

rscd **London Branch** 

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

**FEBRUARY TO APRIL 2014** 

Scottish Country Dancing-For fun, fitness and friendship

#### No 287



Above – London Festive Fling, 14 December 2013: The dem medley included *The Dancing Master*. Below - Burns' Supper & Ceilidh Dance, 11 January 2014: A full hall enjoying The Eightsome Reel.



# WINTER WEDNESDAY DANCE

Wednesday 19 February 2014 7.00 – 10.00pm (Doors open at 6.30pm) St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD

# Sandra Smith and Christina Hood

EH3 7AF	Inchmickery 14 Social for 2000/7
The Borrowdale Exchange Carnforth 2/9	Easy PeasyGraded 2/8
Lady Lucy RamsayMMM 47	Miss Ogilvie's Fancy
Kendall's Hornpipe Graded 1/22	The Starry Eyed Lassie
The BarmkinGraded 2/6	Mrs MacLeod 6/11
Balmoral Strathspey 22/3	The Wind on Loch Fyne Dunedin 1
Jessie's Hornpipe 8/9	The Deil amang the Tailors 14/7

Extras: The Waratah Weaver (Graded 2/4), Round Reel of Eight (27/7), 12 Coates Crescent (40/5)

RSCDS members £9.50, Non-members £10.50 Children under 16 free All tickets to be purchased on the door. All dances will be recapped

## MARCH DANCE

Saturday 29 March 2014 7.00 - 10.30pm Doors open at 6.30pm St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD Kafoozalum

Miss Allie Anderson Leaflet 16
Anniversary Reel
Sands of Morar
Tribute to the Borders Leaflet 31
The Earl of Mansfield Leaflet 5
The Gentleman
The Chequered Court
Autumn in Appin
The Summer Assembly
,
The Happy Meeting 29/9
The Royal Deeside Railway 40/9
The Flower o' the Quern Canadian/17
Joie de Vivre
Mrs Milne of Kinneff Leaflet 20
Fife Ness4 for 1978/1
TI D G . 1
The Dream Catcher 45/9
The Dream Catcher       45/9         Gothenburg's Welcome       37/3         The Irish Rover       22 SCD&2/22

Admission includes light refreshments RSCDS members £10.00, Non-members £12.00 Members' Children Free, Non-members' £3.00 All tickets to be purchased on the door All dances will be recapped

# DANCING TO THE **MUSICIANS**

Saturday 17 May 2014 7.00 - 10.30pm Doors open at 6.30pm St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD Ian Robertson & the Musicians

Pelorus Jack41/1
Maxwell's Rant
Margaret Parker's Strathspey 31/3
Inchmickery 14 Social for 2000/7
Mrs MacPherson of Inveran . Bon Accord/15
Miss Gibson's Strathspey Leaflet 18
John of Bon Accord
Hooper's Jig MMM 34
Flowers of Edinburgh
Hamilton House 7/10
0 0 1

A Trip to Bavaria ..... Leaflet c 1960 

Admission includes light refreshments RSCDS members £10.00, Non-members £12.00 Members' Children Free, Non-members' £3.00 All tickets to be purchased on the door All dances will be recapped

#### **HELP NEEDED**

The Reel is very fortunate in receiving a good number of contributors of photographs of dancing, dancers and dancing events. Sadly, they cannot all be accommodated. We are seeking someone with an interest and/or expertise in photography to assist with editing and layout in the preparation of *The Reel*. Please contact editor@rscdslondon.org.uk if you might be interested.

# COMMONWEALTH GLOBAL CEILIDH

Calling all Dancers! SAVE THE DATE Saturday 21 June 2014

The RSCDS has been confirmed as a national partner in Creative Scotland's 2014 'Get Scotland Dancing' (GSD) – a campaign to get more people regularly participating in dance activity.

To celebrate the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this year, GSD has commissioned the RSCDS to create three new dances to reflect and represent the spirit and demands of the Commonwealth Games. Each dance will fuse Scottish country dancing with different dance and musical influences under the dance themes of Speed and Endurance; Commonwealth Connections; and Agility. The dance development will be led by Branches in the Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow areas, in partnership with three GSD dance hubs in these cities.

In addition, the RSCDS will create a two-hour long dancing programme (to include the three new dances) and run a mass 'Commonwealth Ceilidh', with instructions/music/video freely available from the RSCDS website www.RSCDS.org. The Commonwealth Ceilidh aims to span the globe and will start at 7.30pm local time on 21 June 2014. The international Ceilidh will begin with dance events in New Zealand followed by others at hourly intervals across the world.

London Branch will be joining the celebrations and holding a ceilidh on Saturday 21 June – please note the date in your diary.

Look out for further information in *The Reel* and on the Branch website.

# CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

It was great to see lots of dancers on the floor at our Family Day in November, at our Christmas Dance, when we welcomed Ian Muir of Prestwick and his Band, and at our Burns' Night Ceilidh. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of these events, and to the



Committee members, teachers and musicians who help dancers of all standards improve their skills at our classes.

I have also had the pleasure over recent weeks of speaking with many of the Scottish country dancing clubs around London. Some are thriving, some are getting by and some are struggling, but for most groups recruiting new dancers is proving to be really difficult. The Branch is no exception: our membership continues to decline at an alarming rate. The Committee has decided that we must attract more newcomers next season and to improve our chances we will try to run an additional beginners' class.

In the next issue of *The Reel* we will let you know all our plans for next season, so that you can back them or challenge them at our AGM in June. Please note that, unusually, the meeting will be held on a Saturday immediately prior to a Branch dance. We hope this will encourage more members to attend, and it should also reduce costs. Do come along and make your views known. If you want to get more involved, please put yourself forward for the Committee (there is more about this on p3). Most importantly, join in with us or one of the many SCD groups in London and share in the fun, friendship and fitness that Scottish country dancing provides. I look forward to meeting you on the dance floor.

**Andrew Kellett** 

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ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY



Patron H.M. The Queen

Chairman - John Wilkinson

#### HEADOUARTERS:

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#### LONDON BRANCH

Hon. President: Rachel Wilton

President Emeritus: Mary Stoker

#### **Hon. Vice-Presidents:**

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Marjory Reid, 20 Hopwood Close, London SW17 0AG vicechairman@rscdslondon.org.uk

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#### Hon. Treasurer:

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#### COMMITTEE

Elaine Davies, Pam Ellam, Jeremy Hill, George Potts, Jerry Reinstein, Thelma-Jane Robb, Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw, Anna Twinn, Elaine Wilde

#### Co-ordinators:

Classes:	Margaret Shaw, Lena Robinson
Day School:	Margaret Catchick
Dances:	Marjory Reid
Demonstration	s: Elaine Wilde
The Reel:	Jeremy Hill
Youth:	Marjory Reid

#### Non-Executive roles:

Bookstall:	see p4
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W-1-:4	J

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;
- promoting the enjoyment and appreciation of Scottish country dancing and music by any suitable means.

## **EDITORIAL**

How are the RSCDS, and London Branch, perceived by the wider dancing community and the general public? Are they seen as inclusive and welcoming, providing lasting standards to aspire to, promoting the enjoyment of dance? Or as formal and forbidding?

These questions came to mind recently whilst watching *Controlled Abandon*, a programme shown at 6.00pm on 29 December on BBC1 Scotland. The Society has commented (on Facebook) that "negotiations are continuing with regard to making the programme available. It is possible that an edited version may be produced on DVD for purchase." Somewhat defensively they also say that "in response to some comments that have been made about the programme, we would like to advise that RSCDS did not 'commission' the programme and had no editorial control. The choice of content and the format of the documentary were entirely the responsibility of Hopscotch Films."

The programme covered various angles:

- A potted history of Scottish dance, introduced by Robbie Shepherd;
- Some comments from two 'folklorists', on where SCD and Miss Milligan's vision for the RSCDS fitted into the maintenance and development of tradition;
- Interviews at Summer School in St Andrews 2013, including Chairman John Wilkinson, giving their opinions on SCD and its
  appeal, with footage from classes and the Younger Hall;
- Follow-up on overseas enthusiasts, including showing how SCD has caught on in Germany and Japan;
- Archive footage of dancing over the years, including formal occasions, such as HM The Queen dancing at the Golden Jubilee Ball of 1973, and the *Generation Game* (featuring Bill Ireland and some members of the London Branch dem team);
- Demonstration of a number of dances, including *Miss Milligan's Strathspey* and *Strip the Willow* (curiously danced in 6/8, not with a running step in 9/8). There was much to enjoy for the SCD enthusiast: Tom from Japan happily confessing he wasn't a very good office worker because he lived for SCD; spotting well-known faces on the archive footage, such as Dr Alastair MacFadyen, the outgoing RSCDS President; enjoying the excellent dancing of the demonstration sets. A great variety of views was expressed plenty with which to agree or disagree.

What was not clear was what the average Scottish early Sunday evening viewer might have got out of it. Did this capture the essence of SCD? The programme was somewhat confused in its presentation of dance styles, with quite a lot of Highland dance shown. How many regular SCD classes will teach a *Broadswords*? Would it have given newcomers any idea of what they would get from trying SCD, either at a dance, or to take a few classes? I'm not so sure.

We heard that SCD had gone through ups and downs – at different points "too posh, too army [?], too old-fashioned, too silly" (cue Bruce Forsyth hamming things up), and that formality had "put off" a generation. Perhaps there's an element of truth in that. It strikes me that the missing age bracket 40 - 70 is exactly the group who may have been discouraged from bringing their children to events 20 years ago.

The demonstration sets gave us the 'control', but we missed its combination with 'abandon' suggested in the title. The programme seemed to rely on enthusiasm expressed by participants in interview – the most fun seemed to be had in brief shots of dancing in the party room in University Hall, St Andrews. Where was the down the middle and back in *West's Hornpipe* as far and as fast as possible (with skip change of step), getting back to execute a perfect pas de basque, or the spin of the partner in the middle of 'corner, partner' that still allows the turn of the next corner exactly in time?

The introduction referred to a "global phenomenon in rude health", but in contrast we see Society membership dropping and further investment requested to try to attract new dancers. More work is required to illustrate and publicise to the wider public that combination of Fun, Fitness and Friendship we enjoy so much. Within London Branch we are looking carefully at what we offer, alongside the different audiences, messages and media, specifically to see how we can encourage as many people as possible to come into the Scottish country dancing world.

Jeremy Hill

# LONDON BRANCH AGM

### **Saturday 14 June 2014 6.45pm**

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will take place on Saturday 14 June at 6.45 pm at St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD, immediately prior to the dance we are holding that evening.

The meeting is timed to start shortly after parking restrictions are lifted in the vicinity of St. Columba's, and should be over in time to enjoy (almost) a full dance programme. However, that should not discourage members from making their views known at the meeting, and contributing to our plans for the coming year. Tea and biscuits will be available before the meeting and supper will be served as usual during the dance. All members of the Branch are most welcome to attend. If you cannot get to the meeting, we will still be pleased to see you and your friends at the dance. A formal agenda for the meeting and a report covering the Branch's activities will be circulated with the next issue of *The Reel*.

Any member can put a motion to the meeting, provided it is submitted in writing to the Branch Secretary (see the right-hand column on p2), and received by 30 March, so that it can be included on the agenda. The motion should be signed by the proposer and a seconder, who must both be members of the Branch. Members can also raise any pertinent matter at the meeting under Any Other Business, but only motions appearing on the agenda can be voted upon.

Members wishing to stand for election as an office holder or Committee member should provide the Secretary with a written nomination signed by the nominee, and by a proposer and seconder, who must also be Branch members, by 30 March. There is at least one vacancy on the Committee, so please consider putting yourself or a fellow member forward. If there are more candidates than places, ballot papers will be issued to all members with the next issue of *The Reel*.

The current officers and members of Committee are eligible for reelection, although Marjory Reid must step down as Vice-Chairman having served three years in that office. The current Committee is listed below with the date they joined or last re-joined the Committee:

ChairmanAndrew Kellett2011Vice-ChairmanMarjory Reid2009SecretaryMargaret Catchick2013TreasurerSimon Wales2003

Elaine Davies 2009, Pam Ellam 2011, Jeremy Hill 2013, George Potts 2009, Jerry Reinstein 2009, Thelma-Jane Robb 2011, Lena Robinson 2010, Margaret Shaw 2007, Anna Twinn 2013 and Elaine Wilde 2010.

# **RSCDS** Headquarters Update

- The AGM 2013 voted to increase the basic subscription fee from £16.00 to £18.00 for 2014-15. The Management Board feels strongly that spending levels have to be raised to secure the long-term future of Scottish country dancing, to work harder and more effectively to attract new members to replace those leaving. The spending surge in the last two years covers a number of areas, such as efforts to raise the profile of music through increased involvement with Scottish country dancing musicians, as well as efforts to introduce Scottish country dancing to young people in their primary and secondary schools. In the coming year, services to members will be improved via the new website and members' database, the first phase of which should go live in late January. Existing members are being asked to contribute in a fairly modest but continual way to help ensure our survival;
- The winners of the 'Dance Music for the Future' competition, announced
  at the AGM, were D.u.K, a young and exciting six-piece folk ensemble
  playing a mixture of traditional and contemporary Celtic and Scandinavian
  folk music, both for performance and dance. The sextet, consisting of four
  fiddles, piano and double bass, is made up of one Englishman and five
  Danes, hence the genre of their music, and their name;
- Work continues on the proposed change of legal status to Company Limited by Guarantee. The aim is to present a motion to the AGM 2014;
- Dr. Alastair MacFadyen stepped down from the position of President at the AGM 2013. There are no immediate plans for a replacement;
- Scrolls of Honour were presented to Keith Bark (Toronto), Ruth Beattie (Glasgow), Irene Bennett (St Andrews), Noeline O'Connor (New Zealand). John Wilkinson also read out the Scroll of Honour citation for Ann Dix, but then sadly informed the meeting that Ann had passed away the previous day (see Memories of Ann p8);
- Alison Horsley started work in the office in September, as Finance and Office Manager;
- The publications planned for release for Summer School 2014 are: Book 48, with an accompanying CD by Susan MacFadyen and her Scottish Dance Band; the third Graded Book; a CD by competition winners D.u.K., and a combined Imperial book featuring the first three volumes of Imperial dances;
- The AGM 2014 will be held in Perth again, 7 9 November 2014.
   Matthew McLennan's Band will play on Friday night and Nicol McLaren's Band on Saturday night; classes will be taught by Paul Plummer and William Williamson with music from Andrew Nolan and Muriel Johnstone.

**Rachel Wilton** 

## **MUSICIANS' DAY**

Saturday 17 May 2014

This year our musicians' workshop will be led by **Ian Robertson.** 

It will take place at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London, SW1X OBD with coffee from 10.30 for an 11am start.

This is for all musicians who want to learn more about playing for Scottish country dancing, with the opportunity to play for the Branch Dance that evening.

# All musicians are welcome to come along and join in.

Members £22, Non-members £25

For further information and an application form please contact Pam Ellam lonsec@yahoo.co.uk or 01992 812723.

Application forms are also available to download from the website www.rscdslondon.org.uk

# RSCDS LONDON BRANCH 85th ANNIVERSARY BALL

# **SAVE THE DATE**Calling all Dancers!

To celebrate the Branch's 85th Anniversary, we will be holding a ball on Saturday 31 October 2015

Look out for further information in *The Reel* and on the Branch website.



The London Branch Facebook page is constantly updated, with information, photos and news. It

can be found at www.facebook.com/pages/ RSCDS-London-Branch/ 207567162643075 or via the QR code shown. Please visit the site and add your comments and photos!



# **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership rates for the RSCDS and London Branch are £22.00 per annum for UK based members (£28.00 for Europe; £31.00 elsewhere). Following an increase of £2.00 per annum in the basic RSCDS subscription fee at the AGM in November 2013 these rates will be discussed further at the London Branch AGM (see notice on p3). Any change would take effect from 1 July 2014.

Discounts apply of £8.00 for members aged 12 – 17, £3.00 aged 18 – 25 and £3.00 for each of two members living at the same address. Members of other Branches can join London Branch for £6.00 per annum if they live in the UK (£12.00 in Europe and £15.00 elsewhere). London Branch membership brings benefits including reduced rates at Branch events and receiving *The Reel*, while Society membership includes the bi-annual dance publication, *Scottish Country Dancer*.

Membership forms can be downloaded from the Branch website. Membership applications and enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989 or membership@rscdslondon.org.uk

# **FOCUS ON YOUTH**

# RSCDS SPRING FLING 2015: LONDON

## Save the Date

Spring Fling will be held in London on the weekend of 17-19 April 2015. The weekend will consist of classes during the day on the Saturday, a dancing activity on the Sunday morning and dances on the Friday and Saturday evenings. The event is available to dancers aged 16-35, with the evening dances open to visitors of all ages. The weekend will be run alongside the London Branch Musicians' Day School with young musicians being invited to the Musicians' Workshop. Music for the Saturday evening dance will be provided by the musicians from the workshop.

Further details will follow in future editions of *The Reel*. Contact Elaine Davies at laneypops83@yahoo.co.uk

# WE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD IT

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

## **Demonstration team update**

Although the team has now ceased regular weekly classes it still performs at a variety of events, ably assisted by very competent local dancers, with occasional practices still possible as and when necessary. That said, sadly we were unable to field a team for the Newcastle Festival by the application deadline, due to a lack of sufficient interest; a big thank you though to team and London Branch members who did volunteer – it was greatly appreciated.

Since the last issue we have performed at the Dance Around The World weekend festival at Cecil Sharp House at the beginning of November, a Hammersmith care home in late November, the Branch Christmas dance in December, and we will have performed at the Scottish Communities all day event end of January, organized by the London Metropolitan Archives, and at a private party at the beginning of February.

If you are a very competent dancer and would be willing for me to include your name on my database, for possible inclusion in any of our demonstration/display events being held near you, please contact me on 07779 202529 or demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk

Elaine Wilde

### Children's Class

The Branch children's monthly class continues on Saturday mornings, as follows:

 15 February
 10.15 – 11.30am
 PS

 29 March
 Family Day – see below

 17 May
 10.15 – 11.30am
 PS

 14 June
 10.45 – 12.00pm
 CC

Dates marked "PS" are held in the Upper Hall, St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD.

Those marked "CC" are at The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin St, London SW1X 7DR.

Teacher: James Fairbairn Class Price: £3.00

## Newcomers are always welcome!

For further information please contact either James Fairbairn at st48@btinternet.com or 07930 949599 or youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

# Family Day

Saturday 29 March 2014

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

Children's Class 11.30am – 1.00pm Followed by lunch for all children

Dance to the music of Kafoozalum 2.00 – 4.30pm

Dances will be chosen from: The Barmkin, The Charlestown Chaser, Cumberland Reel, The Dashing White Sergeant, The Dhoon, Domino 5, Easy Peasy, Espie McNabb, The Flying Scotsman, It's all right, The Loch Ness Monster, Le Papillon, Round Reel of Eight – as well as your usual favourites!

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

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

For more details please e-mail childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk or contact youthcoordinator@rscdslondon.org.uk

# **London University Class**

In September, London Branch started a new University class at University College London (UCL), an excellent opportunity to engage younger dancers and also to give our own young teachers a chance to teach a regular class. It is run in conjunction with the UCL Folk Society, which provides students with access to folk music and dance in the London area. They have also formed a ceilidh band, which played at the Folk Society's first ceilidh in December.

The class is held on a Monday evening at UCL, Gower Street (opposite Euston Square underground station). The teaching team consists of Charlotte Sandifer, Judith Jones and Gillian Frew, with Lindsey Jane Rousseau co-ordinating and Ian Cutts playing for the class. If you know any students who might be interested, or for more information, please contact Elaine Davies at laneypops83@yahoo.co.uk

# Set yourself a fun challenge Join a Scottish Country Dancing Class

We have classes for...

**CHILDREN** monthly class in central London. Email James Fairbairn: childrensclass@rscdslondon.org.uk for details.

**ADULTS** every **Wednesday evening** during term time, 7.00pm - 9.00pm at Park Walk School, Park Walk (A on map), King's Road, Chelsea, SW10 0AY.

RSCDS members £75 per term or £9 per night,
non-members £85 per term or £10 per night.

Lower Hall for steps, formations and easy dances with Jane Rose and musicians Ian Cutts & Jane Ng. Term dates as for Upper Hall Classes

Upper Hall for more experienced dancers wishing to improve their technique with

Elaine Wilde (26 February - 26 March) Lindsey Jane Rousseau (30 April - 21 May) Musician: Sandra Smith

The school is served by buses 11, 19, 22, 49, 319 and 328. Parking available at the School.



**Summer General Classes** in the lower hall. Suitable for all abilities except total beginners. A fun evening with a different teacher and musician each week.

Teacher: Jane Rose and Musician: Sandra Smith (4 June)
Teacher: Simon Wales and Musician: Peter Jenkins (11 June)
Teacher: Samantha Schad and Musician: Sandra Smith (18 June)

Wednesday afternoons with Jeni Rutherford dancing to recorded music 2.30pm - 4.30pm at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Classes £5 per class. Term dates: Current term ends on 2 April (half term 19 February) 30 April - 2 July (half term 28 May)

Suitable for dancers with some knowledge of basic steps and formations.

Email Jeni Rutherford: <a href="mailto:jrutherford@freeuk.com">jrutherford@freeuk.com</a>

Nearest Underground Stations: Knightsbridge, Sloane Square and South Kensington for Pont Street. Sloane Square for Park Walk.

# SUNDAY CLASSES

are held at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, TW9 2RT (minutes from Richmond Station). RSCDS members £10, non-members £11 per class.

Advanced Technique with Philippe Rousseau 11.00 am - 1.00 pm 16 February and 23 March.

Highland Dancing with Kathleen Gilbert 10.30 am - 12.30 pm 30 March.

For futher details of all classes, please email either Margaret or Lena at classes@rscdslondon.org.uk

# **FUTURE BRANCH EVENTS**

Except where noted, events take place: Venue: St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD

Time: Evening dances 7.00 – 10.30pm (doors

open at 6.30pm)

### **SEASON 2013 - 14**

Wednesday 19 February: Winter Wednesday Dance (7.00 – 10.00pm) (see p1)

Saturday 29 March: Family Day (see p4) and Spring Dance (see p1)

Saturday 10 May: Combined Societies' Dance (hosted by London Highland Club, with

#### Alasdair MacLeod)

Saturday 17 May: Musicians' Day with Ian Robertson (see p4) and Evening Dance to the Musicians (see p1)

Saturday 14 June: AGM (6.45 pm – see p3) & June Dance (7.30 pm) with **Green Ginger**Saturday 21 June: Commonwealth Ceilidh: Venue and details to be confirmed (see p2)
August: Open Air Dancing at Kensington Gardens (dates to be confirmed)

### **SEASON 2014 - 15**

Saturday 13 September: Evening Dance Saturday 18 October: Day School and Evening Ceilidh

Teachers: Graham Donald, Pat Houghton, Di Rooney and Lindsey Rousseau Musicians to include Judith Muir and Barbara Manning

Musicians' course to be led by **Ian Muir** Music for the Ceilidh from **Ian & Judith Muir** Wednesday 29 October: Autumn Wednesday Dance (7.00 – 10.00pm)

Saturday 22 November: Family Day (no evening dance)

Saturday 6 December: Christmas Dance Saturday 10 January: Burns' Supper and Ceilidh Dance

Wednesday 18 February: Winter Wednesday Dance (7.00 – 10.00pm)

Saturday 21 March: Family Day and Evening Dance

Friday 17 – Sunday 19 April: Spring Fling, incorporating on Saturday 18 April: Musicians' Day and Evening Dance (see p4)
Saturday 13 June: AGM and June Dance

Saturday 31 October: RSCDS London Branch 85th Anniversary Ball

Times and bands to be confirmed in future editions of *The Reel* and on the Branch website

# **BURNS' NIGHT FOR BAIRNS**

Handle and Spout (H&S), a radio production company, were commissioned by Cbeebies Radio to produce a family programme about Burns' Night for broadcast in January 2014. Not having a clue where to begin, they contacted all the Scottish-sounding societies in London, including the London Branch of the RSCDS, The Caledonian Club and the Burns Club of London, looking for a family with whom to do a programme. Each of those sources contacted me and also Neil Esslemont. As it happens, both Neil and I are past Presidents of the Burns Club and are deeply involved in different aspects of Burns celebrations each January: Neil, most often with his pipes and ceilidh band, and I, as toast maker, reciter, caller or dancer. We also both have children under ten – Katharine & Iona and Beth & Fergus – so we joined forces, and met Paul Shuttleworth and Emma Ison from H&S at Neil's house in Aylesbury in the late afternoon of Saturday 7 December 2013.

Burns' Night is of course usually experienced as an event away from home in a community setting for grown-ups (in Hong Kong, in 1981, when I addressed the St Andrew's Society, the audience of 350 was made up exclusively of men, but we have moved on from there...). However, Paul and Emma were under the impression that Burns' Night is a family celebration at home. When Paul asked Beth what she thought about Burns' Night she replied, "Well, it's very annoying, as daddy goes out every night and we don't see him for weeks," which has a kernel of truth to it.

So we constructed a family Burns' Night. It began with the Esslemont girls seen (or heard) helping mum Amanda in the kitchen to prepare the meal. [Historical note: This is unjust as it was in fact Neil who cooked not only a fine MacSween haggis, neeps and tatties, but also chicken with potatoes and vegetables, to cater for all palates]. We then had the Fairbairns arriving (several times), and being welcomed in from the wind and wet. We were not wet to begin with, but we were by the time the producers were happy with the recording of that particular scene.

And so it went on. Scenes were imagined, the children, led by Katharine as hostess, volunteered or were fed lines to speak and repeat, until Paul felt the right level of clarity and emphasis had been attained, and then we moved on. The children spoke uninhibitedly, and were keen to share their ideas. We all gave our thoughts on Burns and Burns' Night. I was able to point out that there is often dancing associated with Burns' Night, that Burns was a competent and enthusiastic dancer in the Scottish style and that many of the tunes he used for his 400-odd songs are still used for dancing today. At one point the adults were shooed out and the kids left alone with producers and the microphone for half an hour. Afterwards, no-one offered to tell us what was said.

Then the haggis was served, piped in of course by Neil to A Man's a Man for a' that, a Burns tune par excellence. I think I addressed it with a verse or two of To a Haggis. All the children tasted it, and their spontaneous (generally favourable) reactions were recorded. In fact the whole evening was recorded, and it was clearly going to be a mammoth editing task to reduce it to 10 or 12 minutes of coherent dialogue in some logical sequence.

After dinner it was ceilidh time: Beth played *The White Cockade* (a Burns tune) on her fiddle, while Fergus contributed *The Skye Boat Song* (not a Burns tune) on his chanter. He had been practising *A Man's a Man for a' that*, but felt that he had not quite mastered it. Then it was time for a dance, and Katharine and Iona performed a competent sword dance (two slow steps & a quick step) to daddy's piping. Quite how you convey the essence of a dance on radio I am not sure, but Paul and Emma were clearly delighted. They left Neil and me with a bottle each of *The Glenlivet [Ed: so I daresay they were also delighted]*.

And so a harmonious evening drew to a close. All the children, and indeed the adults, had had a novel experience and had enjoyed each other's company. Fort

experience and had enjoyed each other's company. Fortunately, it was not necessary for us to leave several times, so we were dry in the car on the way home.

The broadcast went out on 25 January and may be available to listen to on iPlayer. In any event I have a CD for posterity. It will be something for the children to listen to in 10, 20 or 50 years' time and reflect on their first 'Burns' Night'.

James Fairbairn

Katharine and Iona Esslemont ready to

dance the sword dance - on the radio.

# **South East Region Teachers' Association**

The South East Region Teachers' Association (SERTA) organises workshops generally for Scottish dance teachers. The next workshop is in Finchampstead, on Sunday 16 March. It will be led by Anselm Lingnau from Frankfurt, who, amongst other activities, started and still maintains the Strathspey server. He also teaches, devises dances, plays the piano for SCD classes and functions, and is a member of the Society's Membership Services Committee.

The morning session will provide a brief overview of SCD resources on the web, including the Strathspey server and mailing list, and explore upcoming trends in online publication of music and dance instructions such as e-books, with ample time for Q&A and discussion.

The afternoon will concentrate on the features and use of the Strathspey SCD Database, and will cover topics such as the following:

- Overview of the various types of data held in the database and their relationships;
- Searching for dances, recordings, and other data;
- Use of dance lists for lesson planning and programme creation (among others);
- Use of collections to catalogue publications/dances and album/recording libraries:

- Including programmes from the database in your own web pages, with cribs, diagrams, and videos;
- How the database project works, and how you can contribute!
- Future plans and directions.

This will be a great introduction for those who haven't tried the database before, and those who have should bring along their questions and suggestions! Those attending are invited to bring their own computers.

As these topics are likely to be of interest to many other dancers as well as teachers, we would welcome anyone who wants to attend. Further details and application forms are available from Sue Last (sue@suelast.orangehome.co.uk or 01206 303338).

Database, and will cover topics such as the following:

Sue Porter will lead the following workshop on 28 September 2014 in Overview of the various types of data held in the database and their Hemel Hempstead, with more details in future issues of *The Reel*.

SERTA is open to anyone who leads a SCD group, whether qualified or not, those with a dance teaching qualification and those taking teaching courses or interested in doing so. If you wish to join the mailing list or have any queries, please contact me at mikejohnson@waitrose.com at 4 Gatehampton Cottages, Gatehampton Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9LX or on 01491 873026.

Mike Johnson

# **SCD Beats Ageing**

The following article first appeared in The Scotsman on Sunday 12 January.

It has been taught in Scottish schools for generations and is world famous for its boisterous reels and jigs and its smooth strathspeys. But new research suggests that Scottish country dancing could also delay the ageing process. Older women who regularly take part in SCD are fitter than those of the same age who carry out other forms of exercise, scientists have found. The researchers believe the skipping and step-changing of the lively activity can "delay the effects of ageing" on women's ability to carry out daily physical activities.

Scottish country dancing – from ceilidhs and parties to classes and competitions – is a popular event across Scotland and the globe. Taught in school gym halls for decades, its best known dances include The Dashing White Sergeant, The Eightsome Reel, Gay Gordons, and Strip the Willow. Now a study by the University of Strathclyde and the Active Ageing Research Group at University of Cumbria has found that participating can help women retain their youthfulness.

Their study tested the fitness levels of women who took part in SCD to women who did walking, swimming and yoga instead. It compared a group of 26 Scottish country dancers, with at least 10 years of experience, to a group of 34 healthy, physically active women who did not participate in SCD. All the women were in their 60s and 70s and did the same amount of physical exercise each week. The dancers and non-dancers in their 60s had similar levels of fitness. However, the dancers in their 70s were just as fit as those in their 60s, whereas the women in their 70s who did not dance were less fit than their younger counterparts.

The scientists say SCD prevented the age-related decline in physical fitness that would usually be expected of women in their 70s. They believe the specific movements in Scottish country dance forwards and sideways, turning and spinning to different rhythms during different set dances - train the body to remain strong and responsive.

Dr Susan Dewhurst, lead researcher and an exercise physiologist at the University of Cumbria said: "The group of women who did not participate in Scottish country dancing followed the normal agerelated decline in their functional fitness that would be expected. However they were very active, doing walking, yoga and swimming. SCD delayed or prevented this age related decline. This is thought to be because of the movement patterns involved, such as turning, hopping and stepping which are more challenging than walking or swimming. It encourages upright posture and keeps muscles strong and responsive. The social aspect makes it a fun way to support healthy ageing because when there's a social element people are more likely to stick with it."

The women were tested on how far they could walk in a few minutes, how fast they could cover six metres, and how far they could reach towards their toes while seated. These tests were designed to mimic

> daily tasks such as crossing the road and getting out of a chair, which become more difficult as people get older.

The study, published in the Journal of Aging and Physical Activity, concluded: "Scottish country dance can delay the effects of ageing on locomotion-related functional abilities." The authors add that physical degeneration, a consequence of older age, severely affects quality of life and puts a strain on health services, but regular physical activity can lessen the potentially disabling effects of ageing.

Scottish country dancing became popular during the 18th Century, but, although country dancing has its origins from folk dance, its Scottish form was enjoyed by the wealthier and more educated classes of the Renaissance.

Elizabeth Foster, executive officer of the RSCDS, welcomed the research. She said: "This adds to a growing bank of evidence that points to the overall health benefits of SCD. In particular it supports other studies which show that SCD is superior to other forms of physical activity in building and maintaining levels of fitness and mobility. Importantly, it backs up our own observations and the firsthand experience of our members and older women who have been participating in Scottish country dance for many

"The RSCDS Health Strategy, which was developed in

response to many proven health benefits, encourages those with a range of health issues or people who are looking to improve their fitness to be actively involved in SCD. Anyone interested in finding a SCD class in their area should contact the local RSCDS branch or group at www.rscds.org"

Kate Foster Freelance Journalist



Ladies of a certain age have fun birling, and keeping fit in the process.

# 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 p4). Non-members may subscribe to be on the mailing list, and Clubs can negotiate bulk copies for their members. Enquiries to Wilson Nicol, see advert on p15. Articles and advertisements for The Reel should be sent to the Editor, address at the foot of the front page.

Advertising rates are £13.00 per column inch in black and white,

£19.50 per column inch in colour.

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

## Second-hand kilts for sale

Seven kilts in Mitchell and Innes tartans, waist 34", drop 25½". Prices between £20 and £50. Also seven kilt jackets (one black Prince Charlie, one navy, one dark green, four tweed), approx. 40-42" chest, Mitchell tartan evening jacket and vest, black evening trousers, Mitchell tartan trews, an Innes plaid, white lace jabot and cuffs, plaid Inverness cape, 13 tartan ties, 6 sporrans, 2 belts. Condition varies from well-worn to good. Part sales only. For details, please contact Dheirdre Mitchell on 01273 553862 or dheirdremitchell@hotmail.co.uk

## **BOOKSTALL**

Over the years Branch members have received an excellent service from our Bookstall: new publications, advice about recordings, and uncovering obscure leaflet dances. Ian Anderson did a terrific job, and Ian Rutherford kindly volunteered to fill his shoes, but sadly he too, has to call it a day. We are therefore looking for a new Bookstall manager.

We are also in a new technological age. Members can access a lot of information through the internet, and it can also be easier to purchase books and music direct from RSCDS HQ and other suppliers. Despite these changes we still believe there is room for a personal service. Members have really appreciated the opportunity to browse through the Bookstall at Branch events, such as the Day School, and a conversation with the Bookstall manager has been very helpful, especially for new dancers. So the first task for the new manager, along with the Committee, is to think about the role of our Bookstall in 2014. We don't want to replicate what others already do, but we believe there is a place for the Bookstall in our plans.

Our secretary, Margaret Catchick would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the Bookstall. Please contact her at secretary@rscdslondon.org.uk. You can help to write your own job description, but you should have access to a car, storage space and have a good knowledge of Scottish country

Please think about it - this may be your way to help the Branch promote SCD in the London

# RSCDS SUMMER SCHOOL 2014

20 July – 17 August University Hall, St Andrews **Director: Ruby Wilkinson** 

- Attend as resident or non-resident, for any one or two weeks of the four
- Morning classes at all levels, and optional afternoon classes/sessions
- Social dancing every evening, with a ceilidh one evening each week
- Note: the Thursday evening Younger Hall dances previously organised by the Tourist Office (VisitScotland) are now being organised by the RSCDS - further details to follow on the RSCDS website
- Unit 2 & Unit 3 courses in weeks 3 and 4 respectively
- Unit 5 course in weeks 1 and 2
- Musicians' course in week 1
- Young Dancer Week in week 3, 12-15 year olds may attend, with a chaperone, and join in the regular classes and activities
- Tutoring Skills Course in week 3 led by Sue
- Prices range from £525 for residents (depending on accommodation chosen) and £225 for non-residents
- Discounts apply for those under 25
- See also "We can help you afford it" on p4 for details of grants available from London Branch for attendance

All classes and courses are subject to demand. Further information and, for the first time, online booking are available at www.rscds.org/events/ summer-school

# Memories of Ann Dix 24 November 1942 – 1 November 2013

Ann Dix sadly passed away on 1 November, just the day before she was due to receive her Scroll from the RSCDS at the AGM. Many people shared their memories of Ann, including the following:

# Vive La Danse

Ann was very well-liked (even loved) and known as an outstanding teacher, display choreographer, dancer and generous friend. Her most well-known dance is probably Culla Bay, published in Book 45 of the RSCDS. Ann was also an RSCDS Examiner and taught all over Europe and in Japan and the US.

We moved from Paris to London 26 years ago and met Ann and her then husband Malcolm almost immediately on arrival, via mutual SCD friends, Lindsey and Philippe Rousseau. Through our attachment to Paris Branch (which we founded in 1984) Ann was invited to do a day school there and then in 2004 to teach the Paris Branch quadrennial International Easter Weekend in Pau, at the foot of the Pyrenees in South West France. We had a magnificent 900m<sup>2</sup> sprung floor

to dance on, and Ann's teaching was superb. In 1996, at our Easter Weekend in Dijon, the heart of Burgundy, Mary Murray from Vancouver was teaching, and Ann devised a dem for us, with each man wearing a T-shirt with the flag of a country that was not their own, but of another member of the team, while the women wore the flags of different countries as sashes. We had American, English, Scottish, French, Japanese, Swiss, Dutch and Italians dancing, as well as other participants at the weekend from Belgium, Canada, Germany, Luxembourg and Australia. To check the nationalities I just replayed the DVD we have of the weekend, where we see Ann dancing beautifully and with such a look of happiness, as many of us have when we dance.

For a number of years she suffered from sarcoidosis of the lungs, which finally lead to respiratory failure. During most of those years she could still dance and teach, and it was only in the last two years that she had to give up teaching, though she kept devising dances. Ann was a guest at our Paris flat in Montparnasse many times, including last year, when we celebrated our 25th Wedding Anniversary at a dance in Paris. Though she could no longer dance due to the worsening of her breathing, she really wanted to celebrate with us. At the dance our Paris friends surprised us by devising a dance called Noces d'Argent, with accompanying music. Previously, Ann had devised the strathspey Montparnasse dedicated to Danielle and me, and it appeared in her Reel Friends Book 3. The music for the dance used an adaptation of *Winter* from Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, which made it even more special. It is not coincidental that her three books of dances are International Easter Weekend in Pau, 2004. called Reel Friends, because she had so many SCD friends.



Ann and members of the Paris Branch at their quadrennial

On 11 January 2014, Paris Branch held a dance with 12 of the many dances she devised, four of which were written for members of the Branch or for the Branch itself, like the title of this article, Vive la Danse, written for Paris Branch at the 2004 weekend. Photos of Ann were prominent on the dance floor during the evening. Each dance was recapped by a member of the Branch who had a particular connection with it. Danièle Landrieau, current Chairman of Paris Branch, spoke at the beginning of the evening about Ann and her place in our hearts.

Jerry Reinstein

#### **Ann At Home**

Whilst many knew Ann for her associations with Scottish dancing, my husband Gordon and I were fortunate to know Ann 'at home'. We first met Ann and Malcolm in early 1970 before they were married. They, along with Malcolm's younger brother, Chris, often danced with us at dances where Andrew Rankine was the featured band. We all appreciated the fantastic music and also enjoyed dancing in a set with excellent dancers, so became followers of the band. We soon became firm friends. After their wedding in July 1970, they bought a house in Chiswick, Ann worked as a PE teacher in Ealing and Malcolm at Imperial College, London. Ann was not just a dancer but also a home-maker. With the encouragement and help of her mother, Barbara Pierce, she made the curtains for their house, and upholstered chairs.

During the following years we formed competition teams, the best known of which was the Strathreelers, which won acclaim, winning many trophies at highland games and music festivals. For dance teams we needed team dresses. Nothing was left to chance, and I well remember many a visit to the Brentford Nylons Factory shop to buy material for team dresses. Some of my fondest memories are sharing dress-making skills, fitting each other with dresses made for dancing - especially maternity dresses suitable for dancing, which were not available in the shops. Anything Ann put her hand to was completed with absolute professionalism.

We had moved to Stoke Poges and Ann had moved a couple of miles away to Burnham by the time our children were born. We shared many family times together, including Christmas lunches, and in 1973 we put together a Hogmanay ceilidh at the school for the deaf and disabled children in Stoke Poges. We had enormous fun in subsequent years raising funds for the charity and also raising many laughs with our fun dance items. Possibly the most notable was a dance



Ann at the London Branch Tea Party in

devised to James Last hornpipe music, with Joan and Geoff Desborough, Ann and Malcolm Dix and Gordon and Patsy Patterson inside the 12 legged monster, which we had created from 'J Cloth' material for the body and a papier maché head – a green body and head topped with a Tam o'Shanter and a jabot, with orange legs. So was born the dying ability, which was later used for Strathreeler ladies' long gloves and men's frilly fronts for their shirts. In all of this the perfectionist, Ann, was a leading light.

Eric "the Cleric" Lindsay christened Tim Dix and Alan Patterson in a double service in Stoke Poges Church and on for tea in which Ann had expertly iced a beautiful cake for Tim, and between us we catered for a large tea party. Catering was another shared time, when Ann recruited me to join her selling Thermomix - "the mixer that cooks". As always, Ann adapted to the challenges, and cooked wonderful tasty dishes that tempted people to buy this magnificent machine. Some of the greatest fun was had testing out recipes for the ceilidh dinners, when 10 of us would get together to devise the format of the evening and taste the food.

When they moved from a small house in Burnham to a larger one, which they adapted for Barbara to join them in a self contained apartment, Ann brought all her skills to the fore, and created a lovely home and wonderful large garden. Many happy holidays in Cornwall messing about in boats, or on the broads with Ann's brother Mike and his boat, are among our memories of Ann and her family.

Subsequently, she threw herself even more into dancing, becoming an accomplished teacher, and a deviser of beautiful flowing dances that work, becoming the person you all knew - an annoyingly brilliant organiser and a perfectionist in all she did. Her strong personality will be sorely missed.

**Patsy Patterson** 

### In London and beyond

I first met Ann soon after coming to London in 1993. It was the start of a very happy and productive partnership, mainly centred on the Branch Demonstration Class, but also further afield at Summer School and beyond. Ann taught the Demonstration Class for five years when it was still struggling to regain its momentum, after the great years with Bill Ireland at the helm. Ann did much to restore standards, develop repertoire and engender an esprit de corps. It was a pleasure to be part of Ann's set-up and we became firm friends during that period. Ann was subsequently a great supporter when I had the challenging job of following her in teaching the class. I learned a good deal from Ann, and relied upon her quiet, gentle encouragement as I started to teach more widely. I enjoyed many very hospitable evenings at Ann's, and she was also very interested in the Band and its playing. Ann made some fantastic covers for some of my equipment that I still use to this day.

Ann's contribution to both the Branch and the RSCDS was enormous. She is remembered with fondness by those of us lucky enough to have been friends.

David Hall

# NEW RECORDINGS

**The Sunday Class Dance Book 1** – Marian Anderson and her Scottish Dance Band. CD (£13.00) and Book (£8.50), or combination (£20.00) available from www.thesundayclass.org.uk/shop.html

Dances: ...And the Ladies Wore Red (4x32R), Anne, Duchess of Waltham (1x80R), Six Mile Road from Pitlochry (medley – 4x[32S+32R]), The Twins' Delight (3x32J), Summer Sunday Strathspey (4x32S), History in the Making (3x32R), The Waltham Ladies (medley – 32S+32J+32R), Salute to Lark Hill (8x32J), Mrs Millar's Strathspey (4x32S), The Dalston Jig (4x40J), The Hard Drive (8x32R), Three Squared (9x32J), The Rutland Reel (8x40R), Leaving Lunga (4x32S), Tribute to Amanda (8x32R), Ramadan-ce (8x32R), Barry & Doreen's Continental Capers (4x32R)

Amanda Peart started a Sunday Class near Nottingham in 2010, and has now published a book of 17 new dances devised by herself and friends. For five of the dances the original tunes are printed in the book, but for the others no suggested original is given. The initial tunes chosen by Marian are nearly all well-known tunes in band leader repertoire, such as *Mrs Mary Printy* and *The Fairy Dance*. Elsewhere, there are tunes by musicians well-known to us in the London area – Cas Sloan, Judith Smith and Keith Smith. Two surprises are *Highland Cathedral* as a pastoral strathspey, and a set consisting of Schubert, Russian and Jewish tunes and Mozart's *Rondo Alla Turca*!

Marian's band is one of the most popular in Scotland and England, and her expertise as an accordionist shines through here. Her many fans will perhaps know what I mean when I say that music is 'very Marian': lots of lift and a good few 'oomphs'. Tempo is spot on.

Graham Bell plays 2nd accordion, Marie Fielding fiddle, Max Ketchin drums and Isabelle Hodgson, with some nice flourishes, on piano. All in all, a book and CD well worth having. We look forward to Book 2!

John Laurie

# Old Music, New Media? Share your views and experiences

London Branch continues its policy, where feasible, of using live music for classes and dances. However, this is not a luxury available to all groups, for reasons of cost and availability. Such groups continue to rely on recorded music for dancing. At the same time, many readers enjoy listening to recordings of Scottish music away from the dance floor. The limited number of new CD releases coming for review seems to offer clear evidence that the broader economic environment has also put pressure on Scottish dance bands in releasing new music. The CD above is the only dance CD to come to The Reel for review in the last six months. So how are you dealing with your music needs, both for personal listening and for dance groups?

- Music can be stored in many different formats, e.g. CDs, cassettes, even LPs, or perhaps tracks 'ripped' onto a computer. What form(s) does your music take?
- How do you manage your library? Are you carrying boxes of discs to class, plugging in an iPod containing the whole library, or playlists

prepared for specific events, or managing everything through a computer?

- Are you still expanding the library, and, if so, how are you typically accessing new music?
- There is quite a bit of music available through download sites, such as emusic and iTunes, and streaming, such as Spotify, typically older recordings being re-released. Have you accessed any of this music, for group use or for listening?
- Have you adjusted tracks that are not suitable (e.g. speed)? How have you done that?
- Have you "cut up" tracks to create specific music, e.g. for demonstration purposes, or differing track lengths? How have you done that?
- Have you used any other approaches to create music for dance purposes, e.g. recording?

We would like to share experiences from different sources for the benefit of our readership. Please send us your views and experiences to editor@rscdslondon.org.uk

# How do you recognise a Scottish country dancer?

They

- Always stand in first position and walk with a furnout
- Give instructions by referring to "passing a building by the right shoulder"
- Refer to St Andrews as an event not a place
- Practise high cuts or The Highland Fling whilst washing up, brushing their teeth or getting dressed in front of a mirror
- Are always busy on 25 January
- Keep their summer dresses out all winter, for use every Saturday
- Know personally most of the guests at the 'Scottish' wedding (filmed in Alton, Hampshire) in Four Weddings and Funeral
- Always work in 4 or 8 bar phrases
- Know that Auld Lang Syne has a second verse, even if they can't remember or pronounce the words
- Can't skip like a child without changing step
- Reel in parallel or on the opposite sides rather than with a fishing rod or a film
- Aren't angry when they are ranting

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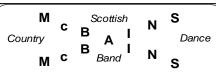
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# THE DANCING WORLD







- 1. **St John's SCDC Annual Ball, 23 November 2013:** MC, the seemingly ageless Bill Forbes, at 92, on the stage, with the Craigellachie Band, and dancer Esther Grandfield.
- 2. Little Ship Club Christmas Party, 12 December 2013: Karl Sandeman with club secretary Elizabeth Woods dressed in suitably festive mode (NB Karl moved to New York in January 2014, and will be working between New York and London in the future).
- 3. London Branch Christmas Festive Fling, 14 December 2013: Circle round a back in *The Buchan Eightsome Reel*.
- 4. Band for the evening: leader Ian Muir (of Prestwick), Marie Fielding (fiddle), Neil MacMillan (keyboard) and Bob Parsons (drums).
- 5. Chiswick SCDC Posh Frocks and Kilts Ball, 8 December 2013: MC Ken Martlew, dancer Iris Ronayne, and the Glencraig Band behind leader Nicol McLaren, Isobelle Hodgson (keyboard) and Graham Hamilton (drums).





# INPICTURES





- **6.** The Hurlingham Club St Andrew's Ball, 30 November 2013: Lisa Hylton dancing half reels of four in *Mairi's Wedding* with reelers in the early hours of Sunday.
- **7. 15th Hogmanay Dance Party 2013**: Congratulations and thanks go to Jan Jones and Rita Scott, who prepare to relax after again organising such a fun party, attended by 75 dancers at Great Brickhill Village Hall.
- **8. Burns celebrations at St Nicholas CE VA Primary School, Harpenden, 23 January 2014:** In celebration of Burns' 254th birthday, Grace Hill taught SCD to the whole school with children ranging from age 4 to 11.
- London Branch Sunday Advanced Technique Class, 19 January
   Philippe Rousseau with musicians Ian and Meryl Thomson.
- 10. 66th Harrow & District Caledonian Society Annual Ball, 3 January 2014: Wendy Carse and Peter Dixon dancing *The Glenalmond Gamekeeper*.







# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## **Popular Programmes**

Dear Jeremy,

I was at the SERTA meeting on 29 September 2013, and although I would agree with Ian Muir that programmes consisting of everyone's favourite dance are not a good idea, because they are likely to be unbalanced, in some circumstances they are difficult to avoid. I found myself having to put one together a few years ago.

My local club was celebrating a major anniversary, and wished to mark the occasion with a ball. They had not held one for many years, and therefore their committee did not have a great deal of experience of organising such a function. My husband and I regularly help to arrange the twice-yearly balls run by the London Highland Club, so I offered to assist if needed.

How does one put together a programme that will be enjoyable for both club members who do not dance elsewhere, and visitors from other clubs? Simply asking for requests would not work. This had been tried for an end of season dance, and the result was a selection of ten reels, three jigs and one short strathspey.

The solution was to produce three lists of 40 popular dances, one each of reels, jigs and strathspeys. The members were then asked to tick their six favourites on each list, from which a committee member collated the results of the most popular. All that then had to be done was to arrange the 18 dances with the most votes in a suitable order. We showed the programme to our bandleader for his opinion, and he gave us only one suggestion for its improvement.

The club has a rota of MCs for its weekly dance sessions, each of whom selects the dances for their evening. They were asked to include some from the ball programme in the run up to the big day, so that the members could practise them. A record was kept of the number of times each dance was done, to ensure that none were missed. Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan proved to be the most popular of all, and was danced nearly every week.

It is impossible to please everybody all the time, so a compromise is essential. This may be one way of obtaining a solution. It would be interesting to know whether anyone else has tried a similar method.

Elizabeth Bennett

#### **Traditions and Teaching**

Dear Jeremy,

I liked and very much approved of your last editorial. I thought I was the only person who was concerned about books of new dances and the damage it does to not only traditional dancing, but membership of the Society. Has the London Branch got enough clout to get something done about it?

Another point that also concerns me is that we have lots of teachers, but only one Chairman, and that person continues to teach, rather than look after the organisation (Miss Milligan did of course start the Society, but then went off teaching round the world, and neglected the organisation, and look what we have now!).

Happy Dancing in 2014 Regards,

John Carswell

### Kilt for Sale

Mac Donald of Clan Ranald tartan, ancient colours, Loch Carron cloth, waist 34-38", 24<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" length. Pair of matching tartan hose, fit size 9 shoe. £60 + postage. Tel 01420 84599

### Now There's a Thought (or Two or Three)!

Dear Jeremy,

Looking back at past copies of *The Reel*, I see that Iain Ross has provided statistics on dance popularity since No. 266 on six occasions (including the last edition), whilst John Marshall has on two, and Amanda Peart on one occasion. Some of these surveys cover more than one year.

There is a much quoted remark that comes to mind concerning the validity of statistics – I think you know it; this questions the validity of statistics, or in other words implies that statistics can say almost whatever one wants them to say. This is an approach often seen in parliament when a view is presented, yet, taking the same information, an opposing case is also made. The results of these dance surveys seem innocent enough, with a particular dance being the most popular from those surveyed over a set period, and there lies the flaw!

If, for instance, dances are only taken from Summer Tuesday programmes, would the results be different? Certainly they would! If dances were selected from a period from January to December, rather than July to June, once again, a different No.1 dance would result. And, again, if taken over, say, a five year period, you guessed it!

These survey results are published in *The Reel*, so shouldn't the only dances going into the survey be those appearing in *The Reel* adverts? Another thought is that each dance programme is prepared by an organiser or committee, so if, for instance, all 13 Summer Tuesday dance programmes are put in the pot, then surely the results would be biased towards that particular organiser's choice, when set against a single programme from another organiser?

Some programmes are prepared by RSCDS branches, where they would be considering the Society's advice on inclusion of the Core Repertoire, yet others, such as Caledonian or less RSCDS interested groups, would favour a wider variety of dance sources. Again, we can ask ourselves how much influence is being taken by organisers of these surveys in preparing their programmes. They might see that, say, *Mairi's Wedding* is popular, and put it on their programme because of this, thus once again weighting the results for the next survey, and hence self-perpetuating the myth that these surveys are meaningful.

So, should *The Reel* be promoting such statistics, by publishing them, when the results can be clearly misleading, depending on the particular data and point of view of the contributor, and at best only indicating trends? Or, as readers, should we take it with a pinch of salt and look upon it with our sceptic's hat on, as a 'harmless' bit of numerical fun?

Best wishes, **Stephen Webb** 

# Pride and Prejudice on the Dance Floor

"After playing some Italian songs, Miss Bingley varied the charm by a lively Scotch air; and soon afterwards Mr Darcy, drawing near Elizabeth, said to her: 'Do you not feel a great inclination, Miss Bennet, to seize such an opportunity of dancing a reel?'"

Those of you familiar with *Pride and Prejudice* will perhaps immediately recall that Miss Bennet's response, to "overwhelm his scheme", is to say that she does "not want to dance a reel at all". For those less familiar with Jane Austen's work, or for whom the abiding image of Mr Darcy is television's Colin Firth appearing from a dip in the lake at Lyme Hall in a wet shirt, it may surprise you to learn how close we came to seeing [spoiler alert] the future Mr and Mrs Darcy demonstrating their prowess in Scottish country dancing.

This was one morsel available in the programme *Pride and Prejudice having a Ball*, shown over the Christmas period, which recreated a Regency Ball, as it might have taken place at Netherfield. In the programme the incident was displaced to feature a group of party-goers leaving the supper table to participate in what appeared to be *The Foursome Reel*. The party-goers were drawn from a dance and drama school, and gave a very fair representation of how the dancing might have appeared.

The recreation provided some further insights into etiquette, dress and other matters as they might have occurred at a Regency Ball, suggesting that these were purely historical. Some indeed we might consider unusual:

- Positions in a set were based on a strict hierarchy, with the most senior gentleman and his partner taking first position (woe betide them if they were not competent dancers!);
- Naturally, much was made of the flirtatious nature of the dance, as a most unusual opportunity for young people to interact and converse, and even touch;
- It was considered highly significant if a gentleman danced more than one dance with a lady, for example Mr Collins' request to dance the first two dances at the Netherfield Ball with Elizabeth a breach made more significant by Mr Collins' clumsy dancing. The pages of *The Reel* have long contained comments on the etiquette of booking dances, but eyebrows might be raised by many at booking even before arrival!

However, some features that surprised the presenters of the programme would still seem very familiar to a 21st century Scottish country dancer:



An unlikely Mr & Mrs Darcy (taken at the Jane Austen Museum, Bath).

- The dancers arrived with their shoe-bags tucked under their arms, and there was some delay before
  dancing whilst outdoor shoes were changed for indoor;
- The clothes worn by the dancers were such that they quickly got hot whilst dancing, though a modern
  ball is unlikely to be burning candles as was the case at Netherfield. Naturally no jackets were
  removed, a formality less common these days at Scottish dance balls;
- Whereas the ladies' long ball-gowns disguised any errors of footwork, the men's outfits showed everything;
- Whilst perhaps not boasting the spread available at Netherfield, or its recreation for television, most
  dances continue a very effective and welcome counter to the fault expressed in *Emma*, that "a ball
  without a supper is a fraud upon women and men." Some things never change.

Jeremy Hill

# Can we Trust Dances in Diagram?

In 1955 F.L. Pilling published his first booklet of *Scottish Country Dances in Diagrams*. With a great many reprints and editions, a little green supplement in July 2009, and a ninth edition currently being contemplated, this book has been embraced by dancers the world over making it the great success it is today. Pilling, as the book and its diagrams are affectionately and generally known, shows the square and circle figures arranged from the man's side of the dance with top of the dance to the left and as this book is the right size to fit into a sporran, we can assume it was prepared ostensibly for a man dancer.

As many do, I use Pilling for dances I am a little uncertain about, by having a quick glance at the dance diagram just before taking to the floor. Today, we find many dance cribs have both an abbreviated dance description along with a Pilling diagram, helping dancers to be as confident as possible. I find that not just men use Pilling, but so do women. To my mind it must be more disorientating for women, requiring them to see the set both upside down and back to front to understand the dance patterns. Dancing as 'men' as some do can help in seeing things the other way round! I am told that all dance cribs in Germany are in Pilling, which makes sense, as this dance coding is virtually an international language. Dancers who are so familiar with Pilling find it is an easy task to jot down a new dance from its original wordy description, putting it in this picture coding for quick use. Attending Jan and Rita's 15th Hogmanay Dance recently, we were given a useful dance crib compiled from SCD Database (see my.strathspey.org/dd/index), which combined Charles Upton's minicrib with Keith Rose's dance diagrams.

In 2011, I had the pleasure, with Ken Martlew, to plan and organise the publication of Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club's Diamond Collection of 17 dances. It seemed to me that, although virtually no books of dances were being produced included a Pilling coding, ours should. I drew up the 17 diagrams

and sent them off for permission to publish to Sue Duckett, on behalf of Scottish Country Dances in Diagrams Committee (F.L. Pilling's successors). She was very kind in making useful improvements, and pointing out that Pilling was only concerned

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with diagram authenticity in its use. The inclusion of this page, which can be photocopied and added as a supplement, being the correct size to fit the green book, has added to successful book sales figures.

Not long ago, I attended a social evening of dancing that included the teaching of footwork and patterns. The teacher, who is RSCDS certificated, used the little green book frequently throughout the evening, and at one point actually taught a detail wrongly by improvising, as it was not covered in the Pilling. It is stressed in the preface that Pilling is merely an aide-mémoire. We should know as teachers that original information is where the teaching resource is only to be found.

For many years there was no acknowledgement from the RSCDS that dancers needed Pilling, but I am pleased to see that these days the book can be found on their bookstall and website. In fact, in 2007, the RSCDS published a *tour de force* by Angus Henry, from Darwin, Australia, entitled *The MacNab Dances in Diagrams*. This booklet used developed Pilling diagrams to achieve not just an aide-mémoire, but an attempt to capture these complex dances at one look. A comparison between repeated dances *Bonnie Anne* or *Jeannie o' the Witchin' E'e* in the green book and this RSCDS publication illustrates the point. With its publication of this booklet the RSCDS seemed at last to accept that complete dances could be portrayed in diagrams. The inclusion of Pilling on the recently aired TV programme *Controlled Abandon (see also Editorial p3)*, might be seen as an endorsement by the RSCDS. So, I am hopeful that the RSCDS might now lead the way in all future publications by having the original descriptions and Pilling coding in the same book, to the clear benefit of SCD!

Stephen Webb

# Paris Branch is 30

Paris Branch has had a very close relationship with London Branch ever since its founding in 1984, and the founders, including first Chairman Jerry Reinstein and Vice-Chair Danielle (then Granier) Reinstein, myself, and Marie-Solange Pollard, and other Paris Branch members, continue to dance on both sides of the *La Manche*. The relationship was further strengthened when Jerry and Danielle moved from Paris to London 26 years ago, as they now regularly dance and teach in both capital cities. The completion of the high speed Eurostar train makes the journey between the two a mere 2 hours and 17 minutes.

We were delighted when London Branch invited us to join in a celebration of the Centenary of the *Entente Cordiale* in 2004, the year of the Paris Branch 20th Anniversary. Eight dancers from Paris, each with a partner from the London Branch dem team, performed at the dance to celebrate the Centenary. The following year Paris Branch returned the compliment (as reported in *The Reel* nos. 250 and 254).

Paris Branch is holding a ball in a beautiful hall in Paris on 17 May 2014 to celebrate its 30th Anniversary (see ad on p17 and rscdsparis.fr). We hope that some of our London friends will join us there, as they regularly do for the well-known Paris Quadrennial Easter Weekend School.

Danièle Landrieau, Paris Branch Chairman A weekend in Paris over St Andrew's weekend would not have been complete without a Scottish dance!

So, thanks to Jim Cook's comprehensive knowledge of what's on in the Paris area, my friend Emma and I headed to the RSCDS Paris Branch. We attended their monthly dance at the Eglise Américaine, which is wonderfully situated on the banks of the Seine on the Quai d'Orsay. Though our visit was unannounced, we were warmly welcomed by an enthusiastic and international group of people. We rose to the challenge of listening to and even following the dance instructions in French - "cast" and "corner" remain the same! Our visit made us feel less like tourists and more like locals, and we recommend that others follow in our skip-change-offootsteps.

Danuta Orlowska



Danuta (fourth from left) with members of the RSCDS Paris Branch

# Close Protection

When I received a phone call asking if I would like to celebrate Burns' Night in Kurdistan, Iraq, I was a little wary. The Kurdistan Caledonian Society was organising a Burns' Supper as a fundraising event for local orphanages, and wanted two Highland dancers to perform during the celebrations. Andrew Nolan and I decided to accept the invitation, and then started researching exactly where we had agreed to go. We were assured that it was perfectly safe and that we would have a close protection unit whenever we were out and about. I'm not sure whether that bit of information put my Mum's mind at rest or not!!

We arrived at Erbil International Airport at 4.00am local time, and were met by our host for the weekend – and the close protection unit. After a short journey to the house we were staying in, we went for a much needed sleep. The following morning, we went to see the venue for the party, where the preparations were in full swing. We met the ceilidh band and piper that were playing for the evening, and had a quick run through of what we were going to dance – not the easiest task with a very loud sound check playing *Gangnam Style* in the background.

We spent the afternoon visiting the Citadel in the centre of town, but our visit was cut short after our driver said we should probably leave before the Mosques emptied after prayer time. Evening arrived, and it was time to go to the venue for the party. We got changed into our dancing outfits and arrived at the hotel. There was a security check on the way in, with the men and women having to go through separate metal detector archways – I'm not sure that the security personnel quite knew how to search us in our kilts!

The party went very well, with all the traditional elements of a Burns' Night celebration. Expats and locals all joined in with the ceilidh dancing, and after four *Strip the Willows*, I think they'd almost got it! The auction and raffle all helped with the fundraising effort and, by the end of the evening, over \$50,000 had been raised.

The following morning we went to the bazaar. We found a stall selling traditional flutes, and the piper decided to have a try. Of course this drew a bit of a crowd, which made the close protection team a little twitchy, so the 'performance' was brought to an end. We saw stalls selling spices, sweets, fabrics, home wares and even went into see the bakery to see how the bread is baked in the Tandoor oven. We enjoyed an afternoon sitting in the garden in the sun -anice change from the British weather! We were treated to a traditional meal in the evening and. before we knew it, it was time for us to embark on our journey home. After four security checks we made it to the plane and were homeward bound.

The money raised was being used by the local orphanages for winter clothing, food, and to mend their minibus. There was also one little boy who the organising committee met on a visit to the orphanage, who had had most of his bones broken, cigarette burns to his back and a cauliflower ear, all at the hands of his father. Some of the money raised will be used for surgery to allow this little boy to receive corrective surgery, to help him go on to live a better life. It was a very enjoyable trip, and we were made to feel very welcome throughout our stay. My Mum needn't have worried!

**Elaine Davies** 

# **OTHER NEWS**

### **Bill Hamilton**

#### 20 June 1930 - 1 November 2013

Born in Ayrshire, Bill took up Scottish country dancing in Edinburgh under Miss Allie Anderson when he was a student. He danced in the Branch Demonstration Team in the 1950s. and was in the International Team, representing Scotland in South Africa and Europe, with Miss Milligan in charge.

He qualified as a teacher, and when work brought him south, joined the London Branch, where he taught classes and was active within the Branch. Over the years he taught workshops throughout UK, Canada, USA and Europe. He was on the staff at St Andrews Summer School for over 20 years, and adjudicated at festivals in the UK, and also Indonesia and Singapore.

Bill taught at SNDC day schools and was the resident MC for the annual Innes Russell Ball in



Bill at the 2005 London Branch President's Party

London. He also coached the Strathreelers, who gave many demonstrations and were a successful competitive team. Ann Dix was a member of this team and it is quite a coincidence that they should pass away on the same day.

Bill enjoyed foreign travel, good food and wine, and his motor cruiser on the River Thames, which he shared with a friend for 28 years. He was renowned for his sense of humour, his hospitality and generosity to many friends and charities.

Latterly, diminished mobility made him increasingly dependent on a friend for daily needs. He will be much missed by the many dancers and teachers who benefited from his classes and the standards he set, and by his many friends in the Society.

Joan Desborough, Patsy Patterson & others

# SOUTH EAST DANCE DIARY

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

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

# The Addlestone & District Scottish Society **Eighty Years Young**

On 16 November last year, The Addlestone & District Scottish Society celebrated 80 years with an Anniversary Dance. The event was well attended, and George Meikle and his Lothian Band provided the music. The Society was originally called Walton-on-Thames & District Scottish Society, changing to today's name in 1970. The Society supports many activities for members with an emphasis on SCD and has a current membership of around 50. To mark its 80th anniversary year, ADSS also published a book of 10 dances associated with the club from 1983 to the present time. A new strathspey was included, especially devised for the occasion by the late Ann Dix, and The Addlestonian Strathspey was danced for the first time at the Anniversary Dance to music of the same name composed by George Meikle

At that dance a club member, Hannah Davies attended such a main dance for the first time after joining the Society three years ago and Lindsay Curtis, Society Chairwoman, asked her how she got on: LC: Hannah, had you done any SCD before you joined the ADSS?

HD: No, but I played in a Scottish dance band in the 1970's and 80's so, I knew the music; I had watched SCD and been immersed in

English folk dancing from a very early age.

LC: Was this your first dance?

HD: Yes. I put my name down for a ticket because it was our 80th Anniversary Dance. I knew some people going and we had been practising the dances. I thought, 'how hard can it be?' It was very scary to think about. When I played for dances in the past the band played all evening without a break, there were no recaps and barely time to find the music between dances. That's why I had never come to a dance before - I wasn't sure I could handle it.

LC: Was it as bad as you thought? HD: Well I was very scared of going wrong, but once I got going I almost enjoyed it! I was very



Graham Miller, Peter Skelton and Alun Alesbury setting, in the new dance The Addlestonian Strathspey by the late Ann Dix.

pleased that complete strangers invited me to dance. I thought it was nice that experienced dancers were prepared to dance with novices and I was particularly glad to get through the evening with only one sex change in The Addlestonian Strathspey! The recaps helped a lot. Also, it was nice to see so many people in dress kilts and posh frocks, and, of course, it was lovely to dance to live music after three years of

LC: And would you do it again?

HD: Well, perhaps I might now that I've had time to recover... I just might!

**Lindsay Curtis** 

# **Paul Malcolm Stevenson**

1941 - 2013

A very popular member of the Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club, Paul sadly passed away on 1 December 2013.

Paul (and his wife, Gill) enjoyed a Past Parents' Ceilidh at their sons' school in Oxford so much that, when they thanked the caller at the end of the evening, they expressed their sorrow that there was nowhere to dance local to their home. To cut a serendipitous story short, the caller, Malcolm Ferris Lay, was able to inform them of a very happy, thriving club in their own home town of Berkhamsted. Two days later, they had signed up for their first beginners' course!

Paul took to dancing like a duck to water, and, whilst we all know that Scottish country dancing is beloved for its manners, Paul stood out as one of the most courteous, caring and friendly gentlemen. He was a joy to dance with, as a partner, and in any set. He purchased not one but two kilts, and wore them elegantly, even managing to pull off mustard coloured socks and matching shirt with an air of sophistication! Paul's lovely smile will stay with anyone who danced with him in Berkhamsted, St Andrews, Pitlochry and other places. One particularly happy memory is of Paul performing in a ceilidh item at both Summer and Winter School as the wicked king (and my father!) in the Berkhamsted Greek Tragedy.

Not just content with joining the dancing wholeheartedly, Paul also did his stint as a committee member, particularly helping with our Diamond Celebrations, and even continuing to collect ticket monies when he became confined to a wheelchair. Sadly, prostate cancer took Paul from our dancing community and from his family all too soon, but he will be remembered with love, for a long time.





Jane Rose | Paul enjoying the dance, as always.

# The Prelude to Bannockburn

Seven hundred years ago the kings of England, Ted I and then his son Ted II, used to go north to Scotland in January for the haggis-shooting season. Wily King Bobby the Bruce would rent out his Stirling Castle for the duration. The highlight of the haggis season was the Burns' Supper on 25 January. In those days they didn't have trifle and shortie as afters; the craze then was bannocks, so the event became known as the Bannockburns Festival. Well, 1314 turned out to be a good year for haggis and whisky and Ted II was already weeks later than promised in returning to London

Whare sits our sulky sullen queen Gathering her brows like gathering storm Nursing her wrath to keep it warm.

He was thinking that it would keep down the cost of his army by leaving some of it up there, where there is plenty of guid Scots hospitality. Come March, King Bobby had had enough of these English scroungers and sent King Ted II a hefty bill by snail mail (the internet and Englishmail was infra dig for a fervent Scotsman). When it arrived in early June, young Ted II was furious how much Bobby was claiming and set off with the rest of his army to sort him out. In those days, as now, there are differences between Scots and English law, but then they settled their differences on the battlefield.

On his way north Ted did bed and breakfast in Berwick and set off through Johnny Armstrong's Border reiver country. Realising it would be expensive in Edinburgh, being festival time, he set up camp at Soutra Hill and did a bit of reiving to feed his men. However, Johnny's gamie, Sandy Salmond, was on the look-out and shouted from the hill "Awa and bile yer heid, ye wee sleekit cowran tim'rous beasties". King Ted was outraged that this brash redhead (he had hair in those days) should challenge his authority, and sent a corporal and a few men to see him off. They went over the hill to sort out Sandy but after half an hour Sandy Salmond appeared again on the top of the hill and again shouted "Awa and bile yer heid, ye wee sleekit cowran tim'rous beasties".

King Ted was furious, and sent a sergeant with ten men to settle the matter. Out of sight over the hill there was a clashing of swords and lots of shouting, but after another half an hour only Sandy Salmond appeared again shouting "Awa and bile yer heid, ye wee sleekit cowran tim'rous beasties". Getting even more furious, King Ted ordered a captain to take twenty men to put an end to this impudent scoundrel. The evenings are long clear in Scotland in June. There was more clashing of swords out of sight over the hill and plenty of noise but it was an hour later before one bedraggled soldier in his death throes shouted from the top of the hill "It's a trap! There are two of them!!"

Auld Nick I and Auld Nick II

**SlipStop** Stephen Webb's letter "How risky is SCD" in The Reel 284 asked whether SlipStop has been fully tested for safe human inhalation. We had following comment **RSCDS** from Headquarters:

RSCDS has not undertaken specific tests or research into the health risks attached to the use of SlipStop. However, the figures for the chemicals involved suggest that risk is minimal, although care should be taken when using SlipStop to avoid giving rise to a dusty atmosphere, as inhalation of any powdered material is to be avoided.

# SUBSCRIBE TO THE REEL

If you are not a member of the London Branch, you can order copies of The Reel from Wilson Nicol, 14 Great Woodcote Park, Purley, Surrey CR8 3QS or

reelsubscriptions@rscdslondon.org.uk

For individual subscribers the annual cost is £6.00 if resident in the UK, £12.00 for other European residents and £15.00 if resident elsewhere. There are special rates for bulk orders. Remittances in sterling please, payable to RSCDS (London Branch).

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Caledonian Ball Saturday 15 March 2014 7.30 - 11.30pm Allum Hall, Allum Lane, Elstree, Herts WD6 3PJ



Ian Muir of Prestwick Scottish Dance Band Programme: refer to The Reel 286 or see our website

Tickets £20.00 includes Buffet Supper and sparkling wine reception

Ball Practice: Sunday 9 March 2014, 2.00 - 5.00pm St Thomas' URC gymnasium, Langley Road, Watford WD17 4PN

Please contact us if you wish to attend Rose Kreloff, 07880 842370. rkreloff@hotmail.co.uk or tickets@watfordscottish.org.uk



# **CREDITS**

Many thanks to the following for providing the photos in this edition:

Carrieanne O'Dell: p1 (dem), p20 (dem team) Elaine Davies: p1 (Burns)

Stephen Webb: p2, p7, p8 (Ann), p10 (1, 2, 5), p11 (6, 7, 9, 10), p14 (Bill, Addlestone), p20 (Roger)

James Fairbairn: p6

Jerry Reinstein: p8 (Pau), p10 (3, 4)

Ian Cummins: p11 (8)

Zoe Hill: p12

Emma Dixon: p13

Pete Williamson: p14 (Paul)

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

#### RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/ **SURREY** BORDER BRANCH Day School

Saturday 8 March 2014 Garth Hill College, Bull Lane, Bracknell, Berks RG42 2AD

Teachers: Raphaëlle Orgeret, Margie Stevenson, Chris Brown Class Musicians: Robert Mackay,

**Barbara Manning** 

Musicians' Day School: Ian Robertson Contact Paul Plummer 01252 404639

#### **Branch Ball**

Saturday 17 May 2014 Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP

Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band

Programme: The Machine without Horses, The Peat Fire Flame, Linnea's Strathspey, Mrs Stewart's Jig, The Sailor, Gardeners' Fantasia, MacLeod's Fancy, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich, Margaret Parker's Strathspey, Follow Me Home, The Zoologist, The Reverend John MacFarlane, Salute to the Borders, EH3 7AF, Orwell Lodge, Anniversary Reel, S-Locomotion, Bon Voyage, The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh

Contact Gordon Anderson 0118 961 7813

## Afternoon Tea Party

Sunday 6 July 2014 Carnation Hall, Chavey Down Road, Winkfield Row RG42 7PA 2.30 - 5.30pm

# Ian & Judith Muir

Contact Deborah Draffin 01344 776831 Visit our website on www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

### **Index to Scottish Country Dances**

Updated versions of the Index are available free of charge to all RSCDS members as downloadable and printable PDF files in the members' section of the RSCDS website at www.rscds.org/about-us/useful-documents/index -to-dances.html Log-in details may be obtained from membership@rscdslondon.org.uk

#### JERSEY CALEDONIAN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

29th Annual Dance Weekend Thursday 22 – Sunday 25 May 2014 Thursday Night

8.00 - 10.30pm

Run through some of the dances on the weekend programme. Includes refreshments

**Saturday Morning** 

10.00am - 12.30pm Walk throughs

Saturday Evening Ball

7.00 - 11.30pm

Includes a buffet supper and a glass of wine

**Sunday Evening Dance** 

7.00 - 11.30pm

Includes a buffet supper and a glass of wine Dancing two nights to

# Strathallan

Tickets £40.00 whole weekend £35.00 until 28 February 2014 For more information on flights and accommodation visit the Jersey Tourism www.jersey.com or 01534 448850 for a Jersey Tourism Brochure Contact Joy Carry, 01534 862205 or chanjoy@jerseymail.co.uk

Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@gmail.com scottishcountrydancingchannelislands. blogspot.co.uk

# CLUB DE DANSE ECOSSAISE DE MONTPELLIER, FRANCE

26th Annual Ball and Outing Saturday 14 – Sunday 15 June 2014

Ian Robertson & his Band

Dancing, apéros, dinner, more dancing followed on Sunday by a trip to the seaside with even more eating and drinking

Rendez-vous with sunshine and social warmth Contact William Whyte, +33 467 868 919 or wlwhyte@buzig.com

Our photograph gallery plus the 2014 booking form is now available on our website danseecossaisemtp.free.fr

# ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Abingdon Assembly Ball Saturday 8 March 2014 7.30 – 11.30pm Benson Parish Hall, Benson OX10 6LZ



#### Strathallan

Programme: Mairi's Wedding, Kamo Karousel, Albatrosses & Shearwaters, Nottingham Lace\*, The Zoologist, Cullen Skink\*, John of Bon Accord, MacLeod's Fancy, Foxhill Court, Welcome to Dufftown, The Irish Rover, The Glenalmond Gamekeeper, The Raven's Dance, City of Belfast, The Earl of Mansfield\*, Spiffin', MacDonald of the Isles, Scott Meikle, Best Set in the Hall\*, Giradet House, The Cooper's Wife, The Reel of The Royal Scots

Dances marked \* will be walked through once Tickets £16.00

Early bird price of £15.00 before 20 February
Contact Pat Berry, 01235 526192 or
Hilary, 01235 528154
Cheques (Abingdon Scottish Country Dance
Club) to Pat Berry, 2 Drysdale Close, Radley,
Oxon OX14 3BU please enclose SAE
abingdonscdc.wordpress.com

#### RSCDS TUNBRIDGE WELLS Spring Dance

Saturday 3 May 2014
7.00 -11.00pm
Mascalls School, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge
Kent TN12 6LT
Tickets £5.00 plus a plate
Dancing to recorded music
programme will be on
www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk or
01892 532712

#### **Day School**

Saturday 29 March 2014
Venue as above
For application form please contact Pat Davoll,
Cambridge Cottage, Crockham Hill, Kent
TN8 6RD (SAE), patdavoll2@gmail.com

# HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

Annual Ball Saturday 1 March 2014 7.30 – 11.30pm Harpenden Public Hall, Harpenden, Herts AL5 1PL

Craigellachie

Programme: The Salmonfield Poacher, A Capital Jig, The Flower o' the Quern, Johnnie Walker, Aird of Coigach, Cuillins of Skye, Land of the Prince Bishops, Crossing the Line, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, The Irish Rover, The Jubilee Jig, Blooms of Bon Accord, Inchmickery, The Rose of the North, Dundee Dragon, The Cooper's Wife, Scotch Mist, The Falls of Rogie, Greetings from St Ninian's, The Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord, The Flying Spur, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets £18.00 including supper (Students 16 – 21 £12.00) Contact Val Owens, 01727 863870 or www.HSCDC.org.uk

#### DANCING IN POLAND

Dance Course and Evening Dances
Thursday 29 May – Sunday 1 June 2014
Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains / Poland
4-star Belvedere Hotel with full board
Teachers: Atsuko Clement, Graham Donald
Musicians: Keith Smith, David Cunningham
Tickets: €370

#### **Optional Holiday**

Sunday 1 – Friday 6 June 2014
5 nights in 4- and 5-star hotels
Full board and lots of programmes including:
UNESCO World Heritage sites at Krakow,
Wieliczka Salt Mine with SCD ball,
Auschwitz (optional)
Tickets: €750
Contact Jim Cook, 0208 948 5637 or
Katalin Konya or Jim Cook at

dancingnewplace@yahoo.com

# MacLENNAN SCOTTISH GROUP

33rd International Folkdance and Music Festival Friday 23 – Monday 26 May 2014

Saturday 24 May

7.30 - 11.00pm

International Folkdance with our international and local guests including Romanian, Flemish, Morris, Irish and Scottish

Tickets £7.50 (conc. £6.00) and children £3.00

Sunday 25 May

2.00 – 5.30pm approx
International Folk Dance Concert
Tickets £7.50 (conc. £6.00) and children £3.00
Both events at The Priory School, Tintagel Road,
Orpington, Kent BR5 4LG
Licensed bar, refreshments and stalls.
Family and weekend discounts available.
Contact Catriona Bennett, 020 8544 5558 or
festival@msg.org.uk
www.msg.org.uk

# HARWELL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Spring Ball Saturday 26 April 2014 Old Mill Hall, Grove, Oxfordshire OX12 7LB Ian Muir & the Craigellachie Band

Programme: Maxwell's Rant, Follow Me Home, Mrs Milne of Kinneff, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich, Seton's Ceilidh Band, The Cashmere Shawl, The Falls of Rogie, The Flying Spur, The Belle of Bon Accord, Bonnie Anne, Flight to Melbourne, J.B. Milne, The Singing Sands, The Plantation Reel, The Aird of Coigach, The Duchess Tree, Scott Meikle, Muirland Willie, The Robertson Rant, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets £18.00, inc supper by Grove WI Contact Lesley Austen, 01235 533626, ball@harwellscdc.mno.org.uk or 11 Corn Avill Close, Abingdon OX14 2ND www.harwellscdc.mno.org.uk



#### LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

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



Saturdays: Lower Hall 7.00 – 10.30pm unless otherwise stated

Saturday 1 March: Frank Thomson Duo Saturday 5 April: Kafoozalum Saturday 10 May: Combined Societies Dance

hosted by London Highland Club

Alasdair MacLeod Saturday 7 June: Summer Ball 7.00 – 11.00pm

Ian Muir of Prestwick

Saturday 6 September: President's Night 7.00 – 11.00pm Craigievar

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

For further details contact: Catriona Bennett on 020 8544 5558 or cmb84scd@gmail.com Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening.

# RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH Day School

Saturday 5 April 2014 Reddings Community Hall, Cheltenham GL51 6RF

> Teacher: Fiona Grant Musician: Jeremy Hill

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

#### ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS

Spring Dance
Saturday 26 April 2014
7.30pm
Toddington Village Hall, Leighton Road,
Toddington, LU5 6AB
1 mile from junction 12 on M1

Craigievar

Visit website for programme www.saintniniansluton.org.uk Tickets £16.00 including buffet Contact Ted Andrews, 01582 508580, SAE to 19 Barnfield Avenue, Luton, LU2 7AS or Sarah Patel, shpatel@supanet.com

## CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB

Spring Ball

Saturday 29 March 2014 7.30 – 11.30pm Emmbrook School, Emmbrook Road, Wokingham, Berks RG41 1JP

# Strathallan

Programme: Hooper's Jig, Summer Wooing, Culla Bay, The Irish Rover, Vintage Simon, Butterscotch and Honey, Glastonbury Tor, The Wild Geese, Scotch Mist, The Cuckoo Clock, The Reel of the 51st Division, Grand March & Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Mrs Macpherson of Inveran, Miss Milligan's Strathspey, The Weathercock, The Plantation Reel, Schiehallion, Best Set in the Hall, West's Hornpipe, The Garry Strathspey, The White Heather Jig, Mairi's Wedding Extras: MacLeod's Fancy, Shiftin' Bobbins

Tickets £20.00 (including supper with wine)
Cheques payable to Camberley Reel Club
Please order vegetarian option before 15 March
Dress formal

Contact Maria Gunston, 01276-34609, tickets@camberleyreelclub.org.uk or 22 Woodside, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey GU17 9JJ www.camberleyreelclub.org.uk

#### BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB

Spring Dance Saturday 17 May 2014 Victoria Hall, Tring HP23 6AA



(Sprung dance floor – large car park nearby)

Strathallan

Programme available on website
Tickets £12.00 available from Gerry
Elliott or via website and PayPal
Raffle, Bar, Bring & Share Buffet
Contact Gerry Elliott, 01442 832753
or events@berkhamstedreelclub.org
www.berkhamstedreelclub.org



## WEST MACS

Charity Ball in aid of Kidney Kids Scotland Saturday 12 April 2014 Bushey Meads School, Bushey, WD23 4PA

# Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band MC: Caroline Hamilton

Programme: The Luckenbooth Brooch, Bratach Bana, Gang the Same Gate, Torridon Lassies, The Plantation Reel, Culla Bay, The Earl of Mansfield, The Flower o' the Quern, The Flying Spur, The Glenalmond Gamekeeper, Midsummer Madness, The Belle of Bon Accord, Swiss Lassie, Nottingham Lace, City of Belfast, John of Bon Accord, Quarries' Jig, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, James Gray, The Montgomeries' Rant Tickets £18 up to 5 April, £19 thereafter

from Judy Snook, 86 Church Lane, Rickmansworth, WD3 8HE, 01923 774789 or westmacs@watfordscottish.org.uk Cribs from www.harrowscottish.org.uk

#### HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Spring Dance Saturday 22 March 2014 7.00 – 11.00pm

St Andrew's URC Hall, Eastcote HA5 2SH Ian Muir (Prestwick) and Bob Parsons Tickets £12.00

Contact Lorraine Robertson, 020 8427 7694 or muffinrobertson@btinternet.com www.harrowscottish.org.uk



#### ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Day School Saturday 26 April 2014 Edgbarrow School, Sandhurst Road, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 7HZ

Teachers: Joan Desborough, Linda Gaul Musicians: Robert Mackay, Judith Muir

For further details and application forms Contact Gaynor Curtis, 01483 721989 or 60 Bishops Wood, St Johns, Woking, Surrey GU21 3QB

## Argyll Weekend at Dillington House, Somerset

Friday 3 – Sunday 5 October 2014

Teachers: William Williamson, Aileen Napper

Musicians: Robert Mackay, Judith Smith,

Gillian Cummins

Booking Open

For booking open
For booking contact Dillington House,
Ilminster, Somerset TA19 9DT or 01460 258613
For further information and brochure email
dillington@somerset.gov.uk or visit
www.dillington.co.uk
argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk

#### RSCDS PARIS BRANCH

30th Anniversary Ball Saturday 17 May 2014 6.30 – 11.00pm

Salle des Fêtes de la Fondation Biermans-Lapôtre, Cité Internationale, 9A boulevard Jourdan, Paris 75014

#### James Gray (piano) and Sarah-Jane Summers (fiddle)

Programme: Mrs Stewart's Jig, Summer Wooing, Gang The Same Gate, Jennifer's Jig, Engine Room, Sands of Morar, A Capital Jig, Orwell Lodge Strathspey, General Stuart's Reel, Miss Muriel Johnstone's Jig, John of Bon Accord, My Friend Joe, The Immigrant Lass, Sleepy Maggie, Linnea's Strathspey, Rodney's Rant, Cate's Conundrum. Extras: The Ambassadors' Reel, The Sailor

 $\label{eq:tickets} \begin{tabular}{ll} Tickets $\in $45.00$\\ Including a welcome drink and a "buffet \\ \end{tabular}$ 

dînatoire" at the interval More information soon on www.rscdsparis.fr

## CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Annual Ball Saturday 3 May 2014 7.00 for 7.30 – 11.30pm Impington Village College, Cambridge CB24 9LX

#### **Danelaw Band**

Programme: Bratach Bana, Napier's Index, MacDonald of the Isles, John of Bon Accord, Inchmickery, The Robertson Rant, Scott Meikle, Schiehallion, City of Belfast, Major Ian Stewart, Hooper's Jig, The Plantation Reel, The Gentleman, The Iona Cross, The Flying Spur, Mrs. Milne of Kinneff, The Recumbent Stone, The Belle of Bon Accord, MacLeod's Fancy, The Montgomeries' Rant

Tickets £15.00 Shared refreshments Contact Donald Wilson, 01954 210683 Details on www.camscotsoc.org.uk

#### CORRYVRECHAN SCOTTISH DANCE DISPLAY TEAM

Invite you to celebrate the

Spirit of Scotland
An exhilarating mix of music,

song and dance from the Highlands, Islands and Lowlands of Scotland

Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 April 2014 2.15pm

Dundry Village Hall, Dundry, nr Bristol Tickets £10.00 Students £8.00 Includes tea and homemade cakes Contact Erica Archer, 01275 472634 or Mike

Innes, 01179 505301 Visit www.corryvrechan.org.uk for more details

#### GUILDFORD SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Spring Dance Saturday 3 May 2014 Normandy Village Hall,



Glaziers Lane, Normandy, Surrey GU3 2DT 7.30 – 11.30pm

Drinks Reception from 7.00pm

Iain MacPhail and his Scottish Dance Band

Tickets £15.00, on sale from February 2014
For full details of programme
Contact Mike Anning,
preferably mj.anning@tiscali.co.uk
or 01483 534946
www.gscdc.org.uk

# RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH

Summer School Sunday 28 December 2014 – Monday 5 January 2015 Knox College, Dunedin, New Zealand



Dancers will be accommodated in single rooms at the recently-refurbished Knox College.

There are also many motels nearby

Dance classes and evening functions will be held at Knox College and at school and church halls and gymnasia elsewhere in Dunedin

The musicians' class will be housed in the Logan Park High School music suite

A visit to the Orokonui Wildlife Sanctuary is part of the Summer School programme Dunedin also has a variety of other attractions for you to enjoy

Plan now to enjoy southern hospitality and the scenic and historic attractions of Dunedin and Otago
Contact Janet Favel, 0064 3 473 8178, janet.favel@dancescottish.org.nz or PO Box 8163, Gardens, Dunedin 9041

### MILTON KEYNES RSCDS

35th Annual Ball Saturday 8 March 2014 Time: 7.30 – 11.30pm Lovat Hall, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK16 0EJ

## George Meikle and the Lothian Scottish Dance Band

Tickets £18.00

Contact Jan Jones, 07877 153259, jange@verybusy.co.uk or www.rscdsmk.co.uk

#### REIGATE SCOTTISH DANCE CLUB

Formal Dance Saturday 8 March 2014 7.30 – 11.00pm

Reigate School, Pendleton Road, Reigate RH2 7NT

#### **Green Ginger**

Programme: The Machine without Horses, Ways in New Hall, Anna Holden's Strathspey, Welcome to Ayr, The Ladies of Dunse, MacDonald of the Isles, The Dundee City Police Jig, The Duchess Tree, None so Pretty, The Gentleman, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, Scott Meikle, Sugar Candie, The Bees of Maggieknockater, Falls of Rogie, The Robertson Rant, The Chequered Court, Mairi's Wedding

Tickets £15.00 on the door Contact Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com

#### RSCDS CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH

60th Anniversary Ball Saturday 26 April 2014 Croydon High School for Girls, Old Farleigh Road, Selsdon, CR2 8YB

Strathallan Scottish Country Dance Band

Programme: Grand March, Maxwell's Rant, The Gentleman, Barton Chase, Fraser's Favourite, The Dream Catcher, EH3 7AF, Flowers of Edinburgh, The Windmill of Croydon, Light and Airy, Anniversary Reel, Autumn in Appin, John of Bon Accord, MacDonald of the Isles, Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder, The Irish Rover

Tickets £20.00 Croydon members £21.00 Non-members Contact Mary Courtney, 0208 651 0704 or maryc285@gmail.com



#### CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Midsummer Magic Open Air Dance Sunday 29 June 2014 5.30 – 9.00pm (Dusk)

Chiswick House Grounds, London W4 2QN

#### The Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band

Bring your own picnic and water Further details will follow in *The Reel* 288 www.chiswickscottish.org.uk

# OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB. Dancing most Mondays, 8–10.15pm, Sept to June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details: Morag Liddell, 38 The Holt, Abingdon OX14 2DR moragian@sky.com or www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com
ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15–

ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY meets Wednesdays 8.15—10.15pm September to May at St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Monica Johnson, 01276 472756 or www.addlestonescottish.org.uk

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB meets in Potten End Village Hall, HP4 2QG. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15pm September to May, Sat. gardens June/July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Gerard Elliott, 10 Dinmore, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 0QQ, 01442 832753 or www.berkhamstedreelclub.org
BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS. Technique Class,

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS. Technique Class, alternate Mondays, starting on Monday 9 September 2013, 8–10pm Finchampstead Memorial Hall RG40 4JU. Details: Shirley Ferguson, 01276 501952. General Class, every Wednesday, starting on Wednesday 12 September 2012, 8–10pm, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church Hall, Frimley GU16 7AA. Teacher: Mervyn Short. Details: May Sloan, 01428 604868

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS meets every Friday at St. Mark's New Church Hall, Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth 7.30–10pm. Alternate Wednesday Technique class, by invitation. Details: Camilla Beaty, Flat 4, 85 Alumhurst Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH4 8HR, 01202 540120

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS. Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details: Rod Burrows, 01903 783053 or chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk or www.rscds-brighton.org.uk

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

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

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

Lindsey Ibbotson, 07977905291 or lindsey.ibbotson@gmail.com
CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY Scottish country dancing and other
events. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8pm from Sept to June. Details:
Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or www.camscotsoc.org.uk

Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or www.camscotsoc.org.uk
CHELTENHAM BRANCH RSCDS Advanced class Mondays 7.30–9.30pm.
General class Thursdays 7.30–9.30pm. Bettridge School, Cheltenham. Also
a Beginners' class. Details: Marraret Winterhourne. 01242 863238

General class Thursdays 7.30—9.30pm. Bettridge School, Chelterlinam. A a Beginners' class. Details: Margaret Winterbourne, 01242 863238 CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing most Friday nights 7.30—10pm from October to end May, at St. Andrew's URC, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham. Details: Mrs Doreen Steele, 45 Dark Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham GL51 9RN, 01242 528220 or 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: Esther Wilkinson, 01206 240132 or ewilkin@gmail.com or www.sandonscotdance.org.uk

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

www.chiswickscottish.org.uk for beginners and experienced dancers' start times and all activities. Contact Heather Nolan, 01784 256549 or secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk

CRAWLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets Thursdays 8—10pm 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, 01293 882173

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH. Branch classes in Coulsdon: General, incl Beginners with technique (Fri); Advanced & Improvers (Wed). Details: Sue Hassanein, 01737 358401 or suehassanein@tiscali.co.uk or www.rscdscroydon.org.uk

EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Club night Mondays (all year) 8–10pm at Woodford Green Prep School, Glengall Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0BZ. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or angelaross87@hotmail.com or www.efsa.org.uk
EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION holds weekly adult

EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION holds weekly adult dance classes for beginners and intermediate/advanced levels (September to March), including informal dances. Details: Dorothy Pearson, 366 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon CR5 3BF, 01737 551724 or pearson2902@tiscali.co.uk

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB. Dancing every Tuesday at 8pm, September to May at the Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. Details: Mrs Annette Owen, 19 Park Prewett Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 9RG, 01256 959097 or www.fscdc.co.uk or annetteowen@hotmail.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. Details: Morna Partridge, 01252 711992 or morna.partridge@btinternet.com

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: Celia Stuart-Lee, 01753 884217 or info@gxscottish.org.uk or www.gxscottish.org.uk

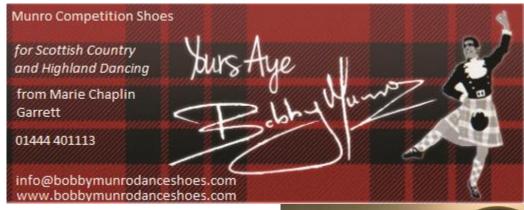
GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC. meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8–10.30 p.m. Details: Mrs P. Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford, Herts WD19 5HF, 0203 078 0018

# OTHER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ORGANISATIONS

- GUILDFORD SCDC meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY meets at the Oddfellows Hall, GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8pm from September to June. Details: 01483 456091 or www.gscdc.org.uk
- HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Tuesdays Sept–June from 8–10pm in The Parlour, Trinity Church, Methodist and United Reformed, 90 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11 (Entrance in Rodborough Road). All welcome. Details: Miss Joan Burgess, 503A York Road, London SW18 1TF, 020 8870 6131
- HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday at 8pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Classes on Thursdays from 8pm. Details: Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St. Albans, Herts AL3 5RE, 01727 863870
- HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Classes Wednesdays 8.15–10.15pm, St.Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Details: Jane Forbes, 7 Buckland Rise, Pinner HA5 3QR, 020 8428 6055 or www.harrowscottish.org.uk
- HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION meets Fridays 8-10pm, September to July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, 020 8560 6160
- HERTSMERE REEL CLUB. Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. Details: Margaret King, 0208 440 3236
- 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 7-8pm. General 8-10pm. Details: Mrs
- Linda McRitchie, 60 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent, 01843 869284 JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP. Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinity, Jersey JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or chanjoy@jerseymail.co.uk Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or alan.nicolle88@googlemail.com or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com
- LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB meets regularly at St. Columba's, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD. Details: adverts in The Reel, Catriona Bennett, 33 Pains Close, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1BY, cmb84scd@gmail.com or 020 8544 5558 or www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk
- LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB meets Thursdays 8pm, Oldhams Hall, Great Missenden. Details: Dick Field, Stonefield House, Clappins Lane, Naphill, Bucks HP14 4SL, 01494 562231
- MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB meets every Tuesday 8pm at St. 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 or maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk
  MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP meets every Wednesday 7.30–
- 10pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details: Dick Barford, 55 Northumberland Road, Maidstone ME25 7JG, 01622 685984
- MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing Thursdays 8-10.15pm at St. Mary's Island Community Centre, Chatham. Beginners welcome. Many other activities. Details: Liz Bowden, Meadow Cottage, Green Farm Lane, Lower Shorne, Gravesend, Kent DA12 3HL, 01474 822919
- MEOPHAM SCD CLUB meets every Monday evening from September -June at 8.15-10.15pm at the Village Hall Meopham. Details: Mrs Jane
- Whittington, 5 Coldharbour Rd., Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AE, 01474 359018 MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS. Mixed ability class Mondays 8–10pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5LP, 01908 378730 or jange@verybusy.co.uk
- NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB. Dancing most Wednesdays during school term, 8.15-10.15pm from September to May at St. Thomas' Church Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth SG6 4DZ. Informal Saturday dances. Details: Mrs Jennifer Warburton, 17 Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds SG17 5AL or 01462 812691
- NORTH KENT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dancing 7.45-10pm. most Wednesdays at Barnehurst Golf Club. Beginners welcome. Details: Nigel Hewitt, 227 Knights Rd, Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 9JN, 01634 254451
- ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday 8-10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners'/Improvers' Class every Monday 8-10.15pm at St. Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or hadyndavies@gmail.com
- OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS. Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Patricia Rawlings, 29 Frances Road, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7ET, 01869 340830
- READING ST. ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY. Dancing at St. Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading, RG1 5BD from 8-10pm, September to May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Margaret Spiceley 0118 978 7181 or sascdo1@gmail.com or www.scottishdancingreading.org
- REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets most Mondays 8.15 –10.15pm, September to May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or wmitton517@btinternet.com

- Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8pm from mid Sept. to end of May. Details: 020 8943 3773 or www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP. Dancing Tues 8pm at
- Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or gwood@gna.cc ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD.
- Scottish country dancing most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10pm. Admission free except for six Band and Burns' Nights when a charge will be made. Beginners welcome and there is a step practice usually on the third Monday of the month. Details: Denise Haugh, 020 8392 2920 or dhaugh200@btinternet.com or www.stcolumbasdancers.org
- ST JOHN'S SDC, WOKINGHAM meet every Thurs 8-10.15pm Sept to June at St. Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Sue Davis 2 Larkswood Dr, Crowthorne, 01344 774344 or alan.suedavis@gmail.com Also Children's Class Sats 9.30-11am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831
- ST NINIAN'S SCOTTISH DANCERS, Luton, meet every Wednesday September to June 8-10pm at St. Ninian's UR Church, Villa Road, Luton, Beds. Details: Sarah Kelsall-Patel, 01296 681968 or Ted Andrews, 01582 508580 or www.saintniniansluton.org.uk
- 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 OBD. Details: Maggie Westley, 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157, or westley.maggie14@gmail.com
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB meets every Tuesday from September to May, 8 10pm at Kippington Church Centre, Kippington Rd, Sevenoaks. Details: Philip Howey, 53 Asher Reeds, Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0AR, 01892 862094 or philip.howey3@virginmedia.com
- SHENE SCOTTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday from September to May, 8.15–10.15pm, in Barnes. Details: Fiona Jack, 07780 671021 or jack\_fiona@hotmail.com
- SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. Dancing on Wednesdays from 8-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin,48 Eastbrook Road, Blackheath SE3 8BT, 020 8856 4522
- SOUTH DORSET CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30-10pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY. Dancing Fridays, 7.30-10.30pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30–9pm. Details: Janice Rose, 01702 585473 SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS. Classes in Hertford, Sept to May: Inter/Adv
- Tues 7.45pm, Hollybush School, Hertford; Beginners Thurs 8pm, Guide Hut, West Street, Hertford; Demonstration 2nd Mon 8pm, St. John's Hall, Hertford. Details: Diana Ross, 01920 870189
- SOUTHWICK SCD CLUB meets Thursdays 8–10.15pm at Southwick Community Centre, Southwick, W Sussex. Details: Julie Howell, 63 Mile Oak Rd, Portslade, Brighton, East Sussex BN41 2PJ, 01273 415778 or Julie@howell.name
- SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Thursday at 8pm from September to June at St. Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY or www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk

  TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS. Beginners/intermediate classes on
- Tues 8–10pm and advanced classes Thurs 8–10pm at St. Augustine's School, Wilman Rd, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9AL, Details: George Daly, 1 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5UE, 01892 534512 or
- www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk
  WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY. General and Beginners'/ Improvers' Classes at Bushey Community Centre, High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT. Thursdays from 8–10pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or reel@WatfordScottish.org.uk
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB meets Wednesdays 8-10pm September to June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net
- WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. Dance Class Mondays 8pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Pam Crisp, 19 Compton Place, Watford WD19 5HF, 020 3078 0018
- WIMBLEDON. St Andrew Society (London): Wimbledon and District Scots Association. Dancing Tuesdays 8pm at Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1SB. Details: Miss Alison Raffan, 2 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3JB, 020 8540 1755 or
- araffan@googlemail.com or www.standrewsoclondon.netne.net WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS. Classes Tuesdays 8-10pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8–10pm. Both evenings at St. Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover SP10 3NQ, 01264 363293 or wendv@mumford.com
- WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. Dancing every Wednesday 8-10pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Beryl Munro, 01621 850838 or beryl.munro@btinternet.com



Below – London Festive Fling, 6 December 2013: The dem team for the evening comprised ladies (from left) Elaine Davies, Natalie Maude, Anna Twinn, Gillian Frew, Marjory Reid, Catriona Stewart and Marian Morris, with men Simon Wales, Andrew Kellett, James Fairbairn (who had prepared the team), Chris Twinn and Jeremy Hill.

Bottom – London Highland Club New Year Dance, 4 January 2014: Pipe Major Roger Huth playing for dancing the jig, *Tattie Bogle*.

# **CRIEFF JUNE 2014**

Dancing to Marian Anderson, James Coutts, Colin Dewar, Jim Lindsay, Sandy Nixon, Gordon Shand. Classes with Janet Johnston. Hosted by Graham & Caroline Hamilton.



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