap. Highland dress is expensive, and making your own helps to save the bawbees. I have made kilt hose and garters for my husband for about 30 years. Although knitting patterns for socks are fairly easy to obtain I have never seen one for garter flashes, so I had to invent my own.

Materials - Small quantity of double knitting yarn, approx 80cm of elastic at least 2cm wide.

Equipment - Pair size 3.25mm needles.

Cast on 11 stitches using an oddment of contrast yarn, then continue with main colour. Purl one row.

Work 13* rows moss stitch, starting each row Knit 1.

Knit one row for fold line.

Work 14* rows moss stitch.

*Number of rows adjustable to suit width of elastic.

Knit one row, picking up loops from start of work and knitting them together with stitches on needle.

Unpick contrast yarn.

Continue in moss stitch until work measures 10cm, knitting an odd number of rows.

Fringe

Knit 4 rows.

Next row. Knit 1 but without letting stitch drop off left hand needle, bring yarn forward and round a piece of card 2.5cm wide, yarn back and knit same stitch again, this time allowing it to drop from left hand needle. Repeat to end of row.

Next row. Knit 2 stitches together all along row.

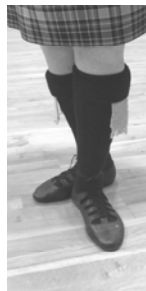
Knit 2 more rows.

Cast off.

Pull loops through row below them (not k2 tog row) using a crochet hook to make looped fringe. Make 3 more to match.

Cut elastic in half, slot two flashes on each piece and join ends. This method allows the elastic to be easily replaced if it becomes worn.

Elizabeth Bennett



Stephen Webb

► Murray's speeches at the annual meetings of the Scottish Country Dance Society show a vision of the social purpose of the Society's work. Speaking at an Edinburgh reception for the Society in 1950, he claimed that "Scottish country dancing was not merely a romantic revival for a frivolous few, but a movement of social and national importance to them all." Specifically, he saw country dancing as a way of overcoming class divisions, especially in the industrial cities, since rich and poor alike could take part.

Murray probably felt that his birth and upbringing in Atholl, in the central Highlands, gave him a special stake in the preservation of tradition. As a child, he spoke Gaelic before he learned English. Speaking at the Scottish Country Dance Society annual meeting in 1945, he said, "Nowhere were Scottish traditions more jealously guarded than in my native Atholl. Not only have we preserved probably more country dances than many places, but we were also responsible for *The Eightsome Reel* in its present form." In 1942, after his brother's death, Murray became the 9th Duke of Atholl, but he used the title only on official occasions. According to his *Times* obituary, "He had the quality of being able to speak simply and in the same way to people of every age and rank and nation, so that people forgot he was a duke, and the young never thought of him as old." Indeed, he defied age, still dancing *The Eightsome Reel* at the age of 76!

Rosemary Coupe, reprinted from *Vancouver Branch White Cockade* April 2009

THE EXPERT

One evening at a "Cheese and Wine"

I met, oh, quite by chance

A fellow who made rude remarks
About our Scottish Dance.

"I cannot understand" he said,

"Just how you people feel,

Who use up all your energy

On strathspey, jig and reel.

You could be leaning on a bar,

Engaged in merry chat,

Or learning motor maintenance

And useful things like that.

You stand round holding little books,

All full of funny lines,

It's certainly not shorthand,

More like Masonic signs.

And when you've worked the symbols out

And know just where to look,

You find the very dance you want

Is nowhere in the book.

You stand in rows, and point your toes,

You cast and set and turn,

I don't know why you work so hard,

There isn't much to learn."

At that, I lost my temper,

"Well why not take a chance,

Just come along to classes,

We'll see if you can dance".

Imagine our amazement

When he turned up one day,

Imagine our annoyance when

He got it right away!

He picked things up so quickly,

Once told, he ne'er forgot,

He mastered chain progression,

Espagnole and the knot.

His phrasing was impeccable,

He never missed a beat,

And though he took size 13 shoes,

His footwork was so neat!

He went to classes twice a week,

And practised every day.

His setting was a joy to watch,

And so was his strathspey.

He soon became an addict

And realised his dream

By being made a member

Of the Demonstration Team!

And so we all forgave him

For being such a blight,

And he admitted freely

He'd been wrong and we'd been right.

And he thanked us very nicely

For giving him the chance

To have good friends and music,

And the joy of Scottish Dance.

Pat Batt

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An Absolute Beginner goes to the Ball!

On Saturday 3 March 2012 I attended the Harpenden Scottish Dancing Club Annual Ball, at the Harpenden Public Halls. I was invited to the Ball as a guest of my Scottish dancing friend Harry Patel, and his wife Sarah, from the RSCDS Milton Keynes Branch. My intention was to go just as a spectator, as I had never done Scottish dancing before.... Little did I know, however, that I would end up taking part in 11 of the 22 dances! The opportunity to join in was wonderful, and of course only possible by the friendliness and helpfulness of my fellow dancers pointing and guiding me in the right direction!

My aim was to attempt the slower dances only, with *Byron Strathspey* being my favourite dance of the night! However, by mistake, I did end up dancing in *Equilibrium*, which challenged me to say the least with the complexity of steps and fast pace of the dance. But I started and finished at the same time as the other dancers, so I couldn't ask for more than that! Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and was very impressed with the high standard of dancing, the wonderful buffet provided and the openness and friendliness shown by all the dancers. The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band made the evening, playing some wonderful music, and it was also lovely to see all the dancers dressed in their best Scottish attire.

My introduction to Scottish country dancing was thoroughly enjoyable, although this style of dancing was certainly different to the other styles that I am used to, which include ballroom, Latin, tap, jazz and line dancing! Thank you to all the dancers who partnered me and helped me with the steps during the evening, particularly Harry, Sarah, and also Andy Wiener from the Watford and West Herts Scottish Society. I would also like to give thanks to the Harpenden Scottish Dancing Club for allowing an absolute beginner to come to the Ball!

Lisa Hewitt

REEL REVELRY AT REIGATE

Dancing to a Band always adds to the enjoyment of an evening of Scottish country dancing and the prospect of the band being Strathallan was a bonus. The event was the latest Reigate group formal dance early in March at Reigate School. Sometimes things just don't turn out as expected; the band violinist had been taken unwell that day (hope she's feeling better now), and Martin Cairns the pianist was away, leaving Chris Oxtoby on her own. However she worked her magic and obtained the services and skill of David Hall for the evening.

They played together like a dream for us to dance happily through a splendid dance programme. With a welcoming glass of wine (or two) on arrival all the dancers clearly enjoyed themselves immensely generating a very friendly atmosphere. There was something for everyone in the varied programme, all very ably MC'd by Wendy Mitton and Alister Reid with walks and talk throughs as required.

The supper as usual was a true feast: how we were able to dance the second half was remarkable!! Value for money indeed, there can't be many other occasions when an evening of enjoyment and supper are provided for about the price of a bottle of house wine in a restaurant.

The Reigate Scottish Country Dance Club hold two formal dances a year, in March and November and two informal dances, in June and October.

Maggie Westley

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND REEL CLUB'S BURNS' NIGHT CELEBRATION

As club members arrived at Potten End Village Hall on the evening of Tuesday 24 January, they found it already buzzing with excitement and expectation for our Burns' Night Celebration. This event, in our Diamond Jubilee Year, was organised by Stephen Webb and club members and their guests were anticipating a thoroughly entertaining evening. As it turned out, we were not to be disappointed. All the dances and the entertainments were centred around Burns' life and times, which added to the enjoyment of knowing that he could have either heard this tune or that song or danced this or that dance.

Promptly at 8.15, we commenced with a dance round the room, *My Love she's but a Lassie yet*, which set the tenor for the evening and this was quickly followed by a fine recitation by Stuart Anderson of the monologue *Neil Angus McAndu*. Next we danced *The Lea Rig* to the tunes of *The Lea Rig*, *A Man's a Man for a' that*, *Green Grow the Rashes*, *O and Comin' thro' the Rye*, arranged by Ken Martlew.

Neil Aitchison followed this with some fine fiddle tunes of the 18th century, played appropriately on his 250 year old violin. These were the 1st Movement from the Sonata in G, *The Thistle* by James Oswald, *Miss Admiral Gordon's Reel* by William Marshall, *Lady Charlotte Campbell*, *Mrs Russell of Blackhall* and *Miss Margaret Gordon*, all by Robert Mackintosh. The jig *Oh, Whistle and I'll come tae ye, my Lad* followed. As in previous years, George Bateson, a founder member of our club, then piped in the haggis, which was paraded by the cook, Ann Johnstone. Alastair Cuthbertson ably and enthusiastically addressed a haggis and The Rev. Janet Ridgway gave *The Selkirk Grace*.

After these formalities, everyone formed an orderly queue for their supper of haggis, neeps and tatties which was generously served; with a wee dram of whisky too for those inclined to add *gravy* – kindly supplied by Brian Rose. Ann and her team of volunteers ably catered for the 80 or so present and added to the enjoyment of our splendid evening. The club believes that this is the largest gathering attending any non-ticket evening and reflects the popular success the club is enjoying.

After the interval we danced *Waltz Country Dance* and the next special item was Joan Desborough beautifully dancing *The Scottish Lilt*. Next came *Corn Rigs* and then the soprano, Sonia Sully sang for us. She amusingly divided her songs into three sections:

Firstly, The Declaration: *My love is like a Red, Red Rose*, was unaccompanied
Secondly, also unaccompanied, The Seduction: *Ca' the Yowes tae the Knowes*.

And finally, accompanied on the piano by Alastair, The Betrayal: *Ye Banks and Braes*.

It was an absolute delight to hear her clear voice sing these well-known Burns' songs and we are very grateful to her for performing at our event.

With Alastair yet again on piano (is there no end to this man's talents?) and Tony Gottlieb, we were led in the group singing, which included, *Loch Lomond*, *The Star o' Rabbie Burns*, *The Northern Lights of Old Aberdeen*, *Just a Wee Deoch an' Doris*, *Westerling Home* and *I Belong to Glasgow*. The final dance of the evening from 1749 was the ever-popular *The Montgomerie's Rant* and we closed a wonderfully atmospheric time with arms linked in a circle around the room to sing together *Auld Lang Syne*. But before we departed, our President, Jane Rose, thanked Stephen and all those artists that gave so generously of their time to make it such an enjoyable celebration of Burns' birthday!

Paul Stevenson

BERKHAMSTED DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY BALL

Saturday 11 February saw Berkhamsted Strathspey & Reel Club hosting their Diamond Ball at Ashlyns School (originally a Foundling Hospital) in Berkhamsted and it was certainly a spectacular anniversary event.

The evening commenced with a champagne reception, along with a professional photographer taking pictures of everyone in their finery, whilst piping was provided by Neil Esslemont. Music for the evening was provided by Sandy Nixon and his Scottish Dance Band with local musician Ian Robertson joining the line up with his fiddle to make the "Big Band" sound and judging by the smiles on the faces of the dancers during the evening everyone enjoyed what they heard.

The programme was drawn from the most popular dances at the last 59 balls, so included

plenty of well known dances, interspersed with four dances from the new Berkhamsted Diamond Collection (see review in issue 278 of *The Reel*) these being *The Foundling* (devised by Robert Baker-Glenn and appropriately dedicated to the memory of Lorna Brown who was a Foundling at Ashlyns and a longstanding club member); *Ocean Voyage* (devised by Hugh Cowell) which proved the most challenging dance of the evening; *Berkhamsted Castle* (devised by Stephen Webb with the original tune by Sandy Nixon) and finally *Silver Roses* (a medley devised by Ken Martlew who also composed the original tune in both tempos).

Following the hot buffet supper, the dancing recommenced with Neil Esslemont piping for a *Grand March* leading into *The Buchan Eightsome Reel*, with my wife Jane and I dancing with the three Bateson brothers and their partners. The Batesons formed the club in the 1950s after dancing at Cambridge University and the club is indebted to them for their vision and for their continued support (George, who is 80, still dances regularly at the club on a Tuesday night).

A second interval brought a welcome break to the dancing and everyone was treated to an excellent Highland Dancing Demonstration by four members of the Reid School of Dancing. It brought memories back to many who used to dance highland and amazement of the intricacies and elevation to those who were watching for the first time. Neil Esslemont also provided the piping for this demonstration before retiring for a well earned rest (he had piped at Corby earlier in the day).

The evening drew to a close at 12.30 and the two MCs Jane Rose and Robert Baker-Glenn could then relax. Thank you to the Club Committee, Club Members and all the friends from other clubs (Turin and Toronto as well as UK) who helped make the evening a very special event. Also apologies to those who were unable to obtain tickets; we hope that you will want to join us for our 61st Highland Ball on 9 February 2013.

Brian Rose



Janet Aylward, Neil Esslemont and Jane Rose

Letters to the Editor

Toronto

Popularity of Dancing

Dear Wilson

The Reel has lots of interest as usual. With regard to your Editorial, I am developing a theory that everything goes in cycles. SCD became popular when community dancing was what dancing was believed to be all about – ballroom, old tyme, square dancing, etc. These forms of dancing require you to connect with others. I think that view of dancing has long been out of fashion. The individual, not the group, is all important. At the moment in Canada, for example, forms of dance are promoted for personal fitness. Our own branch winter flyer says, “Banish the winter blues and come and keep fit with us”. The internet/Facebook/emails, etc. mean that more and more younger people connect largely electronically. I believe our type of dancing will come back when younger people have a eureka moment or two and realise that community dancing like ours is a practical, fun and active way to make local friends in real time! In other words, SCD’s time will come once again. We just hope that it’s before we get too old!

Carole Bell
Editor, Set & Link

Milton Keynes

Young Dancers!

Dear Wilson,

Milton Keynes Branch recent Annual Ball with the Glencaig Band went pretty well we thought. With seven children between 10 and 14 and a ‘transferee’ from Dundee Branch joining us for the first time we felt we would check with some of them. Their replies were:

‘Attending one’s first RSCDS ball in a new location always involves a mixture of excitement and trepidation – How dressed up will everyone be? Will people be stand-offish? Will anyone ask me to dance? How tolerant will they be of mistakes on the dance floor? I need not have worried on any of these counts, as I was made to feel thoroughly welcome and now consider myself fully inaugurated into the Milton Keynes Branch. Reassuringly, there were quite a number of ‘kent faces’ from my Monday evening class, in the form of our MCs (Graham and Sarah) and other hard-working committee members – all of whom did us proud. Nicol McLaren and the Glencaig Band led us enthusiastically through a stimulating programme of dances and seemed to enjoy themselves as much as did the dancers. I particularly appreciated their witty insertion of the Pink Panther theme and the inclusion of *The Dundee City Police Jig* on the programme. Curiously, I had not encountered this dance during my term as a member and Secretary of the Dundee Branch, so resolve to rectify this glaring omission when next I dance with my old – sorry former – dance partners north of the border!’

Rose Barbour

‘I have been going to Rita’s Scottish country dance class for almost two years and I really, really enjoy it. When Rita first mentioned going to a Ball I was very excited. However, the closer we got to the Ball the more nervous I became. I was familiar with three of the dances on the list (*Maxwell’s Rant*, *Miss Gibson’s Strathspey* and *Mairi’s Wedding*) and I only knew the other members of Rita’s dance class. I was a bit concerned about getting the dances wrong, and other people getting frustrated with me, and by Saturday I was seriously worried. But I shouldn’t have been! Everyone was really, really

► friendly, and didn’t mind when I made mistakes (which was a lot!) they made a few mistakes too which made me feel better. I ended up dancing with lots of people who I had never met before that night. I was having so much fun I stayed for the whole evening instead of just until half past 10 when I had originally arranged to be picked up. It was a really great experience and I can’t wait till my next Ball!’ **Lizzie (14)**

‘I have been Scottish dancing for quite a while now and really enjoy it. Although I have completed my grades, I have been dancing on Saturday mornings to help with the younger dancers. When Rita had mentioned it, I was keen to experience my first Ball. I was excited and apprehensive at first about the Ball but after the first dance was over, I soon got caught up in the friendly atmosphere and started to relax. Everyone was really welcoming and kind even when I spent some of my time guessing the steps. Some dances went very well and I made mistakes on others but either way, there was a smile on my face and that of my set. Half way through, we sat down for a delicious meal. I had a great time and the evening passed in a blur of laughter, dancing and music (and lovely desserts). I left very tired but also felt really happy after a enjoyable night. I look forward to the next Ball.’ **Katie (14)**

Whew! Seems like we weren’t the only ones to enjoy it, and so nice to have the youngsters there.

Jan Jones

Watford

All’s Well that Ends Well

Dear Wilson,

In Reel 279 on page 9, Rose Kreloff spoke of the problems obtaining a band for the Watford and West Herts Scottish Society’s 2012 Caledonian Ball, with the first two bands she had approached discovering they were double booked but eventually finding Strathallan were free on the night. What a treasure this band is, and how lucky Watford were to have them play.

Their Ball takes place at the large and inviting venue of the Allum Hall in Elstree. One would have thought it needed a heavyweight band to play there, but not a bit of it. The dancers were treated to a lovely evening of beautifully played tunes, fine arrangements perfectly balanced with a lovely tempo and plenty of lift. Not only was the sound volume not too loud, enabling the dancers to talk over the sound if they needed to without the wearying effects of a too-loud band – but that essential adjunct to any evening – the MC’s microphone provided courtesy of the band, was set to provide sparkling clear speech which could be heard by us all.

This added to all the other components to make the evening one to remember. Wonderful stuff! I hear that Sandy Nixon and his band are playing next year.

John Reeve

SCOTTISH DANCE MUSIC

looking for a new home

Records, approximately 60 LPs and 60 EPs released between early 1960s and 1980s, comprising Scottish country and highland dance music from wide range of bands and pipe music, free to anyone willing to collect from Croydon area. Telephone Malcolm or Joyce Dodd on 020 8657 2864.

Reading

John Armstrong

Dear Wilson.

Although I didn’t know John Armstrong well both he and Louise were very friendly when our paths crossed. At an Oxford dance a few years ago John persuaded me to take his place for the encore of a busy dance.

I have been sorting through some dance papers passed on from a former member of the Reading club and I see that John was adjudicating at a local competition in 1955. In the Adult Novice class the compulsory dance was *Dalkieth’s Strathspey* with the mixed team opting for *The Montgomeries’ Rant* and the ladies team *The Reel of the 51st Division*. John’s comments include ‘Watch reels of 3, 6-bar and 8-bar’, ‘some people pas de basque instead of skip change’, ‘don’t schiff with the closing foot’, ‘phrase so that dancers don’t stand on spot’. The mixed team won with 76 points to 73 for the ladies.

I expect that adjudicators are still making the same comments.

Peter Luke

Hemel Hempstead

Name that Dance

Dear Wilson,

Witnessing the amusing confusion at a London Branch dance in June last year over the dance crib provided for the dance *The Loch Ness Monster* and the dance intended, I was prompted to comment on what is becoming a common problem. Namely, duplication!

Seeing a local club programme advert the other day in *The Reel 1* came upon the dance name *The Cooper’s Wife 2*. I know John Mitchell’s dance *The Cooper’s Wife* but what is this one? Well, looking at Minicrib, using it as a register, I discovered that it is one and the same! *The Cooper’s Wife 1* apparently, was another dance with the same name and devised by G Will, published in the *Bridge of Earn Collection*. Apart from the name there was no resemblance between the 40-bar jig and the 32-bar reel (Minicrib has recorded about 4500 dances but we know that there are many more than this). When attending a children’s dance it is often common to dance *The Flying Scotsman* and here the alternative from 4-couples to 3-couple repeated with minor variations is available, and published in *Medal Tests for Young Dancers*, but with the same name too! There are many examples of name duplication: *Autumn Leaves*, *The Christmas Tree* and *Corrievrechan* having 3 versions and *The Mercat Cross* with 4 and so on!

Books and films aren’t given the same name unless deliberately done for a sequel, so why are dances? It can only be that the devisers just didn’t know about the other dance(s). Is there a way to avoid this happening again? Domain names are protected why not dance names? Imagine having done one’s homework and going prepared to a dance only then to find it was a totally different dance from the one intended on the programme! I think it is self-evident therefore, that there has become such a proliferation of dances and hence dance names that a definitive listing of SCD names is required. Has the time come for an accredited dancing organisation to take charge and regulate the naming of dances to avoid dancer confusion in the future? Is The RSCDS that organisation?

Let me wish you, Wilson, a relaxing retirement from *The Reel*, it has been a pleasure working with you from April 2005 and congratulations on a job well done!

Best wishes,

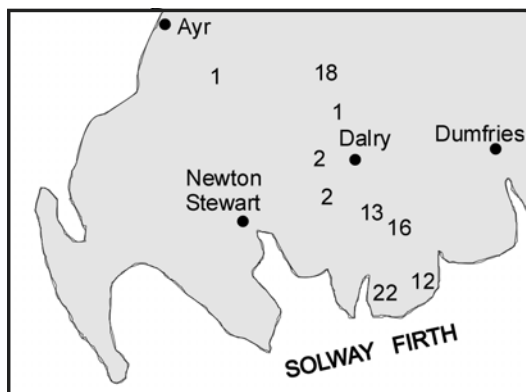
Stephen Webb

HUGH FOSS IN RETIREMENT

When Hugh Foss retired in the 1960s from his employment in London and from the London Branch, he moved north to Galloway in south west Scotland to a house called Glendaroch in the small town of Dalry*. There he produced a large number of dances many of which are still danced today. His first offerings were in the Glendaroch series of individual typewritten dance instructions including dances by other well known compilers of the period including Hugh Thurston (*Drambuie*); Derek Haynes (*MacDonald of the Isles* and *The Black Mountain Reel*) and John Bowie Dickson (*The Luckenbooth Brooch*).

Hugh named many of his dances after local landmarks and the Glendaroch sheet numbers are marked on the map. The sheet numbers are:

- *Earlstoun Loch (1)* is a centre for brown trout fishing run by the local fishing association.
- *Loch Doon Castle (1)*, the castle on the banks of Loch Doon, in southern Ayrshire, originally built on an island in the loch. In 1935/6 the water level in the loch was raised when they built a hydro-electric dam at the north end so the castle was moved, stone by stone, to its present location on the bank nearby. For the historically-minded the castle goes back to 1306 (though the original location on the island was used earlier) and it played a pivotal role in the wars of independence. It was designed and built by Sir Christopher Seton, brother-in-law of Robert Bruce, King of Scots, and he met a sad end at the hands of the English when the castle was captured some time after the Battle of Methven in 1306.
- *Airie Bannan (2)* is a small mountain or large hill to the west of Dalry.
- *Lochskerrow (2)* is now a fishing loch but in days gone by it was a halt on the line from Dumfries to Portpatrick, and later to Stranraer. Loch Skerrow halt is accessible only via the old



Map of Galloway showing location of Dances

railway trackbed from either Mossdale or Gatehouse Station. When the line was completed in 1865, Loch Skerrow was constructed as a water stop for the steam locomotives used on the line. With a plentiful supply available, a water tank and pumping station were constructed. None save the stationmaster and possibly a railway worker or two inhabited this lonely place unconnected to any other habitation except by the line itself.

- *Auchencairn (12)* is a traditional Scottish village consisting mainly of stone houses dating from the early 17th century. It is located on the heritage coastline of the Solway Estuary, an area of unspoiled hills, cliffs, islands, bays and beaches known locally as the Scottish Riviera.
- *Crossmichael (13)* is a small village on the east side of Loch Ken about 4 miles north of Castle Douglas. It has a pub, a marina, and a church with a distinctive steeple.
- *Glenlochar (16)* is a small hamlet on the western bank of the River Dee and a site of a Roman temporary marching camp.
- *Polharrow Burn (18)* rises in Loch Harrow and flows eastwards to join the Water of Ken 2 miles northwest of Dalry.
- *Cairnsmore of Carsphairn* is the highest

summit of a rather rounded range in Galloway to the north of Dalry.

▪ *Dundrennan (22)* is a village about five miles east of Kirkcudbright. Its population is around 230. It is most notable for the ruins of Dundrennan Abbey, a 12th century Cistercian monastery.

His later collections contained more landmarks of the Dalry area:

- *Cairn Edward*, a large country house, forest and a hill just south of Dalry.
- *Ken Bridge* close to Loch Ken just south of Dalry.
- *The Rhinns of Kells* is a range of hills to the west of Dalry well frequented by hillwalkers.
- *The Black Craig of Dee* towers over Loch

Doon to the north west of Dalry.

▪ *Curlywee* is a steep sided mountain to the west of Dalry.


The Holy Linn waterfall on the *Garple Burn* was used in Covenanting times for baptism, hence the name. It is just to the East of Dalry.

▪ *Clatteringshaws Loch* is a reservoir a few miles to the west of Dalry in the Dumfries and Galloway district of southern Scotland. It was created by damming the Galloway River Dee as part of the Galloway Hydro Electric Scheme. The Forestry Commission maintain a visitors' centre by the loch to welcome visitors to Galloway Forest Park.

▪ *The Clachan* of Kendoon is a few miles north of Dalry.

* **St. John's Town of Dalry**, usually referred to simply as **Dalry**, is a village in Dumfries and Galloway, formerly in Kirkcudbrightshire. It is located on an old pilgrimage route to Whithorn and St Ninian's Cave and named after the Knights of St John. The town was the centre of the 1666 Pentland Rising in Covenanter times. The village is sited on a bend of the Water of Ken about three miles from the northern edge of Loch Ken.

Wilson Nicol




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DANCE EVENTS

RSCDS CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH

Tea Dance

Saturday 12 May 2012
from 2.00 - 5.00pm
Chesterton Community College, Cambridge CB4 3NY
Music by **Ken Martlew**
Tickets £8 including cream tea
Students and spectators £6

Open air dance

Sunday 10 June 2012
from 2.00 - 5.00pm
Anglesey Abbey, Lode, Cambridge CB25 8EJ
Dancing to recorded music
Bring family and friends for a great day out

Annual Dance

Saturday 27 October 2012
from 7.30 - 11.30pm
Chesterton Community College, Cambridge CB4 3NY
Music by **Stradivarious**
Details: www.rscds-cambridge.org

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH DANCE CLUB

Invites you to our Afternoon Tea Dance
Sunday 10 June 2012
2.15 - 6.00pm

Colston Hall, Memorial Centre, East Common,
Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD

Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning

St Andrew's Fair, Shiftin' Bobbins, MacDonald of the Isles, The Jubilee Jig, Clutha, Miss Gibson's Strathspey, The Deil among the Tailors, The Wild Geese, West's Hornpipe, Neidpath Castle, The College Hornpipe, The Robertson Rant, Jessie's Hornpipe, Duke of Perth.

Bring and Share afternoon tea

Tickets £7 from
bar@gxscottish.org.uk, rose@gxscottish.org.uk
www.gxscottish.org.uk

HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Annual Ball

Saturday 3 November 2012

Craigievar Scottish Dance Band

Programme and details in the next issue
Enquiries: Margaret Wallace Tel 020 8560 6160
email: margaret@ianwallace.fsnet.co.uk
website: www.hayesscottish.org.uk

Ian & Val McFarlane

cordially invite their dancing friends to another
Scottish / English dance

Sunday 8 July 2012

4.15 - 8.00pm

The Beaconsfield School, HP9 1SJ

Superb music provided by

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www.mcf107.com

ST ALBANS CALEDONIAN

Friday 5 October 2012

Deirdre Adamson

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bandleader

Townsend School, High Oaks,
St Albans

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Contact the Business Editor,
Jeff Robertson,
Tel 01903 245718. or
email: businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk



LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

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

Saturday 30 June Summer Ball .. **Iain Cathcart**
Saturday 8 September **Craigievar**
President's Night 7.00 to 11.00pm

Cribs are now available on our website:
www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk

For further details contact: Frank Bennett on
020 8715 3564, email fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk,
or Roger Waterson on 020 8660 5017. You can
also telephone our "Dial-a-Programme" service
on 020 8763 8096 to hear our programme, or
leave a message. Everyone is welcome at all our
functions, so please come along and join us for
an enjoyable evening.

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Saturday 30 June 2012

Summer Ball

St Columba's Church

7.00 - 11.00pm

Iain Cathcart

Programme: EH3 7AF, The Belle of Bon Accord, Rest and be Thankful, The Rothesay Rant, The Silver Strathspey, The Scotch Circle, The Milltimber Jig, The Moray Rant, Jessie's Hornpipe, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Blooms of Bon Accord, Muirland Willie, New Scotland Strathspey, The Irish Rover, Airie Bannan, John McAlpin, Angus MacLeod, Polharrow Burn, S-Locomotion, Mrs MacPherson of Inveran.

Dances will not be talked/walked through, but a
brief recap may be given.

Tickets: (Including finger buffet refreshments)

* LHC Members in advance £14.00.

* Non-Members in advance £16.00.

All classes on the door £18.00.

Advance booking price is only available
on orders received by
midnight Wednesday 27 June.

If you have highland dress, you are invited to
wear it. Please visit our website at
www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk for the latest
news and programmes of our dances.



MEOPHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Golden Anniversary Dance

Saturday 21 July 2012

7.30 - 11.30pm

Istead Rise Community

Centre, Worcester Close, Istead Rise, Gravesend,
Kent DA13 9LB

Craigievar Scottish Dance Band

Programme: Anniversary Reel, Meopham Green, The Moray Rant, Jennifer's Jig, The Recumbent Stone, MacDonald's Double Diamond, Father Connelly's Jig, Torridon Lassies, The Belle of Bon Accord, The Montgomeries' Rant, Mrs Stewart's Jig, Gang the Same Gate, The Cooper's Wife, Equilibrium, The Dream Catcher, Catch the Wind, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Scott Meikle, Mairi's Wedding. *Extras* Napier's Index, Neidpath Castle, Bratach Bana.

Tickets £12

plus please bring food to share for a plated
supper – cutlery provided.

Contact Jane Whittington

Tel: 01474 359018

email jane.whittington@sky.com



RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ SURREY BORDER

BRANCH

Branch Ball

Saturday 19 May 2012

Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP

Ian Muir and the Craiggallachie Band

St Andrews Fair, Summer Wooing, Peggy's Strathspey, The Rakish Highlandman, The Reels of Dunans, May Yarker's Strathspey, The Ship in Full Sail, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, General Stuart's Reel, Tribute to the Borders, Last of the Lairds, Anna Holden's Strathspey, The Frimley Green Reel, The Diamond Jubilee, The Silver Tassie, The Saltire Society Reel, Follow Me Home, The Dream Catcher, Mrs Macpherson of Inveran.

Contact: Peter Loveland 07747 112720

Summer Dancing

Wednesdays from 13 June to 22 August 2012

8.00 - 10pm

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church Hall,
Frimley GU16 7AA.

Contact: Shirley Ferguson 01276 501952

RSCDS Teaching Certificate Course

A course leading to Units 2 and 3 and to Unit 5
will take place from
approx. December 2012 to May 2013.

Tutor: **Mervyn Short**

Queries or expressions of interest to Shirley
Ferguson 01276 501952

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

SOUTH EAST HERTFORDSHIRE SCDS

Summer Dance

Friday 15 June 2012

8.15 - 10.45pm

Sele School, Hertford, SG14 DG

Tickets £4.00 (with shared refreshments)

Beating Retreat

Sunday 9 September 2012

2.00 - 5.00pm

The Castle Grounds, Hertford SG14 1HR

Pipe Band Display/**Silver Cross Band**

Entry free with local charity collection

54th Annual Ball

Saturday 17 November 2012

7.30 - 11.30pm

de Havilland Campus,

University of Hertfordshire, AL10 9EU

Music by **Strathallan**

Contact for all events Peter Dixon

01920 462213

e-mail: peter@gamels.freereserve.co.uk

THISTLE CLUB

Musician's Workshop & Dance

at Wing Village Hall LU7 0NN

Saturday 1 September 2012

10.30am to 4.30pm - £16

Workshop tutored by Keith Smith

Dance to Keith and the Workshop Musicians

7.30 - 10.30pm (shared supper) - £7.50

Programme: The Laird of Milton's Daughter, The Minister on the Loch, The Black Mountain Reel, The White Heather Jig, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, Flowers of Edinburgh, City of Belfast, The Chequered Court, The Duke of Perth, Maxwell's Rant, Inchmickery, Sugar Candie, The Sailor, The Nurseryman, Montparnasse, Summer Assembly, Follow me Home, The Reel of the 51st Division.

All enquiries to Jan Jones -

jange@verybusy.co.uk

Phone 07877 153259 - www.thistleclub.co.uk

DININ' AN' DANCIN' AT THE CALEY

It is a Friday evening in March and another biannual Reeling Evening dinner dance hosted by The Caledonian Club in Belgravia has arrived. These 'reeling' evenings are now in their fifth year and as such something of a minor triumph for London Branch members, James Fairbairn with Davinia Miln who co-MC the evening. They are well supported, with around a capacity 100 guests attending this one.

An unusual format, but a successful one: the evening begins with a champagne reception at 7.00pm in the chandeliered ballroom then guests are piped in to dinner in the adjoining dining room. Round tables are beautifully laid out and the first course served: wine is generously poured throughout the evening. After a little while the guests are invited to return to the ballroom with its magnificent sprung floor to dance, with 'easy' dances talked/walked and then danced with, on this occasion, Dave Hall and Ian Robertson making the music! Dave and Ian complement each other so well that if not dancing it is a treat to just sit and listen.

Three dances later and it is time for the deliciously prepared main course. Then, having just settled into relaxed conversation, if one wishes, it is time to enjoy the main part of the programme chosen with country dancers in mind including, after an introductory *St. Bernard's Waltz, The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Byron Strathspey and The Deil among the Tailors*. A further civilised interval follows, when a cheeseboard is available with coffee and the Caley Club's signature tablet while the raffle is drawn. The evening is topped off with other ceilidh and country dances, concluding with *The*

Eightsome Reel. All too quickly it is late and time for *Auld Lang Syne*. Taking the good memories from the excellent evening to reflect upon, it is 'Home, James'. Until that is, the next time – 12 October 2012 with Frank Thomson!

Contact James Fairbairn on st48@btinternet.com for more information if you are interested in coming along.

Stephen Webb

WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT!

The RSCDS and the London Branch offer scholarships mostly to young people (up to 25 years) to attend RSCDS Residential Schools as a dancer or as a prospective teacher or as a musician. In addition, any member can apply for a scholarship to attend Summer School with a view to taking the RSCDS Teaching Certificate. London Branch also has funds available to give support to any event promoting Scottish country dancing among young people. Don't be shy about asking for assistance. We are a charity and we are here to help you improve your skills and enjoyment of Scottish country dancing, and to support you in passing on your enthusiasm and knowledge to the next generation. If you think you might benefit from a scholarship pick up the phone or drop an email to any member of the Branch Committee, or you could start with our Secretary: secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk or youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk There are events happening all year round such as Spring Fling, Winter and Summer Schools.

Think about it

We want to help

DANCIES & the ROYAL FAMILY

It is appropriate to recall in this Royal Jubilee year the role the dancies played in Scotland in teaching dancing to the upper class and the general population. Dancie Neill taught the future Queen Mother when she was a girl at her home in Glamis Castle as well as the country folk within a radius of 15 to 20 miles of his home town Forfar. In this case, he cycled the six miles to Glamis once a week with his fiddle on his back and had a class of between 30 and 40 – being able to dance a hundred years ago was an essential social skill with particular emphasis on etiquette.

Wilson Nicol

THE REEL

The Reel is published four times a year by the London Branch.

It is posted free to all Branch members (membership enquiries to Gaynor Curtis, see advert page 5).

Non-members may subscribe to be on the mailing list, and Clubs can negotiate bulk copies for their members. Enquiries to Janet Rudge, see advert on page 13.

Articles and advertisements for *The Reel* should be sent to the Editor, address at the foot of the front page.

From Issue No 281, advertising rates will be **£13 per column inch in black and white, £19.50 per column inch in colour.**

Enquiries to the Business Editor Jeff Robertson, businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Dancing most Mondays, 8.00 - 10.15pm, Sept to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details: www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com or Carol Gibbins 01235 527211 cgibbins60@hotmail.com

ADDESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm September to May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet, KT14 7NF. Details from Val Clack, 01932 845869. www.addlestonscottish.org.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB meets in Potten End Village Hall. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15 September to May, Sat. gardens June/July. Classes: Mondays 8pm: Intermediate and Advanced, Tuesdays 8.15: Beginners. Contact: Judy Roythorne, 1, Pine Close, North Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3BZ Tel. 01442 875496 www.berkhamstedreelclub.org.

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at St Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth 7.30 - 10pm. Weekly children's classes. Technique class by invitation – alternate Wednesdays. Details from Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Rd, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX. Tel: 01202 698138.

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details from Rod Burrows on 01908 783053 or chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk. www.rscds-brighton.org.uk/

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

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday 8pm at St. Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details from Rhoda Finch, 20 Redcrest Gardens, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2DU. Tel: 01276 681820.

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for all grades. Details: Jacqui Brocker, 24 Hemingford Rd, Cambridge, CB1 3BZ. Tel. 07916 892611, jacqui_brocker@yahoo.com.au.

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY ScottishCountry Dancing and other events.. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8pm from Sept to June. Details www.camscotsoc.org.uk or Rachel Schicker 01223 364557.

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

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30 to 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. Tel: 01242 528220, mbsteele45@aol.com.

CHELMSFORD: SANDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets on Monday evenings 8-10pm at Springfield Park Baptist Church, Springfield Park Road, Chelmsford, CM2 6EB. Beginners welcome. Details from Esther Wilkinson, email: ewilkin@gmail.com or tel. 01206 240132. www.sandonscotdance.org.uk

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Upper Hall at St Michael's & All Angels' church, corner of The Avenue and Bath Road (turn right out of Turnham Green tube) W4. Sundays from 27 Sep till 4 July with Xmas and Easter breaks. Midsummer Magic open air evening dance in Chiswick House grounds 11 July. Beginners class at 6.00 till 7.10. General class 7.15 till 9.20. Advanced dancers evenings with musicians twice each term. Tel 020 8743 9385 (afternoons only) / www.chiswickscottish.org.uk.

CIRENCESTER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets most Wednesdays 8:00 - 10:00pm September to end June at the Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester. Details: Mrs Val Williams, Leaholme, Broadway Lane, South Cerney, Glos. Tel 01285 860660. williams147@btinternet.com

CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets Thursdays 8.00 to 10.00pm September to June at Milton Mount Community Hall, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley. Details: Mrs Pip Graham, 57 Milton Mount Ave, Pound Hill, Crawley, W. Sussex RH10 3DP, tel: 01293 882173.

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH: Branch classes:- General, incl Beginners with technique Coulsdon (Fri). Advanced (Wed) Coulsdon. Details: Sue Hassanein 01737 358401 www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Club night Mondays (all year) 8-10 pm at Woodford Green Prep School, Glengall Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0BZ. Details: www.efsa.org.uk or Angela Ross, 02085043376, angelaross87@hotmail.com.

EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. holds weekly adult dance classes for beginners and intermediate/advanced levels, (September to March), including informal dances. Details from Dorothy Pearson, 366 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon CR5 3BF. Tel 01737 551724.

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8.00pm, September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details from Mrs Annette Owen, 19 Park Prewett Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 9RG Tel 01256 959097 annetteowen@hotmail.co.uk web address www.fscdc.co.uk

FELTHAM & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Tuesdays 8.00pm, September to mid-July at the White House Community Centre, The Avenue, Hampton. Details from Ann or Paul Brown, tel: 01784 462456 or mobile 07801 160643. Email: p@ulfbrown.co.uk

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.30pm, September to May. Full details from Vikki Spencer, 24 Park Hill, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 6PW. Tel: 01252 691922.

OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS (continued from previous page)

- GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross on Tuesdays from September to June. Beginners 7.30pm, General 8.15pm. Details from Bar Martlew: 01442 261525; info@gxscottish.org.uk; www.gxscottish.org.uk
- GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. Details from Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- GUILDFORD SCDC** meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from September to June. www.gscdc.org.uk or tel 01483 502422.
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Tuesdays Sept.-June from 8.00-10.00pm in Elderkin Hall, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF. 020 8870 6131.
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8.00 pm. Details from Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts, AL3 5RE. Tel 01727 863870.
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St.Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details of these and other activities from Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner HA5 3QR. Tel: 020 8428 6055. www.harrowscottish.org.uk.
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** meets Fridays 8-10pm, September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, Tel: 020 8560 6160.
- HEREFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS:** Dancing in this beautiful holiday area every week of the year. Visitors always welcome. Contact Brian on 01568 615470 email brianraasay@btinternet.com
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB.** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Mary Fouracre, 171 Dunraven Drive, Enfield, EN2 8LN. Tel: 020 8367 4201.
- HESTON & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Thursdays 8.15 to 10.15pm. September to July, tuition followed by social dancing. Also monthly Saturday dances and ceilidhs. All at Heston Methodist Church Hall. Details from Mrs Rosemary Mitchell, Tel: 01483 202386.
- ISLE OF THANET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** meet Wednesdays September to June at Holy Trinity & St. John's C. of E. Primary School, St. John's Road, Margate. Beginners 7.00-8.00pm. General 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Mrs Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. 01843 869284.
- JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP.** Contacts: Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, La Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel/Fax 01534 854459; Alan Nicolle 01534 484375, alan.nicolle88@googlemail.com; or Brenda Gale 01534 862357. See http://scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com.
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1. Some major functions held at other London venues. Details: adverts in *The Reel* or contact Frank Bennett, 12 Lingfield Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8TG. 020 8715 3564. Dial-a-programme service: 020 8763 8096. www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL. Tel: 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St. Mary's R.C. School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead. First Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372 maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk.
- MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP** meets every Wednesday 7.30-10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details from Jane Masters, 251 Robin Hood Lane, Blue Bell Hill, Maidstone.
- 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. tel 01474 822919.
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB** meets every Monday evening from September - June at 8.15-10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details from Mrs Jane Whittington. 5 Coldharbour Rd. Northfleet.Kent.DA11 8AE, 01474 359018.
- 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, jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB.** Dancing most Wednesdays during school term, 8.15 -10.15pm from September to May at St Thomas' Church Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, SG6 4DZ. (Note change of location). Informal Saturday dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds. SG17 5AL .
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.** Dancing 7.45-10.00pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9JN. Tel. 01634 254451.
- 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: Pam. French, 20 Beaumont Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent, BR5 1JN. 01689 873511.
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS.** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET. Tel: 01869 340830.
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading from 8.00-10.00pm. September to May, Tuesdays (elementary) and Wednesdays (general). Details: Rita Cane, 45 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Tel: 0118 975 7507, www.scottishdancingreading.org.
- REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets most Mondays 8.15 to 10.15pm, September to May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP or email
- RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00pm from mid Sept. to end of May. For Information contact 020 8943 3773 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk.
- SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP.** Dancing Tues 8.00pm Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc.
- ST ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON).** Wimbledon and District Scots' Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8.00pm at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3JB, 020 8540 1755, araffan@googlemail.com.
- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Pont Street. Scottish Country Dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns Nights' when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Further details: Denise Haugh 020 8392 2920, email dhaugh200@btinternet.com.
- ST JOHN'S SDC WOKINGHAM:** meet every Thurs 8-10.15pm Sept to June at St. Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Sue Davis 01344 774344, 2 Larkwood Dr, Crowthorne, alan.suedavis@gmail.com. Also Childrens' Class Sats. 9.30 - 11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne, Deborah Draffin 01344 776831.
- ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS,** Luton meet every Wednesday, September to July 8.00-10.00pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road, Luton, Beds. Contact: Pat Hamilton, 01462 671156 or Sheila Harris, 01525 875060.
- SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT** Hold weekly classes for all levels of dancers on Monday evenings from 7.30-9.30pm at Collingwood School, Springfield Road, Wallington SM6 0BD. Details from Maggie Westley; 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157. maggie.westley@rmh.nhs.uk.
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB** meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8.00-10.00pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Rebecca Evans, 2 Vestry Cottages, Old Otford Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5EH 01732 456382 beccab31@hotmail.com .
- SHENE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP** meets every Wednesday from September to May, 8.15-10.15 pm, in Barnes. Further info: Fiona Jack, 07780 671021, jack_fiona@hotmail.com.
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent. Details: Pauline Cameron, 7 Wayne Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 9TS. Tel 01689 838395.
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30-10.00pm. Details from Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ. Tel: 01305 265177.
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** Dancing Fridays, 7.30 to 10.30pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details Mrs Edna Carroll, 01702 428974.
- SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS.** Classes in Hertford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv Tues 7.45pm, Bengoe School, Hertford; Beginners Thurs 7.30pm. Millmead School, Hertford. Demonstration Alt. Mons 8.0pm. St John's Hall, Hertford. Details: Chay Smith 01992 442154.
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB** meets Thursdays 8.00-10.15pm at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W. Sussex. Details: Martin Heath, 01273 478069, m.j.heath@talk21.com.
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** dancing every Thursday at 8pm from September to June at St Matthew's School, Langley Road, Surbiton KT6 6LW. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx, TW16 7TY. http://www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS.** Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8-10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8-10pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Rd, Tunbridge Wells. TN4 9AL, Details: George Daly, 1 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5UE. tel: 01892 534512 www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk.
- WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY.** General and Beginners/Improvers Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60, Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE. 01923 492475, reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk.
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** meets Wednesdays 8 to 10 pm September to June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. email welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net or telephone Douglas Wood 01582 469928.
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Mondays 8.00pm. Dance Class. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford. WD19 5HF. Tel: 0203 078 0018.
- WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Both evenings take place at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover, SP10 3NQ. 01264 363293, wendy@mumford.com.
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details from Beryl Munro, tel 01621 850838 or email: beryl.munro@btinternet.com .

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Right:
The London Ladies team at
The Newcastle Festival
11 February 2012
The dancers are:
Lindsey Ibbotson,
Marian Morris,
Angela Young,
Kirsty Fairhead,
Anna Twinn,
Pat Davoll,
Esther Wilkinson,
Elaine Wilde,
Alison Raisin,
Natalie Maude,
Christine Davies,
Margret Plummer,
Janet Rudge,
Elaine Davies,
Catriona Stewart,
and Catriona Bennett
Photo: Graham Berry



Below:
James Fairbairn and Iris Ronayne
at Chiswick 10th Anniversary Ball Chiswick Town Hall 1 April 2012
Photo: Michael Nolan



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